INFORMAL MEETING/WORKSHOP
Internal reforms discussion

Michael Loginoff - Nothing is going to be perfect, there is no perfect model, but we (the task force) think that this addendum is what is best for Colby.
How do we solve the DP problems
not elected by constituents
unfair room draw pick
disproportionality in people represented
how solve issues
wipe room draw pick
broken campus into 4 zones of relatively equal size
large numbers, but represented by 4 zone senators
top 4 aggregate vote receiving senators
smaller than largest amounts of constituents in DPs right now
elections will be in the fall so people will elect their own representative, have
better connection with senators/constituents, vote for people that represent them
Justin Deckert - reducing size of SGA
increasing efficiency
hybrid system
keeping idea that people are represented by the people that live near them, proximity has an importance that is relevant
if we have class senators then 6 people from each class are representing the same people
currently we have 2 class presidents representing interests of each class and the zone senate represents their zone
Connor Clancy - key word is hybrid
drawbacks to our system, drawbacks to addendum 2, ours is a hybrid between those two, take away from one area, gain more in another
right now, addendum one is what will keep SGA moving forward
Daniel Meyer - Grossman is not included in any zones
Emma Clay - Grossman is going offline, won't have residents next year
Connor - let's not focus on the really little issues, lets not get bogged down, what is going to make SGA work is getting the right people into the right positions, this model helps determine that, hard work, determination all those things will make a model work, we have many other ideas about meetings and things that were not included about meetings and how to propose ideas, but they weren’t pertinent to the current reform, didn’t want to get bogged down on those details. Mike, the task force did such an excellent job doing this.
Mike - I think this model has the ability and is molded in such a way that requires active engagement across class years and SGA members, more dynamic ability on SGA
Task Force was
Jasmine Phillips
Arjun Saghal
Emma Clay
Connor Clancy
Andrew Ferraro
Dylan Ciccarelli
Jacob Kandel
Tim Gallagher
Justin Deckert
Michael Loginoff
Karolina Serhan
Ernie Aguilar-Arizmendi
Dan Sunderland
Jed helped extensively as well

Phil- process
if either passes, they will be fitted into the constitution in the manner they are
now, inclusive of all of the changes, we'll talk on language if they passes

Addendum 2
Dan Sunderland/Kylie Vanburen
The task force had a basic framework working on the issues that Michael
discussed earlier, if you read both document, you can see all points are covered
in both addendums, both addendums lead to the same size SGA. Classes, like
zones are about the same size, room draw also removed, also elected by
constituents if you are elected by your class
I'm not alone in this, spoken extensively with others about base question that
makes the proposals different, is a zone senator more likely to represent
constituents better because they live close to them or is a class senator more
able to represent their constituents because they are part of the same class.
Took informal poll this afternoon, not representative or random, but at least
suggestive (over 250 responses) around 70 percent of people feel more
connected with the people in their class then the people that live around them,
does that mean someone in your class is more able to represent you than
someone who lives in a dorm nearby?

Addendum 2 has a system in which senators are chosen by their class, top 4
aggregate votes
Senators/CPs are different because class presidents keep the same
responsibilities and act as an oversight/accountability feature the way I do now,
the same way a zone leader in addendum one would - noticing similarities
between proposals
I argue you know those in your class more than the people who live in a dorm across the way. In the zone system you could have all 4 people living in the same dorm while a class can be more representative.

Michael - both proposals address issues
do we want positions that give us more of the same of what we already have, or that make us more dynamic?
I think we want to be more dynamic
Dan thinks proximity is irrelevant, however I think it's irrelevant now because we’re doing it wrong, I think it can hold value because we do live with people nearby, who can represent us, but right now we’re not represented by the people we elect. How can they be accurately represented?
Class Senator/CP, as a class president we have several duties that we administer, when I look at class senator position, I don’t see them bringing something that CPs don’t already bring. If class unity is struggling it’s on the 8 of us to fix that, class senators aren’t necessary to fix that, that can be fixed with the individuals that already have jobs
One addendum gives us more of the same, senators represent same constituents whereas zone senators represent a different body
Justin - we agree you feel more connected to the people in your class but they’re already represented
Kylie - I felt more connected to addendum 2 because I’m worried about how elections will turn out, who will campaign really aggressively rather than understanding your role on SGA and your experience like you do with your class. If we’re trying to change and not have more of the same, isn’t zone similar to DP
Connor - yes senator is similar to DP, but there are less and they’re representing who voted for them, DPs not voted on by constituents.
Look at a company - levels of power, each level of power brings new dynamics to the company, SGA is no different
Wayne - Thank you to those who worked on the initiative, but I want to know what the rest of Pres Council has to say
Dan - find it very interesting that proponents of addendum 1 say that we’re going for more of the same, agree with what Kylie says, by making zone presidents out of DPs, face the problems DPs face but magnifying them, maintaining connections between community, representation within community, totally possible for senators to live in same building, where is proximity in favor of class senator model because class presidents do a fantastic job, hope you all don’t think i’m saying CPs doing a bad job and thus we need to give them backup, CPs continue with specific duties they are assigned, class senators serve as further voices but with different representation model
Kelsey - looking at chem free/quiet voices
Michael - nothing says chem free housing can’t run, everyone has an equal chance of running,
Dan - chem free elections usually contested
Brittany - specialty housing based on locations not by class, zone senator position stronger for that
Tanya - freshman, class council
wanted to provide input, I wanted to be DP, have been inspired by what the DPs do, surprises me that it’s peculiar that it’s harder to be COOT leader than DP, in the case of not electing our DPS don’t get to elect our CAs, think there should be a process and application process to be a DP, not get rid of them, think zone could work
Richie - a lot of the zones seem to be marriages of convenience, don’t think me (off campus) has any connection to frat row/other dorms in the zone, is that supposed to be a minor detail to overlook or should we consider that when we vote
Michael - we can change some, partly a numbers game, but mostly geographical, but those are things we can change
Cole - Thank you to those who worked on task force, awesome that you worked on this as an additional option to what SGA had already developed, really want to see something passed, the system isn’t working want an addendum to pass, not convinced on either one, but I’m curious as is if people could raise hands
I think reducing the numbers/having elections next fall is important, I’d like to see something pass tonight
Phil - going to move on to our regular meeting
Dan Meyer- does calling for referendum mean sending it to the students? Emma- 2 tentative motions, if neither pass, do they go to referendum?
Phil- we could send both, to send to referendum we need majority of pres council to vote to send it to referendum

The meeting began at 7:02pm.

**I. Minutes**
Minutes from last meeting were passed.

**II. Executive Board Report**

Phil Hussey- Welcome Emma Kuehn who was just appointed as Averill DP
Welcome to Justin/Joseph who are back serving as junior class presidents
anyone who is filling in tonight, feel free to raise the nameplate I’ll call on you by your name or the name on it

Wayne Kim – trustee leadership panel in April
also discussing ways to have a breakfast with trustees
exec board and CPs had dinner with David Greene - seems like a great guy

Cole Yaverbaum – trying to get students more casually and more often in contact with Deans/trustees, working with Dean Terhune on ways to get students to have dinners with deans in dining hall so interaction is not only when people are in trouble
Madeline Hunsicker – not present

Kelsey Cromie – met with Jed, working to reform the committee system and get student voices heard, working on a report for the Dean of Faculty’s Office surrounding the student experience on committees. If I reach out to you please respond with information, it’s hard to get student voices heard and present a strong case when I don’t have much information to go off of

Nick LaRovere - good to be back, with spring comes new CA hiring, applications are live, if residents interested it’s all online, due this Friday, new assistant director to campus life Dan Hirsch, Katrina’s replacement, running CA program, he’s great, new possibilities for collaboration

Shane Rogers – Wednesday, Stop Bias awareness day, Pulver 11-3, events going on, place students can go talk about how they react when bias incidents happen, learning to start conversations, implicit bias testing

Dan Sunderland – working on the reform task force, HFAC is becoming more active, room draw is coming along, working on bugs that may or may not occur in new room draw system, trying to make it as smooth as possible, looking at nature of SWOLE going forward, noting increasing interest

Lori Ayanian – Finance Committee meetings are now open for anyone to come to, SGA office, Mondays 10 PM, please come, tell your constituents Tuesdays we’ll put a document online that says what clubs had requests approved, can check list and note what has been approved in newsletters

Philip Hussey – elections - DP elections don’t have to happen in the spring per the constitution, continue conversation about when is best time, regardless of what happens this week
Lori and I leading a group of people to create a report for David Greene on the state of the college, changes, what students think, recommendations, for, by and about the students, if anyone is interested we’d love some help, hoping to get a consulting firm to help with survey/focus groups to make it a more legitimate thing in the eyes of the administration

Carey Powers – this week is start of SHOUT week, speaking hearing opening up together, starts Thursday with education activist Geoffrey Canada, chapel 8 PM, time change, through next week we have panel discussion Monday with faculty, film screening Wednesday Pugh, 7. Thursday conclusion of SHOUT week, endnote with ‘09 grad, Posse, life after Colby, would be great if you could include this in your dorm letters, biggest event, what PCB does

III. Dean’s Report
There were no deans present at the meeting.

**IV. Community Forum**
There were no community members wishing to speak.

**V. Old Business**

**Motion 1:** I, Jacob Kandel of Sturtevant, in order to promote democracy and increase efficiency in SGA, propose a Constitutional Amendment to change the number of votes necessary to change the SGA constitution from an unanimous vote to a three-fourths vote.

Jacob withdraws Motion 1.

**Motion 2:** I, Jacob Kandel of Sturtevant, propose the Colby College Club Ski Team become an official SGA club.

Chris Leet, Leah Cole Durst
Co captains of Colby Club Ski Team, compete in Maine and NH this year, didn’t have money to go elsewhere, could really use SGA support to grow, appeal to kids who skied in high school but not good enough to be on a D1 team
3000 budget
$50 team dues this year, but not enough
$414 registration, plus race registration

Michael asked about funding/fundraising

Lori
Have you spoken to athletic department? we're looking to see if club teams can be funded by athletics department

Chris
No, but we know athletics budget is tight

Dan
Could SGA fund to start and transition to athletics?

Justin
How many members? Do you anticipate growing?

16 members in a 3 day period, if we could go to club fairs we could have more
More members means more costs, but also less costs

Phil
SGA approval doesn’t mean automatic funding, just chance to apply for it

Club approved unanimously

**Motion 3:** I, Joseph Whitfield of the Class of 2015, propose the Global China Connection Club become an official SGA club.

Amanda O’Malley, Max Bergh
Looking to reestablish, was active 2 years ago, want to reintroduce the club, GCC is an international nonprofit seeking to foster better relationships between US students interested in China and Chinese students interested in US affairs, better understanding, communication, Colby would be one of 60 international Chapters, UPenn, NYU, Harvard, many prominent schools, once you become a chapter you have access to networking, 2 summits each year, one in China, one in US, 200-500 students each summit, cool speakers, learning how to create a start up, how to navigate legal system, how to bring your skills to China

Met with Shanghai Chapter president, very business oriented leader opportunities and networking

Wayne
Is there a funding program or clean slate?

Amanda
Hoping to start out, bring Victor back to campus, starting with speakers, especially alumni speakers, working with Career Center, collaboration, social events with Chinese students on our campus, demonstrated interest

Wayne
Would you rely solely on SGA for funding, or East Asian Studies department?

Amanda
That’s a possibility

Motion passed, club approved

**Motion 4:**

Tentative Motion 1 → Motion 4

I, Michael Loginoff, Class of 2016, move for a referendum of Student Body for a referendum of the student body on the Constitutional Amendments to be consistent with the structure outlined in Addendum 1

Dan
Motions are so relevant; can we discuss both at the same time?

Will
Can we lump the motions and send them as 2 options to student body? It feels more effective to send them together.
Amendment - which do you prefer to student body as referendum

Wayne
Realistically do you think students would read both addendums?

Cole
We’re actively seeking this answer from student body, but is this the best way?

Will
I think we want a referendum.

Kelsey
If you need 600 votes for a referendum to pass, do you think you could get that for either of the 2 options?

Kelly
Move to table

Will
Withdraws amendment

Michael
Don’t want to beat a dead horse, I’ve been harping on this, both things address issues, do so differently, I think it’s important to realize that proposal 1 gives us a different position and way to help constituents, yes gives class voice more prominence, then what is role of class presidents if we have class senators

The meeting went into RECESS at 7:48 PM.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:56 PM.
Phil we’re now discussing whether or not we want to send addendum 1 to a referendum.

Justin - moves to question
Dan Meyer - object only heard from people on task force, don’t think we should move to question today, same people dominating

continue discussing tentative motion 1
Joseph - it seems as though we’re just voting on who the senators will be representing, my concern is that you’re assigning people to represent people that already have voices representing them, that’s what class council is for, I like addendum 1, but thinking realistically how well will the zone representation actually take place, you have to entrust that zone reps will step out and get to know people

Cole - that is what you should be doing if you are on SGA, should step outside your comfort zone, not going to know until you try, most people agree this isn’t working, encourage you to vote yes, we need to do something

Kelly - addendum 2 seems redundant because we have class presidents already, I’ve been DP and been Class President, something special about having both zone and class aspects

Annie - I don’t want to be redundant, but I want to hear from DPs, I abstained because I don’t think that getting rid of the DP is the way to do it, good dorm president uses their dorm room to foster community so the pick is a good thing, in the fall there were a lot of empty seats on SGA, I didn’t want to be DP for the room, but considering that it was difficult to get DPs with the idea of a room pick it doesn’t seem like an incentive

Landon - I agree, don’t see how a person in heights can relate to someone over in Foss, but understanding that SGA needs to act, the problem I see with addendum 1 is that class representation isn’t equal, I don’t think problem isn’t the numbers, but how SGA’s rules function and how people talk a lot and tie things up

Kyle - appreciate efforts of task force, but trying to bite off more than we can chew, divide up piecemeal, can’t imagine that smaller pieces would be contested, let’s narrow down to what we can agree on as a starting point rather than trying to lump things together

Dan - equal representation within the classes is appealing, community aspect is something that we can realistically do at a college of 1800, don’t think it matters between 36 people and 24 people, think benefits of smaller dorm community outweighs the change in size, don’t think pressing to push things through is good, Colby will be around for many more years why does this change have to take place now

Bri - as DP my constituents don’t care, don’t respond to polls, don’t read newsletters, 1 is DP with more people, don’t always feel that Class Presidents represent voice, don’t think either one is better, but agree that change needs to happen

Phil - exec can decide to make elections in fall and we can continue to discuss
Andrew- shouldn't be concerned with getting something done just to get something done, Jed wanted us to consider public opinion and what they value, just throwing something out there is not good, is 24 people really more effective than 36 people? We should discuss systematic reforms and how we talk about things is better than format, there are more kinks to discuss

Shane - I think if you really think about what we want from representation, zones bring different dynamic, when you have a zone, community building, bringing zones together, more community building, out beyond your class, knowing community in a different way, this is what addendum 1 does, creating community in different ways

Kelsey - always talk about making change, but never gets done, let's do something now.

Tanya - room is important, having a DP who isn't just a CA, but a friend, is an important part of feeling like you belong

Dylan - idea of feeling connection of class, we say we value community, why aren't we trying to build it as outlined in amendment 1, know current system doesn't represent constituents properly, addendum 1 seems like logical solution, maybe once put in practice we can understand changes that should be made, hope of having less people would be to improve quality of elections, more people run for fewer spots, the number might not make SGA meetings more efficient, the way I come at this issue is the more contested elections will bring better people with clear objectives for the year who are hopefully going to be held to accountability by constituents will win elections rather than running uncontested

Nick - I mostly stayed out of this because I think this is something SGA needs to work out, but as an outsiders perspective you need to do something, but tell me, what has SGA done this year, how can we get things done, how can we make things better, we get caught in stalemate discussions, why not now? We're all here now, why not now?

Wayne- exec would smile upon tabling if someone would like to

Annie- I fear that with addendum 1 it would be a popularity contest, at least now you're electing someone you know, there are people who would be great DPs but won't be in your face about getting elected in the fall, corruption in terms of room draw, don't think SGA people getting better room draw picks isn't the corruption that is most prominent

Tim- I sincerely recommend that elections don't happen in fall, I think it will put SGA at disadvantage, 0 incentives for people on the edge, committees filled late, so many problems, difficult to measure efficiency without predetermined goals,
we didn’t enter year with tangible goals, spent 3 meetings talking about vandalism, don’t make us inefficient, make us well informed, shouldn’t criticize ourselves for not passing a motion in one night, hard to say what we’ve done because we elect to talk about laws of college

Joseph- DPs, honestly could you raise your hands if you’d choose to get rid of your position
About half raise their hands

Will - there are a lot of good DPs, looking at reform as if we need to reform, ineffective in many ways, is that because we have DPs as opposed to senators? Why are we ineffective, will reducing size really help, or is it the way we debate and what we debate, are we rushing into reform for reforms sake? We spend so much time talking about ourselves? Why don’t we talk about something else

Dan- we went in thinking we wanted to reduce size because this size is unwieldy, wanted to fix disproportionate nature of representation, wanted constituents to elect their representative, interesting to hear Annie’s point about using common space as a tool to be a better dorm president, we have great DPs, but in the past people go for DP for the room and then not care, that’s why I have my position, so that people follow through, connective incentive to benefit position, but can also be used only to benefit yourself

Elliot- I’ve done this for 2 years, there are things that are wrong, stems from lots of things, partially college’s ability and decision to listen to us as student leaders on campus, as well as our own, many charged emotions, many strong points, I agree there is a need for reform, not sure what it looks like, but urge every single one of you to think about constituents, yourselves, and what SGA isn’t doing right, have a constructive conversation, we’re not getting much done, move to table.

Motion is tabled.

**Tentative motion 2** is withdrawn - please go poll, can bring back for discussion

**VI. New Business**

I, Ernie Aguilar-Arizmendi, of the Class of 2017, in order to create a more inclusive and safe campus, recommend that the College Affairs Committee pursue the conversion towards gender neutral bathrooms in designated locations on campus.

Cole - thinking a lot about, comes out of action projects, not asking for all bathrooms be gender neutral, but those that are already, single stall, be
designated as gender neutral, conversion of the sign so that you don’t have to identify as male or female to use the bathroom, to go to Colby

Wayne - which bathrooms located on campus? Cole- one on second floor of Pugh between campus life and SGA, there are a lot of single stalls, also others that aren’t

Ramon - in Pierce bathrooms just say humans, not genders

Kaitlyn - is it legal?

Kelsey – yes, only bathrooms with more than one stall need to be single gender

Cole- not asking for a change in bathroom, just that campus recognize these bathrooms as such, voting yes doesn't mean it happens, think it’d be good to accept everyone on our campus

Justin - move to question

motion passes and will be sent to CAC

Andrew - informal meeting 2-3 minutes to present what you think best way to reform is… proposal, we can see what people think

Justin - I would advise against that considering how many people we have currently, disappointed that so many people have opinions but only 10 people participated on the task force

Karolina - Traditions has organized Winter Carnival, winter formal this saturday night, please let residents know, Page 10-1, Friday, working out an event, based on weather, we’ll let you know, fun things, encourage residents to go to Page

Elliot - chair of traditions, Thursday is giving day, celebrating signing the charter, alumni relations wants us to improve upon the day, last year we celebrated with bicentennial, alumni office will be tabling, why did you come to Colby, favorite stories, back to our roots, young alumni panel, vendors in the spa, similar to spontaneous fun day, band in LoPo Thursday night, alcoholic beverage in the pub, weather looks nice and cold for Friday, ice skating under lights with hot cocoa, tea and music, unofficial undie run sponsored by free ride, ski movie, etc, let me know if you have more events

Dan- It's going to be hard working on SGA constitution reform but it's important to gauge interest - passed survey that he talked about earlier to dorm presidents - if we can ask conceptual questions we can get a lot of people to respond - would like to continue student interest for that. There is a Contra dance in Foss on Friday.
Ramon - when is the next meeting for the task force?

Mike will send out an email after

Emma love your body week this week -- stop by some events this week in the spa

Phil election meetings are happening this week if you are running for an elected position this year it’s Wednesday and Thursday night in 7 pm in Lopo and Lovejoy 100 - please pass along info to your constituents. Only need to come to one meeting. Exec board will be in touch with you about dorm president elections.

The meeting ended at 8:37pm.
Addendum 1

SGA Reform

The Task Force on SGA Reform was created to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of student government at Colby. The Task Force on SGA Reform believes that the size of the body limits its flexibility, productivity, and decision-making ability (Adapted from "Colby College Student Government Association Internal Reforms").

The Proposal:

Position Reforms:

- Remove the Dorm President
- Maintain Class Presidents for administrative duties, to serve as a voice for class as whole, and continue duties based on Article 2, Section 3 of the SGA Constitution
- Divide residence halls into four Zones
  - Includes off campus
  - Based on student population
- Add the position of Zone Senator to SGA. There will be four Senators elected by constituents of their Zone to represent each Zone on campus. Senators must live in a Zone to represent that Zone.
  - The Senators of Zones will appoint one Senator to head their Zone and hold other Senators accountable of their duties
  - The Zones will be as follows:
    - Zone 1 - Foss, Woodman, Coburn, Mary Low, Heights - (total pop.) 444
    - Zone 2 - Alfond, Taylor, Williams, Leonard, Marriner, Dana - 462
    - Zone 3 - AMS, East, West, Sturtevant - 416
    - Zone 4 - Averill, Johnson, Pierce, Piper, Drummond, Pe-Wi, Treworgy, Go-Ho, Off-Campus - 444
  - This reduces the voting members of the body from 33 to 24
    - With the intent of increasing efficiency by decreasing size
  - This also solves concerns many have with the disproportionate and unrepresentative nature of the dorm presidency seats
    - Dorm Presidents are not elected by their constituents
    - Dorm Presidents have varying numbers of constituents (i.e. each student is not represented equally in SGA)
    - Dorm President priority housing is unfair for the rest of the student body

Duties of Senators:

- The Senators adopt the administrative tasks of the former Dorm Presidents, as well as some new tasks
  - Each Zone shall have four voting representatives to the SGA who will be called Senators.
  - Each Senator is responsible for representing the interests and concerns of their Zone members to the SGA and for informing the residents of their Zone of SGA motions, programs and other information as deemed necessary by the SGA
Executive Board.
- All Senators must also attend weekly SGA meetings, write weekly newsletters (must include name, room number and email), apply to serve on one all-college committee, and serve on one SGA working group.
  - Newsletters can be divvied up by Senators in each Zone - limiting the workload of individuals
  - Weekly newsletters shall be sent because the majority of debate shall now occur in Informal Meetings
    - These newsletters shall include all Agendas, summation of debates (only main points), and other points regarding the SGA Agenda in Informal Meetings
    - For Formal Meetings, the newsletter shall include all SGA Agendas and results of votes on motions
- In cases of emergency or extreme circumstances, such as a family emergency or personal illness, the SGA President, with the aid of the current Senators from the same Zone or Class President, may appoint an interim representative to the Presidents’ Council to serve in the place of a temporarily absent Senator or Class President. This interim representative must be a direct constituent of the absent Senator or Class President and will fill only that individual’s role. The interim representative may serve a maximum of two consecutive meetings, or three total, within an academic year.

SGA Election Reforms:
- Contingent upon the passing of Zone and Senator reforms, SGA elections shall be reformed as follows:
  - Executive Board and Class President elections shall occur in the Spring
  - Senators will be elected in the Fall of the Academic Year they shall serve in
    - Room Draw will no longer affect elections
  - Four Zone Senators are elected by their constituents within their Zone. The top four candidates who accumulate the highest aggregate amount of votes shall be elected as a Zone Senator
    - If there are not four candidates running in a Zone, then another Senator will be appointed by the SGA President
  - If a Zone Senator is elected in the Fall and studies abroad in the Spring of the same academic year, an election in that Zone will take place in the Spring Semester to fill the vacant seat

Executive Board Reform:
- Eliminate the Residential Life Chair
  - The elimination of Dorm Presidents results in no need for an administrative like figure to assist a non-existent position
  - Save $1000 from the SGA general fund

Submitted by Michael Loginoff on behalf SGA Reform Task Force, 2/21/14
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• For Formal Meetings, the newsletter shall include all SGA Agendas and results of votes on motions
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    ▪ Room Draw will no longer affect elections
  o Four Class Senators are elected by their constituents within their class. The top four candidates who accumulate the highest aggregate amount of votes shall be elected as Class Senators
    ▪ If there are not four candidates running in a class, then another Senator will be appointed by the SGA President
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Submitted by Kylie VanBuren 2/21/14