



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

June 16, 2021 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm | 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

- ❖ Implement the integration of all ACCJC standards throughout campus structure and processes.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Coordinate resources and provide professional development for effective online instruction and remote delivery of student support services and college processes to advance equitable student outcomes.

Academic Senate Quorum: 11

Non-Voting Members:

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

Voting Members:

Vice President: Craig Kutil
Secretary: Collin Thormoto
Treasurer: Ashley Young
BSSL: Robin Roy, Tracey Coleman
A & H: John Kelly, Catherine Suarez,
Natalie Kellner, Catherine Eagan
STEM: Alain Olavarrieta, Carlos Moreno,
Jeffrey Weichert, Segal Boaz
PATH: Sebastian Wong, Scott Miner
Student Services: Christina Lee, Jill Oliveira
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd, Erin DeBakcsy

1.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (S. Thompson)

1.1 Call to Order/Establish Quorum: Meeting opened at 2:34 pm.

1.2 Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve:
moved/seconded/approved

1.3 Approval of Minutes: May 26, 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*

2.0 ACTION ITEMS (S. Thompson)

2.1 Academic Senate Election results ratification: Christina Lee and Rifka Several have reviewed and confirmed the following candidates:

- President: Sarah Thompson
- Vice President: Tracey Coleman
- Secretary: Collin Thormoto
- Treasurer: Ashley Young

Motion to ratify the voting results: moved/seconded/approved

3.0 CONSENT ITEMS (S. Thompson) None

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 LPC Student Government (Kyle Johnson): Student government will be training the executive board in next few weeks. Kyle thanked those submitting comments at the Board of Trustees meeting supporting his time for providing reports at those meetings. Sarah submitted a comment, which was read by the board secretary. She feels these comments were effective in maintaining board respect for the constituent reporting.

4.2 President (Sarah Thompson): LPC Fall enrollments are down 28%, a critical amount. For the Bay 10 schools, they are also experiencing 20 – 30% drops. Reasons include:

- Tiring of remote learning (however, face-to-face classes are also low).
- Traditionally-aged student demographics are dropping.
- Service sector 3 salaries are raising, and targeting young adults.
- The childcare issues are still with our students.

Our most marginalized students were the first to not reenroll. There is a mix of circumstances. This has a very strong effect on part time faculty and even programs.

We will watch carefully what other districts are using for strategies. We will likely be between 10 – 20% down in fall enrollment.

Comments:

- Is the lack of a vaccine mandate helping or hurting enrollment?
- What is being done about early cut offs for concurrent enrollment: this was brought to the district.
- Personnel not answering phones, website links broken and other communication issues are not helping.
- We have cut back on our outreach personnel; these positions are “essential” and will be fast tracked to be hired.
- Some Banner prerequisites are roadblocks.
- What about our full time, first year enrollees – we do not have face-to-face classes for them.
- Suggestion about a “packaged” freshman first year experience. This would require a collaborative plan. Can we group some classes together for registration; such as four sample programs of logical groupings?

When we have a process that requires a person to walk a student through it – that is beyond our personnel bandwidth.

For CSUs, the enrollment percentages fluctuate. UCs have not experienced an enrollment drop, and they are mandating vaccines.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS (S. Thompson)

5.1 Vaccine resolution: If we want to bring forward a resolution, Sarah needs to present it at the July 20 board meeting. We would need to approve it at an additional Academic Senate meeting.

There will be a forum regarding vaccines held on July 19, organized by Dr. Foster. This will be an educational outreach, including public service announcements, for students and their families. UCs require vaccines for enrollment. The state chancellor’s office is addressing the role of vaccine mandates. Despite all these outside efforts, we need to make our decision about an Academic Senate resolution.

Comments:

- Our campus vaccine clinic was not well attended. Do we have the capacity for mobile units? Dr. Foster will look into this.
- We do not have a good grasp on data for student numbers who are vaccinated, or why students are not getting vaccines.
- Are we considering “vaccine rewards?”

- When vaccines are mandated, there is no mask wearing required.
- If UCs and CSUs mandate vaccines, why should CCs not mandate? A consistent policy protects everyone’s health.
- A student perspective: he has talked to several students and the majority are in favor of the mandate; they do not feel safe until it is in place – the alternative is everyone masking all the time.
- If someone cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, what accommodations could be offered through DSPS?
- If we have a vaccine mandate, there are those for various reasons can’t/won’t be vaccinated so we need a range of online courses.
- Other public health issues have been resisted in the past (indoor smoking, seat belts, etc.)
- A member expressed that many students do not want to be vaccinated; they are unsure of the safety.

Dr. Foster: Rajinder will be sending out a student survey (to be completed anonymously) to compile more information on the vaccine issue. The vaccine forum is scheduled July 19 – for students and their families.

LPC Academic Senate Draft Resolution: sent to subcommittee - Collin, Katie, Christine, Ashley and Catherine to meet over zoom and distribute a revised resolution.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS (S. Thompson) None

7.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 7.1 Announcements: The next LPC theater production will be July 23 –25; the performance will be in the amphitheater. No information so far on audience participation.
- 7.2 Meetings: NEXT MEETINGS: JULY 6 AND JULY 12 AT 2:30 to review the resolution
- 7.3 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: moved/seconded/approved

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