

## *Policy for the Equitable Distribution of Funds to All Political Groups on Campus*

### **Purpose:**

To amend the SGA Constitution to recognize the importance of SGA providing equitable financial support to any and all politically-oriented clubs. This motion also urges SGA to engage in critical discussion during the 2021-2022 academic year regarding how it dispenses funding. Hopefully this motion if passed, will create more awareness regarding the equitable distribution of funding to political groups on campus.

### **The What:**

This motion, if passed, would amend the SGA Constitution by replacing and adding to Article IV, section 3, §b ii. This motion would also add additional language to the bylaws of the constitution, specifically, xii. **18-04** Finance Committee Guidelines. This new language would affirm SGA's commitment to the campus community through its funding and ensure an equitable distribution of funds for political groups on campus.

### **The How:**

The language to be added to Article IV, section 3, §b ii is stated as follows:

*ii. The Finance Committee shall disburse SGA funds in an equitable manner that furthers the mission of the College and SGA*

The language to be added to the bylaws is stated as follows:

E. Political Groups

*i. Given that SGA represents the interests of the entire student body, the committee shall fund politically-minded groups in an equitable manner. Colby is a campus for all forms of political thought and will assist students in attaining a diversity of opinions.*

### **The Who:**

Throughout the process of writing this motion, I received guidance from both the SGA President and Vice President as well as the Treasurer. This matter was also brought to the attention of Richard Uchida, General Counsel to the College who also signaled his support for the motion.

### **Strengths and Importance:**

Colby is a campus for all forms of political thought. By supporting the idea that all political groups are to be entitled to equitable funding, the College can uphold its promise to allow for the pursuit of intellectual thought of all forms. Pursuant to the College's political activities policy, the College is not allowed to support specific political agendas. While student organizations like SGA are not bound to the same IRS restrictions, we feel that it is important for SGA to represent the political interests of all students. Section V of Colby's Political Activities Policy Student Government Association establish non-partisan policies and guidelines as to the management of political groups. Thus, this motion serves

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as a precursor to SGA rethinking the distribution of funding to groups on campus and engaging in debate concerning ways to improve the system.

**Questions That Have Already Been Considered:**

Q: Does this allow for groups that promote hate speech to receive equitable funding?

A: Extremist groups would theoretically be entitled to equitable funding from SGA. Therefore, the language utilized is specific and bans the usage of hate speech and rhetoric that doesn't advance the college's academic mission

Q: How would this change how the finance committee operates?

A: This motion would not change how this current finance committee operates but serves as a reminder to future finance committee members that they have a responsibility to uphold fair and equitable funding.

Q: How would this be enforced?

A: Through the members of the finance committee and the treasurer.

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

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Favorable Hours to Meet: By Appointment