SGA Formal Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 6, 2013

The meeting began at 7:01 pm.

I. Minutes

Minutes from last meeting were passed.

II. Executive Board Report

Wayne Kim: Wayne thanked the community for coming and learning about what SGA does. In 2 weeks SGA has an informal meeting… next week is fall break, there is no meeting. He thanked Phil Hussey for all the work he put into Harvest Fest and said that it was a wonderful event. Wayne had a shout out for Carey Powers and Juliette Chan for Pugh Club Palooza, it was a great time and everyone really appreciated it. The first Board of Trustees meeting is in 2 weeks on October 18, Wayne and Carey are on the Student Affairs Committee and they’ll be sending out an email to the community asking about issues the committee wants to address.

Cole Yaverbaum: Cole went to ally training Sunday afternoon, Dan and Bri were there and she really liked it. There is another one on Tuesday from 8-9:30 and people should go. She’s serving on both the College Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee this year and she likes that she gets to see the academic and social sides. They are discussing the affirmation in both groups, if there are people who want to talk to her about it they can. Cole is serving on the Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees. Her and Wayne are working on a SGA working group on accountability and if you’re interested you should talk to them. Tuesday she is meeting with Alisa Johnson from the career center to discuss Career Center/SGA relations. If there’s anything you want brought up talk to Cole.

Madeline Hunsicker: Maddie is looking for entries for the Spontaneous Fun Day T-Shirt design contest. She also mentioned Ally Training and the Coming Out Meeting which is Wednesday at 8:30 PM in the Coffee House. She thanked everyone for coming out to Story Time.

Kelsey Cromie: Kelsey asked Dorm Presidents to send out the link to a Story Time nomination form, we’re looking for a nomination for the next Story Time. She also asked for bios for new SGA members.

Dan Sunderland: Dan says that all Dorm Presidents have now met with him which means it is time for a second meeting. Housing and Facilities Advisory Committee meets Monday evenings and they are working on residence hall vandalism policies and changes to them. He’s excited for the conversations that are to come.
Lori Ayanian: Lori says that if a Dorm President is planning a dorm event they have a $30 limit for funding requests and should get them in 2 weeks ahead of time because the Finance Committee meets on Mondays and if you miss their meeting it is hard to get your request approved.

Philip Hussey: Phil said he needs all motions the Sunday before each formal meeting so that the agenda can be sent out to residents for polling.

Carey Powers: Carey said Pugh Palooza was a rousing success. She thanked Juliette Chan, PCB chair for attending the meeting. Juliette likes lunch dates so ask her to lunch if you want to chat. The day we get back from fall break Frank Wu (UC Hastings Law School) will be in Page Commons discussing Affirmative Action and DOMA. Coach Herman Boone from Remember the Titans will be here on Thursday October 24 at 8 PM in Page Commons, they are very excited for that.

Shane Rogers: On November 10th the first open Colby United Project training will occur. It will be from 2-5 PM in the Pugh Center. Dr. Bradley is hoping that 30-40 students will attend and eventually all students will be trained. On November 9th, there will be an extension on the IMPACT training to build on the work that was started there. This Wednesday there is a film I am Man in the Pugh Center at 8 PM, Shane will be facilitating a discussion after the film.

Nick LaRovere: Through his work as a CA and partnering with the International Club Nick has been working on an off-campus retreat that will be October 18-19. It’s a chance to facilitate discussions and interactions between international and domestic students. It’s partially funded by SGA. It will be a 24 hour retreat, also sponsored by the Dean of Students Office. It has a focus on 1st year students. He hopes it will influence open relationships and will be a free program for students.

III. Dean’s Report

President Adams will make a habit of coming as often as we want, it is a chance for him to hear from SGA on what’s on our mind, to talk about the college and what is on his mind. He thinks the year has started very well, the mood and tone on the campus seems good and positive. President Adams is eager to help SGA work magic and do good work for the college and student body, he will be in touch with leadership in order to help advance agenda, will be meeting with leadership every couple weeks to stay in touch and looks forward to making progress on what everyone wants to accomplish. There were a couple of things on his mind, 1) carrying through on the task force on accountability- appointed by board of trustees, work came to conclusion last spring with a number of recommendations, eager to see these implemented, The Educational Policy Committee, College Affairs Committee and Academic Affairs Committee are working together to move this whole thing forward, this should be of interest to you, impetus came from the SGA. He believes this is the best thing that’s happened in his time at Colby, and gives credit to student leadership that the push came from student leaders and SGA. He hopes to capture that energy and work and looks forward to seeing the progress that will be done. Dean Terhune, Dean Kletzer, the faculty, as well as the Board during their meeting coming up in
a couple weeks, will be discussing the affirmation. They all want to see how recommendations are implemented and moved forward. 2) This is a year of transition in leadership of the college. President Adams is working hard with David Greene to make sure that work goes forward as well as possible, looks forward to working with him and the Board and also to his arrival at Colby in June. In the meantime there is a lot to do. They are working on a strategic plan called Colby 2013. Within this plan there are lots of things going on, especially on campus. We are close to the science building completion, the 1st phase of the library renovation has been completed and the next one is this summer. Phase 2 is more complex and more patience is required. The administration knows there’s unease amongst students about first phase and they are listening to that. Dean Kletzer is listening closely to what students have to say. President Adams reminded us all that programmatic changes are to accommodate the new ways students are working together and have all been done with student in mind. The opening of the science building makes it possible to convert Bobs to a residence hall. They are working on preliminary conversations of that and are planning this next step in residential life. These changes allow more students to live on campus. He mentioned the event for students at the museum and hopes students will take advantage of that space. He is eager for that use and for students to be there, it is a gorgeous addition to the college, and he hopes students will take full advantage of that.

Connor McCarthy- With all the alcohol citations off campus, has colby ever considered on campus houses to incentivize living on campus?

President Adams- the long term goal is to get students back on campus, we think we can add 60-70 beds with conversion of Roberts, 110-120 living off campus, if half are back on campus, that is a success. He doesn’t know if Colby would ever want each and every student to live on campus, some have needs off campus, but within a margin of 20-30-40 students we want everybody else on campus. President Adams discussed that having parties off campus puts students at risk of running afoul of Waterville/Oakland police and that risk is less on campus, but reminded us that we are obliged to obey the laws of Maine and the federal government even here on campus.

Connor- will there be social alternatives, aside from apartments, almost house type things like those people have when living off campus?

President Adams- We are eager to have vibrant social life on campus, but must obey the laws of Maine.
Dean Terhune- saw this as multiple questions, one about actual houses, one about social spaces. Jed Wartman has been talking about this and would like to see more creativity and ideas about how we can make it easier for students to host parties on campus, it doesn’t necessarily mean we need more residential space, there are spaces but they are cognizant of the issue that our residence halls don’t currently have many social spaces that are suitable for bigger parties. Dean Terhune urged students to be thoughtful and creative, to work with Jed and folks in campus life to see how we can use spaces on campus to meet students needs.

Connor Clancy- had a question from a constituent- with recent alcohol violations and sending people to hospital, will there be any tweaking of policies, to make them more lenient or more strict?
Dean Terhune- didn’t think at this moment they are looking at policy, because that is not what is driving behaviors that are at issue, they were there before policy was tweaked and will persist, we are certainly looking at how consistently and closely policy is being applied, if we say we will do something we need to do it, situations we’re talking about aren’t fundamentally about policy,
they are about choices students are making and how people are drinking and how they look out for each other when they are drinking, with the changes to the policy. With the hard alcohol ban the number of transports and average BAC have been declining. He noted this month has not been a good month, and the numbers are up from where we’ve been in the past, but says the answer is not going to be rule or regulation, but how can we get people to take the core problems seriously, issue isn’t drinking, or underage drinking, it’s high risk drinking that puts lives at stake. Administration has asked AETAG (Alcohol education treatment and awareness group) to look with new vigor at new ways of raising awareness and how to engage campus in this discussion.

Nick LaRovere- asked about the custodial staff, he’s been talking and realized there was a big change implemented that switched building assignments and certain members were let go, he was curious, after he heard that custodians weren’t super happy about these changes, what was the motivation behind these changes?
President Adams- there were changes made, but nobody was let go, that he knows of, and he would be aware. They are constantly recalibrating building assignments across PPD, as well as other assignments in the interest of doing the best possible job and using resources in the best possible way. He knows change is hard for people, but this was done in the interest of better outcomes in buildings and the work that people do in these buildings, it takes pressure off some people that were doing too much work or had complex assignments, it will streamline/rationalize assignments in a better way for employees and the college. Change is difficult but this will all work out. President Adams was pleased to know students care about custodians, they work really hard for all of us, and student appreciation and acknowledgment is very important.

Bri Guillory- since we don’t have frats and sororities anymore, is there a possibility of social houses, has that been thought about or considered?
Dean Terhune- Social houses are fraternity like co-ed organizations where there are opportunities for students to have big parties, it hasn’t come up in the time that he has been here, back in 1984 when frats were gone, sororities had been gone for some time, there was a strong sense that what was going on in that scene was not consistent with where the college wanted to be headed, there was a strong sense across the organization that while we want vibrant social life, those organizations are probably not direction we want to go back in President Adams- this is the first time in 14 years he heard anyone talk about social houses, there are positives and negatives of social life, but he had never heard that articulated in the way that was explained, the whole question of social organizations here is pretty wrought with significance because this is still a tender topic 30 years later, but social houses are not one that students have ever articulated, President Adams agreed with Dean Terhune and said anything that has resonance with the past of Greek life here would be an extremely difficult sell to revive.

Madeline Hunsicker- was shocked that people haven’t articulated social houses before, there is a buzz that this is something students want, in terms of relationships with Waterville police, as students we currently don’t have one, does administration have an interest in talking to police in order to see how students can have a better relationship?
Dean Terhune- says the college works hard at that relationship, it is better than it was a few years ago, there was a point a few years ago when they were concerned about what happened on campus, the police used to come here to check out parties, now there is a mutual trust and agreement on things, one thing students aren’t conscious of is that there is a significant push across Maine to cut down on underage drinking, there’s a task force of 10 years, when these things happen there is a sense that our students are targeted, but on a broad level that is not the case, most of that work is directed at high school students, consistent and on a regular basis, encourage students to be thoughtful of those moments. He thinks it’s good students have
alerted neighbors/police to their activities, but reminded us that as soon as you open your doors you are responsible for who comes and if they’re drinking, if you live off campus, don’t let anyone you don’t know or anyone under 21 in, the police will consistently apply the law, the incidences this year have been in Oakland where there is not as much of a relationship with the PD not in Waterville where there is a strong relationship. 

President Adams- in his time at Colby this relationship has gone through many phases and forms, and it may be hard to believe, but the current relationship is as good as its ever been, he hasn’t noticed significant change over the last couple years, before that moments and times when administrators talked at length with PD over issues, and they would pay a lot of attention to if we thought it was going bad, it’s not bad. President Adams noted that students need to remember these are public officials, serving the public of Waterville and are paid by tax payers, and when they get a complaint or call about a party, they have to react, that is their job. He reiterated anytime any student invites underage students or too many students into a residence and things get loud, students are putting themselves at risk. This doesn’t mean police are doing anything wrong because they have to respond to expectations of the people that pay them Madeline- seems like the Oakland police are targeting students to get alcohol citations, sending a message to the school, seems like they don’t have a good relationship, seems like blatant targeting 

President Adams- this is new, in years past there have not been incidents in Oakland, and Colby has not had many conversations with the Oakland PD. Because of this he couldn’t state for sure what is going on there because there has never been an occasion to talk with Oakland PD. 

Dean Terhune- we haven’t had an opportunity to have follow ups over this weekends events, but it doesn’t make me feel good when it looks like people are going out of their way to pull over students, he doesn’t know what happened with the bus this weekend, but it’s important to not take with what you hear through rumor mill as gospel, administration will be following up. President Adams- stated they will follow up, he was also sure Pete Chenevert in security will talk with the Chief of Police in Oakland 

Dean Terhune noted there has been huge change in last couple years with district attorney’s office in response of what happens with those summons. Students have the option to go through a program and pay fine and have nothing on your record, which is a significant step. Administration doesn’t want to see summons the same way students don’t, and knows that if the police chiefs were here, their response would be we’re leaving you alone on campus, but if you’re in town and there are issues, they have to follow up. 

Kelsey Cromie- in terms of the tobacco ban, at the State of the College you mentioned it would be going into full effect, but that notice only went to staff not to students, has it taken effect? President Adams- did not realize the message did not go to students. Phase 2 is now in place, it is a tobacco free campus, the administration has not worked out the details of exactly what that means in terms of sanctions, it is clear that the administrative part of the college has very direct responsibility for implementing, administration has to abide by that policy, we will make sure that people do, different case for students, because they don’t work here, there will be discussions Dean Terhune- CAC dealt with this last year, focus of response is really on trying to address cessation, with multiple incidents of being written up, but most of the time we won’t even write up, administration wants a smoke free campus, and for students/staff to remind people that we’re not supposed to do that here as a general response. If we’re dealing with people who keep drawing attention to themselves we’ll ask for them to participate in a smoking cessation activity, but they are not going to throw people out for smoking President Adams- we are in a process of getting from here to there, there is a smoke free campus where tobacco isn’t allowed. This involves policy, rules, culture change, and peer pressure. The whole country is moving in that direction, Colby is too.
Michael Loginoff - you mentioned work of the accountability task force, where do you see SGA in that role?
Dean Terhune - has been working with Cole and Wayne along with Jed Wartman and Jim Sloat, Dean Kletzer, and SGA has had one meeting about that. Jed will be at next informal meeting to follow up. The hope and expectation is that after you all have a chance to talk, we’ll start to collectively bring this conversation to smaller groups in community, how exactly that is going to happen we’re not sure, small groups, athletic teams, clubs, residence hall meetings, that’s a place where all of you can play a significant role, most are dorm presidents, broader discussion about affirmation and more. The task force had a year of conversations, from a starting place of nothing to a strong collective sense. The point behind small group conversations is to bring the student body along with that understanding, bring them from nothing to a collective understanding.

Andrew Ferraro - When we renovate Roberts, what style dorms will it become and when do you see that being completed?
President Adams - we’ve thought about completion date of 2015/2016 time frame.
Dean Terhune - there are formal planning discussions in a group that met last year, that consisted of Jed Wartman and students. They started work last winter and are carrying through, housing style will be mixture, students like suites, but there will definitely be no apartments. It will be a mixture of suites, and some singles, some regular double rooms as well. Because of Colby’s approach of having 4 year class housing, must have 1st years in that housing, doubles are ideal for first years, and although they know upper class like suites and or singles he suspects there will be thought to suites that will allow them to be flexible depending on needs, when size goes up and first year class goes up and down, suites might be set up so that they can be doubles and a couple singles separately in case they needed to house some first years. Jed can talk in more detail about these plans. There are opening dates of fall 2014 for the science building and fall 2015 for Roberts as well as Grossman housing Human Resources and security.

Kelly Ling - administration wants housing in bobs to get people on campus, but in order to do that must emphasize increase in suites, for people want their own room, common room and kitchens there is no incentive to come back…
Dean Terhune - the policy is no different now than it will be then, nobody can go off campus without permission, with the new housing Colby will be saying fewer people can go off campus, that will always be the case, in each of the last 4 years, fewer people have wanted to go off campus than those that have ultimately needed to go off campus due to lack of housing off campus. This trend is pretty common amongst peer institutions just like us, like to have a few rooms empty on campus in terms of flexibility in sticky room situations. The total enrollment and total beds determine the number of off campus residents. Campus life has to meet all of the needs, this will not just be a case of only seniors living in that space, when we talk to larger groups of seniors, not 100% want apartments and suites, and administration wants to give students choice with what we do with that space.

IV. Community Forum

There were no community members present to speak.
**V. Old Business**

**Motion 1:** Connor McCarthy, of Piper, withdraws motion one, that Kidz b Kidz become a recognized Colby club. It’s aim is to go into elementary schools, collect kids’ artwork, make coffee mugs out of it sell them with the proceeds to go to local children’s hospital. This program would help kids get interested in philanthropy and charity. He withdrew the motion because the program wants to be part of the CVC.

Philip Hussey - we’re interested to learn more as you know more

**Tentative Motion 1 → Motion 1:** Jacob Kandel of Sturtevant proposed that SGA recommend to campus life that all residence hall vandalism be split equally across campus for a trial period of one semester.

Jacob believes this would be a powerful push against vandalism. By having a trial period of one semester if it doesn’t work, nothing bad happens. By doing it this way campus receives all reward with no risk.

The motion was seconded.

Emma Clay - people in Chem-free housing want no part of this and will only agree if substance free is excluded from the motion.

Connor McCarthy - because my residents are against this I will vote against it but what we have now is a flawed system, people don’t vandalize their own dorm for this reason, in some ways this could unite campus and take away dorm division, likes that it is a trial semester, if it doesn’t work we don’t have to do it, likes that its trial.

Dan Sunderland - while I see the merits of trying it out, think that original points will remain the same, in terms of uniting campus, and the fact that some residence halls get hit harder, something I’ve talked a lot about, maybe addressing that by tiered system so things are more fair, HFAC will be discussing this tomorrow night, as he is not voting member unless this ties, he urged members to listen to residents, he can speak to the chem-free population and in his experience its an ideological similarity between chem-free people, that they don’t vandalize no matter what dorm they live in, it is not accepted among community to commit vandalism, which creates an interesting conversation about why people do vandalize

Nick LaRovere - there are 2 discussions, one is motion itself, which changes the way we function and fundamentally look at vandalism, as well as a chem.-free discussion. It is more helpful to focus on idea as a whole, do we want to make this shift, and then work out details, such as what dorms are included. He believes this would decrease accountability, and decrease desire to be upstanders and citizens but he argues it actually increases accountability, not always committed in your own dorm, if you break something, you pay for it, harms whole community and makes people more accountable, he says the CAs have tried to discuss residence hall vandalism as campus community not just within a residence hall.

Andy Peterson - had a question for Jacob, as it stands you include chem-free, where will line be drawn, are off campus people/abroad people included, even people who aren’t living in a dorm are a part of this, emphasizing community aspect, issue that affects everyone here, where should the line be drawn

Madison McLeod - the motion states split among residents

Andy Peterson - if we want it to be a community thing it would include people living off campus

Jacob - hadn’t thought about off campus, but if you live there you’ve withdrawn yourself, abroad should not be included, in different country, should not have to deal with Colby community, secondary motion to include off campus, but personally believe they are living somewhere separate so should be separate
Kelsey Cromie- people who are abroad are on leave and not enrolled at Colby for that semester.
Kelly Ling- no matter what the cost people commit dorm damage, not turning people in, if there’s no one reporting everyone, cost should be lower for everyone, this is positive in terms of campus community, if we’re all on this campus and members of community, what message are you trying to spread if you exclude lots of people, if we want to bring campus together we should all participate, we’re all responsible for every dorm
Andrew Ferraro- really supports this, if you don’t live somewhere, no incentive not to break something as long as you don’t get caught, financially accountable for your percentage, if you don’t live there, there’s no incentive, with this motion your responsibility extends to all the dorms
Michael Loginoff- against the motion, like that it includes the whole community, if we’re going to enjoy Colby together we should suffer together, thinks that Kelly brought up a good point that no matter how much the fine is, it’s not fair to include people who lives in dorms where there isn’t damage being committed, if I hear people breaking things I go out to try to stop people, I can’t be accountable for someone doing something across campus, raising awareness that others would pick up there, but if you see someone in a different dorm, if there’s an exit sign broken, costs 10 cents, not going to turn them in, unfair to those where there’s no damage committed
Cole Yaverbaum- agrees with Mike, still doesn’t support the motion, like the discussion, but don’t support stopping this in this way at all, she think there’s a high correlation between alcohol and vandalism, doesn’t mean in every instance, there’s a high enough correlation it’s important to consider the inclusion of chem.-free dorms, mere fact that if we break something that’s hugely expensive, value is so diluted amongst students that it’s pointless, yes, HFAC sees the fine as not important, but that varies to students, not fair assumption or statement to make, residence hall vandalism means way more to a student struggling financially then a student who isn’t which leads to a discussion of social class
Annie Kettler- how would you address off campus, feel that students who chose to live off campus are just as big a part of the Colby community, if it passed then in extreme case, students who live off campus, if they have a party, damages, they’re paying for it, if they’re factored into all residence groups, paying for their house and campus as well
Kylie Vanburen- SWOLE is overall against this, if you choose certain dorms, you do that with expectation of a dorm with less vandalism, specialty housing, the reason we have huge fines is because we want to keep incentive to report/not commit there, don’t think taking away financial aspect is helpful in reducing that dorm damage as a whole, not what is going to affect part of conversation, campus issues as a whole
Elliot Marsing- echoed previous points, this does de-incentivize a lot of dorm damage reporting, those who chose to live in dorms by ability to pay fines, he knows in Alfond there’s $200 a semester, lots of money, that does add up, urged people to think that total cost is more than you anticipate right now, it is a problem if we put that on everyone, listen to your constituents
Tara Tischio- noted that at lots of schools dorm damage isn’t discussed, it’s factored into tuition or split, they don’t think about it because they don’t talk about it, it’s like a gorilla in the room, putting this on everyone will make it not as big a deal, decrease it
Kyle Wehner- how would you know if the proposal is successful, based on system or other factors, if dorm damage stays the same, would you make it permanent?
Jacob- we know if it’s working based on averages cost each semester, if there is a noticeable difference then we know that change is based on this pilot program, if we all agree this is why its going down, keep it, if it doesn’t do anything we scrap it
Philip Hussey- as a point of information this is just a recommendation to Campus Life, they can say no, with things like this, it is often good to talk to campus life so we have an idea of what they think of it before we recommend something they’ve already discussed, because the buck stops with Dean Terhune and Jed.
Cole- said she could bring this up with Jed during their meeting tomorrow; we don't want to send something over that they hate or won't even consider
Marshall- likes this and liked it 2 weeks ago, don't remember, big argument, an exit sign doesn’t cost $500, there are safety concerns, big fine to get people to not do it, spreading it campus wide, lowers cost, takes twisted incentive away, if nothing comes of it and no one cares, if there’s no reaction to actions, people will stop doing it, it also increases incentive to report, everyone now has a reason to report/stop in other dorms, and since the majority doesn’t get reported the cost falls on people who live there and don’t ask for it
Madison Mcleod- moves to table the motion
Elliot Marsing seconds
Tabling means we agree there needs to be more work done on it, continue discussion in the future
The motion was tabled. We will be in touch as to when it goes back on the agenda.

VI. New Business

Emma Clay- is working with PPD and wanted to clarify what she’s doing, some people are happy, some aren’t and she’d like to open it up to discussion, she wanted water fountains in East and had asked the previous dorm president who said PPD had approved them but had gotten too many requests and asked that there would be a streamlined system with one campus wide wish list that goes through campus life. This way, PPD knows what campus life supports and any extra money is applied to this wish list. This does not include maintenance issues, Cole and Wayne gave Emma the go ahead to take requests to HFAC who, along with campus life will prioritize and pass along to PPD.

Michael Loginoff moved to adjourn.
Seconded.

The meeting ended at 8:27pm.