

Academic Senate Meeting

May 5th, 2023 at 9:10-11 Virtual Via WebEx

**Present:** Marvin Argersinger, Brittany Barber, Mark Bathurst, Laura Bishop, Brenda Brown, Elizabeth Clifford, Robyn Corey, Tim Deines, Nancy Dietrich, Lisa Dobson, Paige Dunckel, Sarah Garcia-Linz, Courtney Geisel, Gerry Haddad, Susan Hardie, Dawn Hardin, Melinda Hernandez, Jessica Hester, Lorin Honeysett, Jeff Janowick, Susan Jepsen, Heidi Jordan, Mark Kelland, Eliza Lee, Megan Lin, Tamara McDiarmid, Robin McGuire, Tricia McKay, Tracy Nothnagel, Charles Page, Scott Poe, Louise Rabidoux, Chris Richards, Danielle Savory, Joann Silsby, Tedd Sperling, Denise Warner, Nancy Weatherwax, Sally Welch, Richard Williams,

**Absent:** Cheryl Chase, Bruce Farris, Bill Garlick,

1. Call to order- 9:10AM
2. Roll Call
3. Elections Email Reminder – Historian Jeff Janowick
4. Approval of Agenda
   1. Approved without objection
5. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minor editorial changes
   2. Approved without objection

## Vice President’s Report

* 1. “We have made it to the end of another academic year. We may be tired and ready for the summer to begin. Before that happens, we have a few more things to go over on this our last meeting. First, I would like to recognize our Student Senators, Josiah Beauchaine and Andrea Sanchez, not only for their representation on the Senate, but for the proactive work and representation on the SAC committee. Their commitment to the student experience helped move many initiatives forward. Second, are accepting nominations for student senators to serve this Fall. If you know of a student in your program who has expressed interest, or you think would represent the student body well, please refer them to the executive committee. Third, in the last meeting, a work group was formed regarding the faculty and student commitments. It was also decided at that time as part of the motion for us to return to our areas and get feedback on this to forward to the work group. One suggestion was at our end of year department meetings. Please keep this in mind and forward any information you receive to the workgroup if you get any prior to the end of the semester. Next, a reminder the summer meeting is set for July 14th from 9:10-11:00. It will be via Webex, so please mark your calendars. This meeting will not be cancelled due to the need for Vice President nominations however it may be short. Please remember we will need a quorum but the executive committee will try to make it as short and painless as possible. Our first meeting of the Fall Semester is scheduled for Friday, August 25, 2023 at 9:10 am. Please put it on your calendars. If we need to cancel the meeting once the semester begins, we can. Our last meeting was the first we had in person in three years. We enjoyed reconnecting, seeing old friends and meeting new faces. I found it to be a great success with robust dialogue and a return to what I remembered the Senate meetings being about. With this in mind, over the summer please think about coming back in person with more regularity so that we as a Senate can reconnect in person on a regular basis. At this time, it will not be possible to entertain a HyFlex option, so when we pick up this discussion at the summer meeting, we will once again decide online and/or in-person. I would like you all to consider options where some of the meetings of the Senate return to an in-person format. This could look like in-person once a semester or even once a month. It does not have to be all or nothing. At this time I would like to recognize Yuritzi Hernandez-Resendiz from Student Affairs. Last, as we pack up our offices and look to summer, remember to take the time to rest and recharge and get ready for our next academic year. For Adjuncts that are teaching this summer, find time to enjoy your summer. Thank you for all you do and representing your areas on the Academic Senate.”

## Provost’s Report

* 1. Dean Betsy Burger – “Good morning all! As you can see I’m not able to be with you today. Dean Betsy Burger will be providing the provost report for me. So where in the world am I -This year my softball team of many years decided it would be fun to play in the National Senior Olympics Games. I had assumed that because we hadn’t practice much this spring because of the cold and rain that we would lose and be finished pretty quickly. To my surprise, we are actually doing pretty well. We are playing at 8 am this morning so I hope to join you later in the meeting. I know that I say this a lot but I would like to say it one more time. I am very appreciative of each and everyone one of you this year. I keep thinking that the world will smooth out now that covid has slowed down but it hasn’t happened yet. This semester has been very tough on everyone with the stops and starts due to the weather, cyber event and tragic shooting at MSU. I appreciate all that you did to help each other and our students get through this. For those of you who do not have to work this summer, please take the time to rest and recharge for the fall. For those who are working this summer, make sure to take time off to recharge and take a mental break from work.”
  2. Professional activities days schedule – Wednesday May 10th will be in person. A light breakfast will be served from 8-9. You will need your star card to sign in. The session will go from 9-12, then faculty will have lunch with their divisions before going to program meetings. For Thursday, May 11th, the sessions will be virtual. The first session will be a college-wide session continuing the discussion of LCC Culture of Care Value words and then we will move into 2 sets of concurrent sessions. Thursday will finish at noon.
  3. Graduation is Thursday, May 11th. Full-time faculty are required to be there. Please check your email for the schedule.
  4. Discover day is June 23rd. This is for all members of the college but is specifically designed for non-teaching personnel. More details to come.

## Committee Reports

* 1. Curriculum Committee – Senator Tamara McDiarmid
     1. Streamlined the process. Now have a form for faculty. Data found that in 2018-2019 it took 96 days to get a course through. With new process, average time to get through CC is now 32 days. 5 star ticket system is much more efficient. Processed 229 tickets this year through CC.
     2. See Appendix I
  2. Engagement Committee – Senator Lisa Dobson
     1. See Appendix II
     2. Small Group Discussion
        1. What are the most significant accomplishments of the LCC Academic Senate?
        2. Why should someone get involved with the LCC Academic Senate?
        3. What have your gained by being a part of the LCC Academic Senate?
        4. How would like to see the LCC Academic Senate grow? What do you hope we could or will be?

## Consent Agenda

* 1. Curriculum Committee Report
  2. Approved without objection

## Meeting Modality – Senator Tamara McDiarmid

* 1. Senator Rick Williams – Enjoyed in person meeting. Can speak to person next to you.
  2. Senator Tracy Nothnagel – Enjoyed not being in a box. Felt more organic, having small conversations. Felt more engaged. Convenience of WebEx on a Friday is nice, would be nice to get together some.
  3. Senator Sarah Garcia-Linz – Non-verbals like smiles, nodding, laughing. Something that is missing online.
  4. Senator Mark Kelland – Suggest an in person meeting at West Campus. Encourage people to think about if we are coming back, we should come back to campus. If we do one of each, each month, don’t want people to think in person is real and online is an extra one. If we come back, come back fully face to face. Wider range of voices speaking up.
  5. Senator Elizabeth Clifford – support having the meeting broadcast even when having a face-to-face meeting.

## Student Survey on Modality – Past President Jon Ten Brink

* 1. “Test batch” over the summer. Streamline the process for the fall. Test batch is for senators teaching over the summer. These students will be surveyed.

## Faculty/Student Commitments – Past President Jon Ten Brink

* 1. Workgroup has collaborated. Will work during PD days.
  2. Get feedback from areas from document sent out. Send feedback to Jon Ten Brink.
  3. Senator Dawn Hardin – Some constituents had concerns about what committing to safety of students means. Are we doing more than public safety? What about workload? In MCS we say for every hour in class you should have 2-3 hours outside class of work. What about students work full time? What about repercussions for students, is there anything we can do? We can’t drop students after first two weeks. Student does nothing for 15 weeks and then wants you to open everything up for them. What are we doing to make sure our faculty are not being overloaded and burned out. 48 hour response was easier before COVID. Students are emailing and online more.
  4. Senator Mark Kelland – Met with Chief Gaines. Would be happy to discuss this with us and the workgroup.
  5. Historian Jeff Janowick – More generic commitments might be useful. Don’t’ want it to be faculty commitments, should be institutional commitments. Faculty and staff. What are we trying to do as an institution? Shouldn’t be punitive.

## Elections – Historian Jeff Janowick

* 1. New President is Senator Tamara McDiarmid. Secretary Lee was reelected for 2 more years.
  2. Senator Mark Kelland - Move to allow Tamara McDiarmid to step down as Vice President.
     1. Approved without objection.

## Public Comments

* 1. Senator Mark Kelland – Good morning, Some time ago, I asked my colleagues on the Academic Senate if they ever read old senate minutes. It’s often an interesting experience. Recently, I was doing some research for the Provost, and I came across two interesting issues. First, some of the archived minutes are missing. I trust that the Secretary will attend to that matter promptly. Nonetheless, I must commend her, since the information I needed was available, some of it being in an Appendix to a set of minutes. So, including those appendices does, indeed, prove helpful. The second item is the important one. On February 28th, 2020, I made a motion that was amended, and then approved, that the Academic Senate should recommend a student speaker for commencement, said speaker to be chosen by the students at LCC. So, I could certainly envision an important role for our student senators to play in the process. To the best of my knowledge, the Academic Senate has never followed through with this commitment. I must say I’m not surprised, since just a few weeks later an international health crisis was declared, and we entered into the COVID pandemic shutdown. For the next two years, we did not have an in-person commencement. However, last year we did, and in a few days we will have another. Therefore, I call upon our new President to determine whether this action is still both desirable and feasible. If not, then it is incumbent upon us to rescind the approval of the motion. If yes, then it is necessary to begin the process promptly, in order to ensure that we have adequate time to work with our students in anticipation of making a good recommendation for the 2024 commencement ceremony. Thank you for your attention. Respectfully, Mark Kelland.”
  2. Senator Tricia McKay – “At the last Academic Senate meeting on April 21st, I noticed a member of our LCC community abruptly walk out following public comments which included hurtful statements about the LGBTQ+ community and the use of preferred pronouns. In observing this individual exit the board room and administration building, I believe they were hurt and angered by what was said during the public comment. Perhaps I noticed this because I too was hurt and angered. I have been serving on the Academic Senate since 2020. In that time there have been numerous instances where I have felt angry after public comments are made. Yet, I have said nothing. I am not interested in debating the use of preferred pronouns or LCC policy. I believe in the freedom of speech and upholding the decorum of Robert’s Rules of Order. I have also come to realize that my silence in upholding these beliefs and rules make me complicit by allowing words to be spoken during public comment that hurt others. I am no longer willing to be silent. In the past year, the college has adopted a Culture of Care. A Culture of Care means I have a responsibility in making sure that all students, faculty and staff feel a sense of belonging and respect. One way that I can show respect, and let them know they belong, is to use their preferred name and chosen pronoun. In my opinion, this is a small and rather simple thing that I can do to be a caring human being. If we as a senate continue to allow public comments that are so hurtful that a member of our community leaves a Senate meeting visibly angered and upset, and we do nothing about it, then we do not have a Culture of Care. Words do matter, but more than an opinion shared during the public comment on April 21st I am compelled to speak today because I am an ally for all members of the LCC community, including those in the LGBTQ+ community; and a true Culture of Care means that we make sure that all members of our LCC community feel they belong here and are accepted for who they are.
  3. Past Present Jon Ten Brink – LCC Vocal Jazz and Pop and Concert Choir this Sunday at 3Pm at Okemos community church
  4. Senator Rick Williams - Happy Cinco De Mayo Day Academic Senate and friends, Last meeting, our former senate president tried to explain why he had me muted half-way through my public comments on the 7th, and that in some way he had regretted doing so. He then pledged that I would be granted an extra 2 minutes that I believe never transpired that day, nor the meeting in person on the 21st.  In his opening comments, in the minutes, he claimed that muting me was not political or the actual silencing of criticism. I beg to differ. It was both. This is not the first time I have accused LCC leadership, and perhaps the senate, of cognitive dissonance in denying the obvious.   
      My being silenced, and then not even being named personally, underscores the danger of the direction we are headed at LCC. It is when an academic senator is denied free speech to express the concerns of their constituents that there’s a problem. I appreciate both presidents. They are great. However, President Robinson, claims there is no intellectual arguments being made against the full transgender agenda, and Tenbrink claims he is for allowing opposing viewpoints, but how do they make such claims if they will not hear the intellectual arguments? I am sure it is easier to claim this or that while hitting the mute button.  I am also sure it is easier to mute others, than to deal with opposing viewpoints that are intellectual.  But we need to deal with the issue of how the full transgender agenda harms others. Tenbrink claims that he is against speech that harms others, yet where is this for the potential harm of having to use pronouns that are not scientifically valid or ethically responsible for them to use. And not using them may result in faculty losing their jobs and benefits, or a student that believes in science, and or faith could suffer loss. The LCC leadership has acknowledged that not using preferred pronouns could lead to disciplinary action. We need to have intellectual conversations about this, and the Academic Senate is one area where they should be had. Thank you.

## Potential Future Agenda Items

* 1. Senator Paige Dunckel - Peer Review process and how senate can become involved.

***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 by Academic Senate Secretary, Eliza Lee.

**Appendix I**

| **Type of Review** | **# of Tickets** | **Avg. # of Days** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18-19 Expedited Revised | - | - |
| 19-20 Expedited Revised | 1 | 72.00 |
| 20-21 Expedited Revised | 82 | 40.18 |
| 21-22 Expedited Revised | 50 | 37.68 |
| 22-23 Expedited Revised | 83 | 26.76 |
|  |  |  |
| 18-19 Revised | 30 | 95.77 |
| 19-20 Revised | 32 | 80.25 |
| 20-21 Revised | 39 | 36.03 |
| 21-22 Revised | 40 | 43.23 |
| 22-23 Revised | 13 | 31.92 |
|  |  |  |
| 18-19 New | 15 | 83.13 |
| 19-20 New | 21 | 145.14 |
| 20-21 New | 5 | 38.00 |
| 21-22 New | 16 | 32.81 |
| 22-23 New | 3 | 27.33 |
|  |  |  |
| 18-19 Canceled | 9 |  |
| 19-20 Canceled | 1 |  |
| 20-21 Canceled | 34 |  |
| 21-22 Canceled | 3 |  |
| 22-23 Canceled | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
| 18-19 Total\* | 45 | 91.56 |
| 19-20 Total | 54 | 105.33 |
| 20-21 Total | 86 | 25.94 |
| 21-22 Total | 106 | 39.04 |
| 22-23 Total (as of 12/14/22) | 229 (99) | 27.45 |

**Appendix II**

**Lansing Community College Academic Senate**

**Engagement Committee**

**Academic Senate Committee Report**

**May 5, 2023**

This report is submitted by Lisa Whiting Dobson, Engagement Committee Chair.

Thank you to Engagement Committee members Nancy Dietrich, Sarah Garcia-Linz, Kelli Herm, Jessica Hester, Jeff Janowick , Eliza Lee, and Karen Tommasulo. Thank you also to Jon Tenbrink who has attended our meetings. This group of people is a wellspring of energy and creative ideas and are wonderful to work with.

Our report today will be a brief review of our activity since our last report several months ago when we have just revived the committee.

Our areas for focus for this spring have been the Recruiting, Mentorship, and Marketing.

The Engagement Committee is working on recruiting for the Academic Senate Election next year, and for current Academic Senate Committee Membership. We hope to visit each division and/or department meeting at the start of Fall Semester with a Academic Senate presentation.

We have prepared presentations for PA Days and Discovery Day.

We have recruited it a third year Academic Senator to mentor a incoming Academic Senator. The mentors will available to answer questions for the new Senators and will check in meet with them a minimum of four times a year to provide support and encouragement.

We are planning a brief engagement survey at the beginning of Fall Semester to look for folks who would like to be more engaged in Lansing Community College Leadership and/or the Academic Senate.

We are developing a Marketing Plan including several short videos. The question is what is our communication objective. In other words, what do we want to say about the Academic Senate. We are looking forward to your input in our breakout sessions. Each breakout session will be led by a member of the Academic Senate Engagement Committee. They will take also take notes to record your input.

Here are our questions…

What are the most significant accomplishments of the LCC Academic Senate?

Why should someone get involved with the LCC Academic Senate?

What have your gained by being a part of the LCC Academic Senate?

How would like to see the LCC Academic Senate grow? What do you hope we could or will be?