

LaGuardia Community College  
**Minutes for the College Senate Meeting**  
April 9, 2025  
2:15-4:30 pm  
**E-500 and Zoom**

**In-Person Votes**

Cristy Bruns (English), Aimeelyn Calandria (President's Office), Luke Cardaio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Thomas Cleary (Library), Erika Correa (ACE), Donniece Davis-Cooper (Division of Student Affairs), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Maureen Doyle (Community, Health, and Wellness), Mehedi Hassan (Student), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), John Jara Morales (SGA), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Jiale Lin (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Shannon Lund (At-Large Instructional Staff), Leslie Scamacca (Academic Affairs), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), John Smith (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Karma Sonan (Student), Elizabeth Streich (Division of Communications and External Affairs), Jiten Tamang (Student), John Toland (Faculty Council), Zofia Tubin (Student), Lakshmi Vidyasagar (MEC), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

**Online Votes**

Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Md Nayeem Hossain (Student), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Athena Rivera (Student), Abu Bokkor Siddick (Student)

**Present In-Person**

Kenneth Adams, Caterina Almendral, Loretta Capuano-Vella, Maria Cook, Shahir Erfan, Hugo Fernandez, Carmen Luong, Thomas Onorato, Helen Skirchak, Derek Stadler, Nayelli Valencia Turrent, Francine White

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:26PM by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved without corrections.

**III. Approval of the Minutes from March 12, 2025**

The minutes were approved with minor corrections. The College Association and Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee elections are upcoming and were incorrectly described as completed. The University Faculty Senate's letter on academic freedom was incorrectly described as a resolution.

**IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from March 13, 2025**

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from March 13, 2025 was made by Senator Streich. This was seconded by Senator Ildefonso-Sanchez.

**Vote: Aye-27, Nay-0, Abstain-1.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from March 13, 2025 were approved.

**V. Presentation from Senate's Budget and Finance Committee – Introduction to LaGuardia's Budget**

The Senate's Budget and Finance Committee presented an introduction to the LaGuardia's budget including the college's budget and financial structure, tax levy funding, the CUNY and LaGuardia allocation processes, and the PSC travel budget. The presentation is available on the Senate's website.

**VI. Chair's Report**

The final revised Governance Plan was submitted to President Adams. The document will also need to be approved by General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for the Office of Legal Affairs Derek Davis and the CUNY Board of Trustees. LaGuardia's Executive Legal Counsel to the President Maria Cook emphasized the importance of providing a redlined version of the document.

At the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the LaGuardia Senate voted to sign on to the University Faculty Senate's letter on academic freedom that condemned Governor Hochul's request to remove a Hunter College job posting for a position in Palestinian Studies. Thirteen CUNY colleges made statements against Governor Hochul's actions by signing the UFS letter and/or drafting their own. The job opening was reposted with new language.

Two faculty members are needed to serve on the College Association, the body that allocates student activity fee money. In accordance with the CUNY bylaws, governance will choose a panel of candidates from which President Adams will select two to join the College Association. VP Alexis McLean suggested that the Senate serve as the governance body electing the panel of candidates, but as the positions are for faculty, Faculty Council may be a more appropriate governance body to oversee the process. More discussion will follow as to which governing body will take on the role.

Once the change is approved by New York State, the CUNY Office Assistant exam will no longer be used in the hiring process.

HR Director Mary DiGangi is planning to create a more uniform onboarding orientation. President Adams wants to ensure that Senate is a part of the process.

International students should be instructed to contact International Student Services if they plan to travel abroad to get advice on travel restrictions/advisories and to complete necessary paperwork.

**VII. Invitation to President's Chief of Staff Nayelli Valencia Turrent for Presentation on the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Greenway Project**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Street Greenway Project seeking to transform 29<sup>th</sup> Street into an outdoor plaza is firmly underway. With the support of Council Member Julie Won, LaGuardia applied for support through the LIC Downtown Revitalization Initiative, is collaborating with LIC Partnership to explore new programming opportunities, and is partnering with the Department of Transportation to launch the plaza design process. The LaGuardia Community Greenway Mural Contest is accepting applications through May 19, 2025. Activating the plaza for public use is scheduled for June-July 2025. LaGuardia will be responsible for basic maintenance tasks.

**VIII. Invitation to President Kenneth Adams**

In light of Director of LaGuardia Performing Arts Center (LPAC) Steven Hitt's retirement, LaGuardia is using the opportunity to examine LPAC's role at the college. In previous years, LPAC operated at a financial deficit. In 2024, LPAC brought in \$500,000 and cost \$900,000 to operate, yielding a \$400,000 loss. LaGuardia brought in a consultant who reached the following conclusions:

- (1) LPAC is not used as much as it could be. LPAC should host productions and presentations from outside institutions in addition to performances produced by members of the LaGuardia community. Its proximity to Manhattan and its accessibility via the subway make it an attractive option for performances, workshops, and rehearsals.
- (2) LPAC conditions need improvements (lighting, sound, etc.) to be attractive to potential renters which will require capital funding.
- (3) Faculty members should be able to utilize the LPAC facilities more easily. The college needs to improve communication with LPAC staff and prioritize facility use by college members.

President Adams agreed that LPAC should serve the larger community, but not at the expense of its faculty, staff, and students. It has the potential to generate revenue while providing experiences for members of the LaGuardia campus. LaGuardia is beginning a search for a new Director of LPAC to accomplish these goals.

President Adams was selected to participate in the Aspen Institute's Presidents Fellowship, "a year-long executive leadership program for 25 community college presidents who want to advance social mobility and talent development in their communities by improving student outcomes." He is looking forward to learning from the fellowship's curriculum and his fellow participants.

**X. Committee Reports**

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)  
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)  
See above for curriculum approval.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)  
The Academic Standing Committee clarified the repeat course policy for the Registrar's Office so that the policy could be enforced correctly. All previous errors have been corrected.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark and Anthony Pappas, Co-Chairs)  
Nothing to report.
- 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)  
The Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. Please submit proposals by April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)  
See above for presentation on the college budget.
- 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)  
Thank you to Senator Cardaio for serving as mentor to the Committee of Students. Student Senator stipends are being processed. Students should check their emails for documentation.
- 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)  
The Queens College Transfer Fair is taking place in the E-atrium today.
- 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.

**XI. Unfinished Business**

None.

**XII. New Business**

None.

**XIII. Announcements**

None.

**XIV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM.

**Next Meeting: May 14, 2025**