



Biological Sciences Advisory DRAFT Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2026 | 5:00 – 6:30 | Rm 21247

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

- ❖ Equity: 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.
- ❖ Student Success: 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.
- ❖ Health and Wellness: Establish a knowledge base and appreciation for health and wellness in the workplace; create a sense of urgency about wellness; prioritize wellness in decision-making, assessment and accountability; and build capacity to support wellness.

Committee Name Quorum:

Camille Troup	Vivek Sharma
Chandra Khantwal	
Dana Nakase	Yolanda Fintschenko
Dianna Maar	Danielle Bañuelos
George Farquar	
Jason Maxwell	
Jean O'Neil-Opipari	
Jill Carbone	
Kai Blaisdell	
Josie Sette	
Kristen Wolslegal	
Linnea Fletcher	
Paula Checchi	
Nicholas Heredia	
Nicole Shapiro	
Petter Mattei	
Pornima Rao	
Robert Saul	
Sahar El-ETr	
Segal Boaz	
Stevan Jovanovich	
Sulatha Dwarakanath	
Vicki Shipman	

Agenda Item

1. Call to Order 6:10
2. Jason Maxwell, Kai Blaisdell, Segal Boaz, Paula Checchi, George Farquar, Josie Sette, Jean O'Neil-Opipari
3. Review of Agenda
4. Review of Minutes, October 22, 2025 Corrections needed
5. Program Report
 - Enrollment
 - Student enrollment has been climbing steadily since COVID, almost back to pre-COVID numbers
 - Most students from Livermore and Tracy
 - Bio 1R has a waitlist of 60
 - List curriculum changes on slides
 - Getting rid of 1A & 1C and replacing with 1R
 - 1C normally does not fill, in fall there are already 16 students
 - Projecting future class offerings and classroom space
 - 3 sections of BIO 1C have filled for this and last spring
 - Share classroom with Microbiology
 - Do a shadow schedule for Bio 1C?
 - Staffing and classroom issues
 - Check with Andrea about room assignments
 - Curriculum Update
 - Kai doing PD Genomic Education Partnership this summer
 - Compressed Calendar
 - Bioinformatics Update
 - Shift in demographic from people upskilling to younger students. The level was very high and is now entry level
 - Using CRISPOR in Bioinformatics in upcoming lab
 - Class is fun and gaining popularity
 - Barrier in the past was enrolling in class, this year not as much of a problem
 - Same syllabus, but different expectations this year
 - Exploring AI this semester
 - Many student presentations on AI and Bioinformatics
 - Biotech Bootcamp Summer, 2026

- Concurrent enrollment is a barrier to students
- Registration needs to be completed by May 4
- STEAM Building Update
 - Need the new building to be finished for the number of sections offered
 - Offering O Chem more often
 - Gary is retiring in December
 - Cell Culture Hood
- Student Club Activities
- MESA program update
 - Bio majors are up in MESA
 - STEM Start Up with IGATE
 - Over 50 students participated
 - 2 Students connected with George about a start up
 - Daybreak – Build Before You Pitch
- Students might be appropriate for that
 - Grant with IGATE – hopefully find out in May
 - Teach students to give time for letters of rec
- Longer labs in the fall may allow more depth and complexity
- Glut of chemistry and CS applicants for current openings
- Need to replace Barbara Zingg in micro, part time faculty holding program together
- New spots for faculty very competitive
- Strong dual enrollment in STEM and these students do very well
- Kai will get tenure this year
- Events on Campus
 - Appy Hour
 - Bionic suturing clinic
 - Vaccine hesitancy
 - NCASM Spring meeting is May 1 at Ohlone
- Should we continue meeting 2X a year or switch to once a year?
 - Update committee member list
 - Keep the meetings 2X a year
 - Get an informational blurb about the advisory to the faculty and advisory
 - Increase the amount of industry on the advisory

6. Industry Updates

- Emerging Trends / Industry Forecast
 - Everyone is nervous to hire
 - Jobs have dried up
 - Economic uncertainty
 - Learn to use AI responsibly
 - Fighting the need for perfection and the use of AI to be perfect
 - So important to teach students the basics
 - Communication importance, presentation skills
 - Environmental effects
- Industry Needs
- Internship / Employment

7. Good of the Order

8. Adjournment 6:38 pm

9. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 pm