



Lafayette College Student Government General Body Meeting

Thursday, September 3rd, 2026, 7:00 PM, *OCGE 107*

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 August 6, 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
Grace Vale '27, Treasurer
Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary
Evalina Ibrahim '29, Inclusivity Officer
Amy Atuhaire '29, Parliamentarian

Ryan Burns '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
Enihyah 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

Teddy Sukernik '29, Student Observer

Absent:

Ahmir Crawley '27, Senator
Roy Nisson '27, Senator
Josh Horenstein '28, Senator

BUSINESS

Senator Nkamga motioned to move the *Vote on Vacancy* to before *President Hurd's remarks*. Senator Ahsan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Vote on Vacancy

Vice President Hooey has made the decision to resign as Vice President of Lafayette College's Student Government.

Going forward, President Waxman will appoint someone to be voted on (at this meeting) to serve as the temporary Vice President. There is an Elections Committee that has been created to serve as the special elections committee—they will oversee an election in the coming weeks to vote on someone to serve out the rest of the term as Vice President. It could be the same person who serves as the temporary Vice President, or it could be someone else. To meet eligibility to run in the special election, one must have at least a semester of Student Government experience. The person who serves as the temporary Vice President will serve for about 3 weeks, with the person who wins the special election serving out the rest until the main election season starts. If you're interested in running, speak to President Allie Waxman.

As for our temporary Vice President, Senator Will Bennett is being appointed to be approved as the temporary Vice President.

Senator Nkamga motioned to approve Senator William Bennett to take the role as temporary Vice President before the special election. Secretary Cohen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

William Bennett is now instated as Temporary Vice President of The Lafayette College Student Government.

Temporary Vice President William Bennett shared some remarks. He shared that he's only known about this opportunity for a week, and the moment he was presented with it, he said "absolutely yes". He's excited to come back and serve on the Cabinet, and his big thing is going the extra mile, and he will be going the extra mile in his time as temporary Vice President.

Secretary Cohen motioned to move *Connect with Senators* to before *President Hurd's Remarks*

Connect with your Senators

Senators were encouraged to talk about their summers and connect with the first-years in attendance and the other Senators and Cabinet members. The follow lines are all summaries those present gave about the conversations they had:

Senator SantaMaria shared how exciting it is to be a first year at Lafayette and how fun it is to join clubs

Gide said he received advice on how to run for Student Government

Alec shared that they spoke about what they did this summer and the different committees on student government

Senator Wilson spoke about the different committees and where they're living on campus

Inclusivity Ibrahim spoke about the differences between high school Student Government and Lafayette's Student Government

Remarks from President Hurd

President Hurd's Remarks

President Hurd greeted the Senate and thanked President Waxman and Secretary Cohen for inviting her to the meeting and to the inauguration of the new sports court. She welcomed returning and new students and expressed her continued enthusiasm for Student Government. She shared that she was the first woman to run for Student Government President at Notre Dame and emphasized that the relationships and friendships formed through Student Government can have a lasting impact. She encouraged students to view her as a partner and honorary member of Student Government and emphasized that she is available to support them.

President Hurd identified gratitude as one of her themes for the year. In her sixth year at Lafayette, she expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve students and for the privilege of working each day to improve their experiences at the College.

Her second theme was high performance rather than perfection. She encouraged students to be kind to themselves and recognize that everyone has difficult days. She emphasized that the College is available to help students navigate challenges so that setbacks become "bumps in the road" rather than catastrophic events. She encouraged students to view mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.

Her third theme was communication. She emphasized that communication is essential to building understanding and encouraged students to engage in difficult conversations directly and respectfully. She urged students to avoid negativity on platforms such as Yik Yak and encouraged the community to focus on being a source of “light” rather than “heat.” She also encouraged students to put down their phones and prioritize relationships and experiences with those around them.

President Hurd discussed the College’s upcoming initiatives as it concludes its bicentennial celebration and begins a campaign expected to raise more than \$600 million. She encouraged students to “dwell in the space of possibility” and to share ambitious suggestions with Dining and other areas of the College. She emphasized that the bicentennial is an opportunity to think creatively and dream big.

She also encouraged students to maintain positivity and community despite negativity in the broader world. She urged students to support and empower one another rather than allowing anger and negativity to define their community.

President Hurd discussed the Bicentennial Village that will be constructed on the Quad. She explained that the structure will serve as a gathering space for events throughout the fall, including movie nights, trivia, Homecoming, and pumpkin picking, and will be used during the October 10 bicentennial celebration. She encouraged students to view the project as part of the College’s broader ambitions and efforts to enhance the student experience.

President Hurd thanked Student Government members for representing their fellow students and for providing feedback. She reiterated that she looks forward to learning and growing alongside students and invited students to connect with her outside of meetings.

Reflecting on the passing of Gloria Steinem, President Hurd spoke about the significance of being a woman in her role as College president. She noted that there are currently only two female presidents in the Patriot League and encouraged students to use opportunities to help create opportunities for others, emphasizing that when someone walks through a door of opportunity, they should hold it open for others.

President Hurd also noted that the College is having ongoing discussions with Student Government regarding wellness initiatives.

Questions:

The images on the bicentennial website don’t make it clear where on the quad the structure will be. The computer generated pictures on the Bicentennial Village website don’t completely show how large the structure will be.

- Answer from President Hurd: It takes up the whole quad. The brick perimeter will be open, but the actual footprint of the middle part will be enclosed.

Senator George thanked President Hurd for coming. He asked how exactly should we go about giving feedback about bicentennial funding/programming.

- Answer from President Hurd: If there is anything else you think we should do in bicentennial mode, she's open to ideas
- There are big announcements coming in the strategic plan specifically with democracy and technology
 - She wants to know who we want to see as speakers, and whatever we want to see, don't be afraid to ask or reach out via email to her and her team

Senator Ahsan wanted to congratulate the College on this being one of the years where the College has recruited many international students (44 first-years). She then asked how the College plans on facilitating so many cultures and religions that are now on campus. Right now, she believes, that the College is making a great effort, but there's a lot of places where it still needs work.

- President Hurd's response: She can't imagine being a more courageous person than an international student in this room. There are new laws passed where you can't be an international student for more than 4 years and President Hurd said she doesn't understand that. She's proud that these students were so resilient to come to Lafayette, and she hopes that these discouraging laws from the federal government change.
- She is aware that Janine Block is amazing and her budget needs to be bigger. When we talk about ensuring that our students need support from affinity groups or OID, we need to build out more of that. Her ask back to Senator Ahsan is that she talk to her more about her ideas.
- When dining moves over to McCartney II, that leaves a whole space in Upper Farinon that we can reimagine
 - There's a lot of opportunity within there to reimagine the space
 - President Hurd hinted to a later announcement, and revealed that Upper Farinon will no longer be a dining location

Advisor Ally Williams wanted to add that President Waxman has a standing meeting with President Hurd to ensure that communication is at the forefront of our relationship.

Dining Discussion

Geoff Labe, Michael Brack, Rachel Wood, Derrick Brown, Tony Williams, and Rachel Wood were present. They announced that they are here to talk to Student Government about the new dining location(s) in McCartney II

They also brought cookies with them, courtesy of Christian Williams, who is the CFO of a cookie company and played on the Lafayette soccer team.

"What we want to accomplish tonight is listening. We are starting at the bottom and working our way up. We want to hear what you're looking for as students" - Geoff Labe on behalf of dining

They have 2 concepts that they're going to show that architects imagined. It'll be 2 separate dining concepts because McCartney II is split into 2 sides. These are only imagined ideas to give the students a "feel" of the possibilities that exist in the space. They are in no way final plans, or plans whatsoever for the space.

- Dining A: There would be a lot of seating, possibly a retail environment, a kitchen, possibly buffet style
- Dining B: They designed it with a lot of seating but with many different stations; like a food court.

They opened the floor for students to share their ideas for the spaces.

- Secretary Cohen: A soup, salad, sandwich location would be amazing, with order ahead on Grubhub, and the possibility of doing a half soup with a half sandwich (like a You Pick 2)
- Sasha Carter: More healthy approachable lunch options. She shared that Georgetown University has 10 different stations in their food hall and there's never lines because of the many options
- Temporary Vice President Will Bennett asked if based on this food court, are there any other food spaces that would be impacted? Would any of lower's options be considered to move to this new location?
 - Answer: Yes, they're trying to think about possibly moving other things to complete the McCartney II idea
 - "We're on a really fast timeline because we want to have both dining venues open next fall" - Dining
 - The proposals have to be submitted into the city of Easton by the end of the calendar year
- Another student added that they hope that Dining is keeping in mind ensuring that there's a focus on quality over quantity
 - Answer: Machinery would be specific to the cuisines of the location, which should increase the quality of the food, given that it is made in a location specifically for that item. Dining employee Derrick Brown shared an analogy about grilled cheese in Marquis Dining Hall. He shared that it may not be the best grilled cheese, but that's because Marquis doesn't have grills. If there's a dining location that has the machinery to perfect a grilled cheese sandwich, the grilled cheese should inherently be of a higher quality.
 - Dining also shared that they want to collect as many ideas as possible at once. They are working with a consultant, Parkhurst, and architects to perfect and incorporate all of the ideas into the new locations. There will probably be a survey at some point, and tabling.
- Senator Ahsan asked: How are you going to include inclusive dining? Georgetown has 3 stations reserved for serving halal and kosher food, so we need to ensure we're inclusive.
 - Answer: It could be made to order, buffet line, there are a few avenues that they could take, but all could be configured to ensure inclusivity.
 - Dining emphasized how important it is to incorporate dietary needs
- She also said that it would be nice to have halal beef, and fish at Cinco
 - Derrick Brown responded by saying that all the chicken served on campus is Halal. They understand the need for other options besides just Halal chicken, and they are glad to receive the feedback.
- Senator Nylund said it would be awesome if the new location was open on the weekends
- Senator Epp asked: What methods are you going to use to see that student feedback is incorporated and the quality is kept up?

- Answer: The student government committee met once a month with dining, Dining comes back to student government every once in a while for open floors, they are constantly receiving feedback, whether from Student Government or word of mouth
- The best way to give feedback is to email dining@lafayette.edu
 - For every person who doesn't like a dish, there's also a person who said it's the best dish they've ever had

Dining said that this space is a way where we can perfect dining and make sure that there is equipment to support an increased quality of food

- Inclusivity Officer Ibrahim shared an experience she had at UCSD's dining hall, where all the food was made to order, it was all very fresh, and she'd like to see it here
- President Waxman shared that her only concern in terms of losing a dining room is that if sometimes you want to sit down and grab a plate, Marquis at lunchtime is crazy, and if there's no option than Marquis for that style (buffet), why can't we keep upper as a dining hall?
 - Answer: The decision *has not* been made that this will not be a buffet style
 - Every tweak they make to dining impacts the meal plan, food costs, and how dining operates
 - Adding another dining hall is probably not the best decision to make, and it's a big endeavor. As a result, there has to be some changes around campus to make the meal plan make sense, and that's why Upper will no longer function as the dining hall it currently is.
 - Senator Hoffman shared that being the Dining Committee Chair has allowed her to hear unique feedback from students like more vegetarian options. She also has heard from students with eating disorders that they prefer to eat in smaller enclosed environments.
 - Senator George likes that the two sides are being split. He also likes the idea of a food court, and raised that we should consider food production time.

Ben Alter: Why is it being considered to replace upper rather than renovating upper and using the space for something else

- Answer: the opportunity in McCartney II with empty space, the dining renovation takes a long time, so they would have to take Upper offline for a considerable amount of time. This was a really opportune time to use an empty space to create a dining hall. Once dining moves out of the space in farinon, we can start ideating what goes in there.

Sasha Carter shared that she's upset that Dr. Pepper is no longer available on campus or in the machines.

- Answer: Dining is in heavy discussions with Coca-Cola because they reprogrammed their systems and it only allows for certain flavors. They need to unlock the programming to allow for other flavors to be unlocked.

Ben Alter asked, "Why has the McCartney space stayed empty for so long?"

- Answer: There were a few different ideas, and for various reasons they didn't evolve but he does not know the exact reasons

Ben Alter asked another question from his friend's group chat. A couple of people are concerned that this is going to be a reason for another increase in tuition. How is the project being funded?

- Answer: Dining is not involved as intimately in the dining discussion. They don't know how much this is going to cost exactly, but just like they did with Cinco, Gilberts, and Simons. Parkhurst has stepped up to the plate to make an investment in the college, and part of the way this is funded is through a gift from Parkhurst

OPEN FLOOR

Parliamentarian Atuhaire shared that she will be hosting a luncheon with commuter students and she's looking for volunteers to mingle with them. It will be on Thursday September 24.

She also added that IAC is cracking down on attendance and ensuring that members are showing up when they have to. Valid reasons will always be excused, but please send in your excuses 24 hours in advance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 18th at 5pm is Advisor Allison Williams night of leadership

September 25th is the Wellbeing Carnival – another mandatory event for student government

October 6th is the conflict resolution civil discourse conversation with Dr. Ernest Jeffries

Committees should start meeting next week

If you're a committee head, text the group chat when you want the office reserved to meet

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

Temporary Vice President Bennett 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 (in Executive Session) with the following outcome:

Total requested funds: \$36,635.61

Total allocated funds: \$36,536.61

Secretary Cohen filed a motion to approve the \$36,536.61 allocation of funds for the Period A Budgets. Senator Nylund seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Nylund motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:27PM. Senator Miller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by

Hayden Cohen '29, Secretary