



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

March 11, 2026 | 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm | Room 21147 + Zoom for visitors

Agenda Item – Zoom information at end of agenda

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: 8

Non-Voting Members:

President: Ashley Young
Student Government: TBD
Faculty Association: Heike Gecox

Voting Members:

Vice President: Ashley McHale
Secretary: Collin Thormoto
Treasurer: Catherine Suarez
A&H: Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez
BSSL: Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto
PATH: Susan deFuniak
STEM: Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo,
Student Services: Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles
Part Time Representatives: Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer

- 1. Call to Order:** 2:33 pm
- 2. Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Peter Zimmer)/approved unanimously
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes (February 25, 2026):** Motion to approve (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Peter Zimmer)/approved unanimously
- 4. Public Comments (3 minutes):** *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.*

Nan Ho: Wanda Butterly created an accessibility checklist to assist faculty in meeting federal and state mandates. Resources are hyperlinked within the document. A particularly important section is alt text requirements for images and graphics. Social media content posted April 26, 2026 or after must be compliant.
- 5. Consent Items:** Motion to approve (Peter Zimmer)/seconded (Anita Bhatia)/approved unanimously
 - 5.1 Athletic Trainer Hiring Committee: James Giacomazzi
 - 5.2 Athletic Facilities & Equipment Assistant Hiring Committee: James Giacomazzi
 - 5.3 Administration of Justice Instructor Hiring Committee: George Freelen, Mike Frith, James Weston
 - 5.4 Curriculum Approvals: 3.2.26
- 6. Action Items**
 - 6.1 Resolution in Support of an Ethical Investment Policy
Student Government is reviewing the resolution and may make edits. Since resolutions carry more weight when all three constituents sign, it may be best to table this item until all constituents are ready to sign.

Motion to table (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Joanna Jen)/approved unanimously

7. New Business**7.1 Academic Senate Executive Elections**

Open positions will include vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two part time representatives. A call for nominations should be sent out soon since the nomination period should remain open for 1-2 weeks. Additionally, district ITS will need to be contacted to set up a voting mechanism. A volunteer who is not running will need to facilitate the process. Kimberly Burks volunteered and Ashley Young will assist. Clarification that Ashley McHale will not need to run for president since she was elected as president-elect prior to last year's constitution change.

7.2 Review Charge for College Council

Motion to table item until after wellness break (Collin Thormoto)/seconded (Peter Zimmer)

7.3 Scholarship Readers

Felipe Ponce, David Montelongo, and Peter Zimmer volunteered.

8. Old Business**8.1 Classified Appreciation Day**

Ashley suggested supplementing the food order with some potluck items. If Hawaiian food is chosen, a few faculty members can volunteer to make green salads or possibly a main meat item to cut down on the catering costs. Volunteers will be needed to bring and/or pick up food. Some faculty have expressed concern for the date and time (4th Wednesday in April, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm) since they teach or host office hours.

9. Wellness Break (5 minutes)**7.2 Review Charge for College Council**

Charge worksheet is not needed since academic senates are determined by educational code.

10. Reports (5 minutes each)**10.1 LPC Student Government (TBD): None**

10.2 A.I. Honesty (Catherine Suarez): The committee developed a rubric that allows an instructor to indicate one of four available levels to communicate allowable AI usage by assignment (see AI Integration Levels Rubric on Academic Senate website).

The workgroup is also developing a shared slide deck for faculty to show students on the first day of class; slide deck will highlight ethical and cognitive impacts of AI so students are aware of potential negative consequences.

10.3 CEMC/DEMC (Ashley Young): LPC received an additional ~2.5 FTEF for 2026-; Chancellor Gerhard has since issued another 8 FTEF district-wide (LPC will receive 3.71). The additions are to offset the 5% raised target, which is now 7,350 FTES for LPC. Question if the recent additions were made before or after the completion of discipline plans? They were made after. Will the discipline plans receive faculty input before being updated? Discipline plans likely will be adjusted exclusively by division deans. Concern was expressed for deans potentially not equally dispersing FTEF throughout all subjects within their division. Ashley pointed out that the goal is to increase by 5% despite not having a 5% increase in FTEF so deans will likely focus on ensuring courses with high fill rates and long wait lists are prioritized. Vice

President Ho further clarified that the final page of discipline plans includes desired add requests. These add requests are compiled and decisions are made after enrollment patterns are considered.

10.4 CTE (Melissa Korber): Preliminary data from Pathways 2 Careers' survey was shared, although comprehensive results will not be ready until near the end of the semester. Reminder that Perkins grants are due by the end of the month, which the committee will then rank.

10.5 District Technology (Jeff Judd): None

10.6 Faculty Association (Heike Gecox): The new contract will go to board on Tuesday. An email regarding FA elections will go out next week.

Heike noted that Contra Costa and Peralta Community College Districts are experiencing financial crises and noted how fortunate we are that we are not experiencing layoffs within our district. Question regarding what we are doing correctly that other districts are not? We are focusing on enrollment growth and metrics to raise SCFF funding. There was a focus on Student Services to increase SEPs and students receiving Pell and Promise Grants. These efforts coupled with an increase in enrollment led to us getting off hold harmless. Heike added that she believes part of the success is due to continuing to offer in-person courses to increase student engagement and a sense of community. She also noted the efforts of our outreach team. Question if there has been any discussion regarding layoffs within our district? Heike has not heard any conversations regarding layoffs. Question if the district intentionally put funds aside to get through the last few tough years? Yes; they were fiscally conservative in some areas but the decisions appear to have been made correctly. The classes with the longest waitlists are typically online offerings so wouldn't adding more high-value, online sections be counterintuitive to the thought that we are successful due to prioritizing in-person sections? From an enrollment perspective, online classes have the highest attrition rate. Colleges that have a stronger focus on online offerings do not necessarily have higher student retention.

10.7 Global Engagement (Katie Eagan): No report but question if five additional students were successfully recruited for the Spain trip in order to lower costs for all? The group was unsure of the results.

10.8 Guided Pathways (Nadiyah Taylor & Jill Carbone): None

10.9 Program Review (Karin Spirn): None

10.10 SLO (John Rosen): None

10.11 UndocuAlly (David Montelongo): None

10.12 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez): None

10.13 President (Ashley Young): At the most recent Planning and Budget Committee (PBC) meeting, Ashley learned that the three-year rolling average used for 70% of SCFF functions differently than she initially had thought. Rather than the average being determined by the previous two years plus a projection for this year, the average is calculated by taking the data from two years ago and duplicating the amount for the next two years with a very small percentage increase (less than 1%). This means the

numbers may differ from the actual outcomes. Any increase from these assumed projections does not necessarily help financially. This added clarity as to why Chancellor Gerhard is careful not to provide excessive additional FTEF so we are sure not to use valuable resources when we won't reap the financial benefit for another two years. Additionally, we are not receiving COLA despite being off hold harmless. Can we expect a substantial growth in funding next year since our weakest year will no longer be factored into the three-year rolling average? This is correct.

Ashley reviewed the APs and BPs, most of which have minor changes.

Notable AP/BP changes:

- AP 4020 Program and Curriculum Development - specifies that dean's approval is needed for faculty submitting curriculum change proposals. Craig Kutil suggests changing the wording to specify that curriculum change proposals be submitted in conjunction with the appropriate dean.
- AP 2325 Teleconferenced Meetings - "just cause" section is slightly expanded.
- BP 4250 Probation, Dismissal, and Readmission – a student on academic probation is subject to dismissal if their cumulative GPA is less than 2.0 in all units attempted in each of three consecutive semesters (GPA was previously 1.75).

10.14 Divisions

- A&H (Justin Garoupa, Catherine Suarez): None
- BSSL (Joanna Jen, Felipe Ponce, Collin Thormoto): None
- PATH (Susan deFuniak): None
- STEM (Anita Bhatia, Moh Daoud, David Montelongo): None
- Student Services (Kimberly Burks, Ryan Eckles): None
- Part Time Representatives (Jeff Judd, Peter Zimmer): None

11. Good of the Order/Announcements: None

12. Adjourned: 3:54 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: March 25, 2026

ZOOM LOGIN: This will be the same for every Academic Senate meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87800866487>

Dial: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 878 0086 6487