



## Academic Senate Meeting

March 22nd, 2024 at 9:10-11 via WebEx

**Present:** Marvin Argersinger, Brittany Barber, Laura Bishop, Brenda Brown, Elizabeth Clifford, Robyn Corey, Tim Deines, Keshava Demerath-Shanti, Amber Denney, Nancy Dietrich, Lisa Dobson, Paige Dunckel, Bruce Farris, Bill Garlick, Sarah Garcia-Linz, Courtney Geisel, Gerry Haddad, Susan Hardie, Dawn Hardin, Melinda Hernandez, Jessica Hester, Lorin Honeysett, 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, Joann Silsby, Tedd Sperling, Nancy Weatherwax, Sally Welch, Richard Williams, Jeff Janowick, Jon Ten Brink,

**Absent:** Cheryl Chase, Denise Warner,

- I. Call to Order – 9:10AM
- II. Land Acknowledgement
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minor Grammatical correction
  - b. Approved as amended.
- VI. President's Report
  - a. Jon Ten Brink appointed Past President, Senator Mark Kelland appointed Parliamentarian
  - b. Three Senate associates earned Star Power awards.
    - i. President's Award: Lee Gardner
    - ii. Shining Star Award (Full-time or Part-time Support of the Year): Patrick Butcher
    - iii. Comet Award (Academic Professional of the Year): Heidi Jordan
  - c. Summer meeting will be July 19<sup>th</sup>
  - d. New public comment request form on the Academic Senate website. Please find the link [here](#).
- VII. Provost's Report

- a. Great events happening on campus. Insurance event which was interesting, program showcases on West and Downtown, Office hours at Mason next Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 in Gannon.
- b. Three events happening
  - i. Women's lit reading
  - ii. Caesar Chavez Day
  - iii. Global Fest Day
- c. Please contact Laura Medina about future events so the Provost and President can put them on their calendar.
- d. 2 student surveys' happening right now. Student satisfaction survey going on. HLC survey happening now as well.
- e. Townhall for [HLC Teaching and Learning](#), WebEx available.
- f. Moving from Annual pathway review to a biannual pathway review.

VIII. Consent Agenda

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

IX. Elections Update – Senator Eliza Lee

- a. Last week to vote. Nominees will be contacted the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

X. Student Senators Discussion - Senator Keshava Demerath-Shanti and Senator Aral Gribble

- a. Senator Keshava Demerath-Shanti – Studying political science, transferring to MSU in the Fall.
- b. Senator Aral Gribble – Michigan Reconnect in DMAC program. Digital media associates, long time Michigan resident.
- c. Didn't know Academic Senate existed. Hard to represent students when the students don't know it exists. How can we get more students involved in the Academic Senate and Student Advisory Committee?
- d. Questions from the Student Senators, See Appendix I.
  - i. Senator Rick Williams – Uses email, but would social media be better?
    - 1. Having a social media presence would help.
    - 2. Also just speaking to your students personally.
  - ii. Senator Mark Kelland – Important to look at students not just in the leadership academy, want diversity in our student senators. Have conversations with ODI and their students. Charter makes it clear that student learning is the ultimate goal. So, while we represent the faculty, it is to the degree of the good of the students.
  - iii. Faculty Martine Rife - Elizabeth Clifford came to class to talk about SAC. Offered Extra Credit to go to SAC or discuss SAC. Could have collaborative project between faculty and Academic Senate (especially English faculty).
  - iv. If anyone would like Keshava to come and talk to a class about SAC, would be willing to do that.

- v. Senator Rick Williams – To Aral, would you be interested in co-authoring a new non-credit class in CEWD about how acting can improve teaching? I have a theory that teaching can be improved with acting techniques.
  - 1. Senator Aral Gribble – Yes, will be in contact.
- vi. Senator Tricia McKay – Is SAC mentioned at Student Orientation?
  - 1. Senator Eliza Lee - Will look into this.
- vii. Senator Susan Jepsen - I am intrigued by the idea of a student senate, with elections and designated delegates also included as part of the academic senate (SAC). There are other community colleges in MI that do have a student senate/government. An idea that might be worth exploring.
  - 1. Historian Jeff Janowick - It's hard to sustain that kind of commitment from students who pass through quite quickly (in a relative sense). If there is a commitment to student government, the College will need to provide the focus to sustain it so students can join/support.
- viii. Senator Keshava Demerath-Shanti – If more than 10 students on SAC, there should be an election.
- ix. Program and Office Specialist CTE Annescia Dillard – Students who participate in clubs are usually involved. Could contact Patty Ayers.
- x. Senator Mark Kelland – Could make SAC the source of the Student Senators.
- xi. Senator Keshava Demerath-Shanti – Better orientation for new Student Senators
  - 1. Will be working with the Pres and Sec on making orientation better.
- xii. Senator Aral Gribble – Opportunities to work across different education areas, should take advantage of them. A lot of wonderful resources on campus.

XI. Adjunct Advisory Committee Motion – Senator Tracy Nothnagel

- a. See Appendix II
- b. Senator Elizabeth Clifford – Make sure to include part time academic professionals.
- c. Senator Rick Williams – Would like first line to say part time and full time.
- d. Senator Tricia McKay – Concerned with second bullet point. It reads as advocating for the adjunct faculty interest when the focus of the senate is the student.
- e. Senator Mark Kelland – This is only a motion to write the charter. We can take all those things into consideration when we write the charter.
- f. Motion passes as voted

XII. Student Forum Update – Senator Tracy Nothnagel

- a. Open forum for students. Want to hear from the them and their experiences. Going to discuss things like food on campus, resources that are available, food

will be available for students. Student senators involved. Senator Joann Silsby will be on West Campus. Provost and President will be there to help

- i. Senator Amber Denney – How can we sign up to help be a part of this?
- ii. [Sign Up Genius](#)

XIII. Academic Senate Charter – Senator Susan Jepsen

- a. Senators went into small groups to discuss future changes to the charter.
- b. Senator Mark Kelland – A few technical errors, had a discussion for a while on the very last sentence. Says adjunct faculty members will be compensated at half their rate. May be up to MAHE. Sentence should be struck because reads as if we only half-value our adjuncts.
- c. Senator Laura Bishop – Broad, all encompassing on charter. Are we spending enough time talking about the really important issues? Information tends to be top down, instead of what is happening in the classroom. Concern of year versus two-year review. We weren't notified and should talk more about.
- d. Senator Amber Denney – Need to look at College administration bullet point.
- e. Senator Sarah Garcia-Linz – What is faculty prioritization?
- f. Senator Aral Gribble – Spell out the acronyms, change integrate English, business and econ.
- g. All suggestions should be emailed to [LCC-Academic-Senate-Admin@star.lcc.edu](mailto:LCC-Academic-Senate-Admin@star.lcc.edu)

XIV. 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 Rick Williams - I enjoy being a representative of CEWD. I try to engage in every possible meeting at the senate, to make sure we are heard and included in our procedures. I do represent the majority of you that are vocal about supporting the Land Acknowledgement statement as written. I hear you. I also represent a silent view of persons, who are afraid to speak out here. Let's face it, LCC is not a hospital environment for diverse ideology. Just look at how I have been treated in the town square for daring to speak against the narrative from on high. I represent those who fear reprisal from an increasingly repressive agenda at LCC. In this low enrollment, particularly with white males, carving out one group that our own demographics show is around 80%, for another, is not a good idea. Why not be more inclusive? Along with this, I do not think I am near the bully some say I am, compared to how I have been treated. Thankfully, I can take it. I have nothing to lose compared to some of you that do. Regarding the Land Acknowledgment statement. It has proven itself to be political and controversial. I have not heard so much anti-American rhetoric in my life. I think some of it is ultimately racist myself. This all oozes the old refrain: "white men bad." More still, If anyone talked to me, instead of yelling at me, they would find I am partly Native American Indian myself. And I actually do NOT favor the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited, for different reasons. I do appreciate the gesture of the statement. And I love my heritage. Moreover, I do not doubt the veracity of the intention here, or the history it is based upon. I would argue it is necessary in that regard to have it. Yes, it is necessary to have this. Yet, it seems to be just thrown out there randomly. Further, I do not recall voting for it. Shouldn't this be showcased better? It just seems incomplete. It is lacking its purpose. It does not answer--why. It is lacking in representing all of us occupying this land that is

currently American today. It focuses on one group, and discriminates against others. Is one culture better than another as this suggests? Will the next statement unfairly characterize another group as this insinuates? Where is the inclusivity of that? Where is the culture-of-care in any of this? Because of this, and other things, I simply think we could do better than a statement that has shown itself to be both political, and therefore controversial.

b. Senator Keshava Demerath-Shanti – During the group discussion, one of the people didn't have the documents we were talking about. Could it be possible to put the documents on the website as well so everyone in the community can have access that. Responding to the previous comment, we need to have a discussion on senators making public comments. Concerned about the perception that comes out when the only voice that comes out is a senator and its exclusionary. Shouldn't be sprung on us, this is a controversial issue. Have a problem with a senator making a public comment and that is the only view from the senate and it doesn't represent the senate. They don't represent the senate, those view are not represented here. Being inclusive and reading the land acknowledgement does not mean being exclusionary. Acknowledging fact is not exclusionary. Being inclusive of other is not inherently excluding white men.

XV. Potential Future Agenda Items

- a. Senator Bruce Farris - Annual review versus biannual review. How do we review courses annually? 2 years could cause course revisions to be held up. Needs of the community are changing often, makes us less flexible.
- b. Senator Mark Kelland – Take a look at the Bylaws. There is no censorship. 10 senators can compel a special meeting. Consider if 10 is too large a number. May want to change it to compel an agenda item.

**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.*

Respectfully submitted by Academic Senate Secretary, Eliza Lee.

## Appendix I

# Student Senator Discussion Questions

3-22-23

1. What are the ways you've been successful in getting students engaged with the Academic Senate and/or SAC?
2. What are ways you have and/or can work with your colleagues, both within and outside of your department to create learning and growth opportunities for your students?
3. Why are you committed to the Senate, and how do you feel the Academic Senate enriches LCC?

Academic Senate  
Lansing Community College

Resolution to Establish Adjunct Advisory Committee

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate Executive Committee recognizes the valuable contributions of adjunct faculty members to Lansing Community College (LCC);

**Whereas**, adjunct faculty members bring diverse perspectives, professional experiences, and specialized knowledge to the educational environment; and

**Whereas**, the Academic Senate aims to foster a supportive and inclusive academic community that values the input and engagement of all faculty members; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate Executive Committee hereby moves to establish the Adjunct Advisory Committee following approval of a Charter to be written by a work group including but not limited to the following objectives in its charge:

- To provide a platform for adjunct faculty members to communicate their perspectives, concerns, and suggestions regarding institutional policies, practices, and initiatives.
- To address academic issues pertinent to adjunct faculty members and advocate for their interests.
- To promote professional development opportunities, resources, and support services tailored to the needs of adjunct faculty members.
- To enhance the integration of adjunct faculty members into the LCC academic community and facilitate their engagement in campus activities and governance structures.