

LaGuardia Community College
College Senate Meeting
May 11, 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), Erika Correa (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Claudette Davis (Natural Sciences), 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), 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

Kenneth Adams, Heather Barikmo, Fay Butler, Kenneth Campanelli, San San Chow, Maria Cook, Douglas DiCarlo, Debra Engel, Janet Gonzalez, Sunil Gupta, Elizabeth Iannotti, Albert Jimenez, Marta Kowalczyk, Evelyn Lowmark, Dionne Miller, Maritza Pritsos, Alex Rojas, Nancy Santangelo, Tara Scales, Derek Stadler, Gina Taraskewich, Nayelli Valencia Turrent

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes from the April 13, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the April 13, 2022 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from April 28, 2022

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from April 28, 2022 was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator O'Sullivan. **Vote: Aye-23, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from April 28, 2022 were approved.

IV. Senate Parliamentarian's Robert's Rules Refresher Series

Senate Parliamentarian Scamacca presented her Robert's Rules Refresher entitled "How to Have a Robert's Approved Discussion." The presentation included a review of the appropriate place in the agenda to have a discussion, how to state the motion clearly, earning a second, opening the floor for discussion, and voting on the motion.

V. Chair's Report

Members of the University Faculty Senate and the Council of Faculty Governance Leaders expressed concern over CUNY's uniform grading policy. In addition to questioning specific content expressed in the policy, there are concerns over whether the

policy was properly approved by the Board of Trustees, and whether faculty had enough input in the policy. Chairperson Brunns will follow up as part of the Council of Faculty Governance Leaders.

Departmental elections will take place during May meetings. Following the Executive Committee's previous discussion with HR Director Edwards, the policies for departmental elections were updated and disseminated. As Director Edwards has since left the college, department elections will be overseen by VP Erfan and HR's Karamvir Kaur.

Recently, LaGuardia was given permission to hire approximately 25 new lecturers. The Board of Trustees approved this budget in an attempt to increase teaching by full-time faculty. The approved budget only allowed for the hiring of lecturers, not tenure track faculty.

The Athletics Compliance Committee needs a Senator for quarterly meetings. This new committee will review matters related to compliance with NJCAA rules and procedures. Senator Franklin volunteered to serve on the committee.

Committee chairs will present their oral year-end reports at the June 8th Senate meeting as it is the final meeting of the academic year. Chairs should also provide a written year-end report, approximately one page in length, to the Senate Secretary for storage in the Senate SharePoint.

Senators are reminded to provide Chairperson Brunns with brief reports regarding how they engage with their constituencies to foster better communication practices. Senators that are not clear as to the constituency group they represent should email Chairperson Brunns for clarification.

VI. Invitation of Associate Dean Dionne Miller and Academic Standing Committee Chair Janet Gonzalez to Discuss the Proposed Repeat Course Policy

Associate Dean Dionne Miller and ASC Chair Janet Gonzalez joined the Senate for a discussion regarding the new repeat course policy. The conversation included a review of the existing and proposed repeat course policies, a dialogue about the rationale for the proposed changes, and an examination of relevant data. Senator Capuano-Vella asked whether transfer within CUNY was taken into consideration, as other schools may calculate students' GPAs using different parameters than LaGuardia under the proposed repeat course policy. A statement will be added directing students to check the GPA calculation procedures of the 4-year schools they seek to attend. ASC Chair Gonzalez added that if passed, the proposed repeat course policy would not be set in stone and could be reevaluated after it is implemented. A vote on the policy will take place at the Senate's June 8th meeting.

VII. Vote on Personal Electric Vehicle Policy

The Campus Affairs Committee, in consultation with Executive Director of Facilities Management & Planning Kenneth Campanelli, developed a new Personal Transportation

Device Policy. The policy proposed prohibiting the operation, use, and storage of motorized and battery-operated personal mobility devices within the College buildings, excluding adaptive mobility devices or authorized equipment brought in for the use for administrative and maintenance work. Senators questioned whether the policy discouraged the use of eco-friendly modes of transportation, whether the college currently has enough space to park and store personal transportation devices, whether faculty would be responsible for enforcing the ban, and what the repercussions for violating the ban would be. Senator Franklin motioned to table the discussion until the June 8th meeting. Without a second, the motion failed. Senator Busch motioned to send the policy back to the Campus Affairs Committee for additional clarification. This motion was seconded by Senator Sokolski. The Senate voted unanimously to support the motion. Chairperson Bruns requested that Senators send additional questions and concerns via Zoom chat and/or email. She then charged the Campus Affairs Committee with reevaluating and revising the Personal Transportation Device Policy for presentation to the Executive Committee on May 25th.

VIII. Vote on Resolution Defending Academic Freedom

Senator Scamacca moved to approve the submitted resolution defending academic freedom. This was seconded by Senator Pappas. Senators Scamacca and Kehoe discussed the importance of academic freedom, especially in light of recent efforts to restrict the teaching of certain concepts. Senator Capuano-Vella voiced concerns about unfair treatment of students who raise complaints and/or disagree with classroom content. Chairperson Bruns charged the Academic Freedom Subcommittee with looking into this issue. With one abstention, the remainder of the Senate body voted to approve the resolution.

IX. Invitation of President Adams to Discuss Current Employee Searches

President Adams reviewed the following employee searches and appointments:

- Following Provost Paul Arcario's retirement announcement, a committee of seventeen members is conducting a search for a new provost. The committee, led by Arthur Lau, is currently interviewing finalists. The finalists will also meet with representatives from various constituencies.
- Led by Nayelli Valencia Turrent, a committee of eight members is currently conducting a search for a new VP of Communications and External Affairs following Robert Jaffe's retirement.
- A search to find an Executive Director for the LaGuardia Foundation is currently underway. Laura Bartovics is currently Director of the Grants Development Office and overseeing the LaGuardia Foundation. Hiring a new Executive Director will allow the Foundation to fundraise to its maximum capacity.
- After the departure of Christopher Carozza last year, HR Director Ron Edwards served as the college's Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Administrator. Following Edwards's recent resignation, Wendy Nicholson led a search committee to find a new Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Administrator. Search finalist Marta Clark agreed to instead serve as Interim HR Director and

will start on May 23rd. The Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Administrator position is still vacant.

- Shannon Lund was appointed the new Director of Admissions.
- Derwent Dawkins was appointed Interim Registrar after the departure of Burhan Siddiqui.
- Searches for the Associate Dean for Enrollment and Associate Dean for Student Success positions will commence in the Fall. Currently Gail Baksh Jarrett serves as the Interim Associate Dean for Enrollment and Fay Butler serves as the Interim Associate Dean for Student Success.

Senators requested that administration emphasize promoting from within and consider salary increases for college assistants and civil service employees in an effort to retain employees.

Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)
Committee on Committees Chair Victory is collecting information from committee chairs detailing committee responsibilities and processes. This effort will ideally help facilitate succession of leadership and full functioning of committees. Please submit by May 23rd.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)
See above for curriculum approval.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)
See above for proposed repeat course policy presentation.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)
See above for proposed personal electric vehicle policy discussion.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca and Dianne Gordon Conyers, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of Faculty will meet following the Senate session.
- 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 at 11:00am.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Interim Chair)
The EDIT Committee will oversee the use of travel funds for Academic Affairs.
- 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).

- 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)
Nothing to report.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Nicolle Fernandes and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)
The FIJCNC took part in the April and May Plaza Days, assisting LaGuardia CARES in distributing food. Watch out for the construction event coming to campus soon.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Governance Plan Revision Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
The Governance Plan Revision Committee will meet with the President's Cabinet in May to suggest some strategic priorities in terms of shared governance. Senate articles will be ready for a preliminary conversation at the June meeting as planned.
- 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 have written reports on their findings and the Online Learning Committee will be voting on recommendations this Friday and next Friday.

c. Non-Senate Committees

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

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

Faculty and staff have experienced different interpretations of the policies regarding children on campus. The Campus Affairs Committee will look into this situation.

XII. Announcements

None.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Victory. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29pm.

Next Meeting: June 8, 2022