

CONSTITUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Easton, Pennsylvania

PREAMBLE

The Student Government of Lafayette College operates under the authority and through the recognition of the faculty. The Student Government shall operate in ways consistent with the basic delegation of faculty responsibility and in ways consistent with the Charter of the College, the Statutes of the College, and with such other controlling documents such as the Statement on the Rights and Responsibilities of Students.

The Student Government shall provide a forum for the voicing of student concerns on matters related to the welfare of the College in general and to the welfare of the student body in particular. The Student Government shall serve as the official medium of communication between the student body and the other constituencies of the College on matters which, in the opinion of the Student Government, should receive the attention of the Faculty, Administration, the Board of Trustees, or any combination thereof.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Student Government of Lafayette College.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

The Student Government is the representative governing body of the undergraduates of Lafayette College. In addition to providing a forum for the free exchange of ideas on matters of general concern to the College community and to communicate such concerns as the Student Government deems desirable to appropriate College agencies, the Student Government shall:

- A. Supervise the co-curricular life of the Student Body to the extent that the Faculty has itself been delegated authority to do so;
- B. Supervise the general operation of student organizations by:
 - 1. Granting recognition to organizations whose purposes are in accordance the Statement on Rights and Responsibilities of Students and the Student Code of Conduct in the Lafayette College *Student Handbook* and whose College resource requirements can be met within the facilities of the College and budget limitations of the Student Government;
 - 2. Apportioning, to recognized organizations, funds allocated for that purpose by the College budget;
 - 3. Superintending the dissolution of organizations when the need arises.
- C. Supervise student elections;
- D. Nominate or choose student members of standing committees of the Board of Trustees or of the Faculty in ways acceptable to the parent bodies;

- E. Enforce the rules which it enacts and other College regulations which are explicitly within its jurisdiction;
- F. Represent the student body to outside agencies;
- G. Have authority to:
 - 1. Initiate and enact changes in the Code of Conduct for implementation after review by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees;
 - 2. Propose amendments to the Statement on Rights and Responsibilities of Students for concurring action by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees;
 - 3. Establish committees, assign their responsibilities, appoint their membership and create whatever other internal organization it deems necessary for carrying out the purpose stated in this Constitution;
 - 4. Make recommendations to appropriate deciding bodies on any matter relating to the general welfare of the student body;
 - 5. And recall student members of Faculty Committees if they have an unsatisfactory attendance record at their respective Faculty Committee meetings.

ARTICLE III: STUDENT GOVERNMENT RELATION TO THE FACULTY

Section 1: Suspension of Student Government Action

- A. The Faculty may suspend any action of the Student Government which it judges to lie outside the authority of that organization or to be detrimental to the best interests of the College. Suspended actions shall be returned to the Student Government for reconsideration.
- B. To carry out the provisions of Article III, Section 1A, the Dean of Students shall act as the agent of the Faculty, reviewing all actions of the Student Government and deciding whether any should be suspended or reviewed by the entire Faculty. They shall report actions of the Student Government to the Faculty when appropriate, and they shall report actions which have been suspended to the next regular meeting of the Faculty for suitable action at that meeting or the next regular meeting.

Section 2: Instructions to Committees

- A. The Student Government or its Executive Committee shall have the right to ask the Faculty to direct any of its committees to provide information, undertake studies, prepare recommendations, or perform other appropriate duties.
- B. The Faculty or its Clerk shall have the right to ask the Student Government to direct any of its committees to provide information, undertake studies, prepare recommendations, or perform other appropriate duties.

Section 3: Joint Committees

The Student Government and the Faculty may, at such time that it is acceptable to both bodies, establish joint committees of the Student Government and the Faculty. The composition and mission of such committees shall be determined jointly by the Student Government and the Faculty.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

Section 1: Meetings

A. General Body meetings of the Student Government shall be held once every two weeks throughout the College year. A General Body meeting may be cancelled provided a motion from a General Body member is passed by two-thirds of the Student Government present and voting at a General Body meeting.

B. Special meetings may be called by the President or one-third of the General Body members petitioning the President in writing.

Section 2: Quorum

A majority of the General Body members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Student Government.

Section 3: Parliamentary Procedure

The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all actions of the Student Government.

Section 4: By-Laws

The Student Government shall have the power to write By-laws to effect the purposes of the Constitution.

Section 5: Legislative Functions

A motion involving change in established policy or of significance to the Student Government shall not be voted on until a meeting held at least 24 hours following that meeting at which the motion is presented or unless notice of intent to propose such a motion is made at least four days before the meeting, in writing, to each General Body member. This rule may be suspended by the unanimous vote of the Student Government present and voting.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

The Student Government shall have up to 36 General Body members. All Executive Officers will be elected from the full-time students of Lafayette College. All of the General Body members shall have the right to vote on matters of the Student Government with the exception of budgets, which will be voted on weekly by the Executive Committee. Voting procedures for Constitutional Amendments are outlined in Article IX.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1: Eligibility

All full-time enrolled students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation, and who are not graduating in the year that the election is occurring shall be eligible to run for any Executive Officer position besides the President. Only full-time enrolled students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation, are not graduating in the year that the election is occurring, and who have previously served as General Body members shall be eligible to become candidates for the President of Student Government. Exceptions could be made based on a petition process, with a successful petition being voted on by a majority of the General Body.

Section 2: Time and Election of Executive Officers

Election of the President and Vice President shall take place in March on dates to be determined by the Student Government. Election of the other Directors of the Committees shall take place in April on dates to be determined by the Student Government.

Section 3: Transition Period

After the election and appointment of the new Student Government in the second semester of an academic year, the previous Student Government Representatives shall retain their positions until the end of the second semester, during which two regular meetings must be held. Within the course of these meetings, the newly elected and appointed Representatives shall become familiar with the procedure and organization of the Student Government. With the beginning of the fall semester, the new Student Government Representatives will assume their positions.

Section 4: Term

The term of office shall extend to the end of the transition period in the fall spring semester of the following academic year.

Section 5: Vacancies and Succession

A. Should the office of the President be vacant, the Vice President shall become the President and assume all of the responsibilities of that office.

B. Should the office of any of the remaining Executive Officers become vacant, the Student Government shall fill that office with a member of that committee, by majority vote. Should there be no candidate up for vote, or if the vote does not pass, then a school-wide special election shall be run.

ARTICLE VII: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Section 1: Eligibility

All full-time enrolled students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation shall be eligible to become candidates for Chair of a Student Government committee.

Section 2: Time and Appointment of Committee Chairs

An open application for chair positions on all the standing Student Government Committees shall be released following the election of the Executive Officers, on a date determined by the newly elected Executive Committee.

The number of chairs appointed to each committee shall be determined at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The number of chairs appointed must total no more than 36 when added with the number of Executive Committee members.

Section 3: Vacancies and Succession

Should a chairperson vacate their office, an application for the position shall be created and administered at the discretion of the Executive Committee. All full-time enrolled students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation shall be eligible to become candidates for Chair of a Student Government committee.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Standing Committees

The Student Government may form standing committees, as provided in the By-laws, to aid in the effective workings of the Student Government.

Section 2: Executive Committee

The Student Government Executive Committee shall be directed by the President, and meet at least once each week during the academic school year. The members of the Executive Committee will vote each week on the budget recommendations put forward by the Budget Committee. Additionally, the Executive Committee will draft the agenda for the General Body meetings, and perform any other functions as outlined in the By-laws.

Section 3: Ad-hoc Committees

The President may appoint such ad-hoc committees for a specific purpose as he/she they deems necessary.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a Representative of the Student Government at a regular meeting using the following procedure:

- A. At the meeting where the amendment is proposed a period of discussion shall follow;
- B. The amendment shall be referred to the appropriate committee for study;
- C. At the next regular meeting, following the meeting where the amendment was proposed, the committee shall present the amendment with the committee's recommendations. A period of general discussion shall follow, after which the amendment shall lay over until the next regular meeting;

D. At the next regular meeting, the second meeting from that at which the amendment was originally proposed, a discussion period shall be followed by a vote of the Executive Officers;

E. And, to be immediately passed, an amendment shall require three-fourths affirmative vote of all the Executive Officers of the Student Government. If three-fourths of the Executive Officers do not affirmatively vote for the amendment, it will be voted on by the General Body at the same meeting, following discussion. An amendment shall require two-thirds affirmative vote of the General Body. Whether the amendment is passed by vote of the Executive Officers alone or the General Body as a whole, it shall require approval of the Faculty for it to be enacted.

ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the General Body members of the Student Government and the affirmative vote of the faculty of Lafayette College.