



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, February 26th, 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

Vice President Hooey motioned to approve the minutes from February 19, 2026. Representative 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
Anoosh Ahsan '28, Representative
Will Bennett '28, Representative
Emerson Casper '28, Representative
Josh Horenstein '28, Representative
Chloe Miller '28, Representative

Doga Uzel '28, 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
Alivia Bear '28, Non-Voting Member
Teddy Sukernik '29, Non-Voting Member

Absent:

Josh George '29, Representative
Hannah Cohen '29, Non-Voting Member

BUSINESS

Discussion with Faculty Committee on Educational Policy

Dr. Malinconico (referred to as Dr. M below) is serving as chair of the Faculty Committee on Educational Policy this year. Professors Rossman and Miller, who are also members of the committee, attended the GBM as well. They are present to gather feedback on a proposal that would allow students at Lafayette College to pursue two minors during their time at the College.

Dr. M also introduced Yuko Tanaka, the student representative on the committee.

The committee is currently in the information-gathering stage. Faculty members have asked them to consider whether it is appropriate for students to complete two minors as part of their Lafayette degree. As a starting point for this discussion, Dr. M posed the following questions:

- Should we allow students to have 2 minors?
 - Given a yes, what are the restrictions to that?
 - 2 majors, 1 minor
 - 2 majors, 2 minors
 - If we allow 2 minors, how much course overlap can occur between each minor, and each minor and the major

The following responses are answers to Dr. M's proposed questions (Dr. M also asked that students say the degree they are pursuing and introduce themselves prior to delivering the feedback):

Rep. Nylund

- Government & Law and Psychology double major
 - She views it as beneficial to student body because people will do minor/major with a concentration with the reality that they have done enough coursework to designate the minor

Vice President Hooey:

- Psychology major with minor in Religious Studies
- "It's a lot to double major," but she has a lot of areas of interest, and could see it being beneficial to have 2 minors. She also likes the possible stipulations of the numbers of majors to minors.

Dr. M asked, "What is the usefulness of the minor?"

Rep. Horenstein

- Government & Law major, Economics minor
- Good thing to add to Lafayette. Not only do we allow for different areas of study, but it's encouraged here. People should feel encouraged to take different classes, and have it noted on their degree. It's especially helpful for jobs, and when you report relevant coursework to employers.

Rep. Epp

- Biology major, Bioengineering minor
- He's 1 class away from 2 different minors, but he has to choose between the two, even though he has time to complete both. He sees it as highly beneficial to allow students to have two minors as it would allow their degree to represent the coursework they pursued.

Rep. Bennett

- Biology major, Religious Studies minor
- Importance of minor, he's on pre-med track, and has to take an additional set of courses for medical school applications.
 - He fell in love with the religious studies minor, and realized he wasn't able to fit religious studies major with his biology major on the pre-med track.
 - Something to consider is that it should have extra support from academic advisors to their students. It would be important for students to be VERY aware of their academic journeys, to ensure that they don't get caught up in taking so many classes and adding a bunch of minors

Rep. SantaMaria

- Government & Law major, Data Science minor
- For her, the value of a minor was the opportunity to study something very different from her major. She originally planned to minor in English, but a professor encouraged her to choose a field that contrasted more clearly with her primary area of study. She suggested that there should be some distinction between majors and minors to preserve the spirit of a liberal arts education.
- She also expressed that students should not be permitted to pursue two majors and two minors simultaneously. Lafayette promotes the idea that students are engaged both academically and beyond the classroom, and taking on that much coursework could limit opportunities for meaningful involvement outside of

academics.

Rep. Ahsan

- Very similar to Rep. SantaMaria—now that the job market is evolving quickly, jobs want versatile applicants. Hopes that this would lead courses to expand at the college.

Dr. M asked: How many people are doing double major and minor?

- The only person who raised their hand was Rep. Casper. She stated that she is a double-major in Psychology, Government & Law, with a minor in WGSS.

Ava Gallia:

- Stated she was curious about the reasoning behind not wanting to have students obtain the ability to have 2 minors.
 - Answer: The committee has not formed opinions yet, therefore they have no current reasoning as to why this would be a rejected proposal.

Rep. Casper posed the question to Dr. M:

- What were statistics on other schools?
- Answer: 80% of schools on the list offer double minors. The list consisted of liberal arts based colleges. The majority did not allow 2 majors, and 2 minors. And some said just a major and a minor.

Question (from Dr. M): What's the purpose of a minor?

Responses:

Rep. Miller:

- Minor can serve two different purposes; studying Chinese supplements her International Affairs major.
- Explore something that's not related to your major, or what you would want to go into post-grad.

Vice President Hooley

- Your major doesn't have to define what you're doing post-grad.

Rep. Crawley

- Gov Law major and has 3/6 classes for Bio minor. Gov law is his main interest, but having a minor can help focus his major.

Rep. Nisson

- History and Economics double major
- Came to college to be a math-econ major with a history minor, realized that he really liked history dept, and wanted to pursue it as a minor. Minors are a good way to give people something concrete to explore through, and if they like it enough, they can pursue it as a major

Rep. Ahsan

- Making this change would help facilitate an environment where students are more well rounded. If students had the option of no minors, but picking up another major, they probably would do it. Having a double minor would allow students to become more well rounded students in multiple fields of study.

Rep. Nylund

- Having a double minor would mean Lafayette students would truly have the ability to take advantage of all educational opportunities. Most “Cur Non” attitude.

Rep. SantaMaria

- Another positive is that it gives you more time to figure out what you enjoy at Lafayette. Can still pursue a minor starting your junior year.

Professor Miller (response): You should take 1 major and courses in everything else. No one cares about your minor ever, so he recommends taking courses with many different professors at this school.

Dr. M concluded the discussion by thanking students for their input. Dr. M, Professor Miller, and Professor Rossman then left the meeting following the conclusion of their discussion.

Continuation of Bylaws Proposal

Since the last meeting, revisions have been made to the election of Senators.

- Currently, we have a selection process, but we are moving towards the election process.
- The elections committee consists of VP, Inclusivity Officer, and many others (all of which do not run for Exec)
 - Rep. Nylund noted that she thoroughly enjoyed her time serving on the committee.

It was clarified that:

- If you want to be on Stugov next year, you have to run next year too.
- If only 5 members of the Class of 2029 ran, then the application would open up, to fill vacancies

Rep. Horn expressed concern about the difference in process between the Executive Board

(which runs and campaigns) and Representatives (who previously went through a selection process).

- Answer: The election structure was passed in the Constitution last semester. The bylaws only govern how the process operates; the process itself cannot be changed without constitutional amendment. Students who are interested in Student Government will need to run regardless. There will not be a candidate forum for Senate elections.

Rep. Horn (follow-up): She noted that it is difficult to prevent elections from becoming popularity contests. Voters may not know all candidates and will be voting for seven individuals rather than just one.

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim asked whether past members could be prioritized in the process.

- Answer: No. All candidates must run each year. The goal is to demonstrate continued interest and growth within Student Government(!).

Rep. Wilson asked whether a trial run of the new process could be implemented, particularly to support incoming freshmen without disadvantaging returning members.

- Answer: Once the Constitution is approved, there will not be sufficient time in December to conduct a trial Cabinet election before the Senatorial election. The Senatorial election will take place directly after the Cabinet election.

Rep. Nylund thinks this is a good incentive for GB members to be productive in Student Government, and have the student body willing to re-vote them due to their good work.

Rep. SantaMaria added:

- She would look at it as a way for you to get your voice and your ideas out there. As representatives, you want people to see you and feel comfortable to go to you as their representative.

Treasurer Vale noted:

- Running in an election means taking steps to know people, and know your audience. That effort to know your audience and know that kind of stuff matters.

Rep. Nisson stated:

- If you run, and get your name out there, you'll inherently feel empowered to do good work on Student Government.

VP Hooley remarked: "You can't chat[GPT] a campaign". Anyone who stands up and shares their ideas on campus is a leader! That is the type of person we want on Stugov.

Rep. Ahsan asked:

- How will the current Student Government make it accessible for people to run?

- Answer: There's an elections manual containing a budget for everyone. Exposure was also a key part of making the Exec election equitable—opening up GBs to freshmen was key in having them retain and understand Student Government. There are only people within your class year voting for people within their class year.

Rep. Valenta noted based on his personal experience running in an election:

- Campaigning is a great way to get outside of your comfort zone. He didn't really want to campaign, and now since he has, he has seen himself grow in confidence.

Rep. Horenstein:

- Elections could further legitimize student government, because it would be the people the student body voted for.

Committee Reports

Pard Pantry

- Rep Thomas had idea of 24 hour box outside of Pard Pantry due to limited hours
 - It should keep people fed, and also people in the know and interested

Student Life

- Cast a wide net, and meet with people
- Adil and Will met with library
- Ahmir and Will met with public safety talking about parking and ticketing procedure
- Rep. Nylund and Will met with Gateway—she is working on Women's history month panel
- Rep. Hoffman and Rep. Bennett met with Reslife and getting people to apply to specialty housing
 - Possible club fair, but with specialty housing
- Meeting with LAF about Founder's week
- Campus life initiative is still going strong—met with Reslife about it
 - Sport court on Fisher Quad

Academic Affairs

- Cast a wide net, and meet with people
- Rep. Nisson met with the academic resource hub
 - Establishing communication and connection—there might be discrepancies in admin communication, but we as StuGov have to take responsibility to communicate everything on our behalf
- Recognition of student opinion and student resources
- Exploring idea of different parts on campus further professional development

CRC

- Ending next week
- (details about productivity are listed above, and in past minutes as they've presented every meeting for the past month about the Bylaws)

Student Organizations

- Not a ton to do yet
- Shortened club rubric
- Applications close March 20th, so they'll start interviewing and going from there

Dining

- Had meeting with dining and facilities today
- Spoke to them about specialty food days to lower
 - Spoke about pasta, mac and cheese
- There will be a form for us to

Communications

- Communications Officer Cohen will no longer be the Chair due to changes in the bylaws
- The committee has met their goal of posting on tiktok once a week
- Stugov Instagram only has 1400 followers (and some are alumni)
 - Need to expand outreach going forward

Budget

- Allocated money in the Period B budgets
- Just stopped taking Period B appeals
- They meet twice a week

Sustainability

- Tabling for Climate Action Plan
- Will be dissolved as soon as the bylaws are enacted

OPEN FLOOR

Rep. Ahsan: Lafayette Global Review is still taking papers, and is looking for a wide range of topics. If you have any papers, send them in! Guidelines are on their website

Rep. Nylund: Women's Alumni Panel is still looking for panelists. If anyone knows any alumni, that would be great—reach out to her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Waxman has the board meeting this weekend, and will be presenting about the Constitution. She'll also be presenting on what Student Government is up to this year.

Vice President Hooey announced that throughout the rest of the semester, we'll be having different speakers come in to GBMs talk about events in Stugov in a timely manner (ie someone who is highly educated in club approvals, public speaking).

The Sustainability Committee is tabling from 11-1pm in Farinon College Center on 2/26.

Peep of the Week

Gwyn Horn was awarded Peep of the Week for her can-do attitude, and willingness to always help out. She has shown a great commitment to Student Government through her work on both the Budget and Communications Committee, and she proves to be an asset to Student Government week in and week out.

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 with the following outcome:

Total requested funds: \$60.00

Total allocated funds: \$0.00

Treasurer Vale filed a motion to approve the \$0 allocation of funds for the Period B Budgets. Rep. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Communications Officer Cohen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:59PM. Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Communications Officer