

# Plenary



**Fall 2012**

Sunday, October 7, 2012

Goodhart Auditorium

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**Plenary is All That.**

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**BRYN MAWR**

SELF GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## AGENDA

1. Overview of Plenary (Welcome)
2. Approval of the Rules of Order and Agenda
3. Resolution 1: Elimination of the Mediation Program Liaison
4. Resolution 2: Increasing Posting Policy Visibility
5. Resolution 3: Collective Dorm Budget Party Fund
6. Resolution 4: Perry House Transparency and Institutional Commitment

## HISTORY OF PLENARY

In 1892, 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 should make all Mawrters proud.

## 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 INDEFINITELY:** 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**

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 rule.

**PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF AND RECYCLE PLENARY PACKETS!**

## **Resolution 1: Elimination of the Mediation Program Liaison**

Presented by Irene Shin'13 and Eun-young Park'15

*Whereas*, I.B.3 of the Honor Code asks for there to be an appointed Honor Board member who acts as the Mediation Program Liaison.

*Whereas*, this Mediation Program Liaison position is described as an Honor Board member who “works closely with the mediation intake coordinators to schedule mediation and to organize the mediation program.” (Honor Code, I.B.3)

*Whereas*, the Mediation Program is no longer active on campus.

*Whereas*, the Mediation Program will now be replaced by the Conflict Resolution Committee in name.

*Whereas*, the Conflict Resolution Committee will act as a resource for students who would like a trained third-party to help with a social honor code confrontation (for further information of a social honor code confrontation, please refer to II.B.1 of the Honor Code). This committee will be appointed by the Appointments Committee.

*Whereas*, the Conflict Resolution Committee and the Honor Board are different bodies of SGA and interaction between them should be kept to a minimum. This is to ensure that Honor Board members can be as objective as possible in all Honor Board hearings.

*Whereas*, a Conflict Resolution Committee member will contact the Head of the Honor Board directly to deliberate what the next step should be if a confrontation escalates to the level of an Honor Board Hearing or Deans' Panel.

*Whereas*, the Conflict Resolution Committee has been appointed as of September 27, 2012. Their services will be announced to the student body through the SGA assembly, Dorm Leadership Teams, as well as Michele Rasmussen, Dean of the Undergraduate College and Angie Sheets, Director of Residential Life by October 14th, 2012.

*Be it resolved*, that the Mediation Program Liaison will be removed as an appointed position within the Honor Board, since the Conflict Resolution Committee has been instated.

## **Resolution 2: Increasing Posting Policy Visibility**

Presented by Natalie Zamora '14

*Whereas*, the Posting Policy should be more available to students of the Bryn Mawr College community.

*Whereas*, the Posting Policy is an administrative policy so it is “unfit” for a plenary resolution which was confirmed at Tuesday Group and by Conferences and Events, meaning the process of updating the Posting Policy will continue as a collaborative effort with Residence Council and SGA, along with any student who is willing to give input on the subject.

*Whereas*, Posting Policy is an important school wide policy that many students will use during their academic time at Bryn Mawr College as it is a crucial type of public advertising on campus.

*Whereas*, the Posting Policy is only located on the Bryn Mawr College website and the SGA blog, but is not in the student handbooks that is distributed to every student at the beginning of the year in their mailboxes.

*Whereas*, both Conferences and Events and Mary Beth Horvath of the Student Activities Office have expressed concern with the lack of Posting Policy awareness when it comes to chalking and hanging banners over Pembroke Arch.

*Whereas*, without the knowledge of the Posting Policy, posting on campus becomes less effective (i.e. does not reach the people it needs to in time) and chaotic in terms of general tidiness of campus surfaces.

*Be it resolved*, the Posting Policy should be a reoccurring feature in the student handbook as well as posting policy specific for dorm posting be posted on the dorm bulletin boards to stay there all year long. Angie Sheets of Residential Life and Tracy Kellmer of Communications will be helping me follow up, ensuring that these goals are met before the next school year.

### **Resolution 3: Collective Dorm Budget Party Fund**

Presented by Sarah Henkind '13 and Kendra Kelly'13

*Whereas, certain parties/events on campus have become annual traditions, such as East vs. West, Radnor Halloween, and St. Patrick's Day.*

*Whereas, these annual events are hosted in Bryn Mawr College dorms.*

*Whereas, money for these events has previously come out of the budgets for the dorms under the supervision of the Dorm Presidents.*

*Whereas, the amount of money in a Dorm President's budget is calculated and allocated by Residential Life based on the number of residents per dorm.*

*Whereas, these dorm budgets are intended for events and functions exclusively for the dorm's residents, and are intended to foster community events within each dorm.*

*Whereas, the dorms who host these events do so because they have the capacity to host large-scale parties, and because they have layouts conducive for security efforts.*

*Whereas, these events are open to all of the Bryn Mawr College student body, and often are Bi-Co and Tri-Co wide events.*

*Whereas, the responsibility of financing these events falls solely on the budget of the hosting dorm.*

*Whereas, financing these events puts an economic burden on the hosting dorm's budget and leaves little funds for the intended use.*

*Whereas, Bryn Mawr College's department of Residential Life is concerned about the economic burden placed on dorms that host large scale annual events.*

*Whereas, dorms that host these events feel less likely to host events due to the financial burden placed solely on their budgets.*

*Whereas, the existing Party Fund only covers a fraction of the costs of hosting an annual event, and are listed as thus: Level 1: \$30, Level 2: \$60, Level 3: \$90.*

*Whereas, Bryn Mawr dorms cannot exceed a Level 2 party due to constrictions on capacity.*



Whereas, the creation of this fund is intended for Bryn Mawr College parties that are hosted within the dorms.

*Be it resolved*, that the Bryn Mawr College Self-Government Association request that money for annual events, such as East vs. West, Radnor Halloween and St. Patrick's Day no longer be taken solely from the budget of the host dorm(s), but rather be taken from a separate fund comprised of ten percent (10%) from every dorm's budget.

*Be it resolved*, that the Bryn Mawr College Self-Government Association will match the funds comprised of the ten percent (10%) taken from each Dorm President budget. As the budgeting process for the Fall of 2012 has already occurred, SGA's contribution will not be available until the Spring semester of 2013, at which time they will match the remaining Dorm President budget funds.

*Be it resolved*, that these combined funds be placed under the control of the Residence Council, where the distribution of the funds for these events will be voted on by the Dorm Presidents.

*Be it resolved*, that the Dorm Presidents of the hosting dorm are responsible for presenting a budget on behalf of their dorm prior to the funds being voted on.

*Be it resolved*, that the Residence Council's voting will be conducted in a two part process which will proceed as thus:

- 1) A vote in which the majority of the Residence Council's quorum is in agreement with the event.
- 2) A vote in which the majority of the Residence Council's quorum is in agreement with the amount of the funds requested.

*Be it resolved*, that functions receiving pecuniary resources from this fund must be open to all current Bryn Mawr College students.

*Be it resolved*, that the requested money for the annual events be used for the non-alcoholic party functions of these events, as funds would only be allocated for party necessities such as bouncers, food, DJs/music, and decorations.

*Be it resolved*, that this fund be made available at the commencement of each academic year, and the funds will cover the events of that academic year.

*Be it resolved*, that the Residence Council Heads of 2012-2013 will organize the creation of this fund for the 2012-2013 academic year on the contingency that this resolution passes.

**Contributions to a Party Fund From Each Dorm President's Budget: 2012-2013**

<b>Dorm</b>	<b>Annual Dorm President Budget</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Brecon	\$425	\$42.50
Denbigh:	\$460	\$46.00
Erdman	\$625	\$62.50
Haffner	\$390	\$39.00
Merion	\$450	\$45.00
Pem East	\$525	\$52.50
Pem West	\$475	\$47.50
Perry	\$150	\$15.00
Radnor	\$370	\$37.00
Rhoads North	\$440	\$44.00
Rhoads South	\$350	\$35.00
Rock	\$615	\$61.50

**Total of 10% of every Dorm President budget: \$527.50**

**Total when matched by SGA\*: \$1055.00**

\*Matching my SGA may not be feasible for the 2012-2013 year as they have already undergone their budgeting process.

## **Resolution 4: Perry House Transparency and Institutional Commitment**

Presented by Marissa Jackson '14 and Sasha De La Cruz '15

*Whereas*, Perry House, Bryn Mawr College's Black Cultural Center, is now closed as a facility for gatherings and resident housing.

*Whereas*, administration has given students a vague timeline concerning the renovation and reopening of Perry House.

*Whereas*, the Dean's Office is significant as a liaison between students and administration, and the Board of Trustees is significant as a group responsible for decisions concerning campus finances.

*Whereas*, many were disappointed about the decision to make Pem East Fourth the new Perry House residence.

*Whereas*, students have had limited participation in the discussions concerning its future.

*Whereas*, members of Sisterhood, BACaSO and Mujeres have expressed the desire to have members of every ethnicity, nationality, and creed attend our meetings, events, and discussions as members of our affinity groups.

*Whereas*, space for Black and Latina support groups is limited on campus.

*Whereas*, there is limited space to hold general body meetings and special events for groups on campus.

*Whereas*, regular access to a kitchen for food demos and other cultural meals is limited on campus.

*Whereas*, Perry House is important and relevant to both Black History in the United States and Bryn Mawr's institutional history.

*Whereas*, subsequent generations of Bryn Mawr students may not understand the cultural, political, and social importance of Perry House if it is not renovated before the Class of 2015 graduates.

*Be it Resolved*, the Association recommends that the Board of Trustees, President McAuliffe, Residential Life, and Facilities Services make the renovations to Perry House a priority in Bryn Mawr's institutional planning and seek to make it a livable space for students before the Fall of 2014. The Association requests an

institutional commitment towards the renovation and revival of the Perry House tradition.

*Be it Resolved*, students will be invited to meetings concerning renovations and or the closing of dorms and other student spaces.

*Be it Resolved*, student representatives for Facilities Services and the Board of Trustees, as well as other appropriately positioned student leaders will maintain regular contact with the student body so that they have a better opportunity to understand and share the opinion of all students with the administration in continuing the dialogue on Perry House. This may be done through individual meetings with various club leaders and in SGA meetings.

*Be it Resolved*, students representatives from Sisterhood, Mujeres, and BACaSO will hold regular discussions with the Dean's Office, Residential Life, and the President's Office until a definite plan for Perry House has been set in motion.

*Be it resolved*, resources should be allocated to the upkeep and maintenance of the Perry House once renovations have taken place.

*Be it resolved*, there are a variety of different factors that play a role in determining the future of Perry House, and the Association will be willing to make compromises if and when they are necessary, with the assumption that all involved parties have the best interest of the Bryn Mawr community at heart.