

Motion for Hybrid Formal/Informal Meetings

Purpose: The purpose of this motion is to enable hybrid formal/informal (HFI) meetings that would enable SGA to pass motions that relate to more pressing issues on campus. For issues such as releasing statements in reaction to events on campus, or anything light, this hybrid meeting structure would allow for open discussion that would let the SGA move faster in putting out a response. Hence, this would help the SGA streamline the response process, allowing for an increased positive view from the public and more efficient communication with the student body.

Recently, SGA was asked why we did not send out a response to the OneColby protest and was criticized for our lack of response. This type of response would have required a formal meeting, which would have made our response untimely and irrelevant, when all we wanted to do was send out a simple email. As we saw with the hybrid meeting where we sent out an email about sexual violence on campus, we were able to call a hybrid meeting without much notice and respond to an important issue on campus in a timely manner. If there were to be a hybrid structure of Robert's Rules, we could have a more informal discussion about our response as SGA in reaction to any future events that may occur on campus.

The What: Our proposal allows the Parliamentarian to call hybrid formal/informal meetings in response to emergency situations. This will allow for both informal discussion and voting on motions in one meeting. In order for this motion to be successful, SGA members must be cognizant of the importance of the discussion. This means that members must still be respectful of one another so that we can also proceed with the informal meeting agenda.

The How: The Parliamentarian has the authority to call an HFI meeting. If the Parliamentarian decides to do so, they shall inform the body no later than 24 hours before the meeting. All members of the body are expected to attend (as they are expected to attend every formal and informal meeting anyway).

Strengths and Importance: Allows for rapid response to pressing issues on campus. Formal meetings occur very infrequently, which means that we do not have an effective system for responding to relevant issues on campus. This would allow us to be much more efficient in our responses to campus events and issues that need to be solved in a timely manner.

Possible Risk Areas:

- Will definitely entail a messy meeting however we feel that this is necessary in order to promote creativity and get as many ideas out as possible.

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:

- Is this constitutional?

In the Constitution, article V, number 2 states that formal meetings shall be at least every three weeks (so they can occur more frequently if needed). This means that the Parliamentarian can call informal meetings more frequently than three weeks.

- Have we consulted with Jason about how hybrid meetings would work?

Yes, we invited Jason to our most recent publicity committee meeting where we discussed how the motion would work and if it would be plausible, and we went through the constitution and discussed what a hybrid meeting might look like.

- Will the formal meeting dress code be required?

No.

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

Name: **Edward Wu**

Year: **2025**

Dorm: **Johnson**

Phone number: **781-708-2011**

Email: **efwu25@colby.edu**

Favorable Hours to Meet: **7-9pm TU-FR, 11-2 SUN, or by appointment**

Name: **Josh Kaplan**

Year: **2025**

Dorm: **Williams**

Phone number: **631-268-6313**

Email: **jmkapl25@colby.edu**

Favorable Hours to Meet: **By appointment**

Name: **Keegan Gleason**

Year: **2025**

Dorm: **Dana**

Phone number: **774-502-8407**

Email: **kpglea25@colby.edu**

Favorable Hours to Meet: **11-3 Wednesday**

Name: **Emily Marrinan**

Year: **2024**

Dorm: **Averill**

Phone number: **203-940-2152**

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Favorable Hours to Meet: **By appointment**

Name: **Abby Recko**

Year: **2022**

Dorm: **Senior Apartments**

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Favorable Hours to Meet: **Wednesdays 1-3 PM or by appointment**

Name: **Muxin Li**

Year: **2022**

Dorm: **Senior Apartments**

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Favorable Hours to Meet: **Mondays 1-2 PM or by appointment**