

Motion on a Long Term Medical Amnesty Policy

Purpose: A Medical Amnesty Policy cultivates responsible decision making, reduces barriers to calling for help, and encourages students to actively contribute to improving the health and safety of the community in a situation involving an alcohol and/or prohibited substance related medical emergency. A long term Medical Amnesty Policy that becomes a part of the Student Handbook ensures that in the future, students will always have the minimum amount of barriers to calling for help in an alcohol and/or prohibited substance related medical emergency. Colby encourages all students and hosting organizations to always rapidly call for help when they suspect that medical attention is necessary. Medical Amnesty only applies to alcohol and prohibited substances policy violations under the Student Code of Conduct.

The What: The Student Government Association strongly recommends that the College implement for the Fall Semester of 2021, a permanent Medical Amnesty Policy into the Student Handbook.

The How: This recommendation will be communicated in the form of a letter — included in the appendix of this motion — to the College Affairs Committee (CAC) signed by the SGA. This will be voted on by the CAC who will decide upon whether the completed Medical Amnesty Policy (also included in the appendix) will be added to the Student Handbook.

The Who: The College will be responsible for implementing this policy similarly to the implementation of the Medical Amnesty Policy and Good Samaritan Policy pilot programs in the Fall of 2018.

Strengths and Importance: Given the life threatening nature of alcohol and drug emergencies, we believe that it is of paramount importance that barriers preventing students from calling for help in alcohol and drug emergency situations be removed.

Possible Risk Areas: Students may encounter difficulty calling for help in situations not covered by the Medical Amnesty Policy such as those where alcohol and drug emergencies are accompanied by violations not covered by the Policy. Additionally, the implementation of the Medical Amnesty Policy is up to the discretion of The Assistant Director of Community Values, Conflict Resolution and Accountability and there can be situations where students who believe Amnesty applies to them are not given Amnesty due to the unique nature of their situation.

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:

Q: Would Medical Amnesty apply to disciplinary action from coaches and the athletics administration for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

A: No, the Medical Amnesty Policy only applies to disciplinary action from the Office of the Dean of the College. The Athletics Administration does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Dean of the College.

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

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Favorable Hours to Meet: N/A

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Favorable Hours to Meet: N/A

Appendix

Letter to the College Affairs Committee:

To: Karlene Burrell-McRae, Dean of the College
The College Affairs Committee

From: Ashlee Guevara, SGA President
Sam Rosenstein, SGA Vice President
Joshua Brause, Class of 2023 Co-President
Jason Leong, Class of 2022 Senator

Date: April 11, 2021

Subject: Regarding a Long Term Medical Amnesty Policy

We, the Student Government Association of Colby College, endorse the policy recommendation of the Medical Amnesty Policy Review Committee for a long term Medical Amnesty Policy at Colby. The 2-year pilot program of the current Amnesty Policy has led both the Medical Amnesty Policy Review Committee, as well as the SGA, to endorse a long term Amnesty Policy, revised with the consideration of the pilot program's advantages and disadvantages, which prioritizes student safety over disciplinary procedures. We are confident that this recommendation for a long term Medical Amnesty Policy is a necessary and effective step to minimize the barriers for students in need of help to seek it.

Thank you,

The Student Government Association of Colby College

Colby's Medical Amnesty Policy Review Committee - 4.7.2021 Draft:

Policy Purpose: A Medical Amnesty Policy fosters responsible decision making, reduces barriers to calling for help, and encourages students to take active steps in maintaining the health and safety of the community in a situation involving an alcohol and/or prohibited substance related medical emergency. Colby encourages all students and hosting organizations (Any organization, club, or student group hosting a Colby approved event where alcohol is being served with permission from the College.) to call for help as quickly as possible when medical attention is necessary. Medical Amnesty only applies to alcohol and prohibited substances use policy violations and sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct.

Policy Application: In a situation where students or members of an organization seek medical attention for an alcohol or prohibited substance related medical emergency, Colby will treat the intoxicated students' use of alcohol or prohibited substances as a health and safety matter, not a disciplinary incident. Students who called for help and students who supported calling for help are also eligible for Medical Amnesty under this policy. Amnesty does not necessarily apply to everyone involved in a situation or attending an event.

Referrals and Notice: When the student who required medical attention is allowed amnesty from disciplinary action for an alcohol or prohibited substance violation, they will be referred to Colby's Substance Use Intervention Coordinator for confidential discussion of the incident and its contributing factors. This referral is a supportive measure not a disciplinary action. There will be no disciplinary findings for the alcohol or prohibited substance use.

In an effort to provide supportive follow up care, The Asst Director of Community Values, Conflict Resolution and Accountability will also notify:

- The Class Dean of the student who needed medical attention.
- The Coach of the student who needed medical attention if they are a student athlete.

Policy Limitations:

- Medical Amnesty is offered by the The Asst Director of Community Values, Conflict Resolution and Accountability for first time violations of the alcohol and substance use policy. This policy does not protect students or organizations who repeatedly violate Colby's policies.
 - The decision regarding case eligibility to apply Medical Amnesty for first time violations is made by the The Asst Director of Community Values, Conflict Resolution and Accountability.
 - Once a student receives "Medical Amnesty", future amnesty is at the discretion of the in consultation wThe Asst Director of Community Values, Conflict Resolution and Accountability with the Dean of Students.
- This policy only applies to amnesty for alcohol and prohibited substances use policy violations and sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct.
 - If other Colby policy violations, including, but not limited to: Title IX, assault/other physical violence, property damage, harassment, or hazing, occur as

part of an incident requiring medical attention, Colby will take disciplinary action and apply sanctions.

- Calling for medical assistance will be viewed as a mitigating factor in determining sanctions for other College policy violations.
- Colby organizations may have their own rules and consequences that apply to circumstances involving alcohol or other prohibited substances violations. This policy does not limit teams or organizations from applying those rules.
- This policy applies to students in need of medical attention and the students who actively participated or supported in calling for help.