

Minutes

Lecturers and Educators Congress

September 24, 2025

4:00-5:30 PM – Colton Hall Room 210, Conference Room or [via Zoom](#)

Present: Ryan Tolboom (President), Jaskirat Sodhi (Vice President), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Gerry Milano (Web Coordinator), Jose Alcala (HCAD), Andrew Burnside (HSS), Annie Chatterjee (Library), Johanna Deane (HSS), John Esche, Crystal Hamai (HSS), Tom Orgorzalek (HCAD), Dipesh Patel (Informatics), Jeffrey Reaves (SAS), Olena Rudna (MTSM), Stephanie Santos (CEE), Pete Ward (Math), Rosemina Vohra (Informatics), Chris Zeiner

- I. President's Report - Ryan Tolboom
 - A. Why the LEC is Important – Ryan introduced himself as the new Preseident and discussed LEC. The various representatives introduced themselves.
 - B. Seeking Endorsement: [New Jersey Institute of Technology Mutual Defense Resolution to Build a New Jersey State Alliance in Defense of Higher Education, Academic Freedom, and Research –](#)
There was a unanimous vote in support.
 - C. Needed: LEC representative for the [Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs](#)
search : volunteers: Gerry Milano, John Esche, Pete Ward
 - D. Needed: Third representative for University Senate (two current representatives are Scott Kent and Annie Chatterjee) volunteers: Johanna Deane, Pete Ward
 - E. Needed: Representative needed for University Senate Finance Committee
volunteers – Chris Zeiner, Jeffrey Reaves
 - F. Needed: Representative for TLT. Dipesh is a representative; Gerry represents her department. Volunteers: Jeffrey Reaves
 - G. In-Progress: Our CFRR representative is changing. Thank you Catherine for your service! Jose Alcala will remain one of our representatives; we're waiting to hear about dates and times to get a new volunteer.

University Wellness Day, Thursday, October 2 – University is open but no classes are scheduled.

H. Campus-wide AI Event March 26th, 2026

II. Committee Reports

- A. Ad Hoc Task Force on Federal Actions - Johanna Deane
- B. UCAN - Scott Kent \$40,000 in discretionary funds was made available in the contract, but the administration was violating the contract rules in the way they were administering the funds. It is now being handled by the Provost's office.
- C. Faculty Senate - Jaskirat Sodhi / Ryan Tolboom – the Egypt campus is back in discussion and being expanded to offer more programs than originally conceived. AI Day was discussed. Fadi Deek is the new president of the Faculty Senate; there is not yet a vice president, but there is a vice vice president. The provost reported about the AI workshop and etc. Graduate program in AI Engineering out of NCE, under the EE department.
- D. TLT - Geraldine Milano – first meeting will be in October.
- E. University Senate – Annie Chatterjee – first meeting will be in October.

- III. New business – Gerry reminded us that we should share LEC information with our departments; John suggested we reach out especially to new hires.

The meeting was concluded at 5:06pm.