

SGA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER CONFIRMATION

Purpose: This motion seeks to confirm members of the 2021-2022 Executive Board.

The What: Motion to approve the following students to Executive Board positions for the 2021-2022 academic year as accepted by the incoming President and Vice President of SGA:

- Jordan McClintock '22 – Chair of Equity and Inclusion
- Nischal Khatri '24 – Vice Chair of Equity and Inclusion
- Cheshta Prasad '22 – Chair of Community Engagement
- Chris Cho '24 – Administrative Chair
- Abby Recko '22 – Communications Chair
- Jason Leong '22 – Parliamentarian

The How: Article II, Section 8, §B, states that the President's Council must confirm the President and Vice President's selections for the SGA Executive Board. In the spring of 2021, the President and Vice President opened an application process for all Colby students to apply for the six open Executive Board positions. After reading applications and conducting interviews, the President and Vice President selected the aforementioned students for these roles. The President's Council will vote to approve these nominations at the last Formal Meeting of the 2020-2021 SGA on Sunday, May 2nd. Executive Board applications can be found in the Appendix of this motion to aid in the President's Council's approval of these nominations.

Strengths and Importance: All Executive Board members listed are extremely passionate about SGA and pursuing issues that affect all students on our campus. These members have all exhibited impressive leadership qualities and experiences that will help them in their roles. Each candidate's specific qualifications and attributes can be read in the Appendix below. Although the application process was competitive, with 10 applicants, the President and Vice President feel as though these are the individuals best suited for each role. With this said, the approval of the Executive Board is essential to the success of next year's SGA. By approving of the Executive Board now, all members of the team will be able to meet this summer to begin planning and outlining processes to ensure immediate success in the fall.

Possible Risk Areas: N/A

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed: N/A

Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students Consulted: Associate Dean of Students Jess Manno, Current SGA President Ashlee Guevara, and Vice President Sam Rosenstein were all consulted in the Incoming President and Vice President's picks for the Executive Board. This group has their full support.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

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Appendix A

Jordan McClintock '22– Chair of Equity and Inclusion

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

At Colby, I have been lucky enough to have been a CAPS mentor, a Community Advisor, and a Dis/Ability mentor here at Colby. These have all prepared me for an intersectional leadership role within the community. In CAPS, I was able to represent the college through aiding in the undergraduate transition of underrepresented minorities in science as both a student and mentor. As a Community Advisor, I have gained the ability to refine my interpersonal skills even more and tackle complex problems and interact with residents of all different backgrounds. Finally, my role as a Dis/Ability mentor has allowed me to further address accessibility issues that take place across different aspects of campus.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

The most fruitful part of my Colby experience has been utilizing the immense amount of resources we have here. I was fortunate enough to attend college as someone from a lower socioeconomic background. I have had research opportunities, incredible extracurricular activities, and was able to study abroad for an entire month. These resources are what have made my Colby experience incredibly special.

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

Colby is constantly evolving as an institution. Its commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion has become a higher priority over the past few years. However, I strongly feel that we need to elevate discourse for our POC and LGBTQIA+ folks even more. Barriers still exist on campus that need to be remedied. The textbook fund for example is inaccessible to many students and does not always help when materials are too expensive. Additionally, the college needs to directly address and provide workshops to combat racism that occurs within our Colby bubble.

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

If I were to be the Chair or Vice Chair of Equity and Inclusion, I would first garner student input from our Pugh community regarding the issues of materials accessibility and DEI workshops. Then, with their partnership, I would meet with Tayo Clyburn and the DEI team out of the Dean's Office. I would compile a list of what these issues entail and then present it to the Executive Board. From then, I would work with all of these organizations to remedy these issues in a way that is effective, efficient, and collaborative.

Describe a time that you were involved in a work or school conflict. Please explain to us how you handled it?

One specific moment during my Colby career that really tested my resilience was a significant financial hardship during my sophomore fall. I was supporting my parents at home and juggling jobs at school. I ran into a situation where my course/housing was on hold because of our financial situation. Consequently, my mental health suffered alongside my academic performance. I truly felt stuck and had no idea what to do. Thankfully, I was able to pick myself up and ask for help. I was able to extend the deadline for my financial situation, increase my work hours to compensate, and schedule regular office hours. I was able to get out of this situation but it took a lot of grit and determination. It is something that I believe had to happen in order for me to figure out how to handle difficult things in life.

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

I would be completely dedicated to incorporating meaningful programming to facilitate discussion and promote a safe space for the community. Additionally, I want to recognize and directly the inequities that exist at Colby and help collaborate with the other positions on the Executive Board to remedy them. I hope to not only use the platform to promote change but also pass it down to future generations of Colby to continue upholding the college's value of social advocacy.

Appendix B

Nischal Khatri '24 – Vice Chair of Equity and Inclusion

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

I am a Ralph J. Bunche Scholar, currently at Colby, which gives me the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and teach me more about the importance of social justice and civic engagement. This role also allows me to communicate and share ideas with other Bunche Scholars on current and past social issues that affect people of color.

In high school, I was the Director of the EL Giveback Program, which produced informational videos for EL students in different languages to alleviate the challenges of EL students when they first arrive in the U.S. I guided the program and administered the smooth transition of

producing, promoting, and distributing the videos. Here is a link for the website:
<https://elgiveback.weebly.com/>

I have been a canvasser for the campaigns of Bernie Sanders for President 2016, and 2020, and recently, in the campaign of Sara Gideon for Senate 2020. The role of a canvasser has taught me the importance of listening, as a leader, to people's problems which help find solutions to the problems because more often than not, the people know what is best for them.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

I have enjoyed being introduced to new people and learning more about their stories and background. Whether it be through classes, dining halls, or at an event, people have been open to me and it is fascinating to see people from different states and countries and their journey that led to Colby, and what they see for themselves in the future.

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

The biggest issue I have seen is Colby's attempt to be diverse and inclusive in the past few years by accepting more students of color but falling short of providing them with resources once they are admitted to Colby. Colby does have the policy that there is no parent contribution for families that make less than \$65,000 a year but that solely, is not enough. For example, I am thinking about how students who need financial help, pay for the cost of books, the cost of insurance, or when they have an emergency. Many people take these costs for granted but for some students, it can be a heavy burden.

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

I would work and meet with the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion to create a plan that addresses the financial burden for students. With the Dean and the Office of Financial Services, I would advocate for a policy change where Colby fulfills the insurance premiums for all students who are benefitting from the Colby Fund and create a program that allows the students to receive aid to buy books and other necessities. I would also engage in a campaign to make Colby students of this situation so they also can advocate for change. I know Colby Mutual Aid helps with these situations but Colby, as an institution, is more than capable to address these issues.

Describe a time that you were involved in a work or school conflict. Please explain to us how you handled it?

After the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school in Parkland, Florida, I and some of my friends decided to organize a walk-out during our lunchtime. We had started sharing the details about this plan through social media the day before and also posting flyers around school. The principal, after seeing the posters and learning about the social media campaign, called us to not do the walk-out. We refused and tried to explain our frustrations to him, but he did not change his stance. We then decided to go to the superintendent to ask for permission, explaining to him that this is a peaceful action to stand in solidarity and show our frustrations about school shootings. He was open to our ideas and decided that it would be best for the school to recognize

this problem. We came to the decision to allow anyone interested to participate in the walk-out during the third period of the school day. The result was that more than 300 students, out of a school of only around 500 students in total, participated in the walk-out.

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

I would strengthen the Executive Board and my position by always bringing ideas that promote inclusivity, diversity, and the advancement of students of color. One way to do this is by listening to the students themselves, by hosting community events, and learning about their problems and what they think are possible solutions. I would also expand the role of Chair of Equity and Inclusion where I would have meetings with all the Deans, maybe on a monthly or bi-monthly basis where I, from a perspective of a student, would ask and give suggestions in their approach to promote inclusivity and equity in their responsibilities. If possible, I would, along with the Vice-Chair, hold a meeting with President Greene to understand his goals and aspirations for the college and it promotes the values of inclusion and equity.

Appendix C
Cheshta Prasad '22 – Chair of Community Engagement

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

This year I started my own civic engagement project through the O'Hanion-Szostak Fellowship, where I recorded student music performances on campus and sent them out digitally. I became more comfortable taking initiative for things I am passionate about on campus, which lends itself well to the Community Chair position where I will need to take on different projects or events for improving the campus environment and its relationship with Waterville. Additionally, I am very familiar working with Elizabeth Jabar and the Office of Civic Engagement, which is beneficial to this position.

This year I am also a COOT Committee member, where I help take part in the planning and leadership of COOT for the following school year. While COOT is a wonderful program for first years, there are still issues of community and inclusivity which persist even past one's first year at Colby. These are issues I would love to help resolve as the Community Engagement Chair, and my experience on Committee is helpful for tackling these issues.

I am also on the Administrative Chair for the Executive Board this year. I love being on SGA, and have grown as a leader in my communication and organizational skills, learning how to work with a diverse group of people, and with handling conflict better. I was also a part of the Community Engagement Committee as well, where I worked and learned a lot from Natalie Guarino, the current Chair.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

The best part of Colby is getting to meet new people. For being such a small school, I still feel like I am constantly getting to know others. Some of my happiest experiences at Colby so far have been meeting others, particularly through the COOT program. Going into my sophomore year as a Logistician for the program, I realized it was the first time I was actively branching out and I felt like I belonged on campus. I loved engaging with people of different backgrounds and identities, which has furthered my interest and leadership within the COOT program, but also to different areas of campus. The program made me understand how important community building is to me, and how to create a more inclusive environment. This has lended my interests into SGA and my other civic engagement activities, where I really am passionate about bettering the community on campus and with Waterville.

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

While there are many clubs and organizations that first years can join during their first year, more needs to be done to make students feel included. One large issue I have noticed is with accessibility. Not all students have access to cars, and I have heard from first-years this year who have struggled finding things to do off-campus on the weekends because of this issue. I would want to resolve this by finding ways to increase transportation to different parts of Maine and access to the outdoors on the weekends.

Another issue is the campus's relationship with Waterville. It has improved slightly through my time here at Colby, with certain advancements made by the college through constructing the Downtown Apartments and the Lockwood Hotel, but with that has also been concerns of gentrification. In order to alter this negative mindset about Waterville, a better relationship should be initiated from the students. I am excited next year to make more use of the spaces downtown such as the Arts Collaborative Center, and also find ways to get students excited about getting off-campus into Waterville and volunteering in general.

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

For the accessibility problem, I would work on getting a bus that shuttles Colby students to Portland or other coastal towns like Camden during the weekends. I would plan over the summer to set up the logistics of this, and also work alongside the Class of 2022 Presidents who shared a similar idea on their platform. This would help students especially who do not have cars to explore more of Maine, which is a vital part of the Colby experience.

In terms of having more students more engaged with the Waterville Community, the first step would be strengthening relationships with local businesses. I would have more Colby Deals, and potentially work on having students use their Colby Cards at some restaurants downtown. Another idea would be having a Farmer's Market on campus. There currently is a farmer's market at Head of the Falls during the week, but having this on campus as well will help bridge the gap between Colby and Waterville.

I also want to make a lot of use of the Arts Collaborative Center next year. I would plan concerts every Thursday evening for example. I have experience doing this for my civic engagement

project, and can further this next year by including more bands from Colby and Waterville. Overall, I think these changes will make students feel more involved and civically engaged in the Waterville Community.

Describe a time that you were involved in a work or school conflict. Please explain to us how you handled it?

This past semester I have been leading the Judiciary Committee. One of the cases regarding the election that came up this semester actually involved a member of the committee. Not only was this a conflict on the committee - of whether or not they should continue their involvement for the remainder of the semester - but also a personal conflict because I was concerned about my working relationship with this member on SGA. I had to deliver the end result of the case to this member, but did not want this end result to introduce any malicious feelings towards each other, or adverse affects on how we would work together in SGA in the future. In order to prevent this to the best of my extent, I actively kept in touch with this member throughout the case. I was very open to hearing feedback from their side of the story and also communicative about my intentions to maintain a good working relationship moving forward from the case. It made me realize that sometimes in leadership roles, conflicts may arise that can be awkward or seem insensitive. As a leader it is important to recognize this possibility, but also be communicative and open to feedback.

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

I would strengthen my position by getting to know the other members of Executive-Board better. From working as Administrative Chair this year, one way I could improve is by finding more ways to collaborate with other members. This will help the Executive Board be more cohesive and productive. Also, I am willing to attend events that other members on Executive-Board or on SGA plan. Being involved with SGA events shows that you are also committed to this leadership position. I am also a very open and adaptable person - I am willing to meet with anyone on the Executive Board regarding any conflicts that might occur.

Appendix D
Chris Cho '24 – Administrative Chair

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

As a whole, the most pertinent experience I've had that has helped me prepare for this position was my time this year as a Freshman Class Senator. I really got to learn the ropes and get a feel for how SGA operates and what each different role does. Through my position and committees, I've gotten to know what Exec Board members do and how their actions affect the affairs of the college. Being a Senator, I've been taught numerous skills that will help me in the future. I've learned to be responsible and prompt with my work. Each motion requires a lot of thought regarding its implementation and overall effect. Deliberating upon these issues in short periods

of time has made me far more effective at getting things done. More importantly, I've learned the importance of listening to others and being receptive. Through talking with other students and staff, I'm now more aware of issues on campus that I ever would have been without being on SGA. I'm constantly questioning my role and how it can be used to better the lives of students on campus. These skills that I've honed and developed are important and are necessary for my future growth in SGA.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

Colby has been an amazing place and I'm so privileged to be here. That being said, the thing that I've enjoyed the most about my Colby experience is the connections I've made, not only with other students but professors too. When I first arrived to campus I didn't expect to fit in with everyone else. However, everyone was extremely welcoming and friendly. I've met so many amazing people who share common interests and have introduced me to new things. My friends push me to do my best in everything that I do and are there for me when things sometimes don't turn out well. The professors and staff have also been extremely friendly and are always willing to lend a helping hand. Even if its not about academic material, they see me as a person and actually care about my well being. Colby fosters an environment in which I have the freedom to spend time with others but also one in which I'm academically challenged by rigorous courses. Overall, I'm so very glad I came here and I can't wait for another three years!

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

After serving on the Finance Committee for a year, I became a little worried about how it approved funding requests. Approving requests by majority vote seemed a little unfair given the implicit biases of each member. This was never an issue but if it came to political issues, say the Colby Dems or Republicans requesting funding, how would the Committee put its biases aside to distribute funding? Despite my personal beliefs, I think it's important to allow for equitable and equal funding to all political groups on campus regardless of their standing on the political spectrum. Despite the government being sharply divided among partisan lines, institutions of learning like Colby advocate for freedom of thought and thus serves as a campus for all forms of political thought. To uphold this promise, Colby needs to firmly establish that all political groups on campus are entitled to equitable funding. Moreover, this issue could evolve into a much larger period of comprehensive reform by SGA as a whole. Perhaps SGA could voice their support for a future political action policy that takes into account what we can do to establish more specific rules and regulations regarding funding.

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

I attempted to spearhead this issue in the fall but it ended up getting pushed back as there wasn't a lot of thought put into it at the time. As the Administrative Chair, I would be able to further push the issue by bringing it to the Judiciary Committee which I would be the head of (which was the case this year). As per Section 5 of the Political Activities Policy, the Student Government Association may establish guidelines regarding recognizing student organizations

who seek to engage in political activity. By delegating this issue to the Judiciary Committee, they could deliberate upon what they view as equitable and equal. In addition, I would be able to work more closely with the Parliamentarian and Treasurer to ensure that political groups are well informed of their right to equitable funding during their review of club budgets. I would also collaborate with Mr. Uchida, general counsel of the college, to further examine the college's stance on political activities on campus and deliberate on clarifications to the current system.

Describe a time that you were involved in a work or school conflict. Please explain to us how you handled it?

Around two weeks ago, my group and I were involved in writing a research paper and were quickly approaching the deadline. Unfortunately, they ended up getting contact traced and were not on track to making the progress to meet our goal. Because the research involved a physical component, I was left alone to complete the research and collect the data. I felt extremely overwhelmed and on the verge of breaking down but I stayed in the lab all day for a consecutive three days to finish the experiments. My group felt really supported knowing I was taking on additional responsibilities to compensate for their absence. This experience left me incredibly drained but also determined and far more confident in my abilities. I understood the magnitude of the situation and I wasn't going to let my group down.

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

Since the Administrative Chair specializes in coordination, I hope to schedule additional team meetings within the Exec Board to better collaborate and coordinate our efforts. Despite all the members pushing different agendas, we need to recognize that as a whole, we all constitute the same Executive Board. By unifying our efforts, we can better accomplish our goals. This kind of further communication amongst the Exec Board is a way in which I hope to strengthen my position. While I assign members to committees and take formal minutes, I want to emphasize further communication between all members of SGA. In terms of my contribution to Exec Board as a whole, I can offer my dependable status. If I were to assume the position, I would be extremely eager to work. I would responsibly fulfill my duties on time and constantly communicate with others on issues. Additionally, I'm always willing to help other members of Exec Board fulfill their duties as well. Teams take hits for each other and I would be more than willing to cover for other members who are overwhelmed.

Is there any other information you would like to share?

Yes, actually! I know I touched on the topic of spearheading issues with committees but I'd also like to discuss engaging the new freshman who will presumably enter SGA next year. I love working with newer members and fostering their future growth. When I first entered SGA, I was extremely nervous and wasn't really confident in what we actually did. Sam & Ashlee really took the time to work with us and helped us understand what we were doing. I hope to help the new freshman achieve an easier transition into SGA and continuously inform them of what their role

is and how they can help. Exec Board sometimes seems very distant compared to the Class Presidents cabinets so I want to bridge the gap and constructively help out individuals who perhaps don't understand what we do.

Appendix E
Abby Recko '22 – Communications Chair

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

I joined the Executive Board as Communications Chair in the middle of the fall semester in 2020. I had no prior experience with SGA, so joining halfway through the semester in the midst of a global pandemic meant I was really building the plane while flying it (and the plane would occasionally catch on fire). Despite these challenges, I have found my strengths as Communications Chair and am constantly striving to produce exemplary work. I hope to continue in this role next year, when COVID will (hopefully) have settled down a bit and Exec Board can dedicate more time to non-pandemic-related initiatives.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

My Colby experience has been shaped by the interpersonal relationships I have built in my various roles on campus, and one of my favorite parts about my time at Colby has been bringing people together from different groups that I'm involved with. I love to foster connections between disparate groups across campus, to help others build both professional and personal relationships. An example that comes to mind is my work with the Outing Club, and developing a connection with the Colby Fly Fishing Club. I have been co-head of the Events Committee for the COC for the past year and a half, and some of my friends recently started up the Colby Fly Fishing Club. To help a new club gain attention and attract members, I have worked with CFFC and the other Events head of the COC to put on a series of casting clinics. By advertising the clinics on the COC's platforms, we have helped draw more people to the Fly Fishing Club's events.

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

One of my goals as Communications Chair this year was to improve the relationship between SGA and Hall Staff. Both groups have similar, if not identical, goals and objectives, so I have hoped to strengthen both by bringing them together. There has been a divide between Hall Staff and SGA for the past few years, but I believe that we can achieve more and better support students by working collaboratively. One goal I believe Hall Staff shares with SGA is the improvement of mental health services for students, which are currently barely able to meet the increasing demand for support. The CAs' close relationship with their residents, combined with SGA's connection to upper administration, would empower us to really lobby for the College to dedicate more time and resources to the Counseling Center.

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

Unfortunately, my time as Communications Chair this year was largely consumed with COVID-related issues, and I was unable to really dedicate myself to strengthening the Hall Staff-SGA relationship. However, I have brought this goal to Jess's attention during my meetings with her, and she fully supports this endeavor. This means that next year, I will have the backing of Campus Life in my efforts to work more closely with Hall Staff. Jess suggested that I reach out to the ARDs and coordinate having an SGA member come to the weekly Hall Staff meeting for the first 15 minutes or so, to get updates and information so that SGA would know more about Hall Staff initiatives and be able to support them better. Obviously, this would mean missing the first 15 minutes of the SGA meeting, so I believe that whoever is in the Communications Chair role would be best suited for acting as this Hall Staff liaison.

Describe a time that you were involved in a work or school conflict. Please explain to us how you handled it?

This year, the Doghead email was particularly difficult to write, as we needed to include the standard Doghead messaging as well as COVID-specific guidelines. I worked closely with Sam and Ashlee on this, and we agreed that we should be as direct and clear as possible, telling people not to share cups or bongs. Jess was also involved in writing the email, and she was on board with this goal of clarity, but she then added multiple people from senior staff and the communications team as editors of the document. The communications office was against including the word "bong," as they were concerned about the possibility of the email being shared with public media or other non-Colby entities. It was frustrating to work on an email that needed to be carefully crafted with each word chosen thoughtfully, and then come back to the shared document and find that upper administration had replaced most of our work with vague guidelines and unclear suggestions. I spent a lot of time talking with Sam and Ashlee about how to fit the College's wording with the message we wanted to put out. Through this experience, I came to really understand how to compromise, and how to produce an end product that may not look exactly like what I had planned, but still meets everyone's needs. This was achieved by keeping open lines of communication between all parties involved, and ensuring there was a continuing dialogue engaged in finding creative solutions.

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

Now that I have spent some time on Exec Board in the position of Communications Chair, I have gotten more comfortable in my role, both in relation to the rest of the Executive Board and all of SGA. I welcome the opportunity to help new members of Exec Board get their bearings and I will do whatever I can to support them. I have also developed professional relationships with many members of the College's administration, and next year I plan to use these networks to further the initiatives of my fellow Exec Board members. I also hope to implement an easy-to-use system for groups to submit their upcoming events and programming for inclusion in the weekly SGA newsletter, as we have a platform to reach all students that most clubs do not have. I hope to increase SGA's collaboration with other campus groups, and support the policy initiatives of other members of SGA.

Appendix F
Jason Leong '22 – Parliamentarian

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

My time as a Senator for the Class of 2022 and a member of the Hope Happens Here (H3) leadership provides me ample experience with parliamentary procedure as well as the planning and management of meetings. My unique experience being a member of both the student government and club leadership has allowed me to facilitate conversations that lead to successful initiatives between the SGA and clubs on campus. At the beginning of the spring semester, I planned and executed meetings with members of the H3 leadership to propose an idea for a mural in support of NESAC Mental Health Awareness Week. To help make this event more meaningful for the student body, I reached out to the SGA 2022 Co-Presidents to support this important mental health initiative. Furthermore, I helped write two motions this semester addressing anti-AAPI hate and medical amnesty. Through writing and presenting these motions in front of a body of my peers, I have gained a strong understanding of parliamentary procedure. I believe that my organizational skills and willingness to facilitate cooperation between different groups on campus as well as my familiarity with parliamentary procedure provides me with the experience necessary to carry out the duties of SGA Parliamentarian.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

The most valuable part of my college experience has been spending time with the Colby community. Throughout my Colby experience, I have had the opportunity to be a part of many organizations and a theme that I see across all Colby organizations is the welcoming environment that they all cultivate. While I have had my fair share of struggles on campus, what has allowed me to thrive has been the strong sense of community at Colby. I have found that the vast majority of Colby students are willing to be active listeners when approached by students who are struggling and want to talk. Nothing exemplifies this more than when I attended a fall mental health panel where students shared personal stories and offered to help any student on campus who needed a person to talk to. What I witnessed illustrated how Colby students understand that they are part of a larger community and that taking care of one another is the best way to keep the community strong. I have the utmost respect for my peers and being able to be a part of something larger than myself has been a truly moving experience.

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

The negative stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment is a problem not only on Colby's campus but also on college campuses across the United States. Listening to students describe how they have felt ashamed at one point or another to walk into the counseling center has been very difficult to hear. I believe that this problem has to do with both the accessibility of counseling and larger societal issues. While the counseling center is filled with amazing staff, I believe that there needs to be more counseling staff to help out the large number of students that want to seek treatment. The larger problem is the societal stigma that associates talking about

mental health with weakness. As a current member of Hope Happens Here and the SGA, I have led initiatives that helped facilitate conversations regarding this negative stigma. Through these conversations, I have seen students speak freely about their mental health in front of an audience which I believe is a big step in raising awareness in our community about this stigma.

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

As the SGA Parliamentarian, I will continue the work that I have done this year with mental health organizations on campus. I plan to continue serving as a link between the SGA and H3 by meeting with H3 leaders and helping to oversee co-sponsored events between the two organizations. Specifically, I will help oversee the development of next semester's mental health panel to ensure that it's effective in raising awareness of the negative stigma of seeking mental health treatment. I will communicate motions regarding mental health to clubs such as H3 and Healthy Minds to let them know of the progress SGA has made to better enable them to plan their initiatives. I will work with the treasurer to help allocate funds for events sponsored by these clubs so that these events can make a real change to our campus culture. Furthermore, I plan on dedicating my time to helping my colleagues on SGA plan and execute mental health-oriented initiatives using my experience as a club leader. I will call informal meetings when necessary so that the SGA is made aware of the work being done to improve mental health on campus and to hear feedback.

Describe a time that you were involved in a work or school conflict. Please explain to us how you handled it?

This semester, one of my friends commented on guns and gun-related deaths in an insensitive way. The situation quickly escalated as another individual shouted profanity in response to the comment. Knowing that my friend had a bad temper, I had to decide whether or not to intervene. Intervening had the potential to escalate the situation while not intervening would be morally wrong. I chose to intervene but only after listening to my friend's whole argument. I had a conversation about his experiences with firearms to better understand his perspective rather than saying flat out that he was wrong. I then presented my argument about why gun violence is a serious issue without raising my voice or attacking him personally. Through having a conversation with my friend, I was able to stand up for what I believed in without speaking from a perceived position of superiority. This allowed me to deescalate a volatile situation. From this experience, I better understood that having a conversation with another individual instead of confronting them directly allows for both parties to avoid escalation.

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

My experience as a current member of the SGA and a club leader is due to my strong commitment to mission-driven work. As I have done this semester, I plan on continuing to dedicate my non-academic time to developing my skills as a member of the student legislature. I will use the resources available to me such as Robert's Rules of Order, my online calendar, and my peers to strengthen my ability to run SGA meetings with proper parliamentary procedure. My

excellent time management skills will allow me to keep my fellow Executive Board and SGA members updated on meeting topics and times, reducing their stress and allowing them to focus on their initiatives. I will strengthen the comradery between my colleagues through my amiability and love of having conversations with my peers. I value the opinions of my colleagues and I will take the time to get to know them to ensure that our SGA discussions will start with a mutual understanding between SGA members. I see SGA as a team and my leadership skills developed from years of team sports will help me maintain professionalism on the SGA. I plan on bringing my love of community onto the SGA to make it a more welcoming space.