



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, April 9th, 2026, 7:00 PM, *Gendebien Room (Skillman Library)*

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim motioned to approve the minutes from April 26, 2026. Parliamentarian Atuahire 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
Lily Nylund '27, Senator
Kate SantaMaria '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
Trefor Thomas '29, Senator
Matt Valenta '29, Senator
Zara Wilson '29, Senator

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

Absent:

Roy Nisson '27, Senator
Alivia Bear '28, Student Observer

BUSINESS

Intro

Advisor Allison Williams introduced the process of the club presentations. A part of this process is allowing students to have space to organize, and give people a space to articulate why it's so important for them to say what they want to do. She emphasized that we are all leopards at the end of the day, and everyone is bringing forth important values. Each group will have 4 minutes to present their organization, with an additional 4 minutes for others to ask questions.

President Waxman added that she's grateful to have everyone here today. If she interrupts it's because the club's time is up.

Vice President Hooey reminded everyone that as we think of questions, if you know that something is touched upon already, please try to only contribute new information.

Keep in mind that anyone in attendance of the GBM had the ability to ask questions. Those who are not a part of Student Government have an asterisk next to their name under the "**Questions**" category.

Students Demand Action

- Board: Milan Iezzi, Ella Seaver, Kenzie Carlson, Abby Volpe, Abbie Dieppa, Sarah Judas
- SDA's mission: Lafayette SDA is joining the fight to end gun violence in America through tangible, grassroots work. Volunteer with us and gain hands-on experience with

election, legislative, and community-centered work, while being a part of a nation-wide movement.

- Unique contribution:
 - The only club on campus that's sole mission is gun violence prevention and advocacy. There are no partisan anti-gun violence groups on campus yet.
 - Welcoming and warm background for people of all different opinions, beliefs and want to engage members through GBMs, information sessions, workshops, tabling, collaborate with other SDA affiliation chapter, external events focused on education and advocacy
- Budget: receive funding from national affiliates, but they'd be looking to receive \$500 but open and willing to negotiate
- Retention plan: strong communication with members through communication officer
 - Attendance is tracked through website from national affiliates
 - Multiple levels of engagement to allow for members to engage at their own pace
- **Question:**
 - Parliamentary Atuahire: Do you have an idea of budget usage?
 - Answer: Internal and external events for education
 - Incentives, field work
 - Collaborate with different communities on Lafayette campus because everyone is impacted by gun violence
 - Senator Bennett: What do you guys require of your members?
 - Answer: Through the SDA affiliate, and they're not afraid to heckle, when someone comes into the club, they scan a QR code and are registered through nationals
 - That thereafter tracks their activity with SDA
 - Basic member means coming to GBM
 - Rebekah Lazar*: What educational resources are you getting from nationals?
 - Answer: Workshop for board that preps them to lead
 - They meet with their representatives on a monthly basis
 - They have other Zooms and presentations to bolster leadership skills and making sure they're equipped

Women in Economics and Business

- Board: Nisan Basciftci, Paraskevi Briegel, Megan Dursema, Julianne Galo, Caroline Coombs, Emma Hanlon, Hailey Messer, Zara Ahmed
 - They didn't hold the elections for next year yet but Emma Hanlon is running for presidency
- Here to foster an inclusive learning environment for women (and all students) in economics, business, communications, finance
 - Take a poll of what students want to see at the beginning of the year, and as a board they will present on one of these topics at meetings
 - Have professors present and talk about current market shifts
- Goals and Mission: Operating as an organization on campus for years now, and they're applying to become a club depend on the donations they get from the Economics dept
 - Not sustainable, so they're looking for sustainable funding
 - In order to create an inclusive environment for women in economics

- Trying to create a space where women can come, learn about careers, learn public speaking skills
- Don't require members to be of any gender
 - Had a male board member at a point
 - Don't have to be an econ major
- Events: Weekly meetings and discussions, alumni panels, networking events through gateway, career workshops, behavioral questions, faculty talks, majority of economics faculty speak at the club, NYC economics trip, member presentations
- Future plans: host an external speaker
- **Questions:**
 - Senator SantaMaria: Going forward, would you still receive partial funding from the department?
 - Answer: Still hoping to get partial funding from the department but relying fully on it makes it challenging to plan events
 - Senator George: Where are the finances from for the NYC trip they mentioned prior?
 - Answer: Made possible through a donation through the economics department endowment
 - Not sustainable to run this trip in future years because they rely on one-time donations

Turning Point USA

- Board: Noah Hajdu, Reagan Burke, Julian Fishman, Anthony
- Mission statement: The organization's mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government.
- Goals:
 - Short term: communicate with organizations about events, discussions, and evaluate effectiveness. They would also like to organize one community partnership with a charity in the Lehigh Valley
 - Through end of year member survey they will evaluate membership
 - Long term: building a recognized and credible presence on campus and broader community by hosting at least 3 speaker events per year
 - Conduct a baseline survey of members to measure perspectives from them
- How do they differ: Faith is a main part of their group and how that ties into campus. They want to serve as a nonpartisan group, everyone is allowed in their meetings, and debate is encouraged.
- Member retention: tabling events, word of mouth, social media outreach, opportunity for other people to be able to speak, create a strong sense of community and creating a safe space for everyone
 - Hold board elections every year
- Events: faith based gatherings, political speakers, industry leader speakers, community service projects, networking events, debates on current political and social issues, tabling
- **Questions:**
 - Rebekah Lazar: Do you foresee any external attention coming to Lafayette, and how would you approach those situations

- Answer: We'll keep moving forward, and try to push our mission
- We're just trying to spread the good news of the Bible
- Student Observer Cohen: SDA mentioned that they are connected to their national organization, and was wondering if TPUSA was connected to nationals?
 - Answer: We are officially recognized by the national chapter, getting this group on campus. They require \$0 in funding.
- Persephone*: Given the long history of Charlie Kirk's legacy of hating queer people, what is your advice to queer people on campus?
 - Answer: What's in the bible as true and right, and you can agree or disagree with what Charlie Kirk said
 - We may disagree but still love you
 - Doesn't necessarily mean we as a club agree with everything Charlie Kirk said, we believe in the bible and that's where our values come from
 - Just because we disagree with your choices doesn't mean we disagree with you

First- Generation at Lafayette

- Board: Jordan and Jade
- Mission: Provide community support and resources to ensure academic and future success for all students, especially those who are typically underrepresented such as first generation college students.
- Membership: already have people interested, maintain active social media presence, collaborations with on campus organizations, engaging in club fairs
 - Retention: mentorship program
- Programming: campus opportunity events for people to share how they got involved in certain things on campus, collaboration with Gateway, first generation banquet recognizing first generation students
- Differs: currently no first generation club on campus, so it would be peer led, more personal, and approachable club, relevant programming
 - POSSE scholars do have that community, but a lot of people don't necessarily have that group
- **Question:**
 - Senator Nkamga: Would you be willing to partner with NextGen in LANDIS?
 - Answer: Yes, one of their board members is on NextGen, and they'd be interested in that collaboration
 - Crystal*: How would your club differ from team success?
 - Answer: Team success works a lot with first-years, but as people gain more seniority they start to ask more specific questions that team success cannot necessarily answer.

Lafayette Applied Forecasting Community

- Board: Christo Maheras and Zach Liebman
- Mission: teach students to evaluate current events through probability, forecasting, and prediction markets and provide an educational space to interpret how people "price the future"

- Predicting the future: businesses across the world use probable forecasting to understand what may happen in the future. Even the government and healthcare use probability to predict future issues.
- Differs: Only organization on campus focused on forecasting and prediction markets
 - Merges economics, data analysis, and current events
 - Hands-on analytical experience found at very few US colleges
 - Helps students build skills in reasoning, probability, and analyzing information
- Programs: forecasting simulations, case studies, workshops and data labs, speaker events, competitions and cross-campus collaborations
- Collabed with computer science department where they created 3 data analysis tools, and identified limiting factors for club success, and tested club viability among 14 students
- Membership: outreach is for everybody but specifically math, CS, econ, gov law. IA
 - Retention: having weekly meetings/things to do, no prior knowledge necessary
- All of funding is covered by policy studies and computer science department
- **Questions:**
 - Senator George: Do you guys plan on placing bets on campus things?
 - Answer: No, it would only be simulations
 - Senator Ahsan: Did you make a framework to meet people where they're at in terms of skills?
 - The intention is to have one workshop and GB per month. Not actually a member unless you go to both. The goal is to have 30 people by the beginning of next semester
 - We will have workshops led by people with data analysis skills for people who are new to it
 - Specifically will focus on technology, world events, finance, politics
 - Senator Wilson: What are you talking about when you say you're predicting things and how this skillset would differ from investment club?
 - What differentiates us is that investment club is looking for a return, and their club is looking to be direct or accurate

Club Swim

- Board: Rio Hall, Jonah Scher, Claire Pittaro
- Mission: Foster a love for swimming while promoting teamwork and personal growth
- Provide a supportive environment where swimmers of all levels can develop their skills, build confidence, and strive for excellence whether in or outside the pool
 - Most Colleges and universities offer a club swim team and Lafayette has never had one
 - Club Swim fills a gap between varsity athletics and recreational swimming by offering a competitive environment outside of division 1 sports. Unlike varsity teams, we are open to all skill levels, and unlike recreational swim, we offer structured practices, coaching, and meet participation
 - This club will give students who want to continue swimming after high school a space to grow and compete
- Create a fundraising event for health organizations, collaboration with APO, foster strong

- community by organizing social events, and team bonding activities outside of swim
- Provide regular training and swim practices. Could qualify for regionals and nationals
- Practice 3-4 times a week and working with Rec center to figure out times
- Tabling in Farinnon for fundraising events and charity
- US Masters swimming meet (7 meets/semester)
- Budget:
 - Registration fee: \$750
 - Coach: \$1170
 - Lifeguards \$1989
- Attracting members through unofficial practices
 - 30 members in groupme
- **Questions:**
 - Parliamentarian Atuhaire: How much experience does a person need?
 - Answer: There is a minimal threshold; they need to be able to swim and complete the sets that they have
 - Rebekah Lazar*: how do you foresee the cost of traveling for meets?
 - The first year the meets would be contingent on people being able to drive their own car
 - It's most likely that the overnights would be regionals, and states
 - They don't anticipate making to it in their early years, so it's irrelevant
 - Senator Miller asked for clarification on why they needed a lifeguard when that is something the Rec Center has on staff.
 - Answer: We'd be paying the Rec Center to pay the lifeguards because they cannot use student government money to pay the students directly.
 - The club needs to hire the lifeguard because they'd be needing them for time outside of their normal schedule
 - Senator Kulmanov: Is the time too late for the people in their club—is there a better time for anyone?
 - Answer: The D1 team uses the pool in mornings and evenings, and there's rec swim afterwards
 - They understand that people can't make the late practices, but that's what works for now

Bridge Easton

- Board: Beaux and Parker
- Who we are: Multi partisan student movement
- Main mission is to decrease political polarization
 - Not affiliated with political party and invite students who want to speak together from any point
- Events: discussions, jubilee spectrum events, political speed debating, speakers
- Budget: not asking for any funding
- Training: members don't need any training, but the exec board is trained by nationals
 - Went to national conference last semester to receive even more training
- **Questions:**
 - Senator Ahsan: What's the training to ensure that conversations remain civil?

- Answer: 4 norms of discussion so people understand why they're there. At the summit (big conference), there were students from all around the country to discuss different market and monitoring processes
- Senator SantaMaria: How are you different from Lafayette votes
 - Answer: Lafayette votes is focused on getting people to vote, but they're more focused on getting people talking about different topics. They also work on building a sense of community within the club
- Senator George: How will the club actually reduce polarization?
 - Answer: They say everyone is welcome, so you're not hearing the same opinion
- Parker*: You had a conversation between TPUSA and another group—can you go into more detail about that?
 - Answer: They didn't have a discussion between Lafayette Democrats and TPUSA they just watched the state of the union together
 - Mission statement is the mission statement and they pride themselves on bringing everyone together
- Senator Nylund: Is there a fact checking process?
 - Answer: No, they do call people out on saying bogus statistics, though there is no official process.

Questions to the Cabinet/Advisor

William*: SJP was rejected and TPUSA has a history of doing so and has a watchlist of professors and have documented. How does this club (referencing TPUSA) not target students in the same way that SJP had on campus?

- If groups want to form on campus they go through the club approval process
- They fill out the club approval form, our advisor and the Student organizations committee reviews all of them equitably
 - Answer: If it goes against the Lafayette College mission and guidelines and it will be rejected
 - All of the groups presenting tonight, were approved through the standard rubric and process

William* then asked if the club was already approved?

- Answer: The answer was no, this is the discussion forum for these clubs to go through a fair process to gather on campus.
- Senator SantaMaria added that if an organization were to be approved and no longer aligned with the college policies, then it would be evaluated

Rebekah Lazar* asked the reevaluation process for clubs once they violate the college's mission and what's the expected timeline among the guidelines for accountability. She cited her own personal experience with Students for Life soliciting her group, LRAJE.

- Answer: Advisor Allison Williams didn't remember the specific circumstance. If there's an infraction, you want to OnePard

- President Waxman added if there are situations where you need resources, you should go through the OnePard system.
- It's based on what the student wants to do, and if someone came to Student Government with a serious concern, we will report it to the correct person
- This is why for club approval process, we don't just have students doing it, there are adult hands on it too

Claire Pitarro* asked if budgeting is a reason for a club to be rejected:

- Answer: Budgeting is not synonymous with approval

Jade* asked when club approvals will be announced:

- Answer: After the next round on 4/16, the club leaders will find out the following day, and it will be made public after our meeting on 4/23

Matthew* asked: Are the steps and guidelines that Student Government follows to go through the approval process of a given club available ?

- Answer: Yes, the rubric is posted and available to all.

OPEN FLOOR

The Communications Committee will be tabling with dirty sodas in Farinon on 4/10 from 11-1pm.

Student Government (thanks to the Dining Committee!) is doing a takeover in Upper Farinon for a night! More information to come soon

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim motioned to enter the executive session. It was seconded by Vice President Hooey and unanimously approved.

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim motioned to exit the executive session. It was seconded by Senator Nylund 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: \$2,141.00

Total allocated funds: \$1,195.00

Treasurer Vale filed a motion to approve the \$1,195 allocation of funds for the Period B Budgets. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peep of the Week

- Senator Lily Hoffman! She's been amazing as the Chair of the Dining Committee! She's stepped up to lead, and it's important to note that she's shown so much leadership in her first year.

All Student Government members are required to go to their respective class year's financial literacy workshop. The dates are announced on Instagram.

ADJOURNMENT

President Waxman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:19PM. Secretary Cohen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary