

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
October 22, 2025
2:15-4:30 pm

Voting Senators

Tamoy Bloomfield (Student), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Community, Health, and Wellness), Loretta Capuano-Vella (At-Large Instructional Staff), Luke Cardaio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Thomas Cleary (Library), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Jeanne Funk (MEC), Nabikul Hasan (Student), Leila Hendricks (Student), Anam Hossain (Student), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Aowshaful Jafin (Student), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Lloyd Klein (At-Large Adjunct), Thomas Onorato (Academic Affairs), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Sonika Rawal (Student), Nabina Sambahamphe (Student), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Samia Shadid (Student), Binita Shresha (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Elizabeth Streich (Communication and External Affairs), Zaib Thoufeek (Student), John Toland (Faculty Council)

Non-Voting Senators and Guests

Caterina Almendral, Kenneth Campanelli, Albert Jimenez, Wayne Levy, Marina Prorokovic, Jaime Riccio, John Smith, Derek Stadler, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:27PM by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from June 4, 2025

Senator Jimenez was omitted from the Online Votes section of the attendance. The minutes were approved with the correction.

IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from September 18, 2025 and October 9, 2025

Curriculum Committee Chair Wijesinghe explained that the large package of Photography curriculum items was to correct a problem involving how the courses were listed on CUNYFirst.

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from September 18, 2025 and October 9, 2025 was made by Senator Buckley Lockhart. This was seconded by Senator O’Sullivan. **Vote: Aye-27, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from September 18, 2025 and October 9, 2025 were approved.

V. Senate’s Executive Committee Elections

Senator Sokolski nominated Senator Bruns for the position of Chair. She accepted the nomination. **Vote: Senator Bruns – 27.** Senator Bruns will serve as Senate Chairperson for 2025-2026.

Senator Kehoe nominated Senator Scamacca for the position of Vice Chair. She accepted the nomination. **Vote: Senator Scamacca – 26, Senator Sokolski – 1.** Senator Scamacca will serve as Senate Vice Chair for 2025-2026.

Senator Cardaio nominated Senator Kehoe for the position of Secretary. She accepted the nomination. **Vote: Senator Kehoe – 28.** Senator Kehoe will serve as Senate Secretary for 2025-2026.

Senator Kehoe nominated Senator Sokolski for the position of At-Large Executive Committee Member. She accepted the nomination. Senator Cardaio nominated Senator Buckley Lockhart for At-Large Executive Committee Member. She declined the nomination. Senator Pappas nominated Senator Cardaio for At-Large Executive Committee Member. He accepted the nomination. Senator Cardaio nominated Senator Pappas for At-Large Executive Committee Member. He accepted the nomination. **Vote: Senator Sokolski – 22, Senator Cardaio – 19, Senator Pappas – 15.** Senator Sokolski and Senator Cardaio will serve as At-Large Executive Committee Members for 2025-2026.

Student Senator Thoufeek nominated herself for the position of Student Executive Committee Member. Senator Senkov nominated Student Senator Shadid for the position of Student Executive Committee Member. She accepted the nomination. Student Senator Bloomfield nominated herself for the position of Student Executive Committee Member. Student Senator Sambahamphe nominated herself for the position of Student Executive Committee Member. Student Senator Hendricks nominated Student Senator Jafin for the position of Student Executive Committee Member. He did not accept the nomination. **Vote Round 1 – Student Senator Bloomfield – 20, Student Senator Sambahamphe – 18, Student Senator Thoufeek – 12, Student Senator Shadid – 6. Vote Round 2 - Student Senator Sambahamphe – 19, Student Senator Thoufeek – 6, Student Senator Shadid – 3.** Student Senators Bloomfield and Sambahamphe were elected to serve as Student Executive Committee Members for 2025-2026.

The first Executive Committee meeting of the 2025-2026 Senate year will be held on Monday November 3rd from 3:30-5:00pm.

VI. Senate's Committee on Committees Election

Chairperson Bruns explained that the revised Governance Plan changes the composition of the Committee on Committees from “seven members including a minimum of two students” to “at least three members, including one Faculty, one Staff, and one Student.” Senator Cardaio moved to follow the revised Governance Plan regarding Committee on Committees membership. This was seconded by Senator Buckley Lockhart. It has been difficult to find members to serve on the Committee on Committees and to convene enough members to hold a meeting. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

Senator Streich nominated herself to serve on the Committee on Committees. Senator Streich nominated Senator Onorato, but he was not present to accept the nomination. Senator Pappas nominated Senator Funk to serve on the Committee on Committees. She accepted the nomination. Student Senator Sambahamphe nominated Student Senator Rawal to serve on the Committee on Committees. She accepted the nomination. Student Senators Jafin and Hendricks nominated themselves to serve on the Committee on Committees. **Vote – 27.** Senators Streich and Funk and Student Senators Rawal, Jafin, and Hendricks were elected to serve on the Committee on Committees for 2025-2026. They were instructed by Chair Bruns to meet and elect a chair.

VII. Chair's Report

Constituency committees should meet following the meeting to elect a chair or co-chairs, decide on a meeting schedule, and develop a wish list by the December Senate meeting.

The November Senate agenda will include Assistant Dean for Advising Melissa Grant's advising update presentation and VP Shahir Erfan's capital projects report.

In August, the CUNY Board of Trustees amended the bylaws to give CUNY general counsel oversight over campus legal counsels. The rationale for the restructuring is to improve compliance, uniformity, and consistency of legal decisions. Concerns over increased workload and slow response times from CUNY Legal remain.

Chairperson Bruns met with the college's new Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation Liaison Officer, Dr. Kevin Martin. He has experience and expertise in assessment and agreed to help the Senate establish common practices and set goals for assessment purposes.

Multifactor authentication had a bumpy rollout. Chairperson Bruns discussed concerns with new Chief Information Officer Wayne Levy. She also connected Mr. Levy with the Senate's Ad-Hoc IT Advisory Committee.

The CUNY Alliance to Defend Higher Education (CADHE) has taken several actions since its formation including:

- Issuing a statement defending faculty, staff, and students from UC Berkeley after the college's administration complied with the demand by the Department of Education's Office on Civil Rights to release personal data.
- Issuing a statement defending Texas Tech faculty who teach about gender, sex, and sexuality despite directives from administration that reject scientific knowledge and violate academic freedom.
- Issuing a response to CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor's Alvero's statement on academic freedom condemning its emphasis on the response to academic instruction as opposed to the right of academic to teach their discipline.

Senator Sokolski added that the CUNY UFS and the College of Staten Island rejected the Trump administration's "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Ed" (McMahon-Mailman compact) as it sets forth conditions on federal funding that would undermine CUNY's compact with its community, the City and State of New York.

Former Senator and Senate Parliamentarian Erika Correa is no longer able to serve as Senator or Parliamentarian, but will continue to serve on Senate committees. She wanted to convey her appreciation for her time on the Senate.

Thank you to Senator DiCarlo for making the 2025-2026 Senate name placards.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
See above for curriculum approval.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)

Join the Academic Standing Committee's Kahoot and Snacks event on October 27th from 2:30-3:30pm to test your knowledge of LaGuardia's policies. Be on the lookout for details on an upcoming asynchronous workshop.

- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark and Anthony Pappas, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Derek Stadler, Chair)
The Committee on Professional Development will meet on Zoom on November 6th at 10am.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
The college currently has a \$500,000 surplus. Future federal and state decisions will impact the budget.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Elections still need to be held to elect a Senator and an Alternate Senator from ACE and the Division of Administration as well as an Alternate Senator for the Division of Student Affairs.
- 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)

The IT Advisory Committee met with CIO Wayne Levy to discuss the transition to multifactor authentication. The committee reminded everyone to complete their cybersecurity training.

- 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

Register for the Wellness Center's hybrid online/in-person verbal crisis intervention training session on November 17th from 10am-5pm.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2025