

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
March 11, 2026
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500

Voting Senators

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), Yeshe Cooley (Student), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Jeanne Funk (MEC), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Fatima Hehrar (SGA), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Lloyd Klein (At-Large Adjunct), Lucie Mingla (At-Large Instructional Staff), Thomas Onorato (Academic Affairs), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Maritza Pritsos (ACE), Patricia Quesada (Division of Administration), Bryan Reyes (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Business & Technology), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Rochelle Spencer (English), Elizabeth Streich (Communication and External Affairs), John Toland (Faculty Council)

Non-Voting Senators and Guests

Randy Changoo, Nicolle Fernandes, Hugo Fernandez, Albert Jimenez, Wayne Levy, Julianne Salazar

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:20PM by Interim Chairperson Leslie Scamacca.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from January 14, 2026

Approval of the minutes was postponed until the April Senate meeting.

IV. Elections for Interim Vice Chair and Student At-Large Member of Executive Committee

Senator Pappas nominated Senator Cardaio and Senator Capuano-Vella nominated herself for the position of Interim Vice Chair.

Ballot 1: Senator Cardaio – 15; Senator Capuano-Vella – 8

Senator Capuano-Vella withdrew her candidacy.

Ballot 2: Senator Cardaio – 23

Senator Cardaio will serve as Interim Vice Chair until the end of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Since Senator Cardaio will assume the role of Interim Vice Chair, a replacement is needed to fill his At-Large Member of the Executive Committee position. Senator Cardaio nominated Senator Capuano-Vella for At-Large Member of the Executive Committee.

Ballot 1: Senator Capuano-Vella – 24

Senator Capuano-Vella will serve as At-Large Member of the Executive Committee until the end of the 2025-2026 academic year.

No Student Senators were present at the meeting to be nominated for the Student At-Large Member of the Executive Committee position.

V. Presentation by Wayne Levy, CIO: New Student Email System

Implementation of new CUNY email accounts will begin April 13, following the conclusion of Spring Break. All users will be assigned a new centralized CUNY email address using the student-mail.lagcc.cuny.edu domain. Automatic forwarding from existing LaGuardia email accounts to new CUNY email addresses will be enabled indefinitely. Existing email inboxes will be copied and transferred to the new CUNY accounts. Accounts that have never been accessed will not be prioritized for migration. Students may request manual migration by contacting the appropriate office. Legacy “live” accounts will remain active for alumni. This transition applies only to email services. Other systems (e.g., Brightspace and additional login services) will not be affected.

VI. Interim Chair’s Report

The President’s Cabinet participated in a tabletop exercise focused on emergency management scenarios. Members were encouraged to review the College’s Emergency Management Plan to remain informed and prepared. The document is available via the LaGuardia mobile app (located in the bottom corner of the app interface).

VII. President Adams: Staff Engagement Survey

President Adams presented a summary of the steps taken by different divisions at the College to address concerns raised in the 2024 Staff Engagement Survey. The presentation will be shared with the Committee of Staff and Alumni for further discussion.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)

Thank you to Sungsu Lee from Natural Science for volunteering for committee membership.

- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark, Chair)
The Committee on Campus Affairs invited campus security for a presentation.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Thomas Cleary, Chair)
The Committee of Faculty is working with Faculty Council to schedule a joint meeting with members of administration and to establish an online space to discuss and troubleshoot Program Director related issues.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Derek Stadler, Chair)
The Committee on Professional Development is consulting with the Executive Committee to come up with ways to better share information with the campus.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
The Budget and Finance Committee is meeting next week. The UFS is looking to meet with CUNY's new Chief Financial Officer. Mayor Mamdani appointed the former CFO to lead the NYC Office of Management and Budget.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Anthony Pappas, Chair)
The Committee of Staff and Alumni continues to work on their wishlist, generated from Staff Engagement Survey results.

Senator Cardaio moved to create an ad-hoc subcommittee of named "Staff Engagement" with cross-campus membership and leadership to be determined by the Committee of Staff and Alumni. This was seconded by Senator Toland. The subcommittee would work with administration, the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and the survey provider to oversee survey creation and administration, data interpretation, communication of results, and development and implementation of recommendations. The motion was approved in an unanimous voice vote.

- 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)

The Senate Assessment & Review Committee is working with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. Year-end Senate reports will be particularly useful in assessment efforts.

- v. Faculty/Staff Ombuds Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)

The Faculty/Staff Ombuds Committee continues to encourage administration to create a faculty/staff ombudsman position. The committee would like the position to follow best practices including reporting to the highest authority on campus and not physically housing the position in HR.

- vi. Instructional Staff Handbook Revision Committee (Rochell Isaac, Chair)

Nothing to report.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

Senator Onorato moved for the Senate to investigate and/or start discussions with administration, maybe through the campus affairs and food insecurity committees, regarding making the C-building roof a true green roof, as previously proposed by VP Erfan, where Environmental Studies can utilize this space for more green-related functions as hydroponics and other urban agriculture work. The motion was seconded by Senator Cardaio. There is a hydroponics lab in the M-building and the Cohen Career Collective will include a hydroponics space on the fifth floor of the C-building. A green space on the roof has been proposed but will be postponed until other renovations are complete. Senator Onorato moved to amend the motion to add that discussions can explore using spaces other than the C-building roof, such as the M-building terrace, as temporary solutions until the Cohen grant-funded C-building project is completed in 2029. This was seconded by Senator Streich. The motion to amend was approved unanimously. A voice vote on the amended motion was also unanimous.

Senator Capuano-Vella moved to investigate the recent school closings due to snowstorms in February, including the last-minute nature of the notification and whether the notifications adhered to college policy. The motion was seconded by Senator Pappas. A voice vote on the motion was unanimous. The Executive Committee and relevant Senate committees (Online Learning, Academic Standing) will take up the issue and consult with UFS and Faculty Governance Leaders.

XI. Announcements

None.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2026