

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
March 12, 2025
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500 and Zoom

In-Person Votes

Aowshaful Alam Jafin (Student), 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), Erika Correa (ACE), Donniece Davis-Cooper (Division of Student Affairs), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Mehedi Hassan (Student), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Elizabeth Jardine (Library), Albert Jimenez (At-Large Instructional Staff), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Kelly Levy (Student), Jiale Lin (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), 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), John Toland (Faculty Council), Zofia Tubin (Student), Lakshmi Vidyasagar (MEC), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

Online Votes

Shannon Lund (At-Large Instructional Staff), Athena Rivera (Student)

Present In-Person

Maria Cook, Mary DiGangi, Maureen Doyle, Hugo Fernandez, Charles Keyes, Alexis McLean, Thomas Onorato, Regina Varin-Mignano

Present Online

Loretta Capuano-Vella, Dianne Gordon Conyers, Sandra Ribiero, Benjamin Rohdin, 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 February 5, 2025

The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

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

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from February 13, 2025 was made by Senator Sokolski. This was seconded by Senator Pappas. **Vote: Aye-26, Nay-0, Abstain-1.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from February 13, 2025 were approved.

V. Invitation of Vice President Alexis McLean for Update on the Division of Student Affairs

Vice President McLean presented the Division of Student Affairs' year in review. The division operates by the motto "one band, one sound," prioritizing internal collaboration while seeking external partnerships and funding opportunities to support student success in a post-COVID world. Highlights include providing emergency assistance to almost 850 students, facilitating more than 4,100 unique visits to the pantry, providing more than 370 students with housing assistance, serving more than 1,700 students via the Wellness Center, and training approximately 220 members of the college community in Mental Health First Aid. Student Affairs almost doubled the amount of community stakeholder partnerships and increased funding sources for a variety of initiatives. Student referrals for conduct crises decreased while participation in Student Affairs sponsored events increased. Student Affairs implemented the Student Advocacy via Frontline Efforts (SAFE) Committee, will hold faculty elections for the College Association and Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee and is currently searching for a Director of Community Standards. Moving forward, Student Affairs has identified the following divisional foci: (1) growth, development, and resilience; (2) mental health awareness and wellness; and (3) persistence and retention of underrepresented male-identifying groups. Look out for Know Your Rights trainings and Spring 2025 Brown Bag event announcements.

Vice President McLean responded to questions, updating Senate on the following information:

- Legal representation from Citizenship Now is available on campus every other Wednesday
- The student ombudsman position will no longer exist. Student Affairs staff members will handle student complaints. Senators expressed concern over the lack of a designated student advocate.
- Incidents prompted the need for counseling intervention for the women's basketball team. Thank you to the Women's Center for providing the counseling services.
- The college is considering establishing an Immigrant Student Success Center.

VI. Invitation of Vice President Benjamin Rohdin for Update on the Division of Enrollment Management

Vice President Rohdin updated the Senate on the college's Spring 2025 enrollment.

Spring Enrollment Data as of March 12, 2025:

- Overall degree seeking enrollment is up +12.9%
(Community Colleges: +7.3%; CUNY Overall: +3.4%)

- New freshman enrollment is up +2.8%
(Community Colleges: +5.1%; CUNY Overall: +2.8%)

We are at the beginning of an expected decline in high school graduates to last for the next ten years, so an increase is good news. With the help of Shannon Lund, we are looking to expand and solidify pathways from NYC high schools to LaGuardia.

- New transfer enrollment is up +26.2%
(Community Colleges: +13.4%; CUNY Overall: +2.2%)

We will continue marketing efforts and work to make the transfer experience more seamless, especially within CUNY.

- Continuing student enrollment is up +11.9%.

Spring 2025 enrollment is nearing Spring 2021 levels. New transfer students, new international students, re-connecting with students who stopped out during the pandemic, and the rebounding retention of continuing students are driving enrollment recovery. Recovery is not complete nor even considering Fields of Study. Business, Health & Wellness, and STEM majors are growing rapidly while Education & Public Service, Languages, Culture & Society, and Visual and Performing Arts majors are growing very modestly. The college is in the process of hiring two advisors and a designated school official for the International Student Services Office and a scheduling coordinator, a graduation evaluator, and an associate registrar for the Registrar's Office. Goals for the Division of Enrollment Management include (1) to design a full year course schedule in advance of registration beginning for that year; (2) to provide longer degree planning timeframes for students and advisors; (3) to help inform institutional resource needs in advance of budget planning; and (4) to reduce administrative burden of scheduling in academic departments by completing work prior to the summer months.

VII. Vote on University Faculty Senate’s Letter on Academic Freedom

In response to a job posting for a position in Palestinian Studies at Hunter College, Governor Hochul contacted CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodríguez asking for it to be removed. The University Faculty Senate drafted a letter expressing concern over Governor Hochul’s interference and the breach of academic freedom. Senator Streich moved to endorse the UFS letter. This was seconded by Senator Davis-Cooper. The Senate voted on the letter in a voice vote. Two Senators abstained while the remainder voted to endorse the letter.

VIII. Vote on Draft 2025-2026 Senate Calendar

Senator Hashim moved to accept the draft 2025-2026 Senate calendar. This was seconded by Senator Buckley Lockhart. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

IX. Chair’s Report

The 2025-2029 Strategic Plan is now available on the LaGuardia website.

Chief Information Officer Jason Bryan is leaving the college at the end of March 2025.

Jennifer Jensen was hired as the new Director of the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives. She will try to integrate the Archives and the college to best serve faculty and students.

New York State Attorney General Letitia James issued a press release stating that President Trump’s executive order and the widely circulated “Dear Colleague” letter will not alter the practices and policies of New York educational institutions. CUNY and SUNY institutions will respond to any directives together, not as individual institutions.

There have been rumors of extended travel bans from the current administration. CUNY is urging students to travel cautiously, if at all.

Provost Gastic Rosado is working on a project to better map honors opportunities and streamline related communications. She is also overseeing the Liberal Arts Working Group’s efforts to reenvision the Liberal Arts offerings at LaGuardia.

The Registrar’s Office misinterpreted the new repeat grade policy, averaging grades earned from multiple attempts taking a course instead of only including the higher grade in GPA calculations. The Registrar’s Office will need to figure out how to fix the transcripts/GPAs of students impacted by the error.

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)
Nothing to report.
 - 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 16th from 1-3pm. Please submit proposals by April 25th.
 - vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
Sign up for the March 14th UFS CUNY Budget Workshop.
 - viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Karamvir Kaur, Chair)
The Committee of Staff and Alumni met on February 24th to discuss the employee engagement survey. Evelyn Lowmark will present the results to the President's Cabinet. The Committee also discussed immigration policy changes and first amendment auditor training sessions.
 - 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.

XI. Unfinished Business

None.

XII. New Business

None.

XIII. Announcements

None.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34PM.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2025