



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, March 26th, 2026, 7:00 PM, *Kirby 104*

CALL TO ORDER

President Waxman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Cohen motioned to amend the minutes from March 5th to represent a finalized and motioned allocated budget of \$12,164.00. Representative Bennett seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Secretary Cohen motioned to approve the minutes from March 12, 2026. Parliamentarian Atuhaire seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ATTENDEES

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

Present:

Allie Waxman '28, President
Annabel Hooey '28, Vice President
Grace Vale '27, Treasurer
Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary
Evalina Ibrahim '29, Inclusivity Officer
Amy Atuhaire '29, Parliamentarian

Ryan Burns '27, Senator
Ahmir Crawley '27, Senator
Matthew Epp '27, Senator
Lily Hoffman '27, Senator
Roy Nisson '27, Senator
Lily Nylund '27, Senator
Kate SantaMaria '27, Senator

Will Bennett '28, Senator
Anoosh Ahsan '28, Senator
Emerson Casper '28, Senator
Josh Horenstein '28, Senator
Eniyah Rolle '28, Senator
Chloe Miller '28, Senator
Doga Uzel '28, Senator

Josh George '29, Senator
Gwyn Horn '29, Senator
Adil Kulmanov '29, Senator
Clovis-Lato Nkamga '29, Senator
Trefor Thomas '29, Senator
Matt Valenta '29, Senator
Zara Wilson '29, Senator

Alivia Bear '28, Student Observer
Hannah Cohen '29, Student Observer
Teddy Sukernik '29, Student Observer

Absent:

N/A

BUSINESS

Academic Polling

President Waxman instructed the General Body to fill out a form about academic polling, asking about the number of assignments the GB had over break. This is the link to the survey https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJoQNT3O83yt7cV__cD5irs0ZwQhczcfgujaF9n6nScjPN9Q/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Meeting Questionnaire

President Waxman instructed the General Body to fill out a form about academic polling, asking the General Body to RSVP to President Hurd's Student Government dinner she is holding on April 30th, 2026.

Student Activities Fee presentation

Treasurer Vale presented about the Student Activities Fee. The following is all points covered within her presentation:

- The Student Activities Fee (SAF) is a \$360 mandatory fee that students pay for along with tuition
- The fee is paid every year by every student, and gets put into the Student Government bank account

- The SAF money goes through the following process:
 - First, it goes to Student involvement
 - In a summer GBM, they present to Student Government where they plan on putting that money
- LAF gets fees from the Student Activities fee, but they're largely funded by their own funds separate from the Student Activities fee
- Part of the fee also funds 55% of the New York Times subscription, per the Student Government bylaws (the other 45% is funded by the Lafayette College libraries)
- Student Government allocates SAF money to Student Organizations weekly, and the Budget Committee makes those decisions about whether a budget request is approved or rejected
- Organizations not entitled to SAF funds:
 - Greek organizations are not entitled to any Student Government funds
 - Departmental clubs are also not funded by Student Government (ex: Investment Club)
 - Only Student Government recognized Student Organizations are entitled to a budget
- Some might say, "Why is the budget so tight?"
 - A large portion of the money goes to Student Involvement and NYT fee first
 - After that, Student Government is left with a portion of the total Student Activities Fee pool to fund clubs. This amount isn't enough for the amount of money we get requested

Outline of where the money is distributed:

- In theory, there is about \$1,008,000.00 in the Student Activities Fee
 - Student Involvement theoretically gets \$205,000 and the NYT subscription costs \$6,433.07
 - That leaves us with \$796,566.93 for Student Government Recognized Student Organizations for 2 semesters!
 - That's \$398,283.465 per semester
 - The Budget Committee Period A allocations were \$409,456.11
 - BUT, only \$309,216.12 was spent
 - Student Government can allocate more than the money they have, because not all of it is actually spent
 - If they only dispersed money that they had, clubs would be significantly underfunded
- The financial guidelines set up how the Budget Committee looks at budget requests, and to ensure fairness in Student Organization's funding
 - They also are aware that it is real people's money they are spending, so they ensure they are realistic with what they are funding

Rep. SantaMaria asked if there's a way to do this presentation on a larger scale, because most people don't know that this much goes behind allocating the club's funds?

- Treasurer Vale shared that she's been thinking about emphasizing it more in the Budget information sessions, but that it's definitely a good idea to share this breakdown with the larger campus.

Rep Miller asked, "What kind of things are looked at when thinking about whether the activities fee will stay the same?"

- Answer: Previously, it's been increased under Treasurer Maheras due to rising costs in the economy post-Covid. However, it was a minor shift by \$5 or \$10.

Student Observer Cohen asked, "Where does the grant money come from, and how does OID and Lavlane funded clubs work?"

- Answer: Over the Covid year, students still funded the SAF, even though there was no programming. That unused money funds the grant system from 2020. Treasurer Vale is not sure how the external departments, and Lavlane get funded.

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim asked if Treasurer Vale has seen vast differences in Period A vs B budgets.

- Answer: The fall always has more money requested, allocated, and spent because there tends to be more programming on campus, less people abroad, coaches that have to be paid on a contracting basis.

Rep. Ahsan asked if this could be shared to the student body to further educate them.

- Answer: Treasurer Vale has been thinking about doing so, and it's a good idea.

Rep. Rolle asked, "If all of the money doesn't get spent, does it roll over to the next semester?"

- Answer: It doesn't roll over; if there are leftover funds, Student Involvement controls where it goes after the Period. However, Student Government heavily encourages all Organizations to spend their budget allocation within the semester.

Rep. Bennett added, "The reason why we increase or think about increasing the fee is because we deem it necessary to do so. Now, if we have a discussion and we deem it necessary that a Canva subscription is a valuable resource, then it can be deemed necessary for the Student Activity fee to be increased, but it would only be by a maximum of possibly \$5/6/7. We should keep all of this in mind as conversations begin about a possible campus Canva subscription."

* Please note that the Canva proposal has not been significantly looked into yet, nor endorsed by Student Government. It is in the very early stages of research.

Vote on Adirondack Chairs

President Waxman announced that we currently have 70 adirondack chairs on campus, but there seems to be a less than ample amount on the quad. This money is coming from the Covid Reserve account that Treasurer Vale previously mentioned.

Secretary Cohen asked if all of the chairs are on the quad, or dispersed throughout campus?

- Answer: They are dispersed throughout campus (Anderson Courtyard, stairs to Easton, quad, etc.)

Rep Horenstein asked if all 70 are accounted for throughout campus

- Answer: Probably not, knowing their mobility, someone at some point has taken one, and there is no one keeping track of the number of chairs currently on campus, but the original 70 that were bought years ago.

Rep George asked how much it's going to cost

- Answer: There is no number Student Government has; Student Involvement is going to purchase it, and they have the number; Student Government will be informed and updated when this number is available.

Secretary Cohen motioned to approve the purchasing of 30 adirondack chairs. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the General Body.

Constitutional Workshop

Parliamentarian Atuahire introduced the new methods of introducing legislation at Student Government meetings. She also introduced the distinction between a "bill" and a "resolution".

- A Bill is more specifically about creating or changing a Student Government policy
- A Resolution is more about taking a stance/position as an organization or urging someone, something, etc. to take action without it being a binding measure Student Government has to follow

IN SHORT:

- Bill → We are making/doing something
- Resolution → We think something should be done

Parliamentarian Atuahire then broke up the Senators into random groups for them to briefly workshop an idea, and mold it into either a Bill or Resolution. After approximately 5 minutes of working together, a Senator from each group presented their Bill/Resolution to the rest of the GB.

Group 1:

- Bill to make dining dissolve as a committee, and be put into student life

Group 2:

- Resolution to have public safety invest in mental health officers

Group 3:

- Resolution to have dining have more halal options and improve the quality of the halal food

Group 4:

- Bill to have 24 hour access to academic buildings during finals

OPEN FLOOR

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hoff Awards are mandatory for all Student Government members and it's on May 6th from 4:30-5:30pm

Nominations are due April 6th for the Hoff awards

- Members of the GB are especially encouraged to nominate a professor for the Superior Teaching Award, as Student Government is in charge of it

Saturday, May 28th is the Women's History Month Alumni Panel (planned by Student Government)

- Registration closes Friday night at 7pm
- Unless a member has a prior commitment on Saturday, everyone is expected to be there
- Dress nicely, professional attire is required (see instagram for inspiration)

Next week, we will not be having a General Body Meeting in light of Passover. We will be adding a meeting on May 7th, as the last GBM.

Peep of the Week

3 peep's:

Rep. Lily Nylund

Inclusivity Officer Evalina Ibrahim

Vice President Annabel Hooey

The three of them planned the Women's History Month Alumni Panel, and did a fantastic job. The GB is so excited for the event, and they have put in so much hard work into it!!

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

Representative Casper motioned to exit the executive session. It was seconded by Representative Horenstein and unanimously approved.

BUDGET APPROVALS:

Treasurer Vale went over the details pertaining to the budget requests (in Executive Session) with the following outcome:

Total requested funds: \$812.00

Total allocated funds: \$3,267.52

Treasurer Vale filed a motion to approve the \$3,267.52 allocation of funds for the Period B Budgets. Representative Horenstein seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

President Waxman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:02PM. Secretary Cohen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary