CLA Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2026 | **Time:** 2:30–4:00 PM | **Location:** I01-1400 (ISC)

Minute Taker: Keyana

Attendees: Karen Okigbo (Soci), Amy Sue Hazel (Performing Arts), Elizabeth Brown (Soci), Nino Kebadze (LAIS), Simone De Lemos (At-large LAIS), Kelly Colvin (Hist), Chris Barcelos (WGSS), Lisa Maeng (Psy), Kellee Barnard (CLSICS/RELSTRY), Hye Min Kim (comm), Nural Aman (econ), John Tyson (art), Jean-Phillippe Belleau (Anthro), Ayesha Irani (Asian studies), Trevor Memmott (Public Policy), Dana Miranda (Philo).

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1. Approval of April Minutes

- **Action:** Motion seconded and approved.

2. Dean's Report

- **Tenure Track (TT) Hires:** 5 hires approved (7 were requested).
    - Approved departments: Psychology, History, Communication, Philosophy, English.
    - Federal funding cuts and lack of international students contributing to hire approval.
- **Budgetary Reductions:**
    - 11% operating budget cut across all of CLA; may trickle down to departments.
    - Non-Tenure Track (NTT) hiring budget not yet received; cuts are anticipated.
        - Senator: when will be know more about the cuts?
            - TT not a budget, comes out of state lines
            - NTT budget is often exceeded; adjustments (cancellations/section reductions) occur after the budget is received based on under-enrollment.
        - Senator: Would cuts be by dept or flat across depts?
            - Cuts based on section amounts & student demand not dollar amounts per department.
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- **90-Credit Three-Year Degree**
    - Not currently being adopted.
    - Senator: Push to shape this discourse?
        - Organize welcome days or something to highlight the value of GenEd requirements
    - Different Senate structure/dean's report?
    - Canvas Breach:
        - Unknown impact or reasoning; details pending.

3. Moderator's Report

- Today is the deadline for department senator confirmation/replacements.
    - Two at-large positions remain unfilled; know any NTTs looking for service share the opportunity
- **Leadership Transition:**
    - Before June: Contact Chris.
    - After June: Contact Joseph Brown (Associate Professor, Political Studies), the incoming Moderator.
        - course release for the moderator ?
    - Constitutional amendment passed
        - quorum achieved

4. Course Approvals

- Motion to vote as a block; seconded and approved
    - **New Courses Approved:**
        - CLA 110: Exploring the Liberal Arts
        - AMST 340L: Black and Puerto Rican Soundscapes
    - **Substantial Changes:**
        - ENGL 384L: Reading Sexualities (Added WGS cross-listing).
        - PHIL 297: Asian Philosophy (Added Asian Studies cross-listing).
    - **Program Changes:**
        - Cinema Studies: Added two courses to History requirement.
        - WGS Major: Revisions to internship requirement.
        - WGS Minor: Added applied learning course requirement.
        - Economics: New Undergraduate Program (Econ Quant).
- Motion to vote to approve, seconded, approved

5. New Business

A. Amendment of April Motion (Africana Studies)

- **Context:** Feedback received from Margret Hart regarding inaccuracies. Department has elected Sheldon George as Chair (3-year term). Bayinnah is on sabbatical (unpaid leave for 2026).
- **Action:** Motion to strike two "Whereas" sections to focus on the core issue of transparency rather than chronological details.
    - **Whereas:** The former department chair for Africana Studies has taken unpaid leave and resigned from their position, obligating Dean Pratima Prasad to report the matter to Human Resources (HR).
    - **Whereas:** Dean Prasad has determined "that there are no eligible faculty in the department who would be acceptable to them in the role of chair" resulting in the appointment of acting chair from outside the department, writing on February 17, 2026: "Something is clearly amiss in the department's climate, and it requires my direct intervention to ensure that the issues are addressed with the necessary oversight.
- **Vote:** Motion to remove/revise sections seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Budget Concerns

- Concerns raised about the uneven impact of cuts on departments primarily staffed by NTT faculty. Money spent on law firms but cannot find money to offset cuts.
- **Senator: Rainy day fund?** Equity between and across campuses? Access to meetings about these cuts?
    - Discussion of Rutgers Model (targeted furloughs, community-based budgeting).
    - M. Brinker's knowledge of budgeting (co-chairing the budget committee)
    - **Senator:** Need for transparency regarding where/how funds are allocated.
    - Concerns that decision-making is overly concentrated in the Provost's office; need to prioritize students.
    - Are there cuts in other schools? Data?
    - What data are we using to cancel or keep classes?; how do we account for late enrollment numbers?
    - What can we do as a group to save sections? Can you count overenrolled to save underenrolled?
    - In our department they have cut before they had the data to make a decision, based decision on one semester
    - NTT cuts, prep our chairs for how to deal with the cuts, will be too late to find hires
    - Impact of small classes (influence who donates, stays in CLA); Perhaps enlist the project committee

6. Adjournment