ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

August 26, 2026| 2:45 pm – 4:45 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 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

1. **Call to Order:** 2:45 pm

2. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Ashley Young)/approved unanimously

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes (May 13, 2026):** Motion to approve (Joanna Jen)/seconded (Catherine Suarez)/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.* None.

5. **Consent Items:** Motion to approve (Ashley Young)/seconded (Justin Garoupa)/approved unanimously

   5.1 Senior Instructional Assistant, Mathematics Hiring Committee: Jennie Graham, David Powers

   5.2 District Facilities Committee Co-Chair Assignment: Andrew Cumbo

   5.3 ASCCC Pathways to Credit CPL Liaison: Lidia Sanchez-Flores

6. **First Reading** - none

7. **Second Reading/Voting** - none

8. **Discussion Items**
   8.1 Academic Senate Purview
   Ashley McHale reviewed the Academic Senate's purview under 10+1 and clarified differing responsibilities between Academic Senate and Faculty Association. Discussion included the Senate's relationship with the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Hiring Prioritization Committee; while these committees conduct their work independently, they remain within the Senate's purview and report to the Senate. The possibility of adding a part-time faculty representative to the Hiring Prioritization Committee was discussed. Ashley McHale will research whether this is possible before committee membership is reviewed in the spring.

8.2 Shared Office Spaces
The group concluded that spaces designated for part-time faculty should remain available to them and suggested identifying additional spaces for full-time faculty needs. Possible solutions included clearer signage, identifying unused office space, and improving access to information about available classrooms via 25Live. The need for a dedicated space for testing and proctoring was also discussed, including a statewide Academic Senate resolution supporting proctoring centers at community colleges.

8.3 Textbook Challenges with Bookstore
Felipe Ponce expressed interest in establishing a standing “no textbook required” designation for courses that consistently do not require a textbook, eliminating the need to submit the same information each semester.

8.4 Senate Goals for 2026-2027
The Senate discussed potential goals for the academic year, including:

- AI within Accreditation: Ensure compliance with RSI requirements for fully asynchronous courses. A possible review of anonymized online courses was discussed to establish a baseline. Members also discussed ensuring new and part-time faculty receive appropriate RSI training.
- First-Year Experience/Cohorts: Explore creating student cohorts to strengthen belonging, community, and first-year completion of English, mathematics, and other gen eds. Members discussed the importance of counseling support, a supportive transition out of cohorts, resources, and potentially piloting the model with a small group. Further consideration through the Guided Pathways framework was suggested.
- Student Education Plans (SEPs): Explore increasing SEP completion through stronger partnerships between division faculty and pathway counselors, particularly in introductory courses. Members discussed balancing structured pathways with students’ need for academic and career exploration. SEPs may be revised as students’ goals change.
- Dual Enrollment: Concerns were raised regarding the readiness and sense of belonging of dual-enrollment students, who are sometimes as young as 14 or 15. Student Life and campus clubs were identified as possible avenues for increasing connection to the college.

9. **Wellness Break** - skipped

10. **Reports**

10.1 CTE (Melissa Korber)
CTE will remain as a standing report since it does not report to another body, although Melissa Korber likely will not remain as the reporting liaison.

10.2 Treasurer (Catherine Suarez)
Catherine Suarez reported that the Distinguished Teaching and Service Award recipients were selected following review of numerous nominations. Elena Cole was selected for the Distinguished Teaching Award and Katie Eagan for the Distinguished Service Award.

10.3 President (Ashley Young)
Thoughts were expressed regarding grouping all fundraising efforts earlier in the academic year (student scholarships and classified appreciation activities). Ashley proposed creating a more streamlined meeting process, which will allow additional time for senators to participate in the completion of this year's goals. Senators will be invited to participate in smaller task forces associated with individual goals.

11. Good of the Order/Announcements: None

12. Adjourned: 3:44 pm

13. Next Regular Meeting: September 9, 2026

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87217426985

Dial: +1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 872 1742 6985