



Business Studies Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024 | 3:30pm | Room 1687/Zoom

Agenda Item

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

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.

Business Studies

Advisory Board Members 2024-2025

* = *in attendance*

Jerry Bailey*
Payton Bashton*
Erick Bell*
Rajeev Chopra*
Theresa De La Vega*
Tracy Farhad*
Christopher Goldhawk*
Arin Haley*
David Hopman
April Ingram*
Anne Kennedy*
Mary Lauffer*
Michaela McNerney*
Stuart McElderry
Drew Patterson*
Rachel Peters*
Vicki Shipman

Guests:

Beth McCormick*

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda; Drew Patterson, 2nd Anne Kennedy. Agenda approved

3. Review of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from May 5, 2024; Erick Bell, 2nd Mary Lauffer. Minutes approved.

4. Faculty Report

- Erick Bell shared the program update including enrollments, learning modality, demographics and success rates.
- April Ingram asked if students prefer in person classes, online or hybrid. Eric answered that the in-person classes filled up quickly and had waitlist.
Discussion about the quality of work from students in person vs. virtual. Drew added that he has changed his class structure to less lecture time and more group work.
- Erick shared about the faculty work around Diversity Equity Inclusion and Accessibility. Creating Professional Development opportunities to become better in this area. Supported by both college presidents and the District Chancellor.
- Mary Lauffer gave an update about the Business Club. Mary is the club advisor. Current membership is more than 70 students. This is the highest number ever. The Business Club will compete at the FBLA Conference this weekend in Emeryville.
The club has a need for speakers and presentations at their meetings.

5. Industry Updates

- Tracy Farhad- Visit Tri Valley represents 42 hotels in the region and they hire for a wide variety of positions; front desk, sales, food and beverage, landscape work. Tracy shared that teaching students how to dress for an interview. How can we help students to build confidence.
- Rachel Peters shared that agility with job is very important. People move jobs 3-5 years. Being able to stretch job into other areas, and be flexible, not siloed into one area.
- Arin Haley oversees the Internship program. She shared that they are looking for professionalism, willingness to get in, get their hands dirty. Grit is something that her colleagues have discussed, that extra oomph.
- Theresa De La Vega- her department is hiring for dept. assistant and a management analyst. Communication skills, including social media, website editing. Interns from LPC have demonstrated that they are determined to succeed; take constructive feedback about how to improve and work to come up with a better product.
- April Ingram needs people with initiative. Today our youth have been given everything and wait to be told what to do next. We look for grit, drive, resiliency. Hard to teach.
- Chris Goldhawk shared that he sees that new hires who succeed at Ernst & Young have intellectual curiosity. University doesn't

necessarily prepare you for real world workplace. Intellectual curiosity and quick thinking can help better adapt to changing landscape.

- Board members shared thoughts about their companies return to the office policies. Everyone agrees on the value of collaborating in the office workplace. Team building, camaraderie.
- Discussion on whether employers see a difference in new hires who primarily online classes versus in person classes and how well prepared they are for workplace.

Chris shared that he sees that executive presence is lower with those with heavy online environment. Connects to how one operates in an office environment.

6. Recommendations from Advisory Board

- Discussion about ways to teach students and reinforce this message of all these important skills on what they look for in new hires.
Employer Panel, Speed Networking events
Cookies w/ Chris (casual format networking)
Anne will start planning for events in the spring semester.

7. Other Business / Good of the Order

Tri-Valley Rise- Reaching and inspiring small business entrepreneurship.
Bankhead Theater, January 21st. Panel, networking.

8. Next Regular Meeting

9. Adjournment