



Academic Senate Meeting

September 19th, 2025 at 9:10-11 via WebEx

Present: Dustin Abrego, Marvin Argersinger, Brittany Barber, Laura Bishop, Chelsea Brandon, Rick Caprario, Elizabeth Clifford, Mary Clisch, Robyn Corey, Annesia Dillard, Lisa Dobson, Evan Falk, Joshua Galat, Lee Gardner, Bill Garlick, Courtney Geisel, Homa Ghaussi Mujtaba, Robert Halgren, Susan Hardie, Gerry Haddad, Melinda Hernandez, Jessica Hester, Ed Kabara, Mark Kelland, Ian Leighton, Chris MacKersie, Tamara McDiarmid, Tricia McKay, Wade Merrill, Dan Mulligan, Tracy Nothnagel, Jim Owens, Charles Page, Chris Richards, Adam Richardson, Diane Roose, Joann Silsby, Steve Simonson, Diane Snyder, Tedd Sperling, Sally Welch,

Absent: Eliza Lee, Tanya McClain, Jennifer Muffet, Jeff Janowick

- I. Call to Order – 9:10AM
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Approve without objection.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minor edits suggested.
 - b. Approved as amended.
- V. President's Report
 - a. Friday Oct 17 meeting is devoted to our constituents to share ideas that impact their students and them.
 - b. Only 1 meeting in November, on the 17th in person. Food and fun.
 - c. Call for Faculty Volunteers — Academic Master Plan (AMP) Implementation
We are beginning Phase 1 this fall and seeking Senate faculty volunteers for two themes:
 - i. Theme 1: Equitable Access to Learning Modalities
 1. The first project will create a student self-assessment tool to help students identify which course modality (online, hybrid, in-person, synchronous, etc.) best supports their learning.
 2. A second piece will be a toolkit for advisors and faculty to support students who are enrolled in modalities less suited to their

learning style—recognizing that students often make choices based on convenience and schedule.

3. We are seeking two faculty volunteers to support this project. The commitment should be short-term, wrapping up by the end of the fall semester.

ii. Theme 2: Consistency and Clarity in Course Design

1. The initial focus will be investigatory work—looking at course shell formats and identifying best practices for a consistent, clear course design across the college.
2. We are seeking a couple of faculty volunteers to work on this early-stage project. Again, this will be a smaller, short-term commitment.

VI. Consent Agenda

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

VII. Fall Elections Update – Senator Eliza Lee

- a. One position open in HHS. Ballots go out on Monday. Encourage HHS faculty to vote.

VIII. Closing the Loop on Last Cycle Priorities – Senator Tracy Nothnagel

- a. See PPT
- b. 4 Senate Priorities for 2023-2025
 - i. Food on Campus
 1. More food trucks
 2. Food Pantry
 3. President's goal on student basic needs
 - ii. Enrollment and Retention
 1. Created Strategic Enrollment Management group
 2. Continuous improvement of Academic Alerts
 3. Integrated into Academic Master Plan
 - iii. Student Perspective
 1. Senate hosted student forum (200+ students)
 2. Fall 2025 agenda time for student senators
 - iv. Quality and Consistency of Courses
 1. Raised by students in forum as well
 2. Integrated into Academic Master Plan Theme 2
- c. Moving forward, all 4 priorities have been resolved and are being institutionalized in ongoing processes.

IX. Provost's Report

- a. Submit Academic Alerts early and often. Students who respond to success coaches are showing improvement.
- b. Went to Constitution Day on Wednesday. Judge Rosenblatt presented on his book. Appreciate the Political Science department for putting this on.
- c. College Wide Professional Development fund was split into 3 offices. Deans will be sending out in Newsletter very soon a link to a form that can be filled out, going to supervisor and Dean/Provost for approval
- d. Been admitted into the Aspen Unlocking opportunity. Figure out what is a living wage for our students. So, we can say that when students leave, our credentials and degrees are making students more than a living wage.
- e. If you're sick, stay home. Encourage students not to come onto campus sick either.

X. Brainstorming Senate Priorities – Senator Tracy Nothnagel

- a. Senators broke into small groups for 20 min. Faculty, admin, and non-senators alike discussed issues for the Academic Senate for the next year.
- b. Please send ideas from the breakout groups or from your constituents to President Tracy Nothnagel nothnat1@lcc.edu
- c. Things mentioned:
 - i. Continued discussion on AI
 - ii. Consistent experience for students in D2L
 - iii. Mental Health
 - iv. Supporting Student Organizations
 - v. Etc.
- d. Conversation will continue at the October 3rd meeting.

XI. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Engagement Committee – Senator Lisa Dobson
 - i. Happy to have filled all senate seats in spring
 - ii. Let the Engagement Committee know if you need members for your committee. If you know of anyone who would want to be on a committee, please also let the Engagement Committee know.
 - iii. Completed a robust New Senator Orientation including having Mentors Assigned.
 - iv. Working on an Academic Senate Image campaign. Started a Faces of the Senate article in The Star.
- b. Technology Across the Curriculum (TAC) – Senator Bill Garlick and Faculty Bruce Farris

- i. Largely a tactical response team to faculty issue and student learning with technology. In the past they have looked at plagiarism, AI, etc. Anticipate a charge coming from the Senate soon.
- ii. Group also serves as a pilot area for larger campus wide initiatives with technology.
- iii. Largely working on charter revisions, will bring back to the Academic Senate for approval. Cleaning up language that was intense.
- iv. Continuing to talk about the D2L email consolidation.
- v. Over 1100 laptops out to deploy, library has gone through entire stock.
- vi. Meetings will be updated on the Web.

XII. Contacting Constituents – Senator Laurie Bishop

- a. Senators broke into groups to discuss how they interact with their constituents.
- b. Vice President Laurie Bishop will compile information to bring back at the next meeting.

XIII. 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. Senator Mark Kelland - This is a spur of the moment comment based on another spur of the moment comment I made, but it occurred to me that I should share with the academic senate that I made a public comment to the board of trustees on Monday, in my with my hat on as a past President of the Academic Senate, the chair of the board made a wonderful proposal to invest some substantial money in textbooks for students, and in the course of the subsequent discussion, they talked about a similar activity back around 2018 when The Board made a substantial investment in open educational resources, and I was very much involved in that that program was largely very successful, but there were some key missteps along the way that, in my personal opinion, led to it not fulfilling as much of its potential as it might have.
- b. CARE Services Manager Frank Taylor: Good morning, everybody. I am here to give all of you a quick update on the neurodiversity friendly campus initiative that's currently going on. I've got just some basic talking points. I want to, in essence, play your advocates a little bit and let you know what's coming up. So recently, we engaged the consultant group from Landmark College. They're the only campus in the US that is specifically for neurodiverse students. They came in, they did a bunch of focus groups, they did an environmental survey, and they talked with faculty, they talked with staff, with the intent of really kind of finding out three things. First of all, is this something feasible for us? And their answer was a resounding yes. The second question was, How far along is LCC toward those things that would be more friendly for neurodivergent students? And then the third question that they were asking was, what would be the next steps? Landmark produced a really good report that talked about some of our

strengths, some of the things we could work on. I first of all wanted to let you all know that that report is actually going to be available on the LCC website soon. I don't have an actual date yet, but for those of you that are interested in really drilling down and getting all of the details that will be publicly available for everyone, I wanted to quickly touch on kind of a couple of the central things to get us started on this path, and this is responsive to the survey and the things we've heard from faculty. So, the first thing that will be kind of on the agenda is making sure that we are building information about neuro diversity into professional development. So, we're going to be sponsoring some PD day presentations. We're going to be working with e learning and CTE. We really want to make sure that you guys as faculty have full access to kind of the information base that's out there. I do want to encourage you, since this is an ongoing thing, this is going to be a five-year project, and we're just at the very beginning stages, I do want to encourage you folks that if you run across a situation with a student and you think neuro diversity might be involved for now, reach out to the Center for Student Access. And yes, that's a shameless plug. The second big item that is on the early list of things to work on is more social integration, and not enough coffee this morning. Social integration, inclusion and some community building. We have a large group of students on campus that identify as neurodiverse. We're going to be building some mechanisms in place to kind of build that as a community. The Office of empowerment does a wonderful job with this kind of stuff, and we want to follow along with their model and get these students chance to not only mute, come together, talk about their goals, but really heavy voice on campus. And then kind of the third early item on this is thinking about a built environment and the things that students experience. Part of what landmark did was to come through and do an environmental survey. There are some things we do really good at, but there's some other things, things like maybe when we're making choices or colors in a room, or lighting, potentially setting up some sensory friendly spaces that we're going to be kind of working through. There was an article recently in the star that basically covered this stuff, but I wanted to make sure that you guys, first of all heard that this is an ongoing initiative, and to let you know that we've got some things happening, and if there are questions, I would be delighted to have some, either in person or online chats to kind of give you more details. So, thank you.

- c. Senator Ed Kabara - Hello, all kind of on the subject of inclusivity. At the last faculty day when they had a bunch of food trucks, one of my faculty actually talked afterwards, because they there was no food option for them. They are gluten free and vegan, and there weren't any options there for the people. So, it may be something we want to look into. You know, maybe doing a poll before faculty days and things and make sure we can cover all of our bases for all of our

food needs. But just wanted to put that out there so we're kind of aware of it on the larger scale. Thank you.

XIV. Potential Future Agenda Items

- a. None

XV. Adjourn – 10:30AM

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.