

SGA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER CONFIRMATION

Purpose: This motion seeks to confirm members of the 2020-2021 Executive Board.

The What: Motion to approve the following students to Executive Board positions for the 2020-2021 academic year as accepted by the President and Vice President of SGA in the spring:

- Hanna Bouchard '21– Chair of Communications
- Reagan Dennis '23 – Chair of Multicultural Affairs
- Natalie Guarino '21 – Chair of Community Engagement
- Cheshta Prasad '22 – Administrative Chair
- Emmanuel Sogunle '21 – Parliamentarian

The How: Per Article II, Section 8, §B, the President's Council must confirm the President and Vice President's selections for SGA Executive Board. In the spring of 2020, the President and Vice President opened an application process for all matriculated students to apply for five open Executive Board positions. After blindly reading applications and conducting interviews, the President and Vice President selected the above students for these roles. Now, the President's Council will vote to approve these nominations at the first Formal Meeting of the 2020-2021 SGA on Sunday, September 20th. Please find Executive Board applications attached to this motion to aid in the President's Council's approval of these nominations.

Strengths and Importance: All Executive Board members listed are incredibly devoted to SGA and pursuing issues that affect all students. These members worked throughout the summer as a part of the SGA Summer Committee and on their own initiatives to prepare for a busy academic year. You will see each person's qualifications when you read their applications, but on top of their individual qualifications, the President and Vice President feel that this is a terrific group to lead SGA this year. The application process was competitive with more than 10 applicants, but there is no one else the President and Vice President would rather have on their team!

Possible Risk Areas: N/A

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed: N/A

Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students Consulted: Dean of the College Karlene Burrell-McRae, Associate Dean of Students Jess Manno, and Former SGA Vice President Thomas LaJoie were all extensively consulted in the President and Vice President's picks for Executive Board. This group has their full support.

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

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Year: 2021

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Favorable Hours to Meet: By Appointment

**Appendix A
Hanna Bouchard '21– Chair of Communications**

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

This past year, I served as a senator in the fall before going abroad, and that role also allowed me to serve on different committees, including the Community Engagement Committee. Being on the committee allowed me to see what actions SGA was taking to foster community between Colby students and Waterville residents, students living downtown and uptown, and the greater Colby community. I think that this gave me direct experience that made me recognize the ways in which our community could benefit from change. In my role as senator and previously on the class council, I have learned to work well with others in the setting of SGA, which I would continue to do as a part of the executive board. I have held leadership roles with volunteering organizations in Waterville, such as starting a backpack program at the high school to provide food for those students & families in need.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

My Colby experience has been defined in several ways, most notably through the people I've met and through civic engagement opportunities. I have made great friends that I know will last a lifetime, and that means the world to me. Being involved in so many different activities here at Colby has allowed me to meet people I never would've had the opportunity to meet otherwise. I loved meeting my best friend through COOT, and being friends with my "COOT siblings" that might not have otherwise had the chance to meet. These relationships have made my time at Colby happier, and have made not so great times easier. Civic engagement has also been one of the most enjoyable aspects of my Colby experience because it has allowed me to stay connected with my home community. I volunteer through Best Buddies, serve on the CCAK SAB board, and coach youth soccer, just to name a few activities. This work is rewarding on its own, as I can see how happy all of the buddies are when I visit Quarry Road or have dinner in Dana, or see how happy my CCAK buddy is when I go to visit her at recess. I have enjoyed being able to connect both of my roles as a Colby student and member of the Waterville community to enrich my Colby experience. Being able to volunteer alongside fellow Colby students has helped me grow as a person, and giving back to the community that gave so much to me has allowed me to stay true to who I have always been.

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

One problem that I see on campus is the athlete and non-athlete divide. This past year on SGA, there was a working group dedicated to bridging the athlete-non athlete divide, as it is an issue most students choose to bring up when discussing their dissatisfaction with Colby. It affects all of our social lives and overall our educational experiences. I believe that the community engagement role should not only focus on the greater Colby/Waterville community, but our smaller community here on Mayflower Hill. When social bubbles exist, people can have a harder time making friends, finding fun things to do on the weekend, or feeling like they truly belong on

this campus. While many of us, myself included, are friends with athletes, it is still important to recognize that sometimes, at a school without Greek Life, sports teams can fill this space and act in an exclusive capacity similar to fraternities/sororities. It is important to me that our Colby community is an inclusive space for us all to thrive in.

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

I would work with all individuals across campus to ensure that we are planning events that are inclusive to everyone. This includes volunteering events such as Colby Cares Day, in which we all come together to give back to the Waterville community, but also events on campus for students to connect, such as collaborating with the Pugh Center to host a Saturday karaoke night that all students can attend. Providing these events and opportunities gives students a chance to connect with those outside of their social circle, enriching the relationships we have with others in this community. I believe that through collaboration with clubs and teams on campus, we can also host more events on campus. Students always discuss the fact that there unfortunately are not a lot of options for things to do on the weekends in Waterville/on campus, so working together with clubs and campus life would make it easier to plan events for students to go to.

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

I think that the only way that we can create change here at Colby is by working together to combat the problems that we see affecting our campus and community. I think that the members of the executive board (and all members of SGA) should hold each other to high standards, and expect high levels of hard work and dedication. I would hold my peers accountable for putting in the work that they signed up to do. Since members of SGA sign up to make an impact while here at Colby, everyone should want to put in the required work, and be encouraged to do so. However, I also realize that we are all very involved students, and sometimes need some assistance. When able to, I would always be willing to help other executive board members with their various tasks and projects. Tension between members should not cause functional problems as we all have the same end goal in mind, so I would encourage us to work together and have open communication so that tensions do not get blown out of proportion. I think that encouraging others to do their best and supporting them will produce an executive board environment in which we can all thrive and succeed. Additionally, if there is tension between board members, I would always be willing to listen to others' concerns and offer my assistance if needed.

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

I would work together with the other members of the executive board to make sure that we are all functioning as a team and supporting each other in all possible ways. I am a team player, and look forward to attending various SGA events hosted by all of the different chairs, committees, and classes. In my position on the executive board, I would use my leadership qualities and communication skills to help guide the underclassmen on SGA with their various goals and motions. I would be supportive of all members on the board (and SGA), and always be willing to

talk things over and offer advice to others. I will use my dedication and organizational skills to not only make sure that I am an effective student leader, but that those in the position after me will have the tools and connections they need to ensure that the work continues after our class is gone.

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Appendix B
Reagan Dennis '23 – Chair of Multicultural Affairs

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

I am currently the Fellow for the Pugh Center's First Generation Low Income Program for Student Success (FLIPS). In this role, I am responsible for overseeing mentors, programming events, and serving as a liaison for the Pugh Center. This role has not only equipped me with the skills needed to manage interactions with the Pugh, but would allow me to contribute a unique and educated perspective to the position. As the FLIPS Fellow, I am already required to attend PCLC meetings, and meet with the Pugh Director, so I am already in a position to accept those responsibilities as Chair of Multicultural Affairs. Being an employee and representative of the Pugh Center has allowed me to become educated on the different cultural clubs/ affinity groups at Colby and issues that impact them. It also gives me credibility in making important and informed decisions. In addition to being a FLIPS Fellow, this year, I served on the SGA committee for Diversity and Inclusion and Multicultural Affairs. Through this, I gained experience in working in SGA and also was able to be a part of generating solutions to issues of inclusion at Colby. Having this experience, would allow me to continue the work of the committee and the previous chair and would maintain continuity in spite of the unexpected end of the semester.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

Being at Colby has allowed me to discover my interest and has fueled my passion for issues of equality. I enjoy many of the important educated conversations I been able to engage in at Colby. Colby's environment allows for quality student interactions and I always leave a dialogue having learned something new. I have loved being a member of the Pugh Center and clubs like SOBLU in which I am able to connect with individuals from similar backgrounds as me. I have made meaningful connections through the Pugh center and have found a community of people who support me.

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

As a member of the DEI/Multicultural Affairs committee, one problem I identified was professors failing to make their students of color, queer students, etc. feel comfortable in the classroom. It is difficult to feel like an "other" and it is important that professors on Colby's campus acknowledge the struggles of students from disadvantaged groups and work toward making the classroom a space that is inclusive and inviting for ALL students.

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

Last year, collectively, the committee came up with the idea to have a workshop. I believe that a workshop geared towards trying to educate professors on equity and respect in the classroom would create inclusivity and respect in learning environments. This workshop would be a safe

space for professors to learn what ways in which THEY have been failing their students or possibly making the classroom less welcoming and educate them on the use of inclusive language and how race/gender/sexuality etc. dynamics operate in the classroom. The end goal would be to make the classroom a more comfortable, inclusive, and respectful environment for all students and I believe that through educating the professors, who should be responsible for classroom interactions and addressing issues of diversity within their course, we would be making an important stride towards accomplishing that goal.

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

I work very well in groups and seek to find compromise and solutions that will allow us to be successful as a collective in the end. If tensions were to arise, I would respond through listening and trying to fully understand the situation and the perspectives involved, and operate from a solution-based mindset, to resolve these issues. I feel that conflict is best resolved when the collective goal/mission is kept in mind. I will be respectful in conversations or disagreements with other members and use emotional intelligence and logical thinking in trying to find common ground or resolve the tension.

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

I am very passionate about issues of multiculturalism and diversity and believe whole-heartedly in the mission of making all spaces inclusive. I have acknowledged areas where Colby could improve and feel that with my passion, along with my extensive and relevant experience in working with the Pugh and serving as a member of the committee for DEI/Multicultural Affairs, I am incredibly qualified to hold this position and make meaningful and impactful decisions that will serve to benefit all students on campus.

Is there any other information you would like to share?

In my time being on the committee, I truly enjoy being involved with SGA and being able to contribute to real change happening on campus. I like Colby and I am very passionate about being a part of making Colby better and improving the experiences of students from oppressed groups.

Appendix C
Natalie Guarino '21 – Chair of Community Engagement

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

At the end of freshman year I was hired as the Fellow of Events for the Colby Volunteer Center and served my entire sophomore year (was supposed to be appointed as a 3 yr position but the Volunteer Center office was turned over to the Civic Engagement Office downtown and my job was lost). In this role my team and I planned all large scale campus events that required civic engagement (e.g., Colby Cares Day, Fall Johnson Day, Halloween Extravaganza, etc.) most of which incorporated the greater Waterville community and encouraged volunteer participation from students across campus. Additionally these events often required catering from local Waterville establishments, and so I was able to formulate relationships and processes with these restaurants and bakeries to provide food for such events and be compensated through our budget. My role also required communication with many different entities for outreach to plan each event (e.g., calling all volunteers, coordinating with the community)

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

One of the things I have enjoyed most about Colby is the opportunity for any student to become involved in its decision making processes; one of my biggest regrets is that I have waited until now to take the steps to try and get involved directly - better late than never!

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

From my time at the Colby Volunteer Center I have seen firsthand the camaraderie that comes from volunteering at and/or being included in events that engage both the greater Waterville community and the campus community. It is through events like these that people find commonalities, work together to solve problems, and overcome prejudices. I loved my role at the Colby Volunteer Center and took pride in having the opportunity to bridge the gap between Mayflower Hill and the greater Waterville Community through volunteering opportunities and community outreach. When I lost my job I was extremely saddened and since then have not seen the same level of outreach on campus or in the community. This Executive Board role could allow me to continue to try and make meaningful connections between our little campus and its community, strengthening bonds that will hopefully last for years to come.

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

Increasing community engagement needs to be addressed not as a problem, but as a solution to many problems. Increasing community outreach and events that strengthen a sense of camaraderie between campus and the greater Waterville community will not only facilitate our growth downtown but will also facilitate future business connections for the college and its Waterville counterparts (catering, supporting local businesses, etc.). Additionally, by creating contained and supportive places for the community to mix with members of Colby, we can create

an environment that fosters new interpersonal connections, stimulates productive conversations that incorporate community members that are broadly representative of the whole, and create a mutual learning environment in which we can learn from the Waterville community as much as, if not more than, they can learn from us.

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

Having worked with a team all trying to obtain different yet connected goals in the past, I am well prepared for such tension. In times of tension, I think it is important to let each person speak their part and to remind ourselves of why we are here together and how our specific goals align with the greater team’s initiatives. It is easy to become consumed with one’s own goals, but by reminding each other of our interconnectedness and how each unique goal affects an entire community, we can recenter and come together to form an equitable solution.

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

As a team member, it is important to not only feel responsible for your own initiatives, but also for the team’s goals as a whole. When one member needs support the entire team should flock to their aid as one would expect the team would do for oneself in a time of need. It is equally important that all communication be kept in plain sight, allowing all team members to bring their ideas to the table without scrutiny so as to foster a welcoming environment in which no one feels threatened.

Appendix D
Cheshta Prasad '22 – Administrative Chair

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

I am very involved with the COOT program at Colby. Last summer I was a logistician where I spent a lot of time preparing and distributing equipment for each trip. I learned a lot about coordinating with a large group of people, including other logisticians and COOT leaders. As trips departed from and returned to campus, I spent a lot of time directing where the leaders should leave their equipment, food and gear. Even through our two week training before COOT, we went through leadership scenarios where I learned the importance of vulnerability. This allowed me to be more conscious of what my strengths and weaknesses are as a leader, and how to utilize that when working with a group of people. Doing so also made me realize things about the program I was more passionate about improving. For me, this pertained to the role of a logistician, and by being aware of this I was able to talk to the COOT leadership team. These skills and experiences will help me as an Executive Board Member of SGA. I have the flexibility and ability to work with any group of people. I am willing to spend the effort and time ensuring a bettering relationship between Colby and Waterville, just as I did as a logistician. Through this position, I can narrow down specific things I hope to improve about volunteering on campus, and confidently communicate with the Office of Civic Engagement or other faculty, in ways to better volunteering, just as I have done with communicating with the COOT leadership team. Additionally, this semester I started a volunteering initiative where students could perform music at local nursing homes in Waterville. While this got cut short due to the COVID-19 Crisis, I plan to continue this initiative in the fall. This type of leadership and initiative is important on the Executive Board - for bringing new ideas, and for having someone who genuinely wants to improve the Colby and Waterville Community.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

The thing I have enjoyed most about Colby, is that it has allowed me to be truly independent and explore my interests. As a Freshman it was almost liberating coming to a school that was so full of new opportunities and experiences. I have joined clubs that I did not know existed, such as Ultimate Frisbee, and took classes out of my domain in science, such as Philosophy. Through developing my own sense of independence, I have met incredible people and professors, who have helped me navigate my true interests. I realized how much I really cared about Music and Medicine. This motivated me to expand that interest, which led to my volunteering initiative. I love how Colby is incredibly student driven - full of students who are passionate, independent and willing to share their passions with the community. Volunteering has been a great outlet for doing so for many students, and I hope to improve that through this position.

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

One problem I have noticed at volunteering at Colby, is that joining volunteering organizations is not very clear. As a Freshman I wanted to do volunteer work in nursing homes or the hospital,

but was not able to get involved until later in my spring semester because there was such a lack of advocating for volunteering. I found it very easy to join clubs because of the club fair or emails, but there was no clear place or well advocated place to find volunteer opportunities. I searched the volunteer website but it was barely updated with information. Volunteering opportunities is something that can be better advocated for, and organized better for students' interests.

I also know there is not a well established space on campus for student volunteering. There is The Office of Civic Engagement, but it would be beneficial to have a student-driven place. For example, I know students who have come back from volunteer work and did not have a physical space to drop off equipment they had for volunteering the next day. This need for space is necessary for having volunteering be more student driven, and beneficial for coordinating and meeting other people within the same volunteer work. Another issue is in some volunteer work on campus, students are not aware of other Colby students who are involved in the same program. For example, I volunteer at Maine General hospital but only know one other person on campus that volunteers there, but my coordinator says several people at Colby do. Having a space on campus is also beneficial with making connections for people that are in the same volunteer work as you, and can help students collaborate and organize group work for their volunteer program.

I also have noticed that some people negatively view Colby's relationship with Waterville. For my Accepted Students Weekend before I came to Colby, I asked currently enrolled students about Waterville. They told me very negative feedback, stating how the Waterville community hates Colby students. It was very troublesome hearing this as an incoming student, that almost made me regret my decision to come to Colby. However, after a few years, I feel that this view has improved, but is still not great. I hope that with certain initiatives, such creating a student volunteer space, and creating an online forum or organized webpage, students will realize there is rather a lot of positive influence that comes from engaging with the Waterville community.

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

I would address this by having a more organized website and volunteer site, which has a list of different volunteer options. Those options could also be listed under different categories, such as Art or Health, that allows students to easily find volunteer work based on what they are interested in. I would advocate for this, as it also lets students know who to contact if interested in an option. I would also advocate for a space, possibly somewhere in the Spa, where students can go meet for their volunteer purposes. This space would promote student driven volunteering, and also bring a positive look to Colby-Waterville interactions. This relationship is so important, and in order to strengthen it we need to have a study body that sees this relationship as a positive thing as well. Advocacy for these two things as a Board Member would help this.

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

From my experience as a logistician, I learned to handle tension well. Sometimes we would not agree on our organization techniques, but made compromises and worked together in smaller groups to fix a problem. As an Executive Board Member, I might work with other people that might not agree with my ideas, or I might not agree with theirs, which can lead to tension. I am very open to talking with others if they do not agree. I think that is the best way to create a compromise or some other solution to the problem. Being adaptable and having patience is also key to handling tension. Talking over a solution once may not solve a problem. However, gradually talking over solutions, after also taking time for yourself to reflect, might be another way to handle disagreement. There is not just one way to handle tension, and in order to reduce it the most, one has to be open to new ideas, creative in how to solve it, and have lots of patience.

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

I would strengthen it by enhancing Civic Engagement to more areas on campus. I think courses that incorporate a Civic Engagement component are interesting. Having more courses like that would be interesting, and help combine Colby academics with Waterville as well. Having JanPlan courses that focus on Civic Engagement may be beneficial as well. Additionally, creating a system for students to give input on volunteer initiatives, or other topics regarding the student body, would be a good idea. There could be polls, or starting the forum page, where we can get direct student feedback on any new initiatives we run. Staying engaged with the student body also maintains a strong relationship, which strengthens the Executive Board as a whole.

**Appendix E
Emmanuel Sogunle '21 – Parliamentarian**

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

During my junior year, I was the president of the Colby African Society along with one of the co-presidents of the Student Programming Board. Through these positions, I have learned to be comfortable being in the role of a leader and the responsibility needed to run a club. This includes running meetings, working with club members to ascertain goals for the club, and doing all it takes to make the club and its events successful. I was also a senator on SGA for a moment and through that, I learned how SGA works more extensively and how meetings are run.

What have you enjoyed most about your Colby experience?

What I enjoyed most through my Colby experience are all the opportunities that I have been given. Whether that be going to Italy for my Jan plan, getting to go on different conferences with various clubs, or getting to throw cool events as a club. All of these created lasting memories and really made me better enjoy my college experience.

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

One problem that I am passionate about fixing on campus is making the college feel more like home to minority students. College is supposed to be an amazing four years for students but through my experience and those around me, that isn't the case. There has definitely been progress since I entered my first year, but I want more positive Colby narratives from incoming Black and Brown students.

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

Many of the relationships students make on campus are through their various affiliations to organizations on campus. These clubs serve to help cultivate a micro-community in Colby's larger community. A positive club experience ultimately results in a better Colby experience. Since the Parliamentarian works along with the treasurer to oversee clubs, I would use that position to help club leaders do everything in their power to not only make their club inclusive but also the events they put on to the larger campus. I want to work to give clubs the resources to help their members and other Colby students. As Parliamentarian, I would also be responsible for helping to execute SGA initiatives that are aimed at addressing the exact problem of making the campus more comfortable for all students on campus.

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

I would handle the tension between Executive Board members, through health confrontation. Tension only gets worse if you don't address the problem and let it stew over time, so I would

like to confront head-on any uneasiness among the group. Since we are a collaborative team, we need to be able to communicate with each other, even if we don't agree, while also maintaining a safe space and a sense of community.

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

I believe I can contribute to strengthening my position and the Executive Board as a whole by holding myself along with my fellow board accountable. I know I have goals for what I would like to accomplish in this position, and I am sure the rest of the board does as well, so keeping each other responsible for these goals and to the students who we are serving is crucial to creating strong leadership. I willing to put in the time and effort needed to make the most out for this positioning and create changes that last long after I am gone, and I believe that attitude is necessary to be successful in this position on the executive board.

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