The meeting began at 7:03pm.

I. Minutes

Minutes from last week were passed.

II. Executive Board Report

Morgan Lingar: Morgan reminded the Presidents Council that because of Fall Break, there will be no meeting next week, and upon return we will have another formal meeting. She reminded the Presidents Council that she and Kareem had decided to set aside the multiculturalism officer proposal for now. They have met with Pugh Community Board and Dr. Bradley to discuss the proposal, and have decided that the position should be renamed as a fellow, which reinforces the idea that this student will be educated and trained in addition to being a student leader. She also said that the Multiculturalism Task Force will be meeting very soon, and that group of students will help guide with the finalize proposal.

Kareem Kalil: As an update from the Academic Affairs Committee, Kareem said that they had been discussing the possibility of having a day off from school for the Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium to help create a academic atmosphere for those presenting research. There is strong support for this idea on the AAC, and if approved, it would be implemented the year after next. The AAC also discussed the strengthening diversity requirement, including the possibility of having a Multicultural Literacy requirement. He reminded the Presidents Council that the second Story Time is tonight and hoped that all could attend. Lastly, he echoed Morgan’s sentiments on the dynamics of the Multiculturalism Officer proposal.

Monica Davis: Monica talked about a new idea to bring more students to Dinner with Dorm Presidents, where there would be an ice cream sundae bar.

Jean-Jacques Ndayisenga: Jean-Jacques was not present at the meeting.

Jack Mauel: As an update from the Housing and Facilities Advisory Committee, Jack talked about the lip syncing for room draw proposal. He said that Kim Kenniston thinks that this idea is most logistically feasible for just rising sophomores, as the process would be complicated with juniors going abroad and having the first pick for seniors at stake. He also reported that Campus Life is in the process of possibly investing in an electronic room draw program, which would allow students to select rooms on the internet included computers, tablets, and smartphones. This is a major investment as it takes three months to get fully installed, costs an initial $20,000, and costs $10,000 each year it is used after the installation. One benefit of the program is that students who are abroad could participate in room draw. Jack also announced last week’s Dorm President of the Week, John Grimaldi who was commended his excellent communication. Lastly, Jack announced this week’s Dorm President of the Week, Kylie Van Buren who was commended for her punctuality.

Anna Caron: Anna hoped that members of the Presidents Council could come to Story Time tonight and requested that those who could bring their own mugs.
Rachel: As an update from the College Affairs Committee, Rachel said that CAC discussed violations of the tobacco ban. She reminded the Presidents Council that if anyone has any concerns, they can contact Ethan Crockett, Nick Zeller, or herself, all of whom are on CAC.

III. Dean’s Report

There were no deans present at the meeting.

IV. Community Forum

Colleen Fitzpatrick spoke about the Yes on 1 campaign. She noted that in Maine, same sex marriage was voted down by a narrow margin in 2009, and emphasized that students votes will be crucial this election. She announced that through working with the Colby Democrats, there will be an early voting day on October 19th with shuttles for student transportation. In order to make it a successful event, she requested that each Dorm President take a packet with information about rides and early voting from her after the meeting.

V. Old Business

Motion 1: As there were no representatives from the Knitting Club, the motion was tabled.

Tentative Motion 1: A hand vote passed this tentative motion to become Motion 2. Nick Zeller of the Class of 2013 moved that SGA recommend the Alfond Residency Forfeit Policy (ARF) to CAC and HFAC. The ARF would, with a few exceptions, mean that a student who is found responsible for committing destructive dorm damage in Alfond would forfeit their right to live in Alfond. Current punishments such as fines and probation are somewhat abstract, and Nick said that he believes housing is very important to students at Colby. Ben Lester asked where the line is drawn for destructive dorm damage. Nick talked about destructive dorm damage equating to the physical breaking of things. Jack Mauel said that this is somewhat excessive to deprive a freshman of the right to live in the Alfond Apartments for a stupid mistake early in their college career. Nick responded that Jack made a valid point, but that he thinks if the intensity of the policy is lessened, it will not be as effective. Monica Davis said that she supports the motion, but asked students who are currently living in the Alfond Apartments. Nick responded that this would not be effective for this years seniors in the Alfond Apartments, but also noted that he does not think that the seniors in the Alfond Apartments are the culprits of dorm damage. Anna Caron read an email from Pasquale Eckert which stated: “I’m strongly in favor of the ARF... I think that if someone is committing vandalism in their own specialty residence hall they should not be living there and they most certainly deserve to forfeit their living situation. I think that this should be a rule across the boards in ChemFree, Oasis, and SWOLE/the dialogue house of each year.” Nick said that this would be a trial run in the Alfond Apartments, and if the policy proves to be successful then it would be tried out in other dorms. Morgan Lingar asked about why the Alfond Apartments were the first choice for the policy to be tried out. Nick said that the Alfond Apartments absorb a lot of dorm damage, and that they are a symbol of a nice place to live on campus. Cole Yaverbaum said that she thinks the option to turn yourself in takes care of the issue about the policy being excessive for underclassmen. Connor Clancy said that he understands Jack’s point, but that if the policy is less harsh, then it will not be effective. Jack Mauel said that if a someone is caught in the Alfond Apartments they pay for it, and that a three year sanction is excessive. He noted that Colby is a learning institution, and that before the motion be put to vote the repeals process should be ironed out. Kylie Van Buren asked about how campus wide housing procedures under this policy would work. Nick said it is a possibility. Marshall Donner mentioned that he does not think many people get caught for committing
residence vandalism. Nick said that that is a great point, but because housing is largely symbolic, the policy is intended to be proactive, and that through advertising the policy well, hopefully students will associate committing dorm damage with the loss of great housing. Monica said she understands Jack and Cole’s points, and thinks that extending the window to turn yourself in to 48 or 72 hours might be better. She also emphasized that this policy equals the sanctions for dorm damage, because some people are from a privileged background and do not pay for dorm damage themselves, whereas others do. Kareem Kalil thinks ARF sends the message that dorm damage is not ok, and shows that we’re all committed to reaching a higher standard. Bowen Tretheway likes this idea but does not think that it will work because people do not get caught. He said that we should rethink our current policies, and noted that at Bowdoin and Bates there are much smaller charges and less acts of vandalism. Nick thinks that ARF is different. Ethan Crockett said that he thinks that this policy is a strong statement that will work. Cole reiterated the issues of privilege in terms of sanctions for committing residence hall vandalism. Michael Loginoff said that it is important that everyone, regardless of age or class year, knows that residence hall vandalism is wrong and that it has absolutely no positive outcomes. Em Jamieson asked about the why this would not be implemented with all dorms and that it bothers her that the policy is only for the Alfond Apartments. Nick said that they discussed on CAC how Colby students value housing, and that this is a test phase and if it works the policy will be applied elsewhere. Connor Clancy moved to question. The motion passed.

VI. New Business

Morgan noted that any concerns about the ARF policy should be forwarded to representatives of CAC and HFAC.

Jenny Sher said that at the SGA Library Lunch she and Rachel Jacobs discussed with the librarians the possibility of adding new movies to the film collection. Jenny will be conducting a poll to vote on movies, and requested that Dorm Preside forward the poll to their constituents in their next newsletters.

Wayne Kim talked with Carter and Becky Forgrave who run the iBike program about storage during the winter. If anyone has any ideas or concerns they can contact him.

Wayne motioned to close.

The meeting ended at 7:35pm.