# Lansing Community College

# Academic Senate Meeting

# May 7th, 2021, 9-11 Virtual Via WebEx

**Present**: Marvin Argersinger, Alex Azima, Tonya Bailey, Alandis Baker, Joe Barberio, Mark Bathurst, Matt Boeve, Robyn Corey, Tim Deines, Monica Del Castillo, Nancy Dietrich, Paige Dunckel, Bruce Farris, Sarah Garcia-Linz, Bill Garlick, Courtney Geisel, Amalia Gonzales, Gerry Haddad, Dawn Hardin, Melinda Hernandez, Susan Jepsen, Leslie Johnson, Heidi Jordan, Lyndia Klasko, Frances Krempasky, Eliza Lee, Megan Lin, James Luke, Tamara McDiarmid, Tricia McKay, Tracy Nothnagel, Louise Rabidoux, Chris Richards, Joann Silsby, Mark Stevens, Jon Ten Brink, Denise Warner, Nancy Weatherwax, Sally Welch, Kent Wieland, Veronica Wilkerson-Johnson, Richard Williams, Melinda Wilson

**Absent**: Matt Van Cleave,

1. Call to order – 9:02AM
2. Roll call – 9:02AM
   1. Electronically
3. Approval of agenda – 9:02AM
   1. Approved without objection
4. Approval of minutes
   1. Correction by Senator Mindy Wilson on her statement in previous minutes at XX.B. “I think it is important to make the distinction between falsehoods and opinions. Opinions cannot be false and as a senate we must respect the diversity of opinion regardless of if we disagree."
5. Election of Officers
   1. 5 min taken to vote electronically by email.

## Public Comments

* 1. Senator Tamara McDiarmid – As we end this school year that has seen unprecedented challenges to both students and teachers, I want to bring to the attention of our senate an issue that was brought up by one of my constituents-that of videos being off during ORT class sessions. Technology has allowed us to continue with our mission to bring education to our students during the pandemic. That being said, the challenge of keeping students engaged during this time has never been more apparent. To my understanding, the idea behind ORT was to allow students to go to a class similar in nature to a face-to-face class, one or two times a week to engage and be present for the class and participate in the lecture, etc. The colleagues I have spoken with continue to express concern over students who keep their videos off and thereby do not engage or participate in the class and do not provide the instructor with any indication that they are even in the class for the time allotted for instruction. This pandemic has further distanced the already super reliance technology has brought in terms of communication to our society. Now our students can literally ‘sign-on’ and there are limited ways an instructor can have that student show they are in class and understanding the material. This is what we as instructors are tasked with. Breakout sessions and chat boxes aside, participation in this venue is challenging enough. Students no longer have to do any ‘face-to-face’ contact at all, even in a class that was initially intended to mimic a face-to-face class. This provides a continual obstacle for the instructor to positively engage with the students and provide the continual communication to make class time run smoothly. While I understand the concerns that students have regarding this issue, this issue should be revisited to see if some compromise can be approached that could put students concerns at ease while allowing for instructors to ensure that the students that “sign-on” are actually in class and engaging in their education.
  2. Senator Rick Williams – “Last meeting, I presented a position statement allowing free conscious objections to use some gender pro-nouns, that are not supported for a variety of reasonings. It failed. I am not mad, just disappointed in the senate's short-sightedness. I hear that this topic is outside the purview of the senate because some of it deals with bargaining and employment, or the lack thereof. While this may be true, the academic senates primary influence is on curricular matters. In voting no to my position statement, you have now negatively impacted certain curriculum that is governed by science, such as anatomy, to no longer be able to teach it, for fear of offending the multiple gender identities. More than this, I have seen the senate tackle issues of the gender pronoun agenda over the years, such as LCC’s website and other documents. But, for some reason, you will not tackle this one. I hear it is because it has not been a problem here yet. But this is woefully short-sighted. It has been a problem at other higher learning institutions. I DO understand why faculty are afraid to speak up for fear of losing their positions. Therefore, I do not solicit them to stand with me. I speak for them. What I need you to understand is that silence is NOT consent. While they support me in private, they fear doing so in public. Unfortunately, LCC has chosen to weighing emotions than fact. So, I will have to wait and see this fall apart as all liberal initiatives do. Anything the liberal ideology touches, it fails. No government, be that a college or a state survives liberalism in today’s world. And speaking of government, Caitlyn Jenner, formerly the star athlete Bruce Jenner, is running for governor of the state of California. Caitlyn is a transgender who I believe wants everyone to use her, or she in referring to Caitlyn. Would it surprise you if I told you, I would consider voting for Jenner if I lived there? I do not think this senate understands diversity. It is about accepting the person, not necessarily their ideology. Liberals think you must accept the whole package to have diversity. They will cancel you if you do not. Liberals think you must have a certain amount of skin color in the room to have diversity. Nonsense. I would vote for Jenner, a transgender, not because of that, but because Jenner is much more conservative than what is there. Jenner even spoke out recently against transgender males competing in biological women's sports. I do admire Jenner for doing that. And did you notice, I did not use he pronoun Jenner wanted in all this? I used Jenner’s name not the pronoun Jenner wants. And that is the issue my friends that you fail to get: If Jenner were here right now, Jenner would demand I use the pronoun Jenner demands. And I would decline doing so, and there is the issue you do NOT see. And that is the problem you failed to deal with last meeting.”
  3. Senator Monica Del Castillo – As President of the Academic Senate, I would like to state for the record that Senator Rick Williams’ position paper and subsequent motion on Chosen Name/Pronoun is not a reflection of the majority position of the Senate.  Period.  In fact, the Senate made the loudest, most resounding rejection of Senator William’s ideas/proposal by unanimously not seconding his motion.  And it should be noted that the Chosen Name/Pronoun initiative came out of the Senate five+ years ago.  Senate meeting minutes document the passion and commitment of both Senators/Non-Senators to make this initiative a reality at LCC.  Thank you.
  4. President Steve Robinson (written statement) – Wanted to be here live but has a Board meeting with Michigan Community Colleges. Troubling things happening with funding so cannot miss that. Wanted to say thank you for engagement and dialogue. Attended all meetings and learning a lot. Thank the senators who have reached out and spoken about transparency and change in admin. Wants to engagement in dialogue and listen to the Academic Senate especially when we disagree. Announcing Dr. Selina Samuels will become permanent Senior Vice President in June. Launched strategic plan refresh and many projects.

## President’s Report – Senator Monica Del Castillo

* 1. Small Group discussion related to senator expectation will be picked up in the fall. We want input from incoming executive committee.
  2. Summer meeting July 16th, 2021

## Provost’s Report – Provost Sally Welch

* 1. Thanks Monica del Castillo for all her hard work on the Senate over the last semester. Hopes she will enjoy retirement.
  2. We value OLL from Senator Luke’s report last meeting. Working behind the scenes to find funding. We will need to be creative to find funding. Will take time.
  3. PA days. Live guest speaker Gannon. Review session from Dr. Robinson, Samuels, and Sally.
  4. Working on bringing back staff in July 25%. 50% by august. Departments are working on plans. Gives everyone time to prepare to come back. Numbers in Michigan are trending down. Looking food for Fall.
     1. Senator Bruce Farris – Fall schedule is already out. Will there be adjustments or changes since we may have some face to face.
        1. Provost Sally Welch – Still want all options available. Things will change as we get closer to the semester. We hope to add more classes (face to face). It’s just not clear. We have to see what the governor is going to do. Mask mandate might be done by Fall but it’s really about buildings and making sure we are safe.

## Student Senators Report

* 1. Student Senator Amalia Gonzales – Still working on Hygiene Pantry. Also working on LCC webpage and the chatbox. Sending a document to Caesar Chavez Center for feedback. Working on Student Handbook for AS.

## Consent Agenda

* 1. None

## WebEx Teams – Senator Bill Garlick

* 1. Made space for every subcommittee. Will work with Secretary to get full list of senators and add them to the committees. Leads will be in charge of their sites. Non-senate members will be able to be added as well.
  2. Open collaboration for all of senate to be able to chat on. More participation from broader Senate.
  3. We will work on setting it up and a “light” tutorial. Will be a tool and opportunity over the summer for asynchronous communication. Will really kick off in Fall.

## Standing Committees Report

* 1. Technology Across the Curriculum (TAC) – Senator Bill Garlick, Senator Bruce Farris
     1. A central role of the committee is to keep open dialogue between College technology providers and technology users. This allows for students to better be served by providing solutions to problems, educating users how to better use existing technology, and educating providers on the needs of faculty, staff, and students. Technology issues discussed and addressed over the past year included:
        1. How the COVID-19 pandemic and conversion to online might increase need for cloud-based functions in pedagogy and work in college
        2. benefits, disadvantages, requirements, and security issues around moving students to the Office-365 domain
        3. WebEx meetings and trainings and educating faculty and students
        4. On-campus printing and internet connections for students during the COVID-19 pandemic
        5. Privacy and equity issues with lecture capture and videoconference recording
        6. Issue with Open Learning Lab emails being blocked by IronPort
        7. Ways to better communicate to students minimum technology requirements (computer, internet, etc) to be successful in online classes
  2. Senate Oversight Advisory and Review (SOAR) – Senator Monica Del Castillo
     1. Defining and wrapping our heads around shared governance.
     2. A lot of engagement with Provost Welch and President Robinson.
     3. Also added involvement of MAHE president
  3. Curriculum Committee (CC) – Senator Jon Tenbrink
     1. 100% of items that came to CC were approved. Most passed on first pass. Things came very prepared.
     2. Reviewed and approved:
        1. 2 New programs of study
        2. 5 new courses
        3. 39 revised courses
        4. 82 expedited revised courses
        5. 1 Gen Ed -MTA

Student Advisory Committee (SAC) – Senator Veronica Wilkerson-Johnson

* + 1. See Appendix I.
    2. Senator Joann Silsby –
       1. Provide resources for students. Coordinating with our resources providers in the college. Food pantry, student hygiene pantry, career interview clothing closet.
       2. LCC website chatbox or help button. More access to student resources.
       3. Including students as advisors and giving input.
  1. Budget Committee – Senator Denise Warner
     1. See Appendix II.
     2. History of Budget Committee. Started this semester.
     3. Looking for ways to be in the conversation, be a part of transparency.
     4. POP Goes the Budget for PA Days.
     5. Want to be a part of POP for all programs.
     6. Worked on a Budget cycle.
  2. Committee for Assessing Student Learning (CASL) – Senator Tim Deines
     1. Rolled out the new Blue System. Will be able to archive questions for the future as well. Will seek Senate feedback. Want a usable bank for all faculty.
     2. Completed methods of assessment for co-curricular. Will gather data in Fall.
     3. Learning what assessment coordinators are doing in their programs. Expand that work.
     4. Engaged faculty and admin with the DEI advancement. Want to know what CASL can do to help. CASL faculty will work together for quality assessment.
     5. Open CASL to the college as much as possible. Build relationships.

## 2020-2021 Senate Recap – Senator Monica Del Castillo

* 1. Senator Monica Del Castillo – “A few short months ago I was bestowed the awesome privilege of taking the helm of the LCC Academic Senate. Those of you who know me, know that I typically don’t shy away from opportunities or challenges. This was no exception. It was a very steep learning curve accompanied by a very short time line, so with Eliza by my side, we hit the road running. I honestly could not have done it without HER or my tribe of trusted past Presidents/Senate leaders (i.e. Alex Azima, Jim Luke, Jeff Janowick, & Mindy Wilson). Many Senate-related conversations were had late at night, while on vacation, and over weekend days. The one that makes me chuckle the most is when Eliza and I sat on folding chairs at a beach in FL, enjoying adult beverages and fully engaged in Senate business! To my tribe of trusted colleagues, I say “Thank you for supporting me and more importantly thank you for your passion and commitment to the work!” My vision for the semester, encompassed two goals- goal #1, engage Senators in reflective conversations related to Senate Culture, and then facilitate the necessary steps to move the Senate closer to our desired outcomes (this encompassed things like expanding diversity of voices around the Senate table, increasing transparency, & inspiring new leaders), goal #2, was to grow shared governance at LCC, which required more intentional collaboration w/ President Robinson, Provost Welch and our union President Eva Menefee. I believe we’ve made good strides toward this goal. And I do mean “we”! I am thankful for their refreshing approach to the work which will no doubt positively impact the student experience and ultimately student success, which is really the driving force behind everything we do. The Senate’s laboring has not been easy, in fact it’s been painful at times and undoubtedly missteps have occurred, but we embraced our growing pains w/humility, compassion, and respect. And for this I am most proud. I am deeply thankful for all of you. You guys rocked it this year! The Senate committees have done meaningful and impactful work. I am beyond grateful to all that stepped up (Senators and non- Senators) this semester and filled leadership voids, as well as to those who have been steadfastly leading committees/teams. I am also quite proud of our student Senators (Amalia and Mackenzie) who rolled up their sleeves and made significant contributions to both the Senate and the College this year. You represented the LCC student body with poise and maturity. The Academic Senate thanks you for all of your hard work. The time has come for me to pass the virtual gavel to the next Senate President. I am confident that President-Elect Ten Brink will lead from a place of competency, integrity, and compassion. I know that he is committed to continue to build upon the foundation that has been laid by past Senate Presidents. So, I leave you in very good hands! It has been one of the greatest honors of my career to serve as your Senate President. Thank you for believing in me. I’m around until the end of August. I really hope that conditions are such that we can see each other f2f before I “graduate” from LCC. This is is not goodbye, it’s so long for now. Thank you. “

## Elections of Officers – Senator Eliza Lee

* 1. Secretary – Eliza Lee
  2. Vice President – Tamara McDiarmid
  3. President – Jon Ten Brink

## Potential Future Agenda Items

* 1. None

## Motion to Adjourn

* 1. Motion by Senator Jon Ten Brink
  2. Second by Senator Monica Del Castillo
  3. Adjourn – 10:31AM

***Purpose****: The purpose of the Academic Senate will be to provide faculty input and advice to the administration concerning issues of College-wide educational philosophy, College-wide academic policy, and priorities in the College-wide deployment of capital or financial resources, except as covered by the scope of collective bargaining. The Senate will be proactive and collaborative in its approach, seeking consensus whenever possible, and will foster and support effective and transparent communication with the college community. Student learning is the ultimate goal of this body.*

Respectfully submitted but the Secretary of the Academic Senate, Eliza Lee