Academic Senate Meeting

October 16th, 2026 at 9:10-11 via WebEx

Academic Senate – Connecting Colleagues, Steering Student Success

Present: Marvin Argersinger, Laura Bishop, Chelsea Brandon, Rick Caprario, Mary Clisch, Robyn Corey, Annescia Dillard, Lisa Dobson, Evan Falk, Joshua Galat, Lee Gardner, Courtney Geisel, Homa Ghaussi Mujtaba, Kelli Herm, Melinda Hernandez, Jamie Holbrook, Ed Kabara, Mark Kelland, Eliza Lee, Chris MacKersie, Wade Merrill, Dan Mulligan, Nicole Olszowy, Chris Richards, Adam Richardson, Diane Roose, Joann Silsby, Amy Simons, Steve Simonson, Tedd Sperling, Sally Welch, Jeff Janowick

Absent: Dustin Abrego, Jacob Callahan, Elizabeth Clifford, Susan Cook, Robert Halgren, Ian Leighton, Tanya McClain, Tamara McDiarmid, Tracy Nothnagel, Diane Snyder,

I. Call to Order – 9:11AM
   a. Vice President Laura Bishop presided in President Tracy Nothnagel's absence.
II. Roll Call
III. Approval of Agenda
   a. Approved without objection.
IV. Approval of Minutes
   a. Approved without objection.

V. Provost's Report

   a. Audio descriptions: The federal deadline was extended one year and is now April. The college is at 3.3% compliance. About 50% of videos in D2L are YouTube videos. YouTube videos that cannot have audio description will need to be replaced. Faculty are encouraged to complete the eLearning training and then submit the form to have their videos reviewed.
   b. LCC is submitting its application for Achieving the Dream Leader College designation today. Results expected in December or January. Thanks to Mark Kelland, Lee Gardner, Karen Hicks, Layne Ingram and Dr. Robinson for reviewing the application.
   c. Please submit academic alerts for struggling students so they can be connected to resources.

VI. Consent Agenda

a. Curriculum Committee Report
b. Approved without objection.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

a. Budget Committee – Senator Marv Argersinger
    i. The committee is gathering information this fall and following up with programs and individuals on last year's projects to monitor outcomes and offer support.
    ii. Identified a student need for non-academic "third spaces" to socialize between classes; seating has been removed in some buildings. The committee will investigate the need for more informal gathering places.
    iii. The committee is still looking for members. Contact any committee member or Senator Lisa Dobson. The committee meets the same Fridays as the Senate, 8:10–9:00AM via WebEx.
    iv. Send budget items you would like the committee to look at to any committee member.
    v. Faculty and programs are encouraged to use their program operating plans (POPs) as living documents.
    vi. Senator Martine Rife – Plans to join the committee. Asked when the mandatory POP training from HR, MAHE and the CTE will be available.
        1. Suzanne Bernsten (CTE) – Denise Warner is working with HR and MAHE on the training. Likely at PA days or next semester; no exact date yet.
        2. MAHE President Bill Feldpausch – The training was delayed by HR staffing shortages. The outline is done with (HR) and has been sent to the CTE. No date yet.

VIII. Student Advisory Committee (SAC) – Senator Wade Merrill

    i. See PDF.
    ii. SAC drafted a broad definition of student success to support the Senate's student success priority. Senators are welcome to use it.
    iii. Registered student organizations (RSOs): Following last year's Senate priority, a $10,000 fund was created this year with Student Affairs and Provost Welch to help RSOs with the cost of LCC vehicles for off-campus travel ($3/mile). SAC will follow up on policy language and how the fund is used by the 24 RSOs.
    iv. Student Resources webpage update – Francis Krempasky chair of the Student Resources subcommittee:
        1. 11,728 visits in the past year, mostly in September and January.

2. April usability testing with five students from Downtown and West campus: for the first time, all students found the page from the main LCC website and could locate their success coach.
3. Top topics for students: mental health, academic resources, laptops and tech, food resources, and relationship violence.
4. No student could find student organizations, so a new "Student Engagement and Clubs" box was added, linking to clubs and the Center for Veteran and Family Support. Photos were refreshed and a banner ad ran on the LCC homepage in August and September.
5. Suggestions can be emailed to any subcommittee member. Student Resources webpage
6. SAC is recruiting student senators. Send interested students' names (with their permission) to Senator Wade Merrill.

v. Lookout writer wrote an article on LCC's past student government (1960s–1990s) and attended SAC. SAC will research the possibility of bringing back a student government.
   1. Senator Mark Kelland – Fully supports student government, but under parliamentary rules and Senate bylaws it would be inappropriate for the Senate to officially take part in developing one. Individuals can help.

IX. Fall Election Updates – Senator Eliza Lee

a. Fall elections went smoothly. Thanks to Matt Fall from CDS and the Engagement Committee.
b. Thank you to outgoing senators Steve Simonson, Jim Owens and Chad Bennett.
c. Welcome to new senators Iskander Zakirov, Island Ewart and Martine Rife.
d. Spring elections are coming, with about 14 open seats.

X. AI Hub – Teaching with AI Faculty Fellow Eliza Lee

a. Teaching with AI Faculty Fellows Eliza Lee and Jamie Holbrook created a one-stop website for all things AI at LCC: upcoming workshops, a tool of the month for beginners, other AI work at LCC, and the application for the Provost's AI micro grants.
b. Let the Fellows know if you are doing something with AI so it can be added.

XI. Defining Student Facing Terms – Provost Sally Welch

a. See PPT.
b. The website uses many different higher-education terms for the same thing, which creates a barrier for students. Student-facing language is being simplified:
    i. Program and program of study → major
    ii. Degrees and certificates → major or pathway
    iii. Program pathway → pathway; curriculum guides → pathways
c. Internal systems (Banner), financial aid, and regulatory/HLC uses will keep existing terms where needed. Selective admission program subtracks stay the same internally.
d. "Program" in the general sense means the faculty, the organizational structure, and the pathways (e.g., the business program area and its 11 degrees). Program review covers the faculty, faculty work, and associated pathways.
e. Definitions and examples of when to use "major" and "pathway" are in the PowerPoint and email to share with constituents. Contact Provost Welch with questions.

XII. Academic Master Plan Theme 1 – Historian Jeff Janowick, Academic Success Coach Andrea Tarry, Faculty Megan Lin

a. See PPT. and Project B – Successful Online Learners Toolkit document.
b. Project A (Historian Jeff Janowick; team Kristen Buttigieg, Kara Wiedman, Eric Bennett): Self-assessment survey for students considering online courses, adapted from a North Carolina Central University tool.
    i. Not a gatekeeping tool. Students take online courses mostly because of their schedules; the goal is to help them prepare and find support.
    ii. Four weighted areas: self-regulated learning (weighted most), academic self-efficacy, technology readiness (weighted lower because it is usually solvable), and engagement and communication.
    iii. A score of 18 or higher indicates readiness; lower scores suggest additional support with links to resources such as advising and technology help.
    iv. Recommended placement: orientation, ACAD 100, and the website.
c. Project B (Andrea Tarry, Megan Lin, Amanda Estacio, and Ana Woehr from Advising): Online Learners Toolkit organized around the same four areas, using existing LCC resources first.
    i. Possible homes: the student resources webpage or a D2L page. Includes a student persona and user journey created by Amanda Estacio.
    ii. Open questions: where the survey lives, how results reach advisors, success coaches, faculty and the Learning Commons, and whether

students can print results. The survey and toolkit do not exist yet; the two groups will meet to work through implementation.

XIII. Launch of Textbook Affordability Project – OER Faculty Fellow Denise Warner

a. See PDF.
b. Amanda Estacio (Open Learning Specialist) – Fall 2026 is the 10th anniversary of the OER Award program, which has saved students over $10 million. The project supports Strategic Plan Goal 1, Strategy 3.
c. The project expands beyond high-enrollment courses to any course. Qualifying work reduces textbook and material costs while supporting course outcomes: OER (adopt, adapt or create), open access and library materials, and ebooks.
d. Compensation is set with your supervisor: adjuncts are paid their non-teaching hourly rate; full-time faculty may request reassigned time in spring and/or include it on their professional activities plan. Include the work on your program operating plan.
e. Proposals due October 30. Work begins in January with monthly faculty cohort meetings in spring; materials ready for fall. This will be an annual cycle.
f. The OER LibGuide has a new Textbook Affordability tab with the proposal form, FAQ and timeline. Contacts: Fran Krempasky (library point person), your department's library liaison, Denise Warner, and Amanda Estacio. Library liaisons
g. Senator Mark Kelland – Asked whether guidance from the Provost or Provost's Cabinet could help supervisors approve OER compensation consistently. Denise Warner – Earlier guidelines did not fit unique projects; the goal is to let faculty request what they need, but she is open to that conversation.

XIV. Feedback Request for PA Days – CTE Director Suzanne Bernsten

a. See PDF.
b. Planning for January PA days, prepared with Senator Annescia Dillard. Past evaluations show January timing is challenging, faculty want more prep time, and participation could be broader.
c. Proposed format: a short morning kickoff, then two session types:
    i. Longer hands-on work sessions (revising assignments or rubrics, inclusive syllabus, accessibility, gradebook, open lab with drop-in help). Programs can attend together.
    ii. Shorter conversation-based sessions (mentoring, interdisciplinary learning, community building, online teaching showcase, new faculty conversations).
d. Topic and speaker ideas survey open until October 28. A call for proposals is coming. Adjuncts are paid to present; full-time faculty can include it in their 32-day plan.

XV. Academic Master Plan Theme 3 – CTE Director Suzanne Bernsten

a. See PDF.
b. Project A: Teaching faculty support and development for inclusive and engaged teaching. Faculty, especially adjuncts, face challenges accessing training and support across modalities.
c. A committee will form subgroups on four objectives:
    i. Enhancing institutional commitment – compensated PD for adjuncts and reviewing what counts as PD for step increases and change in status.
    ii. Accessible PD – asynchronous and external options, and making PD funding easier to find.
    iii. Tailored training by modality – e.g., an advanced online teaching course and hybrid/online PD throughout the semester.
    iv. Faculty collaboration – connecting new and experienced faculty and sharing what is learned at external PD.
d. Timeline: Phase 1 data gathering now; Phase 2 subgroups meet biweekly in spring starting January; implementation the following academic year.
e. Looking for two full-time and two part-time/adjunct faculty; the Adjunct Advisory Committee will be asked for representation. Contact Suzanne Bernsten to volunteer.

XVI. Feedback on Draft Schedule Option Fall 2028 – Provost Sally Welch

a. See PPT.
b. The move from 16-week to 15-week semesters would start in Fall 2028. Calendar must be set by May 2027 for the registrar and scheduling. Full-time faculty contracts require 173 workdays. Goal is to spread faculty work more evenly across the year.
c. Fall Option A (Monday start): kickoff and department meetings the week before classes, PA days that Thursday and Friday, two career community days (Tuesday/Wednesday, like a fall break) to keep equal numbers of each weekday, a grading day, and two department days at the end of the semester (e.g., POPs).
d. Fall Option B (Thursday start): no room for PA days before classes, so they move to the end of the semester in December. January PA days are not planned because prep time before spring classes is tight.
e. Spring: five additional faculty workdays at the end of the semester for operating plans and department work to reach 173 days.
f. Send feedback and drafted alternative options directly to Provost Welch.
g. Discussion:
    i. Senator Nicole Olszowy – Asked if faculty must use personal days to miss career community days.

1. Provost Welch – Yes, they are required workdays.

ii. Senator Nicole Olszowy – Asked where Kickoff fits.
    1. Provost Welch – The Tuesday of the week before classes, within the prep week.

iii. Senator Nicole Olszowy – Asked if departments decide how to use career community days.
    1. Provost Welch – Yes, examples are provided (assessment work, collaboration between areas); details are loose for now.

iv. Senator Nicole Olszowy – Some faculty prefer department time at the start of the semester or PA days mid-semester instead of career community days. Provost Welch asked for a drafted proposal.

v. Faculty Bruce Farris – Student attendance is low on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; asked that student impact be considered. Provost Welch – Career community days fit between 7A and 7B sessions; send a draft if there is a way to make it work.

XVII. 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 Chris Richards – Audio description training is available in the Talent Management System for the new Title II requirements. eLearning will send guidance on reviewing YouTube videos; reviewed links should be copied into Kaltura to mark them reviewed, and videos that don't meet requirements may need to be replaced. The PowerPoint reading order tool now reads top-down on both PC and Mac; updated instructions are on the eLearning instructor resource site.

b. Senator Jamie Holbrook – Ethics in AI workshop with Eliza Lee on October 26: frameworks and practical strategies for moving conversations with students beyond cheating toward responsible AI use.

c. Compliance Coordinator Kate Fall– Annual Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP) survey. Federal regulations require LCC to maintain programs that help prevent alcohol abuse and illicit drug use among students and employees. Separate anonymous surveys for students and employees; responses guide resources, education and programming. Please complete the survey. Student; Employee

d. Senator Mark Kelland – "I thought I'd share a little story with you this morning. Many of us are fortunate enough to have students who share the goals they are pursuing in their lives. Some of them stay in touch, and often they are successful in achieving their goals. This is one of those stories, though this one is still in the works. Back in 2017, I had a student who was interested in working in government. Now, the year being 2017 is an important point, because that's when I was elected President of the Academic Senate. So, I asked this student if

she would like to become a student senator on the Academic Senate. She said yes, and joined us for a year as a student senator. After wrapping up her time here at LCC, she went to that little place there in the next town over, and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. Since then, she's worked some interesting jobs in the courts and the judicial system, which is, of course, an interesting blend of government and psychology. She reached out to me recently, to ask for a letter of recommendation, because she has decided it's time to apply to law school, with the goal of pursuing some aspect of advocacy law. I'm quite sure she'll be successful, so I'm looking forward to writing up an excellent recommendation. We have so many different opportunities to set examples for our students, and for those few who get to be Academic Senators the example we set is of particular importance. So, I encourage you all to keep up the good work, even though it isn't always easy. Our students deserve nothing less."

e. Senator Martine Rife – Thanked Dean Andrea Hoagland for funding her attendance at a Michigan community college student success conference in Muskegon, with speaker Aspen Institute managing director. Other colleges were impressed by the Provost's AI grant. Congratulated Dawn Cousino and Tamara McDiarmid on their leadership awards, and thanked Tamara McDiarmid for supporting English department faculty.
f. Academic and Arts Outreach Coordinator Melissa Kaplan– Encourage students to register for StarScapes, the student innovation and creativity showcase, by November 20. The showcase is December 2–3 on Downtown and West campuses. Free arts events: final performances this weekend of a comedy directed by former senator and LCC Historians at the Movies showing the original Godzilla (1954), hosted by Senator Wade Merrill.

XVIII. Potential Future Agenda Items

a. None

XIX. Adjourn 10:58AM

***Purpose**: The Academic Senate is dedicated to enhancing student success at Lansing Community College (LCC). It provides input and advice across the College on matters related to collegewide educational philosophy, academic policy and procedure, strategic initiative priorities, and the deployment of capital or financial resources – except where such matters fall under the scope of collective bargaining. The Academic Senate will take a proactive and collaborative approach, seeking consensus whenever possible, respecting diverse perspectives and striving for inclusivity. It will foster and support effective, transparent communication with the LCC community.*

***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.