

CHAIR OF COMMUNICATIONS CONFIRMATION

Purpose: This motion seeks to confirm Abby Recko '22 as Chair of Communications.

The What: Motion to approve Abby Recko '22 as the Chair of Communications for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year as accepted by the President and Vice President of SGA.

The How: Per Article II, Section 1, §F of the SGA Constitution, the President's Council must confirm the President and Vice President's selections for the SGA Executive Board. After the Chair of Communications positions became vacant, Ashlee and Sam began interviewing various students interested in the position and eventually offered Abby the position. Please find Abby's application attached to this motion to aid in the President Council's approval of this nomination.

Strengths and Importance: Abby has already been a valuable member of our Executive Board. She has taken the initiative in many different projects even outside of the normal Communications Chair tasks. It is not easy to join an already established team, but Abby has brought unique perspectives and a dedication to elevating SGA's brand. We are so glad to have Abby on our team!

Possible Risk Areas: N/A

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed: *How will Abby be compensated given that she is stepping into this role in the middle of the year?*

Abby will receive a prorated stipend determined by the percentage of the year that she is in the position.

Abby Recko '22

Executive Board Position Applying For: Communications Chair

Second Choice Position (if applicable):

Please describe any current or past leadership roles that have helped prepare you for this Executive Board position.

As treasurer and now co-president of Colby Best Buddies, I've gained experience coordinating the interests and schedules of many heterogeneous groups. It has not been easy to organize such a large group of Colby students and members of the Waterville community, but I've enjoyed the chance to learn how to adapt to changing situations. I've also served as a co-head of the Events Committee with Colby Outing Club for 2 semesters, during which I've organized and advertised collaborative events with other organizations, in addition to hosting casual drop-in hours for people who are interested in learning more about the club in a low-key setting.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

I've become a lot more involved with groups on campus in the past year, which has opened my eyes to different perspectives and increased my feeling of community. I really love the small size of Colby, because the sense of community is so strong and everywhere you go, you'll find a friendly face. This has also allowed me to gain confidence and try new things that I would probably have been too nervous to do in my first year at Colby.

Describe a problem that you are passionate about fixing on campus.

I think that this year is especially difficult for first-years; with COVID restrictions and the usual challenges of adjusting to college life, it must be extremely isolating. I want to increase connections between new students and upperclassmen so that first-years can really understand and become a part of the community we have.

How would you address this problem as _____ (insert position) on SGA's Executive Board?

I would work to increase messaging about events that are specifically directed towards first-years and make resources more accessible. I've been thinking of special-edition newsletters in addition to the weekly newsletter - each edition would be shorter than the weekly newsletter and have a specific focus on a certain academic department, student organization, resource, etc. For example, one edition could be a quick blurb about religious and spiritual life at Colby (which could also be divided further into Hillel and Jewish Life, Interveristy Christian Fellowship, Colby Muslim Society, etc) and how to get involved.

SGA's Executive Board works as a collaborative team. How would you handle tension between Executive Board members?

I firmly support open discussion and dialogue in order to resolve issues. We all need to be coming from a position of mutual respect, and be able to detach critiques of ideas from judgements of people as a whole. I also think that it's easier to work as a team if you can have fun with your team members, so I tend to bring a less-serious vibe when appropriate.

How can you contribute to strengthening your position and the Executive Board as a whole?

Reorganizing the newsletter would greatly increase readership, especially if the format was more phone-friendly. It's difficult to have big events this year with coronavirus restrictions, but I believe that more communication with the greater student body would increase participation in the events that do happen. I also want to increase transparency between SGA and students, as well as strengthen the connection between SGA and hall staff. I would work more closely with the ARDs and CAs to ensure that messaging from SGA is consistent with the goals of hall staff.

Is there any other information you would like to share?

N/A

Confidential