

LaGuardia Community College  
**Agenda for the College Senate Meeting**

May 13, 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), Aowshaful Jafin (Student), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Lloyd Klein (At-Large Adjunct), 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), Nabina Sambahamphe (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Business & Technology), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Walter Sistrunk (ELA), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Rochelle Spencer (English), Elizabeth Streich (Communication and External Affairs), John Toland (Faculty Council), Regina Varin-Mignano (Student Affairs)

**Non-Voting Senators and Guests**

Kenneth Adams, Johanna Brand Ortiz, Chelsea Del Rio, Nicolle Ferdandes, Hugo Fernandez, Albert Jimenez, Kevin Jones, Benjamin Rohdin, Julianne Salazar, Derek Stadler, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:23PM by Interim Chairperson Leslie Scamacca.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Kirk Lacy, Executive Director of Employer Partnerships, will come to the June Senate meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The agenda was approved with this modification.

**III. Approval of the Minutes from the April 22, 2026 Meeting**

The minutes were approved without corrections.

**IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from April 16, 2026**

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from April 16, 2026 was made by Senator Toland. This was seconded by Senator Pappas. **Vote: Aye-26, Nay-1, Abstain-1.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from April 16, 2026 were approved.

#### **V. Vote on 2026-2027 Academic Calendar**

Thank you to Senator Funk for pointing out the uneven number of instructional days for courses held on different days of the week in the proposed calendar. The college is waiting for guidance from the Provost regarding how to make up the missing instructional time for Saturday classes. Approximately 20 sections are impacted. Senator Capuano-Vella moved to approve the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar. The motion was seconded by Senator O'Sullivan. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **VI. Vote on the 2026-2027 Senate Calendar**

The proposed 2026-2027 Senate Calendar was shared with Senators as part of the Senate email invitation. Interim Chair Scamacca made three corrections to the original document, as the meetings for October, November, and December were erroneously scheduled for Thursdays. Senator Sokolski moved to approve the 2026-2027 Senate Calendar including the corrected dates. The motion was seconded by Senator Cardaio. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **VII. Invitation of Kirk Lacy, Executive Director of Employer Partnerships**

Postponed to the June 3, 2026 Senate meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

#### **VIII. Invitation of Kevin Jones, Director of Government Affairs**

Kevin Jones, the new Director of Government Affairs, introduced himself to the Senate. Government Affairs will be relocated from the Office of Communications and External Affairs to the President's Office. The college will continue to explore a broad range of funding strategies and revenue opportunities, prioritizing initiatives that demonstrate a measurable impact and a high return on investment. Looking forward, Government Affairs will share a new process for communicating funding opportunities and requests and will compile a list of funded and nonfunded requests from the past five years.

#### **IX. Invitation of President Kenneth Adams to Discuss Scheduling and Registration Issues (4:00pm)**

Senators and guests raised the following concerns regarding scheduling and registration:

- Errors transferring from Coursedog into CUNYfirst
- Confusion surrounding scheduling processes
- Difficulties associated with implementing the annual scheduling model
- Existing scheduling backlogs
- The need for improved communication with Program Directors regarding enrollment demands, schedule changes, and schedule development timelines

- Summer work for Program Directors
- Lack of clarity surrounding communications sent to students regarding course changes and cancellations.

VP Rohdin and President Adams acknowledged the scheduling and registration errors. Previous scheduling processes relied on spreadsheets, making changes difficult to track. The Coursedog software (implemented CUNY-wide) allows for a ticketing system to submit and track requests through resolution. More than 1,000 requests were submitted following the initial schedule input process. While individual requests may appear more time-consuming than consolidated emails, the ticketing system improves accountability and tracking. The average turnaround time for revision requests is approximately 1–2 days. At the time of discussion, there were no pending requests remaining in the system. The annual schedule protocol will allow for a longer lead time for planning schedules, improved ability to reconcile the schedule with enrollment demands, and better resource budgeting. Senators and guests requested additional communications and training for Program Directors and other personnel to improve scheduling practices. Informing students of scheduling corrections is considered a routine matter. The college will advocate for and assist students impacted by scheduling changes. Because enrollment opened early, the number of affected students is expected to be minimal. Improvements to staffing will hopefully improve this process in the future. Enrollment has increased over the past five semesters, while investments in staffing and systems infrastructure have lagged behind institutional growth. Senators and guests replied that staff feel underappreciated and not positioned to adequately support the college's needs.

## **X. Chair's Report**

Anthony Rosario will begin serving as the new Director of Public Safety in June.

Senators were informed that, despite initial plans, older student email accounts will no longer remain open due to implementation of anti-spoofing security software. Older email accounts are scheduled to close in June.

Commencement will take place on June 18. Additional volunteers are still needed both for commencement day activities and for advanced preparation.

Governance Plan updates have been posted to the website and distributed via email. Key Governance Plan changes include three-year terms for Senators and changes to at-large seats. Senators were advised to review Departmental election changes as outlined in the new Governance Plan. The Governance Plan does not violate CUNY Bylaws as campus-specific organization and operation is allowed.

## **XI. Committee Reports**

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)  
The new Governance Plan establishes a smaller Committee on Committees structure composed of three members: one faculty representative, one staff representative, and one student representative. The Vice Chair will serve as Chair or may appoint a designee to fulfill those responsibilities.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)  
See curriculum approval above.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral and Lilla Töke, Co-Chairs)  
See 2026-2027 Academic Calendar approval above.
- 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)  
The Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium will be held virtually on Friday, May 15, 2026, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. There will be three presentations: Joni Schwartz-Chaney, "Healing Our Racial Wound: Being Racially Literate;" Janet Michello, "Strategies for Implementing Initiatives for Reducing Rates of Asthma in the South Bronx;" and Ala Al-Shargabi, "Developing Advanced Control Strategies for Energy Management in Hybrid and Electric Vehicles"
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)  
Third quarter collection rates have increased above projections. Improved collection efforts were attributed to targeted outreach to students who lost funding due to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) issues. In addition to electronic communications, physical mail outreach was implemented as part of the strategy. The effort was described as a collaborative initiative between Enrollment Services and the Bursar's Office. The college is currently projecting a year-end surplus. Surplus funds are expected to be directed into institutional reserves. Campus computer and classroom technology upgrades are forthcoming, supported by an approximately

\$500,000 budget allocation. Plans are underway to establish a regular replacement schedule for computers and classroom technology equipment.

- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Anthony Pappas, Chair)  
The Committee of Staff and Alumni is finalizing the membership of the ad hoc Staff Engagement Subcommittee.
- 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 above.
- 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 Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE) is working collaboratively with the committee on the self-assessment process. Discussion emphasized the importance of making assessment an ongoing and continuous process rather than a periodic activity. Assessment efforts plan to include Senate's perception by various stakeholders.

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

- vi. Instructional Staff Handbook Revision Committee (Rochell Isaac, Chair)  
The committee is meeting Friday to finalize the first draft.

## **XII. Unfinished Business**

None.

## **XIII. New Business**

The UFS is looking into whether there was governance input in the decision to adopt body cameras at CUNY.

## **XIV. Announcements**

None.

## **XV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM.

**Next Meeting: June 3, 2026**