



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

September 10, 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
BSSL: Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto
A&H: Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez
STEM: Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo,
PATH: Susan deFuniak
Student Services: Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer

1. Call to Order: 2:31 pm

2. Review and Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/discussion: motion to move agenda item 10.10 to after public comments by Ashley McHale/seconded (Peter Zimmer)/all in favor – approved

3. Review and Approval of Minutes (August 27, 2025) Motion to approve (Ashley McHale)/seconded (Joanna Jen)/discussion (none)/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

10.10 SLO (John Rosen): CurrlQunet assessment tool is now live but will not be fully functional until after district approval. There are a few functions within the tool that still need to be completed, like Student Area Outcomes (SAO). Training sessions will take place during flex day. Jennie Graham has also created a 5-minute how-to video; share video at next division meeting. Question if we will begin using CurrlQunet assessment immediately? Users may get established now although data will not be incorporated until after this semester.

5. Consent Items: None

6. Action Items: None

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business

8.1 2025-2026 Goals & Committee Assignments: Three goals were identified:

1. Identify helpful AI tools and offer training to faculty
2. Support and educate students in ethical AI usage
3. Support faculty in the transition to a compressed calendar

Ad hoc committees will be needed for scholarship reading and for planning a classified appreciation event.

8.2 Program Proposal Procedures: It was determined that the new procedure will be to present to the Curriculum Committee for approval. Once approved, the proposal will come to Academic Senate as a consent item. Question if the proposer(s) would need to present again to senate? It can be on an as-needed basis. Consent items can always be pulled for questions or clarification. Collin requested that we get clarification for who approves procedural changes.

8.3 Fall Fundraiser: The purpose of this fundraiser is to raise money to support student scholarships, with any remaining funds going toward the annual classified appreciation event. Ideally, each full-time faculty member will donate a minimum of \$20. Catherine Suarez will soon send out an email with additional details; please share at division meetings. There will be a competition between the divisions and the winning division may select an applicant with a major within the respective division to be awarded one of the scholarships with a division name specification (e.g., PATH Division Scholarship). Each donor and amount will be tracked. Question regarding the number and value of each scholarship? This is confirmed after receiving donations but 2-3 scholarships, each valued between \$300-\$400, are typically awarded each year.

8.4 A.I. Misuse in Online Classes: Kat King responded to comments made in the August 27th meeting regarding some divisions/disciplines feeling reluctant to continue teaching online classes due to rampant AI misuse. She acknowledged that solutions will vary depending on each discipline's needs but worries about an overresponse to generative AI concerns. Online classes offer equitable solutions to some student groups, like working parents and individuals with disabilities. Alternative course modalities may help keep enrollment high and we could potentially lose students to neighboring colleges if we shift away from online offerings. She wants to ensure we do not revert back to outdated teaching models and that we are preparing students for the workforce by providing content that is relevant to employers. Kat also responded to requests for additional content-checking software; the district pays approximately \$55,000 per year for Turnitin. Spending funds on additional software may prohibit the hiring of additional faculty, and existing faculty may not have the bandwidth to run student work through multiple checkers.

Ashley McHale responded that some instructors have concerns about tools being used for cheating, although she noted that these concerns have existing long before the prominence of AI. Some faculty have responded by teaching hybrid classes where all content is online but tests are administered in-person.

Collin Thormoto agreed with Kat that online offerings can create equitable solutions and that each department, course, and instructor may have different needs. He takes issue with tailoring content based on job market trends and has ethical concerns for both AI and Turnitin, which retains student content. Plagiarized and AI-generated work is generally not difficult to detect but instructors are often overworked and do not necessarily have the bandwidth to review student work in great detail.

Joanna Jen echoed Collin's sentiments and expanded on ethical concerns beyond the classroom, particularly due to the negative effects of AI on developing brains. She worries that students relying on tools to "do the thinking for them" will lead to a lack of critical thinking skills. Individuals need to have the ability to comprehend, research, and form opinions and there may be harmful effects to the future of democracy if voters do not have these skills.

Ashley Young stated that while she does not allow AI usage in her classes, she acknowledges that it can be useful in real-world business practices, like in the analysis of data to develop promotional materials. Perhaps instructors can develop an assignment where students can analyze data and compare it to AI results. Collin responded that AI usage in employment is often due to pressure from upper management or a response to staffing cuts and that there should be a justifiable reason for the utilization of AI besides career pressures.

Ashley McHale suggested assigning students a video or in-person response alongside an assignment, which would better gauge student understanding and discourage the use of AI. Joanna responded that this is a good solution but is difficult with large classes and/or multiple sections.

Kat agreed to bring these conversations back to the Distance Education Committee to brainstorm future professional development opportunities. Ashley M. recommended that these discussions be incorporated into the senate's AI goals for the year and also that a more robust statement (similar to the one published by Chabot College's Faculty Senate) be created in addition to the recently-developed academic honesty statement. The general consensus from attendees is that this needs to be further researched and an ad hoc committee should be established.

9. Wellness Break (5 minutes): 3:34 pm – 3:40 pm

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): Enrollment is slightly up from last year. We will get off hold harmless next academic year if we continue this upward trend. Fraudulent enrollment was discussed and it was revealed that Chabot College receives a much larger number of potentially-fraudulent applications compared to Las Positas College. There is speculation that this may be because "C" appears earlier in a dropdown menu than "L." Ashley detailed the levels of fraudulent checks through CCCApply, LightLeap, and internal measures. There are hopes of refining LightLeap to use data in other queries. The counseling dashboard showed that LPC serves a large number of students via walk in services and also displayed data regarding how many abbreviated and comprehensive SEPs are being created.

VP Ho added details on the fraudulent enrollment checking process and mentioned she hopes for a strong winter intersession to bolster enrollment trends. She plans to provide a winter intersession update at the next senate meeting.

10.4 CTE (Melissa Korber): None

10.5 District Technology (Jeff Judd): None

10.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox): None

10.7 Global Engagement Task Force (Katie Eagan): None

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

10.9 Program Review (Karin Spirn): None

10.10 SLO (John Rosen): moved to earlier in agenda

10.11 UnDocuAlly (David Montelongo): The task force hosted an UnDocuAlly training at College Day, which included a presentation from a local immigrant legal defense team that provides free services to LPC students. There are hopes to offer additional trainings in the future. Rosa Lopez, the new Cultural Community Center Program Coordinator, will support the Undocumented Student Center. Check the Undocumented Student Support Center website for the most current information.

10.12 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): None

10.13 President (Ashley Young): The Cultural Community Center ribbon cutting will be held on Monday. VC Nicholas presented on the budget at last night's board of trustees meeting, which confirmed that we are still over budget. The district has been financially bailing out the colleges but is now down to a reserve of 10.52%; they are not supposed to dip below 10%. We have increased enrollment with only a small amount of additional FTEF. Ashley briefly covered the proposed AP and BP changes as discussed at Chancellor's Council and suggested attendees ask for feedback at their next division meeting.

10.14 Divisions

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

11. Good of the Order/Announcements

Ashley McHale: Reminded group of LPC games that will take place at the November Town Hall meeting. Each constituency group (administrators, classified, faculty, students) will compete. Seven participants are needed for faculty representation.

Felipe Ponce: Announced that the supreme court ruled HSI federal grants as unconstitutional.

12. Adjourned: 4:01 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: September 24, 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

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