

LaGuardia Community College
Agenda for the College Senate Meeting

June 3, 2026

2:15-4:30 pm

E-500

Voting Senators

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), Giovanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Aowshaful Jafin (Student), 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), Patricia Quesada (Division of Administration), Nabina Sambahamphe (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), Regina Varin-Mignano (Student Affairs)

Non-Voting Senators and Guests

Gail Baksh-Jarrett, Johanna Brand Ortiz, Randy Changoo, Kirk Lacy, Kevin Martin, Alexis McLean, Alex Rojas, Anthony Rosario, Julianne Salazar, Derek Stadler, Denise Vivar, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:25PM by Interim Chairperson Leslie Scamacca.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mary DiGangi, Executive Director of Human Resources, was unable to attend the meeting. Her presentation will be rescheduled for Fall 2026. The agenda was approved with this modification.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the May 13, 2026 Meeting

The minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from May 14, 2026

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from May 14, 2026 was made by Senator Toland. This was seconded by Senator Hashim. **Vote: Aye-20, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from May 14, 2026 were approved.

V. Invitation of Denise Vivar, Director Immigrant Student Empowerment

Directed by Denise Vivar, the Office of Immigrant Student Empowerment (OISE) at LaGuardia is a student-centered hub dedicated to empowering immigrant and immigration-impacted students. A part of Student Affairs, the office will oversee activities, student outreach, and services supporting retention and degree completion for immigrant students. The office will share valuable resources while respecting student safety and confidentiality.

VI. Invitation of Kirk Lacy, Executive Director of Employer Partnerships

Dr. Kirk Lacy has been named Executive Director of Employer Partnerships at LaGuardia and will oversee the college's participation in CUNY Beyond. He seeks to expand and strengthen partnerships with employers across New York City to give students access to high-quality, paid work-based learning opportunities. He is eager to get feedback from college stakeholders regarding the ways the college can better connect academic programs and student career preparation with the needs of employers.

VII. Invitation of Anthony Rosario, Director of Public Safety

Anthony Rosario is the newly appointed Director of Public Safety. He wants to prioritize professionalism and customer-service practices among Public Safety personnel, as well as improved communication from the Public Safety Office. Senators voiced concerns over the implementation of public safety initiatives without proper communication or consultation, including body cameras and ID scanners. Senators also informed Director Rosario of a need to better train officers on restroom policies, address gaps in security in the library, and how to handle student alumni campus access.

VIII. Vote on UFS Resolution on Recorded Speeches

The UFS passed a resolution urging CUNY administrators to allow graduation speakers to share their words live and in person on graduation podia, instead of requiring speakers to pre-record their speeches for video presentation. Senator Toland moved to support the UFS Resolution on Recorded Speeches. This was seconded by Senator O'Sullivan. Senators noted that pre-recorded speeches could be edited and restrict free speech. Speakers are typically vetted before being selected. Other Senators expressed concern that graduations are special situations where audience members do not have the opportunity to respond or interact with the speaker as they would in other forms of communication. The Senate approved the motion in a unanimous voice vote.

IX. Chair's Report

September 16, 2026 is the last meeting of the Senate year. Committee Chairs should prepare to give year-end reports at the meeting. Please consider running for leadership positions for 2026-2027.

Interim Chairperson Scamacca thanked the Senate for a great semester. Chairperson Bruns will return in September.

X. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)

Nothing to report.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)

See curriculum approval above.

iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral and Lilla Töke, Co-Chairs)

Nothing to report.

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 In-Service Training Committee will host a workshop on Friday, June 5 at 11 a.m. via Zoom titled "From Patient to Advocate: Navigating Medical Pre-Authorizations, Denials, and Appeals with Confidence," presented by Professor Bindu Pillai. The workshop will be recorded.

vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)

viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Anthony Pappas, Chair)

The Committee continues to have conversations about inequity between faculty and staff compensation for participation in governance.

ix. The Committee of Students (John Smith and Zaib Thoufeek, Co-Chairs)

Nothing to report.

x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)

In accordance with the new Governance Plan, there shall be two Senators and two

Alternates elected by instructional and noninstructional staff to represent the community at-large. There shall be one Senator and Alternate elected by CLTs, one Senator/ Alternate elected by HEOs, and one Senator/ Alternate elected by the faculty. Moving forward, all Senators will serve three-year terms instead of two.

xi. The Executive Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Interim 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)

Nothing to report.

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

A search committee will be formed in September to hire a faculty/staff ombuds at the college.

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

Nothing to report.

XI. Unfinished Business

None.

XII. New Business

The first floor of the library is under renovation. Senators requested that alternate spaces be opened for library use to alleviate crowding on the second floor.

XIII. Announcements

VP McLean thanked the faculty and staff who volunteered to help at this year's commencement.

SGA President Garrett Morgan, Jr. detailed the accomplishments of student government, including getting the SGA President a seat on the President's Cabinet, increasing voting amongst students, and increasing SGA membership/participation.

Faculty Council made changes to its constitution and bylaws to align with the new Governance Plan and expand representation to adjuncts. Terms increased from two to three years. Senator Toland was reelected Faculty Council President. Senators expressed an interest in compiling and publishing all LaGuardia governance documents online in one location.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52PM.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2026