



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, February 19th, 2026, 7:00 PM, *Gendebien Room 206, Skillman Library*

CALL TO ORDER

President Waxman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Communications Officer Cohen motioned to approve the minutes from February 12, 2026. Representative Lily Nylund seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ATTENDEES

Roll call was conducted by Hayden Cohen, Communications Officer. The attendance was recorded via this [sheet](#).

Present:

Allie Waxman '28, President
Annabel Hooey '28, Vice President
Grace Vale '27, Treasurer
Hayden Cohen '29, Communications Officer
Evalina Ibrahim '29, Inclusivity Officer
Amy Atuhaire '29, Parliamentarian
Ryan Burns '27, Representative
Ahmir Crawley '27, Representative
Matthew Epp '27, Representative
Lily Hoffman '27, Representative
Roy Nisson '27, Representative
Lily Nylund '27, Representative
Kate SantaMaria '27, Representative
Will Bennett '28, Representative
Emerson Casper '28, Representative
Josh Horenstein '28, Representative
Chloe Miller '28, Representative
Doga Uzel '28, Representative

Josh George '29, Representative
Gwyn Horn '29, Representative
Adil Kulmanov '29, Representative
Clovis-Lato Nkamga '29, Representative
Trefor Thomas '29, Representative
Matt Valenta '29, Representative
Zara Wilson '29, Representative
Hannah Cohen '29, Non-Voting Member
Teddy Sukernik '29, Non-Voting Member

Absent:

Anoosh Ahsan '28, Representative
Alivia Bear '28, Non-Voting Member

BUSINESS

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim motioned to move the full Student Government picture to after *Club Approval Status* on the Agenda. It was seconded by Representative Nkamga and approved unanimously.

Official Bylaws Proposal

Parliamentarian Atuhaire presented common misconceptions about the new Bylaws:

- Difference between bill and resolution
 - Bill is advanced administrative policy
 - Resolution to call action to an issue

President Waxman:

- Senators would propose a bill/resolute and then a vote would be held
 - Moving into process of elections for Senators
 - Even those who are in representative positions would still have to run to be a Senator the following term
 - Treasurer Vale noted that they still need to fix the outline of election processes, and there will be another bylaws proposal pertaining to the election next week

Rep. Kulmanov asked: What is IRF?

- Answer: Intent to Run Form. All current exec members have to fill out an intent to run form, which now Senators will be required to fill out before they run for their position.

Rep. SantaMaria asked: If there was a vacancy would there be another election?

- Answer: No, the application process would be re-opened for the vacancy.

Rep. George asked: Does the application matter for the IRF?

- Answer: Yes, the answers matter. You submit it, and it's looked through. It's about focusing on your platform and will be displayed on the ballot.

Vice President Hooley noted that there will be a significant difference between running as a Senator, and running for Cabinet, as they are positions of different magnitude and responsibility.

Communications Officer Cohen asked: Would we have non-voting members anymore?

- Answer: We would have Student observers, and they would be a section within the new government. We are still figuring out what that would mean, and entail. However, if 10 people run, and there are 7 spots, but one person who lost had a really great platform, the Cabinet may reach out to you and offer you a spot as a "Student Observer".

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim asked: How would that work for Executive Board members if they lose the cabinet?

- Answer: That has not fully been finalized since both are simultaneously both running. [The question was asked preceding the point where CRC realized a more efficient way to structure the election timeline. The correct answer is given within the next question's answer.]

Non-Voting Member Cohen asked: What happens if you ran for 2 positions, and you got both of them?

- Answer: You'd only run for 1. You'd be running for a Cabinet position, and if you didn't get it, then you would run for a Senator position. [The realization was made that this would be an effective and efficient plan to have the Cabinet run *before* Senators, to ensure that those who lost Cabinet positions still had the capacity to serve on Student Government.]

Rep. George: There should be a fallback position for the cabinet to get if they lose a position.

- Answer: Yes, that makes sense and we will take this into consideration. [See answer above to question asked by Non-Voting Member Cohen]
- Vice President Hooley added: There is a boundary for Upper Cabinet members that you have to be in Student Government for a semester before running for Cabinet.

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim: If someone were to run as senator, how do we ensure that it's not a popularity contest?

- Answer: The main goal of Senate structure is to increase representation and to give the student body a say in who is representing them. Keep in mind, you're voting for 7 people so that might not be wholly influenced by who you're friends with.
- Rep. Horenstein added that if someone is willing to go through with the whole election process, they're probably willing to put in the work for Stugov, therefore we can sidestep the issue of a "popularity contest" arising through elections.

Rep. Nylund asked: Is there any process for qualification in general for the IRF?

- Answer: Right now what Advisor Ally does is send the names of applicants to administration, and the candidates are screened for conduct, and conduct only.

Non-Voting Member Cohen asked: How many applicants are there typically for representative positions?

- Answer: It varies a lot based on grade. We cannot tell what 2030 will look like, or how many people will return. However, say 5 members of the Class of 2029 were running for a Senatorial position. Because that is less than the number of seats available, the Cabinet would open up applications after the fact, and do the application process for the rest of the open positions. The battle is seeing if people who applied to be on Student Government would go as far as running publicly. We also have seen increased outreach for these election processes, so in theory, there should be ample people interested in running.

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim asked: What happens for Juniors who might be lacking in people willing to run for Stugov?

- Answer: Open the application, and it would proceed to an interview process.

Rep. SantaMaria asked: If goal is to give Senators more power, do Senators of that year have say over who is chosen if there's a vacancy and application process?

- Answer: Thank you for bringing that up, that is a great idea.

Rep. Valenta asked: If there is a vacancy would the entire class still vote for someone to be a part of it?

- Answer: No, it would just be an application at that point

Rep. George asked: Is there a process of continuity to continue projects you were working on in Stugov even if you lose an election?

- Answer: Yes! CRC (Constitutional Rewrite Committee) is an example of that. Student observers could also serve in this vein.

Rep. Hoffman asked: Who decides who can be a non-voting member [now Student Observer in new bylaws]?

- Answer: A Committee Chair can request it, and the Cabinet will appoint, or the Cabinet may appoint on their own.

Club Approval Status

Rep. Casper presented on behalf of the Student Organizations Committee. She brought forth 3 clubs that have not been active for 2 consecutive semesters (Spring 2025 and Fall 2025). She will be holding a vote to revoke these clubs as “Student Government approved clubs”.

- Women in Physics
- Athletes of Color
- Club Softball

Rep. Casper motioned to have these clubs revoked as Student Government Approved Organizations. Vice President Hooey seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Picture

The Student Government General Body took a group picture on the stairs leading up to the second floor of the library.

OPEN FLOOR

Communications Officer Cohen announced recent activity on Student Government’s Tiktok account (@Lafstugov). She encouraged everyone to give it a follow!

Non-Voting Member Cohen announced a speaker coming 2/23 to speak to CHTI. There is a quick assignment if you join the GroupMe, and doing so will allow you to have dinner with her prior to the guest lecture. She’s a researcher at Stanford who studies human trafficking

Rep. Bennett (also Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee) announced the Superior teaching and Hoff awards will happen in May. Student Government has to administer a Superior Teaching award, and then there are 2; one in humanities and one in STEM. All you have to do is nominate a professor and say why they deserve an award; a form will be announced and promoted soon. There is an award for students as well, but Student Government does not facilitate nominations for that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Government is currently accepting applications for 2028 Representatives. Student Government members are encouraged to tell people they know to apply. Applications are due on Sunday, February 22nd at 11:55pm.

President Waxman announced changes to the *Regalia Program*. Student Government used to facilitate a regalia hand-me-down program for those who could not afford regalia for graduation. Now, it’s becoming part of the Dean of Student Life’s responsibilities. Additionally, the regalia switched this year to maroon to commemorate the Bicentennial (they have been black in years prior). Student government is keeping the black ones for this year (stored from prior years of facilitating the hand-me-down program), and whatever color regalia the school doesn’t use next year, will be donated. There is a form for students with financial need to request regalia, and all members of Student Government should repost it on their social media to increase outreach for the program.

The Conference of the Council of Lafayette Women is on March 7th, 2026. Susan Fox, a member of the Board of Trustees will be the keynote speaker. All interested students should attend as it will be a great opportunity to network, and learn more about your possibilities at Lafayette, and as a Lafayette graduate.

President Waxman announced that Rep. Nylund, Rep. Bennett, and her met with the Gateway Career Center to plan the Student Government Women's History month event. They also met with Joshua Walker (from Gateway) to find contacts of people who'd be helpful local contacts in terms of planning. If you want to be a part of the planning process, reach out directly to Rep. Lily Nylund.

Peep of the Week

- Chloe Miller! She was extremely proactive in making the flyer for the Communications Committee, and went above and beyond. She's also the Chair of the Sustainability Committee, and they're meeting with someone tomorrow to discuss tabling! Great work, Chloe!

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim motioned to enter the executive session. It was seconded by Treasurer Vale and unanimously approved.

Vice President Hooey motioned to exit executive session. It was seconded by Parliamentarian Atuhaire and unanimously approved.

BUDGET APPROVALS:

Treasurer Vale went over the details pertaining to the budget requests with the following outcome:

Total requested funds: \$540.00

Total allocated funds: \$2,666.10*

Treasurer Vale filed a motion to approve the \$17,421.91 allocation of funds for the Period B Budgets. Rep. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

*Note that the "allocated funds" may appear higher than the "requested funds," due to clubs who revised their budget, and are just now receiving funds, meaning that they requested NO NEW FUNDS, but simply updated their description or other details.

ADJOURNMENT

Communications Officer Cohen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:46PM. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Communications Officer