



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, March 12th, 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 approve the minutes from March 5, 2026. Vice President Hooey 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
Ahmir Crawley '27, Senator
Matthew Epp '27, Senator
Lily Hoffman '27, Senator
Roy Nisson '27, Senator
Kate SantaMaria '27, Senator

Anoosh Ahsan '28, Senator
Will Bennett '28, Senator
Josh Horenstein '28, Senator
Eniyah Rolle '28, Senator
Chloe Miller '28, Senator
Josh George '29, Senator

Clovis-Lato Nkamga '29, Senator
Trefor Thomas '29, Senator
Zara Wilson '29, Senator

Teddy Sukernik '29, Student Observer

Absent:

Ryan Burns '27, Senator
Lily Nylund '27, Senator
Emerson Casper '28, Senator
Doga Uzel '28, Senator
Adil Kulmanov '29, Senator
Gwyn Horn '29, Senator
Matt Valenta '29, Senator

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

BUSINESS

Reaccreditation Process Outline

Professor Markus Dubischar presented the outline; he is a professor in classics, latin, ancient greece, and civilization, and the Associate Provost of Curriculum.

He first defined *Reaccreditation* (and its relation to Middle States):

A mandatory quality check every few years by an organization to ensure the college meets high academic and financial standards, ensures degrees stay valid, and stays eligible for federal financial aid. Outside organizations supply this testing. In our case it is the *Middle States Commission for higher education* (MSCHE). However, it is no longer defined recently, so any institution can choose any re-accreditor. The change was only made recently, though, so the MSCHE still oversees over 400 schools in the middle states region. They look at thematic areas/standards when they accredit institutions.

- This academic year the administration is preparing for the accreditation -
 - “Invisible work” that lays the foundation for reaccreditation
 - Next fall and spring is the main work year for reaccreditation
- College self study is another aspect of the test
 - Reaccreditations first asses themselves and reflect on how they're doing in all of the areas
 - Serves as an opportunity to hold many inclusive and important conversations so that all issues rise to the surface of ways to improve Lafayette

- In the end, is the College Self study as an 100-page document where the college reflects on itself and sends it to the Middle States
 - In Spring 2028, the middle states will render a reaccreditation decision

The self study process lives on being transparent and inclusive, ensuring that the College can move towards excelling at all of the standards.

- Administrators cannot write a good CSS without input from the students -
 - Many opportunities for students to weigh in

He urged students to keep in mind the date “March 24”. It entails lunch on Tuesday from 12:15-1:15pm in the Marlo Room, with a Middle States representative talking about the reaccreditation process at Lafayette College. A written announcement from the President’s office should arrive tomorrow

- Part of her meeting schedule is an open lunch for the campus community - Rare opportunity for those on campus to hear from someone from the accrediting agency
 - She will explain what reaccreditation looks like from her perspective

Advisor Allison Williams added that in her past job, she loved interacting with the middle states rep, and that this is a great opportunity in having your voice heard for the betterment of Lafayette.

Rep. SantaMaria asked if each academic department is evaluated separately:

- Answer: Yes and no. The self study chapters will be exactly what the 7 standards are. But, within the chapters it’s a narrative backed by documentation. In that narrative, individual departments are discussed.

Rep. Thomas asked if he was involved in the process the last time it happened:

- Answer: Yes. The last time he was involved as a faculty member, and now as a Provost, he leads the process.

Rep. Rolle asked what the students were recommending and if it materialized into anything:

- Answer: He doesn’t have it at the top of his mind what issues were brought up in the Self Study. He will forward it to President Waxman.
 - 8 years ago we passed with flying colors
 - In that assessment, the Middle States only had suggestions on how to change. One of those was to review CCS as they said they would. They urged them to review CCS and hold true to their original word.

Conversation with Student Life Administration

Mark Sapara and Dean Snipes led the conversation. They both introduced themselves and their

roles.

They have been meeting regularly with President Waxman and VP Hooey. For background, Mark Sapara has been in administration for 35 years. He started out as a student leader at his alma mater's student government. He mentioned that he overthrew a corrupt regime in student government (fun fact!). He's here to recommend where our best efforts can be placed.

Mark Sapara: He had lunch with faculty from the Government & Law department, and they looked over the GovLab survey about Student life facilitated in Fall 2025 (shoutout to Rep. SantaMaria, who headed the survey). Every year 25% of the population turns over, so SGA is always in the process of letting people know what they do. Quite often, we may be siloed in conversations with the same people, but every person in this room is essential to getting the word out. If it's only the Executive Board, it's impossible to get the voice out there, and represent constituents. It's important for us to know that we will never fully represent every single voice, but it's important to keep the student body's mind and perspective at the forefront of our work.

Dr Snipes then asked if we know what dean of students does

- Parliamentarian Atuhaire said "academic stuff"

His role is to support us from the moment we enroll to graduate; ensuring we have resources and support from every step of the way. Residence life, housing, student involvement, orientation, FSL, dean of students, student advocacy and prevention, case management, student conduct, student wellness, academic deans. All of these departments report to Dean Snipes, the dean of students. He's also looking at resources behind the scenes; pard pantry, crisis on-call system, anything pertaining to you to ensure you thrive.

Mark Sapara explained his role as well. As associate vp he supports Sarah Moschenross (Vice President for Student Life) in things she needs help with. He specifically mentioned how he once helped Rep. Crawley when he asked him about parking fines, and Mark was able to navigate him to the right administrator who held the answer. He helps translate the jargon of higher education to students. Every few weeks they have lunch with President Waxman and VP Hooey; they spoke about sensory rooms for students with disabilities, and reading space. They are working on the Sustainability 3.0 committee, to put out a survey on what students understand about sustainability on campus. If anyone has a question about something, email Mark Sapara!

President Waxman asked about how the student government is going through club approvals and what our specific role is in approving the clubs.

- Answer: They want us to understand what the student body's needs are and if students need it to be supported on campus. We have these conversations, even if we have a different sense of opinion, but knowing that someone at Lafayette needs a place to gather and connect. Guide yourself with very clear policy around these; leading with equity and fairness, even if you don't believe in this yourself.

Rep. SantaMaria asked: Do you have any advice on how to increase participation in Stugov

meetings?

- Answer: the oldest form of marketing is word of mouth. Members should start gradually by bringing friends to meetings. There's a reason you are here, and not all students have the same excitement about student government—don't force anyone to feel a certain way about involvement in Student Government. Twist it, to show that there's an opportunity for impact, and they have great ideas, that can be furthered with the voice student government holds on campus.

Rep. Bennett asked their thoughts about the Student Activities fee

- Answer: we've now worked into the system, that before we leave in the spring, we'll have a conversation with Finance about it. Be really good and thoughtful stewards of your peers' money. If an increase would lead to a great change in their life here, understand that. If it's not and being stock held for a "rainy day", do not consider raising a fee. Think about what you are providing now. Ask yourself what is the student experience you hope for, and will an increase lead to a better life.

Elections

Sustainability Liaison

- Chloe Miller: She enjoyed being the chair of the Sustainability committee, and she firmly believes the new liaison position is a great opportunity to utilize the resources of the Office of Sustainability.

Secretary Cohen motioned to approve Chloe Miller as the sustainability liaison. Treasurer Vale seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Chloe Miller is now the Sustainability Liaison for the 2026 term.

Communications Committee Chair

- Chloe Miller had a great time on the Communications committee and could use her skillset to contribute positively to spreading the word about Student Government activity on campus.

Secretary Cohen motioned to approve Chloe Miller as the Communications Committee Chair. Representative Nkanga seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Chloe Miller is now the Communications Committee Chair for the 2026 term.

IAC (Internal Affairs Committee)

2027 Election

- Rep. Epp announced his candidacy. He has had many opportunities to work with the Cabinet thus far, and feels he'd be a valuable addition to IAC.

Treasurer Vale motioned to approve Matt Epp as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee; Rep. Nkamga seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Matthew Epp is now the 2027 Representative on the Internal Affairs Committee for the 2026 term.

2028 Election

- Will Bennett announced his candidacy. He has been on stugov for a year and half. Has served on multiple committees. Has been a committee member and head, so he understands both sides of the structure.
- Emerson Casper would love to represent 2028. She previously worked on the constitution rewrite committee, as the chair, and feels as though she could apply her skills from there on the newly added IAC.

After an election (via Google Form) Will Bennett was announced as the 2028 member of the IAC.

Will Bennett is now the 2028 Representative on the Internal Affairs Committee for the 2026 term.

2029 Election

- Matt Valenta announced his candidacy. He believes he would be a great candidate because he is a very organized individual. Wants to improve accountability in Student Government

Rep. Nkamga motioned to approve Matt Valenta as a member of the Internal Affairs Committee; Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Matt Valenta is now the 2029 Representative on the Internal Affairs Committee for the 2026 term.

OPEN FLOOR

Rep. Bennett shared that in the Student Life Committee, he and Rep. George are working on the WiFi throughout campus. They are in the information gathering stage, and will try to meet with the CIO of Lafayette post-spring break. He wanted to see if we had particular opinions about the WiFi. The following representatives shared their spots with the worst WiFi on campus:

- Rep. Nkamga said that in the leopards lair, the wifi is really funky
- Rep. Valenta said room 114 Mckeen
- Basement of the library
- The Rec center
- Rep. Santamaria said on big days happening with housing lottery, course registration

- Is there something they can do to strengthen the wifi on those days? She encouraged them to ask this question when they meet with administrators

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Totes and Traditions got moved to the Wednesday after break. Will will send the sign up sheet again. Sign up to help at the event. In that week there's also *Stuff a plush*, so all members can go after the GBM.

The Women's Alumni panel is on 4/28—all Student Government members should go.

Treasurer Vale emphasized that it's important to show up to the student government events

Rep. SantaMaria asked if there could be a shared GCal

- Answer: We're working on that!

April 10th Communications committee will be tabling.

April 17th Allison Williams is leading a leadership conference from 6pm-9:15pm. Dinner with a keynote, and 3 breakout sessions. Mark and Walter both have sessions.

President Waxman and VP Hooey are heading a speaker series in partnership with Dr Vanessa Freeman—keep on the lookout for more details!

Student Government meeting on April 30th is at 6pm at President Hurd's house. Dinner is provided!

Peep of the Week

Rep. Will Bennett! So much dedication. Awesome start on totes and traditions. Glad to have him on board!

Treasurer Vale motioned to enter the executive session. It was seconded by Parliamentarian Atuhaire and unanimously approved.

Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim motioned to exit the executive session. It was seconded by Representative Nylund and unanimously approved.

BUDGET APPROVALS:

Treasurer Vale went over the details pertaining to the budget requests with the following outcome:

Total requested funds: \$2,628.93

Total allocated funds: \$2,463.93

Rep. Epp filed a motion to approve the \$2,463.93 allocation of funds for the Period B Budgets.

Rep. Valenta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Inclusion Officer Ibrahim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23PM. Secretary Cohen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary