



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

November 13, 2024 | 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Room 21147 + Zoom for visitors

Zoom information at end of agenda

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.
- ❖ 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.

Academic Senate Quorum: 8

Non-Voting Members:

President: Ashley Young
Student Government: Sophia Sucato
Faculty Association: Heike Gecox

Voting Members:

President-Elect: Ashley McHale
Secretary: Collin Thormoto
Treasurer: Catherine Suarez
BSSL: Robin Roy, Collin Thormoto
A&H: John Kelly, Catherine Suarez
STEM: Anita Bhatia, David Montelongo, Jennifer Siders
PATH: *vacant*
Student Services: Ryan Eckles, Julie Nguyen
Part Time Representatives: Valerie Connors, Jeff Judd

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order and quorum established at 2:32 pm
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Collin Thormoto)/discussion (none)/approved
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes (October 23, 2024):** Motion to approve (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Collin Thormoto)/discussion (none)/approved
- 4. Public Comments (3 minutes):** *This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Academic Senate. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Academic Senate cannot act on these items.*

Aubrie Ross: Spoke to classified professionals being in disagreement with district leadership and the FA's decision to move forward with the condensed calendar. The financial need for change and appreciation for faculty was acknowledged but there are concerns that the brunt of the impact will be on classified professionals. Aubrie plans to share a longer report at the next board meeting and would appreciate faculty standing in solidarity during her speech.

- 5. Consent Items:** None
- 6. Action Items:** None
- 7. Reports**
 - 7.1 CTE (Melissa Korber):** CPL efforts are moving forward smoothly using META. Incorporating CPL into a course does not require extensive training but reach out if you have questions or need assistance.
 - 7.2 SLO (John Rosen):** None
 - 7.3 Program Review (Karin Spirn):** None
 - 7.4 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley Young):** LPC will not receive additional FTEF despite the fact that our numbers have grown. The allocation split between Chabot and LPC remains the same (approximately 60/40); this was initially concerning but the split appears accurate when looking at the district's numbers, partially due to our noncredit non-attendance. Noncredit classes are paid by hours of attendance and

we do not get paid if a student does not attend sessions.

Questions:

- Are there plans to push noncredit students toward taking credit classes for the sake of the budget and if so, have there been discussions regarding how this may negatively affect these students? Nothing has been discussed yet but it will be important to consider all potential consequences before making concrete decisions.
- Is the compressed calendar being enacted for cost-saving measures? Yes; enacting a compressed calendar may help us recover from a severe financial crisis, particularly due to income from an added winter intersession. We must grow with no additional FTEF in order to get off hold harmless.
- Is the understanding that LPC lags behind Chabot due to the financial aid portion of SCFF? This is correct. Follow up question: Has the Chancellor or DEMC come up with additional solutions for us to increase financial aid disbursement? Potential solutions have been investigated. It appears that we have a sufficient number of students applying for FAFSA and being approved for Pell and Promise grants but fewer students accept awards. Students are perhaps deciding to refrain from using funds at this time as community college may be less expensive compared to their desired transfer CSU/UC/institution. Heike Gecox: Students may be misinformed since the Pell grant is good for six years, which would be sufficient for the majority of students to use now *and* post-transfer. Financial Aid staff should be sure to communicate this. These questions were brought up during FA impact negotiations but a satisfactory answer was not received. Ashley Young: We should focus on relaying financial aid information to students who could most benefit, like lower-income areas within Livermore.
- Do we have solid statistics regarding how many financial aid-eligible students are not accepting their awards? HG: This information should be going to the district and then disseminated through CRM Advise data but has not yet given sufficient information. Ashley Young plans to provide more information and specific numbers at a future meeting.

Ashley McHale: Motion to open agenda and change 7.8 from Professional Development to Distance Education. Seconded (John Kelly)/discussion (none)/ approved.

7.5 Faculty Hiring Prioritization (Heike Gecox): We are slated to have the top three recommended positions approved – Computer Science, English, History.

7.6 District Technology (Jeff Judd): None

7.7 Guided Pathways (Nadiyah Taylor & Jill Carbone): see Academic Senate webpage for Nadiyah Taylor's report.

7.8 Distance Education (Kathleen King): Updates on committee goals:

- Goal 1: Successfully carry on the business of the committee during DE leadership transition. Kat and Scott Vigallon had a one week overlap before his retirement which allowed for a smooth transition. Reach out to TLC if you need assistance with Follett textbook/material adoptions as some glitches were discovered; approximately 43% of classes have adopted textbooks/materials through Follett. Full adoption is needed in order to comply with CA AB 607, which mandates that course materials and fees are prominently displayed.

- Goal 2: Reestablish POCR program. Angelo Bummer is our POCR lead and 2nd CVC-OEI Consortium representative as we become a teaching college this spring.
- Goal 3: Continue to monitor accessibility. Wanda Butterly plans to offer Pope Tech training. Pope Tech Dashboard shows that we still have accessibility issues (particularly with contrast errors), which is unsurprising given the addition of new content. The good news is that 93% of our content has no detectable errors. The District Accessibility Task Force will meet Friday, 11/15 to address revisions to Title II of the ADA, which will require all content (website, Canvas, on-campus PowerPoints, etc.) to meet accessibility standards by April 24, 2026.
 - Question: Some theater design courses are not currently accessible for students with certain disabilities; will these courses need to be reformatted as well? Yes, and TLC will assist with this process.
- Goal 4: Continue to coordinate the transition to New Quizzes. Both LPC and CC need to be in agreeance before the transition can happen; the decision was made to extend the transition timeline due to discovered issues, mainly when transferring quizzes that have an item bank. If you plan to build a new quiz, use New Quizzes but don't transition current content to New Quizzes yet.
 - Question: Does this delay create additional costs for our institution? No; many other institutions are arriving at the same conclusion so Canvas is extending the deactivation of Classic Quizzes.
- Goal 5: Decide which AI tools to integrate into Canvas and;
- Goal 6: Establish best practices or suggestions page for identifying and responding to AI usage. Listening sessions are in the works to gauge Fall 2024 faculty experiences with AI. Kat is working with CC counterparts for trainings in the spring. AI is potentially coming to Canvas (ex: Khanmigo); efforts will be made to ensure they are accessible and user-friendly.
 - Question from Heike Gecox: Could you send more information regarding costs since the FA is entering into negotiations? Yes; fortunately, Khanmigo teacher tools are no-cost but the student tools are not free and could be helpful to our students. Catherine Suarez: Will there be FA discussions related to potential extra labor for faculty due to AI efforts? HG: Yes, this is on the list.

Consider attending the [Online Teaching Conference](#) in June 2025 in Long Beach that will likely have a strong emphasis on AI. Additionally, there is an available [AI webinar recording from CVC@ONE](#).

7.9 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): Catherine and Ashley Young are preparing for the upcoming Board of Trustees AI presentation. It would be appreciated for others to attend in support. Catherine consulted with Nan Ho to prepare for potential questions from the trustees. She will meet with Katie Eagan and others this coming Friday at 4:00 pm on Zoom to work on an academic honesty statement to be shared with the college and district. There was a suggestion to reach out to Sarah Thompson and ask if she can present her experience with AI over the summer semester to the senate.

7.10 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): The current balance is \$216.58. Raffle ticket purchases have not been as successful as hoped – 4 people have each purchased \$20 of tickets. 4 additional bottles of wine have been donated to the current prize. We need to determine by December if there are enough funds to provide scholarships in the spring. Please push raffle sales at respective division meetings next week.

Ashley Young shared that in the past, full-time faculty were asked to donate \$20 each for these scholarships. Is this a reasonable ask? The general consensus from attendees was that \$20 is reasonable. Question if a QR code linking to donation page could be added to division meeting slides or printed on a piece of paper to distribute at division meetings? Yes, the QR code is embedded in earlier emails and it would be ideal to advertise this at meetings. Question regarding how this suggestion can be communicated to PATH since they have no senate representation? Kevin Kramer and Ellie Hirstein may be contacted and asked to include a link in their agenda or presentation.

7.11 President (Ashley Young): There are many updates to APs and BPs. Notable changes include:

- Title 9 language changes to sex discrimination and sexual harassment policies
- Definition of campus Civic Center, which may be either 2420 or the outdoor amphitheater.
- Travel policy - more specific language regarding lodging and meal reimbursement requirements

Chancellor's Council updates: The compressed calendar will begin Fall 2025 with hopes to speed up the process of getting off hold harmless. Additional classified professionals and part-time faculty may need to be hired. Ashley is unsure if it is financially feasible to create an intersession without receiving additional FTEF, especially since the creation of a winter intersession will require additional funds. Heike Gecox responded that she believes the only way to add more FTEF is through a winter intersession with asynchronous online classes, especially if lab classes are not offered. Jennifer Siders disagreed with these thoughts as there were close to 100 students needing physics classes who were not accommodated, which may delay their graduation plans. Ashley Young agreed with JS saying that additional Fall 2024 math classes would have allowed nearly 200 students to be accommodated in needed classes. HG asked where this money would have come from? AY asked where the money is coming from that will go toward an intersession? HG replied that, per Vice Chancellor Nicholas, this is a gamble but the funds are needed in an intersession. Will we have enough student interest in a winter intersession since many students take vacations at this time of year? If asynchronous, the student could complete assignments early. Catherine Suarez mentioned concerns for lack of interest in asynchronous, general education courses. HG reported that our summer sessions are successful, especially if classes needed to graduate are offered; winter intersession may have a similar effect. AY shared her opinion that a winter intersession in combination with additional FTEF in fall and spring could be ideal for getting off hold harmless.

Approximately 70% of our funding comes from enrollment based on a 3-year rolling average, which seems to penalize growing colleges like LPC. There is developing legislation, which may or may not pass, to consider growth from just the past year. If it passes, the district may consider giving more FTEF knowing they would effectively get reimbursed within about 2 years. This would still put a strain on classified professionals. HG responded that the strain will be on everyone, not just classified professionals. At yesterday's Chancellor's Council meeting, it may have been suggested that full-time faculty are pushing for a compressed calendar only because it would mean an additional two weeks of vacation, which HG found offensive.

Questions:

- What is the associated students' response to the compressed calendar moving forward despite voting against it? HG responded that students did not seem strongly against the decision and provided ambiguous responses. The decision has been made and now we need to adjust. AY confirmed that financial need has dictated the final decision.

- Will adjunct faculty be able to teach intersession classes? Yes.
 - Will the 67% requirement be in effect for intersession like it is for fall and spring? It will likely be akin to summer and not be held to this law.

Ashley clarified that switching from 18-week to 16-week semesters will likely affect labs, however the 60 other colleges that have moved to a compressed calendar have found a way to adjust. Question if any of these colleges adjusted units and meeting dates? These adjustments may need to take place but that is a discussion for the future. Saturday labs may need to return in order to accommodate sufficient sessions and hours.

7.12 Divisions

- BSSL (Robin Roy, Collin Thormoto): None
- A&H (John Kelly, Catherine Suarez): None
- STEM (Anita Bhatia, David Montelongo, Jennifer Siders): None
- PATH: None
- Student Services (Ryan Eckles, Julie Nguyen): None
- Part Time Representatives (Valerie Connors, Jeff Judd): None

8. Wellness Break (5 minutes) 3:42 pm – 3:48 pm

9. Old Business

9.1 AI Honesty Policy: The draft will be shared after edits. Catherine hopes for good attendance at Friday's meeting (4:00 pm – 5:00 pm on Zoom).

9.2 DEIACT Updates: Melissa Korber reported that the incoming president of the USA has been making anti-DEIA statements, specifically regarding monetary sanctions on institutions that follow DEIA practices. Ashley McHale clarified that federal cuts could affect financial aid for students but the vast majority of California Community Colleges funding is dictated by the state. It's possible some of the state's funding is provided by federal sources but Governor Newsom is already proactively working towards mitigating potential administration decisions. Approximately 8 years ago, LPC resolved to be a sanctuary campus. Perhaps this could be reemphasized so our students know they are supported, regardless of federal stances. It was decided that this statement will be reviewed at the December 11th senate meeting.

10. New Business

10.1 Compressed Calendar Needs

- The Library does not have enough faculty to support potential Saturday needs. There may not even be enough funds to hire an adjunct since they are unsure if Tina Inzerilla's vacated position will remain in their funding pool.
- The Tutoring Center would also potentially need to be available on Saturdays.
- The Copy Center would either need to be available on Saturdays or faculty would need to plan ahead to ensure all materials are printed and waiting in the mail room prior to the weekend.
- Students on campus on Saturdays may need Basic Needs services and food services.
- Additional services may be needed in the Computer Center, A&R, and Counseling.
- Additional lab support, especially since there would be limited time for laboratory equipment switch outs. Could other rooms be converted to additional lab classrooms? No; classrooms need to be built and maintained in a specific way to allow safe lab use. If we offer labs on Saturdays, would a lab tech

need to be present? Yes; even if a lab tech sets up a lab ahead of time, someone needs to be physically present in case something goes wrong. David Montelongo brought up that extended lab sessions could lead to some classes ending at unreasonably late hours.

- Will there be additional positions offered and/or increased pay for faculty if Saturday classes increase? These decisions need to be made by discipline leads. Collin Thormoto pointed out that this could be difficult for Library and Counseling faculty since they are mandated with a set of hours per week. They would either need additional faculty or would need to cut services during weekdays. Julie Nguyen mentioned that Counseling faculty already struggle to have enough time to create law-mandated SEPs. There has been discussion regarding cutting Spring Break short in order to meet demands.

10.2 ASCCC Fall Plenary Session 2024 Resolutions

Ashley detailed approved resolutions, which will be presented to the state Chancellor's Office in hopes of adoption. Some notable highlights:

- Certain nutrition courses may qualify as science eligible course for Cal-GETC Subject Area 5B.
- Push to confirm UC/CSU approval of articulated courses before implementation.
 - Move forward with CCN only after articulation templates have been established and approved.
- Passage of Craig Kutil's educational code language cleanup.
- Encourage zero textbook cost initiatives.
- Foster awareness of EOPS programs and promote student access.
- Rely on faculty for AI decisions in the classroom. State-wide Academic Senate will develop criteria for pilot projects regarding the ethical use of AI and disseminate to local Academic Senates.
- Push to remove ISBN requirement when using OERs and recognize the date of last access as the date of publication.
- Advocate for changes to allow districts to offer pre-transfer level mathematics and English classes.
- Designate official Native American Holiday for CCC system.

11. Good of the Order/Announcements

Ashley McHale: Reminder that variable flex is due to Jennifer Farber by November 15th.

12. Adjournment: 4:29 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: December 11, 2024

ZOOM LOGIN: This will be the same for every Academic Senate meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82457062184>

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