

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
September 10, 2025
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500 and Zoom

In-Person Votes

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Luke Cardaio (At-Large Instructional Staff), Miguel Carvajal (Community, Health, and Wellness), Thomas Cleary (Library), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Sada Hye Jaman (Business & Technology), Givanni Ildefonso-Sanchez (ELA), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Naomi Marajh (At-Large Instructional Staff), Garrett Morgan, Jr. (SGA), Margaret O’Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Leslie Scamacca (Academic Affairs), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), John Toland (Faculty Council), Zofia Tubin (Student), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

Online Votes

Donniece Davis-Cooper (Division of Student Affairs), Albert Jimenez (At-Large Instructional Staff)

Present In-Person

Caterina Almendral, Lloyd Klein, Thomas Onorato

Present Online

Loretta Capuano-Vella, Sandra Ribiero, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:32PM by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without corrections.

III. Approval of the Minutes from June 4, 2025

The minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Motion to Revoke the 2022 Resolution for Videoconferencing

Senator Buckley Lockhart moved to revoke the 2022 Senate Resolution for

Videoconferencing. This was seconded by Senator Sokolski. Senators noted the need for participants to speak freely without concern over posting meeting recordings publicly. Other Senators were concerned that in-person meetings would limit attendance. Senator Morgan Jr. moved to amend the motion to allow Senators to vote online. Chairperson Bruns clarified that the state open meetings law requires meetings to be recorded and posted publicly if online voting takes place. Senator Morgan Jr. withdrew his motion to amend. The Senate approved the original motion to revoke the 2022 resolution for videoconferencing in a voice vote.

Senator Morgan Jr. moved to allow guests to observe Senate meetings virtually. This was seconded by Senator Toland. Senators would not be allowed to participate in official business, but guests could observe and speak on Zoom, if called on by the Senate Chairperson. This scenario would not require the meeting to be recorded and posted publicly. Senators stated that guests could still observe the proceedings, maintaining communication and transparency. Senators also expressed concern over virtual meeting participants recording Senate proceedings. Alternate Senator Varin-Mignano moved to amend the motion to allow guests to observe Senate meetings virtually, but with restrictions to manage guest participation. The amended motion was seconded by Senator Toland. Senators expressed concern over censoring the voices of guests. Senators added that the Senate Chair must recognize guests in order to speak during the meeting, ensuring meeting decorum without the need for additional restriction. The motion to amend did not pass. The original motion failed to pass as the affirmative votes did not reach the number for quorum. **Vote: Aye-15, Nay-5, Abstain-0.** Moving forward, Senate meetings will be in-person only.

V. Chair's Report

Spring 2026 Commencement is scheduled for Thursday June 18th. It has been added to the academic calendar.

At the June 4th Senate meeting, Public Safety Director Yvonne Gaul and VP Shahir Erfan mentioned answering phone calls from students' parents concerned about their children's whereabouts. Senators expressed concern over FERPA violations. Chairperson Bruns followed up with Director Gaul and VP Erfan who clarified the actions of the college and assured that FERPA is not violated.

Students who experience harassment from a public safety officer can report the incident to the Office of Compliance and Diversity or via the CUNY Discrimination and Retaliation Reporting Portal linked on the LaGuardia website.

Chief of Staff Nayelli Valencia Turrent is working with Evelyn Lowmark to clarify issues regarding the presentation of the Staff Engagement Survey data. Once finalized, the data will be presented to the President's Cabinet.

The CUNY Alliance to Defend Higher Education is a coalition of CUNY faculty and staff formed to address the challenges facing higher education. Interested individuals can choose to receive information and/or join the group.

Chairperson Bruns and Senator Sokolski distributed flyers at orientation to recruit new Student Senators.

Human Resources created a new onboarding process for new employees. Senate information will be shared in the process.

VI. Year-End Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Elizabeth Streich, Chair)

Nothing to report.

ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)

Nothing to report.

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

Outreach:

1. Asynchronous Policy Workshop available on the Academic Standing Committee website
2. Departmental Speaking Points, including highlighting the asynchronous workshop and its location on the Academic Standing Committee website, shared with each representative's Department
3. New Faculty Colloquium visit to share about the Committee's work and answer questions
4. Kahoot! and Cookies Meet and Greet held in hybrid format
5. Academic Standing Committee Kahoot! Implemented with Education and Language Acquisition Department
6. College wide end of year email reminding College members of the 3 new policies to take effect in Fall 2025

Policies Presented to and Approved by the Senate:

1. Academic Integrity Policy

2. First Year Seminar (FYS) Enrollment Policy
3. Emergency Distance Learning Policy

Informational Items:

1. Clarification of the Repeat Course Policy which now reads “ONLY” the highest grade earned “at LaGuardia” and brings readers back to the preamble of the policy
 2. Clarification of classes in which an Incomplete may not be given in the catalog under “Course Exemptions in the Incomplete (INC) Grade Policy”
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark and Anthony Pappas, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Lakshmi Vidyasagar, Chair)
Nothing to report.

- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs)

In-Service Training Workshops:

1. Encouraging Online Participation (Fall)
2. Brightspace Workplace (Fall)
3. Artificial Intelligence (Spring)
4. Alzheimer's Disease (Spring)

Opening Sessions:

Opening Sessions Fall 2024 was held on Wednesday September 4 and Opening Sessions Spring 2025 was held on Wednesday March 5.

Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium:

The Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium was held virtually on Friday, May 16th with the following presentations:

1. Sumanth Inukonda, “War and Propaganda: Western Intervention in Afghanistan”
2. Sandra Ribiero and Hendryx O. Silva, “Physical Therapist Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant Student Interprofessional Collaboration and Educational Simulation Experience”
3. Mosaab Elshaer, “The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Diagnosis and Management of Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome”

4. Jayashree Kamble, “BIPOC Authorship and 1980s American Rom-Com Novels”
5. Vera Albrecht, “Non-Existent Objects – Who Cares, and Why?”

Educational Development Initiative Team (EDIT)

The EDIT annual budget is \$24,000. New EDIT guidelines were established. EDIT will consult with the Committee on Professional Development and Senate if future changes are required.

- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Karamvir Kaur, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Mehedi Hassan and Jiale Lin, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Senator Sokolski urged Senators and guests to be aware of at-large elections and elections in their departments/divisions.
- 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)

The ombuds committee is pursuing meetings with college administration. Of note, the CUNY Graduate Center just appointed an ombudsperson.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

Senator Scamacca moved that Executive Committee candidates prepare candidacy statements. Senator Pappas seconded the motion. Senator Sokolski noted this was past practice, but was not codified. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

VIII. Announcements

Senator DiCarlo announced that the Wagner Archives are now located in the C building. They are welcoming tours and classes that want to work with primary documents.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.

Next Meeting: October 8, 2025