



Lafayette College Student Government

Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 9th, 2025, 7:00 PM, *New Oeschle 107*

CALL TO ORDER

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Brown motioned to approve the minutes from 10/2/25. 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:

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Alex Brown, President

Sasha Carter, Vice President

Ava Gallia, Communications Officer

Luna Garces, Inclusivity Officer

Christo Maheras, '26 Representative

Maia Merriman, '26 Representative

Charlotte Kinsella, '26 Representative

Yuko Tanaka, '26 Representative

Kate SantaMaria, '27 Representative

Maddie Malone, '27 Representative

Selina Zhu, '27 Representative

William Bennett, '28 Representative

Annabel Hooey, '28 Representative

Natacha Ross, '28 Representative

Allie Waxman, '28 Representative

Excused Absences:

Gracie Vale, Treasurer

Bryan Kibet, Parliamentarian
Prem Kumar, '26 Representative
Lily Nylund, '27 Representative
Charlie Weinstein, '27 Representative
Tendai Ankude, '28 Representative
Emerson Caspet, '28 Representative
Milan Iezzi, '28 Representative

Unexcused Absences:

Dorothy Fort, '26 Representative
Sophia Lombardo, '26 Representative
Matthew Epp, '27 Representative
Lorenzo Marsili, '27 Representative

Tardy:

BUSINESS

Service Resolution Reminder

Vice President Carter did a refresher discussion on Resolution 2023-01: A Resolution for Implementing an Hours System. This resolution establishes a minimum 5-hour community service requirement for Student Government members. VP Carter would like to revive this resolution and require 2.5 hours of community service for the remainder of the semester. There will be plenty of opportunities through the Student Government. If members do more than 2.5 hours, they should continue to document it so that we can share the total hours of community service done by Stu Gov at the end of the year.

Transition Documents

Committee chairs should draft a one-page document outlining the responsibilities of their committee and suggestions for future committee heads to ensure the smooth administration of all committees.

Financial Guidelines Amendment

Representative Maheras spoke on behalf of Treasurer Vale to present a financial guidelines amendment. Rep. Maheras noted that any changes made to the financial guidelines reflect Student Government allocations, not how the school makes the payments. The Budget Committee has to vote on all budget requests submitted. They are proposing that all budget requests falling outside of Period A and Period B should be submitted 36 hours prior to the Student Government general body meeting in which they intend to be voted on. This includes Food, Unanticipated, and Appeal requests.

President Brown suggested that there be more leeway built in, such as requiring that clubs submit 10 days before their event. The Budget Committee has discussed this, but 36 hours ensures that clubs have ample time to submit their budget, while giving the committee adequate time to discuss and vote. They want to incentivize club treasurers to think about their requests in advance and plan around events.

Vice President Carter asked what the current requirement is. Rep. Maheras answered that it is ambiguous, with no clear guidelines.

Constitutional Rewrite Committee Progress

We are constitutionally obligated to review the Constitution once every three years. The last revision was in the Spring-Fall of 2023, and the bylaws were updated in October 2023. Today's changes are informed by peer institution best practices. The goals are to increase organizational capacity and strengthen accountability.

The key change would be transitioning from a representative structure to a senate structure. Student elections would replace interview-based appointments. The top 7 candidates per class year would be elected by their peers, with each class voting only for their own representatives. This ultimately creates a senate model used at peer institutions. The end goal is greater engagement and accountability, more student input, and the greatest possible representation.

The other key change will be the Communications Officer being renamed as the Secretary, which will be a separate position from the Communications Committee Chair. The Secretary's expectations would be:

1. Meeting minutes
2. Oversight of the website
3. Organization
 - a. Transition prep
Planning
 - b. Scheduling
4. Frequent communication and collaboration with the Vice President, Parliamentarian, and Communications Committee Chair

Bylaws preview:

- Parliamentary role changes
 - Internal Affairs Committee
- Distribution of Exec roles
- Committee restructuring
 - Budgets
 - Pard Pantry ad-hoc
 - Sustainability
 - And more!

Vice President Carter emphasizes that the senate system could empower sophomores to speak up more in meetings and incentivize seniors to have more open dialogue.

Inclusivity Officer Garces asked when the senator system would be rolled out. President Brown responded that it would be rolled out next fall, with the upcoming elections being the same as they have been.

Rep. Santa Maria noted that if only one grade is voting on the senators, it only makes sense for them to act for that grade. President Brown responded that the concept is that there will be no hierarchy of title, but the role of the senators is effectively the same as it has been.

Rep. Hooey asked how the process would work for running for a senate position. President Brown responded that it would be essentially the same as the intent to run application for Exec. In terms of the actual election, representatives would not have to rerun this upcoming January. This new structure would be implemented next fall. If there were a vacancy issue in the future, and the future student government did not want to run repeated elections, there could still be an appointment process.

Rep. Bennett asked, assuming a senate structure will take place, how the transition process would work. President Brown responded that there are a few aspects to this. One is training new representatives on the process continually. We will have a retreat in January before we come back to school to train the new exec and representatives to understand the senate system. Additionally, Advisor Williams, Rep. Milan, and Treasurer Vale are all sourcing suggestions and feedback from the D.C. Student Government conference.

Breakout Activity: By-Laws Responsibilities

Committees met to discuss what responsibilities they want to be outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

OPEN FLOOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN FLOOR

- Comms is holding a headshot workshop on Wednesday and Thursday, 6:15 PM in Kirby Hall of Civil Rights.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by

Communications Officer Gallia.