

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
January 14, 2026
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500

Voting Senators

Tamoy Bloomfield (Student), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Community, Health, and Wellness), Aimeelyn Calandria (President's Office), Loretta Capuano-Vella (At-Large Instructional Staff), Luke Cardaio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Thomas Cleary (Library), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Jeanne Funk (MEC), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Aowshaful Jafin (Student), Lloyd Klein (At-Large Adjunct), Garrett Morgan, Jr. (SGA), Thomas Onorato (Academic Affairs), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Maritza Pritsos (ACE), Patricia Quesada (Division of Administration), Jaime Riccio (Humanities), Nabina Sambahamphe (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Business & Technology), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Elizabeth Streich (Communication and External Affairs), John Toland (Faculty Council), Regina Varin-Mignano (Division of Student Affairs)

Non-Voting Senators and Guests

Tariq Abadullah, Caterina Almendral, Gail Baksh Jarrett, Randy Changoo, Ljubica Depovic, Jason Hendrickson, Eric Hofmann, Evelyn Lowmark, Jenny Lugo, Sandra Ribeiro, Benjamin Rohdin

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:15PM by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from December 3, 2025

The minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Invitation to Ben Rohdin, VP Enrollment Management (2:30PM-2:45PM) Vice President Ben Rodin provided a report on college enrollment and related initiatives, including:

- **Enrollment Trends**

- Fall enrollment exceeded system-wide growth (over 3%).
- Spring enrollment was reported as up over 14%, with high school enrollment up over 15%.
- New student enrollment had leveled compared to the previous year, while returning student enrollment showed strong growth.
- Retention rates demonstrated a significant and historically strong increase.
- **Scheduling and Planning Initiatives**
 - Transition from term-by-term scheduling to an annual scheduling model.
 - Earlier schedule development to improve academic planning, advising, and financial forecasting.
 - Continued use and training of the CourseDog system for scheduling and revision tracking.
 - Acknowledgment of staffing shortages in the Registrar's Office and plans to address them.
- **Health Sciences Academic Plan Updates**
 - Revision of academic plans for approximately 3,300 preclinical health sciences students.
 - Creation of new student groups to better track preclinical and clinical status.
 - Resulting eligibility of approximately 750 additional students for the New York State free community college program.
 - Communication efforts included student emails and information sessions.

Senators raised concerns over departmental variability in scheduling practices, staffing constraints and error correction in course scheduling, the feasibility of long-term scheduling given fluctuating enrollment and faculty availability, and the need for better coordination among department chairs, program directors, and course coordinators. VP Rohdin understood the concerns and proposed improved tools, data availability, training, staffing changes, and a willingness to revise the scheduling process as ways to address concerns.

V. Invitation to Professor Jason Hendrickson on CUNY Beyond (2:45PM-3:05PM)

The Senate received a presentation on the CUNY Beyond initiative, a university-wide effort to integrate career exposure and preparation throughout a student's academic journey. Professor Hendrickson reviewed the five pillars of the initiative: (1) career exposure and exploration; (2) integrated academic and career advising; (3) career-connected learning; (4) paid work-based learning (including internships); and (5) employer engagement. Multiple funding streams are being explored, with a goal of providing students with paid employment rather than stipends where possible. Disciplinary autonomy and faculty governance over curriculum remain unchanged, and any curricular modifications must follow established governance processes. Faculty will be supported by career-connected learning faculty hub,

training opportunities, and materials developed through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Senators voiced concern over internship goals and metrics, specifically university-wide vs. campus-specific targets, inclusion of non-degree-seeking students, long-term impact on pedagogy and competencies, and a lack of clear communication allowing frontline staff to properly answer student inquiries. The Senate emphasized the importance of early and clear communication with faculty and staff, the need for transparency regarding funding mechanisms, and continued respect for faculty governance and disciplinary integrity moving forward.

VI. Invitation to Evelyn Lowmark on 2024 Staff Engagement Survey (3:05PM-3:30PM)

Evelyn Lowmark returned to Senate to present an expanded report on the Staff Engagement Survey, building on a preliminary presentation delivered to the Senate in May and responding to requests for additional detail. The Staff Engagement Survey initiative began in 2019 to provide staff with a confidential mechanism to share concerns and positive feedback. Areas of strength included high levels of pride in working at the college, positive relationships between staff and direct supervisors, strong collaboration among coworkers, and favorable scores in manager effectiveness, communication with supervisors, and feeling heard at the departmental level. Areas of concern included transparency, accountability, and trust of college-wide leadership, ethics, change management, diversity, recognition, compensation, and work-life balance. These concerns were consistent with findings from the 2020 survey, showing little improvement over time. Recommendations include the development of division-specific action plans by vice presidents, continued use of structured listening sessions, improved communication and transparency around leadership decisions and institutional change processes, attention to staffing levels and workload equity, and development of a college-wide staff recognition initiative. President Adams affirmed administration's commitment to continued staff engagement surveys at a frequency determined by the Senate. He stated that survey results are reviewed seriously and will be used to guide leadership discussions and improvements.

VII. Chair's Report (3:30-3:40PM)

The revised Governance Plan is currently being reviewed by CUNY Central for alignment with CUNY governance standards. Revisions are anticipated to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees later in the academic year.

The Senate continues to work with Institutional Research on the development and administration of self-assessment measures. The assessment is intended to evaluate Senate effectiveness, participation, and communication, and to identify opportunities for improvement.

The Chair announced her upcoming sabbatical leave and confirmed that the Vice Chair will assume the responsibilities of Senate Chair during the absence, in accordance with Senate

bylaws. The Chair expressed appreciation for the Vice Chair's willingness to serve in this capacity.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)
The Academic Standing Committee reviewed and agreed upon the revised language for the catalog for the updated Apply to Graduate procedures, including removing GRDOOO from the catalog as it is anticipated the course will no longer be active in Fall 2026, and changing register for Intent to Graduate to apply to graduate in CUNYfirst.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Thomas Cleary, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Derek Stadler, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Anthony Pappas, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ix. The Committee of Students (John Smith and Zaib Thoufeek, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)

See chair's report.

xii. Transfer Committee (Alexa Duque and Misun Dokko, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.

xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Rebekah Johnson, Chair)
Nothing to report.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

i. IT Advisory Committee (Jaime Riccio and Ian McDermott, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.

ii. History Committee (Charles Keyes, Chair)
Nothing to report.

iii. Online Learning Committee (Joshua Tan and Michele De Goeas- Malone, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.

iv. Senate Assessment & Review Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
Nothing to report.

v. Faculty/Staff Ombuds Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
Nothing to report.

vi. Instructional Staff Handbook Revision Committee (Rochell Isaac, Chair)
Nothing to report.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Announcements

Vice Chair Scamacca will serve as Interim Chair while Chair Bruns is away on sabbatical this Spring.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026