

**LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate**

Meeting: May 06, 2020

WebEx Meeting 2:15-4:30pm

Present and Voting

Hara Bastas (Faculty Council), Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley-Lockhart (Counseling), Cindy Busch (Div. Institutional Advancement), Fay Butler (Student Affairs), Nancy Santangelo (Student Affairs), Loretta Capuano Vela (At-Large Instructional Staff), Maria Cook (Presidents Office), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), Maritsa Pristos (Adult & Continuing Education), William Fulton (Humanities), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Douglas DiCarlo (At Large Instructional), Theresia Litvay –Sardou (Div. Information Technology), Evelyn Lowmark, Cheryl McKenzie (At-Large Instructional Staff), Leonore McShane (Non instructional Staff), Marina Nechayeva (Math, Engineering and Computer Science), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Tech.), Patricia Sokolski (Academic Affairs).

At-Large Student Members Present and Voting

Brian Anderson, Casey Larson, Meron Girma, Christina Wong, Shoma Nahar, Joseline Zambrano.

Present Non-Voting

Deborah Engel, Alexandra Rojas, Chris McHale

Guests and Visitors (non-voting)

LaVora Desvigne, April Cardina, Charles Keyes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm by Chairperson Sokolski.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 01, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes from April 01, 2020, with corrections made by Senator Cristy Bruns, was made. Hearing no objection the minutes were approved.

III. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items.

A motion to approve the College-wide Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from April 30, 2020 was made by Senator Capuano Vela and seconded by Senator Anderson.

Vote: Aye- 27, No-0, Abstain- 0. Motion passed.

IV. Chair's Report

Chairperson Sokolski made several announcements:

Senators Sokolski and Bastas have continued to attend the executive council meetings. The College budget is a main area of discussion. A budget committee has been created. Senator Butler will represent governance on this committee.

The presidential search committee is continuing its search activity. The senate appointed faculty list was sent in. Senator Pappas asked about alumni representation. The senate confirmed that an alumni representative has been included with the foundation and community representatives.

Senator Sokolski reported that she recently checked in with the College Food Pantry. She feels that students are likely experiencing new difficulties than they were at beginning of the COVID19 crisis and perhaps they have new needs. She will appeal to Senators Kurzyna and Fernandez to get more information on the Food Pantry and food insecurity at this time.

Senator Sokolski then briefly mentioned the new CUNY CR/NC policy. She also invited Senator Rivas to give a commencement update. Senator Rivas reported that no decision has been made on virtual ceremony at this point.

V. Discussion and Vote on Academic Standing Proposal to Simplify Non-Degree Admissions.

Alexandra Rojas presented on the simplification of non-degree admissions proposed by Senator Capuano Vela at the April 06, 2020 Academic Standing Committee meeting. The proposed changes to the policy would remove enrollment restrictions for non-degree students who are defined as “at-leisure” learners. Moving forward these students will only be required to provide a GED or high-school diploma to enroll. In addition there will be no placement exams for these students. These changes would remove existing barriers to admission, boost enrollment and help to avoid class cancellations. It was mentioned that degree-seeking students will still have course registration priority. Senator Buckley questioned if a change in the policy would allow students to register for courses that they were not academically prepared for. It was reported that this had been discussed and weighed by the academic standing committee. A motion to approve simplifying the non-degree admission process was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Pappas. Vote: Aye- 27, No -0, Nay -0.

VI. Revisions to the Governance Plan (Article 3)

Revisions to Article 3 of the senate governance plan were presented by Senator Scamacca. A discussion ensued related to the proposed revisions.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Committee of Committees (Will Fulton, Chair)
Nothing to report.

b. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)

Consent calendar items previously presented.

c. The Academic Standing Committee (Alexandra Rojas, Chair)

Meeting was held on April 06 2020. The non-degree admission process was discussed. Distance learning for Spring II was also discussed.

d. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)

Nothing to report.

e. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)

The Committee met after last senate meeting on April 01, 2020. The committee had a conversation with Eric Hoffman and Provost Seals. The topics of conversation included the Program Director's job description.

f. The Committee on Professional Development (Christopher McHale and Deborah McMillan-Coddington, Co-Chairs).

The first meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion was had. The mission statement of the Committee is being developed.

g. The Budget and Finance Committee (Fay Butler, Chair)

Nothing to report.

h. The Committee of HEO/Alumni/Civil Service (Evelyn Lowmark and Cindy Busch, Co-Chairs).

The Committee met yesterday (May 05, 2020) in order to resume the HEO survey process. The group is using Microsoft Teams. Questions about distance work have surfaced for staff. Discussions around adding questions related to this on the HEO survey are being discussed. The Committee also reported that computers are still being given out to students by CUNY central. Faculty and staff can also access computers if needed.

i. The Committee of Students (Casey Larson, Chair)

Nothing to report.

j. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)

Nothing to report.

k. The Executive Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)

Meeting next Monday, May 11, 2020.

l. The Committee on Transfer (Ana-Lucia Fuentes, Chair)

Nothing to report.

m. Ad Hoc Committee on Food insecurity (William Kurzyna and Nicolle Fernandes, Co Chairs)
Nothing to report.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

Senator Loretta Capuano Vela asks that we acknowledge the passing and extend our sympathies for faculty member Louie Lucca. Alexandra Rojas called for a memorial. It was announced that the humanities department is planning a memorial.

X. Announcements

Senator DiCarlo announced that The LaGuardia Wagner Archives is collaborating with a number of faculty members in collecting and archiving student experiences through the COVID-19 crisis. This group is also working with the University Archivist Library that is also conducting a COVID-19 stories project among faculty, staff and students.

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Busch. All senators were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2020.