ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

October 28, 2026| 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm | Room 21147 + Zoom for visitors

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

Agenda Item

1. **Call to Order:** 2:47 pm

2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Ashley Young)/seconded (Jeff Judd)/Discussion (agenda item 8.3 CPL moved to after agenda item 4 Public Comments)/approved unanimously

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (October 14, 2026):** Motion to approve (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously

4. **Public Comments** (3 minutes ea., maximum of 18 minutes total): *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.*

   Eleni Economides Gastis, Laney College faculty member, Faculty Senate President, and former President of Journalism Association of Community Colleges: Spoke to an ASCCC resolution affirming First Amendment protections and the educational importance of student journalism. She encouraged the senate to consider a resolution supporting students' constitutional rights.

   Melissa Korber, LPC faculty member and advisor to The Express: Expressed concerns that the Las Positas College Student Government (LPCSG) bylaws undermine transparency, accountability, and the development of student leadership skills. She requested senate action supporting freedom of speech and the press.

   Maggie Vander Ende, LPC student and editor-in-chief of The Express: Raised concerns that requiring the LPCSG President or advisor to be present during interviews could interfere with student journalists' ability to report independently and provide accurate information to the campus community. Senators were asked to consider drafting a resolution in support of free speech.

   Kian, LPC student and news editor of The Express: Questioned rules that could subject a student government officer to disciplinary consequences, including impeachment, for speaking with the press. The distinction between organizing an official statement versus restricting individual officer voices was noted. Senators were asked to review the LPCSG bylaws, seek advice from appropriate parties, and consider a resolution.

8.3 Credit for Prior Learning Standards and Process (Craig Kutil)
Craig presented proposed updates to the Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) policies and procedures, which include AP and BP revisions to align with Title 5 changes and guidance from the State Chancellor's Office.

Key Discussion Points:

- Military Service and Training: Appropriate discipline faculty will evaluate competencies for course equivalency. Some evaluations may be challenging due to limited access to classified military training information. Credit will be awarded as "pass" rather than a letter grade.
- Industry-Recognized Training: Updated procedures to clarify how qualifications may be evaluated for course credit, which will also be awarded only as "pass."
- Credit by Exam: Discipline faculty may create exams to assess course equivalency. Discussion emphasized the importance of clear, unbiased scoring criteria.
- Credit for Noncredit Coursework: Proposed language provides guidance for awarding credit based on completed noncredit coursework.

The updated CPL request process will use InformedK12 to improve tracking and provide transparency. Student eligibility will be checked and requests will require dean approval before proceeding to the evaluation team. Students may initiate a challenge process if they disagree with the final determination. Clarification that students are not required to complete a minimum number of LPC or Chabot units before requesting CPL.

5. **Consent Items:** Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Kimberly Burks)/approved unanimously
   5.1 Curriculum Approvals: 10.19.26

   5.2 LPC Educational Master Plan Task Force: Stuart McElderry, Karin Spirn, Nadiyah Taylor

   5.3 Dean of Economic and Workforce Development Hiring Committee: Rajeev Chopra, Cheryl Mackey, Dana Nakase

   5.4 Horticulture Lab Technician Hiring Committee: Chris Dudzik, Brianna Lopez

6. **First Reading:** None

7. **Second Reading/Voting:** Motion to approve (Ashley Young)/seconded (Collin Thomoto)/Motion passed with nine (9) ayes, one (1) nay, and one (1) abstention

   7.1 Establishment of Standardized Low Textbook Cost (LTC) Threshold

8. **Discussion Items**
   8.1 Canvas Integrations Process: Online Texts/Materials (Kat King)
   Kat provided an update on the ongoing development of a districtwide process for reviewing and approving third-party software/tool integrations within Canvas. Canvas Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) standards have transitioned from LTI 1.1 to LTI 1.3, which requires additional consideration of privacy, security, accessibility, and compatibility.

   Key Discussion Points:

   - The need for a consistent districtwide process for requesting and vetting integrations.

- Increased AI integration within tools and software may require additional privacy and security considerations.
- The importance of involving IT when adopting any digital tools in order to ensure student privacy
- Distinction between standalone digital textbooks and software that integrates directly with Canvas
- Accessibility for OERs, like LibreTexts and other providers.

The district is working toward implementing a process, ideally before winter intersession, although the exact timeline is uncertain. Faculty were encouraged to provide available vendor documentation when requesting a potential integration. Attendees was also cautioned against bypassing the vetting process by directing students to an external source since it can compromise student data and privacy.

8.2 Student First Amendment Rights
Senators discussed concerns regarding the updated LPCSG bylaws that restrict officers' communication with student media. Members reviewed the relevant bylaw language and discussed potential implications for freedom of speech, student journalism, shared governance, and institutional transparency and image.

Key Discussion Points:

- Concerns that required approval or supervision before an officer speaks with the press may conflict with First Amendment protections.
- The distinction between regulating official statements made on behalf of LPCSG and restricting an individual officer's speech.
- The educational importance of allowing student leaders to develop communication and governance skills.
- Unknown information behind the circumstances and rationale that led to the bylaw change.
- The absence of a student government representative for academic senate meetings for the last two years, though it was noted that the timing of LPCSG meetings may conflict with academic senate meetings.

The group discussed potential senate responses, including a formal resolution recommending the specific bylaw be rescinded, a statement supporting student First Amendment rights, or faculty participation during LPCSG public comments. Ashley McHale will review the ASCCC resolution referenced by Eleni Economides Gastis during public comments. This item may return at a future meeting for possible action.

8.4 Foundation Account
The group discussed options for managing future expenses, which include renaming the existing Foundation account, establishing a new Foundation account, or using the BMO account for expenditures outside of student scholarships. There was consensus to pursue renaming the existing Foundation account from Academic Senate Scholarships to Academic Senate Scholarships and Awards.

8.5 Task Force Report Outs

- Supporting ethical and appropriate use of AI in our classrooms
  SMART goals include finalizing and approving the evaluation rubric, presenting the rubric at town hall with a Q&A session, sharing the rubric for Summer 2027 implementation, and distributing a follow up survey in August 2027 for feedback.

- Ensuring accreditation standards
  The Accreditation Task Force is developing goals to increase faculty awareness and implementation of RSI requirements by the end of Spring 2027. Proposed activities include distributing the RSI rubric and offering support through flex day sessions or at division meetings.

- Researching feasibility of First-Year Experience cohorts
  The task force reviewed Fall 2025 student pathway data and discussed focusing its research on student persistence. They will identify specific questions to determine which student populations/pathways may benefit most from an FYE cohort model.

- SEP classroom connections
  The task force is exploring ways to strengthen faculty involvement in students receiving SEPs. Proposed goals include communicating at least two benefits of SEPs to faculty and implementing at least three strategies for encouraging students to connect with Counseling Services. They are considering a flex day session to help faculty identify simple approaches to promoting these efforts. Additional discussion included counselor availability, office scheduling practices, and the importance of encouraging students to make an appointment prior to peak times.

- Supporting DEIAB practices
  The task force discussed additional training opportunities focused on understanding disaggregated student data. They also emphasized the importance of ensuring adjunct faculty understand institutional expectations and feel a sense of belonging.

Ashley McHale reminded all task forces that the deadline for submitting flex day proposals is November 12, 2026. The next flex day will be January 29, 2027.

9. Reports (10 minutes ea.)

9.1 Distance Education (Kat King)
The committee is reviewing practices and procedures in preparation for accreditation with a specific focus on RSI requirements. They are also reviewing Title 5 updates and DE modality definitions, examining procedures to ensure faculty who teach online complete required training, updating the DE course review checklist to align with minimum standards and contract requirements, and exploring additional opportunities to provide faculty training and support. Faculty are encouraged to contact Kat with suggestions for training opportunities. Kat also reminded the group of the transition from Proctorio to Respondus.

9.2 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez)
Catherine reminded the group of the fundraising flyer. She now has a receipt book to formalize cash donations. Catherine and Ashley M. will discuss appropriate handling of donations and deposit procedures.

9.3 President (Ashley McHale)
The college is preparing its Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER). Ashley will attend the upcoming ISER training.

Subcommittee Brown Act requirements will be discussed at the next meeting.

Task force updates will remain on upcoming agendas but formal report outs will not be required at each meeting.

Reminder that the next senate meeting will be Wednesday, November 25th since November 11th is a holiday.

10. Good of the Order/Announcements

Counselor and librarians are not scheduled to work November 25th. This may lead to potential impacts on meeting quorum.

11. Adjourned: 4:40 pm

12. Next Regular Meeting: November 25, 2026

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