

LaGuardia Community College
Agenda for the College Senate Meeting

April 7, 2021

2:15-4:30 pm (Zoom)

Present and Voting

Erfan Ahmad (Student), Shawn Blackman (Student), Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Cindy Busch (Division of Institutional Advancement), Fay Butler (At-Large Instructional Staff), Loretta Capuano Vela (At-Large Instructional Staff), Kerlin Chen (Student), Gabriela Concepcion (Student), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), Eva Espinoza (Student), Bukurie Gjoci (MEC), Thomas Gleisner (At-Large Adjunct), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), William (Joonyoung) Hur (Student), Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities), Ana Jara (Student), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Jayashree Kamble (At-Large Instructional), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), Evelyn Lowmark (Division of Administration), Lenore McShane (Non-Instructional Staff), Shoma Nahar (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Mary Rodriguez (SGA President), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Technology), Patricia Sokolski (Division of Academic Affairs), Charis Victory (Division of Student Affairs)

Present Non-Voting

J. Elizabeth Clark, Douglas DiCarlo, Debra Engel, Janet Gonzalez, Christopher McHale, Margaret O'Sullivan, Maritza Pritsos, Ellen Quish, Alexandra Rojas, Nancy Santangelo

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:16pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Minutes from the March 10, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson Bruns asked if there were any modifications to the March 10, 2021 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

III. Vote on Curriculum Committee Consent Calendar Items from March 18, 2021 and March 23, 2021

A motion to approve the curriculum committee consent calendar items from March 18, 2021 and March 23, 2021 was made by Senator Rivas. This was seconded by Senator Brashears. **Vote: Aye-32, Nay-0, Abstain-0.** The Curriculum Committee consent calendar items from March 18, 2021 and March 23, 2021 were approved. Curriculum Committee Chair Debra Engel added that articulation agreements executed between LaGuardia academic departments and programs will henceforth be included as informational items, but do not require Senate approval.

IV. Invitation of Director of Human Resources Ron Edwards

New Director of Human Resources Ron Edwards introduced himself to the Senate. Senator Rivas reminded Director Edwards that staff have not received their leave balances which may be problematic for those individuals planning vacations. Senator Rivas also asked Director Edwards about his potential involvement with the Employee

Engagement Survey. Director Edwards voiced his interest in housing the work done on the Employee Engagement Survey in the Department of Human Resources.

V. **Chair's Report**

Middle States

Middle States Co-Chairs Reem Jaafar and Justin Rogers-Cooper requested Senate participation to review chapter drafts before they are released to the entire college. Chairperson Bruns will send out an email looking for volunteers. Senate participation in the upcoming synchronous and asynchronous townhalls is also requested.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Training

Chairperson Bruns asked Senators to remind their constituencies to complete the sexual misconduct prevention and response training posted on Blackboard. Completion is required by law for faculty, staff, and students, but response rates are very low. Students should receive a reminder on CUNYFirst.

Senate Website

The Senate's website now features a suggestion box that will forward questions and concerns to the Senate email account managed by Chairperson Bruns and Secretary Kehoe. Chairperson Bruns will request the suggestion box link be moved to a more visible location on the website.

Committee of Students Meeting

Chairperson Bruns asked the Student Senators to remain logged into the Zoom meeting after the conclusion of the Senate session. Student Senator Justin Rodriguez is resigning his role as Chairperson of the Committee of Students due to personal reasons. The committee needs to choose new leadership to serve the remainder of the academic year. Chairperson Bruns will discuss the documentation that students must submit in order to receive their stipend and will assist the students in preparing for President Adams's upcoming visit to the Committee of Students meeting on May 5th.

Non-Senate Committee Reports

Chairperson Bruns invited the Senators serving on non-Senate committees to offer reports.

- Senator Kehoe updated the Senate regarding her participation in the Enrollment Solutions Working Group. She is tasked with soliciting and synthesizing student feedback concerning their experiences with admissions and enrollment. She will join the student meeting following the Senate session today to elicit their feedback.
- Senator Buckley Lockhart reported back from the Advising Council that PAR registration for students with GPAs below 2.99 will take place from April 19th through June 4th for Fall 2021. The PAR withdrawal date is August 2nd. Senator Scamacca asked Senator Buckley Lockhart if she thought the Advising Council was sufficiently addressing advising needs or if the Senate should discuss the creation of an ad-hoc committee focusing on advisement. Senator Buckley Lockhart responded that as her membership on the Advising Council is new she is unsure of the need of a Senate

committee addressing advisement, but the major concerns of the Advising Council seem to be event scheduling, staffing, organization, and communication.

- Senator Brashears updated the Senate regarding the work of the SIRS Committee. The smaller working group within the committee submitted their report on student evaluations of teaching. The larger working group within the committee will offer feedback at their upcoming April 20th meeting before recommendations are made to the college.
- Senator Capuano Vela continues her work on the President's Transition Action Team helping President Adams tackle his new role at LaGuardia and relaying information back to the Senate and the college at large.

VI. Vote on the Creation of a Senate Historian Position

Senator Brashears motioned to create a Senate Historian position. It was seconded by Senator Inukonda. Senator Capuano Vela clarified that information gathered regarding past Senate decisions is often considered in isolation, without proper historical context. The Senate Historian can provide additional perspective as to the circumstances and/or rationale that prompted specific Senate actions. Senator Scamacca added that the person who assumes the position of Senate Historian can help develop the role according to what he/she believes needs to be accomplished including whether a larger committee is needed to undertake the work. Senator Rivas moved to amend the original motion, instead moving to create a Senate Historian Committee. This was seconded by Senator Lowmark. **Vote: Aye: 27, Nay: 2, Abstain: 0.** Senator Pappas inquired whether the Senate History Committee would be a more appropriate name. Senator Sokolski questioned whether the committee should be a standing committee or an ad-hoc committee clarifying that ad-hoc committees have a specific task and end when that task is over. Senator Rivas moved to amend her motion, moving for the creation of an ad-hoc Senate History Committee. This was seconded by Senator Sokolski. **Vote: Aye: 28, Nay: 1, Abstain: 0.** Past Senate Chairperson Charles Keyes and Senator Capuano Vela expressed interest in being on the committee. Chairperson Bruns appointed them Co-Chairpersons of the new ad-hoc Senate History Committee.

VII. Employee Engagement Survey Findings

Senator Lowmark announced that while part-time staff had a relatively low response rate at 26%, 67% of full time staff responded to the survey (comparable to the response rate of the COACHE Survey). Senator Lowmark and the Committee of HEO/Alumni/Civil Service will ask President Adams at their upcoming meeting to release the data to the college as soon as possible. The next stage of the process will involve recommending and implementing changes according to the findings of the survey.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Committee on Committees (Charis Victory, Chair)

Chairperson Victory expressed appreciation for those individuals who contacted her looking to join Senate committees. She will follow up with them shortly.

- ii. Curriculum Committee (Debra Engel, Chair)
See above.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Janet Gonzalez, Chair)
Chairperson Gonzalez is currently consulting with Committee on Committees Chairperson Victory to properly staff the Academic Standing Committee. The Academic Standing Committee is working with Dean Miller to revise the repeat course policy in an effort to standardize the process and rely less on individual decisions and discretion. The committee is also examining the issue that the college does not offer a semester grade of A+.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Eneida Rivas, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
Chairperson Scamacca informed the Senate that the Committee of Faculty had a productive meeting with President Adams on March 10 and will meet again following the current full Senate session.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Christopher McHale, Co-Chairs)
Co-Chairperson McHale reported that Senator Kamble's "Let's Talk About Sex, Gender, Race & Class: Intersectionality and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Netflix's *Bridgerton*" event was very successful and fun. The In-Service Training Committee's final Spring workshop in their 2021 series will be "Substance Abuse and Opioid Crisis Training" will be held on Tuesday April 20th from 4:15-5:15pm. The deadline to apply for the Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium has been extended to April 7th. The Professional Development on Diversity and Inclusion Committee is advertising several affiliated events including the Women's Center and LGBTQ+ Safe Space's "Speak Your Truth" events on April 27th and May 25th, the Black Lives Matter Summit beginning April 12th, the Building Bridges: Latin American/Latinx Symposium on April 23rd, the Asian Heritage Virtual Celebration mini-conference on May 5th and May 6th, the SURJ/FSOC anti-racist pedagogy teach-in on May 7th, and the creation of the President's Advisory Council's Diversity Equity and Inclusion website. Lastly, Co-Chairperson McHale reminded the Senate that EDIT grants were cut due to budget concerns and would like the Senate's assistance in revisiting the program as it was one of the few research funding opportunities available to part-time faculty at the college.
- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Fay Butler, Chair)
Chairperson Butler relayed that the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the college's third quarter financial plan. Of note, they are projecting an undercollection of 2.7 million dollars.

- viii. The Committee of HEO/Alumni/Civil Service (Erika Correa and Eneida Rivas, Co-Chairs)
The Committee of HEO/Alumni/Civil Service met twice to prepare for its meeting with President Adams, including reviewing Employee Engagement Survey data.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Justin Rodriguez, Chair)
Student Senator Ahmad raised the issue of students lacking clarity regarding course material and insufficient responses from instructors to requests for support. Senator Capuano Vela reinforced the importance of campus offices knowing how to handle these issues including how to pursue the proper recourse.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Seurette Bazalais, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
See above.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Ana-Lucia Fuentes and Jayashree Kamble, Co-Chairs)
Co-Chairperson Kamble reported that the Senate Transfer Committee and Transfer Services held a student panel on advocating for course credit during transfer. There will also be workshops on April 23rd to help FYS faculty (in STEM, as well as Humanities, Liberal Arts, and Social Science) address transfer in their courses in more detail. Other FYS areas will be addressed in the fall.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice and Community Need Committee (Nicolle Fernandes and Rebekah Johnson, Co-Chairs)
The Food Insecurity, Justice and Community Need Committee helped raise \$5,825 with the help of 84 donors at their Spring Food Drive. The “SNAP I’m Hungry” event will be held on Wednesday April 28th from 2:00-3:30pm discussing who is eligible and how to apply for SNAP and other benefits.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. Governance Plan Revision Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
Chairperson Scamacca reported that the Governance Revision Plan Committee is currently revising Article VIII regarding P&B and is researching the staff side of promotion including the possibility of creating a complementary Article IX.
- ii. IT Advisory Committee (J. Elizabeth Clark, Chair)
Nothing to report.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

Senator Inukonda raised the issue of increased anti-Asian bias and requested that the Senate issue a statement condemning such violence and affirming LaGuardia's commitment to providing a safe and supportive campus for all. Chairperson Bruns and Senator Sokolski will assist Senator Inukonda on drafting a statement. A special online vote may be required to vote on the statement due to the timeliness of the matter.

XI. Announcements

Senator Buckley Lockhart announced that the Wellness Center will be hosting its open house on Wednesday April 14th from 2-5:15pm focusing on the theme of resilience.

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Isaac. This was seconded by Senator Busch. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Next Meeting: May 5, 2021