

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
November 12, 2025
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500

Voting Senators

Tamoy Bloomfield (Student), Cristy Bruns (English), 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), Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Jeanne Funk (MEC), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Nabikul Hasan (Student), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Sultan Jenkins (Natural Sciences), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Thomas Onorato (Academic Affairs), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Patricia Quesada (Division of Administration), Sonika Rawal (Student), Bryan Reyes (Student), Nabina Sambahamphe (Student), Leslie Scamacca (Business & Technology), Samia Shadid (Student), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Elizabeth Streich (Communication and External Affairs), Zaib Thoufeek (Student), John Toland (Faculty Council), Regina Varin-Mignano (Division of Student Affairs), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

Non-Voting Senators and Guests

Kenneth Adams, Caterina Almendral, Laura Bartovics, Kenneth Campanelli, Shahir Erfan, Melissa Grant, Albert Jimenez, Evelyn Lowmark Maritza Pritsos, Marina Prorokovic, Rochelle Spencer, 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 October 22, 2025

The heading of the minutes listed the wrong date and modality. Chairs of constituency committees were elected after the October meeting, so the minutes should list the chairs positions as vacant. The minutes were approved with the corrections.

IV. Approval of Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from October 23, 2025

A motion to approve the Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from October 23, 2025 was made by Senator Capuano-Vella. This was seconded by Senator Toland. **Vote: Aye-24, Nay-0, Abstain-3.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from October 23, 2025 were approved.

V. Invitation of Assistant Dean of Advising Melissa Grant for an Advisement Update

Assistant Dean of Advising Melissa Grant has been with the college since March 2025. She oversees Student Advising Services, ASAP, College Discovery, and the Peer Advisor program. Assistant Dean Grant reviewed the role of advising and influences to the college's advising practices (LaGuardia's Strategic Plan, CUNY Beyond, CUNY Reconnect, current advisement theory and practice). The main challenges to advising at LaGuardia are large caseloads and the scope of majors offered at the college. Efforts are underway to reduce caseloads by hiring new advisors and to train advisors to focus on advising students within a particular field of interest. Assistant Dean Grant reported that faculty progress report completion rates doubled and with many of the alerts already resolved through direct student communication. Faculty Senators expressed interest in continued conversations with Assistant Dean Grant to address tensions between faculty and advisors.

VI. Invitation of Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance Shahir

Senior Vice President Erfan provided an overview of the thirteen active capital projects at LaGuardia:

1. Collateral moves – Phase I of Infrastructure Upgrade – C Building
2. C Building Infrastructure Update – C Building
3. LL97 and Energy Conservation Projects - Campuswide
4. Library Expansion and Renovation – Phase II – E Building
5. IT Infrastructure Upgrade - Campuswide
6. Fire Alarm Replacement – M Building
7. Renovation of Poolside Café - E Building
8. Construction of Cohen Career Collective – C Building
9. Installation of Turnstile Access at E and C Entrances
10. Renovation of Pool and HVAC Upgrade – E Building
11. Construction of Sciences Labs – E Building
12. Upgrade of HVAC Systems in B Building
13. Roof Replacement above 5th Floor E Building and MS Theater

Additional details and images from the presentation are available on the Senate website.

VII. Chair's Report

There will be a photographer at the December 3rd meeting to take a photo of all Senators for the website.

Constituency committees should prepare to present their wish lists at the December 3rd meeting. Thank you to Senator Cardaio for mentoring the Committee of Students again.

Congratulations to Senator Scamacca who was elected by the Executive Committee to serve as Senate Parliamentarian.

The ad-hoc Instructional Staff Handbook Revision Committee lead by Chair Rochell Isaac is fully staffed and has begun its work editing and updating the handbook.

The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness created a new data dictionary webpage offering definitions and explanations of key terms used by the OIRE and LaGuardia. It will be updated monthly.

The revised Governance Plan is now in the hands of the Board of Trustees. We anxiously await word of its approval.

The search for a new CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor/University Provost has been narrowed down to three finalists. LaGuardia Provost Gastic Rosado was on the search committee.

CUNY Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic & Faculty Affairs Anne Lopes's Vision360 program is a new student success initiative focusing on five main issues – academic and career advising; improving DFWI rates, financial aid and financial literacy; strategic use of data; and course scheduling and predictive analytics. These issues were selected from a study of five CUNY campuses, including LaGuardia.

The CUNY Alliance to Defend Higher Education continues to work to confront challenges to higher education including the withholding of funding and academic freedom. Responding to CADHE and others' criticism of CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor's Alvero's statement on academic freedom, she admitted the statement was flawed. The new Title VI training available on Brightspace still uses the problematic definition of academic freedom. CADHE will continue to pursue this issue.

VIII. Invitation to President Kenneth Adam to Greet the Senate

President Adams thanked Senators for participating in shared governance, praising LaGuardia's unique tripartite Senate. He also encouraged everyone to attend the "New Front Door: Expanding and Improving Students' First-Year Experience" event on Friday November 21st.

Senators expressed concern about CUNY Beyond's emphasis on career-focused education, questioning whether it limits students' exploration and how the initiative may fit with humanities disciplines. President Adams discussed his idea for a new humanities internship program as one potential way to accomplish CUNY Beyond's objectives.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)

The Committee on Committees started its work confirming committee chairs and assessing membership needs.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)

See above for curriculum approval.

iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Caterina Almendral, Chair)

Nothing to report.

iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark, Chair)

The Committee on Campus Affairs is meeting Friday to finalize its calendar. Issues to address include reflection spaces, student study spaces, classroom desks to accommodate students, spaces for neurodiverse students, microwave availability, and campus parking.

v. The Committee of Faculty (Thomas Cleary, Chair)

Nothing to report.

vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Derek Stadler, Chair)

The EDIT Subcommittee's annual budget is \$24,000. They awarded \$9,801 to sixteen projects (18 submissions) in Spring 2025 and \$10,885.20 to fifteen projects (17 submissions – 2 without sufficient documentation) in Fall 2025.

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

The Budget and Finance Committee needs two student members.
Alternate Student Senator Bryan Reyes volunteered.

- 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)
Student Senators voiced a need to have a space to meet with students. The Senate suggested possible spaces, including sharing with SGA and student clubs.
- 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 plans to meet with new Dean for Institutional Effectiveness Kevin Martin in January to discuss Senate assessment.

- v. Faculty/Staff Ombuds Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
The Faculty/Staff Ombuds Committee is meeting with President Adams next week.
- vi. Instructional Staff Handbook Revision Committee (Rochell Isaac, Chair)
Nothing to report.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

Senator Sokolski would like to see more transparency around the budget of the College Association.

XII. Announcements

Senators should report back to their constituents!

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23pm.

Next Meeting: December 3, 2025