

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate
Meeting: March 10, 2021
(Zoom Meeting) 2:15-4:30pm

Present and Voting

Efran Ahmad (Student), Shawn Blackman (Student), Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Cindy Busch (Division of Institutional Advancement), Fay Butler (At-Large Instructional Staff), Loretta Capuano Vela (At-Large Instructional Staff), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), Eva Espinoza (Student), Crystal Franklin (President's Office), Thomas Gleisner (At-Large Adjunct), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Lenaysia Hunter (Student), William (Joonyoung) Hur (Student), Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Ana Jara (Student), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jayashree Kamble (At-Large Instructional), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Theresia Litvay-Sardou (Division of Information Technology), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Lenore McShane (Non-Instructional Staff), Shoma Nahar (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Yasmeen Qureshi (Student), Justin Rodriguez (Student), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs)

Present Non-Voting

J. Elizabeth Clark, Douglas DiCarlo, Janet Gonzalez, Christopher McHale, Karen Pinckney, Alexandra Rojas

Guests and Visitors (non-voting)

Paul Arcario, Derwent Dawkins, Sunil Gupta

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:20pm by Chairperson Bruns.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2021

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the February 10, 2021 minutes. Hearing no suggested modifications, the minutes were approved.

III. Invitation of VP of Adult and Continuing Education Sunil Gupta

New VP of Adult and Continuing Education Sunil Gupta introduced himself to the Senate. He expressed his desire for ACE to align with and compliment the for credit portion of the college. His priorities include community engagement, student success, and sustainability of the ACE program. Senator Sokolski questioned VP Gupta regarding the loss of adjuncts from The English Language Center. VP Gupta informed the Senate that he was aware of the situation and is trying his best to help both instructional staff and students.

IV. Chair's Report

Student Affairs Restructuring

Chairperson Bruns updated the Senate that the proposed Student Affairs staffing redesign

will not happen due to staff opposition. Senator Capuano Vela clarified that four Student Affairs staff members will move to new positions in other departments, but the remaining staff members will remain in their current positions. Administration will explore alternative solutions in hopes of better meeting student needs.

President Adams's Senate Visits

President Adams's Senate visitation schedule changed slightly with the President now visiting the Committee of Faculty on March 10th, the Committee of Staff and Alumni on April 7th, the Committee of Students on May 5th, and the Senate body on May 26th.

Senate Historian Position

There is considerable interest in developing a Senate Historian position, tasked with providing the Senate with crucial institutional knowledge and memory. Interested Senators should email Chairperson Bruns. Position responsibilities, place in the Senate hierarchy, and election/appointment process are still under consideration.

Senate Leadership

The Senate would like to take an intentional approach to leadership development. Senate leadership would like to remind all Senators that no previous experience is necessary to take on a leadership role. Interested Senators are encouraged to contact Executive Committee members for more information and are welcome to attend a future Executive Committee meeting. Senator Sokolski reminded the Senate that while individuals are encouraged to seek out information and guidance regarding Senate leadership opportunities, positions are elected democratically. Chairperson Bruns added that if anyone is interested in getting more involved, they should contact Committee on Committees Chairperson Victory.

Student Senator Recommendation

With most Student Senators only serving one term, there is often a lack of continuity in the efforts of the Committee of Students. Chairperson Bruns suggested that in addition to a year-end report, the Committee of Students should draft a letter to the Student Senators succeeding them. This letter should offer clarity as to what the Student Senators accomplished during their term, what is still in progress, and issues to be dealt with in the future.

Non-Senate Committee Reports

Chairperson Bruns invited the Senators serving on non-Senate committees to offer reports.

- Senator Kehoe explained that the mission of the Enrollment Solutions Working Group is to examine policies and practices that impact student enrollment and retention. Meeting biweekly, the committee is currently evaluating relevant data provided by the college. Senator Kehoe invited Senators to contact her with any insight into enrollment and/or retention problems and potential solutions.
- Senator Buckley Lockhart recently joined the college's Advising Council and is eager to elicit feedback from the Senate with regard to issues involving the

advising process.

- Senator Kamble updated the Senate on the work of the Fall Reopening Committee including the group's efforts to envision a scenario in which 25% of courses return to in-person teaching in Fall 2021. The ability to accommodate 25% of courses on campus will depend upon the school's ability to adhere to social distancing guidelines and other safety protocols.

V. Invitation of Provost Paul Arcario: Discussion of Fall 2021 Reopening

Provost Arcario explained to the Senate that the school is investigating multiple scenarios for Fall 2021 with various levels of in-person instruction. Surveys indicate that between 25-35% of faculty and 60% of students are interested in returning to in-person instruction. Operational guidelines for Fall 2021 are forthcoming from CUNY, but in the meantime, issues for consideration include:

- When to post teaching modalities (online, in-person, hybrid) as students need to know course information in order to register / Whether to inform students that teaching modalities are subject to change if necessary
- How to assign classrooms in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines
- Prioritization of laboratory and clinical courses
- Scheduling of classes to provide students with enough time to switch from attending in-person classes on campus to accessing technology to log into online classes
- When/whether the state will issue its policy on vaccine requirements
- When LaGuardia personnel will be eligible for vaccination
- Whether LaGuardia will have on campus COVID-19 testing

The Poolside Café will open as a study hall in Spring 2021. Students must reserve a seat in advance as there is limited capacity. Students will be able to select from three time slots, 9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm, and 5pm-8pm on Monday through Saturday.

VI. Vote on Academic Standing Committee's Recommendation of a Temporary NC Policy for Spring I 2021

Two students from SGA and Justin Rodriguez from the Senate joined the Academic Standing Committee to discuss a temporary NC policy. Under Committee Chairperson Gonzalez, the Academic Standing Committee recommended that the college adopt a temporary NC policy for Spring I 2021. Senator Pappas motioned to accept the recommendation from the Academic Standing Committee with regard to the temporary NC policy for Spring I 2021. Senator McShane seconded. Senator Sokolski questioned the rationale behind only offering a no credit option, as previous semesters adopted both a credit and no credit option. Committee Chairperson Gonzalez explained that the NC option can mitigate the impact of a failing grade on a student's GPA and financial aid status. Senator Victory questioned why the recommendation stipulated that students only be allowed to use an NC option twice in total across the Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 semesters. The Academic Standing Committee wanted to limit the use of NCs as they do not look good on a student's transcript and may be treated as an F by another institution. **Vote: Aye-25, Nay-2, Abstain-3.** The motion passed.

VII. Student Tech Fee Committee Recruitment

Senator Litvay-Sardou explained that the Student Tech Fee Committee meets twice a year to decide how the money collected from the student tech fee should be spent. The committee needs five students from Senate and five from SGA. Student Senators Ahmad, Blackman, Nahar, and Qureshi volunteered. Senator Gordon-Conyers agreed to join the committee as a faculty representative. Committee on Committee Chair Victory will assist in finding another faculty representative.

VIII. Recommendations for Senate Engagement with Larger Constituencies

Chairperson Bruns reinforced the importance of Senators fulfilling their responsibility of facilitating communication throughout the college, relaying concerns from constituency members to the Senate body and information back to them. Please refer to the circulated document for suggestions on how to foster consistent and open communication.

IX. Invitation of Claudia Baldonado: Overview of the 50th Anniversary Committee

The 50th Anniversary Committee is currently developing ideas to celebrate the college including commemorative gifts and video presentations. The committee welcomes feedback and suggestions from the college community.

X. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)

The Committee on Committees will help staff the new ad hoc IT Advisory Committee. Chairperson Victory will collect minutes from all Senate committee meetings for deposit on the Senate Sharepoint.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)

Nothing to report.

iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)

The Academic Standing Committee elected a new chairperson, Janet Gonzalez. In addition to evaluating and recommending the temporary NC policy for Spring I 2021, the committee is currently developing workshop ideas with the Committee on Professional Development and the Committee of Faculty.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Chairperson Scamacca reported that the Committee of Faculty is making progress on its wish list and is meeting with President Adams during its March 10th meeting.

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

Co-chairperson McHale announced the In-Service Training Committee's upcoming workshop "Let's Talk About Sex, Gender, Race & Class: Intersectionality and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Netflix's *Bridgerton*" hosted by Senator Kamble on Monday March 22nd from 2:00pm-3:15pm. The committee is also accepting proposals for the Spring 2021 Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium.

- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Fay Butler, Chair)
Nothing to report.
 - viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Erika Correa and Eneida Rivas, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
 - ix. The Committee of Students (Justin Rodriguez, Chair)
Nothing to report.
 - x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)
Nothing to report.
 - xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
Update included in the Chair's Report.
 - xii. Transfer Committee (Ana-Lucia Fuentes and Jayahree Kamble, Co-Chairs)
Co-chairperson Kamble announced that the Transfer Committee will host a student alumni panel on April 7th at 12:30pm featuring strategies for getting courses accepted for credit at four-year institutions. The committee also met with Ellen Quish and the FYS team to discuss including more transfer related knowledge in First Year Seminar courses.
 - xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Nicolle Fernandes and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)
Co-chairperson Johnson announced that a recent food drive raised \$1,500. The committee will continue to raise awareness and host additional events in the Spring semester.
- b. Ad Hoc Committees
- i. IT Advisory Committee (J. Elizabeth Clark, Chair)
Chairperson Clark reported on the membership of the newly restarted ad hoc IT Advisory Committee: Henry Saltiel (Information Technology), Michele De Goes-Malone (English and Language Acquisition), John Collins (English and Language Acquisition), J. Elizabeth Clark (English), Kathleen Karsten (Health Science), Jaime Riccio (Humanities), Ian McDermott (Library), Milena Cuellar (Math, Engineering, Computer Sciences), Rebecca Tally (Social Science), Joshua Tan (Natural Science), Jhony Nelson (Student Affairs, OSD), Sada Hye-Jaman (Business and Technology), Evelyn

Lowmark (Administration, Building Operations), Pablo Avila (Academic Affairs, CTL). Additional members are needed from ACE and Student Affairs. The committee will review the needs of faculty and staff to successfully teach online, craft a more comprehensive vision for the role of technology in teaching and learning at the college, and establish clearer lines of communication between faculty, staff, and students.

XII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIII. New Business

None.

XIV. Announcements

Senator Isaac reminded the Senate about the upcoming Faculty Council stream-at-thon fundraising event showcasing talent from across the college. Volunteers are encouraged to submit short videos of musical, theatrical or spoken word performance, or a demonstration of any other skill or talent to share with the college community.

XV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Isaac. This was seconded by Senator Sokolski. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2021