



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

May 28, 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: 2:30 pm

2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/discussion (none)/approved

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (May 14, 2025):** Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/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:** Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Robin Roy)/discussion (none)/approved

5.1 HSI Director Hiring Committee: Rafael Valle

5.2 LPC's OER Liaison: Lyndale Garner

5.3 CPL Coordinator: Jeff Weichert

6. Action Items

6.1 Honors Program Subcommittee: Motion to approve (Robin Roy)/seconded (Jennifer Siders)/discussion: Irena Keller sent out a poll to determine meeting schedule. The 3rd Monday of the month from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm was selected)/approved

6.2 Academic Senate Shared Governance Worksheet: Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Robin Roy)/discussion (none)/approved

6.3 Academic Honesty Policy: Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Jennifer Siders)/discussion: The proposed policy with edits was shared. Slight changes were made to include "non-intimidating" language (e.g., "student will be severely punished" changed to "student may be punished"). The decision to adopt the policy for Fall 2025 was made but editing may continue after receiving feedback from Student Government and Linguistic Justice. Question if this statement will eventually be published in the catalog? Yes, the hope is to have this published in time for the next catalog.

Motion to approve with modifications (Collin Thormoto)/all in favor – motion passes

7. Old Business

7.1 Academic Defense Resolution Proposal: Robin Roy and Collin Thormoto provided feedback from the BSSL division meeting. There is a Bay Area Community College compact that is similar to this state-wide compact. The benefit to joining the Bay Area compact is that it is backed by local unions, which may provide more legal and political power than the state Academic Senate. Melissa Korber shared the opinion that there could still be benefits from supporting the state-wide initiative. Ashley McHale brought up concerns regarding what commitments we make (as a college, district, and Faculty Association) by supporting these compacts, particularly because there are actionable commitments included in the resolutions. David Powers advised that the FA has not had a chance to fully vet the resolutions and echoed concerns that our currently well-functioning district could potentially need to get involved in controversial decisions as a signing member of the compact.

8. New Business

8.1 Senate Elections – suspend timeline, certify slate of officers: The proposed changes to the bylaws and constitution passed 39-1. Beginning July 1, 2025, Ashley will be Vice President, Catherine Suarez will be Treasurer, and Collin will be Secretary. Part Time representatives will be Jeff Judd and Peter Zimmer. Question if Ashley Young will be returning as President? Yes.

8.2 AI Pollution Concerns: AI usage creates physical pollution and drains environmental resources (e.g., water usage for cooling electronics, electricity usage, etc.). Though this will not necessarily affect our AI policy, it is important information to share; Catherine suggests mentioning concerns at future division meetings. Dispersing this information during future events could also be a good teaching moment for students and the community, particularly during Earth Day. It could also be the subject of a Flex Day session. Catherine plans to reach out to her PUSD contact and ask Jean O'Neil-Opipari for an LLNL contact to get additional information regarding the environmental impacts of AI usage.

8.3 Zero-Waste Initiative Resolution of Support: Do we want to draft a resolution of support as a senate? Heike Gecox shared her opinion that would be inconsistent to speak of AI pollution and not support this initiative; others were in agreement. Ashley McHale will discuss this with Ashley Young in hopes of drafting a resolution.

8.4 Student Withdrawal/NGR Concerns: Kristy Woods spoke of recurring issues with students who drop or withdraw with no notice to the instructor, which results in the instructor not having a chance to work with the student to potentially resolve concerns. This is particularly concerning due to AB 1705 and disproportionately-affected groups of students. Since we have moved to Ellucian products, we now have more tools to collect data. Ideas include having a popup appear upon dropping/withdrawing or having an automated follow up email sent to the student with a list of reasonings for the student to indicate. We do not currently have the bandwidth to directly follow up with each student but that could be a goal in the future if a student indicates that they would like to be contacted regarding their concerns. Was this proposed by a particular committee? This has been brainstormed by several committees/groups. What if the instructor drops a student? The instructor could respond to the survey on behalf of the student.

Kristy would appreciate feedback and potentially the creation of a task force or senate resolution.

9. Wellness Break (5 minutes)

10. Reports (5 minutes each)

10.1 LPC Student Government (Sophia Sucato): None

10.2 CTE (Melissa Korber): The committee is completing end-of-term reports for projects supported by Perkins and Strong Workforce. Jeff Weichert will take over as CPL coordinator but Melissa will still provide share outs at future meetings. Both recently met with VP Ho and Vicki Shipman to discuss a new 2-year regional grant that will support CPL efforts. They also discussed barriers caused by having CPL requests go through seven different sign offs. How many credit by exams were requested this past academic year? Fewer than 15. Is there a specific reason why seven people have to sign off on requests? This is what has been requested. Melissa has tried to remove steps in the past without success.

10.3 SLO (John Rosen): Reminder that we will lose access to eLumen data at the end of June. CurriQunet assessment modules are functional enough to go live soon. John plans to send out an email in the fall to reminder coordinators to view PSLOs to confirm accuracy. Are these the PSLOs from the website? They are the most recent PSLOs but you should double check in case some were not updated. The committee also discussed SAOs for Student Services and how to house and track data.

10.4 Program Review (Karin Spirn): None

10.5 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley McHale): LPC's summer enrollment is up by about 28% from this time last year. David Powers advised that we received more FTEF, which could be why numbers are up. Ashley shared that there are still fraudulent enrollment concerns but LightLeap AI went live last week, which will hopefully help efforts.

10.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox): Negotiations are ongoing. FA representatives will meet at the district approximately twice per week over the summer. Articles 10 has been challenging to negotiate but they are going through line-by-line. Question: The compressed calendar for Spring 2027 has a start date of early February but shows the semester ending at approximately the same time as before; is this finalized? It has already been negotiated and finalized. The reason for the delayed start was probably to allow room for winter intersession adjustments and to allow Flex Days. David Powers advised that the goal is to finish the semester before Memorial Day weekend.

Catherine Suarez shared that she surveyed her students to see how many final exams they have this week. Many reported having taken final exams last week. It was noted that this is in violation of the contract and deans need to be made aware if this is happening, although there needs to be concrete evidence rather than hearsay.

10.7 District Technology (Jeff Judd): None

10.8 Professional Development (David Powers): The committee reviewed feedback from the last Flex Day; although the day was well-received, the general consensus is that future Flex Days no longer need to be fully dedicated to the compressed calendar or winter intersession. The next Flex Day will be October 23rd. Two of the three tri chairs were absent at the most recent meeting so decisions for the keynote have not been finalized.

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

10.10 UndocuAlly (David Montelongo): The task force is in the process of selecting a new logo for the Undocumented Student Support Center, which will be part of the Cultural Community Center. The task force plans to meet with the new coordinator when they begin later this summer.

10.11 Global Engagement Task Force (Katie Eagan): None

10.12 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): Catherine spoke with VP Ho, who agreed that it is important for more than one person from LPC to attend AI conferences. Please let Catherine know if you have suggestions for an instructor who would benefit from attending the next AI conference in September.

10.13 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): Remaining funds are low due to recent expenses for the classified appreciation event and student scholarships. David suggested reaching out to the Foundation office to request funding. Requests for donations will begin again in fall. Ashley will speak with Ashley Young about potentially changing the gifting process for next year's classified appreciation event.

10.14 President (Ashley McHale): Calls for Reed Buffington and service award nominations went out last week. Nominations and self-nominations must be submitted by June 10th. The district PBC decided to move the May meeting to June 3rd because they will have more budgetary information after the May revise.

Ashley thanked senate members for their support during her tenure as President this past semester.

10.15 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

11. Good of the Order/Announcements

Jennifer Siders: Over summer, the stairs leading up to the 1800 building will be painted in rainbow colors. Ashley McHale mentioned that this is partly in response to the LGBTQ+ panel discussion at a previous Flex Day in which participants expressed feeling less supported in STEM classes and programs in comparison to other divisions.

David Powers: Reminded the group that Father's Day is coming up in June.

12. Adjourned: 4:27 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: August 27, 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

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