



# ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

February 11, 2026 | 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

- ❖ Affirm LPC's unwavering commitment to equity by deepening campus-wide engagement, enhancing professional development, embedding equity-minded practices in decision-making, assessment, and accountability processes; and building capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through sustainable college practices, processes, academic support, removal of barriers, and focused professional development.
- ❖ 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:* TBD  
*Faculty Association:* Heike Gecox

#### Voting Members:

*Vice President:* Ashley McHale  
*Secretary:* Collin Thormoto  
*Treasurer:* Catherine Suarez  
*A&H:* Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez  
*BSSL:* Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto  
*PATH:* Susan deFuniak  
*STEM:* Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo,  
*Student Services:* Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles  
*Part Time Representatives:* Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer

- 1. Call to Order:** 2:35 pm
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes (January 28, 2026):** Motion to approve (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Peter Zimmer)/discussion (10.4 – clarify that degree changes are state-wide)/approved unanimously
- 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 (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously
  - 5.1 Chemistry Instructor Hiring Committee: Mike Ansell, Chris Dudzik, Ann Hight, David Montelongo
  - 5.2 Computer Science Instructor Hiring Committee: Kai Blaisdell, Ted Lee, Michael Peterson, Jeff Weichert
  - 5.3 Counselor (DSPS)/Instructor (Learning Disabilities Specialist) Hiring Committee: Jerry Bailey, Jared Howard
  - 5.4 Curriculum Approvals: 2.2.26
- 6. Action Items**
  - 6.1 Academic Honesty Statement**  
Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Sue DeFuniak)/discussion: Catherine Suarez clarified that the reference to the student's permanent record refers to the student's permanent disciplinary record at LPC. Some outside sources, like private universities or federal agencies, may request disciplinary action records. This item should likely remain as-is on the statement./approved unanimously
  - 6.2 Academic Integrity Statement**  
Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/discussion: Do the new AI glasses fall under a category within this statement? Yes, likely as a form of artificial intelligence generator)/approved unanimously

**7. New Business****7.1 Classified Appreciation Day**

This event will be held April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Ashley and Kimberly Burks will plan the event. Ashley, Sue, Catherine, and Ryan Eckles will help with set up day-of.

**7.2 Common Course Numbering Update**

Phase III CCN release is on pause while waiting for UCs and CSUs to agree on the proposed articulation templates.

**7.3 APs and BPs**

APs and BPs for first reading are unchanged except for AP 3415 Immigration Enforcement Activities. APs and BPs for second reading have minor changes. Clarification that AP 7345 Catastrophic Leave Program for Unrepresented applies only to unrepresented employees, like administrators.

**7.4 Proposed Contract**

Motion to table agenda item 7.4 to after the wellness break (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously

**8. Old Business****8.1 AI Listening Group**

Faculty from both colleges met at the district last Friday to discuss AI. Ashley shared notes taken from this meeting. A student panel facilitated by a third party will be held on flex day. There will be at least one other AI-focused session on flex day. Ashley expressed the need for a future AI training session specifically for faculty since the previous training focused more on a classified professional's AI usage needs.

**8.2 Resolution on Retiree Healthcare Investments**

Collin shared a draft ethical investment policy. BlackRock is mentioned as a previous investment but it appears that all shares have since been sold at a loss to the district. A definition of what an ethical investment policy consists of is included. Ashley requested that an additional resolution line requesting an increase in transparency of investments is included. Relay suggestions to Collin as soon as possible so the draft can be shared at division meetings next week. Question if anyone has communicated with affected retirees? A retiree is on the Retirement Board of Authority.

**9. Wellness Break (5 minutes)****7.4 Proposed Contract**

Ashley shared the tentative agreement highlights. Notable items include counseling and librarian schedule options (16-week or 17.5-week assignments), AI, leave, sabbaticals, peer evaluations, and salary increases. Question for where the funds will come from for the salary increases? Some will come from faculty who take the SERP, some will come from being off hold-harmless. The first raise will be retroactive and take effect in August since we did not get a COLA increase this year. Those taking the SERP will get this first retroactive raise. Question for how many SERP offers were made? Not certain of the exact number but at least 30 faculty (plus 30 classified professionals or administrators) will need to commit to the offer for it to be successful. Heike clarified that these numbers are district wide and that the previous SERP required at least 50 individuals and 68 individuals ended up taking the offer. Question regarding how the salary increase will be sustainable if the SERP offer does not take place? Heike is unsure of the answer at this time and suggested that Vice Chancellor Nicholas may be the more appropriate person to

address this question. She encouraged eligible individuals to meet with a representative to learn more about the offer. Ashley expressed concern for not meeting the required minimum and wonders if it would have been prudent to have negotiated for a lower raise in order to be granted more release time. Heike clarified that this was on the table but the district did not budge. She also explained that while there were many wins, some concessions had to be made. The FA managed to successfully memorialize additional CAH (e.g., 9 CAH/year for Honors Program Coordinator).

Jeff Judd shared that some part-time faculty have expressed concern regarding the short turnaround for grade submission between summer and fall terms and winter and spring terms. Heike responded that this is necessary with the addition of winter intersession and the implementation of a compressed calendar. The MOU regarding late grade submission needed to happen due to the ramifications experienced by students who rely on grades to qualify for financial aid or transfer agreements.

Question if course capacities are decided within negotiations? Yes. Joanna expressed frustration shared by some faculty, particularly within social sciences, who have many more students than faculty within other disciplines despite both earning the same salary. This may disincentivize faculty within social sciences to assign complex assignments that require intensive grading. Heike noted that while STEM faculty may have fewer students, teaching lab sections requires heavy facilitation; she agreed to bring this conversation back to the FA, although negotiations have commenced. It was also noted that course capacities are sometimes changed by the individual faculty member, which can affect other faculty teaching a different section of the same course. Question if all course capacities for asynchronous online classes are being raised by two, regardless of current capacity? Yes, and this is due to a higher rate of attrition. Justin Garoupa suggested that the benefits and negatives of large lectures and other high-capacity courses be studied more in-depth for future negotiations since there may be a correlation between large class sizes and higher attrition.

Ashley shared additional changes, including physically posting office hours prior to the end of the first week of class and seniority for part-time faculty.

Motion to move items 10.6 and 10.4 to the first reports (Jeff Judd)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously

## **10. Reports (5 minutes each)**

10.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox): Dues-paying members should have received an email earlier today with voting information. The contract is expected to be ratified by the end of the month in time for March board. Candidates for the next election will be solicited later this month with voting beginning in March. Question if there is still time for negotiations related to more release time in exchange for a smaller raise percentage? Heike will check but it is unlikely that negotiations will reopen.

10.4 CTE (Melissa Korber): The committee discussed the comprehensive local needs assessment, which is being facilitated by a consultant. All employees should have received a questionnaire and responses will help drive where funds go. The Perkins faculty sub grants will be released this month; they are due in March and voting will take place in April. A new internal process for apprenticeship CPL is underway with responsibilities shifting to the Admissions and Records Office. Question if the apprenticeship process is getting better and clearer? Melissa is not involved enough in the process to be able to speak to changes but noted that the NorCal laborers apprenticeship program has been increasingly successful. Question if it is too late to complete the questionnaire from the consultant? You may try to complete it but the

responses may not be considered.

10.1 LPC Student Government (TBD): None

10.2 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): Catherine shared The Independent's article, which features quotes from several LPC employees.

Catherine detailed the disciplinary action process as discussed with Dean Joel Gagnon. It was noted that faculty should speak with the student in question as the first response so the student is not taken by surprise upon receiving a Maxient letter. Dean Gagnon was not aware of specific cases of retaliation to instructors from students who received disciplinary action.

Joanna shared her thoughts on the usefulness of the AI Assessment Scale as shown in the Intentional College Teaching article. This could be used as a universal design within syllabi so each instructor can indicate the allowed level of AI usage in their individual course.

10.3 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley McHale): Ashley Young shared that there will not be additional FTEF given for next year, although this may change in the future. Question if the recent addition of winter intersession and increase in dual enrollment is being taken into account? Ashley is unsure but noted that it would be impossible to continue to address the increase in needs without additional FTEF.

10.5 District Technology (Jeff Judd): The new strategic plan will be created as one unit for the district and both colleges. ComplyBot will be adopted district-wide. A new procedure for purchasing academic software will be implemented to avoid duplication. Banner 9 faculty and roster rollouts begins in March, which means Spring 2026 grades will be submitted in Banner 9 for the first time. Question for when in March, since there are some short courses that end prior to this time? Unsure. Technology went well for winter intersession. Question if MyPortal occasionally being inaccessible in the evenings has been discussed? It has not but Jeff will bring it to the next meeting.

10.7 Global Engagement (Katie Eagan): None

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

10.9 Program Review (Karin Spirn): None

10.10 SLO (John Rosen): CurrIQunet has had troubleshooting issues and some sections did not successfully migrate. Initial thoughts were that these sections were CCN but cases have since been discovered that involve non-CCN courses. Additionally, some faculty have discovered a workflow issue upon uploading data.

The committee has been discussing their 3-year plan and planning for increased communication to get higher participation rates. The committee may merge with another related committee in the future. Two flex day sessions will be held, one as a working session and the other as a CurrIQunet tutorial.

10.11 UndocuAlly (David Montelongo): None

10.12 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): Catherine met with Ken Cooper from the Foundation Office and

learned that \$12,500 is needed to establish an endowment; this amount must sit for one year before it can be used. The account is then evaluated at the end of every year to determine available funds for the coming year. The Senate may consider moving forward with an emerging endowment, which sets aside funds that are earmarked as going toward the final endowment. He will attend the following meeting to provide additional information.

10.13 President (Ashley Young): None

10.14 Divisions

- A&H (Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez): None
- BSSL (Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto): Four of the five BSSL faculty who taught during Winter Intersession reported disliking the experience, mainly due to difficulty with grading and managing student expectations.
- PATH (Susan deFuniak): None
- STEM (Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo): None
- Student Services (Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles): None
- Part Time Representatives (Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer): None

11. **Good of the Order/Announcements:** None

12. **Adjourned:** 4:30 pm

13. **Next Regular Meeting:** February 25, 2026

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87800866487>

Dial: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 878 0086 6487