



## Academic Senate Meeting

February 21st, 2025 at 9:10-11 via WebEx

**Present:** Brittany Barber, Laura Bishop, Chelsea Brandon, Autumn Brown, Rick Caprario, Elizabeth Clifford, Robyn Corey, Tim Deines, Lisa Dobson, Evan Falk, Lee Gardner, Courtney Geisel, Aral Gribble, Homa Ghaussi Mujtaba, Gerry Haddad, Susan Hardie, Melinda Hernandez, Jeff Janowick, Mark Kelland, Ian Leighton, Eliza Lee, Megan Lin, Tricia McKay, Wade Merrill, Tracy Nothnagel, Charles Page, Louise Rabidoux, Chris Richards, Joann Silsby, Steve Simonson, Tedd Sperling, Nancy Weatherwax, Sally Welch,

**Absent:** Dustin Abrego, Marvin Argersinger, Bill Garlick, Jessica Hester, Ed Kabara, Chris MacKersie, Tanya McClain, Tamara McDiarmid, Robin McGuire, Jennifer Muffet, Paul Palmer, Jeff Janowick

- I. Call to Order – 9:10AM
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Approved without objection.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approved with minor correction.
- V. President's Report
  - a. The Dream Conference brings together educators from across the country who are committed to student success, equity, and institutional transformation. It is focused on real, actionable strategies that help colleges improve outcomes for all students, especially those who have been historically underserved. Over the past few days, I've had the opportunity to learn from national leaders, hear success stories from other institutions, and explore innovative approaches that we can apply to our own work here. There have been so many valuable takeaways, and I look forward to bringing these ideas back to our Academic Master Plan teams as we continue shaping the future of teaching and learning at LCC.
  - b. Even though I am not there today, I want to emphasize the importance of today's meeting. As a Senate, we have consistently advocated to have a voice in key institutional decisions. Today, we have two important opportunities to provide input:
    1. Feedback on Moving Graduation to Finals Week – This is a significant change that affects faculty, students, and the academic calendar. Your

perspectives are crucial in ensuring that any decision made is informed by the realities of instruction and student success.

2. Reviewing and Providing Feedback on the College's Essential Learning Outcomes – These outcomes shape our curriculum and assessment, influencing how we define student achievement. As faculty, we play a direct role in helping students meet these outcomes, so it is essential that our voices are part of this conversation.

- c. Before I close, I want to remind you that there will be no Senate meeting on March 7th since it falls just before spring break. Our next meeting will be on March 21st, and our next in-person meeting will be held at West Campus on April 4th.
- d. As I reflect on this week at the Dream Conference, I am reminded of why our work in the senate matters so much. We are not just discussing policies and procedures—we are shaping an institution that has the power to change lives. Thank you for being part of that work, for your engagement, and for your dedication to the senate, our students and LCC.

#### VI. Provost's Report

- a. Was at the DREAM Conference with Senator Nothnagel. Seems like LCC is a head of the game. Ethan Mullic was a Keynote speaker. He gave a presentation about AI in the classroom. Taking the same approach as we are here: let's get comfortable with it, let's teach students to use it responsibly. Had a few 30 second video chat, and created a whole AI video from all the 30 second video chats that was fake. We are all at the same place in this and trying to figure out where we will go from here.
- b. Monday had racial equity workshop. One of 14 schools adopted into the cohort. Working on Psychology 200 and History 211. Will provide more information as we go along. Trying to decrease the equity gap in the classrooms.
- c. Send your Academic Alerts. Keep your gradebook updated. Appreciate everything that everyone does.

#### VII. Consent Agenda

- a. Curriculum Committee Report.
- b. Approved without objection.

#### VIII. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Student Engagement Committee – Senator Elizabeth Clifford
  - i. At the recent registered student organization fair, we had a table to advertise our committee and asked students to fill in two questions
    - 1. What do you like about LCC and What could we do better?

2. Students commented that they like the schedule flexibility, feel supported by their teachers and other staff, and appreciate the resources. Among those things listed that we could do better are the choice and price of food on campus and lack of graphing calculators. Overall, it was great to hear very positive responses.
- ii. What we are hearing from students is increased anxiety about what is going on in national politics amid everyday struggles with balancing time and finances. Unfortunately, the graphing calculator shortage continues. As of last night, there was one 28-day and one 2-hour calculator available for check out in the library. I've heard that there are plans in place for the process to increase availability, hopefully soon.

IX. Elections Update – Senator Eliza Lee

- a. Elections are here. Feb.10<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Call for and Acceptance of Nominations. Self-nomination is encouraged. Nominations are [emailed to Secretary Eliza Lee](mailto:leee21@star.lcc.edu), (leee21@star.lcc.edu). Following areas are up for election:
  - i. Counseling
  - ii. English
  - iii. HHS 2 three-year positions, 2 two-year positions
  - iv. Math and Computer Science
  - v. School of Business
  - vi. Science
  - vii. Social Science and Humanities
  - viii. Tech Careers 2 three-year positions, 1 two-year position
  - ix. Member At-Large

X. Discussion on Moving Graduation – Provost Sally Welch

- a. Proposed change for Spring 2026 is to move the graduation ceremony to either April 30<sup>th</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup> to be aligned with MSU graduation ceremonies.
- b. Broke into small groups to discuss questions:
  - i. 1. What are the benefits for faculty and students of having the graduation ceremony earlier than May 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>?
  - ii. 2. What are the challenges for faculty and students if the graduation ceremony is move to April 30<sup>th</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup>?
  - iii. 3. What alternatives might we consider if the proposed dates do not work well for the community?

XI. Challenges Students Identified with using D2L – Senator Chris Richards

- a. See PowerPoint.
- b. Asked students “What is your biggest challenge using D2L”

- i. Inconsistency of course organization
  - ii. Inconsistency of due dates on course assessments
  - iii. Inconsistency of grades in courses
- c. Emails have been going out from E-Learning discussing each of these topics and how to address them.
- d. Broke into Small Groups
  - i. Senator Autumn Brown – Need to remind faculty that it is their job to enter grades, and there are ways to help.
  - ii. Student Senator Aral Gribble – Real issue is not so much what the limits of D2L are but what the limits of an instructor's time and resources are.
  - iii. Senator Lee Gardner – Importance of Communication from an instructor. We don't want or expect instructors to all be the same.
  - iv. Project Coordinator Penny Tucker – Speaking as a student. When instructor copies over from semester, the dates come over and are not changed. Reiterate to instructors they need to check these. Maybe ask students what layouts they like and what layouts they don't. Talking to instructors that may need to have certain layouts. Can we have a college wide layout?
    - 1. Senator Chris Richards - Encourage the use of Master Course with no dates and then can change your dates accordingly.
  - v. Senator Tedd Sperling – Look at best practices, want to choose the best template. Online will be different than a F2F class D2L. Sets things up each week for students. Folders per week. The points being making things obvious. Work from a Master because constantly improving my classes each semester. Let me have the time to do my class. Shout out to Chris for number of times had problem and had a good relationship.
  - vi. Faculty Jennifer Hilker - How do we address a situation when a student has an issue with another faculty's course set up? Do we suggest they go to eLearning to report it?
    - 1. Senator Chris Richards - Can bring those things to E-learning. Will not use students' names but can help faculty address the information.
  - vii. Senator Rick Caprario – How can we help adjuncts develop courses that meet the needs of the students when they don't get paid for all the extra hours it takes to make a D2L course?
    - 1. Senator Chris Richards – Can't speak to the payment aspect but e-learning is always available to help afterhours and such.
    - 2. Senator Lisa Whiting Dobson – Had 3 days to put a course together, old course was recordings of old professor. There was no consideration for pay of all the time it took to do that.

3. Senator Evan Falk – Taught courses where old materials were just on a thumb drive.
  4. Senator Chris Richards – Encourage use of Master Course for full time faculty.
  - viii. Senator Mark Kelland – There are problems with D2L itself, such as duplication. We cannot be a student in our course. We can't work on both sides in real time to see how our changes, such as gradebook, are actually really working. Would be nice to be pretend students in our courses.
- XII. DAAP Survey – Senator Louise Rabidoux, Compliance Coordinator Kate Fall, Counselor Pam Davis
- a. See PowerPoint.
  - b. DAAP – Drug and Alcohol Prevention
  - c. "Lansing Community College Counseling Services are free to all currently-enrolled students. LCC's state-licensed, professional counselors help students manage stress, personal loss, relationships, substance abuse, family matters, and provide support for all circumstances and stressors that affect a student's academic performance."
  - d. [Counseling Services webpage](#)
- XIII. ELOs – Director of Assessment Karen Hicks
- a. See PowerPoint.
  - b. Start of the conversation, will come back in April.
  - c. What do LCC students learn? Who is learning, and what can we do to facilitate learning?
  - d. Current ELOs: All students will learn these things
    - i. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural world
    - ii. Intellectual and practice skills
    - iii. Personal and social responsibility
    - iv. Integrative and Applied Learning.
  - e. CASL is currently engaged in the review process Very broad headings. Will look different in each course. Made some fine turning to them. All programs of study are required to align their pedagogy to these headings. Not to the outcome statements, those are just tools and aids to help with decision making.
  - f. CASL is recommending a new category for faculty to choose from. Under Integrative and Applied Learning would add Wellness and Fitness. We are really heavy in the cognition, but missing other domains. We wanted to offer an additional channel for faculty to link their course to.
    - i. Mental, physical, economic and social heal
    - ii. Cardiovascular heal and cognition

- iii. Health information literacy
    - iv. Current self - assessment and behavior change
    - v. Life long healthy goals and practices.
  - g. Ask Senators to talk to areas about what an ELO is. Do you see opportunities to link up to Wellness and Fitness.
  - h. Will come back at the April 4<sup>th</sup> with fitness meeting and April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss further.
- XIV. Concerns, Challenges and Ethical Considerations Surrounding AI – Senator Laura Bishop
- a. Senator Eliza Lee – Motion to Postpone agenda item to the next meeting.
    - i. Second Senator Mark Kelland.
    - ii. Approved without objection.
- XV. Public Comments - These public comments reflect the thoughts and opinions of their speaker and are not endorsed by the LCC Academic Senate or LCC.
- a. Director of Academic Quality Cheryl Garayta – “During public comment at the February 7th Senate meeting, a statement was read suggesting that LCC should end its focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and institute merit as the basis for inclusion. I don’t know if it’s widely understood that the statement was deeply offensive, even hurtful, to many of us. I happen to be a member of a couple of under-represented groups, as are my husband, my adult children, my six grandchildren, many of my colleagues, and the majority of students I teach. LCC’s DEIB focus, and the national DEIB focus, aims to build awareness and understanding across diverse groups of people and ensure that women, immigrants, international students, people of all religious faiths and no religious faith, people with any form of disability, and people of all ages, all races, and all genders are welcomed into this space. Inclusion does not mean exclusion for white, straight, English-speaking, Christian males. It simply means that those of us who don’t fit that definition can come here without fear. The unspoken correlation to the request to focus on merit is that anyone who belongs to any under-represented group is here, not because of merit, but because of their membership in the under-represented group. While that may not have been the intended message, that was the unequivocal message that many of us heard. Words matter. Every employee at this college worked and studied and met the requirements of their job description, or they could not have been hired. Every student works and studies and meets the requirements of every course they take, or they don’t pass the course. To say that we need to focus on merit as a basis for inclusion in the LCC community implies that we don’t consider merit. I have a nine-year-old granddaughter who frequently speaks her mind without considering how her words may affect the person to whom she is speaking.

When I call to her attention the effect of her words, her answer is always, "That's not what I meant." My response is, "But that's what the words said.""

XVI. Potential Future Agenda Items

a. None

***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.

***LCC Mission Statement:*** Lansing Community College provides accessible, high-quality education through relevant and innovative instructional methods to equip and empower a diverse community of learners to complete their educational goals while becoming engaged global citizens.

***Land Acknowledgement:*** Lansing Community College occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishnaabeg - Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the City of Lansing and LCC reside on land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

Respectfully submitted by Academic Senate Secretary, Eliza Lee.