



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

October 14, 2026 | 2:45 pm – 4:45 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: 7

Non-Voting Members:

President: Ashley McHale

Student Government: TBD

Faculty Association: Heike Gecox

Voting Members:

Vice President: Ashley Young

Secretary: Collin Thormoto

Treasurer: Catherine Suarez

A&H: Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez

BSSL: Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto

PATH: Susan DeFuniak

STEM: David Montelongo

Student Services: Kimberly Burks, Gabriela Discua

Part Time Representatives: Valerie Connors, Jeff Judd

1. **Call to Order:** 2:45 pm

2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Ashley Young)/seconded (Joanna Jen)/approved unanimously

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (September 23, 2026):** Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/approved with one abstention

4. **Public Comments** (3 minutes ea.): *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 Young)/seconded (Kimberly Burks)/approved unanimously

5.1 Curriculum Approvals: 9.21.26 & 10.5.26

5.2 Confidential Executive Assistant, Student Services Hiring Committee: Rafael Valle

5.3 Research Analyst Hiring Committee: Nadiyah Taylor

5.4 Student Disciplinary Hearing Committee Pool:

- STEM: David Powers
- BSSL: Robin Roy
- PATH: Sue DeFuniak
- A&H: Catherine Suarez
- SS: Kimberly Burks

6. **First Reading**

6.1 Establishment of Standardized Low Textbook Cost (LTC) Threshold (Angel Contreras Cardenas)

Angel presented a proposal to revise LPC's LTC designation from \$50 to \$30 to align with the State Chancellor's Office reporting threshold, which would become locally effective Summer 2027. The change would promote consistency across colleges and provide clearer cost expectations for students.

Key discussion points:

- Concerns that lowering the threshold could exclude courses whose faculty have made efforts to keep textbook costs below \$50, particularly in disciplines requiring frequent updates to material, like political science
- Time, resources, and workload associated with developing and maintaining Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Existing OER resources, like LibreTexts, and opportunities to order affordable, on-demand printed copies
- Importance of making textbook costs readily available and visible to students during registration

The group discussed the possibility of maintaining a separate local designation for textbooks costs between \$31 and \$50 and of having a more prominent method to display course costs. Regardless of LPC's local threshold decision, only courses with textbook costs of \$30 or less will qualify for LTC state reporting. This item will return at the next senate meeting for a vote.

- 7. Second Reading/Voting:** Motion to approve (Ashley Young/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/discussion (Chabot's Faculty Senate is reviewing a similar resolution))/approved unanimously

7.1 Proposed Resolution in Support of Proctored Testing Locations**8. Discussion Items****8.1 Working Draft: BP 3775 Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence**

Ashley McHale reported that faculty feedback on the draft policy has been forwarded to Chancellor Gerhard. The policy remains under review at Chancellor's Council with revisions anticipated for the next meeting. Additional feedback may be submitted to Ashley.

8.2 ASCCC Resolutions for Consideration

Ashley provided an update from the Area B meeting and reviewed resolutions under consideration for the Fall Plenary Session, where Michael Peterson will attend as LPC's representative.

Two resolutions previously approved by senate will advance: Clarifying Math Expectations of Transfer Students and Revisiting Default Placement Rules for Math.

9. Reports**9.1 CTE (Melissa Korber)**

At the most recent CTE meeting, members reviewed the comprehensive local needs assessment presented by Pathways 2 Careers.

Key Findings:

- Stakeholders share a positive impression of Chabot and LPC.
- The registration process is a challenge for high school students.
- Additional barriers for high school students include limited course availability and lack of after-school hour offerings.
- Students and community members lack awareness of relevant career opportunities.
- External factors are often the reasons why a student doesn't complete a degree or certificate.

- Institutional data could be more effectively used and made available to students.

The committee also discussed reductions in Strong Workforce and other regional funds. They will review their charge and membership at the next meeting.

9.2 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez)

The fall fundraising campaign is underway with a suggested donation of \$30 per full-time faculty member. Senators were encouraged to promote this campaign within their divisions. Clarification was provided that division fundraising goals are based on the number of active full-time faculty members, excluding those who are on sabbatical or other leave. The group discussed the need for clarity with scholarship names and eligibility criteria to prevent misunderstandings during this next award cycle. Catherine advised that the existing Foundation account may need to be renamed to accommodate expenditures outside of student scholarships, like awards and recognitions.

9.3 President (Ashley McHale)

Ashley reminded the group that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day is an instructional day but remains a holiday for classified professionals. Collin added that some library and counseling faculty may also have this day as a holiday.

Senators were encouraged to review the upcoming APs and BPs under consideration, which are accessible through the Chancellor's Council agenda. Updates include revised terminology for academic standing and student enrollment status.

The district is moving forward with reclassifying the Director of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness positions at each college to vice president positions. The rationale behind this decision is to strengthen districtwide planning by improving data collection, consistency, and reporting across the colleges. The estimated additional annual cost is approximately \$30,000 per position, compared to an estimated annual cost of \$250,000 for creating a new district-level position. Questions were raised regarding other potential organizational changes and additional costs associated with hiring administrative support. Ashley encouraged the group to review the presentation from Chancellor's Council and relay feedback. Clarification was provided that the research analyst position in this agenda's consent items is to replace a vacant position and is unrelated to the reclassification.

10. Good of the Order/Announcements

There were concerns regarding the content of the administrator team's lip-sync at LPC Games, particularly in the portrayal of women in the background video material. Additional concerns were raised regarding costs associated with the event, although it was acknowledged that it had community-building benefits. Ashley advised those with concerns to relay comments to Dr. Foster.

11. Adjourned: 3:57 pm

12. Next Regular Meeting: October 28, 2026