Motion for Creating an SGA Moodle Page

Purpose: Colby SGA currently has a website where we post motions, minutes, contact information, resources, and general information that Colby students, as well as the rest of the internet, can view. However, this website can seem inaccessible to students because they often do not know where to go on the website to submit requests for funding, how to start a club, or how to find out what we as SGA have been doing during our meetings. This motion proposes we create a Moodle page that all students would be added to. This Moodle page would create a more accessible space for students to submit requests or questions and to find links and contact information for SGA members. Many Colby students view SGA as being somewhat removed from the rest of the student body, and this Moodle page would aim to bridge that gap by making SGA more accessible and responsive to student requests for action.

The What: This motion would begin the process of creating a Moodle page dedicated for information related to SGA, accessible to all students. This Moodle page would have various different sections that would provide information in a readily-available format. Some examples of these sections are one specific to clubs, one for submitting general inquiries, one to access motions, and one that holds information about how to become a part of SGA or subsequent working groups/committees.

In addition, more specific Class sections could be created to allow for communication within each class year. Informal announcements and event publicity can also be done on this Moodle page. This page would serve as a place that, unlike our SGA website, only fellow Colby students can visit, allowing for more transparency between SGA and our peers.

The How: The first step we would take to create this Moodle page would be meeting with ITS to discuss with them what the first steps are to creating a new Moodle page. We would then follow their guidance on the next steps to take, and would consult with the SGA president and vice president as well as the rest of SGA on what to add to the Moodle page. We are currently in contact with ITS.

Strengths and Importance: By having this page in students' Moodles, the key resources that SGA offers will be more visible to the student body. The section for submitting general inquiries will provide an outlet for students to anonymously ask questions about SGA, which is not currently something that students are able to do. The section with information on how to join SGA will increase transparency, and will hopefully encourage people who have not previously thought about joining to join. In general, this will also increase the transparency of SGA and student body's awareness of SGA, which is an issue that has especially been identified both in internal conversations in SGA, as well as in external ones between SGA members and members of the student body.

Possible Risk Areas: One possible risk area would be upkeep of the Moodle page to make sure it is up to date on current SGA information. However, we could assign this task to a committee or a working group as part of their responsibility in making sure everything is up to date every week. Another possible risk area would be how to make a space for questions that is anonymous and does not show up on everyone's page, as Moodle forums tend to do. A solution to this would be attaching a link to a Google form on the page, which would allow students to stay anonymous to their peers but still be able to send in questions or concerns to SGA.

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:

How is this Moodle page different from the already existing website?
While the SGA website holds a lot of important information, through consulting the general Colby student body, it was found that a lot of people rarely frequent this website. Those who do, find it confusing, and we hope this Moodle page will serve as a more accessible resource for everyone at Colby to engage with and learn more about SGA.

What happens if ITS says we are unable to make a Moodle page?
We will work as a group and also with the rest of SGA to come up with some alternative that makes SGA more accessible to the student body.

Who would be responsible for running the page?
Jess Manno and Danielle Hague from Campus Life will be the administrators of the Moodle page. We would ideally begin by asking different class years and executive board members what important information they would like to put on the Moodle page, and would also have the publicity committee run the page for a temporary period of time. We would then, in the future, like to add to the senators' responsibilities maintaining the page and keeping it up to date with SGA's activities. This is just a rough plan that we would work to figure out in the coming weeks as a group after the motion has been passed.

Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students Consulted:
We consulted with ITS to gain more information on how to create a Moodle page. We also asked Jess Manno if she would like to be our faculty administrator for the page, and she and Danielle Hague from the Campus Life office both agreed to work with us as the page administrators as we move forward.

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