

LAS POSITAS

COLLEGE



TO: LPC Faculty
FROM: Academic Senate President Melissa Korber
DATE: February 20, 2017
RE: Talking Points for Division Meetings

Hi Everyone,

Here are some discussion items and some information items for the Academic Senate portion of the division meeting.

1. Please Discuss: Response to Chabot College Academic Senate's Vote of No Confidence

Since November, the LPC Academic Senate has been discussing the Chabot College Academic Senate's Vote of No Confidence against the Chancellor and the District Office. Although the LPC faculty decided not to join the Vote of No Confidence at this time, we have concerns about many issues involving the Chancellor and the District Office. This led a letter to the Chancellor, detailing those concerns. And on January 31, the Chancellor came to LPC to discuss our concerns during a Special Senate meeting.

I have attached the letter that I sent to Chancellor Jackson, detailing the concerns. One additional concern that we discussed at the January 31 meeting was the transition in leadership at LPC. Many faculty were especially concerned about the idea that one person would have to be responsible for the duties of the President of the College and the Vice President of Academic Services. I have attached a summary of the January 31 meeting for your reference.

It seems as though the transition in leadership has been resolved, at least in the short-term, with the hiring of an Interim of Academic Services; this is on the agenda for approval at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 20.

At the February 14 Academic Senate meeting, the Senate discussed other action that we may take, especially with respect to the overspending by Chabot. Rajeev Chopra presented a plan for accountability in the future, which also includes a call for a report about how the overspending was allowed to occur. The Senate would like to create a statement about accountability in the future and a separate resolution requiring a report of overspending.

Another issue that came up at the meeting with the Chancellor was the ongoing discussion about compensation for noncredit faculty. Dr. Jackson believed she had a solution to this issue, and we are awaiting details. (The Faculty Association is negotiating this matter.)

2. Please Discuss: Test Banks and Cheating

On February 14, Sarah Thompson and Tom Orf presented about an online cheating operation impacting LPC as well as other schools. Students can purchase materials for online test answers and assignments for different disciplines. In order to combat this problem, faculty need to be aware of the problem so that they can make changes to their assignments and cheating policies if necessary. Students who were getting high

scores on quizzes and taking little time to complete them might be using the online test banks. Other students are selling their work to be used by others.

If you'd like to explore how this issue relates to your class, here are a few websites that Tom and Sarah uncovered.

<https://testbankster.com/>

<https://perfect-answers.com/>

<https://www.coursehero.com>

In addition to raising awareness, the plan is to revise the Student Code of Conduct to address this issue more directly. That process was already in the works, but this makes it more urgent, of course. According to Vice President of Student Services, William Garcia, in the current [Student Code of Conduct](#), at least the following are triggered by these actions:

1. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with a college academic program.
2. Soliciting or assisting another to do any act which would subject a student to expulsion, suspension, probation, or other sanction pursuant to this article.
3. Obtaining a copy of an examination or assignment prior to its approved release by the instructor. Selling or distributing course lecture notes, handouts, examinations or other information provided by an instructor, or using them for any commercial purpose without the express permission of the instructor.

Vice President Garcia also said, "The Education Code permits faculty to temporarily suspend students from class for the day in which instruction is to take place and the immediate subsequent day of instruction. All other suspensions may only be applied by the administrator responsible for student discipline or designee. While the Dean of Student Services is assigned student discipline, given the magnitude of the academic dishonesty possibly reported, I am going to take the case. Know that I am able to suspend up to a two calendar year period and administratively withdraw students of all current term courses. Expulsion may be recommended but only our board of trustees [...] Holds are placed in the student's Banner record if they fail to respond or meet with me as part of the investigative process which restricts their ability to register or drop classes and request official transcripts. Students who are found to have violated the student conduct code also have their files flagged for employment verification, military clearance, and four-year university transfer amongst other processes.

"I encourage each of you to report a student(s) to Campus Safety & Security if you believe the student(s) may be a threat to themselves or others (including you) and/or if you believe the act of the student(s) is a criminal matter as defined by federal, state, or local law. I welcome each of you to reach out to me to make an appointment so that we may review your cases individually."

Please take this back to division to raise awareness, allow faculty to protect the integrity of their courses, and to ask for feedback on how the Academic Senate should interface with Student Services to develop best practices. How can online classes be protected?

A FLEX day presentation around this issue was also recommended.

3. Resolution Recommending that LPC Join the Online Education Initiative Consortium

The Distance Education Committee has asked the LPC Academic Senate to consider adopting the attached resolution recommending that LPC join the Online Education Initiative Consortium. This resolution, which was drafted collaboratively by Chris Lee, Scott Vigallon, and me, is required if LPC is to be considered to become part of the Course Exchange when the Consortium begins accepting additional colleges.

Please see the attached PowerPoint for additional information about the resolution. Statewide, 49 colleges have expressed an interest in participating in the OEI cohort, which is focusing on student equity, culturally responsive teaching, and local peer-review. For exchange participants, there will be a “teaching college” which offers the course (FTES) and a “home college” which awards the degree/certificate.

If LPC is accepted, individual instructors could consider whether they want their courses to possibly be included in the exchange. At the earliest, participation in the exchange would occur in Fall 2019.

Please review and discuss the attached resolution, and let me know of any concerns or revisions as soon as possible. We plan to vote on this resolution at the February 28 meeting.

4. Guided Pathways

Tina Inzerilla and Angella VenJohn presented the attached PowerPoint at the January 24 meeting. A work plan is developed to submit to the state, including a self-assessment and focus plan for Spring 18 – Summer 19. The efforts at LPC have involved many faculty members. Thanks to all who have participated.

5. Classified Professionals Appreciation Event

We have started planning for our annual party to honor our classified professionals. A taskforce from the Senate is taking the lead. Thanks to Cindy Browne-Rosefield, Kimberly Tomlinson, and Joel Gagnon for stepping up. Does anyone want to be involved in planning it? Please let me know if you like to join the team!

6. Senate Approvals

The Senate has approved the following items since the November Division Meeting:

November 29, 2017 Action Items

Online Educational Initiative Resolution

November 29, 2017 Consent Items

- **Curriculum Approvals from November 6, 2017**
- **Hiring Committee for Library Technician: Tina Inzerilla and Frances Hui**

December 13, 2017 Action Items

- **Faculty Hiring Prioritization: Rankings**
- **Ratify Faculty Appointment to Hiring Committee for CalWORKs Coordinator: Jill Olivera**
- **Ratify Faculty Appointment to Hiring Committee for Veterans Specialist: Jose Calderon**

December 13, 2017 Consent Items

- Curriculum Approvals from December 4, 2017
- Las Positas College Curriculum Changes, Fall 2017

January 24, 2018 Action Items

None

January 24, 2018 Consent Items

- Unified Plan for BSI/SSSP/SE – <http://lpcazure.laspositascollege.edu/gv/ssc/equity.php>
- Additional Faculty for Instruction Assistant in Math – Bhairav Singh
- Spring Faculty Hiring Committees

February 14, 2018 Action Items

None

February 14, 2018 Consent Items

- Spring Faculty Hiring Committees
- Spring Administrator Hiring Committees