



CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Easton, Pennsylvania

PREAMBLE

The Student Government shall provide a forum for the voicing of student concerns on matters related to the welfare of the College in general, and the welfare of the student body in particular. The Student Government shall serve as the official medium of communication between the student body and the other constituencies of the College on matters which, in the opinion of the Student Government, should receive the attention of the Faculty, Administration, the Board of Trustees, or any combination thereof.

The Student Government of Lafayette College operates under the authority and through the recognition of the Faculty. The Student Government shall operate in ways consistent with the basic delegation of faculty responsibility, and in ways consistent with the Charter of the College, the Statutes of the College, and with other controlling documents such as the Statement on the Rights and Responsibilities of Students.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Student Government of Lafayette College.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

The Student Government is the representative governing body of the undergraduates of Lafayette College. In addition to providing a forum for the free exchange of ideas on matters of general concern to the College community and communicating such concerns as the Student Government deems desirable to appropriate College agencies, the Student Government shall:

- A. Encourage students to develop qualities of leadership and responsible citizenship;
- B. Supervise the general operation of student organizations by:
 - i. Granting recognition to student organizations in collaboration with the Office of Student Involvement;
 - ii. Apportioning to recognized organizations funds allocated for that purpose by the College budget;
 - iii. And superintending the dissolution of organizations when the need arises.
- C. Supervise elections of the Student Government;

- D. Nominate or choose student members of standing committees of the Board of Trustees, of the Faculty, or of the College Administration in ways acceptable to the parent bodies;
- E. Enforce the rules which it enacts and other College regulations which are explicitly within its jurisdiction;
- F. Have authority to:
 - i. Propose changes to the Code of Conduct for review by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees;
 - ii. Propose amendments to the Statement on Rights and Responsibilities of Students for review by the Faculty and the Board of Trustees;
 - iii. Establish committees, assign their responsibilities, appoint their membership, and create whatever other internal organization it deems necessary for carrying out the purpose stated in this Constitution;
 - iv. Make recommendations to deciding bodies on any matter relating to the general welfare of the student body;
 - v. And recall student members of Faculty, Board of Trustees, or Administrative Committees if they have an unsatisfactory attendance record at their respective committee meetings.
- G. Function cooperatively with other constituent bodies to achieve the mission and purpose of the College;
- H. And represent the student body to outside agencies.

**ARTICLE III: STUDENT GOVERNMENT
RELATION TO THE FACULTY**

Section 1: Suspension of Student Government Action

- A. The Faculty may suspend any action of the Student Government which it judges to lie outside the authority of that organization or to be detrimental to the best interests of the College. Suspended actions shall be returned to the Student Government for reconsideration.
- B. To carry out the provisions of Article III, Section 1A, the Dean of Students shall act as the agent of the Faculty, reviewing all actions of the Student Government and deciding whether any should be suspended or reviewed by the entire Faculty. They shall report actions of the Student Government to the Faculty when appropriate, and they shall report actions which have been suspended to the next regular meeting of the Faculty for suitable action at that meeting or the next regular meeting.

Section 2: Instructions to Committees

- A. The Student Government Senate or its Cabinet shall have the right to ask the Faculty to direct any of its committees to provide information, undertake studies, prepare recommendations, or perform other appropriate duties.
- B. The Faculty or its Clerk shall have the right to ask the Student Government to direct any of its committees to provide information, undertake studies, prepare recommendations, or perform other appropriate duties.

Section 3: Joint Committees

The Student Government and the Faculty may, at such time that it is acceptable to both bodies, establish joint committees of the Student Government and the Faculty. The composition and mission of such committees shall be determined jointly by the Student Government and the Faculty.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

Section 1: Organization

- A. The Student Government shall be composed of two corresponding bodies, the Cabinet and the Senate.

Section 2: Meetings

- A. Regular meetings of the Student Government shall be held at the discretion of the Cabinet.
- B. Special meetings may be called by the President or one-third of the voting members of the Student Government petitioning the President in writing.

Section 3: Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Student Government shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Student Government.

Section 4: Parliamentary Procedure

The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all actions of the Student Government.

Section 5: Bylaws

The Student Government shall have the power to write Bylaws to affect the purposes of this Constitution.

Section 6: Legislative Functions

A motion involving a change in established policy or of significance to the Student Government shall not be voted on until a meeting held at least twenty-four hours following that meeting at

which the motion is presented, or unless notice of intent to propose such a motion is made at least four days before the meeting, in writing, to each voting member and Delegate. This rule may be suspended by the unanimous vote of the Student Government present and voting.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Notice of Nondiscrimination

Membership in the Student Government and registered student organizations are open to all students of Lafayette College, regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, religion, age, military or veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital or familial status, pregnancy, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law in its educational programs and activities, admissions, or employment as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (which requires that the College not discriminate on the basis of sex); the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (which requires that the College not discriminate on the basis of disability); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (which requires that the College not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin); and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (which requires that the College not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin); and other applicable laws and College policies.

Section 2: Composition

- A. The governance structure of the Student Government will comprise of the following:
 - i. The Senate shall serve as the legislative branch of the Student Government. The senate shall be composed of 21 elected members: seven first-year Senators, seven sophomore Senators, and seven junior Senators.
 - ii. The Cabinet shall consist of six elected executive officers, elected from the full-time first-year, sophomore, and junior students of Lafayette College.
 - iii. Student Government members not serving on the Cabinet will be referred to as Senators. Those serving on the Cabinet will be referred to as Cabinet members.
- B. Individuals who have served as representatives and have opted to study abroad in the spring semester of a given academic year may be seated as non-voting Ex-Officio Delegates upon their return.
- C. The Student Government will also have Delegates. Delegates are students who serve as Faculty Committee student representatives, Board of Trustee student representatives, and Administration student representatives, who are not already members of the Student Government. Delegates are non-voting members.
- D. The Student Government may also have Ex-Officio Delegates. These members will be second-semester seniors who served during the full fall semester of their senior year. They may attend meetings but will be non-voting members.

Section 3: Advisement

The Student Government shall be advised by a staff member from the Division of Student Life whose responsibility is to serve as the Student Government advisor.

Section 4: Term

The term of office shall be one calendar year, from January 1st to December 31st. All Senators and Cabinet members must be present on campus for the duration of their terms.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1: Cabinet Positions

A. The Student Government shall have six Cabinet members. All Cabinet members are to be elected by the student body, as outlined in the Bylaws. These officers are as follows:

- i. The President
- ii. The Vice President
- iii. The Treasurer
- iv. The Secretary
- v. The Inclusivity Officer
- vi. The Parliamentarian

B. The order of succession is as follows:

- i. The President
- ii. The Vice President
- iii. The Treasurer
- iv. The Secretary
- v. The Inclusivity Officer

Section 2: Eligibility

A. All first-years, sophomores and juniors who are full-time students and are not on academic or disciplinary probation at Lafayette College are eligible to run for Cabinet positions.

B. Candidates for certain Cabinet positions (President, Vice President, and Treasurer) must have previously served on the Student Government for at least one semester. The positions of Secretary, Inclusivity Officer, and Parliamentarian are open to all students so long as they meet the other eligibility criteria.

C. Candidates must only run for one Cabinet position per election cycle.

Section 3: Time of Election of the Cabinet

- A. A general election of the Student Government Cabinet shall occur by the end of November.
- B. The election of the Senate shall occur after the new Cabinet has been elected and prior to the end of the fall semester.

Section 4: Vacancies and Succession

- A. Should the office of the President be vacant, the Vice President shall become the President and assume all of the responsibilities of that office.
- B. Should the office of any of the remaining officers become vacant, the Student Government shall fill that office as outlined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF SENATORS

Section 1: Eligibility

All full-time students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation shall be eligible to become candidates for the Student Government.

Section 2: Time of Election of Senators

Election of the Student Government Senators shall take place in November on dates to be determined by the Student Government.

Section 3: Vacancies

A vacancy of a Senator shall be filled by an appointment process. Procedures shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Ad Hoc Committees

The President may appoint such ad hoc committees for a specific purpose as they deem necessary.

Section 2: Standing Committees

The Student Government may form Standing Committees, as provided in the Bylaws, to aid in the effective workings of the Student Government. Standing Committee Chairs shall attain their posts by a plurality vote of the Student Government.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Review of the Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws should be reviewed, though not necessarily amended, every three years.

Section 2: Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a member of the Student Government at a regular meeting using the following procedure:

- A. At the meeting where the amendment is proposed a period of discussion shall follow;
- B. The amendment shall be referred to a committee chaired by the Parliamentarian for study;
- C. At the next regular meeting, following the meeting where the amendment was proposed, the committee shall present the amendment with the committee's recommendations. A period of general discussion shall follow, after which the amendment shall lay over until the next regular meeting;
- D. At the next regular meeting, the second meeting from that at which the amendment was originally proposed, a discussion period shall be followed by a vote;
- E. And, an amendment shall require a three-fourths affirmative vote of all present and voting members of the Student Government, and the approval of the Faculty and the Board of Trustees, for it to be enacted.

ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the present and voting members of the Student Government, and the approval of the Faculty and Board of Trustees of Lafayette College.