

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
June 5, 2024
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500 and Zoom

In-Person Votes

Abir Apon (Student), Anwarul Azim (Student), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Aimeelyn Calandria (Division of Institutional Advancement), Erika Correa (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Daniel Gertner (At-Large Instructional Staff), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Mehedi Hassan (Student), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), John Jara Morales (Student), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Shannon Lund (At-Large Instructional Staff), Zahara Mutebi (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Leslie Scamacca (Division of Academic Affairs), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Easter Sim (Student), Sojung Sim (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Elizabeth Streich (Division of Communications and External Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC)

Online Votes

Shoaib Ahamed (At-Large Adjunct), Maria Cook (President's Office), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), Aliyah Robinson (Student)

Present In-Person

Kenneth Adams, Caterina Almendral, Loretta Capuano-Vella, Hugo Fernandez, Odin Wright

Present Online

Claudette Davis, Assuanta Howard, Albert Jimenez, Dionne Miller, Nelson Ortiz, Derek Stadler, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Kim Wright

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:28pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda for the June 5, 2024 Senate meeting was made by Senator Hashim. This was seconded by Senator Isaac. The motion passed and agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from the May 8, 2024 Meeting

Chairperson Bruns requested that the minutes reflect that the Advising Council did not offer a report during the May 8th meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from May 16, 2024

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from May 16,

2024 was made by Senator Buckley Lockhart. This was seconded by Senator Correa. **Vote: Aye-21, Nay-0, Abstain-4.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from May 16, 2024 were approved.

V. Invitation to Assuanta Howard for Report on Proposed MWBE Advancement Center

Assuanta Howard, Assistant Dean of Business Services and Executive Director of the LaGuardia Community College 10,000 Small Businesses Program, and Nelson Ortiz, Director of the LaGuardia APEX Accelerator, presented their work on the proposed MWBE (Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises) Advancement Center. The MWBE Advancement Center would help MWBE certified businesses be more competitive in efforts to earn contracts with government agencies. Staff, faculty, student, and community member owned businesses that are MWBE certified, or seek to be MWBE certified, can participate. Fundraising initiatives, not tax-levy money, will be used to support the center. If approved by the Board of Trustees at the June 24th meeting, the center will open once funds are secured. LaGuardia was specifically approached for this program due to its existing small business programs.

VI. Vote on Visiting/Non-Degree Student Policy

The Academic Standing Committee presented a revised Visiting/Non-Degree Student Policy, reinstating the policy to its former version from before the pandemic. The pre-pandemic policy stipulated that pre-requisites are required to take classes unless there is a waiver from the department. This policy changed during the pandemic removing the requirement for pre-requisites to reflect changes in testing procedures and to increase enrollment as an emergency measure. Several senators spoke in favor of the change, emphasizing the importance of taking pre-requisite courses to encourage student academic success. The Senate unanimously approved the policy.

VII. Vote on Resolution Amending the Declaration of Pluralism

Feedback from the LaGuardia Women's Center and LGBTQ+ Hub suggested that LaGuardia's Declaration of Pluralism in the College Catalogue was missing references to key demographic groups and forms of discrimination. The Executive Committee of the Senate drafted a resolution proposing changes to the Declaration of Pluralism to make it more inclusive and in accordance with both the policy of The City University of New York and LaGuardia Community College. The Senate unanimously approved the resolution.

VIII. Vote on Senate Calendar Statement on Submission of Materials for Senate Consideration

Chairperson Bruns introduced a proposed statement for addition to the Senate calendar to request that materials for Senate consideration be submitted two weeks prior to the Senate meeting. This would allow Senate to conduct business methodically and efficiently. New Business can still be brought to the Senate at regular meetings. The Senate unanimously approved the proposed addition to the Senate calendar.

IX. Chair's Report

Chairperson Bruns presented about the Senate at the New Faculty Colloquium this past Monday.

LGBTQIA+ Gender Identity, Inclusivity, and Pronoun Training will be mandatory for faculty and staff. The initiative will begin in Fall 2024.

President Adams asked Chairperson Bruns about the defunct Space Committee after hearing about it at a previous Senate meeting. Moving forward, the Campus Affairs Committee will meet regularly to address issues formerly handled by the Space Committee. The Senate will help to strengthen the Campus Affairs Committee to fulfill this new responsibility. Of note, the Campus Affairs Committee will not have the same decision-making power of the old Space Committee.

The Council of Governance Leaders met with President Adams to discuss the issue of course scheduling. Representatives included Senate Chairperson Cristy Brun, Faculty Council President Rochel Isaac, and the Chairs Council's Mike Napolitano. As their constituency committees are still being formed, Loretta Capuano-Vella represented staff and Claudia Baldonado represented ACE. There was no student representative at the meeting.

CUNY Vice Chair Wendy Hensel proposed several changes to the CUNY Bylaws. An ad-hoc group composed of University Faculty Senators and CUNY Governance Leaders is working on a response to those changes and is recommending that Vice Chair Hensel withdraw her proposed changes.

In contrast to how the Senate operated at its May 2024 meeting, state law specifies that the majority to approve a motion is the majority of the body, not the majority of those present at the meeting. Since Chairperson Bruns declared the motion passed at the May 2024 meeting, it remains passed. Moving forward, we will need nineteen Senators to approve a motion. Vacant seats still count as seats. The Senate Assessment & Review Committee should look at this issue as it deals with procedure.

X. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
See above for curriculum approval.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Interim Chair)
The Academic Standing Committee is updating its Academic Appeals form to separate Academic Appeals from Reinstatements and Financial Liability

Appeals. Loretta Capuano-Vella expressed concern about separating reinstatement and academic appeal processes as it may create additional obstacles for students. Senator Hamilton added that students assume financial liability is waived if their academic appeal is granted, which is not the case. Separating these appeals may help improve student understanding.

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

The Committee on Campus Affairs is working on drafting a visitor's policy. They are also looking at the issue of First Amendment auditors on campus. They plan to discuss with LaGuardia community members what areas of campus they consider private. The new Space Committee will seek to have members from all divisions. They will work to develop a form to request long-term space.

v. The Committee of Faculty (Daniel Gertner, Chair)
Nothing to report.

vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs)
Opening Sessions, chaired by Cristina Natale and Jasmine Edwards, will be held on September 4, 2024. The theme is "Career Readiness and Pathways: Guiding Students Toward Success in Education and Beyond." Proposals are due by June 15th.

vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
The 2025-2026 budget looks okay due to LaGuardia's good financial management.

viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Donniece Davis-Cooper and Karamvir Kaur, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.

ix. The Committee of Students (Sojung Sim, Chair)
Students are reminded to fill out the form to get their stipend.

x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Everyone is encouraged to recruit potential Senators for next year.

b.

i. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
See Chair's Report.

ii. Transfer Committee (Alexa Duque and Misun Dokko, Co-Chairs)
The Transfer Committee is drafting a report on faculty-focused transfer.

- iii. 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)
Nothing to report.
- ii. History Committee (Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Online Learning Committee (Sandra Sze and Joshua Tan, Co-Chairs)
The Online Learning Committee is meeting on Friday.
- 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.

XII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIII. New Business

Staff should look out for a link to the Staff Engagement Survey.

The Strategic Planning team needs college community members to fill out their surveys.

XIV. Announcements

New Human Resources Director Mary DiGangi starts at LaGuardia on Monday.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09pm.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2024