



Colby College Student Government Association

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Minutes

To: Presidents' Council
From: Richard Schwartz, Publicity
Date: October 4, 2009
Re: Formal Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Last week's minutes approved

Community Forum:

Harry Davis: IRAM showing "Heavy Metal in Baghdad" announcement

Executive Board Guest:

(a) Joe Klaus:

1) Questions:

- a) Caporale Lounge Tacos will happen again on October 31st
 - i) Every three to four weeks – play it by ear to see how they go
- b) Soup is coming back for Grab n' Go

2) Sodexo and Dining Services are doing a food drive – ends on November 12th

- a) Want to beat the Guinness Book of World records – 400K lbs. short last year
- b) Colby collected 8K lbs. last year
 - i) Goal for 16K lbs. for this year
 - ii) Great need within the greater Waterville area (local takes food first, then wide-Maine distribution)
- c) The CAs have put a contest together for the Hall Residents
 - i) The dorm that collects the most food will get their own private Thanksgiving dinner in Foss

3) Sports teams are also participating & you may participate on an individual level too

4) Both dining services and the CAs will be selling food that you can donate

5) Great first program for your RHAs

6) Working with CCAK to work with area schools

- a) Classes that win at the schools will come to Colby for lunch

- i) “Can Castle Contest”
- (b) Dean Terhune and CCWG:
 - 1) Maverick Afonso – student involvement
 - a) Asked to be on the committee by Jim Terhune and recommended by Patrick Boland ‘09
 - i) Concerned about how alcohol is involved in the campus culture at Colby
 - (1) We have more going for us than just alcohol, especially on the weekends
 - b) Questions:
 - i) Go-Ho - Point 3 on Recommendations
 - (1) How have professors reacted to having more classes on Fridays?
 - (a) Mixed feelings from Professors and Students—some for and some against
 - (i) Not pushing for classes on Saturday, but academic events and speakers on the weekends as well
 - ii) Pierce - Why were recommendations made if not everyone on the working group agreed with the recommendations?
 - (1) Classes weren’t recommended, some professors liked the idea – more academic events
 - iii) 2011 – What was the student’s role on the working group
 - (1) Discussion of pros and cons – if no one was against it, it was added to the list
 - iv) Go-Ho - What outlet should residents take to say that they either agree/disagree with these recommendations
 - (1) Jim Terhune: If folks want to send an email, that’s fine. Looking for feedback about what people think and what they feel about it.
 - (a) Not a referendum vote however
 - v) 2012 – If students have legitimate concerns; could SGA present a “food-for-thought” concerns set instead of sending out individual emails?
 - (1) Hopefully we can share concerns tonight
 - (2) Alcohol Task Force is a possibility
 - vi) 2011 – What would SGA’s role be in interpreting and sharing the recommendations if they are approved by the Trustees
 - (1) The recommendations are a package – when you start pulling them apart, we cannot look holistically at the issue. Everything doesn’t have to be approved and implemented as it’s written. Different recommendations would go into implementation in different ways. There are a number of things that focus on academic issues—when classes and programs are focused—this would go to AAC and the faculty for changes to happen. Two recommendations based in alcohol policy—point system and the way in which hard alcohol exists on campus—would have to CAC to talk about things and to draft specific language about how the policy would look. This sort of thing would then go to SGA for student input and discussion. The Trustees would be giving this information back to the senior staff and administration. Policy changes would have to go through existing processes before they would go into affect
 - vii) 2010- Is it possible for there to be a reaction that such a recommendation on hard alcohol could make students abuse alcohol further?
 - (1) Something that was discussed—certainly don't want students to drink off campus and then drive back or for students to sell hard alcohol to one another

- (a) 100% of hospitalizations involve hard alcohol. Looking at the stats, we need to try something else
- (2) The CCWG was a broad representation of students. There is nothing in the report that didn't get thoroughly discussed from multiple standpoints/perspectives over the course of a year. This group exists because there is a serious problem there—students already drink behind closed doors. The notion that had the most energy behind it was understanding that there need to be ways to get behind this problem. The current strategies haven't been successful—we know that hard alcohol is the issue in respect to the most dangerous drinking situations. There are some really interesting comments from students in the online surveys. Most of the energy in this was on the philosophical grounds—we aren't sure if we want to go beyond the law here, but this a pragmatic issue. We're hoping to have a positive impact and we've based this on the culture at schools like Bates.
 - (a) What statistic of students were over 21 who were hospitalized?
 - (i) The majority of people who were hospitalized were under age—but the majority of students who drink at Colby are under age. We didn't spend a lot of time focused on underage students, because most students who drink are underage.
- viii) Go-Ho – Point 3 again. Moving Friday to being a more academic day than it is right now: Wednesday/Friday rotation instead of Monday/Wednesday rotation. Is it possible for students to party on Sunday nights?
 - (1) The object was to add an option for students to take classes on Friday too. A more even distribution of classes throughout the week
- ix) West – How much of a all-or-nothing proposal is this? If it is passed by the Trustees, will it all be implemented
 - (1) I would be shocked if all of this material was implemented as it is in these Recommendations. The things that have to do with policy and academics have ownership in different places. The Committee goes out of its way to say that it shouldn't be us that determines the final outcomes on this thing. It should be given back to the governance groups on campus to make these decisions
- x) Taylor – JanPlan: Do you think that if faculty teaches more during JanPlan, would there be fewer classes during the fall and spring?
 - (1) We aren't planning to have fewer classes. This is an ongoing discussion and JanPlan is a part of this conversation. JanPlan is an essential part of the Colby experience. Only 20% of classes taught during JanPlan are taught by faculty. There are certainly some issues with the change, but the idea isn't to have fewer fall/spring classes
- xi) 2012 – Question about SPB programming on the weekends: Trying to extend the intellectual week to 7 days – should SPB do during more during the week? Trivia night on a Tuesday instead on a weekend?
 - (1) Recommendation 5 and all of its subcomponents is an excellent example of some suggestions. Breadth of suggestions to demonstrate the breadth of things for folks to look at. This a great example of a set of recommendations that need to come back to existing mechanisms to talk about how programming takes place on campus. All of these conversations are possible—we have the energy, do we need more mechanisms to create a more vibrant set of social options? All of the

answers don't lie in the bullet points in the document.

xii) Pierce: SGA's role after the Trustees possibly approve these recommendations? Will the student body be able to voice their opinions to SGA so that they might be able to brought back to the CCWG—don't really see SGA's role in the implementation

(1) Students have positions on every one of the committees where these things would go. In terms of academic policy, the students who sit on AAC should be reporting back to Presidents' Council. Everyone needs to go out their constituents to make sure they know what's going on and then bring their opinions back. In terms of CAC, there's a formal mechanism in place—if for example we were to abolish the point system, CAC would preliminarily agree on some language and then it would be brought to SGA to be discussed. If SGA agree on a lot of the information it would go back to CAC and the President. Formal mechanism for a 'conference committee' to work out remaining details in that issue. SGA has a hands on ability. The student body gets all of its information from SGA—there isn't going to be a referendum: SGA needs to reach out to their constituents.

(2) Jake plans to discuss what goes on in his meetings with PC in his Exec. Board reports

(3) What happens if SGA proposes a motion and then it gets shut-out?

(a) We don't want to get to the point that a motion needs to be drafted. There is no way to have a conversation if a motion is written. We want to have more opportunities for front conversations. Jake and Katie and PC have multiple opportunities to share and collaborate on this issue.

(b) SGA had a role in every piece of this document. The "administration" did not write this report. This document was written by a collaborative working group with multiple perspectives - There was near unanimity on all of the recommendations going forward.

(i) We put in this report what we thought as a collective group would be best for our community. We all came together to represent the best interests of the community. We went out of our way to invite students to get involved at critical points—asking students what they thought about issues. The online survey was also very important in shaping the recommendations. The students had a big say in this in one way or another—there were a lot for students who participated: above 50%

xiii) AMS – recommendation to replace the point system. Are there any ideas currently percolating about what the new system might be?

(1) The example in the appendix was an example. We didn't think that it was our place to make determinations about what the new policy should look like. People thought that an example was appropriate., it is very much an example, not a proposal

xiv) 2012 – What is the vision for security enforcement for the recommendation on hard alcohol?

(1) We are currently working on how security is entering student's lives. We hope that this might be the how things play out. We don't envision that security would be searching bags when students enter and exit the building. Security is here to protect and aid the students—basically, we're not looking for DOS or security to be lurking in corners to catch students to do something wrong. Greater focus on

- situations that draw attention to themselves—students hurting themselves
- xv) 2012 – Students are interested in enriching academic opportunities, but not so interested in mandatory programming
- (1) Social events with intellectual heft to them e.g. the Shakespeare play at the end of JanPlan last year—requirement would be for students to go to one of the shows because its germane to the topic. We're not thinking about chemistry lectures on Friday night. Music and art performances to bridge the gap.
 - (a) Jake: I had to go to six performances during the semester for MU111. This is something that has already happened and it's not a big deal or anything. Also SGA has the opportunity to bring NYT staff writers to campus—something that isn't mandatory, but something that would optional and educational/academic on Saturday
- xvi) West- Throwing specifics to the wind for a second: How close are we to a ban on hard alcohol
- (1) We've talked about the policy mechanisms, I defy you to find a place where it says that we will ban hard alcohol on campus. It does say that students who are of age who can possess beer and wine privately, would have the Pub as an option for hard alcohol. We'll see what the Board does with the report. We'll go to CAC and then bring the question to SGA. We have a lot between here and there
- xvii) 2012 – SGA provides a very systematic way to reach out to the student body. I want to see SGA utilized in that capacity instead of creating new committees to reach out the student body. Maybe use SGA to present motions and whatnot. Instead of having CAC reach out to us—instead of student input being a barrier to progress, but having students at the table
- (1) CAC and SGA are linked together: it's how you choose to use them. From a practical standpoint we can't have 1800 students at the table. The VP of SGA last year was on CCWG. The hope was that the communication would be going back and forth between the two committees- the VP was to be the voice from the SGA. The SGA played a significant role in how this final report unfolded. There was not single element of this process than the results that came through the student survey. We're not looking to shut down student conversation. I want to keep reminding people that this was largely developed from items that came from students. This was listening to students and responding to students. Students played a very hands on role
- xviii) Coburn – Talking about a change in policy on hard alcohol, does this imply a lessening the policy on softer alcohol?
- (1) Do you mean like beer? If you're 21, you drink beer. Anyone who is under-age shouldn't be allowed to drink.
 - (2) I don't think that the idea of a change on the other side is inherent to this. We have been looking at 2 or 3 alcohol related incidents every weekend. There isn't a whole lot that is going on now. Don't want to lose site of why we talked about hard alcohol. It is at the core of every hospitalization. The numbers on hospitalizations are down—but there still are numbers. We want to eliminate high-risk situations. We don't want high-risk issues to be commonplace.
- xix) 2011: Transparency about discipline: Would you be publicizing right to jury of your peers or something similar?

- (1) It's already there. CAC is looking to update disciplinary decisions. If you look in the handbook online there are already options in place for appeals. We'd like to see change to make the current policies better understood—more transparency. Periodically getting information back to the student body. Possibly twice a semester put something in the Echo to let students know what's going on. We want the community to be aware that people aren't getting in trouble all of the time. We don't want a 'Oh yeah that was John situation' – which is possible at such a small school
- xx) Pierce- Not an honor code: if there is not follow up to these expectations during orientation, what should happen?
- (1) That would be a situation for the SGA. I'm not opposed to an honor code, but the group's intention was to talk about what our expectations for each other are. We need to be clear about these, but most people don't make behavioral choices based on whether or not they'll get in trouble. We believe in free speech—we do what's important to us. If you want to come to Colby as a student, staff, faculty—this is what our expectations are. We aren't going to drag you in front of the deans and say you broke a rule, but we have a culture and a value set based on how we want to be. This isn't intended to be an honor code
- (2) At the end of last year SGA drafted a Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities. This is something that Exec is working on that will eventually go to CAC. If you're looking for such a document, the ball is already rolling.
- xxi) 2011 – If this non-binding, why is going to the Board of Trustees?
- (1) The committee was formed because of a resolution passed by the Trustees. We are reporting back to them based on the understanding that we had to do something. Implementation is at the purview of the Board. The Board can make some decisions, but we have to send much of this to CAC.
- (a) This is an important discussion that we're having. Be mindful of what you're saying and repeating other people
- xxii) Marriner – (1) Are you satisfied in the changes that have happened in security policy? (2) You said the goal was eliminate hospitalizations, do you think that that is a realistic goal?
- (1) If you look at the language in the report—want to eliminate high-risk drinking as a staple of social life. We probably won't eliminate all hospitalizations in the immediate future—we should be there already, given what the weekend looks. We can make this something that is a truly rare circumstance. We all have to come to the point to say that this is not okay to let this happen. Understand how dangerous what has become commonplace is. That even at two a week, it's too many. We've been really lucky relative to the horrible tragedy of fatalities. We've had respirators; we've had close calls. This is a very serious thing—we'd like to make what happens now considerably more rare.
- (2) At the core of the new security policy: I want to see students own your communities. I want students to be more responsible for one another—student interventions as opposed to security-student interactions. We consider what is happening now as a work in progress. We'd like to hear more from you all. We want student-social life to be what you want it to be, assuming that's not dangerous or destructive. Moving toward more student ownership is important.

Seeing security as the people who help you out, not the people who you run and hide from

(a) Initially Security wasn't our biggest issue. After April 12th, a lot of things have changed around here. Students have been given leeway here—we're doing great as a community. The culture is sort of changing already. I feel that security is a resource for us students, we shouldn't fear them.

xxiii)Averill – We obviously represent the student population at large. There are people who aren't going to like this, but this is in my opinion extremely fair and in there best interest. A lot of what students want isn't in there best interest. This is a really great document and there's a lot to benefit student help

(1) We want to reinvent the dynamic of alcohol at Colby. We need to push away from alcohol being the biggest thing to do at Colby. We can learn from each other outside the classroom. We need to change the way we do things around here. Don't think of this as a box, we can work together as a community collectively.

xxiv)Dean Terhune – I'm particularly curious about the first recommendation. What are your thoughts about that. The group feels strongly about that, but the Trustees have had questions

(1) Foss: A lot of what I see on weekends—people stop taking responsibility for themselves on the weekends. Even though you're drunk you need to be responsibility for your actions. Being drunk doesn't resolve you of your actions. We need to be responsible for everyone on this campus

(2) 2012: I want to see more weight on this. Most students want to see this on campus. Just putting this in campus isn't giving enough to it. This is what this community is, we need to put more weight behind this. This is a powerful tool to start changing the way our culture is.

(3) Maverick: Student leaders need to lead by example. I'm going to push for this because I don't want to see another one of my friends going to the hospital. It starts with us first. We can effect great change in this community as students. We need to have this conversation together.

(4) Go-Ho – Need for adamant support for community. The changes that will be implemented through the adoptions of this policy will make students more aware of how this community is define

(5) 2011 – This is a great way for SGA to take the lead on this. The alcohol abuse and negative behaviors associated with it. This is an opportunity for SGA to talk about negative behaviors and take a stand against them

xxv)2011 – The proposed implementation timeline. What does immediate mean in the passing of recommendations? Does that mean immediate from the Board?

(a) We got to the various involved groups and say 'have at it' If you think we should make changes, let's get going on it

xxvi)Foss – People don't really understand that high-risk drinking can create really bad issues. Can we publicize them?

(1) There is federal law that limits private-educational records. It's particularly tricky on a campus this size—individual identities are well known. Your point is well taken and is certainly something that we need to take on and think about. The most meaningful kinds of conversations on this will come from students. RAD programming during orientation about it was a great example. Feel free to write

an op-ed piece in the Echo—certainly much more powerful than something coming out of the Dean’s office.

- (2) The RAD group is going to continue on. The RAD is the Responsible Alcohol Discussions. What happened during orientation was the first step, certainly not the last.
- xxvii)2012 – There is language about the hard-alcohol ban in the implementation timeline
- (1) Deliberate to not word things to sound like “you can’t do.” Stop enumerating what you can’t do and focus more on what you can do.
 - c) Discussion on the Digest—I love that. A number of the people that are commenting haven’t read the document. Urge your peers to actually go in there and read the document. It’s certainly different than some of things that are unfolding in the document. I would appreciate your help with that. Email me your other thoughts. Reach out to Jake and Maverick as well.

Dean’s Report:

Kelly Wharton

- 1) Provide support for Exec Board and for collaborative efforts
 - a) Access Kelly with questions, comments and concerns if you’d like
- 2) Do research from questions at PC and then report back at the following meeting or over the listserv.
- 3) Question – “how did orientation go this year?”
 - a) Working on programs that were not administrators forte
 - i) Lots of positive feedback, but there is always room for improvement
 - ii) Lots of opportunities for students to act as leaders and make decisions that shape the way the program was carried out

Palmer McAulliff:

- 1) Second year on SGA
- 2) Working to get more students involved with the Alumni Network before they graduate
 - a) Approach her with questions if need be

Exec Board Report

- 1) Jake: That was an amazing start to our year. I’m really proud of all of us.
 - a) Welcome to our first meeting. Since sophomore year I’ve been thinking about this moment. I was in the Treworgy spot and I’m so excited to have made it this spot.
 - b) Down to Business:
 - i) The first CAC meeting was two weeks ago. The next meeting is on Monday. I’ll be sure to update you on what I’ve been doing and what the group has been doing.
 - ii) I will give you an update of what has happened with the past motions and what has happened since the last meeting. Give you a idea of what I’ve been doing. Really excited to be up here
 - iii) SRR document is something that we’ve met with Bro and Jim with already. We’ll keep you abreast of that. We may do a meeting where we work on this document to make it the best it can be

- iv) Colby Closet: We're actually going to have a PPD work order to get a real closet built in the Pugh Center
 - (1) Create a place for students to borrow formal clothing
 - v) Our first action as SGA is approving a club. I'll circulate the document
- 2) Katie:
- a) First AAC meeting last week:
 - i) Reforming EN115 – looking at what are its merits and some ways we can improve it. Looking at the writing of students in general
 - ii) JanPlan – we're going to have a whole meeting on that and I'll bring it back to you guys
 - iii) Spent time looking at the Natural Science requirement as opposed to having another Lab Science requirement. Would humanities majors take Lab Science if they didn't have to.
 - iv) Jake, Audell, and Aitoro have been meeting to talk about planning a Fall Formal with SPB and PCB. Looking to have a classy event with the jazz band. Fun time—more information to come.
- 3) Audell:
- a) From a financial prospective the college is coming going through an audit
 - i) We have ~\$270,000 allocating 40% in the fall and 60% in the spring
 - (1) Give back \$20,000
- 4) Ricky
- 5) John:
- a) Our embedded Google Calendar is in the works—meeting to figure things out ASAP
- 6) Julie:
- a) Working with Justin on the HVAC committee. First full meeting last with body of 8-9 students. We've been working with Kim and we'll be submitting a proposal to PC sometime in November

Committee Reports:

- 1) AAC – Jake
- 2) Admin – nothing
- 3) Admissions and Financial Aid – Nothing
- 4) Athletics – nothing
- 5) Cultural events – nothing
- 6) Financial Priorities – nothing
- 7) Healthcare – nothing
- 8) Independent Study - nothing
- 9) Library – nothing
- 10) ITS – nothing
- 11) Multicultural affairs – nothing

12) Justin on HVAC:

- a) Start throwing out our ideas on the listserv
 - i) Want to formally tell PC what we're doing and what we're looking at with Housing so that you can relate it to your constituents. We want to know how the student body

feels before we go forward
(1) Emphasis on Feedback

Old Business:

- 1) Motion 1: Exec Board appointments
 - a) **passed**
- 2) Motion 2: Speaking time
 - a) Second
 - b) Friendly amend to change “approximately 2 minutes” to “exactly 2 minutes”
 - i) Thirty minutes provides good structure
 - c) Taylor- how are we going to enforce this? Will there be timing
 - i) Not really exact, but enforced
 - d) 2010- do we have the ability to suspend roles for longer votes
 - i) Move to vote – roll call vote

(1) Passed
- 3) Motion 3: Approve SGA budget allocation
 - a) Second
 - b) Audell is a financial wizard –what he says should be taken to heart
 - i) Role call vote

ii) Passed unanimously
- 4) Motion 4: Meeting dates
 - a) Second
 - b) I trust that you’ve put together a great timeline
 - c) We’re just talking about the formal schedule—you’re approving this document; we’ve discussed when informal meetings are and if dates need to change you all be included in the discussion
 - i) Role call vote

ii) Passed unanimously
- 5) Motion 5: Appointments to Student Security Advisory
 - a) Second
 - b) All of these folks are great choices—they’ll represent the student body effectively
 - c) Friendly amend the spellings of Raymond’s surname and Mavrick’s first name
 - i) Role call vote

ii) Passed unanimously
- 6) Motion 6: Approve the club – “Tuesday Night Film Club”
 - a) Second
 - b) Excellent addition given that it hopes to share how films are made and whatnot
 - c) POI – it’s a club to make films
 - i) Role Call Vote

ii) Passed unanimously

New Business:

- 1) Go-Ho: Not a joke, but put out how you can be more sustainable tips in newsletters
- 2) West: There are no WSJ’s anymore, what’s up?

- a) POI: The WSJ does not participate in the student readership program anymore
- 3) Coburn: Would it be possible to get a guest who will speak to the changes to security policy?
- 4) 2011: I really enjoyed having dinner with SGA, could we pick a dining hall and get to know each other before formal meetings
 - a) POI: looking to book a private dining hall
- 5) 2012: There were be more cereal selection in all of the dining halls

Motion to Adjourn:

- 1) Hand vote was unanimous