



Academic Senate Meeting

January 12th, 2024 at 9:10-11 via WebEx

Present: Marvin Argersinger, Brittany Barber, Laura Bishop, Brenda Brown, Elizabeth Clifford, Robyn Corey, Tim Deines, Amber Denney, Nancy Dietrich, Lisa Dobson, Paige Dunckel, Bruce Farris, Sarah Garcia-Linz, Bill Garlick, Courtney Geisel, Gerry Haddad, Susan Hardie, Melinda Hernandez, Jessica Hester, Susan Jepsen, Heidi Jordan, Mark Kelland, Eliza Lee, Megan Lin, Tamara McDiarmid, Tricia McKay, Tracy Nothnagel, Charles Page, Louise Rabidoux, Chris Richards, Joann Silsby, Tedd Sperling, Denise Warner, Nancy Weatherwax, Sally Welch, Richard Williams, Jon Ten Brink, Jeff Janowick

Absent: Cheryl Chase, Dawn Hardin, Lorin Honeysett, Robin McGuire, Scott Poe,

- I. Call to order – 9:11AM
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Add Elections update to line IX
 - i. Approved without objection.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minor corrections
 - i. Approved without objection
 - b. November 18th, 2022, made a motion to amend the previously adopted minutes from March, 2019. Minutes need to be updated for the website.
- V. President's Report
 - a. Encourage people to take place in Strategic Planning process.
 - b. HLC townhall January 29th, administrative building. Going over criteria 3 and 4.
- VI. Provost's Report
 - a. Thank you to the CTE for PA days and for Patrick.
 - b. Your syllabus is your contract with students and so it is really important to make sure your syllabus is filled. I have gotten a handful of reports already this semester that the syllabus is blank in some courses, there's no instructor information. No grading information. No college information. No engagement

needs to be done. That's one of the requirements that we have to make sure that we fulfill. The reason I personally want you to do this is, this is our way to help support you if a grade appeal comes or a complaint comes because I can say, and I typically do my first two questions are what's in your syllabus and what's in your student handbook, and if it's there, I can support you. Official syllabus per course, if you have something else that has material in it, that's similar to a syllabus call it something else. So, if it's guidelines for students, expectations for students, extra material, please don't call it a syllabus.

- c. Please go to this strategic planning meetings or fill out the survey. It is really important that we hear your voice and what you think about what we should be doing as a college in the future

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee (CC) – Senator Courtney Geisel
 - i. See PowerPoint.
 - ii. The purpose of the Curriculum Committee is “provide[ing] leadership and support related to academic courses and curricula to ensure that academic standards are maintained.”
 - iii. The charge of the Curriculum Committee is to “Evaluate proposed new and/or revised academic programs of study and courses to ensure alignment with the college's mission and consistency across the college's divisions.”
 - iv. Email [Committee Chair](mailto:LCC-CC-CC_Chair@star.lcc.edu) (LCC-CC-CC_Chair@star.lcc.edu)
- b. Student Advisory Committee (SAC) – Senator Elizabeth Clifford
 - i. The Student Advisory Committee met last November 29th and will be meeting again January 24th. We have great participation from many student services including e-Learning, Athletics, Counseling, Library & Learning Commons along with some teaching faculty. We have reached out to the new staff in Office of Diversity and Inclusion and anticipate someone joining us from their area.
 - ii. As a committee, we would like to suggest more student involvement in the graduation ceremony. One idea we discussed is short video clips of students sharing their journey between speakers to capture the diverse programs and perspectives of our students' experiences. We would like to follow up with the graduation planning committee.
 - iii. I want to recognize the many resources on campus that work hard to help our students. Please mention them in your classes as they come up. It's great to have had a Welcome Week in Spring semester. Student Services is having a Campus Resource Crawl on Wed and Thursday of next week. The food pantries are operational this semester at all campus locations.

- iv. e-Learning's has continued outreach to students to help them through their D2L courses. Library and Learning Commons offer many supports.
- v. One issue we have seen in Learning Commons is students struggling to see where and when their classes are in Banner. On the student screen, the columns are less wide so leave out part of the words unless the student knows to use the full screen or click on each entry. We had a student unknowingly sign up for a class that ends at 4:05 at LCC East followed by a class that starts at 4:10 on Main campus. Another student came up trying to figure out where and when her classes met. How Banner displays on a screen is a small issue but it ended up being a barrier to overcome for those students.

VIII. Consent Agenda

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

IX. Elections Update – Senator Eliza Lee

- a. Following areas are open and call for nominations will be February 12th through March 1st.
 - i. Advising
 - ii. Communication, Media, and the Arts (CMA)
 - iii. Community Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) - 1 Division At-Large position
 - iv. English
 - v. Health and Human Services (HHS) – 2 Division At-Large positions
 - vi. Learning Commons
 - vii. Math and Computer Science (MCS)
 - viii. School of Business
 - ix. Science
 - x. Social Science and Humanities (SSH)
 - xi. Technical Careers – 2 Division At-Large positions
 - xii. Member At-Large

X. Federal Agenda – Associate VP of External Affairs, Development and K-12 Ops Toni Glasscoe

- a. See PowerPoint.
- b. Understand the why of funding and legislation. What matters to our students, what LCC does.
- c. In current federal agenda, instead of talking about what we need we are talking about what we've done.

- d. Senator Richard Williams – Could you include CEWD? Mentioned targeted approach of programs. Why didn't we include a more academic approach? Just feel we are deemphasizing core classes.
 - i. VP Toni Glasscoe - This is the way of the national framework. National landscape includes the things detailed in the Federal Agenda. More than happy to work with Arts and Sciences to pinpoint what they are doing. It's a lot of workforce development and financial aid.
- e. Senator Mark Kelland – Might be helpful for the Academic Senate to know what you are doing with non-profits. Maybe update the executive committee.
 - i. VP Toni Glasscoe - Would also suggest Cathy Zell the Director of the Foundation to that discussion as she works with other non-profits as well.

XI. Grades VS GPA on Certificates – Senator Mark Kelland

- a. Certificate of completion, certificate of achievement, then associate degree. A student in a certificate (shorter than associate), should they have a minimum GPA or minimum grade? GPA is average of all classes and student could perform poorly on essential courses. Doesn't maintain academic rigor in college courses. Suggest requiring 2.0 for all courses since they are relevant to the certificate.
- b. Move that the Academic Senate recommend changing the institutional requirements for certificates to require a minimum grade of at least 2.0 in all courses required for the certificate.
 - i. Second by Senator Eliza Lee
 - ii. Approved as voted.

XII. Public Comments

- a. Senator Tim Deines – “I want to respond to something that was said during this semester's Kick-off - namely that LCC is a business and that our students are customers. The speaker recognized that LCC is more than that, which I appreciated, but nevertheless continued to insist on the basic point. Despite the financial needs of our public institutions, I think we should strongly resist this characterization of LCC and public education generally. Why? Because, as a matter of fact, LCC is a public institution whose fundamental purpose it is to serve the public that supports it. In this sense it a public good, unlike actual businesses, whose profits serve private interests, despite sometimes having a public benefit. Because the whole idea of the public good is under severe attack in this country, and has been for the greater part of 50 years, I believe we must defend those pockets of public good and provision that we still have and seek to expand them. I get the impulse to think about our students as customers. The logic runs that if we treat our students as customers, we will somehow be more attentive to and efficient in serving their needs and desires. Similarly, if we approach education as a commodity, we will be more conscientious about the

product we sell them. Good intentions aside, I think this is backwards. We are the business of teaching students not because we want to sell them a product but because we want to educate them. This education is not only a benefit to themselves but to the greater society as well. Education, in this sense, is not a commodity. We confuse the issue when we treat them as synonymous. Moreover, when we treat students as customers, we reduce human relationships to one of transaction: you are valuable to me only insofar as you can satisfy some material need or desire of mine. This has implications for staff, faculty, and administration: our mutual relationships are reduced to competition: those who can produce the most at the least cost win. In a 'culture of care', is this the kind of relationship we want to foster?

- b. Faculty Martine Rife – Date that syllabi are due has moved up. Communication plan from Admin needs to be consistent and don't be random. English received email from division and supervisor but they were conflicting on 12/8. On 12/15 got another email with more conflicting information. 1/4 got additional information in the body of an email. In Concourse we are told what we are required to do and what we aren't required to do. All the information is overwhelming. College needs to do better in communicating.

XIII. Potential Future Agenda Items

- a. Senator Paige Dunckel - Update on Learning Circles, teaching communities.
- b. Senator Mark Kelland - Follow up with Toni and Cathy Zell on informing the Academic Senate on non-profits.

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 high-quality education ensuring that all students successfully complete their educational goals while developing life skills necessary for them to enrich and support themselves, their families, and their community as 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.*