

LaGuardia Community College  
**College Senate Meeting**  
September 14, 2022  
2:15-4:30 pm  
E-111 and Zoom

**Present and Voting**

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley-Lockhart (Counseling), Loretta Capuano-Vella (Enrollment Management), Erika Correa (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Claudette Davis (Natural Sciences), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional), Crystal Franklin (President's Office), Nick Hetherington (Student), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jayashree Kamble (At-Large Instructional), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Tara Scales (Health Science), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC), Dana Trusso (Humanities), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs)

**Present Non-Voting**

J. Elizabeth Clark, Hugo Fernandez, Billie Gastic Rosado, Marta Kowalczyk, Lucie Mingla, Madelyn Nieves, Aura Paulino-Regalado, Maritza Pritzos, Alex Rojas, Manuel Romero, Nancy Santangelo, Derek Stadler, Julio Torres

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:24pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

**II. Approval of Minutes from the June 8, 2022 Meeting**

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the June 8, 2022 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

**III. Invitation of Provost Billie Gastic Rosado**

New Provost Billie Gastic Rosado started a listening tour in which she will engage with various LaGuardia stakeholders. The Senate was her first stop. She expressed an openness to hearing all feedback, but was particularly curious to hear about impediments to student success and achieving college-wide goals.

- Senator Sokolski expressed concern over staff/faculty equity, specifically with regard to reclassification/promotion and work scheduling.

- Senator Kamble asked Provost Gastic Rosado to share her vision for tenure track faculty as they navigate their annual review process. Provost Gastic Rosado heard from other sources that different information is available to different employees due to their placement at the college and emphasized a need for better clarity and consistency in the process. Senator Johnson stressed that different types of leadership and research efforts should be respected equally across departments. Provost Gastic Rosado followed up by asking about what supports exist for faculty research efforts. Senators summarized the opportunities offered by the Grants Office, CTL seminars, and the EDIT Grant. Senators

also explained how travel funds have considerably decreased in size to only \$50 maximum per year allocated from PSC funds.

- Senator Victory voiced that ASAP is looking to increase its collaborative efforts with faculty and advisors to best serve its 3,000 students. She is also concerned that students were not able to get the classes they needed for their Fall schedules due to course cancellations. Senator Kamble echoed this concern suggesting that classes may be canceled too early as there is significant enrollment after the course cancellation date, sometimes even leading to course overalls.
- Senator Kehoe stressed the need for enrollment data from previous semesters to craft subsequent semester schedules. It is difficult to create a schedule that fits faculty workload requirements and student class needs and data would help guide these decisions. Senator Scamacca added that Program Directors require more support including better sharing of relevant information and appropriate amounts of release time for their various efforts. Senator Johnson suggested that Program Director meetings be used for troubleshooting of issues, not just assessment discussions.
- Senator Lowmark voiced an interest in integrating more staff into academic programs. She also would like to see more of an effort made to building a sense of community for evening and weekend students. Provost Gastic Rosado asked if Senators thought students identified with their department or the college first. Many Senators agreed that students make the majority of their connections at the departmental level.

Chairperson Bruns thanked new Provost Gastic Rosado for attending the session and suggested that constituency committees reach out to discuss additional issues.

#### **IV. Governance Plan Revision Committee Presentation**

As previous documents detailing Governance Plan revisions did not elicit feedback from Senators (except for Chairperson Bruns), the Governance Plan Revision Committee will provide Senators with a one-page summary to share with their constituencies for additional feedback. There will be time for discussion at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Senate session. Allowing time for more feedback will push the Governance Plan vote until after the new 2022-2023 Senate is seated. Positively, postponing the vote will allow for newly elected student senators to be engaged with the process. Articles addressing matters outside the purview of the Senate, including the Personnel and Budget (P&B) Committee, the Personnel Review Committee (PRC), and the roles and responsibilities of chairs, will be revised and voted on by the Senate at a later date. Changes outlined in articles approved by the Senate will not take effect until the subsequent Senate year.

#### **V. Creation of an Ad Hoc Personnel & Budget Article Committee**

Senator Scamacca motioned to create an ad hoc committee to review, discuss, and recommend changes to the departmental leadership and departmental and college-wide personnel and budget articles of the Governance Plan, to be chaired by Senator Sokolski. This motion was seconded by Senator Johnson. Senator Scamacca voiced her wishes to see the Committee of Staff and Alumni focus on its parallel issues, possibly by forming a committee to address the Personnel Review Committee. Membership of the proposed Ad Hoc Personnel & Budget Article Committee would be formulated by Senator Sokolski,

but should reflect all relevant stakeholders including faculty, chairs, human resources, legal counsel, and the union. The Senate voted to adopt the motion.

## **VI. Chair's Report**

Chairperson Bruns and Faculty Council President Isaac participated in the President's Cabinet during the summer session. The cabinet contains several new members of the LaGuardia community including Vice President of Communications and External Affairs Manuel Romero, who was in attendance at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Senate session.

LaGuardia is replacing Outlook Web Access with a cloud-based email service that will provide more email storage. LaGuardia's contract with Blackboard ends in 2023 and will transition to using D2L's Brightspace. Senators familiar with the platform voiced that it was user-friendly and good for online learning. IT can convert Blackboard courses to Brightspace. Despite the general positive feedback, Senators expressed discontent that representatives from LaGuardia were not involved in the decision to switch platforms.

Interim Associate Dean for Enrollment Gail Baksh-Jarrett will replace former Vice President of Information Technology Henry Saltiel as Chair of the Auxiliary Board.

Committee chairs will present their year-end reports at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting. Reports should be emailed to Senate Secretary Kehoe and Chairperson Bruns.

With Senate elections shortly approaching, Senators should encourage their colleagues to consider running for a Senate seat and pursuing Senate leadership opportunities.

Chairperson Bruns emphasized that despite often having complimentary functions, the Senate and the union have distinct purposes, methods, and roles. The Senate participates in collaborative decision-making with college administration, forming, but not implementing, college policy. The union focuses on improving working conditions and protecting employees. As the current PSC-CUNY contract expires at the end of February 2023, the union will be engaged in contract negotiations separate from the work of college governance.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- a. Standing Committees
  - i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)  
Nothing to report.
  - ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)  
Nothing to report.
  - iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)  
The Academic Standing Committee is meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> and will likely need new student representatives. The ASC's first workshop is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)  
Nothing to report.
  
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca and Dianne Gordon Conyers, Co-Chairs)  
The Committee of Faculty continues to discuss pressing matters including how to have safe discussions and dialogues in the classroom, reporting and responding to student complaints, and the efficacy of student evaluations.
  
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs)  
Nothing to report.
  
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Interim Chair)  
Vice President of Administration and Finance Shahir Erfan and Director of Budget and Financial Planning Anthony Garafola presented the Fall budget. Of note, the budget has little to no discretionary funding and the college will need to start paying for its own COVID testing expenses. The college needs to improve its collection rates, as it has been decreasing for two years.  
  
The UFS Budget Advisory Committee also met. The new CUNY Vice Chancellor is thinking about how to use artificial intelligence to automate support services to free up staff. She is also looking to increase efficiency across CUNY campuses (e.g. having employers come to a central location for hiring fairs).
  
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Eneida Rivas and Evelyn Lowmark, Co-Chairs)  
Nothing to report.
  
- ix. The Committee of Students (Vacant, Chair)  
Nothing to report.
  
- x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)  
Please encourage students to run for Senate seats. The process is online and very easy. Please encourage faculty and staff colleagues to run for at-large Senate seats. We did not have enough candidates last year. For department Senator elections, the number of votes and the number of individuals present should be reported in order to ensure fair election procedures are followed.
  
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)  
See Chair's report.
  
- xii. Transfer Committee (Jayashree Kamble and Alexa Duque, Co-Chairs)  
The Transfer Committee has members on the Academic Momentum 2.0 Taskforce and the CUNY Transfer Committee (Jose Placencia is replacing Renée Freeman-Butler). The committee is seeking new members from the

health and STEM fields and will be looking for a new co-chair as Senate Kamble will be stepping down.

- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Madelyn Nieves and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)  
The FIJCNC is partnering with Tuli Chatterji and the LaGuardia Humanitarian Initiative. This year's theme is #FoodJusticeForAll." A kickoff event is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-3:15pm.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Governance Plan Revision Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)  
See above for Governance Plan revision discussion.
- 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)  
Co-Chair Clark will be emailing the Online Learning Committee's report. Please read it and come ready to vote at the next Senate meeting. Information on a town hall to discuss the recommendations of the Online Learning Committee is forthcoming.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Advising Council (Jean Buckley Lockhart, Senate Representative)  
The current advisement model is staying in place for now. Peer advisors have been placed in all academic departments and divisions.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

None.

**IX. New Business**

Congratulations to Nancy Santangelo on her retirement from LaGuardia after 44 years of service! The History Committee will conduct an exit interview shortly – stay tuned.

Senator Pappas brought to the Senate's attention that the cafeteria was not open this week, making food options and open spaces more limited. Senators were concerned if this closure continues.

**XII. Announcements**

None.

**XIII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Capuano-Vella. This was seconded by Senator O'Sullivan. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

**Next Meeting:** October 12, 2022