



Honors Program Committee Minutes

September, 15, 2025

Recorder: Jennifer Siders & Irena Keller

LPC Mission Statement	LPC Planning Priorities 2024		
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 life-long learning.	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.
Chair/s	Faculty Association (1)	SEIU (1)	
☒ Jennifer Siders ☒ Irena Keller	☐ Name	☐ Name	
Academic Senate (2)	Classified Senate (2)	Student Senate (2)	
☐ Name	☐ Name	☒ Sidhant Parashar ☐	
Vice Presidents	Deans	Faculty	
☐ Name ☐ Name ☐ Name	☒ Michelle Simotas ☐ Name ☐ Name	☒ A&H: Marty Nash ☒ Student Services: Rafael Valle ☒ STEM: Alain Olavarrieta ☒ PATH: Paul Sapsford ☒ BSSL: Dan Cearley	
Classified Professionals	Guests		
☐ Aubrie Ross ☐ Name ☐ Name	☐ Jason Maxwell ☒ Rifa Sipai ☒ Cheryl Cheung ☐ Chip Warner	☒ Elizabeth Wings Brooks ☐ Robin Roy ☐ Jean O'Neil -Opipari	

Attendance (Quorum = 7)

Agenda Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Assigned To
1.	Call to Order Call to Order 2:37	
2.	Review & Approve Agenda Motion to approve (Alain Olavarrieta)/seconded (Rafael Valle)/ discussion (none)/approved	
3.	Review & Approve Prior Minutes Motion to approve (Marty Nash) /seconded (Paul Sapsford)/ discussion (none)/approved	
4.	Action Items • Mission Statement and SAOs: A few minor changes were made to the mission statement, adding underrepresented groups. Committee members will look at the statement and make suggestions online. • Confirm Program Requirements: (1) at least one honors course per year should be required to stay in the program (doesn't have to be Honors section, can be by contract); (2) middle college/dual enrollment students (if spots are limited, should transfer students at least have priority?): had long discussion on this and it was decided to invite Amy Brown to the next meeting to give us some input. Student commented that Middle College students can not take advantage of all the benefits of Honors for transfer. One suggestion was to limit the number of honors course/contracts to one per semester. • Program cap: had to go over the cap while giving priority to learning communities. Removing the cap all together was discussed as its creating even more work – keeping track of wait list, responding to emails. Removing the cap and letting students know that being in the honors program does not guarantee they will be able to get into honors sections or get professors to agree to contracts. Short discussion on whether to cap the	

	number of honors courses/contracts a student can do each semester. Students very strongly indicated they would want to do MORE honors, that they get more out of those classes. Flex Day Session Mode and Presenters were chosen. It was decided to have two separate sessions. First session would be certification (Alain, Rafael and Jenny volunteered to help). The second section would be for a working group session, where people in different divisions could get together to share tips and help people build their embedded honors canvas shells. (Alain, Jenny, Dan, Marty, Paul and Elizabeth volunteered to help) Irena will write the Flex Day proposals and email them out to volunteers to confirm their participation.	
5.	Old Business Honors Courses for Spring 2026: Trying to get one section of English switched to Honors. There is a meeting planned to discuss which courses might be offered. LPC does not have the FTEF allocation for spring yet so Deans can't make decisions until they know that. Hopefully in the future the Honors program will have their own FTEF but that's probably 2 years out.	
6.	New Business Honors Degree Curriculum - Total 18 Honors Units - At least one Honors Research Seminar I, and optional Honors Research Seminar II (1.5 or 2 units each). Or Research Methods courses? (Psych/social science) - Five transferable honors courses and a minimum of 18 units. - Instead of specific course/dept requirements changed to courses must be in a minimum of two different divisions.	
7.	Information Items - Publication subcommittee will meet on Monday 29nd 2:30-3:30. - Division Report Preparation for September 17th. - Slides to share: Jennifer Siders will email to committee members tonight. - Transfer Fair (specific for Student Services)	
8.	Updates - Report on Contracts Approvals (not too many contacts!) which implies more faculty are doing embedded honors and honors sections help too. - Field trip to Stanford on May 2 – can get some Vans, would need faculty to drive. Buses require a special license, hiring a driver is too expensive.	

9.	Good of the Order none	
10.	Future Agenda Items Middle college involvement/policy Finish mission and degree discussion Flex Day planning (October 23rd) A Capstone Project idea – Honors independent Study?	

Meeting adjourned at 4:02pm

Next meeting: November 17th