



Lafayette College Student Government

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 1st, 2025, 6:00 PM, *Simon 300*

CALL TO ORDER

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Brown motioned to approve the minutes from 4/24/25. It was seconded by Communications Officer Gallia. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDEES

Roll call was conducted by Communications Officer Gallia.

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

Present:

Alex Brown, President

Sasha Carter, Vice President

Gracie Vale, Treasurer

Ava Gallia, Communications Officer

Luna Garces, Inclusivity Officer

Bryan Kibet, Parliamentarian

Dorothy Fort, '26 Representative

Christo Maheras, '26 Representative

Sophia Lombardo, '26 Representative

Yuko Tanaka, '26 Representative

Prem Kumar, '26 Representative

Lily Nylund, '27 Representative

Emma Lawrence, '27 Representative

Maddie Malone, '27 Representative

Selina Zhu, '27 Representative

Charlie Weinstein, '27 Representative

Tendai Ankude, '28 Representative

William Bennett, '28 Representative

Emerson Casper, '28 Representative
Annabele Hooey, '28 Representative
Milan Iezzi, '28 Representative
Natacha Ross, '28 Representative

Excused Absences:

Charlotte Kinsella, '26 Representative
Milan Iezzi, '28 Representative

Tardy:

Unexcused Absences:

Liz Borah, '26 Representative
CJ Conrad, '27 Representative
Zach Mueller, '27 Representative
Allie Waxman, '28 Representative

BUSINESS

Budget Approvals

Treasurer Vale motioned to enter the executive session. President Brown seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A total of \$0 was unanimously approved out of a requested \$1,690.82 for the Spring 2025 food budget.

President Brown motioned to exit the executive session. It was seconded by Communications Officer Gallia and unanimously approved.

President Brown motioned to move the ASL Course Proposal to after Club Approvals. It was seconded by Vice President Carter and unanimously approved.

Intent to Return Forms

GB members filled out the intent to return form sent out by Vice President Carter.

Spring Cleaning

Members should write a short paragraph quantifying and qualifying what they have done in Student Government so far.

There will be three GB meetings over the summer. Dates TBD. Committee heads will have one extra meeting.

Club Approvals

J-Beatz

International program under Olami offering Jewish studies, internships, and trips. J-Beatz differs from Hillel in that J-Beatz is a learning group focused on Jewish religious studies, while Hillel is a Jewish cultural club. J-Beatz has weekly discussions on topics including Torah learning and Jewish values/philosophies. They also host Kosher dinners and do crafts that connect to the weekly topic. They also do trips to places like Poland to learn about Jewish history and present in the places where it happened. Olami funds all food, trips, and Rabbi transportation. They would need Stu Gov funding for crafts, financial aid, and tabling/outreach supplies.

Vice President Carter asked what their weekly turnout looks like. A: About 10 people, but their club is very new and they have not had the opportunity to do much outreach.

Rep. Lombardo asked how the club intends to assume the amount of money that should be allocated for financial aid. A: They know about the trips well in advance and would reserve these funds for individuals who are not in a financial position to afford them.

Rep. Maheras asked if they have considered operating under the Office of Interfaith Development. A: They have not considered this because the campus already has Jewish life, and OID are not interested in doing Jewish learning

Rep. Kumar asked if they could get funding through OID or another interfaith group. A: They have currently spoken to Hillel, who currently does not have the capacity to take on another club. They are more interested in being established as a club to be able to fully operate and outreach, and not necessarily for the funding.

Rep. Weinstein asked if they have considered collaborating with other organizations. A: They have considered collaborating with Landis for purposes of volunteering.

Women in STEM Club at Lafayette College

The purpose of this club is to support female students on campus who are majoring in a STEM field, highlight STEM initiatives, and hold fundraisers. They plan to support the Lafayette and Easton-area community regarding STEM education. They hope to meet ideally twice a month, including a combination of GB meetings and events. Collaborations with other STEM-focused organizations and volunteering through LANDIS. They also hope to host one fundraiser per semester. Their budget total would be around \$125, including funds for art supplies, flyers, and additional supplies for other experiments.

Vice President Carter asked if they would be having smaller, executive, or committee meetings in between GB meetings. A: They would have executive meetings and extra meetings before events

for those who want to volunteer/engage. In addition to the GB meetings, they will host multiple events per month.

Rep. Casper asked if they have gone through any other organizations to get funding (i.e. other STEM groups, Hansen Center, etc.). A: They wanted to establish themselves as a full club first, but they would be open to the idea.

Rep. Maheras asked what they would add on top of what already exists on campus. A: This club targets a broader range of students and topics, and allows students of all STEM majors to collaborate.

Rep. Nylund asked why this group finds it important to be separate from the Hansen Center. A: There is no club specifically for women in STEM, and Hansen is much broader in its target members. They are novel in their plan to fundraise and engage with the Easton area.

Rep. Lombardo asked what the difference between meetings would be. A: The GB meeting will be for anyone in the organization, and they will give overviews of upcoming events. A separate meeting would then be held with interested individuals to plan those specific events.

Bridge Lafayette

Chapter of a national organization. Multi-partisan movement hoping to encourage viewpoint diversity and decrease political polarization. They are unique in that they are multi-partisan. They plan to host events, including discussions, spectrum events, debates, and politicians, speakers, professors, etc. They receive some funding from the BridgeUSA national chapter, but the specific amount may be subject to change. Plan to host about 8-10 meetings per semester, as well as special speakers/events. They typically get around 15-20 members per meeting. Possible collaborations include the Democrat/Republican Clubs, Gov Lab, L-RAJE, and other groups interested in talking about politics. Members do not have to have prior training, but they do have professional moderating training through BridgeUSA.

Rep. Maheras asked how they went about getting BridgeUSA chapter approval without Student Government approval first. A: They reached out to BridgeUSA and were able to get established over winter break.

Rep. Bennett asked why they want to be established by the Student Government. A: Outreach opportunities and funding would help bring in political figures and more members.

Vice President Carter asked how their bringing in politicians would be different from that of Gov Lab/the Govt. Department bringing in politicians. A: They hope to bring in individuals from different political parties, including independents and third-party politicians.

Rep. Ross asked what the difference is between this club and the Kirby Government and Law Society. A: They hope to provide a wider scope of outreach than Kirby. They are uniquely focused on discussion and want to allow for discussion by individuals of all political views.

Rep. Malone asked who their target audience is. A: They invite all individuals who are interested in politics, regardless of political affiliation. The goal of the club is to foster discussion, not necessarily debate.

Rep. Lombardo noted that, in our current political climate, open discussion like this is important, but asked how they determine what crosses the line from discussion into argument. A: The whole purpose is to listen to differing viewpoints. In the discussion events, no one is attempting to persuade anyone of a particular opinion, it is simply a discussion of opposing views. Members of the exec are also trained moderators and can help facilitate peaceful discussion.

Best Society

The purpose is to create a space for interdisciplinary discussion and foster a sense of community within EGRS & across campus to EGRS-centered clubs. Their events include alumni panels, BESTea's (GB meetings where they host collaborative discussions about real-world problems and connect the campus across disciplines), arts trail walks, etc. They would request funding for semesterly alumni panels to cover travel, housing, and food for the guests. They have previously collaborated with ISA and NSBE, and in the future, they hope to work with groups like Women in Economics and SHPE.

Rep. Lombardo asked if they found a stark difference between other engineering clubs and Best Society. A: Yes, Best Society looks at systems as a whole and brings an entirely different point of view to the table. They bridge the gap between the technical side and the societal side of engineering.

Rep. Tanaka asked if they had collaborated with the engineering department to get funding, and what being established as a club would do for them. A: They have received some funding from the engineering department for their alumni panel, and emphasize that they would never ask Stu Gov for food. They hope to get greater outreach and access to resources by being an established club.

The Artificial Intelligence Club

The goal of the club is to foster interdisciplinary discussion on both the present and potential future of AI technology. They cater to all levels of technical expertise and help individuals leverage new technologies. Given that the financial and career goals of many Lafayette students will likely be impacted by the rise of AI over the next decade, a dedicated forum to discuss this technology seems extremely important. They plan to host alumni speakers to discuss how AI is actively affecting the way they work. They also want to host workshops to guide students on how to access and leverage these tools, as well as send out a monthly newsletter to provide a comprehensive look at the development of the AI field over the past month. They do not need any funding as they will rely on volunteer speakers.

Vice President Carter asked if they plan to have opportunities to talk about the downsides of AI, (i.e, the environmental impacts, etc.). A: They could host a forum where individuals could discuss any aspects of AI. The focus of the meetings will primarily be to analyze the technical components and promote accessibility of AI.

President Brown asked how they see the discussions with the speakers playing out, and who they plan to host. A: Many professors could come to discuss and do live demos of AI tools.

Treasurer Vale asked how they plan on educating themselves on AI to have the capacity to teach other club members. A: They have been doing extensive research, and much of that will come from calibrating as a board.

Rep. Akunde asked if they were involved in any other organizations on campus, and how they differ from other data organizations. A: This club is very interdisciplinary and hopes to provide a more holistic approach to AI than other data organizations.

Rep. Garces asked how they plan to ensure all viewpoints on AI will be heard. A: The very goal of the club is to foster a discussion on AI that includes viewpoints from all majors and disciplines. Having different perspectives will be instrumental in helping the club to succeed.

The Combating Human Trafficking Initiative

This initiative works to transfer knowledge on human trafficking to impacted communities and local governments responsible for addressing the issue. They educate themselves through guest speakers, research, and discussion. During their first year, they hope to double members, establish contacts across North Hampton County, and meet with local officials and organizations. They also hope to do qualitative studies and research of their own eventually. Engagement events they plan to host include student presentations on topics of passion, guest speaker presentations, research workshops with professors, a case study night, etc.

Vice President Carter asked what their funding needs would be. A: Approximately \$150 for transportation to see speakers. They do not anticipate this being resource-draining.

Rep. Maheras asked what their collaboration with LANDIS looks like. A: LANDIS has great contacts to get to community organizations and individuals, but they do not want to limit themselves to just service or advocacy.

President Brown motioned to enter the executive session. It was seconded by Representative Maheras and approved unanimously.

Treasurer Vale motioned to exit executive session. It was seconded by Communications Officer Gallia and approved unanimously.

ASL Proposal

Chris Yoon, a rising junior, is proposing a 0.25 or 0.5 credit course teaching ASL grammar, vocabulary, and cultural awareness.

At this point, we will advise a reworked and more comprehensive proposal before providing support.

OPEN FLOOR

-Fill out the intent to return form!!!

-Members should add comments to the Financial Guidelines. The Financial Guidelines Committee anticipates voting on it next week.

-Spring Jams for a cappella groups is next week on May 8th, 7 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Brown. Communications Officer Gallia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by

Communications Officer Gallia.