**Plenary**

**Fall 2011**

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**When:** Sunday, Sept 25, 2011

**Where**: Goodhart Theatre

**Why:** Because Mawrters run the world. Duh.

?s: sga@brynmawr.edu

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**RECYCLE. (You don’t believe how many people don’t recycle at Plenary).**

**AGENDA**

1. Overview of Plenary (Welcome)

2. Approval of the Rules of Order and Agenda

3. Resolution 1: Establishing and Defining the Role of the Bi-Co Liaison

4. Resolution 2: Composting Research and Development at Bryn Mawr

#### 5. Resolution 3: Reorganization of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series

6. Resolution 4: Creation of a Fund for the Residential Council

7. Resolution 5: Effective Representation Resolution

**HISTORY OF PLENARY**

In 1982, Bryn Mawr College became the first institution in the U.S. to give students the responsibility to decide on how they should govern themselves. While it was considered a radical experiment, it has become one of the most valued aspects of the Bryn Mawr education. The tradition of student autonomy and responsibility has created a unique campus where students participate in discussion and resolution of the most important issues facing the College.

Twice a year, students get the opportunity to present resolutions to the entire student body. The Spirit of Self Governance is a beautiful thing and all Mawrters should be proud.

**Mawrters run the world.**

**ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER**

Plenary uses a form of communication based on *Robert’s Rules of Order*. They ensure that the will of the majority is done while protecting the voice of the minority. The rule of order may seem awkward and sometimes constraining, but it will limit chaos and personal attack. Please give your attention to the guidelines and follow them. In the long run, they will make Plenary run smoother and faster.

Quorum is essential and required. This means that everyone must enter and exit from the side door of Goodhart. **Votes are only valid if there is quorum.**

Order of Business:

Each resolution will be presented as follows:

* Reading of the resolution by the presenter(s)
* Explanation of the resolution by the presenter(s) 3 minutes
* Floor open to questions and Pro/Con statements 12 minutes

*(questions are given priority during this time)*

*(If amendment is presented, it is given an additional 8 minutes)*

* Floor open to Pro/Con statements only 7 minutes
* Rebuttal period for presenter(s) of the proposal 3 minutes
* Voting on the resolution

If there is discussion occurring at the microphones, then discussion will occur for at least 12 minutes as outlined above, before the question may be called. This is to ensure that a minimum discussion is given to all proposals, as the community has already warranted these resolutions worthy of discussion.

**If there is no discussion at the microphone, the SGA executive Board will give a 30 second time limit for those who wish to speak to identify themselves by either approaching the microphone or alerting their section counter. If after the 30 seconds no one has announced that they wish to speak, the amendment or resolution will be voted upon.**

There will be a member of the SGA Executive Board moderating as well as another member keeping time for each resolution. One minute and 30 second warnings will be given for each timed period.

**SPEAKING**

\*\*If you wish to ask a **question**, please line up at the middle YELLOW microphone.

\*\*If you wish to make a statement **in favor** of a proposal, please use the GREEN microphone.

\*\*If you wish to make a statement **in opposition** to a proposal, please use the RED microphone.

There will be a moderator at each microphone who will limit the number of people standing in line. Please keep your statements to one minute, so that everyone may have time to speak. Please listen carefully to the speakers to avoid asking the same question or making the same basic point. If you have already spoken on an issue, you will not be allowed to speak again until everyone else who desires to speak has done so. If you must talk while in your seat, please be considerate of those around you who may be trying to listen to the discussion. Most importantly, **please** **be patient and respectful** of all other members. Even though you might not agree with an idea, everyone has the right to speak and be heard.

The President will call on microphones alternating Pro/Con. Only the people at microphones who are recognized by the President will be permitted to speak, and again, no one will be allotted more than one minute to the proposal.

**VOTING**

Voting is a right and privilege extended to all members of the Association. The options for exercising this right are pro, con, and abstain (no opinion, or you feel like you don’t have enough information to provide an informed vote). For a motion to pass a majority of members present must vote pro.

Please raise hands high, and know who your counter is for your section. The President will ask that everyone return to her proper seat during a vote, as to make sure everyone is counted accurately.

All votes will be done visually unless there the majority of the vote is unclear. If you believe you are not being counted, please see a counter or come to the front of the stage.

**DEFINITIONS**

AMENDMENT: An addition or change that is proposed to a resolution which is on the table for discussion. Please try to use language such as “strike,” “add,” and “replace with.” If the amendment strays too much from the original intent of the proposal, the President may declare the amendment to be out of SCOPE, or outside of the resolution’s jurisdiction or purpose.

After an amendment is presented, it must be seconded at a microphone by another member of the Association, and is then open for debate. At this time, all discussion regarding the original resolution ceases to allow adequate attention to be given to the amendment. If you are speaking to the main resolution during this time, the President may request you to come back to the microphone when debate on the main resolution resumes.

MOTION TO EXTEND TIME: This needs a simple majority for approval. When making the motion, please specify a length at which time shall be extended (4 more speakers/5 minutes, etc.). It must be made before time has expired, seconded, and then passed by a simple majority.

MOTION TO COMMIT/REFER: If you feel like more research needs to be done in order to support the motion you may move to refer to a committee (I move to refer\_\_\_\_\_ to a committee/task force). Upon doing so please specify the size, responsibilities and whom will be on the committee.

POSTPONE INDEFINATELY: This may be done if you feel like there is inadequate information and you feel like the motion does not warrant discussion. The effect would be to postpone debate entirely and move on to the next order of business. If desired, it could then be brought up at Plenary the following year.

CALLING THE QUESTION: A request to stop all discussion IMMEDIATELY and put the resolution to a vote. This MUST be voted upon, and requires 2/3 support. It is basically a vote to vote. The first vote will be to close discussion and move to the final vote. If this fails discussion continues; if this passes then the presenter moves to the rebuttal period and then we vote on whatever debate is currently occurring—i.e. an amendment or the original resolution. If you CALL ALL PREVIOUS QUESTIONS, this would include the same premise as calling the question, only we would proceed to vote systematically on any amendment on the table and the original resolution. This motion may only be made after the original 10 minutes of discussion have elapsed, and must be recognized by the President.

POINT OF ORDER: A motion made after an infraction of *Robert’s Rules of Order.* May be made from any place in the room. The Parliamentarian will confer with the President regarding the error and then will present a method of recovery to regain order.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\***

These motions as well as the amendment process are serious procedures; which can, if abused, hinder the process or render it unfair. Please use them with discretion and allow the existing process to work as efficiently as possible. **All** **motions must be presented at the microphone, and all amendments must be** **written down in advance of approaching the microphone and presented to the** **microphone moderator. All amendments must be presented and discussed as** **written.**

**FOOD**

Due to Goodhart renovations, food cannot be eaten in the auditorium anymore; all food must be consumed in the atrium and the lobby. In the case that Food is consumed in the Auditorium, SGA will not be allowed to use Goodhart in the future. Please abide and uphold the Social Honor Code by respecting this new rule.

**Establishing and Defining the Role of the Bi-Co Liaison**

*Presented by Priya Saxena ’12 (Head of the Honor Board).*

*Whereas,* there exists a Bi-College Consortium (Bi-co) between Bryn Mawr College and Haverford College, that is utilized by many students on both campuses.

*Whereas*, in this exchange, in both academic and social life, there have been cases when students have broken the community standards of the institution other than, of which she/he attends.

*Whereas,* it has been necessary for the judicial body for Bryn Mawr College and Haverford College to get involved in some of these instances,

*Whereas,* no such form of communication has been created,

Whereas, differences exist between the Honor Codes, policies, and resources of each institution that is important in circumstances involving a trial or procedure at either institution.

*Whereas,* the creation of a Bi-Co Liaison would establish communication between the two schools in such circumstances and serve as a resource,

*Be it resolved*, that if the resolutions are passed at both Bryn Mawr and Haverford’s Plenary, the following addition be included in the Bryn Mawr Self Government Association Constitution: Section C “The Bi-Co Liaison” under Section V “Other Institutions”

e) The purpose of the Bi-Co Liaison is to keep the home institution informed, as well as serve as a source of knowledge about the home institution. The liaison will be responsible to attend any necessary meetings, transporting any necessary documents back to the home institution, and bringing up relevant points that the jury may have thus far neglected to consider.

The liaison at both institutions will be governed by the same set of procedures that were consented by both Bryn Mawr Honor Board and Haverford Honor Council and will be made readily available to the community. Changes to these guidelines that do not conflict with what has already been stated can only be changed with the consent of both the Bryn Mawr Honor Board and Haverford Honor Council.

**Composting Research and Development at Bryn Mawr**

*Presented by Daniele Arad-Neeman ’14 and Karen Leitner ’14 (SGA Sustainable Food Committee)*

*Whereas,* Bryn Mawr has made a commitment to make practices on campus more sustainable and “green” by signing the President’s Campus Climate Commitment;

*Whereas,* all of our compostable food waste is currently incinerated with the rest of the college’s waste;

*Whereas,* this waste releases 9,108 lbs of carbon a year;

*Whereas,* there is significant student support for a composting program as demonstrated by surveys and research done in Erdman dining hall by the 2010-11 Environmental Studies Senior Seminar;

*Whereas,* Dining Services has expressed interest in working with the Sustainable Food Committee on composting in the dining halls but both lack administrative oversight and financial support;

*Be it resolved,* Bryn Mawr students support the efforts of the Sustainable Food Committee in their efforts to conduct research for the creation of a comprehensive composting program on campus.

#### Reorganization of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series

#### *Presented by Lauren Bochicchio ’12 and Kate Grant ’12 (BMCS Co-Heads)*

*Whereas,* Article VI, Section XII of the Constitution regarding the Concert Series currently reads:

#### *Section XII: The Alternative Concert Series*

***Subsection A:*** *The position of Alternative Concert Series Head may be held by up to two people, to be appointed by the Appointments Committee from the Association in the spring semester prior to their year of service.*

***Subsection B:*** *The Appointments Committee shall, at their discretion appoint up to six people to serve on the Alternative Concert Series Committee. The duties of the Alternative Concert Series Committee shall be determined at the discretion of the Alternative Concert Series Head(s).*

***Subsection C:*** *An Alternative Concert Series Event shall be defined as an event featuring a performing artist brought to campus at the desire of the Association to fill a gap in campus programming and funded by the Alternative Concert Series Fund as outlined in Article VI, Section XII, Subsection D.*

***Subsection D:*** *The Alternative Concert Series Fund*

1. *Every semester, in consultation with the current Alternative Concert Series Head(s), the Treasurer shall submit a recommended monetary cap for the Alternative Concert Series Fund in the next semester to the Representative Council for approval.*
2. *The source of funding for the Alternative Concert Series Fund can be derived from any SGA account at the discretion of the Treasurer, also at the approval of the Representative Council.*
3. *The Alternative Concerts Series Head(s) shall be responsible for allocating the Alternative Concert Series Fund in accordance with their By-Laws to events on campus that fall under the definition of an Alternative Concert Series Event as defined in Article VI, Section XII, Subsection C.*
4. *The Alternative Concerts Series Head(s) may co-sponsor Alternative Concert Series Events with other campus organizations but they will be held solely responsible for the allocation of the Alternative Concert Series Fund.*
5. *All Alternative Concert Series Events that receiving funding from the Alternative Concert Series Fund shall be approved by the Representative Council before contracts with performing artists are signed. Contracts can be approved anytime after the Alternative Concert Series Fund cap is approved.*

*Whereas,* the series is now known as the Bryn Mawr Concert Series;

*Whereas,* in the creation of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series it was decided that three officers would be appointed and three would be elected by the members of the Series;

*Whereas,* booking a performer is often a time-sensitive process;

*Whereas,* the Bryn Mawr Concert Series must first get approval from Conferences and Events and Student Activities, which itself can be a lengthy process;

*Whereas,* scheduling a vote of approval by the Representative Council for each artist is often difficult on short notice especially later in the semester;

*Whereas,* the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Heads and Officers were appointed or elected to their positions on the basis of their previous experience and accountability in booking performers;

*Whereas,* after deliberation with the Treasurer it was decided that presenting a general list of events at once to the Assembly would make most sense;

*Whereas,* it was decided at the December 5, 2010 SGA meeting, the Bryn Mawr Concert Series wouldn’t present each artist individually in the future;

*Be it resolved,* that the Constitution be updated to reflect the changes that were made in the past year regarding the concert series;

*Be it resolved,* that Article VI, Section XII of the Constitution read:

#### *Section XII: The Bryn Mawr Concert Series*

***Subsection A:*** *The position of Bryn Mawr Concert Series Head may be held by up to two people, to be appointed by the Appointments Committee from the Association in the spring semester prior to their year of service.*

***Subsection B:*** *The Appointments Committee shall, at their discretion, appoint up to three people to serve on the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Committee. Members of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series who are eligible to vote shall elect three other officers to serve on the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Committee. Eligibility to vote shall be determined by active membership for at least one semester. The duties of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Committee shall be determined at the discretion of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Head(s).*

***Subsection C:*** *A Bryn Mawr Concert Series Event shall be defined as an event featuring a performing artist brought to campus at the desire of the Association to fill a gap in campus programming and funded by the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Fund as outlined in Article VI, Section XII, Subsection D.*

***Subsection D:*** *The Bryn Mawr Concert Series Fund*

1. *At the end of every semester, the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Head(s) shall create a budget in consultation with the Treasurer, including a list of events with an estimated date, genre, and cost, to then be approved by the Representative Council. At the beginning of the next semester, the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Head(s) shall present a more finalized schedule to the Representative Council.*
2. *The source of funding for the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Fund can be derived from any SGA account at the discretion of the Treasurer, also at the approval of the Representative Council.*
3. *The Bryn Mawr Concert Series Head(s) shall be responsible for allocating the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Fund in accordance with their By-Laws to events on campus that fall under the definition of a Bryn Mawr Concert Series Event as defined in Article VI, Section XII, Subsection C.*
4. *The Bryn Mawr Concert Series Head(s) may co-sponsor Bryn Mawr Concert Series Events with other campus organizations but they will be held solely responsible for the allocation of the Bryn Mawr Concert Series Fund.*

**Changing the Board of Trustees Representative Position to an Appointed Position**

*Presented by Julia Fahl ’12 (Board of Trustees Representative)*

*Whereas,* the Self Government Association (SGA) is a representative body of and for the Bryn Mawr community,

*Whereas,* student representation is of great concern to the Bryn Mawr Community and a vital aspect of Self-Governance,

*Whereas*, recent internal changes in SGA have occurred to increase effective representation across campus,

*Whereas*, the Board of Trustees Representative receives a vote in the Assembly, but represents no body of students,

*Whereas*, this position is an important part of student – administrative relations, but requires little input from community members,

*Whereas*, the primary job of the Board of Trustees Representative is to disseminate information to the student body rather than represent its needs,

*Whereas*, it is constitutionally mandated that the removing of a position from the general assembly be approved by the community at large,

*Be it resolved*, that the Board of Trustees position be changed to an appointed position; and the description of the position in Subsection L of the Self Government Association Constitution be removed, thereby changing all of the letters of the subsequent Subsections in Article IV Section I.

**Creation of a Fund for the Residential Council**

*Presented by Lee McClenon ’14 and Blair Smith ’12 (Res-Co Co-Heads)*

*Whereas,* the Residence Council strives to improve the in-residence experience of students while maintaining goals of equality, innovation, and community,  
  
*Whereas,* the Residence Council hopes to improve collaboration between dorms to achieve the goals stated above,  
  
*Whereas,* the Dorm Presidents, who serve on the Residence Council, oversee their individual Dorm Discretionary Funds for yearly events,  
  
*Whereas,* these funds do not carry over year-to-year, cannot be used for long term planning or improvements and are insufficient for urgent projects in dorms,  
  
*Whereas,* damage of dorm property, regardless of cause, currently falls to dorm residents, putting even greater financial strain on dorms that host open campus events,  
  
*Whereas,* a fund to serve all dorms and would benefit the residential experience of students,  
  
*Whereas,* the current head of Residential Life, Angie Sheets is in favor of this plan,  
  
*Be it resolved,* that Article VI, Section IV of the Bryn Mawr Self Government Association Constitution be amended to include:  
  
Subsection M: The Residence Council shall preside over the Residential Council Fund.

1. The Purpose of the fund shall be to cover lasting improvements, replacements or repairs to dorm common spaces beyond what Facilities is able to provide.

2. The Residence Council Head(s) shall communicate and work with Facilities on all appropriate projects.

3. Proposals for spending from the fund shall be brought forward to the residence council by students, Dorm Presidents or the Residential Council Head(s).

4. Approval for spending from the fund must be voted on by the Dorm Presidents, one vote per residence, and shall require a two-thirds majority of quorum.

5. The Residence Council Fund shall be allotted $1,000 each semester by the Student Finance Committee and be collective.

6. This Fund shall be capped at $8,000.

7. When money is expended from this fund, the Residence Council Head(s) must make an announcement about the decision at the next assembly meeting.