



ACADEMIC SENATE AGENDA

October 22, 2025 | 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Room 21147 + Zoom for visitors

Agenda Item – [Zoom information at end of agenda](#)

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

- 1. Call to Order:** 2:32 pm
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/discussion (none)/approved
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes (October 8, 2025):** Motion to approve (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/discussion (7.1 - clarify that HSI grant usage will end 9/30/26)/approved
- 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 (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/discussion (none)/approved

5.1 Curriculum Approvals: 10.6.25
- 6. Action Items:** None
- 7. New Business**
7.1 New RSI Rubric
Kat King provided an RSI refresher and introduction to the new distance education rubric (presentation available on academic senate website). RSI is evaluated both individually via peer- or self-evaluation and institutionally via accreditation. Contact TLC if there are concerns for meeting standards.

Questions:

- How will ACCJC evaluate all interactions, like if a Zoom break out room is used? The evaluation is based on several different aspects and differs based on modality (e.g., synchronous online vs. asynchronous online). The rubric gives examples of qualifying interactions for each level of interactivity.
- How can an instructor demonstrate providing feedback to students if the communication is via email or Canvas message? Kat and Wanda Butterly will offer workshops to help instructors with strategic ways to demonstrate interactions. Kat clarified that this metric was likely added as

a response to early online classes, which were often under-developed and featured little interaction.

- Is the goal to reach the “developed” or “highly developed” rubric metric? The “initial” status on the rubric is the baseline. We will work to increase from there.
- Is leniency given to instructors when they are unsuccessful in achieving quality interaction with individual students (e.g., a student who refuses to turn their camera on during a synchronous online class)? The goal is to ensure students have the *opportunity* to engage and are encouraged to participate. The instructor would not be penalized if a student refuses to participate. In these cases, it may be helpful to have documentation that proactive attempts were made to reach out to the student to offer support.
- How can an instructor be sure that a peer evaluator is qualified to evaluate others? This is mainly the responsibility of the discipline dean to ensure their full-time faculty members are up to date on training. Training is provided frequently and evaluators are required to attend a session at least every two years.
- Will these updates be incorporated into faculty evaluations? They will likely be incorporated but it would need to be negotiated. Heike Gecox agreed to mention this to the Faculty Association team.

7.2 Academic Freedom Concerns

Ashley Young provided a brief recap of the discussion from the previous meeting, which was initiated due to feedback from instructors (particularly part-time faculty) having concerns regarding speaking on relevant but controversial topics in class. Joanna Jen mentioned that individual instructors may have already found solutions, particularly within social sciences since course topics often involve controversial discussions. Ashley suggested that a committee could be formed to gather and disperse best practices. Joanna volunteered to head this committee. Attendees were encouraged to get feedback at the next division meeting to share out at the next senate meeting.

7.3 Student Retaliation Concerns

Discussion included in previous agenda item.

7.4 APs/BPs

Ashley reminded the group that all policies are required to be reviewed at least every three years, even if changes are not made. The majority of these APs and BPs did not have changes beyond slight verbiage updates. Bring feedback from division meetings to Ashley.

Notable comments/questions:

- AP 3501 Campus Safety and Access: updated to clarify which spaces are not open to the public; this was likely done to provide clarification for potential ICE activity concerns. Question if spaces like the Cultural Community Center are included in the language? This particular space is not included likely because it was designed to host public events.
- AP 3560 Alcoholic Beverages: Ashley confirmed that this will not affect LPC’s wine usage.
- AP 3600 Auxiliary Organizations: Question for what is considered an auxiliary organization? It is an involved/supportive organization that is not part of the college. Would this include the Foundation Office? Yes.
- Who writes the language for these policies? The basic language is likely developed by The League and then the district edits from there.

- Melissa Korber noted the lack of the Oxford comma within policies and suggested that it is used to follow APA standards.

8. Old Business**8.1 Divestment Resolution**

Ashley spoke with Chabot's Faculty Senate president, Mona Abdoun, and learned that they were somewhat split in opinions but did vote to pass the resolution. Ashley suggests speaking with colleagues to gauge opinions. We will then vote and decide based on majority. There will be three ways to vote:

1. Pass the resolution as-is
2. Pass the resolution with some verbiage change, particularly the final "resolved" statement
3. Do not pass the resolution

Suzanne Kohler shared findings from classified senate's research and it was requested that the 2023-2024 Annual Report from the Retirement Board of Authority be shared at the next meeting.

9. Wellness Break (5 minutes)

A motion was made to amend the agenda to move agenda item 10.7 to the first report. Motion to approve (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Collin Thormoto)/all in favor – motion passed

10. Reports (5 minutes each)

10.7 Faculty Hiring Prioritization (Heike Gecox): Heike shared the position ranking. The 67% violation hire was automatically incorporated into the five allotted positions so only four from the list will get selected, although there is a special circumstance that allows for a fifth position; a replacement DSPS counselor position will be approved since it is grant-funded. Heike clarified that this committee acts in an advisory role so Dr. Foster makes all final decisions.

10.1 LPC Student Government (TBD): None

10.2 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): Catherine researched Brisk AI and found that it has functions that may not work for our college/district, however it can detect potential cheating in a unique, forensic way that may provide stronger evidence of academic dishonesty claims. This can provide enhance discussions between instructor and student as they can go through the flagged evidence step-by-step rather than simply showing a percentage of plagiarism/AI usage likelihood. Question if there is a cost for this program? It may be used for free but there are more functions in the paid version. Catherine's suggestion is that we do not recommend the adoption until it has been properly vetted.

10.3 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley McHale): VC Nicholas proposed a 3-year analysis for the SCFF simulator for FTES that will maximize growth and restoration funds while minimizing costs. This may be achieved by borrowing funds from other terms, like summer. Since summer spans both academic years, it can be allocated for either. We may borrow funds from this past summer and next summer to potentially get off hold harmless by the 26-27 academic year. The district is still working on discipline plan proposals for FTEF. The district and FA each made their own proposal so they must negotiate the final decision.

10.4 Curriculum (Craig Kutil): Flex day sessions will be offered for instructors to work on curriculum updates. Title 5 changes were approved by the Board of Governors last February so we have until April to

institute changes. One change is that there must be a section in the course outline that indicates how the instructor will meet equity and inclusion goals.

SLOs are now officially part of the course outline of record as opposed to an addendum and are under the purview of the Curriculum Committee.

The Chancellor's Office will begin updating their curriculum database for CCN changes and will institute a system that makes it easier for colleges to upload data. Craig is working on phase 2 courses and will submit them for a Fall 2027 effective date. Phase 3 involves approximately 30 courses and will be a lot of work.

Applications for the new curriculum chair will open soon for a Fall 2026 start. A new music ADT is set for a Fall 2027 start.

Chemistry Faculty Discipline Review Group (FDRG) voted to request for the current chemistry degree to go up to 66 units. The same will be requested for environmental science and biology.

10.5 Distance Education (Kat King): The college is resuming work on the CVC teaching college project after a previous pause by IT. They tentatively hope that the system will go live in time for winter intersession. The official "go live" date will be communicated once finalized. The Fall 2025 cohort for peer-review online course program changes will turn in work next month for review.

The committee reviewed Fall 2025 accessibility data and found overall accessibility errors are higher this semester than Spring 2025. This is likely because instructors made adjustments to their spring pattern courses but have not yet made adjustments for fall pattern courses. Kat and Wanda will begin campaigning again.

The committee continues to discuss AI but is unsure of their purview since it seems that multiple committees are simultaneously working on this effort. They have considered their charge, which is to evaluate and recommend tools for distance education. Some of their discussions have been related to interactions that are not specifically related to DE. They are also struggling with the rapidity of AI rollouts and if it is within their purview to make decisions regarding adopted tools. The committee would appreciate feedback if they need to reassess their processes or if a new subcommittee that involves DE and Academic Senate (and possibly others) would be beneficial. This discussion will be added as a new business item next meeting.

10.6 District Technology (Jeff Judd): The committee needs to review district policies in regards to accreditation and determine a better way to purchase software with the change to LTI 1.3. Since any adoption will be available district-wide, there needs to be a solid review process related to security and privacy and ensuring there is not excessive duplication/overlap between products. They also need to determine which decisions can be made locally at the colleges.

MyPortal/SSB9 will be live for this upcoming registration cycle, although it will run parallel to CLASS-Web/SSB8 (which will fully sunset in January). Reminder that technology support during intersession will be minimal, particularly between December 24 – January 1.

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

10.9 Honors (Irena Keller): Irena thanked the senate for their efforts in the creation of this committee. The committee finalized honors program requirements, which will allow the process to be easier for faculty. They added community service hour requirements for students; students may meet this requirement by volunteering at any campus event so reach out to Irena if volunteers are needed because honors students will be interested. How many hours must the students accrue? 10 hours per year with a recommendation of five per semester. Does the volunteer work have to be academically-related? Not necessarily; six of the 10 hours must be specifically for LPC. The other four hours can be outside of the college but must be for a non-profit organization with a supervisor who can verify hours.

Five honors sections for spring have been approved. There are over 300 honors students with approximately 100 more on the waiting list. There will be an honors certificate offered in the future. The committee had hoped for a degree but it has proved to be more complicated than initially thought.

10.10 Professional Development (David Powers): Flex day will be held tomorrow. Reminder that variable flex for full time faculty is due November 15th. The committee submitted a success story for accreditation after collecting data from flex day survey responses from the last three years.

10.11 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): BSSL is currently in first place in the fundraising competition. Donations and final numbers will be due in early December in order to communicate the number and value of scholarships to financial aid. Is it correct that the majority of donations go toward student scholarships? Yes.

10.12 President (Ashley Young): Ashley Young and Ashley McHale recently attended a Fall Area B meeting. They discussed the creation of a resolution which would allow undocumented students or students with immigration concerns to attend class via Zoom. There could be some issues with classes that have hands-on activities, like EMT classes or labs. Does this mean converting classes to a HyFlex modality? It means converting a class to HyFlex on an as-needed and immediate basis. Wouldn't this be forcing a student to out themselves if they are the only population allowed to partake? Additionally, would a student who is facing other attendance barriers, like child care coverage, be able to qualify? These issues were brought up at the meeting so the topic has been pushed for debate at the next Plenary meeting. Is it not true that the modality listed on the class syllabus is unchangeable? That is correct, which is another reason why this needs more discussion. Another resolution was discussed at the meeting which would change minimum qualifications for some areas, including math.

Chabot's Zero Textbook Cost committee presented at last night's board meeting. Over 55% of their classes are low cost or ZTC. They also have a library loaner program. Collin clarified that LPC also has a loaner program (course reserves) but they must receive donations for this service since they do not have the funds to purchase any books. Question if a class may be listed as ZTC if the library has course reserves? Yes, but only if there is enough for all students.

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

Ashley McHale: The LPC Games Faculty Team hopes to utilize a science lab classroom to film their social media video.

12. Adjourned: 4:32 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: November 12, 2025

ZOOM LOGIN: This will be the same for every Academic Senate meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87800866487>

Dial: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 878 0086 6487