



Lafayette College Student Government

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 25th 2024, 7:00 PM *Kirby 104*

CALL TO ORDER

President Hernandez called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Roll call was conducted by Communications Officer Elle Lansing.

As recorded in the [attendance](#) list, members present were as follows:

Present:

Thania Hernandez '25, President
Yuko Tanaka '26, Vice President
Christo Maheras '26, Treasurer
Elle Lansing '26, Communications Officer
Chris Kirch '26, Parliamentarian
Olivia Boeckman '25, Representative
Chelsea Cochrane '25, Representative
Molly Nylund '25, Representative
Virginia Sacotingo '25, Representative
Kelsey Wong '25, Representative
Liz Borah '26, Representative
Colin Gray '26, Representative
Tatia Jahan '26, Representative
Nate Rashkind '26, Representative
James Reese '26, Representative
Makda Baraki '27, Representative
Bryan Kibet '27, Representative
Lily Nylund '27, Representative
Dashawn Sheffield '27, Representative
Gracie Vale '27, Representative
Selina Zhu '27, Representative

Absent:

Leonara Rodriguez '25, Representative

Tardy:

Alexandra Darrah '25, Representative

Hasnat Aslam '26, Representative

BUSINESS

Communications Officer Lansing motioned to approve the minutes from last week's minutes held on January 25th, 2024. President Hernandez seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Student Affairs Committee Presentation

- The committee is collecting numerical data from student evaluation forms.

Motion 1: Student evaluation data is only available for the individual instructor.

Motion 2: Students should get the most useful course information.

Syllabus Repository: The repository is comprehensive and houses direct information for course options. It already exists but it is solely for accreditation. Their plan is to open it up to the community and a wider audience (might affect the participation rate). Syllabus repository software is expensive and would require a certain format.

Possible Option #1: Banner

Banner has a syllabus option which requires Lafayette credentials. This might be an extra cost and require meetings with the vendor for Banner. A con is that Banner might not include the full version of the syllabus.

Possible Option #2: A Spaces site

Another possible option would be Spaces for organization purposes. This would also require Lafayette credentials, and the con to this option is that it's not user friendly.

Possible Option #3: Department specific

Departments would have their own collection of syllabi and it is specific to each department.

So far they have gotten feedback from DH/PC and they plan to host an open meeting with faculty and students.

Question by Treasurer Maheras: What do you say to students who might be inclined to look at Rate My Professor?

Response: The previous system was not giving unbiased feedback/data. You can always reach out to professors to ask about the syllabus or the class itself.

Question by Treasurer Maheras: Has your committee talked to departments about having the description of classes be more specific? The blurbs are not always accurate descriptions of the course.

Response: The descriptions are taken from the course catalog. The wording is approved by the faculty committee which is not able to be changed. It won't be changed in Banner or the website. The committee cannot enforce that all faculty would take part.

Charles Mann (student representative on committee) does not like option 1. He believes option 3 is the most feasible option. Mann supports the spaces option because the syllabi would be stored in a central location.

Tyler Osipower (student representative on committee) thinks that the timeline to get this completed is most important. Osipower believes option 3 is the best choice for the repository.

Question by Parliamentarian Kirch: Have you considered taking a survey or poll from the student body?

Response: Yes, the committee considered making a post in Lafayette Today.

Question by Representative Nylund: Is there an option to put ANY information on the syllabus if they don't feel comfortable releasing the full version?

Response: Option 2 and 3 would not allow for this. Faculty can either opt-in or opt-out.

Question by Parliamentarian Kirch: Why isn't there an opt-in system for student feedback on course evaluations?

Response: The site is not set up for that function.

Budget Approvals

Student Government requested \$150 for a Canva Premium account. Treasurer Maheras motioned to approve the Student Government's request. The motion was seconded by Parliamentarian Kirch and unanimously approved.

Chorduroys requested \$45 for sheet music. Treasurer Maheras motioned to approve the request for Chorduroys sheet music. Nylund '25 seconded. The motion was carried with 21 approvals and 1 opposition by Parliamentarian Kirch.

Alternative School Break requested \$780 for a reallocation from leftover funding. Treasurer Maheras motioned to approve this request and the motion was seconded by Vice President Tanaka. The motion unanimously carried.

Recall to Bylaws Amendment

There was a mistake in last week's meeting when Student Government voted on amending Article IX: Standing Committees Section 1: Part B which proposed to change the size of each standing committee from 3-5 members to 3-6 members. The Student Government was not allowed to hold the vote from last week's meeting according to the Bylaws.

President Hernandez motioned to recall the vote from the Bylaws Amendment to Article IX: Section 1: Part B. Vice President Tanaka seconded the motion. 19 people favored the motion. Representative Rashkind and Representative Nylund abstained.

Committee Chair Elections

- Academic Affairs: Chelsey Cochrane
 - Representative Cochrane has been on the Academic Affairs committee for over a semester and had the idea to create a detailed webpage with a description of each major.
- Student Life
 - Alex Darrah: Representative Darrah wants to work with the counseling center more closely.
 - Virginia Sacotingo: Representative Sacotingo has worked on input on the Menstrual Equity Project and Pard Pantry, and was previously the chair of the Equity and Inclusion committee.
 - Kelsey Wong: Representative Wong has been on this committee since she started Student Government, and has experience working with the counseling center and dining.
- Student Organizations: Bryan Kibet
 - Representative Kibet is outgoing and wants to understand more about how clubs function. He wants to analyze club constitutions. Representative Kibet is already on the Budget Committee.
- Equity and Inclusion
 - Selina Zhu: Representative Zhu has lots of ideas for the DEI chair. She wants to expand multicultural housing and multicultural clubs. Accessibility is a top priority for Representative Zhu this semester.
- Sustainability: Colin Gray

Ad Hoc Sign-Up

Each member participated in ad hoc sign-ups. The newest ad hoc is accessibility.

Meeting with President Hurd Update

President Hernandez meets with President Hurd biweekly. There is a new Vice President of

Inclusion. Each member must fill out the [survey](#) for mission and values.

Committee chairs

The committee chairs were voted on my general body and the new chairs are listed as follows:

Academic Affairs: Chelsey Cochrane

Student Life: Virginia Sacotingo

Student Organizations: Bryan Kibet

Equity and Inclusion: Selina Zhu

Sustainability: Colin Gray

OPEN FLOOR

Committee announcements will be made at the latest this weekend. Each committee must make a group chat and discuss meeting times with each committee member.

ADJOURNMENT

Hernandez motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Hernandez at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted by

Elle Lansing '26, Communications Officer