

LaGuardia Community College
Agenda for the College Senate Meeting

February 9, 2022
2:15-4:30 pm (Zoom)

Present and Voting

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley-Lockhart (Counseling), Cindy Busch (Division of Institutional Advancement), Loretta Capuano-Vella (Enrollment Management), San San Chow (Student), Erika Correa (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Catherine Cortes (Student), Claudette Davis (Natural Sciences), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Crystal Franklin (President's Office), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Nick Hetherington (Student), Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jayashree Kamble (At-Large Instructional), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Theresia Litvay-Sardou (Division of Information Technology), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Akiana Smith (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Phonpiboon (Juneau) Srimak (Student), Sandra Sze (MEC), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs)

Present Non-Voting

Arhum Aamir, Shawn Blackman, Habiba Boumlik, Randy Changoo, J. Elizabeth Clark, Maria Cook, Alexa Duque, Hugo Fernandez, Maria Fonseca Morales, Janet Gonzalez, Reem Jaafar, Joby Jacob, Albert Jimenez, Marta Kowalczyk, Ryan Mann-Hamilton, Holly Porter-Morgan, Justin Rogers-Cooper, Alex Rojas, Naurene Sultana, Nancy Santangelo, Burhan Siddiqui, Derek Stadler, Layla Xholi

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:18pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Minutes from the January 12, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson Bruns asked that the minutes more accurately reflect the discussion surrounding the approval of the 2022-2023 academic calendar. The minutes were edited to properly reflect that the requested amendment to the academic calendar defined asynchronous and synchronous modalities. Chairperson Bruns also asked that the discussion of Bursar holds include that students were notified by text message of their holds and will receive follow-up notifications. The report of the ad-hoc Online Learning Committee was also added to the minutes. With the modifications, the minutes were approved.

III. Recall of Student Senators

Senator Rivas motioned to recall Student Senator Haajar Saadoune and Student Senator Sarkar Sayeed. This was seconded by Senator Victory. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Senator Busch asked if the recalled student senators would be replaced. Chairperson Bruns clarified that as there are only seven student senators and no alternates, there will be no replacements.

IV. Reconsideration of the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

Senator Rivas motioned to reconsider the 2022-2023 academic calendar. This was seconded by Senator Busch. Chairperson Bruns recounted that the newly revised academic calendar provided by Burhan Siddiqui, containing definitions of synchronous and asynchronous modalities, seemed more complicated than the original. The motion to reconsider the 2022-2023 academic calendar passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Bruns clarified that the addition of course modality definitions to the academic calendar appeared to make the document overly complicated. Instead, the ad-hoc Online Learning Community will address the issue of explaining the various course modalities and finding the proper location for displaying the information. The academic calendar will list the official start date for the semester rather than listing the starting dates for weekday and weekend classes. It will also offer the clarification that classes meet on different schedules and in different modalities and will direct students to their MyLaGuardia page to see the meeting schedules and modalities of their particular courses. Lastly, Chairperson Bruns added that the academic calendar includes two small changes. CUNY recently updated their calendar for Fall II 2022 to include one additional final exam day, resulting also in two extra days for faculty to submit grades and attendance.

Senator Scamacca moved to amend the motion to accept the revised draft 2022-2023 academic calendar as presented on February 9, 2022. This was seconded by Senator Capuano-Vella. The Senate unanimously voted to accept the amendment to the motion. Senator Rivas seconded the motion on the floor. The Senate unanimously voted to approve the revised draft 2022-2023 academic calendar as presented on February 9, 2022.

V. Chair's Report

Chairperson Bruns reported that on account of the robust discussions surrounding Spring 2022 course modalities, President Adams changed his mind regarding the ratio of in-person to online courses. President Adams contacted the Chancellor requesting a change to the 70/30 mandate. While the influence of President Adams's request is uncertain, the Chancellor's subsequent revision of the mandate allowed LaGuardia to increase the proportion of online classes from 30% to 45%. It is still unclear as to whether this change will have an impact on enrollment.

Chairperson Bruns reminded Senators of their responsibility to both report back to their constituents following Senate discussions and field questions/concerns from their constituents to bring to the attention of the Senate. At-large Senators should put extra thought into how best to communicate with their constituencies. If Senators want to bring constituency concerns to Senate they should (1) email the Senate Chair or Executive Committee so that the Executive Committee can discuss adding it to an upcoming Senate agenda and/or (2) bring the concern to a constituency committee meeting.

The Latin American Center Working Group, including Senator Capuano-Vella, is endeavoring to create “El Centro de las Americas,” a Latin American Center on campus. Approximately 48% of LaGuardia’s student population identifies as Latinx or Hispanic (twice the requirement to be considered a Hispanic serving institution) with students coming from 22 of 23 possible Latin heritage countries. The working group is currently addressing a variety of issues including the center’s purpose, budget, and staffing needs.

VI. Invitation of Reem Jaafar and Justin Rogers-Cooper, Middle States Steering Committee Co-Chairs: Self-Study Evaluation Visit and Middle States Timeline Update

Middle States Steering Committee Co-Chairs Reem Jaafar and Justin Rogers-Cooper discussed the next phases of the Middle States process, including the all-important virtual site visit. During the virtual site visit from March 20-23, Middle States personnel may request scheduled and unscheduled conversations with faculty, staff, and students. The Middle States Steering Committee recommended that college leaders make room for these meetings. In addition to availability, the Middle States Steering Committee recommend that stakeholders familiarize themselves with the self-study, be prepared to provide details regarding relevant campus practices, assessments, evidence, and data, address issues of equity and inclusion, emphasize mission and strategic plan priorities, and reflect upon both the current college landscape and plans for the next eight years of the accreditation cycle. The Middle States webpage has multiple resources to help individuals prepare for virtual site visit conversations.

VII. Invitation of President’s Society Environment Program Representatives: Greenway Vision Project

The President’s Society Environment looks to train environmental activists and inspire others to improve the quality of the environment and life. The LaGuardia Community Greenway project seeks to transform the streets surrounding campus with open space and natural elements. On April 6th and May 11th from 12-5pm, 29th Street will feature a pop-up plaza, providing a space for community art, music, relaxation, and education. These pop-up plaza events will showcase various initiatives at the College and serve as a model for future use of this outdoor space. The President’s Society Environment asks both LaGuardians and community members to come to the pop-up events, rain or shine. Strong attendance at the pop-up events will hopefully prompt the Department of Transportation to consider creating a more permanent outdoor Greenway space. Organizations, businesses, community groups, and individuals wishing to participate in a pop-up related event are encouraged to contact Ryan Mann-Hamilton. If the space becomes more regular, classes could be held outdoors. Outdoor classes during the pop-up events would probably not be a good idea due to the crowds and noise.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Standing Committees
 - i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)
Nothing to report.

- ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca and Dianne Gordon Conyers, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of Faculty continues to prioritize two key issues – the safe return to campus and the future of online learning at LaGuardia, and is collaborating with various committees across campus to address these matters.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs)
Opening Sessions for faculty and staff will be held on Thursday, March 3rd.
The Ruhma Choudhury Colloquium will be held on Friday, May 13th.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Interim Chair)
Nothing to report.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Eneida Rivas and Evelyn Lowmark, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of Staff and Alumni is following up on the Employee Survey by having lunchtime divisional workshops to discuss any new or evolving concerns. Mini surveys will help support these conversations. Information gleaned from workshops will be shared with the larger taskforce. COSA is also working on engaging with the Alumni Association and would like to begin advocating for a center for staff professional development and training. Graduation will be held on June 21 at Queens College. As it is LaGuardia's 50th graduating class, there will be special regalia for the event. More details will be forthcoming.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Akiana Smith, Chair)
The Committee of Students continues to work on the items included in their wish list. In response to the request for a virtual study abroad option, Alternate Senator Kowalczyk informed the students that the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) program partners faculty and students from different national and cultural spaces and can be a viable alternative to studying abroad. In response to the request to record online class sessions, Senator Kamble cautioned students that while recording may aid with transparency, faculty surveillance is a serious concern and should be taken into consideration. Alternate Senator Clark urged the Senate body to take time to look at the student list of concerns. Senators may think that something has

been answered or fixed, but students may have a different experience and still may find something problematic. Chairperson Bruns already brought the request to have a peer advisor assigned to each student to the President's cabinet meeting.

- x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
See Chair's report.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Ana-Lucia Fuentes and Jayashree Kamble, Co-Chairs)
Members are representing the Transfer Committee on CUNY's Academic Momentum Campaign 2.0 initiative. The Education and TESOL Programs partnered with Transfer Services to have a transfer panel and workshop.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Nicolle Fernandes and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)
The Warm Hearts Winter Drive is collecting donations for LaGuardia CARES. The FIJCN Committee is partnering with the Food Insecurity, Inequality, and Justice CTL seminar for a March 23rd club hours event to bring awareness to food insecurity.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Governance Plan Revision Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
The Governance Plan Revision Committee plans to present the revised Governance Plan to the Executive Committee at the end of April.
- ii. IT Advisory Committee (Jaime Riccio and Ian McDermott, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iii. History Committee (Loretta Capuano-Vella and Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Online Learning Committee (J. Elizabeth Clark and Sandra Sze, Co-Chairs)
Subcommittees are currently doing research on key areas related to the future of online learning at LaGuardia.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Advising Council (Jean Buckley Lockhart, Senate Representative)
Senator Buckley Lockhart reminded everyone to respond to the call for volunteers to reach out to students encouraging registration and advisement.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Victory. This was seconded by Senator Buckley Lockhart. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2022