

**LaGuardia Community College**  
**Agenda for the College Senate Meeting**  
**November 8, 2023**  
**2:15-4:30 pm (E-500 and Zoom)**

**Present In-Person and Voting**

Shoaib Ahamed (At-large Adjunct), Abir Apon (Student), Cristy Bruns (English), Aimeelyn Calandria (Division of Institutional Advancement), Maria Cook (President's Office), Erika Correa (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Donniece Davis-Cooper (Division of Student Affairs), John Fletcher (SGA), Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Daniel Gertner (At-Large Instructional Staff), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), John Jara (Student), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Ian McDermott (Library), Zahara Mutebi (Student), Chante Ortega (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Genesis Pichardo (Student), Aliyah Robinson (Student), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Sojung Sim (Student), Elizabeth Streich (Division of Communications and External Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC)

**Present Online and Voting**

Anwarul Azim (Student), Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jaime Riccio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Leslie Scamacca (Division of Academic Affairs), Easter Sim (Student)

**Present In-Person Non-Voting**

Luke Cardaio, Alexis McLean, Thomas Onorato, Alex Rojas, Patricia Sokolski, John Toland

**Present Online Non-Voting**

Ian Alberts, Lara Arbach, Habiba Boumlik, Jasmine Edwards, Hugo Fernandez, Marina Prorokovic, Sandra Ribeiro, Derek Stadler,

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:19pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

**II. Approval of the agenda**

Senator Isaac moved to approve the agenda for the 11/8/23 meeting. Senator Cook seconded.

**III. Approval of Minutes** from October 25, 2023 meeting.

Chairperson Bruns asked for a motion to postpone the review of minutes to the next College Senate meeting on 11/29/23. Senator Davis-Cooper moved to postpone the review of minutes to 11/29/23's meeting. Senator Correa seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

**III. Vote on Curriculum Consent Calendar Items from October 26, 2023**

Senator Senkov asked if he could ask for clarification regarding the curriculum at the meeting. The change was related to repositioning of a course in the Flexible Core. A lengthy discussion ensued. Senator Pappas noted that questions or concerns should be submitted at least 24 hours in

advance. Senator Pappas mentioned a motion needed to be on the floor to continue the discussion.

Senator Streich moved to approve the curriculum consent calendar. Senator Isaac seconded. Vote: Aye-25, No-0, Abstain-3. The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from October 26, 2023 were approved.

#### **IV. Committee on Committee Elections**

As stated in the Governance Plan, the Committee on Committees requires seven members, two of whom must be students. Chairperson Burns reiterated the responsibility of the Committee on Committees, which is to make sure all committees of Senate are fully staffed. Senator Flores, Senator Scamacca, Senator Apon, Senator Morales, and Senator Streich nominated themselves. The Senate voted unanimously to elect Senator Flores, Senator Scamacca, Senator Apon, Senator Morales, and Senator Streich to the Committee of Committees. One seat remains vacant on the committee. The newly elected committee will meet following this meeting to elect a chair.

#### **Chair's Report**

- a) EAB Navigate will replace SEMS and C2C, a change required by CUNY. The system will be in place in Fall 2024. Members of the Senate's Ad Hoc IT Advisory Committee are involved in the transition.
- b) LaGuardia's chapter of the PSC circulated a letter to President Adams raising concerns about the effectiveness of the Human Resources department at the college. Chairperson Bruns chose not to sign the letter because of her public role representing the College Senate, and she does not consider this an issue for direct Senate involvement in that it focuses primarily on personnel matters. The Senate could get involved if someone proposes a resolution on the issue for the Senate to consider. Chairperson Bruns and Senator (and Faculty Council President) Isaac have a seat on the President's Cabinet which provides other opportunities for conversations regarding concerns like this.

#### **IV. Presentation from Luke Cardaio, Ombudsperson**

Luke Cardaio presented to Senate about his role as Ombudsman, also known as the student advocate. Mr. Cardaio discussed the role of the office, how to address student inquiries/concerns, and the referral system. The ombudsman serves as an impartial advocate for students who may file a complaint and determine if policy has been violated. He also discussed the syllabus and addressing academic integrity complaints with students. Mr. Cardaio emphasized the ombudsman has an open-door policy and open ear, but it may not lead to advocacy. Based on his experience, students have shared concerns about the lack of attendance policy and how that factored into the grade. He provided tips on how faculty can be proactive by providing students with the syllabus, house rules, and clarity about an attendance policy. There is a working group for student conduct and academic integrity.

#### **V. Invitation to VP McLean**

VP Alexis McLean introduced herself and provided context about her background. VP McLean mentioned that since the pandemic there has been a rise in cases regarding student mental health and what the division is doing to address those issues. The Office of Student Affairs is looking to hire a Director of Community Standards. VP McLean tries to ensure that every contact inquiry

receives a response. Most conflict does not arise to community standards. Some students are counseled into withdrawing. The division is focused on crisis response. A counselor needs to be on call. Crisis response is coordinated between Student Affairs and Public Safety. VP McLean referenced a CUNY conduct policy which states that if students are being disruptive then they should be removed. Areas of the division have been working on programming and initiatives related to mental health and cross unit work such as food insecurity. The division has been exploring grants opportunities for Airbnb for students who are transient, displaced etc.

**VI. Committee Reports** Due to limited time, most committee reports were postponed.

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)

No report.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)

See above for curriculum approval.

iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Lilla Töke, Chair)

No report.

iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark and Anthony Pappas, Co-Chairs)

No report.

v. The Committee of Faculty (Daniel Gertner, Chair)

No report.

vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs) *Report sent by email.*

1. The next meeting of the Committee on Professional Development will be Monday, November 13 from 11:00 a.m. – 100 p.m.
2. The next Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium will held in Spring 2024.
3. The Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards subcommittee is developing a plan for nomination of awardees, including developing the survey forms for the nomination.
4. They are also creating a committee of election for Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards that will develop criteria, timeline, and procedures for nominating the winners.
5. The Diversity & Inclusion subcommittee will meet tomorrow, Thursday, November 9.

vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)

A new student payment system will be in place soon allowing students to use Apple Pay in 2024. Students can wire money for a \$50 flat fee. The budget deficit for 2023-2024 will be covered by remaining pandemic relief funds. The structural deficit has been reduced but will still be a problem for '24-'25.

- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Donniece Davis-Cooper and Karamvir Kaur, Co-Chairs)  
No report.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Sojung Sim, Chair)  
No report.
- x. The Committee on Elections (vacant, Chair)  
No report.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)  
See Chair's Report.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Alexa Duque and Misun Dokko, Co-Chairs)  
No report.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Rebekah Johnson, Chair)  
No report.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. IT Advisory Committee (Jaime Riccio and Ian McDermott, Co-Chairs)  
No report.
- ii. History Committee (Loretta Capuano-Vella and Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)  
No report.
- iii. Online Learning Committee (Sandra Sze and Joshua Tan, Co-Chairs)  
No report.
- v. Senate Assessment & Review Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)  
No report.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Advising Council (Jean Buckley Lockhart, Senate Representative)  
No report.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

None.

**VIII. New Business**

None.

**IX. Announcements**

None.

**X. Adjourned**

Senator Isaac motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Correa seconded.