



# ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

May 13, 2026 | 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\*

\* = present

Guests: Katie Eagan, Melissa Korber (via Zoom), Craig Kutil, John Rosen

### 1. Call to Order: 2:32 pm

**2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/approved unanimously

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes (April 22, 2026):** Motion to approve (Justin Garoupa)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/discussion (7.2 – Clarify that Justin Garoupa and Catherine Suarez were asked, not volunteered, to select awardees. 8.1 – remove “of April” in reference to the fifth Wednesday of the month)/approved with one abstention

**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:

#### **5.1 Curriculum Approvals: 3.16.26, 4.6.26, 4.20.26, 5.4.26**

Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously

#### **5.2 Curriculum Committee Shared Governance Worksheet and Committee Charge**

Motion to approve (Justin Garoupa)/seconded (Sue DeFuniak)/discussion (Craig Kutil shared that the librarian position has been removed via a joint decision made by the committee and the library faculty, although they may opt to participate as a division representative.)/approved unanimously

#### **5.3 SLO Committee Shared Governance Worksheet and Committee Charge**

Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/discussion (John Rosen clarified that the worksheet was unchanged but the charge changed since the Curriculum Committee will take over SLO review. Minor changes to language were made for clarity.)/approved unanimously

### 6. Action Items: None

**7. New Business****7.1 Election Results**

Kimberly and Justin shared the election results with the group.

Motion to ratify results (Jeff Judd)/seconded (Kimberly Burks)/approved unanimously

**7.2 Election Bylaw Changes**

No changes were made to the bylaws but this topic may be revisited at a future time.

**7.3 Part Time Faculty Office Spaces**

There have been reports of full-time faculty using part-time office spaces in lieu of their private office.

Occasional use for extenuating circumstances is to be expected but there have been occasions where office hours were held or students were advised to work in part-time spaces.

Catherine shared a story of additional concern where outside students were utilizing her night classroom for studying. Students may need to be notified that they should not be in a classroom outside of relevant class hours or signage may be needed. The group discussed a potential “flex space” on each floor of 2100 that any faculty can use if a larger or more convenient space is needed, like for a study session. Melissa Korber pointed out that many of her journalism students have access to the lab and can utilize the space throughout the day, even when she is not present. There have been instances where Campus Safety & Security questioned student usage during unusual hours despite Melissa and students having permission from their division dean. Catherine shared additional concerns regarding interactions with Campus Safety & Security, particularly when asking for access to a room when keys are forgotten.

**7.4 Textbook Challenges with Bookstore**

Justin Garoupa shared feedback from the last A&H division meeting. Faculty must designate if their class is low- or no-cost textbook when they accept a class assignment but this happens prior to submitting a bookstore order. There does not appear to be a follow up method to ensure adherence. There have also been issues where faculty select a book that is unknowingly out of print or backordered and are not notified until students report that they are unable to purchase the book or must wait several weeks for a reorder. This is a disservice to students and it is tempting to direct them to alternative book purchasing sources. The division reached out to the bookstore representative and the response was that the onus is predominantly on the faculty member since each representative supports dozens of schools. A&H is interested in having a joint conversation with Administrative Services and potentially the bookstore representative to review the contract and discuss potential solutions or alternatives.

**7.5 Resolution for Support of Faculty Accommodations**

Justin hopes for a resolution that encourages faculty to feel empowered to be vocally supportive of fellow faculty members (without sharing private or sensitive details). Perhaps the senate ought to create a resolution regarding faculty and personnel wellness support. Heike shared concern that this could be a slippery slope since reasonable accommodations are a legal issue; this may not fall under 10+1. Justin clarified that the resolution would not be specific to accommodations, rather it would focus on a need for administration’s support of faculty to ensure department functionality. There was discussion regarding differences between accommodations and work modifications, who makes accommodation decisions, and what constitutes a reasonable accommodation. Heike advised that if the senate moves forward with a resolution, it should be carefully worded and neutral. Ashley added that there are details that the greater community may not be privy to; she believes administrative decisions are typically made with the college’s best interest at heart. It was noted that these sentiments could be incorporated into a wellness initiative

and have a focus on awareness of disabilities within an educational environment and providing support systems. Ideas for addressing this need included relevant flex day sessions, support groups, or having a guest speaker address the topic at a future town hall.

**8. Old Business****8.1 AI Rubric**

Catherine shared a proposed rubric created by the committee. The goal was to create something with minimal wording while keeping expectations clear. The wording within the rubric is fully editable. Suggestions were made to increase clarity. Kimberly recommended providing the rubric as a first draft so faculty can incorporate elements in to their syllabus and/or provide feedback for further improvements.

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

10.1 LPC Student Government (TBD): None

10.2 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): Optional slides showing potential negative impacts of AI usage still need to be created.

10.3 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley Young): None

10.4 CTE (Melissa Korber): Quorum was not met in the last meeting so Perkins grants could not be approved; they will ratify later since the money must be spent. The worksheet was updated with recent tasks and sent to College Council. The charge remains unchanged.

Tasks included:

- Coordinating, leading, and supporting efforts to develop the 2026 district-wide comprehensive local needs assessment
- Determining allocation of Perkins faculty subgrants
- Reporting out data related to Perkins core indicators and CTE outcome surveys
- Promoting CTE activities in the campus community

10.5 District Technology (Jeff Judd): The new software acquisition pathway will soon go live. The main change on the faculty side is a new form. IT has provided how-to videos on new SSB9 functions, like opening day rosters and grade rosters. Jeff suggests trying functions out now because the process can be confusing at first. A district AI policy will go to board by fall.

10.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox): The new contract should now be posted on HR's website.

10.7 Global Engagement (Katie Eagan): The first credit-bearing study abroad trip to Spain is set for June 8 – June 29. 19 students will participate. Future trips in development include a Community Education trip to Mexico, a Spanish immersion trip to Guatemala, a spring break trip to Peru for ECE credits, and a Movement API trip to Vietnam. There is interest in continuing this task force next year but members still need to discuss with Dr. Foster. Anyone who is interested in joining the Global Engagement Canvas site should contact Elizabeth Wing Brooks, Catherine Suarez, Lyndale Garner, Dan Cearley, Irena Keller, or Megan Garcia. The task force hopes to secure funding to continue the Forum for Educational Abroad institutional membership, which expires at the end of June. Let Katie know if you would like to be included in membership benefits. They also hope to continue the membership to the California Colleges for

International Education organization, which offers study abroad scholarships. Finally, they would like to join the Institute of International Education, which provides funding for American students to obtain passports and supports international students through the Emergency Student Fund. Some faculty have expressed interest in using professional development monies to attend a program offered by the Institute of Study Abroad Ireland, which will take place in November and will focus on building the infrastructure for campus internationalization at community colleges. Let Katie know if you are interested. A Global Engagement website is coming soon, which will host resources and idea for how to participate in campus internationalization and global education.

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

10.9 Program Review (Karin Spirn): None

10.10 SLO (John Rosen): The committee most recently worked with Karin Spirn to draft questions for the SLO section of program reviews. They plan to revise the website to streamline and increase functionality. All data is now loaded in CurriQunet; Jennie Graham made an instructional video. A few glitches were found but they should be quickly resolved. The SAO section of CurriQunet will be set up so data can be housed there.

10.11 UndocuAlly (David Montelongo): None

10.12 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): None

10.13 President (Ashley Young): Ashley shared a report from Partnership Resource Team regarding district institutional successes and needs in regards to AI, faculty-led innovation, workforce preparation and student engagement, and shared governance alignment. Some of the needs are specific to Chabot College. The report provides potential solutions and resources and includes plans with target dates for achievement, plus estimated costs of resources. The plan also includes an AI train the trainer program. Ashley asked for senators to solicit feedback from divisions as soon as possible since she must sign on behalf of LPC Academic Senate within the coming weeks.

10.14 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:** 4:30 pm

**13. Next Regular Meeting:** Fall 2026

**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

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