

LaGuardia Community College
Agenda for the College Senate Meeting
April 13, 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), Crystal Franklin (President's Office), Nick Hetherington (Student), Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Theresia Litvay-Sardou (Division of Information Technology), Ian McDermott (Library), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Karen Pinckney (Division of Administration), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Tara Scales (Health Science), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Allana Sinelov (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs)

Present Non-Voting

Kenneth Adams, Paul Arcario, Randy Changoo, J. Elizabeth Clark, Maria Cook, Douglas DiCarlo, Alexa Duque, Debra Engel, Jonathan Gagliardi, Janet Gonzalez, Sunil Gupta, Albert Jimenez, Janice Karlen, Marta Kowalczyk, Jenny Lugo, Dionne Miller, Maritza Pritsos, Alex Rojas, Nancy Santangelo, Derek Stadler

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:17pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the March 9, 2022 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from March 10, 2022 and March 17, 2022

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from March 10, 2022 and March 17, 2022 was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Correa. **Vote: Aye-25, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from March 10, 2022 and March 17, 2022 were approved.

IV. Vote on the Senate's Letter of Support for LaGuardia's Centro de las Américas

The committee seeking to establish LaGuardia's Centro de las Américas is looking for letters of support from various campus entities as part of its pitch package to CUNY Central. Committee member Senator Capuano-Vella described how the center would be the first of its kind at CUNY. It will aid in teaching Latinx heritage and culture and proudly display relevant student and faculty work. Chairperson Bruns drafted a letter in support of the center. Senator Scamacca moved to accept the letter as written. This was seconded by Senator Correa. Senator Pappas moved to amend the motion to properly

include alumni Senators. This was seconded by Senator Correa. The Senate voted to accept the amendment to the original motion, exceeding the necessary two thirds required for approval. In a voice vote, the Senate unanimously voted to approve the letter with the above modification.

V. Chair's Report

Chairperson Bruns conveyed a message of thanks from Middle States Co-Chairs Reem Jaafar and Justin Rogers-Cooper. The Middle States process was a resounding success and LaGuardia received a commendation for its shared governance efforts. A special thanks was extended to Student Senator Hetherington and Student Senator Smith for their participation in the Middle States process.

Chairperson Bruns relayed that HR Director Ron Edwards and Karamvir Kaur attended the Executive Committee meeting to discuss departmental election processes. Some previous departmental elections did not follow appropriate election procedures. The Executive Committee requested that HR send an account of clarified election procedures to the Committee of Faculty for review and then to department chairs prior to the May department elections. As some department chairs are up for reelection, faculty senators will be made aware of proper voting procedures to help ensure fair elections take place.

The deadline for applying for the Curriculum Committee Chair position passed and no expressed interest. Chairperson Bruns and the rest of the Curriculum Committee Chair search team will discuss other options for finding a new chair.

Chairperson Bruns previously asked all Senators to provide a summary of their communication practices with their constituencies. Those Senators that have not done so, should do so in a timely manner.

VI. Invitation of Provost Paul Arcario, VP of Adult and Continuing Education Sunil Gupta, and Professor Janice Karlen to Discuss the Credit for Prior Learning Initiative

The Credit for Prior Learning Initiative is a collaboration between Academic Affairs and ACE with support from the Robin Hood Foundation. A specialist, housed in Academic Affairs, will be tasked with managing the initiative. Prior learning may include work and/or life experiences, learning which is college equivalent, learning equated to those courses directly applicable to curriculum requirements, and learning in an area for which LaGuardia has an equivalent course. Methods for earning credit include national standardized tests, portfolio evaluation, published guides, military services and training, and completion of approved training programs. Credits for prior learning will not be given out without assessment by faculty.

VII. Invitation of President Kenneth Adams and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Effectiveness and Innovation Jonathan Gagliardi to Discuss CUNY's Strategic Roadmap

Launched by Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodríguez, the strategic roadmap initiative is an effort to envision CUNY's future and the impact it can have on the students and

communities it serves. The initiative aims to create a five-year plan, eliciting input from CUNY students, faculty, staff, alum, and local leaders regarding the following categories: student-centered CUNY, upward mobility, academic quality, research and innovation, finance and infrastructure, and a synergized university. A website with relevant information will be available soon. Opportunities for providing input will also be forthcoming. President Adams is on the Steering Committee where he is tasked with overseeing the Finance and Infrastructure Subcommittee. VP Shahir Erfan is on the Finance and Infrastructure Subcommittee and Associate Dean Dionne Miller is on the Academic Quality Subcommittee.

Senators discussed that it is difficult to know who is involved in this project, especially as the website is not yet available. Senators also expressed concern that the initiative is largely driven by administration with little faculty representation and that project participants were seemingly chosen without a democratic selection process.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Standing Committees
 - i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)
Chairperson Bruns will work with Committee on Committees Chair Victory to collect information from committee chairs detailing committee responsibilities and processes. This effort will ideally help facilitate succession of leadership and full functioning of committees.
 - ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)
See above for curriculum approval.
 - iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)
Chair Gonzalez reported that the Academic Standing Committee is working with Associate Dean Miller on a revised repeat course policy. They are currently gathering more data and properly articulating the new policy's rationale. They will present it to the Senate in May.
 - iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)
Chair Rivas reported that the Committee on Campus Affairs will meet soon to review policies on personal transportation devices.
 - v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca and Dianne Gordon Conyers, Co-Chairs)
Co-Chair Scamacca related that the Committee of Faculty would be meeting following the Senate session to consider a resolution on academic freedom, to review the new online learning webpage, and to certify degrees.
 - vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs)
The Ruhma Choudhury Colloquium will be held on Friday May 20th instead of the original date of May 13th.

- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Interim Chair)
The Budget and Finance Committee looked at college travel funds noting that the \$51,000 is for all PSC members, not just faculty. They are currently considering different models for how to divide this money for the 2022-2023 academic year and will present them at an upcoming Senate meeting. The committee is also looking into how to help the Theater Program with its budget issue.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Eneida Rivas and Evelyn Lowmark, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of Staff and Alumni continues to follow up with constituencies following the Employee Survey asking if anything has changed since the survey (ex. improvements made and issues to be addressed). COSA will be paying specific attention to COVID related issues as they have heard from staff that no one is checking in on personnel with regards to wellness.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Akiana Smith, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- 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 (Jayashree Kamble and Alexa Duque, Co-Chairs)
Members of the Transfer Committee participated in the March 31st transfer initiative meeting paying specific attention to structural limitations to transfer at LaGuardia. The Academic Momentum 2.0 initiative is looking at creating viable transfer plans for students and Transfer Committee members are partnering with the FYS team to integrate transfer preparation into the course.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Madelyn Nieves and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)
The FIJCNC participated in Spring Fest and the March 23rd forum on food insecurity. Look out for the upcoming can-structure contest on campus.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Governance Plan Revision Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
The Governance Plan Revision Committee completed the sections of the Governance Plan that pertain to Senate issues and will broach college governance overall next. Chair Scamacca also provided Senators with a "Governance Plan Talking Points" document to update constituencies on the progress of the revision project and answer commonly asked questions.

- ii. IT Advisory Committee (Jaime Riccio and Ian McDermott, Co-Chairs)
The IT Advisory Committee is drafting its goals and mission statement. They recently helped Health Sciences get new computers. The committee plans to address the issue that there is no budget line to replace faculty or classroom computers.
- iii. History Committee (Loretta Capuano-Vella and Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)
The History Committee begun its effort to interview individuals involved in LaGuardia's Senate throughout its history. Interviews will hopefully include: Avis Anderson, Claudia Baldonado, Cristy Bruns, Debra Engel, Hugo Fernandez, Dianne Gordon Conyers, Jerry Ianni, Florence Kabba, Janice Karlen, Anthony Pappas, Eneida Rivas, Alex Rojas, and Patricia Sokolski.
- iv. Online Learning Committee (J. Elizabeth Clark and Sandra Sze, Co-Chairs)
The Online Learning Committee recognized that many students do not understand the course modalities they are registering for. As an interim step in making student registration and advising clearer, the committee created a new online learning webpage. CUNY-wide language will be used for consistency. It will replace the outdated existing online learning webpage and will be linked to the current student resources page. It will hopefully be made available before April registration. The e-learning readiness quiz should be strongly recommended to students (and even faculty). Senator Correa suggested that the in-person course modality description explicitly clarify that there is no online component as students in various circumstances have been requesting an online option in strictly in-person classes. As the committee is still in its researching phase, they are not yet ready to make policy recommendations.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Advising Council (Jean Buckley Lockhart, Senate Representative)
Nothing to report.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

Nancy Santangelo is serving on the 5k race committee. It is planning its event for Saturday October 22nd.

Senator Busch will serve on the search committee for the new VP of Communications and External Affairs. Please reach out to Senator Busch with any input in the next 2-3 weeks.

XII. Announcements

None.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Scamacca. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2022