BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Easton, Pennsylvania

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

Section 1: Meeting and Voting Procedures

A. Regular meetings of the Student Government will be held at least three times a month and as deemed necessary by the President.

   i. Meetings of the Student Government will be run according to the procedures outlined in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

   ii. A meeting is one that is held in a physical space or, as deemed necessary by the President, in a live-video, virtual setting (e.g. Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, etc.) with a quorum present. In a virtual meeting, virtual voting may be conducted via the hand-raise or chatroom features of the video conferencing service in use.

   iii. Business before the Student Government will not be voted on except in regular or special meetings.

   iv. Senators must be present at meetings in order to vote on measures before the Student Government. Absentee voting is not permitted.

   v. Meetings may only be conducted if the agenda of the meeting is published at least eight hours prior to said meeting.

   vi. Votes must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

B. During the summer, the Student Government will meet once a month and as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 2: Absences

A. All members of the Student Government–Cabinet Members, and Senators–are allowed only three unexcused absences per semester from committee meetings and meetings of the Student Government, respectively.

B. The first unexcused absence of a member of the Student Government shall result in a written warning. The second unexcused absence shall result in a verbal warning by the

Vice President of the Student Government. Upon the third unexcused absence, the seat of the absent member shall be declared vacant with notification by the Vice President. The vacancy will be filled according to the procedures outlined in these Bylaws.

C. Excused absences are those that are due to one or more of the following:
    i. Functions related to the Student Government;
    ii. Required academic functions besides regularly scheduled classes;
    iii. Dean's excuses issued for classes;
    iv. Varsity athletic competitions;
    v. Religious obligations;
    vi. Sickness;
    vii. Family emergencies;
    viii. Or as deemed appropriate by the Cabinet of the Student Government.

D. Absences, excluding those for sickness and family emergencies, may only be excused if they are submitted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to the relevant leadership.

Section 3: Communication

All members of the Student Government are expected to remain up to date with all communications of the Student Government throughout the entirety of their terms.

ARTICLE II: ELECTION OF THE CABINET

Section 1: Definitions

A. The Elections Committee is a body of at least three members of the Student Government, including and co-chaired by the Vice President and the Inclusivity Officer, or, in the event that said officers intend to run for a Cabinet position, a designee thereof who does not intend to run for a Cabinet position. The members of the Standing Committee on Communications serve as non-voting members of the Elections Committee unless its members are selected as voting members of the Committee.

B. Student Government Applications, henceforth referred to simply as Applications, are online forms distributed to the first-year, sophomore, and junior classes to apply to the Student Government as Student Government Representatives. The content of these Applications is determined by the Elections Committee but must include a description of the responsibilities and expectations of a Student Government Representative. The Application must be identical for all applicants, including those who have previously served on the Student Government.

C. The Elections Manual is a supplemental guide to the election and selection process, updated annually, compiled, and adopted by the Elections Committee. The Elections Manual contains the specific dates relevant to the elections and selection process, specific sanctions for violations of the rules outlined in these Bylaws or the Elections Manual, and details other procedures not mentioned in these Bylaws. The Elections Manual is subject to amendment by members of the Student Government after its initial adoption by the Elections Committee. The Elections Manual will be distributed to candidates by the Elections Committee via email upon the submission of the candidates' Intent to Run Forms (hereafter referred to as IRF).

Section 2: Procedure for Electing Cabinet Members

A. Any full-time student of Lafayette College, who is not on academic or disciplinary probation is eligible to run for one Cabinet position on the Student Government, excluding the positions of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, which must be held by someone who has served at least one semester on the Student Government.

B. All candidates must submit an IRF to be reviewed by the Elections Committee to appear on the ballot.

C. An IRF may be rejected by a simple majority vote in the Elections Committee for any of the following reasons:

   i. The content is obscene or inappropriate;

   ii. Copyright infringement;

   iii. The form is incomplete;

   iv. Or reasons not listed before, but listed in the Elections Manual or voted on by the majority of the Elections Committee to be a reason for rejection.

D. If no IRFs are filled for the Cabinet positions by the deadline, then the Elections Committee can continue to solicit IRF until 48 hours before the election. Should no IRFs be turned in after the extended deadline, then the position will be filled according to the procedures outlined in Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws.

E. Each candidate is entitled to campaign funding. Campaign expenses will be subsidized by the Student Government, but candidates may spend their own money so long as expenses do not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars, including the money allotted by the Student Government.

F. Each candidate must abide by a fair and respectful campaign. If a candidate does not follow these guidelines, they will be subject to disqualification upon a majority vote of the Elections Committee. These guidelines include but are not limited to:

   i. No use of vulgar or derogatory language campaign tactics including posters, media, slogans, or interactions with other candidates;

ii. Refraining from defacing other candidates' advertisements, whether physical posters or on social media, defacing includes, but is not limited to, tearing down or damaging physical posters, or re-imaging a candidate's social media post in a negative light;

iii. And adherence to the College's poster, solicitation, and distribution of literature policies and in congruence with spending limits imposed by the Student Government election rules.

G. Behavior in violation of the Elections guidelines may also result in disciplinary actions by the College.

H. All students will be given the opportunity to vote for all Cabinet positions. This election shall be decided by plurality vote.

I. If no singular candidate receives a plurality of the votes cast for the positions, a twelve hour run-off election will be held to decide the winner.

Section 3: Adjudicating Disputes in the Election Process

A. To prevent disputes, candidates must pre-approve all election marketing decisions with the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will approve by majority vote within one day of receiving the material.

B. Disputes that arise during the election of the Cabinet shall be adjudicated by members of the Elections Committee.

C. If the Elections Committee decides that sanctions against a candidate are appropriate, the Committee will use a majority vote to determine the sanction imposed. Sanctions may be imposed by any combination:

i. Warning;

ii. Assessment;

iii. Probation;

iv. Removal of funding;

v. Or separation from the election.

ARTICLE III: ELECTIONOF SENATORS AND SELECTION OF STUDENT OBSERVERS

Section 1: Senator Eligibility

All currently enrolled students in good academic standing and not under disciplinary probation, cleared by the Student Government Advisor are able to run for a Senate position.

Section 2: Election Process and Timeline

A. The Elections Committee will vote on an election timeline; this election process shall conclude by the end of the fall semester.

B. Candidates must first complete an IRF created by the Cabinet indicating their interest for a Senator position.

C. Prior to the election period, each candidate shall receive an initial screening by the Advisor.

D. The election process will be run according to the discretion of the Elections Committee.

E. All other rules pertaining to the election of the Senators will follow those outlined in Article II of the Bylaws.

F. In the event that there are an insufficient number of individuals running for a Senator position, then the vacancy must be filled in accordance with Article VII, Section 3 of the Constitution.

Section 3: Student Observer Selection Process

If the Cabinet determines that more than seven candidates are well-qualified for Senator positions, additional candidates may be appointed as Student Observers. A Student Observer serves in the Student Government as a non-voting member who participates in committee work but is exempt from the absence policies outlined in Article I, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: APPOINTMENT TO FACULTY, TRUSTEE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Section 1: Procedure for Appointing Student Members to Faculty and Administrative Committees

A. The Vice President of the Student Government shall solicit student selection criteria from each of the Faculty and Administrative Committee Chairs.

B. The Vice President shall then request letters of application from the student body. It shall be the duty of the Cabinet to select the new members of the Faculty and Administrative Committees by majority vote based on the recommendations submitted by the Vice President.

C. At least one student member of each Faculty and Administrative Committee should be a voting member of the Student Government.

Section 2: Procedure for Recommending Students to Serve on Trustee Committees

A. The Student Government shall request letters of application from the student body for Trustee Committee positions.

B. To be nominated for a specific Committee, the student shall have the necessary qualifications to effectively serve on the Committee, as determined by the members of

said Committee.

C. The Cabinet will recommend at least three candidates for each Committee.

D. These nominees shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees by the Vice President or Advisor of the Student Government.

Section 3: Delegate Relation to the Student Government

A. Students serving on Faculty, Trustee, and Administrative Committees not already members of the Student Government shall henceforth be referred to as Delegates of the Student Government.

B. Delegates shall be encouraged to attend the regular meeting of the Student Government following meetings of their respective Faculty, Trustee, or Administrative Committees.

C. Delegates shall be required to attend any meeting of student members of Faculty, Trustee, or Administrative Committees at the request of the Vice President of the Student Government, also under the rules and provisions of the Student Government.

D. Delegates shall have the right to make and second motions at the Student Government meetings but shall not have the right to vote on said motions.

E. Delegates shall provide a semesterly report to the Student Government at a time determined by the Vice President.

ARTICLE V: VACANCIES IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Resignations

If a member of the Student Government submits to the Student Government in writing their resignation, their seat shall be declared vacant.

Section 2: Leaves of Absence

A. A leave of absence shall be defined as the privilege to obtain three consecutive excused absences from regular meetings of the Student Government or its committees. The Cabinet shall have the power to grant a leave of absence and determine the criteria for one.

B. Under no circumstances may there be more than three consecutive absences granted. Each absence after three is unexcused.

C. No member of the Student Government may be granted more than one leave of absence per term in office.

Section 3: Procedure for Filling a Vacancy of a Cabinet Member

A. The Student Government, by a three-fourths vote, shall designate a Senator to temporarily

fulfill the duties of the Cabinet member whose seat was vacated until that seat is officially filled.

B. The Vice President, or another Cabinet member designated by the President in the event of the Vice President's absence, shall request an IRF from the population of those eligible to run.

C. The Election Committee will hold a special election for the open position(s) based on IRFs submitted. This election shall be done by plurality vote and within a timeline of the committee's choosing.

Section 4: Procedure for Filling a Vacancy of a Standing Committee Chair, Ad Hoc Committee Chair, or Liaison Position

In the event that a Standing Committee Chair, Ad Hoc Committee Chair, or Liaison position becomes vacant, a Cabinet member must temporarily fill the position until a candidate is elected.

Section 5: Procedure for Filling a Vacancy of a Senator

A. The Vice President of the Student Government shall request applications from the student body within one week of a vacancy arising.

B. The Chair of the Communications Committee must notify the student body through the campus media and the publications of the Student Government of the vacancy.

C. It shall be the duty of the Cabinet to select the new Senator by majority vote based on the recommendations submitted by the Vice President.

Section 6: Procedure for Filling a Vacancy of a Delegate

A. The Vice President of the Student Government shall request applications from the student body.

B. It shall be the duty of the Cabinet to select the new members of the Faculty, Trustee, or Administration Committees by majority vote based on the recommendations submitted by the Vice President and within guidelines outlined by the relevant committee and within two weeks of the dissemination of applications.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the President to:

A. Act as the leader of and spokesperson for the Student Government;

B. Call and preside over all meetings of the Student Government; special meetings of the Student Government may be called as described in the Constitution Article IV, Section 2(B);

C. Call joint meetings between the Student Government and the leaders of student organizations on a semesterly basis;

D. Appoint any other Special Committees they may deem necessary;

E. Report to the student body on all Faculty and Trustee Meetings. The President shall also serve as a student member of the Board of Trustees;

F. At the beginning of their term, submit a statement to members of the Student Government reporting the goals of their term, and any other information they deem pertinent;

G. And, at the end of their term, submit a State of the College statement to members of the Student Government reporting the accomplishments of their term.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to:

A. Assume the duties of the President in their absence;

B. Correspond with Delegates and inform them of their responsibilities;

C. Oversee the organization of committees;

D. Oversee the selection process of Delegates to Faculty, Trustee, and Administrative Committees;

E. Oversee membership recruitment and retention in addition to the onboarding of new members of the Student Government;

F. Act as a board of review for any protests filed in relation to the elections. All protests shall be reviewed with respect to the Bylaws and Constitution of the Student Government;

G. And act as a board of review for any protests filed in relation to budget concerns. All protests shall be reviewed with respect to the Bylaws and Constitution of the Student Government.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

A. Oversee the management of all of the Student Activities Fee in accordance with the established Financial Guidelines;

B. Present proposed budget approvals at Student Government meetings for approval by the Student Government. Upon a majority vote for approval, the budget shall be approved by the Student Government. The Treasurer shall notify organizations of funding decisions following Student Government approval, including written explanations of approvals or denials;

C. Ensure all budget allocations are up to date and completed after each budget approval;

D. Conduct mandatory budget information sessions to educate student organizations on funding procedures and policies;

E. Host regular budget office hours to assist student organizations with financial inquiries and appeals;

F. Compile and present data to the Student Government on budget allocations at the end of each budget period for transparency and institutional record-keeping;

G. Allocate agreed-upon funds of the Student Government to the Lafayette College Libraries until the conclusion of the 2029 academic year in order to fund 55% of the Lafayette College New York Times Subscription;

H. And serve as the Committee Chair of the Standing Committee on Budgets.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

A. Keep full minutes of all meetings, maintain an accurate file of the minutes, and make the minutes available for inspection. Upon approval by the members of the Student Government, the minutes shall be the official record of the complete proceedings of that body. They shall especially include:

   i. Names of those absent and tardy;

   ii. Report of communications;

   iii. Names of persons making motions and amendments;

   iv. An accurate text of each motion and amendment made;

   v. An indication of the results of votes taken;

   vi. The results of all roll-call votes;

   vii. And notification that these minutes are not the official minutes of the meeting until approved at the next meeting of the Student Government.

B. Send a copy of the minutes to appropriate members of the administration, the Clerk of the Faculty, Faculty Committee Chairs, the campus news and media, all members of the Student Government, Head Resident Advisors, fraternity and sorority Presidents, Delegates, and students who request them;

C. Provide a summary of the work of the Student Government to the College Archivist on a yearly basis;

D. Communicate the actions of the Student Government through means including, but not limited to social media, posters, the campus news and media, press releases, and town halls;

E. Keep all social media platforms and the Lafayette College Student Government website up to date with details regarding ongoing legislation and other pertinent information;

F. And to perform or delegate administrative and clerical functions for the Student Government.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Inclusivity Officer to:

A. Ensure projects of the Student Government adhere to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles;

B. Foster an inclusive environment within the Student Government through means such as DEI-related trainings;

C. Serve as an advocate for cultural/identity-based student organizations;

D. And serve as the Committee Chair of the Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian to:

A. Enforce the observance of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Student Government;

B. Oversee proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government;

C. And serve as the Committee Chair of the Standing Committee on Internal Affairs.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of Senators to:

A. Serve on designated Standing and Ad Hoc Committees;

B. Attend all committee and Student Government meetings unless otherwise approved;

C. Vote on all matters brought before the Student Government unless abstaining from such voting;

D. And work on designated projects.

Section 8: It shall be the duty of Student Observers to:

A. Fulfill their assigned responsibilities, including:

    a. Serve on designated Standing and Ad Hoc Committees;

    b. Work on designated projects;

    c. And attend weekly meetings of the Student Government.

B. Student Observers are not subject to penalties should they not fulfill any of the above duties.

Section 9: It shall be the duty of Liaisons to:

A. Meet with their respective entity to communicate student concerns, initiatives, and feedback;

B. Participate in discussions or planning with their respective entity;

C. Report relevant updates to the Student Government.

Section 10: It shall be the duty of Delegates to:

A. Provide semesterly reports to the Student Government regarding the work of assigned Faculty, Administrative, and Board of Trustees Committees;

B. And attend meetings of the Student Government, when necessary, to liaise between the Student Government and one's assigned committee.

Section 11: It shall be the duty of the Advisor to:

A. Provide guidance and support;

B. Advise the group on College policies and procedures and risk management;

C. Facilitate retreats and provide leadership development opportunities;

D. Attend meetings and major functions of the Student Government;

E. Have one-on-one meetings with the President;

F. Provide feedback, when requested, to members of the Student Government;

G. And serve as a liaison between the Student Government and other administrators, Board of Trustees, faculty, etc.

ARTICLE VII: IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1: Grounds for Impeachment

A. If the conduct of a Cabinet member violates the College's Code of Conduct in a manner warranting disciplinary action from Lafayette College, said member faces sufficient grounds for impeachment.

B. If a Cabinet member does not uphold the responsibilities of said member as outlined in the Constitution, the member faces sufficient grounds for impeachment.

C. Members must be in good academic and disciplinary standing for the duration of their tenure in the Student Government. If a Cabinet member does not remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the College, the member faces sufficient grounds for impeachment.

Section 2: Impeachment of Cabinet Members

A. Should a Cabinet member fail to complete the duties of their office, any voting member of the Student Government may motion that the member be impeached at a meeting of the Student Government.

B. Upon the motion to impeach being made, a special committee shall be formed consisting of the Parliamentarian, the Advisor, and one member of the Student Government not being

impeached to study the merit of the motion, with a decision on the merits of the motion made within one week of the motion being made.

C. If the special committee decides the motion has merit, the Internal Affairs Committee (hereafter referred to as IAC) will convene to study and vote on the impeachment motion. The IAC will have a minimum of two weeks to hear the case against the defending Cabinet member and the member's own defense. The vote to impeach shall occur within one month of the Impeachment Committee's formation.

Section 3: Conviction of Cabinet Members

A. If the IAC decides in favor of impeachment, the case shall be brought before the Senate at the next meeting of the Student Government.

B. The impeached Cabinet member and the party pursuing the member's removal shall present their cases to the Senate for deliberation. Both parties may bring witnesses for their respective cases. The deliberation process shall begin immediately upon the conclusion of the case presentation. Members of the Student Government may not question the parties or the witnesses. By the end of the next meeting of the Student Government following the conclusion of case presentations, a vote shall be held on whether to convict.

C. A vote to convict an impeached member shall pass by a three-fourths majority of the Student Government. The penalty for conviction is immediate removal from office.

Section 4: Impeachment and Removal of the Parliamentarian

Should the Parliamentarian have an impeachment motion against them, the President shall take over the duties of the Parliamentarian as they relate to impeachment and removal. Should both members have concurrent impeachment motions against them, the responsibilities for impeachment shall fall to the next Cabinet member in the line of succession. Should every Cabinet member have motions of impeachment made against them, a Senator voted on by a majority of the Student Government shall lead the impeachment process.

ARTICLE VIII: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Student Government projects and programming shall be conducted through Ad Hoc Committees. Ad Hoc Committees are formed at the discretion of the Student Government. Ad Hoc Committees should be composed of a minimum of three members with one appointed as Chair. members may sit on different Standing Committees while serving as members of Ad Hoc Committees. Ad Hoc Committees, by majority vote, shall have the authority to nominate student observers who have the right to attend committee meetings for the rest of the semester or until that observer status is revoked through a subsequent majority vote.

ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: Composition

A. There shall be seven Standing Committees: The Standing Committees on Academic Affairs, Budget, Communications, Student Life, Student Organizations, Equity & Inclusion, and Internal Affairs.

B. Each Senator and Student Observer shall sit on two committees, with variation permitted by approval of the Cabinet.

C. Standing Committee Chairs, save for the Budget, Internal Affairs, and DEI Committees, will be elected by a plurality vote of the Student Government once Senators are seated for the calendar year.

D. The IAC shall slate Senators for committee assignments based on Senator preferences.

    a. Committee Chairs reserve the right to reject their proposed slate with reason if deemed appropriate by the Cabinet, to which the IAC would develop a new one. Once every Committee Chair accepts their proposed slate, the Senators and Student Observers will be appointed to their respective committees.

E. Standing Committees, by majority vote, shall have the authority to nominate student observers who have the right to attend committee meetings for the rest of the semester or until that observer status is revoked through a subsequent majority vote.

Section 2: The Standing Committee on Academic Affairs shall:

A. Concern itself with the academic aspects of the College;

B. Advocate on behalf of student concerns with the relevant faculty governance processes;

C. Be responsible for the administration of the Student Government Superior Teaching Award;

D. The Chair of the Committee should meet semesterly with the Provost and Clerk of the Faculty;

E. And the Committee Chair should sit on the Faculty Educational Policy Committee.

Section 3: The Standing Committee on Budget shall:

A. Be chaired by the Treasurer;

B. Oversee the management of all Student Activities Fee funds in accordance with the established Financial Guidelines;

C. Review and vote on all funding allocations as a committee prior to presenting them for Student Government approval;

D. Host regular budget office hours to assist student organizations with financial inquiries and appeals;

E. And allocate agreed-upon funds of the Student Government to the Lafayette College Libraries until the conclusion of the 2026 academic year in order to fund 55% of the Lafayette College New York Times.

Section 4: The Standing Committee on Communications shall:

A. Be chaired by a member of the Student Government other than the Secretary;

B. Initiate and develop a regular program to publicize actions of the Student Government and concerns to the campus through such means as:

   i. Social media, advertisements, press releases, town halls, and relations with the campus newspaper;

   ii. Posters and signs advertising meetings of Student Government where outside input is especially desired;

   iii. Maintaining the Student Government's website and social media;

   iv. And creating the ability for the student body to view the meetings of the Student Government.

C. And facilitate the Student Government's relations with the College's Communications Division.

Section 5: The Standing Committee on Internal Affairs shall:

A. Be chaired by the Parliamentarian;

B. Consist of five members, one Senator from each class year as elected by the Senate, the Vice President, and the Parliamentarian;

C. Be responsible for ensuring compliance with all governing documents and upholding standards of conduct, participation, and procedure within the Student Government;

D. Evaluate constitutional, procedural, or ethical violations, and conduct all associated reviews, inquiries or hearings;

E. Conduct and investigate matters of attendance, conduct, and compliance in accordance with Article I, Section 2 of the Bylaws;

F. Propose Senator committee assignments based on Senator preferences.

Section 6: The Standing Committee on Student Life shall:

A. Act as an initiator and coordinator in the area of student activities;

B. Have the responsibility for supporting major student events beyond the scope of the Lafayette Activities Forum;

C. Act as a liaison between the Student Government and groups such as Residence Hall Council, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, the Resident Advisors, and Lafayette Activities Forum;

D. Handle all referrals, establish programs, evaluate, and, when deemed necessary, make recommendations on the following College services:

i. Public Safety;

ii. Health Center;

iii. Counseling Center;

iv. College contracted dining services;

v. Farinon Student Center;

vi. College mail service;

vii. Lafayette College Store;

viii. Recreational Services;

ix. Dean of Students office;

x. Career Services;

xi. Library;

xii. And Facilities Operations.

E. And meet biweekly with dining services when possible.

Section 7: The Standing Committee on Student Organizations shall:

A. Advise, supervise, serve and maintain constant correspondence with co-curricular student organizations throughout the year in such matters as organizations' constitutions, budgets, and any other needs organizations may have. In order to maintain this constant correspondence, at least once per semester, with the campus organizations, the committee will maintain updated lists of all officers and addresses from all campus organizations;

B. Present proposed student organization recommended approvals to the Student Government. Upon a simple majority affirmative vote of the Student Government, the student organizations shall be approved and officially recognized;

C. Ensure that the Constitutions of all student organizations uphold basic College policy, as outlined in the Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities;

D. Recommend to the Student Government all student organizations' constitutions which uphold College policy and also make recommendations to the Student Government concerning all changes in these constitutions;

E. Recommend to the Student Government that the Constitution of an organization be suspended if the Student Organizations Committee believes that that organization is in violation of College policy or its own Constitution;

F. Recommend to the Student Government that it withhold or withdraw funds from any organization receiving money from the Student Activities Fund should that organization fail to adequately perform the following duties and functions:

i. Hold regular meetings;

ii. Maintain an active membership;

iii. Abide by its Constitution;

iv. And submit proposed changes to their Constitutions to the committee for review and approval by the Student Government.

G. Contact Recreational Services and Risk Management to determine the feasibility of supporting the student organization before approving the Constitution of an athletic student organization;

H. Audit the activity of student organizations and decommission inactive student organizations;

I. And be responsible for the maintenance of updated versions of all student organization constitutions, as well as archiving original and inactive constitutions.

Section 8: The Standing Committee on Equity & Inclusion shall:

A. Be chaired by the Inclusivity Officer;

B. Serve as a liaison between the Student Government and intercultural organizations, as well as coordinate programming efforts with the Office of Intercultural Development;

C. And examine and explore opportunities to improve inclusivity on campus.

ARTICLE X: BALANCE OF POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

Section 1: Legislative Authority

A. The Senate shall be the legislative body of the Student Government.

B. No members of the Student Government shall enact binding policy without the approval of the voting members.

C. The Senate shall hold the exclusive authority to approve, amend, or reject all legislative matters brought before it.

Section 2: Oversight of Governance Branches

A. Cabinet members are responsible for implementing all directives, policies, and initiatives approved by the Senate.

B. The Senate reserves the right to request reports, evaluations, and updates from any Cabinet member, Standing Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or Liaison at any time.

ARTICLE XI: LEGISLATION

Section 1: Types of Legislation

A. Legislative power is bestowed in the Student Government through the following forms of legislation:

   a. Bills;

   b. Resolutions;

   c. Proclamations;

   d. Executive Orders;

   e. And Judicial Decisions.

B. Bills, Resolutions, and Proclamations are legislation that can be used by the Senate to advance its mission. They can be proposed by any member of the Student Government. They have the following responsibilities assigned:

   a. Bills: Advance administrative policy;

   b. Resolutions: Call for action to an issue (see Article XI Section 1(E) for more details;

   c. Proclamations: Express approval or disapproval of college actions.

C. Executive orders may be issued by the President of the Student Government, in consultation with the cabinet, to direct policy in a particular direction and are exempt from Article XI, Section 2(C)(iv) of the bylaws.

D. Judicial decisions can be directed by the Internal Affairs Committee to:

   a. Make recommendations on the interpretation of various aspects of the constitution and bylaws;

   b. Direct a vote at meetings of the Senate on judicial issues that require Senate approval;

   c. And be directed based on a majority vote of the Internal Affairs Committee.

E. A Resolution is a formal statement from the Senate that:

   i. Affirms a commitment to a particular value, principle, or idea;

   ii. Urges action by a person, group of persons, or organization other than the Student Government;

iii. Or both affirm an ideological commitment and urge action beyond the Student Government in virtue of that value or shared belief.

B. Legislation shall be numbered according to the following format:

i. The first legislation passed each year of each respective type of legislation will be numbered "[Type of Legislation] YEAR-01" where YEAR is the year in which the legislation is proposed (e.g. 2018);

ii. All subsequent legislation proposed shall be numbered "[Type of Legislation] YEAR-XX" where YEAR is the year in which the legislation is proposed, and XX is a number created by adding one (1) to the number of the legislation previously passed. For example, if the previous legislation passed was Resolution 2018-01, then the following resolution proposed in the same year will be numbered Resolution 2018-02.

C. Legislation shall be titled according to the following best practices:

i. They shall begin "A [Type of Legislation] For…" (e.g. "A Resolution for Religious Inclusivity in the Classroom");

ii. They shall be reasonably short so that they can be easily named and spoken about;

iii. Their titles should bear a reasonable and substantial relation to the ideological commitment being affirmed, the action being urged, or both.

D. Legislation should be kept as close to one page in length as possible, for ease of dissemination.

Section 2: Proposing and Passing of a piece of Legislation

A. Any member of the Student Government may propose that a piece of legislation be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Student Government, so long as ample time is provided for the Cabinet to budget time accordingly.

B. Any legislation proposed to the Cabinet must be added to the agenda of a meeting of the Student Government set to occur no later than three meetings after the resolution is proposed to the Cabinet.

C. Any legislation on the agenda for a meeting of the Student Government will be debated and voted on according to the following procedure:

i. The Parliamentarian or designee of the Parliamentarian will call on the author or sponsor of the legislation to introduce the legislation, explain why they are bringing it to the floor, and then read it in its entirety.

ii. The Parliamentarian will then open the floor for comments and call on members of the audience to speak, including those not members of the Student Government. Comments may either be statements in support, statements in opposition, proposals for amendments, or questions for clarification.

iii. After ample opportunity for due deliberation has elapsed, any member of the Student Government may motion to vote on the resolution. If the motion is seconded, all members of the Senate will have the opportunity to vote for, vote against, or abstain.

iv. A piece of legislation requires at least a simple majority of the Senators in attendance to pass.

i. The number of votes in favor, number of votes in opposition, and number of abstentions must be counted and recorded in the minutes by the Secretary.

Section 3: Dissemination of Passed Legislation

A. If a piece of legislation is passed, then it must be communicated to the President of Lafayette College, the student body, and The Lafayette Newspaper within seven days.

B. When the piece of legislation is sent to the above parties and groups the name of the sponsor should be included, as well as the vote count.

C. The sponsor of the legislation will not be recorded on the document of the piece of legislation itself, nor shall the vote count by which it passed.

D. The piece of legislation shall be printed and stored in the Student Government Office for historical purposes. The legislation will additionally be sent to the College Archivist by the Secretary.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Proposing Amendments

Members of the Student Government may propose amendments to these Bylaws, or any full-time student of Lafayette College may present an amendment to the Student Government at one of its scheduled meetings. The Student Government shall study the proposed amendment and, if necessary, appoint a Special Committee to the President for the consideration of the amendment and the creation of recommendations.

Section 2: Adopting Amendments

A. Proposed amendments are to be voted on no sooner than one meeting after the meeting at which they are presented to allow for study by the members of the Student Government.

B. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be voted on at a meeting of the Student Government. Proposed amendments shall be subject to a three-fourths majority vote of the present and voting members of the Student Government in order to become effective.

Revised March 5, 2026

Revised March 20, 2024

Revised January 25, 2024

Revised November 11, 2023

The Student Government of Lafayette College Constitution and Bylaws were revised over a roughly six month period from August 2025 - February 2026 by former President Alexander Brown ‘26, former Vice President Sasha Carter ‘27, Treasurer Gracie Vale ‘27, former Parliamentarian Bryan Kibet ‘27, Representative Yuko Tanaka ‘26, Representative Christo Maheras ‘26, Representative Maddie Malone ‘27, Representative Maia Merriman ‘26, Representative Natacha Ross ‘28, Representative Emerson Casper ‘28, President Alexandra Waxman ‘28, Vice President Annabel Hooey ‘28, Parliamentarian Amy Atuhaire ‘29, Representative Matthew Epp ‘27.