

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
April 26, 2023
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500 and Zoom

Present and Voting

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley-Lockhart (Counseling), Cindy Busch (Division of Communications and External Affairs), Aimeelyn Calandria (Division of Institutional Advancement), Loretta Capuano-Vella (Division of Enrollment Management), Lucia Chavira (SGA President), Maria Cook (President's Office), Claudette Davis (Natural Sciences), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Gentjana Gurraj (Student), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Ryan Mann-Hamilton (At-Large Instructional), Lucie Mingla (At-Large Instructional), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Maritza Pritsos (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Luis Restrepo (Division of Student Success), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Suraj Singh (Division of Information Technology), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC)

Present and Non-Voting

Rosemay Chaperon, Erika Correa, Donniece Davis-Cooper, Hugo Fernandez, Abdul Hashim, Charles Keyes, Lloyd Klein, Marta Kowalczyk, Jaime Riccio, Alex Rojas

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:25pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

The Senate unanimously approved the agenda for the June 7, 2023 Senate meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from the March 29, 2023 Meeting

Senator Busch requested that the minutes properly reflect that her division is now titled "Communications and External Affairs." The minutes were approved with this minor revision.

IV. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from May 18, 2023

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from May 18, 2023 was made by Senator Pappas. This was seconded by Senator Busch. Vote: Aye-21, Nay-0, Abstain-0. The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from May 18, 2023 were approved.

V. Invitation of Registrar Abdul Hashim

The Senate welcomed new Registrar Abdul Hashim who started at the college in April 2023. He recounted his professional experience, working at LaGuardia and other CUNY colleges. Senators questioned how the Registrar's Office would be able manage its workload with limited staff. Registrar Hashim reported that he has nine fulltime staff,

including himself. A search to hire two new staff personnel is currently going through the Vacancy Review Board process. Questions for the Registrar's Office can be directed to Registrar@lagcc.cuny.edu. Urgent messages can be sent directly to Registrar Hashim. Faculty requests for computer labs should be sent to scheduling@lagcc.cuny.edu. The registration lab in C-126 will remain open 9am-5pm Monday through Thursday.

VI. Chair's Report

Chairperson Bruns continues to attend LaGuardia's Vacancy Review Board meetings. LaGuardia's VRB is forwarding a number of hiring requests to CUNY's VRB, prioritizing hires based on need.

The Governance Leaders Council met for the first time with the following members: Cristy Bruns (Senate), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Mike Napolitano (Chair's Council), Anthony Pappas (Committee of Staff and Alumni), Lucia Chavira (SGA), and President Kenneth Adams. Representatives discussed the issues and concerns of their constituencies including, but not limited to, the need for mentoring across campus and the need to improve staff morale. The council will meet twice per semester, instead of the once originally suggested, as it was deemed valuable. President Adams hopes the Governance Leaders Council will play a strong role in helping to communicate institutional memory and thoughtful decision-making.

Chairperson Bruns emphasized the importance of Senate committee work, the need for proper constituency representation, and the value of shared governance in the functioning of the college. She highlighted Senate's work in passing the Children on Campus and Attendance policies as successful examples of shared governance. The University Faculty Senate sent out an email asking representatives which committees they were interested in joining. The Senate may employ this technique to encourage committee work.

LaGuardia will create an Office of Global and Experiential Learning. Chairperson Bruns reached out to the office to let them know that the Senate and SGA are excellent opportunities for experiential learning.

The previous Visitor's policy under CUNY's COVID guidelines is no longer applicable. Chairperson Bruns charged the Committee on Campus Affairs with looking into the issue of visitors on campus with the aim of developing a clarified Visitor's policy.

September 13, 2023 is the final meeting of the Senate year. Committee chairs and co-chairs will present their year-end reports at this meeting. Please look out for an upcoming email with instructions on how to organize and write year-end committee reports. October 11, 2023 will function as a transition meeting, where the Senate will thank outgoing Senators and welcome newly elected Senators. October 25, 2023 is the first official meeting of the 2023-2024 Senate year.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
See above for curriculum approval.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Lilla Toke, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark and Anthony Pappas, Co-Chairs)
The Committee on Campus Affairs acknowledged Chairperson Bruns's charge to look into the need for a new Visitor's policy. Moving forward, the committee needs a student representative.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Dianne Gordon Conyers and Claudette Davis, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of Faculty is meeting after the Senate session where they will confer degrees.
- 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, Chair)
In a communication by written by a PSC member, it was alleged that there was a 14% increase in Executive Compensation Plan spending. Chair Sokolski followed up with Senior Director of Budget and Financial Planning Anthony Garafola. At LaGuardia, the increase was 4.1% and is now down to 3.6%, not 14%. It is possible that a larger increase in Executive Compensation Plan spending may be at the CUNY Central level. In the future, budget updates will be included in campus updates to improve transparency.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Cindy Busch and Donniece Davis-Cooper, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of Staff and Alumni is meeting Monday at 3pm.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Gentjana Gurraj, Chair)
The Committee of Students is actively trying to recruit students for the next Senate year.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)
The Committee on Elections encouraged Senators to motivate their peers to run for Senate seats. A list of outgoing Senators will be distributed so divisions and departments will be aware of the need to hold elections.

- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
See Chair's report.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Alexa Duque and Misun Dokko, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Rebekah Johnson, Chair)
Nothing to report.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. IT Advisory Committee (Jaime Riccio and Ian McDermott, Co-Chairs)
The IT Advisory Committee will have its final meeting of the academic year the week of June 12th.
- ii. History Committee (Loretta Capuano-Vella and Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)
The History Committee is sending invitations for interviews. Please suggest names for additional interviews.
- iii. Online Learning Committee (J. Elizabeth Clark and Sandra Sze, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Personnel & Budget Article Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
The Personnel & Budget Committee will wrap up its work in June. The committee conducted surveys, eliciting responses from all departments. Maria Cook will help the committee finalize the language in the document before it comes to the Senate. Chairperson Bruns reminded the Senate that its job is to vote on the proposed article, not to redo the work of the committee.
- v. Senate Assessment & Review Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
Nothing to report.

c. Non-Senate Committees

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

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

Senator Busch suggested that representatives from unions for various campus employees should come to talk to the Senate like other visitors from across the college. Chairperson Bruns suggested implementing this suggestion in Fall 2023.

Senator Johnson requested that we look at what codes of conduct exist at LaGuardia and evaluate what else is needed to ensure a safe campus and effective learning/working space.

X. Announcements

None.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2023