ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

September 23, 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 (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Ashley Young)/approved unanimously

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (September 9, 2026):** Motion to approve (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously

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 (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/approved unanimously

   5.1 Hiring Committee, District Payroll Manager: Jin Tsubota

   5.2 Hiring Committee, Program Manager for the OSHA Training Institute Education Center: Steve McConnell

   5.3 Faculty Member, Accreditation Steering Committee: Stuart McElderry

6. **First Reading**
   6.1 Proposed Resolution in Support of Proctored Testing Locations
   Ashley McHale presented the proposed resolution developed by Collin supporting dedicated funding and plans for a testing center. The resolution responds in part to requirements that asynchronous math courses must include in-person proctored tests/assessments for transferability to CSUs; additional subjects with this requirement may come in the future. Members discussed the potential benefits of a testing center, including scheduling flexibility for students and support for students taking courses remotely. LPC has a proctoring space within the Math Emporium that could potentially be used but staffing and funding remain as barriers. There was also discussion about statewide interest in creating a network of testing centers for any California Community College student to use, regardless of home campus.

   This resolution will return for a second reading and vote at the next meeting. Ashley will also share the resolution with Chabot College

Faculty Senate.

7. **Second Reading/Voting**

7.1 Proposed Resolution: Revisiting default placement rules for math ASCCC Resolution
Michael Peterson revised this resolution following discussions with colleagues. Changes included removing one resolved statement and revising supporting language to clarify that the resolution calls for regular review of default placement rules rather than advocating for standardized placement testing.

Motion to approve the resolution as amended (Ashley Young)/seconded (Joanna Jen)/amended resolution passed with unanimous approval.

7.2 Proposed Resolution: Clarifying math expectations of transfer students ASCCC Resolution
This resolution was slightly revised with the addition of a footnote to the fourth "whereas" statement. Members discussed the need for clearer statewide guidance regarding math competencies expected of transfer students and the potential difference in requirements for students entering a UC/CSU directly from high school compared to those transferring to a UC/CSU from a community college.

Motion to approve (Ashley Young)/seconded (Kimberly Burks)/resolution passed with unanimous approval.

Both resolutions will go to the Area B Statewide Academic Senate for consideration. If advanced, they will go to the ASCCC Fall Plenary.

8. **Discussion Items**

8.1 Working Draft: BP 3775 Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence
Ashley presented the working draft to gather feedback for Chancellor Gerhard. Discussion and concerns included:

- The length and level of detail exceeding what may be needed for a board policy
- The need for clearer language regarding when and how AI may be used, particularly the statement that AI "should augment, not replace…" Suggestion to replace with "If AI is used, AI shall augment, not replace…"
- Environmental impacts associated with AI
- Protection of student data, privacy, copyright, and intellectual property
- The need for appropriate and high-quality AI training
- Accountability for the accuracy and potential bias of AI-created or -assisted work

A revised draft is expected to return at the next Chancellor's Council meeting. Does a statewide AI policy exist? Not at this time. Our board policies are typically created by taking wording from the Community College League of California and editing to fit local preferences but the League has not yet published anything official.

8.2 Bookstore Concerns
Reported concerns include inaccurate or missing textbook listings, difficulty correcting information, challenges reaching a representative for assistance, out-of-print materials being selectable and remaining listed, and other issues affecting students' ability to obtain required materials in a timely manner. Vice

President Brooks and a bookstore representative have been invited to a future senate meeting to address these topics.

8.3 Workgroups for Senate Goals
Ashley asked workgroups to develop specific, measurable outcomes that can demonstrate progress by the end of the academic year. Each workgroup will present their plans/goals at the October 28th senate meeting.

- Supporting ethical and appropriate use of AI in our classrooms
  Workgroup: Joanna Jen, David Montelongo, Collin Thormoto

- Ensuring accreditation standards
  Workgroup: Sue DeFuniak with consultation from the Accreditation Steering Committee

- Researching feasibility of First-Year Experience cohorts
  Workgroup: Justin Garoupa, Ashley Young

- Encouraging Counseling and Academic Pathway collaboration (to be renamed SEP Classroom Connection)
  Workgroup: Kimberly Burks, Gabriela Discua

- Supporting DEIAB practices
  Workgroup: Valerie Connors, Felipe Ponce

9. Reports

9.1 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez)
Catherine reported that the general Academic Senate can no longer be used for certain expenses, like purchasing awards. The senate will need to consider renaming and/or restructuring the Foundation account or using the BMO account for these expenses. The Foundation account currently contains about $2,000 and the BMO account has very few funds. Additional discussion will be needed regarding fundraising and how senate expenses will be funded.

9.2 President (Ashley McHale)
Ashley spoke to the following items:
- Faculty concerns continue regarding SSB9, late-add/drop processes, training, and FAQs. Faculty were encouraged to copy Ashley on concerns so she can assist with follow-up.
- Facility issues, including non-functioning clocks and classroom temperature issues, may be submitted through the Facilities Work Order Requests link in the Quick Links dropdown.
- The approved AB 1705 resolutions will move forward to Area B. Michael Peterson will serve as LPC's voting delegate at the ASCCC Fall Plenary.
- A fundraising flyer is being developed to communicate ways faculty can provide financial support.
- Kat King and Steve Gunderson will attend the October 14th senate meeting to discuss the new district process for integrating software applications into Canvas.

10. Good of the Order/Announcements

- Upcoming faculty participation will be needed in hiring committees.
    - Joanna Jen requested to participate in the upcoming BSSL Dean hiring committee.
- The Board of Trustees approved the district budget.
- The senate welcomed an attendee back from their brief leave of absence.

11. Adjourned: 3:56 pm

12. Next Regular Meeting: October 14, 2026