

State of the College - February 8, 2021

Primary Speakers: President of the College David A. Greene

I. COVID-19 Guidelines

Given the downwards trend in cases, the college's plan is to begin loosening COVID-19 guidelines when opportunity presents itself. This should manifest itself as substantial changes such as reducing testing frequency and more. Students should see these changes implemented as the semester progresses.

II. Key Areas of New Investments

a. Faculty

The college has been able to support and expand the faculty, tenuring more professors.

b. New and Enhanced Academic Programs

Over 60 new courses have been created in the past few years along with various new majors and partnerships with other institutions.

c. Launch of Davis Institute for Artificial Intelligence

d. Envisioning a Technology and Innovation Center

e. Creation of the Colby Labs

Buck Lab for Climate and the Environment, Linde packman Lab for Biosciences Innovation, Hailoran lab for Entrepreneurship

f. Funded Experiences Through DavisConnects

g. Island Campus for Research and Discovery

h. Expansion of Arts Programs and Facilities

Paul J. Schupf Art Center opening up soon downtown.

i. Access and Affordability

j. More Academically Prepared and Diverse Classes

Applications have increased three-fold since 2014. More POC and lower-income students are also applying to Colby.

k. *83% Increase in the Financial Aid Budget*

l. *Comprehensive Athletics and Recreation Programs*

m. *New Residences: Johnson Pond Houses*

4 new residence halls that will be housing around 200 students.

n. *Mayflower Hill Residences: Test Fit and Massing Study*

Received student input to design these new residence hall, which will be across from Diamond.

o. *North Quad: Test Fit and Massing Study*

New residence hall in Roberts Lot.

III. Spaces for Students of Color

The college has been taking steps over the past few years to increase spaces for students of color. Staffing at the Pugh Center has increased. Residential building consultants will be meeting with FLI and POC students to ensure their voices are included in the building design process.. The curriculum has also diversified massively and hopefully more students have seen their identities reflected in these courses. More investments are additionally going into the Pugh Center, and needs to be given time because so many changes have been made since President Greene came to Colby.

IV. LGBTQIA Student Initiatives

While the college has attempted to accommodate LGBTQIA students through the Pugh Center, the administration recognizes that more can be done. The administration is always open to collaborating with student organizations and really want to hear student ideas so that they can be brought to fruition.

V. Medical and Title IX Amnesty for Student Athletes

All students are granted medical amnesty from the Office of Community Values. However, there are still some coaches who choose to hold students accountable. Each coach is able to create the culture surrounding the team and the administration has always taken the opportunity to encourage coaches to involve themselves in these important discussions.