Committees Report
November & December

Academic Affairs Committee [Cole Yaverbaum, Justin Deckert, Emmie Laie, Justin Lutian]: Next academic year, the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium will occur on a day when classes, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities are cancelled. There was a discussion about clarifying the language that describes the diversity requirement. The Committee decided to each research a few of the courses that fill either the international or U.S. diversity requirement to assess whether the courses truly fit the mission of the requirement.

The Administrative Committee [Lizzy Gorence, David Giesel, Timothy Gallagher]: Did not meet.

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee [Jill Riendeau, Jessica Moore, Jonathan Eichholz]: There was a discussion about the Early Decision I application statistics: a 2 applicant increase from last year (308 vs 306); a higher male to female ratio (52% to 48%); an increase in the number of students not applying for financial aid (141, as opposed to the 133 last year); a 3% increase in applications from students of color (38% vs. 35% last year), with an increase in black and Hispanic applicants, and a decrease in Asian applicants; the number of international student applications almost doubled from last year; and on average this applicant pool also seems to have stronger SAT scores than last year's group. Admissions plans to enroll about 40% of the incoming class from the Early Decision I applicant pool (same as last year). Other NESCAC schools like Middlebury and Bates also had an increase in early decision applicants. There was also a discussion about the current system for how applicants' athletic abilities factor into their admissions decision. Of the 82 varsity athletes in the class of 2015 who had athletics factor into their admission, 69 of those athletes are white; there is very low representation of the athletic factor among other ethnicities, and that is because being a student of color serves as a different "tip" in the admissions process. The majors where athletes seemed to be overrepresented with respect to the rest of their class were considered; these included Economics, English, Environmental Studies, and Psychology. It was speculated that athletes may tend toward these majors because the classes for these majors have minimal labs, so it would be easier for them to create a class schedule around their sport schedule. There is a concern among the athletic department that team rosters seem to be heavily weighted with athletes from the Northeast, which is because of NESCAC restrictions on recruiting.

Advisory Committee for Off-Campus Study [Jenny Sher, Ben Carlin, Kushveer Jadeja]: The Advisory for Off-Campus study will not meet until spring semester.

AEATAG [Thomas Gregston]: AEATAG tabled in Pulver on November 16 to have students sign the pledge which allows students to make goals involving alcohol. The goals were emailed the following Monday to let students self-check whether their goals were achieved. There will be more tabling for the pledge, probably for Spring semester loudness. There was a discussion about how students' alcohol use affects staff at Colby, how to involve faculty in teaching about alcohol effects, the rationale behind the hard alcohol ban and the pub, and the prevalence of
beer games on campus.

Athletics Advisory Committee [Matt Mantikas, Connor Clancy, Samantha Slotnick, Caitlin Sperzel]: The Nordic and Alpine Ski Teams trip to Quebec over Thanksgiving, all Spring break athletic trips, and the Spring Sports Schedules were approved. Some guidelines for special trips and contest schedule approvals were changed. There was a discussion about the next steps regarding the two-hour practice rule as well as the improvement of the faculty liaison program.

College Affairs Committee [Rachel Jacobs, Ethan Crockett, Nick Zeller, Brittany Thomas, Tom Letourneau]: The Committee finalized and approved student sanctions for violations of the tobacco ban (to be implemented in the fall of 2013). The Committee received a report from Dean Moore on the activity of the Bias Incident Prevention and Response (BIPR) system. This was followed by a conversation about improving and raising awareness for BIPR. With regard to the Board of Trustee task force on student accountability, the Committee has discussed accountability and the possible future steps that would be made based on recommendations made by the task force. The Committee plans to evaluate the College's treatment of religious holidays.

Committee on Race and Racism [Wayne Kim, Lynn Hildalgo]: Did not report.

Cultural Events Committee [Joseph Whitfield, Jane Wiesenberg, Julianna Haubner, Isadora Alteon]: Did not report.

Financial Priorities Committee [Richard Lund, Lindsay Peterson, Alexandra Ojerholm, Daniel Garin]: There will be a report on the effects of gender differences in salary coming soon. Also, the budget for next year is almost finalized; there will be a meeting to review it soon.

Health Care Advisory Committee [Bryden Nugent, My Phuong Tong, Charlie Frank, Alexandra Brown]: Did not meet.

Independent Study Committee [John Grimaldi, Carolyn Katsarakes, Anne Friedrich]: The goals of the Committee are to: continue to track and review independent studies; standardize a form to transfer much of the legwork from the Committee to the student and assigned major advisor; aid in the creation of some digital commons; streamline the policy on how many courses taken abroad can count for an independent major; increase the chair term from 2 to 3 years to facilitate stronger chairperson to student relationship; and increase awareness on the Senior Scholar Programs at Colby. There are 16 independent majors in the class of 2013 and 13 in the class of 2014, most of which are Human Development majors who have utilized the Committee as a vehicle for the development of their independent major.

Information Technology Committee [Alexandre Caillot, Seyed Mahdi, Edwin Ward]: Chairperson Ray Phillips updated the group on progress made in several areas, including new software for administration and alumni and a project to improve Colby's servers. Michael Kaiser and Ben Greeley of Communications outlined the plan to utilize a new website software
called Content Management System in place of CommonSpot. The contenders are Drupal and WordPress; one of the two will be chosen and implemented this coming spring. Professor Bruce Maxwell was voted chair of the ITS Committee and Alexandre Caillot ’13 was voted student co-chair.

**Interfaith Committee [Brittany Chin, Michael Loginoff]**: This fall there has been a can opener drive in attempt to donate can openers to the Waterville Food Bank; donation locations are in the Lorimer Chapel basement and Pulver. There is a lecture on Thursday December 6 at 4pm in the Pugh Center titled “Were our Tomatoes Picked by Slaves” on food injustice by Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, Educational Director of Rabbis for Human Rights. The Homeless Shelter hosted a meal on Saturday December 1.

**Library Committee [Anna Caron, Erika Hinman, Jack Nivison]**: Clem Guthro was elected as chair of the committee. There will be more materials moved to the storage facility on Washington Avenue, which will open up space to make renovations on the historic reading room creating about 100 additional student study spaces in Miller Library. Renovations will focus on increasing accessibility. The prospect of creating a space for honor's theses was discussed. Updates on the programs Digital Production Center, Teaching with Primary Sources, HathiTrust, Digital Public Library of America, Europeana, and Measuring Information Server Outcomes were discussed. SGA requested popular videos and books, which were accommodated. The library would like to be more involved in the Humanities Center Theme next academic year, which will be centered around censorship. Finally, there was a discussion about the prospect of allowing retired faculty and alumni to access library sources through online authentication.

**Multicultural Affairs Committee [Tionna Haynes, Milton Guillen, Javier Monterroso Montenegro, Rachel Rosenbaum]**: There is a tentative plan to design a Multicultural Affairs website; maintenance and content of site needs discussion. Research about JanPlan funding is in process and a conversation about unclear methods about this financing was held. There was a discussion about the different types of diversity (e.g., ethnic, learning differences) and the recent presentation by Joe Atkins which indicated that Colby has not prioritized the accommodation of learning differences or physical accessibility.

**Student Security Advisory Committee [Carter Stevens, Ben Hannon, John Gilboy, Cecil Papafio]**: A suspect has been arrested by the Waterville Police Department in connection with backpack and other thefts from Dana and Heights. This was not a student or staff member, but had been gaining access to these areas because people had held doors open for him. Security reminds students not to hold the door for people who are clearly non-students. Students who had items stolen will be contacted by Security as the police department reacquires and then releases these items. A Party With Consent event was planned to take place in the AMS basement Saturday night, and Security planned to assist with this. Security and the Waterville Police Department were preparing for the Colby-Bowdoin hockey game, and reminded us that there are no warnings for bad behavior at such a crowded event; 3,000 were expected to attend. The Bias Incident Prevention and Response has been getting many reports, following up on these, and addressing them, so it is clear that the system is working and sparking dialogue
on campus.

SGA Committees

Dining Services Committee [John Williams, Marshall Donner, Jasmine Phillips, Anna Leschen-Lindell, Carolyn Bennett]: The role that the Committee serves was discussed, and it was decided that the goals of the Committee would be threefold: represent dorm constituents, help with dining services policy change, and The Committee is creating a survey to collect student feedback regarding issues that individuals have with specific dietary needs (e.g., vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, lactose free). A common suggestion is to increase the variety of cereals, and the Committee discussed implementing a possible rotation. The cereal issue and the new Take Four program will both be included in the survey.

Housing and Facilities Advisory Committee [Jack Mauel, Bowen Tretheway, Em Jamieson, Max Pollinger, Katie McDonald, Eva Lauer]: There was a discussion concerning a proposal to remove fines for residence hall vandalism which focused on reasons to appeal fines and alternatives to fines.

Publicity Committee [Monica Davis, Elliot Marsing, Jonathan Sommer, Kylie VanBuren, Sophie Barnett, Isabel MacKinnon, Jingan Guo]: The Committee has been working hard on the 1,001 Smiles toy drive, and they are tabling in Pulver Tuesday December 4 through Friday December 7. The idea to have a Dinner with Dorm Presidents ice cream social failed due to the costs from Sodexo. The Committee has working on publicity for Story Times with Carla Aronsohn and Dom Kone, the Multicultural Fellow, and Bro’s office hours in the Spa. A new installment of Behind the Hill featuring Junior class presidents Wayne Kim and Cole Yaverbaum. There have been preliminary discussions about Winter Carnival.

Traditions Committee [Pasquale Eckert, Ben Lester, Colleen O'Donnell, Caroline Abushakra]: The Committee began research on past Winter Carnivals at Colby. There was discussion about possibilities for Winter Carnival (e.g., warm food and drinks) as well as possible meeting places and resources to find old traditions (e.g., Library Alumni Center, Special Collections).