



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, April 23rd, 2026, 7:00 PM, *Kirby 104*

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Nkanga motioned to approve the minutes from April 16, 2026. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim 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
Lily Hoffman '27, Senator
Roy Nisson '27, Senator
Lily Nylund '27, Senator

Anoosh Ahsan '28, Senator
Will Bennett '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
Matt Valenta '29, Senator
Zara Wilson '29, Senator

Hannah Cohen '29, Student Observer
Teddy Sukernik '29, Student Observer

Absent:

Matthew Epp '27, Senator
Kate Santa Maria '27, Senator
Trefor Thomas '29, Senator

BUSINESS

Student Activities Fee Proposal

Treasurer Vale proposed the following about the Student Activities Fee (whether it should increase, decrease, or stay the same):

- For background, Treasurer Vale has been the Treasurer for 2 years so she has experience handling the Student Activities Fee
- Student Activities Fee definition:
 - Treasurer Vale asked if a Senator could define what the Student Activities Fee was:
 - Senator Burns answered: A fee that every student pays alongside their tuition that goes towards stuff on campus
 - Treasurer Vale presented the proper definition as: A fee paid by all students alongside tuition that is used by the stu gov budget committee to allocate towards club activities
- Treasurer Vale presented the following options of what we can do to the Student Activities Fee, with what their impact would be:
 - To increase the fee:
 - Every students' fee would increase by \$10 or less. It would in turn give student government more funds to allocate
 - To decrease the fee:
 - To decrease the amount means taking under \$10 from everyone's fee. This would give the student government less funds.
 - To stay the same:

- The amount that we've allocated wouldn't change and the amount people are paying wouldn't change either
- Let's look at some data:
 - Summer and Fall 2024 saw a total \$1,045,202.75 in requests
 - Allocations (TOTAL): \$551,977.56
 - Spent (TOTAL): \$441,473.13
 - Period A 2025 saw a total of \$804,161.40 in requests
 - Allocations (TOTAL): \$409,456.11
 - Spent (TOTAL): \$309,216.12
- We believe that this shift is because of the financial guidelines. From 2024-2025 there were a different set of guidelines. Today, the clubs, and the Budget Committee follow the guidelines more strictly, and not once has Student Government worried about going over budget in spending and allocations.
- This semester we only spent \$267,643.18 !! Lower than last period!
- **Proposal:** Keep the fee the same
 - We are NOT recommending to decrease the fee because the amount that the student government has matches what clubs are requesting, spending, and what is allocated. Because of this parallel, there is no need to make any changes.
 - If it decreases even more for next year, that can be a conversation we have in the next few years
- **Questions:**
 - Senator George asked: Could increasing the fee allocate excess money to other projects, like having Canva for all students?
 - Answer: Since that is a tentative plan, and is more than \$10k, we're not going to base the decision on a campus-wide Canva subscription. In theory it could be applied to other projects, but we currently do not have that need.
 - Elizabeth Miller, President of LAF spoke on behalf of LAF about their perspective on funding:
 - From an LAF perspective, we use part of the student government budgets to fund the Traditions Committee. The budget that they've had for that has not increased in over 10 years, even as class sizes have gotten bigger, inflation has increased, and Parkhurst catering switch, that has increased in comparison to the prior campus caterer. They've been able to work within this same budget because of intentional planning, and the bicentennial helps largely subsidize fallfest. They are stretching to the limits of the traditions budgets, even so, so that could either mean for them, to get more Student Involvement money, or increasing the fee, to hopefully give more money to LAF. So from the LAF perspective, they would like to see an increase in the fee, or just an increase in overall spending.

- Answer: Ok, thank you. Even with the decrease in overall requests, there would be room to allocate more money to LAF if deemed necessary.
- Senator Nylund asked: So when will the Student Activities Fee be revisited again?
 - Answer: This same time of year, next year. .
- Student Observer Hannah Cohen asked: Because of a decrease in money allocated to LAF this year (due to Bicentennial Committee funds), is there any way we can get the funds from 2 years ago to see a more accurate regular spending of LAF with the Student Activities Fee?
 - Answer: No, I wasn't Treasurer 2 years ago so I don't have that. But it would likely be \$118,000 more according to the spreadsheet [on the screen].
- Senator George shared: I don't see a reason to increase the fee, when there's still room in the budget for things that
- Advisor Williams added that we do have groups that feel underfunded, so she wanted to pose that perspective.
 - Treasurer Vale responded that it's usually things that don't align with our guidelines. Clubs will want \$1,000 for a speaker, but our cap is \$800. If we as a committee tried to strengthen our relationship with clubs to make them more comfortable advocating for their needs in office hours, after talking it out, they'd be able to possibly secure more funding with explanations.

Resolution 2026-01 Proposal - [LINK](#)

- Senator George proposed his bill
- He provided the background that PSafe tried having a mental health counselor on staff many years ago, and it resulted in a counselor getting punched, and he would want to see an opportunity where they try it again.
- He read aloud his bill for the General Body, linked here
- He added that this Resolution address the PSafe's concerns that the counselor wouldn't be safe in their interactions; so this resolution solves that as well through adding joint response with the Public Safety office
 - He does not want to increase tuition or spending, but this is a resolution for student government to put out a formal statement urging public safety to move in this direction
- **Questions**
 - Senator Burns asked: how much would this cost
 - Answer: This is a resolution, so we're more focused on making a statement. This would ultimately fall on PSafe's budget too.
- Senator Casper added that her only concern is that she had a crisis with a friend, and in reality if they sent a counselor in the situation, it would've made her friend feel like a

“basket case”. How do we think we can navigate this situation to not make students feel like a counselor was forced on them?

- Answer: This would only be implemented in deescalation tactics
- Follow up from Senator Casper: Does it say anything about life threatening crises? If not, it should be clarified which situations in which a counselor should attend a scene.
 - Answer: It should.
- Senator Ahsan: I agree that the crises should be outlined, but if you’re going to bring counselors who possibly cannot “tackle” people, shouldn’t Psafe just have training to deescalate these situations?
 - Answer: The PSafe officers are currently trained pretty heavily in mental health crises, but their job is to ensure that students aren’t being threats to others or themselves.
 - Follow up from Senator Ahsan: What was your vision with this plan?
 - Answer: I believe that a counselor would serve as a benefit in tandem with a PSafe officer.
- Senator Horrenstein added that we don’t actually know if this will help, and none of us are qualified to know if this will actually be a benefit. The wording should be changed to “assess the viability of a pilot program”.
- Student Observer Cohen joined in, adding that it seemed like that was their response within PSafe. Pretty sure that the way it works now, PSafe comes to your door, and they’ll get a 24 hour counselor on the phone—at least this is how it worked in her experience.
 - Answer: He asked at the meeting, and they were not doing joint response
 - Senator Bennett spoke on his experience as a EMS and added that EMS won’t respond to a mental health call unless. EMS consists of EMTS, AEMTS, and Paramedics. EMRs are trained in deescalation, but they are not a part of the squad.
- Treasurer Vale asked who wanted this?
 - Answer: Vice President Hooey added that she’s heard of people who have felt like they’ve reached out to PSafe, and haven’t received much in response.

Bill 2026-01 Proposal - [LINK](#)

The DEI committee presented their bill proposal. The project that they’ve been working on for the past month proposes the changes to the Delegate System and removes the service hour requirement.

- Student government doesn’t have much of direct communication with students outside of the delegate solution, so they want to amend the system to improve communication between senators and organizations
- Senators will be assigned 3-5 organizations
 - Primary liaison between the GB and the club

- Maintain regular communication, attend 1 organization meeting and 1 event per semester
 - However, it is up to the club whether they would want to engage with their delegate
- **Questions:**
 - Senator Miller asked: How will you decide what club gets a delegate?
 - The way it will work is that at the beginning of every semester, there will be a form sent out to the organization, and then using the list of interested clubs, every Senator will get a diverse group of clubs
 - Senator Goerge asked: How do you go about distributing clubs to senators
 - Answer: We have an Excel spreadsheet of all clubs that exist on campus. There's approximately 140 clubs, and they'll assign clubs to senators from there
 - Vice President Hooey added that the processes of the decision making would be reinstated later down the line, it would be worked out that the same Senator isn't getting organizations with a lot of work, with other Senators having a very light load.
 - Senator Hoffman asked: Will this be implemented in the Fall?
 - Answer: Yes, it would be enacted next semester if approved.

Announcement of New Student Organizations

Student Organizations Committee Chair, Emerson Casper, announced the new clubs. The following have been approved:

1. Students Demand Action
2. Women in Economics and Business
3. TurningPoint USA
4. First-Generation at Lafayette
5. Applied Forecasting Community
6. Lafayette Club Swim
7. Bridge Easton
8. Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law fraternity
9. Leopards@Nite
10. Como Se Dice
11. ColorStack
12. Italian Club
13. Nu Rho Psi
14. Physics Club
15. Lafayette Cheerleading

OPEN FLOOR

Senator Hoffman reminded GB that the Dining takeover of Upper Farinon is next Friday, May 1

- She is sending out a form to have people sign up to work the event
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Senator Ahsan shared Lafayette Global Review is hosting an event next Monday at 4:30pm in Kirby 104 for their publication celebration event

Senator Horenstein announced that Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity is accepting applications

Vice President Hooey announced that the Sensory Room Initiative is getting going, and if anyone is around closer to the end of finals week, to help out with the implementation of it, let Vice President Hooey know

Senator Bennett and Senator George announced that they are looking for 5 responses per senator in 5 different places on the Wifi on campus. Fill out the form which is 2-3 questions, send a SS to Senator George. We want an overwhelming amount of evidence to show that the WiFi isn't good throughout campus.

The President of the Italian Club shared: Thank you so much for accepting the Italian Club as an organization, and if anyone is interested in joining, reach out to Catherine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peep of the Week

Josh Horenstein! He's been balancing his responsibilities starting a new club and on Student Government.

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

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BUDGET APPROVALS:

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

Total requested funds: \$898.40

Total allocated funds: \$203.97

Treasurer Vale filed a motion to approve the \$203.97 allocation of funds for the Period B Budgets. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Cohen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06PM. Inclusivity Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary