



Lafayette College Student Government

RESOLUTION 2021-01

A Resolution for the Prioritization of Campus Community Development

WHEREAS Lafayette College recognizes Diversity and Inclusion as one of its three core values, affirming that every community member is responsible for “creating, maintaining, and developing a learning environment in which difference is valued, equity is sought, and inclusiveness is practiced.”¹

WHEREAS the strategic direction of the College to increase affordability to all students regardless of socioeconomic status would be neglected if the student experience was not financially equitable.² Greek dues and fees, which range from \$508 to \$5200 per student per year, create an explicit barrier to joining Greek Life, therefore, contradicting the strategic direction of the College.³

WHEREAS the 2018 Campus Climate Survey concluded that students perceived that the “exclusionary nature of fraternities and sororities contributed to social problems on campus” and desired alternatives to, or the reduction of, Greek Life.⁴ Open response data of the 2020 Greek Life Climate Survey highlighted abolishment, exclusion, pressure to join, racism, sexual assault, and more. These themes indicate that Greek Life at Lafayette College has negative impacts on the broader community.⁵

WHEREAS the results of Student Government’s 2020 Greek Life Climate Survey indicated that 59.8 percent of all respondents disagree that Greek Life at Lafayette College is inclusive, and 71.4 percent of unaffiliated students indicated that Greek Life negatively affects social life at Lafayette.⁶

¹ <https://diversity.lafayette.edu/>

² <https://president.lafayette.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2019/05/strategic-direction-annual-report-2019.pdf>

³ https://issuu.com/lafayettegreeklife/docs/web_greek_life_issuu_document_2019-

⁴

https://spaces.lafayette.edu/pluginfile.php/68207/mod_resource/content/1/Demographic_Perspectives_Lafayette%20Campus%20Climate%20Study%20Survey%20Report%20_11.6.2018.pdf

⁵ <https://studentgovernment.lafayette.edu/greek-life/>

⁶ <https://studentgovernment.lafayette.edu/greek-life/>



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WHEREAS a united community should be intentionally built and promoted at Lafayette College. An inclusive and vibrant student experience must be accessible to all students, regardless of Greek affiliation to accomplish the College's values and strategic direction.

WHEREAS interim programs at institutions such as Bates College⁷ and Colby College⁸ create enhanced connection and community. Expanding interim session opportunities for Lafayette students will encourage the development of new communities, interpersonal relationships, and shared experiences between students.

WHEREAS Greek housing is a significant component in developing strong communities within Greek organizations. All students should be offered similar opportunities to build connections within shared spaces. In collaboration with Residence Life, Student Government can create housing options outside of Greek residence to facilitate inclusive community development through the establishment of application-based housing, expansion of special interest housing programs, and further development of the Monroe Neighborhood Houses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lafayette College Student Government urges the Faculty of the College and the Board of Trustees to promote our College's value of Diversity and Inclusion and strategic direction of increasing affordability by prioritizing the development of an inclusive, equitable, and vibrant campus community that facilitates valid social experiences for all students.

⁷ <https://www.bates.edu/academics/programs-resources/short-term/>

⁸ <https://www.colby.edu/januaryprogram/>