



Drone Technology Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

5/13/2026 | 4:30 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

* In attendance

Inez Ayerra
Jon Czarnik
Daniel Ellis*
Matthew Hardgrove
Bryson Hancock*
Bobby Hulter
Michael Long
Ben Tarquin
Keith Tse*
Drew Valderrama*
Gabrielle Wright*

LPC

Daniel Cearley*
Mike McQuiston*
Janel Pleskac
Jim Berry
Gurmaan Singhatwal*
Leslie Quintanilla*
Mark Yamamoto*
Michael Sugi*

1. Call to Order

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda Anne K., 2nd Mike M. .
Motion approved.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2025 Motion Approved.

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 about 8 certificates

• Program Development/Opportunities

- Internship Program- 3 student interns
 - Leslie and Gurmaan shared about the projects that they are working on and their plans for their future using drones.
- Ongoing projects with our own Viticulture Department and 3 Steves Winery –
- New Projects- solar array inspections, infrastructure inspections, Almond Orchard Ag Survey, LIDAR
- Apprenticeship Course
 - NorCal Laborers Union – Drone Awareness in the Construction Industry.
- Classes under development
 - NAVI 29 Independent Studies

- Donated Hospitality Trailer/ Robot Garden- Proposed as a temporary home for the Drone Tech program.
- **Equipment**
 - Equipment is aging out- DJI no longer support Mavic W Pros/ Matrice 210, batteries failing,
 - Purchase Spring 2026- 2 Mavic 3 Pro Enterprise and 3 Mavic 3 {rp Come

6. Industry Updates

- Law enforcement is using drones in first responder programs. Relay information over to officers. Faster response times. Also using for Real time Crime Centers
- For RTCC everyone has to be Part 107 certified.
- Forensic reconstruction. Use Leica coupled with own UAS and internal mapping course to have that reconstruction.
- Livermore PD is interviewing a DFR program. Falk is the company,
- Caltrans uses for mapping. UAS is essential. Save money by sending out drones instead of workers , boost efficiency
- LLNL finds that they need familiarity with US-manufactured drones is very important. Different vehicle types and the user interfaces that come with them from different manufacturers.

7. Recommendations from Advisory Board

- Motion to **continue to invest in new updated equipment to keep up with changing technology** Keith 1st, Drew 2nd. Mike McQuiston abstained. Motion approved.
- Motion to **investigate and identify a single domestic drone manufacturer and/or ecosystem.** Gabi 1st, Daniel 2nd Motion approved.
- Motion to **accept the donation of the mobile trailer to be used for the drone program.** Keith 1st, Drew 2nd. Motion approved.

8. Other Business

9. Next Regular Meeting – Spring 2027