



# Drone Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

4/20/2025 | 4:00 PM | L1600, 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

- ❖ Implement the integration of all ACCJC standards throughout campus structure and processes.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Coordinate resources and provide professional development for effective online instruction and remote delivery of student support services and college processes to advance equitable student outcomes.

### Drone Technology Advisory Board Members

Inez Ayerra\*  
Jon Czarnik  
Paiva Elias\*  
Daniel Ellis\*  
Ron Essex  
Matthew Hardgrove  
Bobby Hulter  
Michael Long  
Ben Tarquin  
Keith Tse  
Drew Valderrama  
Gabrielle Wright\*

**LPC**  
Daniel Cearley\*  
Mike McQuiston\*  
Janel Pleskac  
Jim Berry\*  
Mark Yamamoto\*  
Michael Sugi\*  
Vicki Shipman  
Anne Kennedy

#### 1. Call to Order

#### 2. Welcome and Introductions

Aaron Boen Livermore PD, attending in place of Keith Tse.

#### 3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda Mike M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Berry.

Motion approved.

#### 4. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from April 9, 2024 Mike M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Berry

#### 5. Faculty Report

##### • Program Update-

Dan reviewed the Program Objectives & Classes

1) Skills & Safety Training

2) Photography/Video

3) Aerial Mapping

4) FAA Part 107 Certification Preparation

Classes:

NAVI 201 Orientation to Drones and (UAS)

NAVI 202A Photography and Videography

NAVI 202B Survey and Mapping

NAVI 203 FAA Pilot Certificate Exam Preparation

(initially online, and many people failed. Now taught hybrid and class was much more successful.

- Enrollments- have been increasing, first semester saw 45 students- up to 100 this past semester
- Demographics- majority male 70%, mid-career 30-40 yrs old and 50 + retired age groups
- Completions- improving success rates/completions

##### • Program Development/Opportunities

- Internship Program- hire 2-5 interns (4 hours per week)  
Ongoing projects with Viticulture and the Campus Tree Survey

New projects- Solar Array Inspections, Infrastructure inspections, LIDAR

Community Projects - 3 Steves Winery - Ag Analysis, Monthly Flyovers, work w/ Staff

- Summer Camp- NAVI 210 Drone Summer Camp, Coding & Piloting: How to use computer programming to create automated flights.

- Additional Classes under development

NAVI 29 Independent Studies

- Credit curriculum? 8 or 16 week semester courses (credit 1-3 units). 20 students are needed to run a class.
  - Remote Sensing/GIS
  - Videography/Photography
- New Equipment/ Teaching Resources
  - 2 – Mavic 4 Mini (Photography)
  - 2- Mavic 3 Pro Enterprise (thermal/multispectral)
  - Mavic 3 Pro Cine
- New Software
  - Drone Deploy- using now.
  - May invest in DJI Terra, Pix4D

## 6. Industry Updates

- Aaron shared the uses for the law enforcement industry: thermal work, video, searching, aggressive flying, multiple drones, teamwork, 3D mapping. Crime scene mapping  
The future for law enforcement is DFR Drone First Responder- real-time video with real-time info on what is going on. Every patrol car, personal body drones in future. Counter Drone- issues with drones being weaponized or interfering.  
Avada goggle use. 3D mapping of crime scenes, collision scenes., surveillance. Most public safety using DGI Terra and 4Pix4D  
Learning how to fly in low light, night flying.
- Part 108? Automated Drone Delivery is the future. Trying to focus on how to maintain airspace for public safety.
- Daniel shared that Caltrans has been contacted by NASA to determine airspace mapping priorities. NASA UTM Project. Trying to establish a priority system.
- Dan shared his work with Caltrans -Construction, surveying, bridge inspections. Advancing to fixed wing. Skydio dock operations.
- Skills in Demand – Photogrammetry.  
Daniel thinks that Mapping could be a longer class. Not enough time to learn GIS and everything.
- Elias recommends that we integrate more time in NAVI201,202 classes to process post-flight logs and reports.
- Development of drones, engineering
- Gabby agrees that the development of drones would be good to teach. Also recommends a thermal analysis certification
- Inez shared that Roebbelen Contracting uses drones to see how a project is progressing and to communicate with the public. Show videos of how project is coming along. Not a lot of people have the license and could do the job. Only one on staff who covers the bay area.
- Mike McQuiston thinks that we should not rush to create credit courses. It is going well now, keep building the program.
- Mark suggests that we connect our completers who receive 107 license with job opportunities?
- Jim suggests a career fair to give students a sense of what the opportunities are and what students can do with a Drone certification.

- Not many job postings specifically for Drone Pilot. But many industries use drones and this can be marketed as a skillset that will help students in many potential jobs.

**7. Recommendations from Advisory Board**

**8. Other Business**

**9. Next Regular Meeting – Spring 2026**