

Motion on Supporting Sexual Violence Survivors and Providing Title IX Resources

Purpose: Following Mental Health Awareness Week, this motion seeks to emphasize the resources available to sexual violence survivors and mitigate the prevalence of sexual violence on campus. Incidents of sexual violence often leave the survivor with mental health difficulties. Therefore, as the representatives of the Student Body, we would like to demonstrate that we are actively concerned for students' mental health and that we fully support sexual violence survivors. As SGA members, we uphold the core values of the college and do not condone sexual violence.

The What: This motion condemns sexual violence and reasserts SGA's support of sexual violence survivors and the student body at large. We propose that SGA sends an email to the Colby Student Body that affirms the Title IX resources available and reveals that we stand in solidarity with sexual violence survivors. This email also intends to draw upon the previous week's Mental Awareness Week, granting us the opportunity to both highlight the gravity of mental health and introduce this topic of sexual violence as it is not talked about enough.

The How: This will be in the form of an email to the student body, refer to the appendix below.

Strengths and Importance: The discussion of sexual violence is limited, and this email supports the discourse on these matters. In the same vein, many students are unaware of the resources available to them, and this provides us with the perfect opportunity to reassert them. This is an extremely important motion that seeks to establish a sense of unity, and sexual violence survivors need to know of our support.

Possible Risk Areas:

- 1) Because this is a sensitive topic, we have to be extremely careful of our phrasing so that the message is received well.
- 2) The Colby Administration does not want us to target any individuals that may or may not have been involved in the event that took place.
- 3) Though we have to be ambiguous about our intentions, we must be direct in our condemnation of sexual violence.

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed: The affects of sexual violence on the long term mental health of survivors is often overlooked. Discussions of mental health typically touch upon the symptoms but do not often address the cause of distress. We feel that this motion will not only provide resources for those struggling with mental trauma but also show survivors that the representatives of the Student Body condemn sexual violence and stand with survivors.

Contact Information for Questioning, Clarification, or Pre-meeting Critiques:

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Appendix:

As we reflect upon last week's Mental Health Awareness Week, the Colby Student Government Association would like to emphasize that we stand with sexual assault survivors. Sexual violence can trigger many mental health concerns, including, but not limited to, post traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety. Symptoms of these conditions can often leave victims

feeling isolated and alone, which is why it is important to have resources and a support network in place. The SGA would like to reiterate that Colby offers many resources specifically tailored to the needs of survivors of sexual misconduct. As with all college campuses, sexual violence has a presence at Colby, and as SGA representatives, we want to make sure that survivors feel both supported and welcomed on our campus. We seek to actively mitigate the prevalence of sexual violence on campus. The resources available include:

Confidential Support Services

Colby Health Services

Garrison Foster Health Center
Room 205
(207) 859-4460
healthservices@colby.edu

Colby Counselling Services

(207) 859-4490

Emily Schusterbauer

Confidential Title IX Advocate
Pugh 238
(207) 859-4093
eeschust@colby.edu

Kate Smanik

Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life
(207) 859-4272
kesmanik@colby.edu

Maine's Sexual Assault Helpline

(800) 871-7741

Maine's Domestic/Dating Abuse Helpline

(866) 834-4357

Non-Confidential Reporting Services

Meg Hatch

Title IX Coordinator
(207) 859-4266

mshatch@colby.edu

Waterville Police Non-Emergency

(207) 680-4700

Waterville Police Emergency

(911)

Colby Campus Security

(207) 859-5911

For more information, you can go to <https://life.colby.edu/your-safety/sexual-violence-title-ix/>.

In addition, SGA representatives host office hours located in the Student Government Association Office in the Spa, and SGA meetings are open to the Colby Student Body. The office hours and SGA meeting times are posted below. We love the Colby Community, which is why we want to work with our fellow students to continue making it a better place, so please feel free to provide any concerns or suggestions.

Executive Board

President Lukas Alexander: Wednesdays 9-11 am in the SGA Office

Vice President Laura Powell: Wednesdays 9-11 am in the SGA Office

Treasurer Tivis Hall: Thursdays 2-4 pm in the SGA Office

Parliamentarian Jason Leong: Mondays 1-3 pm in the SGA Office

Communications Chair Abby Recko: Wednesdays 1-3 pm in the SGA Office

Chair of Equity & Inclusion Jordan McClintock: Mondays 12-1 pm in the SGA Office

Vice-Chair of Equity & Inclusion Nischal Khatri: Tuesdays 9-10 am in the SGA Office

Community Engagement Chair Cheshta Prasad: Tuesdays 10-12 pm in the SGA Office

Administrative Chair Chris Cho: Mondays 4-6 pm in the SGA Office

Class Co-Presidents

2022 Class President Ellie Batchelder and Morgan Honor: Wednesdays 9:45-10:45 am in the SGA Office

2023 Class Presidents Lulu Saghie and Andy Blake: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 pm in the SGA Office

2024 Class Presidents Kimanie Brown and Jenna Brooks: Mondays 3-4 pm in the SGA Office

2025 Class Presidents Keegan Gleason and Bibatshu Thapa Chhetri: TBD

The SGA meets every Sunday from 7-8 pm in the Parker Reed Room of the Alumni Center.

Sincerely,
Student Government Association of Colby College