



# ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

April 10, 2024 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm | Room 21147 + zoom for visitors

## 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.

LPC Academic Senate Quorum: 8

### Non-Voting Members:

President: Ashley Young  
Student Government: Aanya Joshi  
Faculty Association: Heike Gecox

### Voting Members:

President-Elect: vacant  
Vice President: Collin Thormoto  
Secretary: Christina Lee  
Treasurer: Ashley McHale  
BSSL: Robin Roy, Daniel Cearley  
A & H: John Kelly, Catherine Suarez  
STEM: David Montelongo, Jennifer Siders, Moh Daoud  
PATH: Scott Miner  
Student Services: Christina Lee, Julie Nguyen  
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd, Valerie Connors

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order and quorum established at 2:31 pm.
2. **Confirmation of Senators attending by Zoom:** Catherine Suarez. Motion to approve zoom attendance: (Dan Cearley)/ seconded (Christina Lee)/approved
3. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** motion to approve (Colin Thormoto)/ seconded (Jeff Judd)/ discussion: move item 11.1 after 7. Consent Items /approved as amended  
**Open agenda review to move an item to old business: Move 6. To Old Business.** Motion to open and amend (Colin Thormoto)/ seconded (Jeff Judd)/approved as amended
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes: March 27, 2024** (attached): motion to approve (Colin Thormoto)/ seconded (Ashley McHale)/ discussion: none /approved
5. **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. NONE*
6. **Action Items:** moved to Old Business  
  
6.1 Confirming Ashley Young as Academic Senate President, Fall-Spring Semesters 2024-25
7. **Consent Items: none**
8. **Reports**
  - 8.1 LPC Student Government (Aanya Joshi) This is election week; candidates are campaigning.
  - 8.2 UndocuAlly (Teri Ann Bengiveno)
  - 8.3 Curriculum Committee (Erik Bell)

8.4 CEMC/DEMC Committee (Ashley Young): DEMC is working on the spreadsheet listing items to help with DEMC decision making. They are trying to make this more transparent with information on where numbers are coming from. The WSCH numbers will be switched to reporting changes to FTES/FTEF.

8.5 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox) Elections are completed; Heike is the first President from Las Positas College. Our current contract sunsets in October and negotiations will proceed. The issue of substitutes “swapped” has come up at Academic Senate; Heike has brought this to Dr. Foster. Part time faculty “steps” can be looked at.

***Bring this to your divisions and let Heike know of your concerns, or items that you would like changed.***

8.6 DE Committee (Scott Vigallon):

The Substantive Change application for DE is just about finished. It will be put onto the April 24 Senate agenda as an information item.

DE rates for Fall 2023 were positive as evidenced by the retention rate of 84%, which equaled the highest ever for a fall semester at LPC, set in Fall 2022. The success rate of 71% for Fall 2023 was the second highest ever for a fall semester, trailing only the 73% mark set in Fall 2020. Breaking Fall 2023 DE courses down by modality, synchronous, the combination of synchronous and asynchronous, and hybrid courses all had success rates of 77%, followed by asynchronous at 71%, and HyFlex at 68%. Hybrid courses had the highest retention rate at 89%, followed by synchronous and the combination of synchronous and asynchronous at 86%, asynchronous at 84%, and HyFlex at 81%. These rates were, on the whole, a bit lower than corresponding rates for Spring 2023.

The STAC/STARTE program order form, which is what the district uses to pay for certain software programs used for online learning like Ally, Net Tutor, Pronto, and Proctorio, has been released. We might need to purchase additional hours of Net Tutor since the Tutorial Center is no longer offering online tutoring for Math. Pronto’s price increased in part because of a new live captioning tool that is integrated into its web conferencing tool. Proctorio’s price not only increased from \$13.50 per FTES to \$14.00, but we’ll most likely have to pay for more users. Last year, we paid for 2,200 users, and as of late February, LPC had 2,719 users. The Proctorio rep suggested paying for 3,000 users for 2024-25.

Canvas announced that it is upgrading the JQuery that guides the JavaScript in its product. We use JavaScript to do the following: add the Student Support Hub icon and the Pronto icon to the global navigation menu, get Ally to work, and get Watermark, which powers our online student surveys, to work. The latest upgrade was March 13, and no adverse effects were noticed. More upgrades will take place in the near future.

At Friday’s TCC meeting, the committee will discuss technologies surrounding artificial intelligence. At its March meeting, the TCC decided to formally recommend to the chancellor that a Digital Accessibility Advisory Group (or governance body) be created with representatives for faculty, Classified, and administrators at all three sites. A couple of tasks of the group is vetting textbook publisher content for accessibility prior to adding it to a Canvas course and compliance review of courses.

8.7 Planning and Effectiveness Committee (Rajinder Samra)

8.8 LGBTQ+ Presidential Task Force (Robin Roy): nothing new to report

8.9 SEA and MLEA (Katie Eagan): In lieu of their next meeting there will be an equity justice workshop Thursday, April 18, 12:30 – 3:30 pm in the cafeteria. **Report this out to your divisions.** Shawn will send out a flyer to LPC.

MLEA: a summer math team has formed led by Alain Olavarrieta with full and part time faculty. English is working on new concurrent support courses. We will shift to concurrent support for students. ESL is working on their third year of adoption of AB 705 mandates. Julia McGurk has a suite of noncredit courses for ESL students who want to help their children succeed in school. The curriculum of non-credit courses is called School Matters (presented last year at Academic Senate).

8.10 Alternative Academic Calendar Committee (Craig Kutil) see 9.3

8.11 LPC Technology Committee (Collin Thormoto): did not meet this month

8.12 Treasurer (Ashley McHale): there are more donations for the classified appreciation event (from counseling and student services). She is continuing to accept donations.

8.13 President (Ashley Young)

The Chancellors Council met with items to report:

- a) The student government election code was approved; LPCSG has approved it via a vote of their Senate.
- b) Flagpoles: we are returning back to federal flag regulations: flying the American flag with the state flag below; or another flag under American if the state flag is on a different pole.
- c) Ashley brought up our concerns about the cost of consultants: they responded that consultants are paid with restricted funds and with the goal of getting research done by professionals. They try to select “positive return on investment” situations where the consultants can add more value than their cost.

## 9. Old Business

9.1 Part time faculty event updates (Ashley Young): this event has been shifted to four or five one hour zoom sessions held during the week. Ashley has sent out a doodle poll that has received 40 responses to help schedule sessions. One session will be held in person. The topics will be mainly health and retirement benefits.

9.2 Classified Senate appreciation event updates (Ashley McHale): Catherine is planning for centerpieces, including small pinatas. Ashley Young has talked to the horticulture dept. for succulent bowls and potted plants.

***Ask divisions for gift cards or gift items. This event is open to everyone; we are attending to appreciate our classified. The date is April 24, 12:30 – 2:00 pm in the cafeteria.***

9.3 Academic Senate statement regarding the compressed calendar: in PATH and BSSL, the discussion focused on the decision-making process and data collection. They felt the Academic Senate should consider a statement reflecting the varied responses on this issue.

STEM responses varied: some were relieved the process is over, some are neutral, some wanted more data presented correctly, some wanted more knowledge about the benefits vs the efforts required for this change, and the impact on the labs was also an issue (turn over, safety issues, length of days).

A & H was generally in favor.

Can these concerns be presented in a document? Is this something we want to deal with in addition to all the other things going on (financials, common core, etc.). Are the responses of the divisions clearly articulated?

Ashley can present a statement at the Chancellor's Council next month.

***Be ready to submit division feedback on the next meeting for this statement.***

9.4 LPC Climate Acton Plan Academic Senate Resolution (Dan Cearley) attached Next Tuesday at the board of trustees meeting, LPC and Chabot will present their Climate Action Plans.

This resolution can be presented at the following month's trustee meeting.

The resolution was reviewed:

- Provide leadership on existing AP and BP resolutions on climate
- Have a position with CAH for climate action coordinators at each campus
- Have climate action as a budget item

Question: is Chabot presenting a resolution? Dan will check on this.

The LPC plan has been presented to Classified Senate who will consider their own resolution in support.

Question: what areas of support would be an issue? The district has identified a district climate coordinator, but it is not funded. The college positions will have to come from each college budget. Dr. Foster would consider a presidential task force in the fall, possibly with CAH. Can using a classified for this position be considered?

***Bring this to divisions, and send Dan Cearley any ideas on the resolution.***

This will be an Action Item for the next meeting.

9.5 Academic Senate Elections regarding the vacated President office: Christina Lee reviewed the constitution: the Academic Senate president will appoint a nominee voted on by the Academic Senate.

Ashley Young would like to have her presidency confirmed by a vote along with the other positions.

The elections committee will send out a call for nominations this week, to run until April 24 when the slate of officers would be presented: President, president-elect, treasurer, secretary. Voting electronically will happen, with confirmation of officers at a special meeting at May 22 needing a quorum of eight to achieve the election confirmation.

Discussion about adding vice president to our constitution, and how this would be different from president-elect. This would be a process for next academic year. A review of the Constitution and bylaws will start at the next meeting. These are attachments to the minutes.

9.6 Academic Senate subcommittee updates: none

Credit by Examination

AI and Student Plagiarism

Common Syllabus

Part time Faculty Equity

Increasing Faculty Diversity

Faculty Professional Development to Increase Student Retention and Completion

## **10. New Business**

10.1 Revised SLO Committee Charge (John Rosen) attached.

When he presented at the last meeting, the committee thought that vacant positions contributed to the quorum. This has been researched and vacant positions do not contribute to quorum. This is an issue that needs clarification for committees. *This charge approval will be an Action Item at the next meeting.*

## **11. Announcements/Information Items**

- Rifka retirement event: April 22, 1:30 – 3:00 pm in the cafeteria.
- The LPC eclipse event was in the Independent newspaper.

**12. Adjourn:** meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.

**13. Next Meeting: April 24, 2024**