

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
April 22, 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), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Jeanne Funk (MEC), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Nakibul Hasan (Student), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), 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), Nabina Sambahamphe (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Business & Technology), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Elizabeth Streich (Communication and External Affairs), Zaib Thoufeek (Student), John Toland (Faculty Council), Regina Varin-Mignano (Student Affairs)

Non-Voting Senators and Guests

Gail Baksh Jarrett, Johanna Brand Ortiz, Ingrid Campos, Shahir Erfan, Yvonne Gaul, Fatima Hehrar, Albert Jimenez, Evelyn Lowmark, Kevin Martin, Anita Matute, Julianne Salazar, Shemaiah Smith, Lilla Töke

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:22PM by Interim Chairperson Leslie Scamacca.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from January 14, 2026 and March 11, 2026 Meetings

The minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Student Senator Recall

Senator Cardaio moved to recall Student Senators Ahmed, Davis, and Zadi due to violations of the attendance policy as stipulated in the Governance Plan. This was seconded by Senator Sokolski. Student Senators Ahmed, Davis, and Zadi were recalled in a unanimous voice vote.

V. Student At-Large Executive Committee Election

As the only eligible Student Senator present at the meeting, Student Senator Thoufeek was elected to serve as Student At-Large Member on the Executive Committee.

VI. Vote on 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

Senator Capuano-Vella moved to approve the 2026-2027 academic calendar. This was seconded by Senator Varin-Mignano. Senators emphasized the following concerns:

- The need for faster release of the academic calendar.
- Limited time for end of the semester grade calculation and submission.
- Lack of commencement date.
- Communication of calendar dates without formal Senate approval.
- Uneven number of instructional days for courses held on different days of the week.

Senators noted that changes could still be made to adjustable elements on the calendar and emphasized the need for timely communication of dates for students and employees.

Vote: Aye-16, Nay-4. The motion failed and the academic calendar was not approved. The calendar will be resubmitted for Senate consideration at a future meeting.

VII. Invitation to Dr. Kevin Martin, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness to Discuss LaGuardia's Self-Study

Dr. Kevin Martin serves as the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness in the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness (OIRE) and the college's Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). MSCHE is currently conducting an internal review of accreditation standards, with revised standards expected to be implemented by July 1. Proposed changes include the consolidation of Standards 1 & 7 and the consolidation of Standards 3 & 5. A structural change under consideration includes renaming "Mission and Goals" to "Mission and Governance." Senators contemplated the implications of this change and expressed concern that it might dilute the focus on governance. Dr. Martin presented an update on progress related to the 11 recommendations from the 2021–2022 self-study. The office will continue to provide regular progress reports to the college community and monitor implementation until all recommendations are addressed.

VIII. Invitation to Shahir Erfan, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance to Discuss Public Safety Body Cameras

All sworn officers (peace officers and above) are now equipped with body-worn cameras, in accordance with a CUNY-wide mandate. Cameras are intended to enhance safety, transparency, and accountability, improve the quality and accuracy of incident reports, and serve as a deterrent in interactions. Use of cameras is governed by strict operational guidelines. Cameras are activated during law enforcement matters, recording both video and audio. Recording in private spaces is generally prohibited, except in the case of a major incident. Failure to comply with camera policies may result in disciplinary action for officers. Recordings are stored by a

contracted external company and retained for 39 months. Access to footage is managed through the legal office. Any access to recorded footage must follow established legal and administrative protocols. The college has begun notifying the community through email communications. A suggestion was raised that advanced notice of operational changes (e.g., body cameras, voluntary scanning podiums) would be beneficial.

Turnstiles are planned for future installation. Lobby spaces will be redesigned with attention to functionality, aesthetics, and fire safety requirements. Security measures such as turnstiles and ID scanners will not be used to monitor employee work schedules.

IX. Chair's Report

The transition to new student email accounts has been completed. The Student Information Center reported receiving numerous student inquiries, indicating that many students were unaware of the change. Ongoing issues include multi-factor authentication (MFA) challenges. Suggested support measures include the use of posted QR codes in the E-building lobby to assist students.

The Governance Plan has been approved, effective April 15, 2026. The update will be communicated through the college website, Campus Update, and communications with Department Chairs. Senators were asked to inform their constituents. Key immediate changes include updates to department voting procedures and Senate term lengths. A request was made to distribute copies of the updated Governance Plan.

Senator Onorato's motion to explore the creation of additional green spaces on campus was referred to the Committee on Campus Affairs.

The Executive Committee will consider inviting Kate Reggev to the Senate to discuss her work developing the Cohen Career Collective.

Title IV training continues to present challenges and remains an area of concern.

Commencement will be held on June 18. Student speaker application deadline is May 1 and cap and gown distribution begins June 2. Faculty and staff volunteers are needed to support the event. Students will be asked to complete a CUNY graduation survey when picking up their cap and gown. The survey will also be available through CUNYfirst.

X. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
Informational items on articulation agreements were provided to Senators. Chair Scamacca emphasized the importance of faculty representation on CUNY Beyond curriculum-related decisions.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)
Updates to the college website were reported. New syllabi checklists have been developed for online and in-person courses. These checklists aim to ensure consistency and inclusion of required elements across all course formats. Senators were encouraged to recommend and promote the website as a resource for both faculty and students. The committee will take up discussion of a recording policy at a future meeting.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark, Chair)
New requests include a quiet sensory space initiative for the Wellness Center and an Office Appliance Safety policy.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Thomas Cleary, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Derek Stadler, Chair)
There will be three additional In-Service Training workshops in May. They will focus on business and student engagement. The Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium will be held on Friday, May 15 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. A call for proposals was sent out and the deadline for submissions is Friday, April 24.
- 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)

A search committee will convene in Fall 2026 to hire a faculty/staff ombudsperson. Charles Keyes and Elizabeth Ianotti, members of the Senate ad-hoc committee, will participate in the search.

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

The first draft of the revised handbook has been completed. The current handbook was last updated in 2019, and revisions are necessary to reflect changes in the new contract and current practices. The revised handbook will be presented to the Senate for review, discussion, and formal approval.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

Thank you to the Governance Plan Revision Committee and all its members for their hard work since 2018-2019. Special recognition was given to the committee, chaired by Leslie Scamacca, for their leadership and commitment in bringing the plan to completion.

XI. Announcements

None.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2026