



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

March 26, 2025 | 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Room 21147 + Zoom for visitors

Agenda Item – [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: 7

Non-Voting Members:

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

Voting Members:

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:** 2:34 pm
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (John Kelly)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/discussion (none)/approved
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes (March 12, 2025):** Motion to approve (Robin Roy)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/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 items not already on the agenda.* None
- 5. Consent Items**
Request by Collin Thormoto to pull item 5.1.

Motion to approve items 5.2-5.4 (Jeff Judd)/seconded (Collin Thormoto)/discussion (none)/approved

5.2 Dean of PATH Hiring Committee: Susan DeFuniak, Scott Miner
5.3 DSPS Alternative Media Specialist Hiring Committee: Amanda Castelli
5.4 Cultural Community Center Coordinator Hiring Committee: Alain Olavarrieta

5.1 Viticulture and Winery Faculty Hiring Committee: Mike Ansell, Dani Blatter, Fede Borghesi, Lisa Everett

Collin asked for the reasoning behind this position moving forward despite not ranking within the Faculty Hiring Prioritization Committee's top three recommendations. One reason is due to the program currently being run by only one part-time faculty member. The administrator(s) who made the decision to move forward may have also considered the amount of facility work required to maintain the program. Will this take the place of one of the other approved positions? No. Where was the funding for this position sourced from? Unknown.

Collin mentioned that while viticulture has unique needs, other single-person departments continue to have unaddressed staffing concerns, like Anthropology. Catherine pointed out that viticulture is a unique program that has had large amounts of funding invested

in improving its facilities and administration appears to want this program to continue its growth. Collin added that while he is in favor to move the hiring committee forward, he is concerned about potential favoritism.

Motion to approve item 5.1 (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (John Kelly)/all in favor - motion carries

6. Action Items

6.1 Sanctuary Campus Resolution

Ashley presented the final resolution, which has been edited after consulting with several other constituents. She hopes to bring it to the April Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion to approve (Robin Roy)/seconded (John Kelly)/all in favor – motion carries

7. Reports (5 minutes each)

7.1 LPC Student Government (Sophia Sucato): None

7.2 CTE (Melissa Korber)

Eight CTE grants will go through Perkins funding; we typically receive about \$100k annually through Perkins and Vickie Shipman has advised that this year should be similar. Vickie also predicts that Strong Workforce funding will be similar to last year. The committee will rank the mini grants next month. CTE enrollments are up college-wide by approximately 14%, which follows post-COVID statewide trends. There is available funding for CTE professional development for qualifying conferences and events.

7.3 SLO (John Rosen): None

7.4 Program Review (Karin Spirn): None

7.5 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley McHale): None

7.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox)

Contract negotiations continue. The calendar committee will meet Friday, 3/28 to finalize AY 26-27 compressed calendar. There has been discussion regarding the addition of a final exam week. Question if this week would be in addition to the 16 weeks? No, it would be included within the 16 weeks if added. Question if the default assumption by the committee was to not include a final exam week? There was no assumption as it was still an item for discussion.

7.7 District Technology (Jeff Judd)

Fraudulent enrollment is still a pressing issue. The district has signed on with an AI company which will provide the first level of fraudulent flagging. The process will still require physical checking at later levels. There was concern regarding this company having access to our students' data, but security has been established for protection. Another idea brought forward to consider in combatting fraudulent enrollment is reverting back to physical, paper checks for financial aid disbursement.

The district is moving to the newest version of Banner; financial aid and other financial modules have been rolled out in Banner 9 with student modules and faculty modules coming out Summer 2025 and Fall 2025, respectively. These new modules are much more user-friendly.

MyPortal is taking CLASS-Web's place soon. We need to move from the W#/PIN system because it is not as secure as a username and password. Reminder that MyPortal will put everything behind a single sign on with a few exceptions, like Canvas.

Questions:

- When can students access MyPortal? Students may access MyPortal now and should begin familiarizing themselves with it as soon as possible.
- Will students still be assigned W#s? Yes; W#s just won't be used as the log in identifier. This will allow students to self-reset their password.
- Has there been discussion regarding adding the ability to remove irrelevant MyPortal cards? No, but you can rearrange and "lock" relevant cards.
- How does the committee plan to make students and employees aware of what is accessible in MyPortal? Additional training is needed; training needs are typically discussed at each meeting.
- Has there been discussion about which features from CLASS-Web will not be available via MyPortal? Unsure if anything offered through CLASS-Web will not be accessible through MyPortal. The migration to Banner 9 should solve any current disconnects.
- Why would a faculty member need to use Banner? Banner is the base for everything; when a faculty member uses CLASS-Web, they are using Banner.
- When will CLASS-Web officially sunset? The faculty modules need to be debugged first, which will likely not happen until Fall 2025. The official switch to MyPortal will be sometime after that point.
- When should students switch to MyPortal? Students should switch now. There are some resources no longer accessible (e.g., DegreeWorks) without MyPortal access.
- Is there a guide for students (similar to the CLASS-Web Step-by-Step guide) for MyPortal? Refer students to the "MyPortal Resources" link on the CLASS-Web/MyPortal landing page. The group suggested to make this link more noticeable.
- Can students use MyPortal to add classes? Yes, but it will direct students to "Classic CLASS-Web" until after full migration.

7.8 Professional Development (David Powers)

Variable FLEX Part 2 is due May 15th. Reminder that conference expense claims need to be submitted by Administrative Service's deadlines. Flex Day went well with great discussions and questions. Chabot had their Flex Day the same week and both campuses gathered valuable information to be shared at Friday's calendar committee meeting. PDC will discuss Flex Day survey results at their next meeting.

7.9 Guided Pathways (Nadiyah Taylor & Jill Carbone): None

7.10 UndocuAlly (David Montelongo)

The committee is working on revising previous goals to better fit the campus' current needs. The Cultural Community Center Coordinator position has posted. Once that person is brought on board, they will also become the liaison for undocumented students. The committee plans to provide advisory support, which will allow the new coordinator to smoothly transition into their role.

There have been two Know-Your-Rights workshops with good attendance; the committee plans to host more workshops and trainings in the future. The website is regularly checked and updated. They hope to add Google Translate, or a similar application, to allow the website to be translated into multiple languages.

The committee is working on clearer instructions for what to do if ICE agents visit campus. They are also advocating for a process if ICE agents are spotted in the area, which would likely be to contact the Alameda County Immigration Legal Education Partnership (ACILEP) hotline so other at-risk locations may be alerted. Question if ICE agents would be legally obligated to report to the President's Office upon an employee's request? You should advise the agent that you are not authorized to accept any warrants and that it is a FERPA violation to let them access private spaces or student data. They should be directed to the President's Office and you can contact Campus Safety for escort services.

7.11 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez)

We have been invited to participate in a statewide AI survey. The results of this survey could help shape California's AI policies and provide early insights into upcoming changes. The deadline for this survey is April 21st. Catherine will work with Kat King to further discuss LPC's involvement.

7.12 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez)

We have received \$60 in donations for the Classified Appreciation event. Please ask for donations at the next division meetings; encourage cash or gift cards (\$10 value is ideal). Donation of time and/or services is also appreciated. Who is collecting donations? Provide donations to Catherine or Ashley. Does it matter where the gift card is from? No, but it would be ideal for it to be for desirable services/goods.

7.13 President (Ashley McHale)

Ashley recently attended an LPC collaborative meeting for undocumented student support. The group discussed what still needs to be done. They also discussed that "dreamer" may not be the most accurate identity, rather they may want to move to "undocumented."

Ashley also attended the President's Advisory Council, which serves as an advisory to the president to enhance equity. They discussed federal actions that may impact the district. They also reviewed the Department of Education's publications and FAQs. A new board policy, BP 3415, is being pushed through, which focuses on immigration enforcement activity policies.

7.14 Divisions

- BSSL (Robin Roy, Collin Thormoto)
Robin reported that the BSSL division is concerned that the proposed AI policy language is too strong. They suggest making the language more student-focused with criminality language softened. There was also discussion regarding language if an instructor opts to use AI in their class. Jin Tsubota brought up concerns with the academic honesty statement in regards to how it may affect tutors (e.g., an instructor providing assistance to a student is considered instruction but a tutor providing a certain amount of assistance to a student could be considered a form of cheating). Catherine's response was that this has been an ongoing concern; tutors should be trained on assistance limitations upon being hired.
- 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)

9. Old Business

9.1 Flex Day (Debrief)

Feedback from Flex Day:

Heike Gecox: Was the provided block schedule helpful? John Kelly: It made sense to the group but it showed how many changes need to be made in order to fit classes in to the schedule. Enrollment management questions arose.

Catherine Suarez: Concerned about her 5-unit classes becoming longer since they are already long. She is considering MWF but cannot accommodate multiple sections following this schedule due to other obligations. She also has concerns about enrollment management and if students will be interested in taking MWF classes and earlier-start classes.

David Powers: All options need to be considered for this transition so keep making suggestions, even if they seem far-fetched. Decisions need to be student-centered so consider providing a survey to students to gauge interest. You may also want to reach out to part-time colleagues and Chabot College counterparts to brainstorm.

Robin Roy: BSSL found the block schedule handouts helpful; it seems most of their 3-unit classes will not be greatly impacted. One of the counselors who attended their session mentioned that many students who do not live in Livermore or closely-surrounding cities try to leave campus by 2:00 pm to beat traffic, which could be important to consider with the new block schedule.

Melissa Korber: The compressed calendar has unique implications to students who work on the LPC Express and Naked magazine publications, but they are already brainstorming ideas, like utilizing hybrid modalities.

10. New Business

10.1 Classified Appreciation Event

A final decision was made to hold this event on Wednesday, May 14th between 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with setup and cleanup taking place the hour before and after. Ashley will ask Dr. Foster for funds to cover food costs. Ashley will create a planning ad-hoc committee; Catherine, Robin, and John volunteered to join.

11. Good of the Order/Announcements

Robin Roy: The LPC Student Symposium will be April 24th 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Attendance will count for variable flex. Let Robin know if you would like to help with planning efforts.

John Kelly: Sueños will debut this weekend.

12. Adjourned: 4:01 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: April 23, 2025

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

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

Phone one-tap: US: +16694449171, 82457062184# or +16699006833, 82457062184#

Meeting ID: 824 5706 2184