



Business Studies Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2025 | 3:30pm | Room 1687/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.

Business Studies Advisory Board Members 2024-2025

* = *in attendance*

Jerry Bailey*
Payton Batshon*
Erick Bell*
Rajeev Chopra*
David Coleman
Theresa De La Vega
Tracy Farhad*
Christopher Goldhawk
Arin Haley
David Hopman*
April Ingram*
Anne Kennedy*
Mary Lauffer*
Michaela McInerney
Drew Patterson*
Rachel Peters
Vicki Shipman
Michelle Simotas*

Guests:
Beth McCormick *

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Agenda

Agenda approved.

3. Review of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2024. Mary Lauffer 1st, Andrew Patterson 2nd. Minutes approved.

4. Faculty Report

Rajeev presented a faculty report highlighting enrollment trends, which continue to increase from pandemic levels.

- The Business Program productivity is the highest, becoming more efficient, with a projected student-to-faculty ratio (weekly contact hours) exceeding 600, surpassing the college's goal of 480.
- Rajeev also mentioned a trend of growth in Asian Indian students and an increase in face-to-face and hybrid course offerings.
- New this year is the addition of the winter intersession, which will start on December 20th and extend into early January.
- Expanding non-credit programs and certificates, with a meeting planned for the following week.
- Jerry Bailey expressed excitement about offering a Business 40 section for the Umoja cohort in Spring 2026, explaining that Umoja is an African American-based learning community.
- Visit to Moss Adams with 40 students. Two students have been selected for their internship program.
- Mary reported on the growth of work experience classes and the Business Club, FBLA, highlighting that they have 81 paid members this semester, a record number. She discussed an upcoming trip to San Diego with 30 business club students to compete in business-related competitions, noting that students are paying their own way due to funding constraints.
- Jerry mentioned a new partnership between the Intro to Business class and the VWT department, where students will act as consultants to develop a business plan for the newly built Winery Technology program facility.
- Anne shared about the successful Career Panel held last spring, where members of the Advisory sat on a panel to talk about the skills employers are looking for in an interview and what skills are needed to be successful in the workplace.

- Anne shared updates on the college's marketing campaign, "Limitless Potential," highlighting successful student transfers to prestigious universities such as Stanford, Yale, Columbia, UCLA, and UC Berkeley, and increased press coverage. She announced an upcoming LPC Open House on November 15th, where the business program will have a table to showcase its offerings.

Tracy Farhad asked if DEIA is still a planning priority at the College. Eric explained his role as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, highlighting the inclusion of DEI in faculty evaluations and the college's ranking. Erick confirms that DEIA remains a priority at LPC.

5. Industry Updates

- Payton Batshon, now with Baker Tilly since the official Merger in June. It is a pretty slow rollout. But they still have internship opportunities. They have already filled spots on the assurance side, but there are still tax internships and a few other new areas. Hiring is slowing down a bit. They were very happy with the interns from last summer. There was a very high quality and an increase in professionalism from prior years.
As far as AI competencies, she thinks they are slowly at work moving towards these types of models, so any kind of background that students have would make them more adaptable.
- April Ingram, UNCLE will be back with the annual summer intern program after having a pause last year. Hiring needs have slowed in many industries. People are staying longer; they're not moving and jumping jobs. So, that means we are not hiring as much right now.
April encourages students to learn as much as they can about different AI tools that are out there, because organizations are now looking for those skill sets and those who can navigate and bring recommendations on new and different AI tools that could streamline and provide efficiencies.
April discussed how AI is used in the financial sector to create efficiencies in lending, with AI tools assisting underwriters but not replacing them entirely.
- Dave shared that Sandia has been experiencing a hiring pause for two years. And due to government shutdowns and uncertain federal funding, things are more complicated. A lot of focus lately has been on reducing overhead costs and doing more with less. Applying technologies that can help with that. We do have some internal AI tools, and we are developing prompt libraries to train the workforce on how to use the AI tools. Robotic process automation is getting some attention. Upcoming internships – he can see signs that things could be opening up.
- Both April and Dave agreed that AI is not replacing jobs en masse but is being used to enhance existing workflows and support workforce re-evaluation.
- Tracy shared that the travel industry is suffering from the government shutdown, consumer uncertainty, and fear for the economy. International and corporate travel are way down. Canadian travel is down 40%. The wine industry is way down. Hiring in hospitality is very slow – slow to hire, slow to fire. Making do with what they have.
- Skills in demand – customer service, soft skills, and self-starters.
We're still working very proactively on building a new multi-use event center for the entire region. It's about 150,000 square feet, and we hope that will bring some jobs in the future, and provide you with some indoor options for meetings and events, as well as sports and live entertainment.
- Beth McCormick shared that she is working heavily with the healthcare industry. Stanford, Sutter Health, and Kaiser are all growing, and they all have business units.. The new CEO at Stanford says that they want AI training for all of their staff. Beth sees an opportunity and potential role of the college in helping to upskill with AI training for healthcare staff.

6. Other Business/ Good of the Order

7. Meeting Adjourned

