



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

January 28, 2026 | 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Room 21147 + Zoom for visitors

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order:** 2:30 pm
2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Anita Bhatia)/approved unanimously
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (December 10, 2025):** Motion to approve (Jeff Judd)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously
4. **Public Comments (3 minutes):** *This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Academic Senate. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. In accordance with the Brown Act, the Academic Senate cannot act on items not already on the agenda.* None
5. **Consent Items:** Motion to approve (Justin Garoupa)/seconded (Peter Zimmer)/approved unanimously
 - 5.1 Counselor (DSPS)/Instructor (Learning Disabilities Specialist) Hiring Committee: Amanda Castelli, Heike Gecox
6. **Action Items**
7. **New Business**
 - 7.1 AI Concerns

The AI subcommittee plans to create a college-wide definition of AI plagiarism/cheating, with the suggestion that each department create a more specific policy.

Ashley Young identified the four most important items to consider with AI:

1. Detrimental cognitive impact for students
Potential solutions: brief slideshow, video, or article presenting research findings to be shown to students at the beginning of each semester.
2. Cheating/plagiarism concerns
3. Faculty identifying helpful AI tools for their use
Concerns: false positive results from Turnitin, copyright issues when inputting student-created content into checker tools (including Turnitin), privacy and FERPA concerns when using ChatGPT or similar tools, contribution of pollution caused by using AI to catch unauthorized AI usage, and the potential

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

- ❖ Affirm LPC's unwavering commitment to equity by deepening campus-wide engagement, enhancing professional development, embedding equity-minded practices in decision-making, assessment, and accountability processes; and building capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through sustainable college practices, processes, academic support, removal of barriers, and focused professional development.
- ❖ 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.

Academic Senate Quorum: 8

Non-Voting Members:

President: Ashley Young
Student Government: TBD
Faculty Association: Heike Gecox

Voting Members:

Vice President: Ashley McHale
Secretary: Collin Thormoto
Treasurer: Catherine Suarez
A&H: Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez
BSSL: Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto
PATH: Susan deFuniak
STEM: Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo,
Student Services: Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer

need for workload negotiations related to the amount of time and energy required to run content through multiple checkers and subsequent meetings with students to discuss findings and determine resolution.

4. Faculty identifying helpful AI tools for their students' use

7.2 AI Listening Groups

Participating faculty from both campuses will meet with district administrators on March 5th for a listening session. Ashley would like to recruit a few more faculty members from a variety of disciplines to attend. The session will serve as a planning meeting to determine needs and discuss fundamental AI training for faculty.

7.3 Resolution on Retiree Healthcare Investments

Collin Thormoto shared information regarding previous discussions related to Chabot College's divestment resolution. The general response from LPC faculty has been to draft a separate resolution regarding ethical investment practices moving forward.

7.4 Student Retaliation and Academic Freedom Survey Results

Joanna Jen shared the outcomes of the survey, which garnered 105 faculty responses. A small, but not insignificant, number of responses indicated some concern regarding retaliation and the future of academic freedom. The majority of respondents reported feeling supported and protected by campus administration.

7.5 Attendance Accounting Method

Currently, late-start and fast track courses earn a different apportionment and thus receive less funding from the state when compared to full-term courses. The new attendance accounting method will keep apportionment the same regardless of course length which will allow colleges to make course offering decisions based solely on the needs of their students without having to worry about funding ramifications. The switch will not be seamless, particularly due to the dangling hours in math and English courses, but the overall outcome will be positive.

7.6 Accreditation Report

The midterm report will be due in October; about 60% of the report has already been written by the accreditation steering committee. The committee has begun work in preparation for the full accreditation visit, which will take place during the 2028-2029 academic year. There is a strong focus on adherence to the RSI rubric for online classes and accessibility for all classes in order to comply with federal and state regulations. Question regarding which federal organization(s) are requiring compliance? Department of Education and Department of Justice. Tim Druley is ensuring the website is accessible and compliant. Clarification that PDFs on the website are generally compliant as long as they are not scans of a physical document.

Kat King shared that she and Wanda continue to provide tool recommendations, like PopeTech and ComplyBot, and workshops to assist faculty with accessibility. Fundamental accessibility training will be incorporated into new-hire orientation, similar to sexual harassment training requirements. Kat expressed the importance of attendees bringing this information back to their division colleagues so individuals are encouraged to attend workshops to get ahead of the April accessibility deadline. Vice President Ho also informed the group of many accessibility tools that faculty already have access to, like

accessibility checkers in Microsoft Office and Google Suite applications. Catherine Suarez brought up concerns for physical accessibility, particularly within the 2400 building (elevator and automatic door openers).

8. Old Business**8.1 AI Honesty Policy**

Ashley shared the updated honesty and integrity policies. VP Ho shared that the deans expressed concern for the potentially intimidating language used in the final sentence of the academic honesty statement ("The actions taken against the student will also be permanently entered into the student's record...") since a student may incorrectly assume this means disciplinary action will appear on their official transcript. Catherine explained that this language was used in response to some faculty expressing concern that students do not appear to be negatively impacted after being reported for academic dishonesty. VP Ho shared her experience with the process as a past faculty member: the professor submits the report via Maxient and the student receives a notice from the Dean of Counseling and Student Success. If the student contests the claim, the dean further discusses the matter with the professor. In the case of a second violation, the dean will speak with both the professor and the student separately. Justin Garoupa added insight that the lack of a transparent resolution may be intentional for privacy reasons. Catherine agreed to contact Dean Gagnon for clarification. These items will return as action items to determine if the current wording will stay as-is.

9. Wellness Break (5 minutes)**10. Reports (5 minutes each)**

10.1 LPC Student Government (TBD): None

10.2 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): None

10.3 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley McHale): Ashley Young presented on behalf of Ashley McHale. Spring enrollment is up approximately 3% from this time last year with a 90% fill rate.

10.4 Curriculum (Craig Kutil): Phase 3 of CCN is coming in February; about 40 classes will be included. Craig reached out to the academic deans to request course updates from department coordinators. Responses are needed to determine if course deactivations are needed. The issue with no-unit value dangling hours remains but members of the committee and Chabot counterparts have discussed a path forward; they must negotiate with the district before moving ahead with proposed changes. Upcoming degree changes include the addition of data science, music technology, and gender and women's studies degrees and an increase in units for chemistry, environmental science, and biology degrees.

10.5 Distance Education (Kat King): Encourage colleagues to check the calendar to see upcoming webinars related to AI and accessibility. There is concern regarding instructors merging different sections on Canvas due to potential FERPA violations; merging is allowable as long as content like discussion boards and peer review assignments are grouped by section. Some campuses have responded to compliance violations by removing the merge ability in Canvas. LPC would like to avoid removing the ability but may have to revisit the idea if violations continue. Kat has recommended that deans further discuss the issue at the next discipline meeting. DE course success rates rose from 77% in Summer 2024 to 82% in Summer 2025. Fall and winter results will be evaluated once data is available. Our college is officially a teaching college with the CVC Exchange program. The committee hopes to see a rise in

enrollment as we expand our service area. Kat received good feedback from instructors who received training and taught over winter intersession.

10.6 District Technology (Jeff Judd): None

10.7 Faculty Hiring Prioritization (Heike Gecox): None

10.8 Guided Pathways (Nadiyah Taylor & Jill Carbone): None

10.9 Honors (Irena Keller): There are now over 430 students in the program and five honors sections, all full with waitlists. An honors certificate of achievement will begin in Fall 2026. Any student who completes their program with 5 honors courses will receive the certificate. The new community service requirement has been successful; honors students are available to volunteer to help at events and mentor new students. A new subcommittee within the Honors Committee focusing on an LPC journal of honors has been established. The honors symposium is scheduled for later this spring.

10.10 Professional Development (David Powers): Flex Day will be held March 19th. Full-time variable flex is due May 15th, which will be the final submission since variable flex will no longer be required under the compressed calendar.

10.11 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): Catherine will meet with the Foundation office on Monday to discuss establishing an endowment.

10.12 President (Ashley Young): There will be a 2.4% COLA state-wide, which should help with the district's current deficit. Ashley will continue to suggest an increase in the hiring of faculty and classified professionals in response to the financial growth.

10.13 Divisions

- A&H (Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez): None
- BSSL (Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto): None
- PATH (Susan deFuniak): None
- STEM (Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo): None
- Student Services (Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles): None
- Part Time Representatives (Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer): None

11. Good of the Order/Announcements: None

12. Adjourned: 4:28 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: February 11, 2026