

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

In-Person Votes

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Luke Cardaio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Miguel Carvajal (Community, Health, and Wellness), Thomas Cleary (Library), Donniece Davis-Cooper (Student Affairs), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Md Nayeem Hossain (Student), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), John Jara Morales (SGA), Albert Jimenez (At-Large Instructional Staff), Celina Johnson (Student), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Jiale Lin (Student), Naomi Marajh (At-Large Instructional Staff), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Athena Rivera (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Academic Affairs), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Abu Bokkor Siddick (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Karma Sonan (Student), Elizabeth Streich (Division of Communications and External Affairs), John Toland (Faculty Council), Zofia Tubin (Student), Lakshmi Vidyasagar (MEC), Qingying Wang (Student), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

Online Votes

Maritza Pritsos (ACE)

Present In-Person

Kenneth Adams, Aowshaful Alam Jafin, Caterina Almendral, Loretta Capuano-Vella, Soraya Ciego-Lemur, Maria Cook, Erika Correa, Douglas DiCarlo, Mary DiGangi, Shahir Erfan, Hugo Fernandez, Billie Gastic Rosado, Sunil Gupta, Lloyd Klein, Evelyn Lowmark, Shannon Lund, Jessica Mendez, Thomas Onorato, John Smith, Regina Varin-Mignano, Ingrid Veras

Present Online

Johanna Brand Ortiz, Milena Cuellar, Lisa Flores, Elizabeth Jardine, Dionne Miller, Derek Stadler, Sandra Sze, Joseph Taveras, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from November 13, 2024

The minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from November 7, 2024 and November 14, 2024

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from November 7, 2024 and November 14, 2024 was made by Senator Cardaio. This was seconded by Senator O'Sullivan. **Vote: Aye-31, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from November 7, 2024 and November 14, 2024 were approved.

V. Resolution from Academic Affairs to Close the Counseling Department

A motion to approve the resolution from Academic Affairs to close the Counseling Department was made by Senator Hashim and seconded by Senator Sokolski. The resolution was approved unanimously in a voice vote. The resolution will go to the CUNY Board of Trustees and likely go into effect September 2025.

VI. Invitation of President Adams for Follow-Up Presentation of the Strategic Plan

President Adams presented an edited version of Strategic Plan, updated after the College's November 22nd Strategic Plan Open House.

Senators voiced that the Strategic Plan should include the following:

- An emphasis on staff collaboration and faculty reinvestment
- References to Middle States assessment measures
- Reference to all types of international students (ex. students living in the United States with foreign educational credentials)
- A commitment to offering more FYS sections to accommodate student need
- Providing more professional development opportunities for staff, specifically opportunities with compensation and those scheduled outside traditional working hours.
- An emphasize on increasing student participation, club activities, and alumni engagement
- Better communication between CCPD and faculty
- Initiatives to encourage stop outs to return
- Institutional support for the First Year Experience

Senators also stressed the importance of securing sufficient funds to make sure Strategic Plan initiatives are successful.

Once finalized, the Strategic Plan will go to Dean Lerer and her team at Institutional Research and Assessment to determine the measurability of specific goals and who will be accountable for reaching them.

VII. Invitation of VP Shahir Erfan and Senior Director of Budget and Financial Planning Anthony Garafola for Budget Presentation

Senior Director of Budget and Financial Planning Anthony Garafola presented the FY24 Year-End Financial Position and the FY25 Projected Financial Position as well as breakdowns of FY25 Divisional Budgets and FY25 by Expense Category. The College is operating at a deficit, but other colleges have stricter oversight due to more severe financial distress. Budget and Finance Committee Chair Sokolski added that CUNY is confident about its appropriations from the state budget, but not as confident about its appropriations from the city budget.

Senators expressed concern that there is a disconnect between budget figures and what is being seen around campus, such as an absence of adequate supplies in certain departments. VP Erfan and Senior Director Garafola emphasized the importance of providing feedback to the Business Office to solve such problems.

VIII. Chair's Report

Commencement will be held on Friday June 20, 2025 instead of Saturday June 21st. Key commencement staff are unable to attend on Saturday June 21st so the date needed to be changed. Location is TBD.

The Executive Committee continues to discuss how to streamline Senate committee reports to maximize meeting efficiency.

Senator Buckley Lockhart stepped down from her role as Senate representative on the Advising Council. Based on Senator Buckley Lockhart's experience, the Executive Committee is considering alternatives for staying updated on advising. A search is underway for an Assistant Dean of Student Advising. The Executive Committee will consult with the new hire to consider options (e.g. regular visits to the Senate from Advising Council leadership).

Student Affairs will form a new committee in response to the recent Presidential election. The committee will likely start after the inauguration. The College is awaiting guidance from CUNY on how to proceed regarding undocumented students. Senator Sokolski added that the Chair of the CUNY Board of Trustees indicated that CUNY would abide by city and state law.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)

The Committee on Committees is looking for members to join the Academic Integrity Committee, the Academic Standing Committee, and the Committee on Campus Affairs.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)

See above for curriculum approval.

iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)

Nothing to report.

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

MBJ will remain the College's food vendor. The committee is creating a list of recommendations including healthier food options, extended hours, and cheaper prices. Other recommendations should be shared with the Committee on Campus Affairs.

The committee is working with the college to address concerns regarding its proposal to add turnstiles to building entrances. Questions and concerns should also be shared with the Committee on Campus Affairs.

Due to incidents of First Amendment auditors at the College, the committee is addressing the issue of filming on campus. Members of the college community need to be educated as to when and where individuals have the right to film. The committee is working on putting together a list of private spaces where filming is not allowed.

v. The Committee of Faculty (Lakshmi Vidyasagar, Chair)

Nothing to report.

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)

Nothing to report.

viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Karamvir Kaur, Chair)

Nothing to report.

ix. The Committee of Students (Mehedi Hassan and Jiale Lin, Co-Chairs)

Nothing to report.

- x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
See above for 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)
Nothing to report.
- ii. History Committee (Charles Keyes, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iii. Online Learning Committee (Joshua Tan and Michele De Goeas-Malone, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Senate Assessment & Review Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
Nothing to report.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Advising Council (TBD, Senate Representative)
Nothing to report.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Announcements

LPAC presents The Nutcracker and Visit to Santa's Toyland at 4pm on Sunday December 15th.

Contact Tara Coleman for unclaimed Faculty Council auction items.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25PM.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2025