



LaGuardia Community College Senate

Minutes of the Meeting of October 30, 2019

Room E-501

Present and Voting

Hara Bastas (Faculty Council), Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Cindy Busch (Institutional Advancement), Fay Butler (Student Affairs), Loretta Capuano-Vella (At-Large Instructional Staff), Maria Cook (President's Office), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), William Kurzyna (Education and Language Acquisition), Theresia Litvay-Sardou (Information Tech), Evelyn Lowmark (Administration), Cheryl McKenzie (At-Large Instructional Staff), Ana Mora (Counseling Alt.) Marina Nechayeva (Mathematics, Engineering & Computer Science), Margaret O'Sullivan (Civil Service Alt), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Tech), Patricia Sokolski (Academic Affairs), Liena Vayzman (Humanities Alt.)

At-Large Student Members Present and Voting

Angelis Almanzar (Alternate), Brian Anderson, Lobsang Dolma, Hande Erkan (Alternate), Priyanka Koirala, Casey Larsen, Shoma Nahar (Alternate), Nazmus Saquib, Christina Wong, Joseline Zambrano

Present Non-Voting

Nancy Santangelo (Student Affairs, Alternate), Meron Girma (Student, Alternate),

Guests and Visitors (non-voting)

Derwent Dawkins (Registrar), Joby Jacob (Natural Science), Chris McHale (Professional Development & PSC), Anthony Sclafani (Registrar), Burhan Siddiqui (Registrar), Charis Victory (ASAP),

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:17 pm by Chairperson Sokolski.

II. Minutes

Minutes were accepted with the correction of Anthony Pappas and Casey Larsen as Present.

III. Curriculum

Motion to approve the Senate's College-wide Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar by Eneida Rivas; Seconded by Anthony Pappas. Vote 33 Aye, 0 No, 0 Abstain. Motion passed.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Chair Sokolski welcomed recently elected Senators and noted the finalization of the votes for the Student Senators. She reminded the body that all Senators and Alternates should attend meetings for continuity of discussion and department/area representation.

Chair Sokolski explained she sent a condolence card to President Arcario on behalf of the Senate.

Chair Sokolski provided highlights of the 10/11 Executive Council meeting. There is a current revision to mission of the Executive Council but it will not include the membership of governance during the probation period. The mission will be revisited in June and the issue of including governance will be considered at that time.

Chair Sokolski reported that there have been an increase in requests for Senate representation on College-wide committees/initiatives. Specifically a representative for the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Search Committee. Since Senator Maria Cook is already serving no additional Senator was needed. Chairperson urges all Senators to “invite ourselves” to the table of college-wide committees. It is our job to be heard. She asked that people contact her when they join college-wide committees. She added that we need to elect 4 Students and 2 Faculty to the Technology Fee Committee. The Committees of Faculty and of Students will elect their representatives at their constituent meetings today.

Chairperson shared that the budget from each CUNY college will be posted on the CUNY website as will the results from the COACH Survey.

Chair Sokolski reported the Meet & Greet for the Chairpeople of the Senate Committees and the new Student Senators on 10/23 went well.

Lastly, the next Executive Council meeting will be November 1.

V. Registrar Staff and Graduation Certification

Vice Chairperson Bruns provided an overview of Senate’s the graduation certification process and introduced the Registrar staff involved with the Graduation Evaluation process. Vice Chair Bruns requested that the Senate process change to be more meaningful, efficient and inclusive of all students who have actually completed the graduation requirements instead of the current pre-evaluated applicants.

The exact date of Faculty Certification will take place the next Senate Meeting after graduation evaluations for a semester have been completed – usually Fall graduates will be final by April and Spring graduates will be final by September/October.

VI. PSC-CUNY Information

Chris McHale represented Sigmund Chen to express LaGuardia Union Chapter interest in working collaboratively with the Senate. Since the PSC represents the College’s Faculty and HEOs at CUNY. We can collaborate on specific concerns. Mr. McHale asked for PSC to be included in information sharing especially with respect to revisions to the Senate’s Governance Plan. Chairperson Sokolski encourages sharing information and welcomes attendance at Senate meetings.

VII. Thomson Avenue Safety

Joby Jacob explained the history of the pedestrian safety issues on Thomson Avenue and read a list of principles the Thomson Avenue Safety Committee is proposing. He said the proposal has the support of the Provost and President and is in line with the Vision Zero initiative and Transportation Alternatives.

Chairperson Sokolski thanked Mr. Jacob for the information and invited him to return/provide a written list for the Senate's review and determination on a resolution.

VIII. Executive Committee Elections

Parliamentarian Leslie Scamacca explained the Senate traditions of electing the Executive Committee and conducted the election by ballot. The outcome is –

Chairperson: Patricia Sokolski

Vice Chairperson: Cristy Bruns

Secretary: Tara Scales

At-Large Instructional Staff, Alumni, or Civil Service Member: Loretta Capuano Vella and Eneida Rivas

At-Large Student Members: Brian Anderson and Casey Larsen

IX. Presidential Search Committee

The Senate Committee of Faculty is responsible for selecting tenured faculty to serve on the Search Committee for the President. Chairperson Sokolski asked the Senators to share the qualities they would like to see in the faculty representatives so the Committee of Faculty can be mindful when making their choices. Senators reviewed the statements from the interested self-nominated faculty and there was some discussion.

X. Committee Reports

Campus Affairs – Eneida Rivas explained that MJB has asked for a price increase and the details will be provided at the next Senate meeting

Committee on Committees – needs Faculty and Student volunteers for Senate and college-wide committees

Committee on Elections – the Elections are done. Adjunct election is done, Anthony Hargraves was elected Adjunct Senator and there is no alternate Senator. Chair Sokolski and Seurette Bazalais were the sole members of the committee. The work is too big for 2 people. Asked for Senators to consider the question about moving Department elections and Divisional elections online. This could be an item for the Governance Plan revision.

Committee of Faculty, Students and HEO, Alumni & Civil Service will meet after this meeting to elect Chairpeople.

XI. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

XII. New Business

There was no New Business.

XIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Senator Eneida Rivas, seconded by Senator Fay Butler. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by Senator Loretta Capuano-Vella
for the Secretary (vacant) of the LaGuardia Community College Senate*