



Journalism and Media Studies Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2025 | 4PM | [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.

JAMS Advisory Board Members 2025-2026

Cierra Bailey*	Jeffery Bennett
Brandon Byrne*	Jose Fajardo*
Ian Kapsalis	Kalama Hines
Don Johnston*	Justin Gomes
Angelina An	Lizzy Rager*
Trevin Smith*	Chris Winters
Deanna Horvath*	Melissa Korber*
Lilibeth Mata Juarez*	Amy Mattem
Vicki Shipman	Marcus Thompson

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Agenda

3. Review of Previous [Minutes](#)

4. [Faculty Report](#) (15 minutes)

- Program Update
 - Winter Intercession offered by Marcus, 4-week session. Students have attended more fieldtrips into the field. Continuous partnerships with other programs such as English, Photography, the Honors Program
 - Honors program would like to build a journal of their honor projects.
 - Mentors within the program that support different areas:
 - Jennifer: Design mentor
 - Devin: Multimedia mentor
 - Aliyah: Marketing mentor
 - Success Rates in our program are higher than the college average especially for targeted disproportionately disadvantaged groups
 - New Media Lab: Will be moving in the summer, will double the space and will have a podcast studio, broadcast studio
 - Awards:
 - 11 awards and pacemaker for the Express. Highest award for any of our publications ever
 - 24 awards at SJSU at JACC
 - Camille and Olivia won [individual awards](#)
- Enrollments (Fall 2025)

Course Title	Enrollments
JAMS 1: Intro to Mass Communications	35/44
JAMS 12: Intro to Photojournalism	25/24
JAMS 2: Intro to Media	32/44
JAMS 21A-D & 22: Express College Newspaper	17/20
JAMS 24A-B: Magazine: College Magazine	6/15
JAMS 3: Intro to Public Relations	9/24

Intro to Photojournalism was full and may indicate higher demand, teach more often in next semesters

• Completions (2024-2025)

Degree	Completions
Journalism AAT	5
Journalism Certificate	0

- Program Development/Opportunities
- New space, more collaboration, more video making, more podcasting. Highlighting more in the spring. Film making degree will be opening in the spring which will open more seats for JAMS courses. The room will officially be open in the spring in January

5. Industry Updates (45 minutes)

- Hiring Needs
 - As a nonprofit, Cierra is not in the position to hire, especially when they encounter turnover they cannot rehire immediately
- Skills in Demand
 - Jose: if you want a job now most of the jobs are on Midwest and east coast. Most of the jobs here are freelancing. As freelancing most of the things you purchase comes out of your own pocket. 5-10 years we will see transitions. People looking to retire and it will be interesting to see what the organizations do. Some are currently working through fellowships where someone else pays for it and they get the experience. Jose would like to connect with Cierra for future photojournalism internships.
 - Melissa asked if Saturday was an ideal time and Jose thinks it was great because they go on assignment in pairs and they work together. Competition is within themselves. Saturday allows for time to reflect and sit with feedback
- Emerging Trends/Technologies
 - Cierra also shared that they are currently working on AI how to manage it, how to not misuse it and how to combat problems that AI is bringing. Sophia Siccato a current photo intern from the Las Positas College students. She is learning everything sort of like a Jack of all trades
 - Jose: AI is not smart enough yet to figure out any issues with language. There are major newspapers that are missing things that are important. AI can grab stats so it has been used for sports
 - Deanna: People are interested in the video journalism and different jobs that have multiple skills.
 - Trevin: The east coast is seeing a collapse in the industry because there is a lack of older leadership. Younger folks are running these spaces therefore younger people are lacking the leadership and lack of opportunities in the form of entry-level jobs out of college. Ventures in book writing, podcasting, public speaking, etc. The outlets are working 24/7 in the East Coast. They really need to diversify their skillset
 - Lizzy: has noticed that there is an emphasis on audience engagement, wondering if this is something you can focus on in the JAMS courses. Potentially provide mentorship and work without compensation but with credits which can also help within the industry
 - Jose: will look into his connections for a mentor program. It has to be people that have a drive to do this because they cannot waste the professionals' time.
 - Don agreed because he sees the importance in journalism profession and how it is currently being affected
- Internship Opportunities
 - Don: Spoke to former employer and the public affairs office that Don worked at prior to retirement no longer exists and is now a communications office and would love to hire interns but at the moment the emphasis was on interns for science and engineering

6. Recommendations from Advisory Board

- Questions regarding courses offered: Melissa explained that they will offer the newspaper, intro to mass comm, intro to media, digital storytelling (multimedia class), journal class. Summer is intro to media. Deanna explained that for Photo the classes are limited and they do courses that are required but may not have ideal numbers
- AI: Melissa mentioned that the students are opposed but do have a transcribing service. It can be used as a tool. Don mentioned it could be used for propaganda more than real journalism
- Increase in program enrollment: Melissa explained that they would love more students in the program and it might be potential for growth through the Honors program. The numbers do not really increase

7. Other Business / Good of the Order

- [Kent Porter Photojournalism Speaker Series](#)

8. Next Regular Meeting

9. Adjournment

- Mondays work for the board for future meetings