

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

In-Person Votes

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Aimeelyn Calandria (President's Office), Luke Cardaio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Miguel Carvajal (Community, Health, and Wellness), Randy Changoo (Division of Enrollment Management), Thomas Cleary (Library), Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Mehedi Hassan (Student), Md Nayeem Hossain (Student), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Albert Jimenez (At-Large Instructional Staff), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Kelly Levy (Student), Jiale Lin (Student), Naomi Marajh (At-Large Instructional Staff), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Leslie Scamacca (Academic Affairs), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Abu Bokkor Siddick (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Elizabeth Streich (Division of Communications and External Affairs), John Toland (Faculty Council), Zofia Tubin (Student), Regina Varin-Mignano (Division of Student Affairs), Lakshmi Vidyasagar (MEC), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

Online Votes

Maritza Pritsos, (ACE), Athena Rivera (Student), John Smith (Student)

Present In-Person

Caterina Almendral, Loretta Capuano-Vella, Tara Coleman, Erika Correa, Douglas DiCarlo Shahir Erfan, Yvonne Gaul, Eric Hofmann, Evelyn Lowmark, Thomas Onorato

Present Online

Kenneth Campanelli, Liz Iannotti, Sandra Ribiero, Derek Stadler, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:23PM by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from May 14, 2025

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from May 15, 2025

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from May 15, 2025 was made by Senator Sokolski. This was seconded by Senator Cardaio. **Vote: Aye-29, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from May 15, 2025 were approved.

V. Vote on the First Year Seminar Enrollment Policy

Senator Sokolski moved to approve the First Year Seminar Enrollment policy. The motion was seconded by Senator Pappas. The First Year Seminar Enrollment policy requires students to take the FYS as soon as possible after their arrival at LaGuardia to maximize retention, academic momentum, and overall student success. All degree maps have the FYS listed in the first semester already. Program Directors will still have discretion to issue exemptions and substitutions. Senators discussed the importance of offering enough sections and Degreeworks accurately displaying FYS credits (FYS credits vary from 0-3) and course substitutions. The motion was approved unanimously in a voice vote.

VI. Vote on the Emergency Distance Learning Policy

Senator Cardaio moved to approve the Emergency Distance Learning policy. The motion was seconded by Senator Buckley Lockhart. The Emergency Distance Learning policy was developed from an Online Learning Committee resolution generated in response to students and faculty being asked to shift from in person to online learning without time and resources to transition. The policy defines emergency campus closures, suggests canceling class instead of abrupt modality changes for which faculty and students may not be prepared, and offers guidelines for transitioning online, if necessary. The motion was approved unanimously in a voice vote.

VII. Modification of the Repeat Course Policy – Informational Item

The Academic Standing Committee modified the language of the Repeat Course policy for clarification purposes only. The policy still stipulates that when a student repeats a course, the grade point average will only include the highest grade earned at LaGuardia.

VIII. Invitation of Public Safety Director Yvonne Gaul for Discussion of Public Safety Training and Policy

Public Safety Director Gaul reviewed changes to student classroom removal procedures. Public safety will only respond to classrooms for emergencies (ex. threats of harm to self or others) and will not wait outside classrooms for follow-up conversations unless necessary. Inappropriate student behavior will be handled by Student Affairs and VP McLean. Director Gaul explained that incident reports are legal documents that can be subpoenaed and need to be completed. The new policy is a significant step forward to balancing the safety and well-being of students.

CUNY Peace Officers are trained at the CUNY Public Safety Training Academy for 15 weeks and are offered additional training and professional development opportunities.

Individuals wearing dark blue uniforms are Peace Officers, light blue uniforms are Campus Security Assistants, and green uniforms are temporary officers hired by CUNY in light of protest and other safety concerns that can be mobilized across the CUNY system.

IX. Presentation on the Faculty/Staff Ombuds Proposal

Members of the faculty/staff ombuds working group offered responses to questions and concerns raised at the May 14th Senate session. The faculty/staff ombuds position would be in the organizational chart of the President's Office, but would be located elsewhere on campus for privacy reasons. The faculty/staff ombuds would only report confidential and aggregate data. Organizations like the International Ombuds Association can provide support and mentorship to the individual hired. The working group recommended making the position full time due to the need for outreach and educating the campus community in addition to traditional ombuds work. Senator Toland moved to support the proposal for the creation of a faculty/staff ombuds position at LaGuardia. This was seconded by Senator Hashim. The motion was approved unanimously in a voice vote.

X. Invitation of Evelyn Lowmark for Presentation on the Results of the Staff Engagement Survey

Evelyn Lowmark presented the results of the 2024 staff engagement survey. The survey looked at favorable and unfavorable aspects of work life and key drivers of engagement across divisions at the college. Despite introducing the Campus Update and President's News communications since the 2020 survey, transparency remains a concern. Unlike in previous years when the survey team generated recommendations, administrators and department heads will make recommendations moving forward to make sure they are in line with the Middle States report, the Strategic Plan, and other college priorities.

XI. Chair's Report

Alternate Senator Onorato will serve on the Common Core Course Review Committee.

The revised Governance Plan did not make it to the Board of Trustees this academic year. For the revised Governance Plan to be approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees, the Senate must provide a resolution and a redlined copy detailing all proposed changes. Thank you to Senator Scamacca for working on these items.

Chair Bruns incorrectly reported at a previous Senate meeting that the CUNY Office Assistant exam would no longer be utilized in the hiring process. The exam will remain in use.

At the September 10, 2025 meeting the Senate will vote on whether to change the videoconferencing policy. The revised resolution will stipulate that individuals can view

the meeting on Zoom, but Senators will not be allowed to participate in Senate business online. Recordings will be used by the Senate Secretary for minute-taking, but will not be posted publicly. Currently, recordings are publicly posted for five years.

At the May meeting, the Senate voted to adopt the Hunter Mutual Defense Resolution.

Chairperson Bruns will work with CUNY governance leaders to enact the steps listed in the letter.

Committee Chairpersons should be ready to present year-end reports at the September 10th meeting. Reports will be uploaded to the Senate archives folder.

Despite reports that it may be missing, the pride flag is still hanging in the E-atrium.

XII. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)

The Committee on Campus Affairs is looking for more members.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)

Nothing to report.

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

See above for vote on First Year Seminar Enrollment policy and Emergency Distance Learning policy and informational item on Repeat Course policy.

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

The Committee on Campus Affairs is working with Student Senators to address the availability of reflection spaces on campus and accommodating seating in classrooms. A plan should be in place by September.

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)
Students voiced concern over the scheduling of courses during club hours.
Senator Hashim shared the Registrar's commitment to trying to respect club hours when scheduling courses.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Let Senator Sokolski know if you would like to help with Senate elections.
Let students know about the need for Student Senators next year.
- 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)
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.

XIII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIV. New Business

Student Senator Hossain expressed dissatisfaction with how the college financially supports student clubs. Financial cuts and confusing procedures make running a club very difficult. Senators suggested that Student Life, Campus Life, and the Business Office should come together to resolve this issue.

XV. Announcements

Senator O'Sullivan informed the Senate about the passing of Rose Sclafani, former LaGuardia employee.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29pm.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2025