



# ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

September 8, 2021 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm | VIA ZOOM

## LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

## LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

LPC Academic Senate Quorum: 11

### **Non-Voting Members:**

President: Sarah Thompson  
Past President: Melissa Korber  
Student Government: Kyle Johnson  
Faculty Association: Heike Gecox  
Admin.: Rifka Several

### **Voting Members:**

Vice President (Fall): Craig Kutil  
President-Elect: Tracey Coleman  
Secretary: Collin Thormoto  
Treasurer: Ashley Young  
BSSL: Robin Roy, Carlos Moreno, Daniel Cearley  
A & H: John Kelly, Peter Kuo, Kisha Quesada Turner  
STEM: Carlos Moreno, Jeffrey Weichert  
PATH: Scott Miner  
Student Services: Christina Lee, Jill Oliveira  
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd

## 1. GENERAL BUSINESS (S. Thompson)

1.1 Call to order/establish quorum: Meeting opened at 2:31 pm

1.2 Approval of agenda: Motion to approve: moved/seconded: discussion to table 5.2 and 5.4/ motion to approve amended agenda: moved/seconded/approved

1.3 Approval of minutes (August 25, 2021): Motion to approve: moved/seconded/approved

1.4 Public Comments (5 minutes) This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Academic Senate. Please limit comments to five minutes. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Academic Senate cannot at on these items. NONE

## 2. ACTION ITEMS (S. Thompson) NONE

3. **CONSENT ITEMS (S. Thompson)** Motion to approve 3.1 and 3.2: moved/seconded/approved

3.1 OER Liaison for LPC: Kali Rippel

3.2 Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee: Michael McQuiston

## 4. REPORTS

4.1 CTE Committee (Melissa Korber): The first CTE meeting will be in October. There is a new CTE Outreach Specialist, Lena Cruz.

4.2 LPC Student Government (Kyle Johnson): The LPCSG will meet next Monday. The textbook loan program is being reviewed for obsolete books. An ad hoc committee will email professors to see what books are still being used to keep the loan program up to date.

4.3 UndocuAlly (Alain Olavarrieta): No report.

4.4 Curriculum Committee (Elizabeth Owens): Curriculum Committee had our first meeting on August 30th. There was robust discussion around the Brown Act issue regarding meeting format. We have formed a subcommittee to review local GE requirements and standards. The first meeting of this subcommittee will be on September 29th at 2:30 PM. If anyone else is interested in evaluating local GE with us (does not have to be a Curriculum Committee member), contact me or Craig Kutil.

4.5 CEMC/DEMC Committee (Kristina Whalen): Tom Orf: enrollment is still not up but has improved; we are down 11% from the original 14%. Enrollment is down through all disciplines. DEMC is working on setting next year's enrollment targets; CEMC will put together the discipline plans after that (prior to Winter break).

4.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox): Negotiations continue on various subjects trying to solidify the new vaccine mandates requirements.

4.7 Professional Development Committee (David Powers): The Mandatory Fall Flex Day is October 28. Please send the PDC your Fall Flex Day session applications for approval. The form can be found at:  
<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/gv/pdc/assets/docs/mandatoryflex/MandatoryFlexActivityProposal110920.pdf>

There are funds for professional development courses and conferences; please see the PDC website for application information:

[http://www.laspositascollege.edu/gv/pdc/assets/docs/conferences/PDC\\_Conf\\_Request\\_Packet\\_092920.pdf](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/gv/pdc/assets/docs/conferences/PDC_Conf_Request_Packet_092920.pdf)

4.8 Planning and Effectiveness Committee (Rajinder Samra) No report

4.9 SEA Committee/BaSK (Shawn Taylor): The first SEA meeting is next week.

4.10 Guided Pathways (Kristy Woods): GP will provide all LPC Senates with video links. GP is looking holistically at student paths to bring all resources to the students. Next month's community of practice theme is "Belonging" and will be examining how to enhance the sense of belonging for students. See  
<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/gp/communitiesofpractice.php>

4.11 LGBTQ+ Resolution Implementation Advisory Committee (Sarah Thompson): The advisory committee had their first meeting and developed a set of recommendations for College Council. They brainstormed activities to meet these recommendations and will be developing a calendar to accomplish the recommendations.

4.12 AAPJ Resolution Implementation Advisory Committee (Collin Thormoto): They have not yet met but Collin has reached out to Stella Del Rosario to schedule a meeting with their AAPJ group.

4.13 Treasurer (Ashley Young): No report.

4.14 President (Sarah Thompson):

We are in district discussion about the special program offsets that do not fit into typical enrollment pathways, such as the subsidies to Chabot to offset their nursing, dental hygiene and sheriff's academy. One of the DEMC goals is to establish a policy to manage these programs.

In Planning and Budget, discussions are about how M & O and the District should be funded in our budget model. IT is housed in the district budget, should it be funded like M & O?

One of the Academic Senate President's duties is to meet regularly with district and college leadership: Dr. Foster and the Vice Presidents. Sarah feels we now have a very strong team.

Vaccine Mandates: The Trustees passed two new policies: vaccine mandates for faculty and staff on campus; and vaccine mandates for on campus students. The implementation of these new board policies is in development.

Tom Orf: The FA negotiation team is involved with administration of these mandates (including Dr. Foster, Dr. Sperling and VP Whalen). Tom, Heike and Vicki from LPC on the negotiation team have been advocating to move forward with mandates for a long time. The chief negotiator has contacted the Chancellor 14 times. Now it is moving forward. At yesterday's meeting progress was made in defining the implementation issues (including exemptions for medical and religious reasons, faculty who refuse to be vaccinated, and who is managing verification of vaccines on campus).

## 5. OLD BUSINESS (S. Thompson)

5.1 Vaccine Mandate – Board of Trustees: Covered in President's report.

5.2 District Cooperative Work Experience Education Plan DRAFT (revised): *tabled for next meeting*

5.3 Academic Senate Goals 2021 – 2022 – advisory committees: We will send an email out to faculty to let them know about the committees and how to participate. This will be an action item for next meeting.

- Faculty diversification – Christina Lee (lead) with Tracey Coleman: this is a statewide Academic Senate goal. Christina will be on Sabbatical in the spring.
- Addressing anti-racism and inequities in institutional documents and processes – Tracey Coleman (lead) with Craig Kutil and Kisha Quesada Turner.
- Enrollment strategies – John Kelly (lead) with Jeffrey Weichart
- Compressed calendar – Dave Wagner (lead) with Kisha Quesada Turner, Ashley Young and Daniel Cearley.

5.4 Transfer equity: *Tabled until more direction is provided from the District.*

5.5 Brown Act update: There is a bill on the governor's desk for signature that will extend the flexibility of the Brown Act until December 31. The expectation is that the Covid situation will be improved by then. The Brown Act governs all public meetings: Trustees, Academic Senates, Student Senates, and any subcommittees of those bodies. If the bill is not signed by the end of next week, we need to schedule a Brown Act training for chairs of the subcommittees that will be affected. Christine: should we contact our elected officials about this? Kyle will submit a sample message for distribution.

5.6 Enrollment Strategies: 80% of California districts are experiencing enrollment loss. Some factors we cannot control such as birth rates and Covid effects on families, but we can make improvements in our enrollment and retention processes. We can tailor our services to specific needs in our community. The recommendation is to have a district-wide priority for enrollment recapturing measures. There are funds this year only. However, this is seen as an ongoing issue requiring attention and funding. We can learn from other districts, such as Los Medanos College: faculty called students who had enrolled but not attended; this cut the rate by half. The Academic Senate Enrollment Strategies subcommittee is an important piece of this collaborative effort.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS (S. Thompson)

6.1 Academic Senate sponsorship of LPC Veterans Center 2.2 Event: Todd Steffan: This event raises awareness about the high veteran suicide rate (averaging 22 per day) and raises funds for LPC student veteran mental health services. Last year the event was virtual with over 500 participants. The request is to have a faculty team of at least 10 registrants and the Academic Senate logo would be on the event shirts. This will be an action item for next meeting: request of \$220 to become an event sponsor.

### 6.2 New Non-credit Program Proposal: Noncredit Aviation (Daniel Cearley): (see attachments)

Several departments are interested in this drone program: anthropology (archaeological surveys), viticulture (agriculture surveys), photography, fire tech and administration of justice (search and rescue). They received initial funding from Workforce Development that provided for drone training, software and hardware. Scott said that drones could be used for welding pipeline inspections and the courses can target business partners. Melissa: journalism also uses drones in reporting. Drones are part of the computer studies and engineering discussions.

Need and demand: commercial and recreational drone usage is increasing. Labor statistics: there is an undersupply of drone workers, especially in the East Bay region. Occupations include software developers, technicians, camera operators, mechanics and service technicians.

This 66-hour noncredit certificate program has three courses, presented in a hybrid of online coursework and in person labs. The Certificate is FAA Remote Pilot Certificate.

FTES: there are SCFF funds for noncredit courses. The CDP certificate collects funds from the State at the highest FTES funding rate.

Implementation: Fall 2022 is the proposed start date.

The SLOs were presented.

Daniel received very positive feedback to the presentation and course proposal.

Question: how much does it cost for the exam? The fee is \$150, and the exam is offered at the Livermore Airport. There might be a CTE funded sponsorship, or an exam scholarship could be developed with the LPC Foundation. There is the possibility of a NSF grant (Jeff will send information), and the FAA offers grants to schools.

### 6.3 Inequities in representation in our professional organization:

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There are concerns about equity in representation of LPC voices in our top FA leadership positions. This has affected our ability to address the academic and professional matters we are charged with by Title V.

LPC Academic Senate was the only constituency group proposing a vaccine mandate during the summer; our union leadership said “they took no position”. This was not the position of the LPC union representatives, our VP or our negotiating team who were supporting the vaccine mandate. Our FA President took no public position until the day before the semester began.

The FA president sent out a letter right before the first day of classes that created chaos for both colleges. Faculty were unsure about showing up for classes and students came to classes with no professors. Executive leaders felt the FA was not working openly and supportively with them. Tom Orf co-authored with Dr. Foster the letter to our faculty. We have worked closely with our college leadership to provide the safest environment for faculty, staff and students.

Regarding negotiations for professional development for faculty to be DE trained over the summer: when the MOU was negotiated, it was only for Chabot. Sarah had to meet with the Chancellor to implement this professional development at LPC.

Regarding the FERPA issues with zoom course recordings: there were meetings and all of the FA negotiating team from Chabot were invited, but no LPC negotiating team members. Sarah invited the LPC team members; the president admitted his oversight. Both colleges need to be involved in these policy discussions.

Heike: there are discussions about changing the bylaws so the chief negotiator and president come from different campuses. Any bylaw change would take a massive push from LPC. This has been brought up before to achieve representation from both campuses.

Sarah: Concerns about the FA President and Chief Negotiator, who are supposed to represent all faculty, serving as college representatives in district committees; a conflict of interest. This should be addressed in the bylaws as well.

Tom: he has suggested training be offered to representatives from both campuses, and experienced backlash on this idea.

The FA structure needs to be built to assure the president does represent both campuses equally and each campus voice is heard equally. Can FA funds be used for an arbitrator?

Our contract is being renegotiated next year, and we do not want the FA situation to damage our relationship with executive leadership.

Sarah: the Academic Senate needs to advocate for fair representation. She requests that the Senators take this issue to be put on the Academic Senate agenda portion at their division meetings.

Motion to table 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6: moved/seconded/approved

6.4 Replacing ESS: tabled for next meeting

6.5 BPs and APs (8/9/21): tabled for next meeting

- BP 5140 Disabled Student Programs
- AP 5140 Disabled Student Programs
- BP 5200 Student Health Services
- AP 5200 Student Health Services
- BP 5300 Student Equity
- AP 5300 Student Equity

6.6 BPs and APs (8/23/21): tabled for next meeting

- BP 5016 Transfer of Units from Other Colleges
- AP 5017 Response to Inquiry of Immigration Status
- BP 5530 Student Rights and Grievances
- AP 5530 Student Rights and Grievances

## 7. GOOD OF THE ORDER

7.1 Announcements: None

7.2 Next meeting: Wednesday, September 22, 2021; 2:30 – 4:30 pm via zoom

7.3 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: moved/seconded/approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

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