



DRAFT Biological Sciences Advisory AGENDA

April 22, 2025 | 5:00 – 6:30 | Rm 21147

LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Equity: Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Student Success: Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.
- ❖ Health and Wellness: Establish a knowledge base and appreciation for health and wellness in the workplace; create a sense of urgency about wellness; prioritize wellness in decision-making, assessment and accountability; and build capacity to support wellness.

Committee Name Quorum:

Camille Troup
Chandra Khantwal
Dana Nakase Yolanda Fintschenko
Dianna Maar Danielle Bañuelos
George Farquar
Jason Maxwell
Jean O'Neil-Opipari
Kai Blaisdell
Josie Sette
Kristen Wolslegal
Linnea Fletcher
Paula Checchi
Nicholas Heredia
Nicole Shapiro
Petter Mattei
Robert Saul
Sahar El-ETr
Segal Boaz
Stevan Jovanovich
Sulatha Dwarakanath
Vicki Shipman
Vivek Sharma

Agenda Item

1. Call to Order at 5:10

Beth McCormick, Kai Blaisdell, Jason Maxwell, Yolanda Fintschenko, Paula Checchi, Nicole Shapiro, Nick Heredia, Jean O'Neil-Opipari

2. Review of Agenda

3. Review and Approval of Minutes, November 7, 2024

4. Program Report

- Enrollment
 - Adding new sections
 - Enrollment strong
- STEAM Building Update
 - Art may use 3300 in the summer and may need to use it in the fall
 - Building 800 is gone
 - Anatomy lab and micro lab in new building
 - Shared learning space
- Curriculum Changes
 - Fall 2026 condensed calendar from 18 to 16 weeks, same amount of classroom hours, but shorter semester
 - Adding winter intersession Dec 2025, no bio classes for now
 - Bio sequence going from 3 to 2 semesters
 - Decide what is important
- Bioinformatics Class
 - Fully online
 - last year 9 students, now 16, and students stay, capped at 24
 - Time: 5:50 – 9:50 with food break
 - Students working collaboratively
 - Students have different skill levels because the prerequisites are one bio course or one CS class
 - Students work together to support each other
 - Students from all over because class is online
 - Survey class, some students do a deep dive on aspects that interest them
 - Any tools missing from Bioinformatics? AI - embrace and adapt to.
- Introduce New Lab Tech – Cheryl Goldbeck from Merck

- Federico Lopez Borghesi new in Fall, 2024 new botany faculty
- New biology club, Federico club advisor
 - Federico updating curriculum
 - Hired new Computer Scientist (working on AI)

5. Industry Updates

- Emerging Trends / Industry Forecast
 - AI is being incorporated (Blackhawk Genomics)
 - Fabric Genomics acquired by Gene DX
 - AI used with complex data sets
 - Move to whole genome sequencing
 - Sequence together and report out in panels
 - More of a global reach to diversify, driven by NHRGI, things have changed in communication about this
 - Industry aspect, funding themselves, not coming from US govt money
 - Big layoffs Illumina, PacBio, Roche and BioRad
 - Roche is investing \$50M in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics in US over next 5 years
 - Lots of talent in the marketplace
 - Rocky for biotech employment, starting to stabilize, demand for labor now
 - Safe Traces may start hiring late summer, early fall
- Industry Needs
 - Beth working with healthcare
 - Kaiser event to increase awareness of different careers
 - Yolanda - with the withdrawal of funding hard for early stage employers
 - Event at LPC on April 30, 6 companies participating, most offering internships, all in the Tri-Valley
 - List companies
 - Toone (looking for marketing and sales)
 - Successful event with Kristi at IGate
 - New company Pacific Fusion, may be looking for internships
- Internship / Employment
 - Some employers coming on April 30 have internships available

6. Good of the Order

- Next generation sequencing
- Automation (Opentrons possible donation)
- Metabolix
- Safe Traces applied for a grant through HARPA-H
 - Looked at microbiome of buildings, using many aspects to determine if a building is a healthy work environment

7. Adjournment 6:10

8. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 5:00 – 6:30 pm