

**LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate**

Meeting Dec 11, 2019

Room E501

Present and Voting

Hara Bastas (Faculty Council), Rochell Isaac (Faculty Council), Allie Brashears (Natural Sciences), Cristy Bruns (English), Rachel Boccio (English), Jean Buckley-Lockhart (Counselling), Cindy Busch (Institutional Advancement), Fay Butler (Student Affairs), Nancy Santangelo (Student Affairs), Loretta Capuano-Vella (At-Large Instructional Staff), Maria Cook (President's Office), Erika Correa (Adult & Continuing Education), William Fulton (Humanities), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Jill Kehoe (Social Sciences), William Kurzyna (Education and Language Acquisition), Evelyn Lowmark (Administration), Cheryl McKenzie (At-Large Instructional Staff), Lenore McShane (Non-Instructional Staff), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Marina Nechayeva (Mathematics, Engineering & Computer Science), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Eneida Rivas (At-Large Instructional Staff), Tara Scales (Health Sciences), Leslie Scamacca (Business and Tech), Patricia Sokolski (Academic Affairs), Karen Williams (At-Large Instructional Staff).

At-Large Student Members Present and Voting

Angelis Almanzar (Alternate), Brian Anderson, Lobsang Dolma, Meron Girma (Alternate), Priyanka Koirala, Casey Larsen, Shoma Nahar (Alternate), Nazmus Saquib, Christina Wong, Joseline Zambrano.

Present Non-Voting

Deborah Engel, Alexandra Rojas, Chris McHale

Guests and Visitors (non-voting)

Gordon Tapper, Milena Cuellar, Vanessa Bing, Bart Grachan, Charles Keyes, Hugo Fernandez, Thomas Geizner.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:17 pm by Chairperson Sokolski.

II. Approval of Minutes of Nov 30, 2019

Minutes from Nov 30, 2019 were accepted with corrections by Anthony Pappas.
Minutes approved.

III. Curriculum

A motion to approve the Senate's College-wide Curriculum Committee Consent calendar items from Nov 21, 2019 was made by Leslie Scamacca and seconded by Allie Brashears
Vote: 27 Aye, 0 No, 0 Abstain. Motion passed.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Sokloski extended her thanks to the body for the special Sustainable Agriculture curriculum consent item vote this past weekend. The Curriculum Committee and Dean Miller were appreciative. Chair Sokolski advised there will be a significant number of new consent calendar items up for vote at the Jan senate meeting. Consent calendar items will therefore be sent out well in advance of the next meeting to give everyone time for review.

Chair Sokolski reported that a positive conversation was had with the Committee of HEOs regarding the HEO survey. The survey is expected in Spring 2020.

Chairperson Sokolski brought up the issue about Senate meetings coinciding with department meetings. Because the January meeting coincides with many department meetings she suggested moving the Jan 2020 meeting to the 22nd and the Feb 2020 meeting to the 19th. A motion was made to approve the changes in the senate calendar for Jan 2020 and Feb 2020. Vote: 28 in favor, 1 opposed (will send alternate). Motion approved.

V. Faculty Members, Presidential Search Committee: Gordon Tapper, Vanessa Bing, Milena Cuellar

Welcome remarks were made by Chairperson Sokolski to the faculty representatives of the presidential search committee. Personal introductions were then made by Milena Cuellar (Math, Engineering and Computer Science), Gordon Tapper (English) and Vanessa Bing (Social Science).

The presidential search team explained their process thus far. The team met with Robert Jaffe to get an overview of the search process. The committee still does not have a full sense of timing related to the search. The team reported that a firm is vetting the CVs of the presidential candidates and that one member of the board of trustees, Una Clark, will be the chair of the committee. It was made clear to the faculty members on the committee that The Board of Trustees is doing the hiring. The next steps will likely include a charge meeting and then meetings with stakeholders. All search committee candidates expressed interest in representing the interests of as many of the College constituencies as possible.

The floor was then opened to senators to voice opinions on qualities desired in a new president. These included the following:

- dedicated to diversity and inclusion
- values cooperative education/internships
- respects academic freedom,
- respects and support for "LaGuardia Rising" issues
- values working relationships with alumni
- advocates for the arts
- values instruments for early language instruction
- recognizes staff needs

- possesses strong management skills
- understands and respects libraries, books and databases.

Furthermore, student senator Brian Anderson emphasized the value of a president sensitive to sustainability initiatives and accessibility to students. Many senators echoed each other's remarks, wanting a president who is open-minded and recognizes that LaGuardia is a unique, dynamic and diverse college. Gordon Tapper concluded, remarking that LaGuardians have many shared concerns. He expressed gratitude for the confidence in them as the selected committee. Vanessa Bing concluded expressing the importance of the community that we are all trying to preserve.

VI. Bart Grachan, Vice President of Student Affairs.

Chairperson Sokolski welcomed and introduced Bart Grachan, Vice President (VP) of Student Affairs. Bart Grachan presented on the Student Affairs strategic plan. He summarized that the mandate of student affairs is improving the student experience through: design, operational effectiveness, and enrollment initiatives. He voiced the importance of bringing new students into the College however stressed the importance of improving effectiveness with continuing students.

VP Grachan then reported that Advisement 2.0 is now at scale and that an advising council has been created in the division. In addition a proactive advising and registration project is underway. The goal of this project is to enroll students most at risk, maximizing momentum in credit number. He also discussed an initiative to enroll students earlier in the summer in order to prevent late registration. Visual schedule builder and PAR was also discussed. VP Grachan reported that PAR classes were selected using the degree maps for each Program. Questions were raised from various senators about the degree maps and their intended use. VP Grachan encouraged changes to the degree maps so that they are as accurate as possible for advisors.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Committee on Committees

William Fulton reported that members are needed for many committees including: Committee on Transfer, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Faculty and Staff Notes (Editor needed), Food Insecurity Committee.

b. Committees of Faculty

The committee reported that they met after the last Senate meeting and will meet next in Jan 2020.

c. Committee Students

The committee will have meeting today and are developing a wish list.

d. Committee of Academic Standing

Alexandra Rojas reported that the committee held elections for a Chair- 2 year term. In addition the committee discussed the academic calendar with Burhan Siddiqui. It was suggested, by the Committee, that the academic calendar undergo Academic Standing Committee approval before Senate. This is now set to occur in January.

e. Committee on Transfer
Nothing to report.

f. Committee on Professional Development
Chris McHale presented updates to the group. He reiterated that The Committee on Diversity and Inclusion needs members and reported that the Committee had a recent, successful event. This Committee will create and circulate a report and related to its efforts. Chairperson Sokolski suggested that this committee share this report with the Senate so that it can then be shared with the Executive Committee. Chris also reported that the group is trying also to recruit smaller groups across campus to provide in-service training. This will be advertised. Mention was made that staff should be encouraged and included in the reporting of scholarship. An announcement was also made that Edit is currently reviewing applications.

g. Committee on HEO/Alumni/Civil Service
The Committee asked to have a change of chair so that HEOs that fill out the upcoming HEOs survey do not feel that it is linked to HR. The committee is waiting for next meeting for a decision on this issue.

h. Budget Committee
This committee reported that they had a meeting last week. Challenges with budget are being reviewed.

i. Food Insecurity Committee
The committee met this past week. A food drive is being organized. Nicole Fernandez sent out an email about receptacles that will be placed around campus for donations. Maria Cook expressed that donating sharp objects (ie razors) on campus. This type of donation can be dangerous and is prohibited on campus.

VIII. Revision of the Governance Plan- Articles 2 and 3

Senator Leslie Scamacca presented the revisions of the governance plan (Articles 2 and 3). A discussion ensued related to the proposed revisions.

IX. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

X. New Business

Senator Loretta Capuano proposed a text message, reminder-system in order to alert and remind Senators about upcoming meeting dates, times and room numbers. Loretta will initiate and organize this alert system for any interested senator.

XI. Announcements

None

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Senator Anthony Pappas and seconded by all senators. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Next Meeting January 22, 2020.