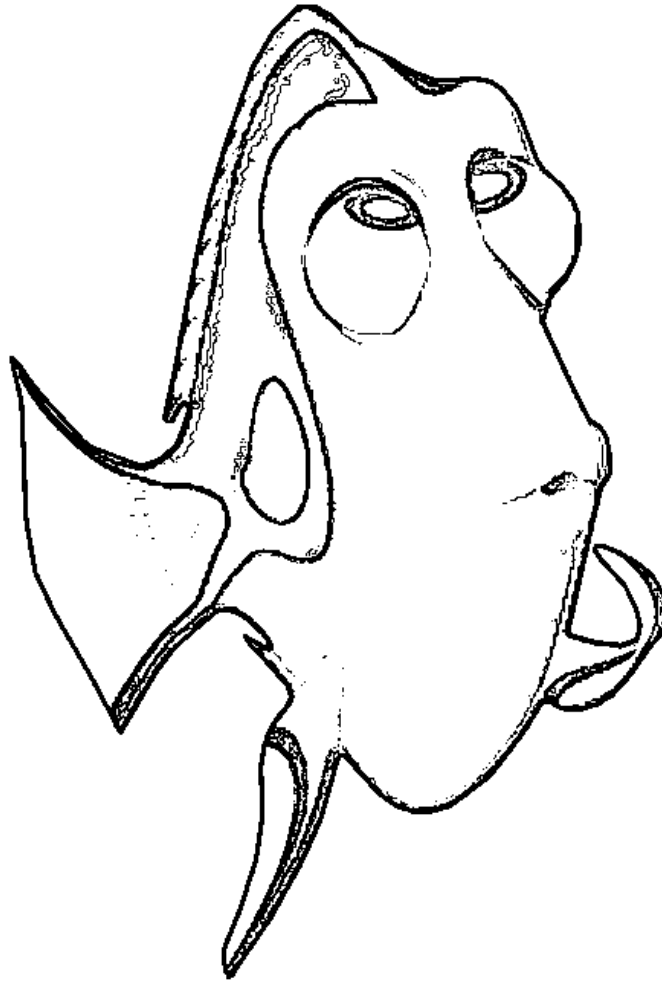


FINDING PLENARY



Fall 2013

Goodhart Auditorium

Sunday, September 29, 2013

?s: sga@brynmawr.edu
Follow @bmcsга on Twitter
Like us on Facebook

BRYN MAWR
SELF GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

1. Overview of Plenary (Welcome)
2. Approval of the Rules of Order and Agenda
3. Resolution 1: Constitutional Name Change of the Recycling Committee to the Green Ambassadors Committee
4. Resolution 2: More Gender Neutral Language in the Constitution
5. Resolution 3: Student Collaboration with the Board of Trustees and Divestment

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*****

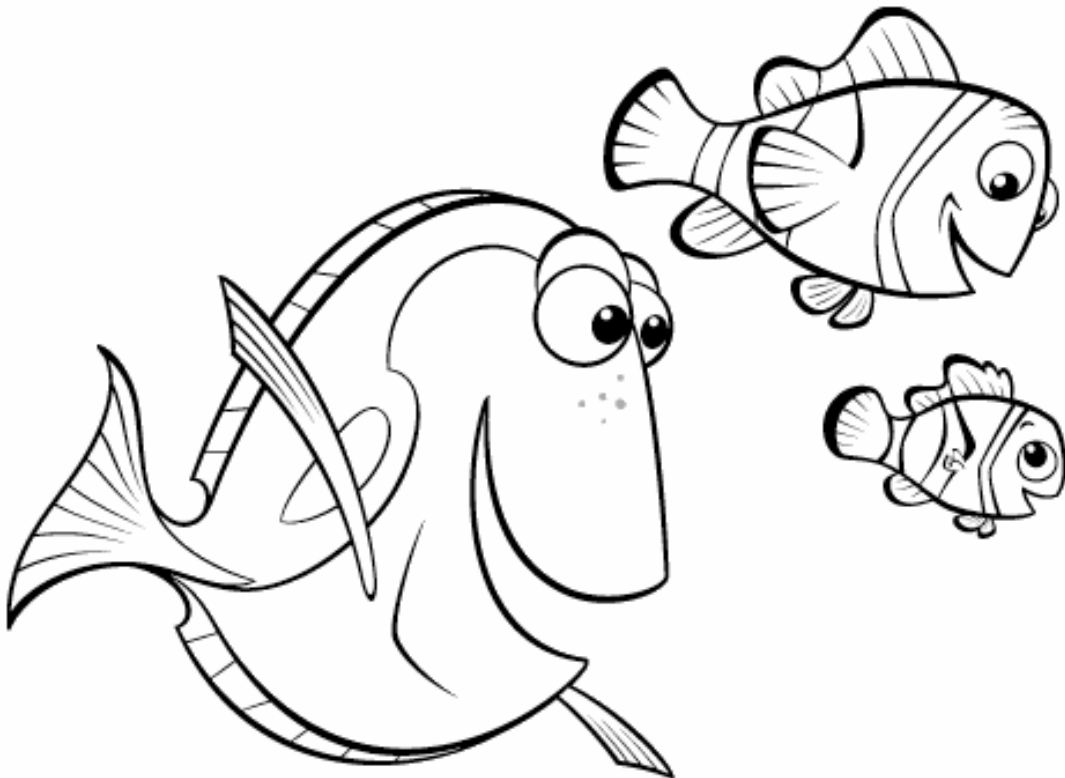
These motions as well as the amendment process are serious procedures; which can, if abused, hinder the process or render it unfair. Please use them with discretion and allow the existing process to work as efficiently as

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: Constitutional Name Change of the Recycling Committee to the Green Ambassadors Committee

Submitted by Piper Martz '16 and Rudrani Sarma '16

Whereas, Article VII, Section I, Subsection C and Article VII, Section II, Subsection D, Subsection E, and Subsection F of The Constitution of the Self-Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College (henceforth known as SGA Constitution) references "Recycling Representatives" and "Recycling Committee,"

Whereas, Article VII, Section II, Subsection F states that the "Recycling Representatives shall oversee recycling in the dorms and other activities the committee undertakes,"

Whereas, the recent expansion of projects and responsibilities of the Recycling Committee and Recycling Representatives have surpassed the overseeing of recycling in dorms to include a variety of other "green" projects and initiatives that encompass sustainability efforts at Bryn Mawr College,

Whereas, the term "Recycling" restricts the implications of the committee's extent and responsibilities,

Whereas, Victor Donnay, the chair of the Sustainability Leadership Group, has indicated support for changing the name of the "Recycling Committee" to "Green Ambassadors Committee" and the title of "Recycling Representatives" to "Green Ambassadors,"

Whereas, Jim McGaffin, the Assistant Director for Energy and Project Management of Facilities Services, has indicated support for changing the name of the "Recycling Committee" to "Green Ambassadors Committee" and the title of "Recycling Representatives" to "Green Ambassadors",

Whereas, the Sustainability Leadership Group Committee, has indicated support on Friday, September 20th, 2013 for changing the name of the "Recycling Committee" to "Green Ambassadors Committee" and the title of "Recycling Representatives" to "Green Ambassadors,"

Whereas, the 2012-2013 Recycling Committee met consensus regarding this name change during the fourth quarter of the academic year, after the 2013 spring Plenary,

Be it resolved, that henceforth all initiatives set out by this committee will be attributed to the Green Ambassadors and Green Ambassadors Committee,

Be it resolved, that the use of "Recycling Committee" in Article VII, Section II, Subsection E be changed to "Green Ambassadors Committee,"

Be it resolved, that the use of "Recycling Representative" in Article VII, Section I, Subsection C and Article VII, Section II, Subsection D, Subsection E, and Subsection F be changed to "Green Ambassadors Representative."

Resolution 2: More Gender Neutral Language in the Constitution

Submitted by Sofia Oleas '15 and Elizabeth Vandenberg '16

Whereas, The Constitution of the Self-Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College (henceforth known as the SGA Constitution) does not consistently use gender neutral terms throughout the document,

Whereas, Article IV, Section I, Subsection K, Point 4; Article V, Section I, Subsection A and Subsection G; Article VII, Section II, Subsection O, Subsection P, and Subsection Q; and Article VIII, Section IV, Subsection B use the words "Freshman" and "Freshmen" when referring to first-year undergraduate students,

Whereas, Article VI, Section IX, Subsection A uses the word "Freshwoman" when referring to the Songs Mistress,

Whereas, Article VI, Section VI, Subsection A uses "her/his" and Article VIII, Section III, Subsection E uses "s/he",

Whereas, "Freshman", "Freshmen", "Freshwoman", "s/he", "his/her" are non-neutral nouns and pronouns,

Whereas, the SGA Constitution should use inclusive, neutral language,

Whereas, not all students of the Bryn Mawr College student body identify with the gendered language of the SGA Constitution,

Be it resolved, that the use of "Freshman Class Songs Mistress" in Article IV, Section I, Subsection K shall be changed to "First-Year Class Songs Mistress,"

Be it resolved, that the use of "freshman" in Article V, Section I, Subsection A shall be changed to "first-year",

Be it resolved, that the use "freshmen" in Article V, Section I, Subsection G shall be changed to "first-years,"

Be it resolved, that the use of "Freshman Dorm Representative" in Article VII, Section II, Subsection O, Subsection P, and Subsection Q shall be changed to "First-Year Dorm Representative,"

Be it resolved, that the use of “Freshman Songs mistress” in Article VIII, Section IV, Subsection B shall be changed to “First-Year Songs Mistress,”

Be it resolved, that the use of “Freshwoman Songs mistress” in Article VI, Section IX, Subsection A shall be changed to “First-Year Songs Mistress,”

Be it resolved, that the use of “her/his” in Article VI, Section VI, Subsection A shall be changed to “their,”

Be it resolved, that the use of “s/he accepts” in Article VIII, Section III, Subsection E shall be changed to “they accept.”

Resolution 3: Student Collaboration with the Board of Trustees and Divestment

Presented by Sofia Oleas '15 and Betsy Helm '16

Whereas, the Environmental Justice League's (henceforth known as EJL) mission is to work for and promote environmental justice,

Whereas, in order to achieve that environmental justice—and thereby make Bryn Mawr College an environmentally-sustainable institution—EJL hopes to use the tactic of fossil fuel divestment to help initiate real institutional change,

Whereas, The Bryn Mawr College Self-Government Association Constitution (henceforth known as SGA Constitution) provides the student body with self-governance and therefore empowers the student body to express and put into action the change wanted,

Whereas, in accordance with this tradition of self-governance, students deserve a voice in the discussions and decisions that ultimately affect student life on campus and should have a role discussing surrounding issues brought to the Bryn Mawr College Board of Trustees (henceforth known as the Board) by students from the outset,

Whereas, Bryn Mawr College as an institution resolves to “encourage students to be responsible citizens who provide service to and leadership for an increasingly interdependent world (A),”

Whereas, Bryn Mawr affirms in its Climate Action Plan a commitment to work with other educational institutions to facilitate the growth of alternative energy and pursue issues surrounding sustainability (B),

Whereas, the leaders of 167 countries (including the United States) have agreed that any warming of the planet above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe, and we have already (as of 2012) raised the temperature 0.8°C, causing far more damage than most scientists expected (C),

Whereas, in their campaign for fossil fuel divestment EJL has received overwhelming support from the student body in 250 petition signatures and a vote in favor of supporting divestment from the 2012-2013

Representative Council of the Self-Government Association (henceforth known as SGA) during the SGA meeting on February 3, 2013 (D),

Whereas, the EJM has previously met with the Committee on Investment Responsibility and the Investments Policy Subcommittee to present the rationale behind divestment,

Whereas, the Board recently responded to student requests by sending a letter with no further explanation and the Board rationale has not been fully explained,

Whereas, further student support was accumulated through a photo petition—wherein members of the student body took pictures of themselves holding sheets of paper stating each individual's reason for supporting divestment—from the student body after they were informed of this decision,

Whereas, EJM hopes to remove any obstacles and complications to foster better communication and collaboration between the Board and the student body,

Be it resolved, that the Board invite members of EJM to a negotiations meeting, with a third party facilitator, at its February meeting. This meeting will model active student participation in Board decisions regarding topics brought before trustees by students as well as supporting the formation of open communication channels between students and the Board,

Be it resolved, finally that student supporters of divestment should consider backing up their vote today by coming to the open section of the Board meeting in October.

Appendix

(A) Bryn Mawr College Mission Statement (1998) states "The academic and co-curricular experiences fostered by Bryn Mawr, both on campus and in the College's wider setting, encourage students to be responsible citizens who provide service to and leadership for an increasingly interdependent world."

"Bryn Mawr College Mission Statement." Bryn Mawr College. Ed. Board of Trustees. Bryn Mawr College, Dec. 1998. Web. 15 Sept. 2013.

(B) Bryn Mawr's Climate Action Plan states "At present, there is a lack of renewable energy capacity, both regionally and nationally. To address this fundamental problem, the College will work with other institutions of higher education to support the growth of alternative energy sources as well as other sustainability initiatives (5)."

Bryn Mawr College Sustainability Committee. Bryn Mawr College Climate Action Plan. Publication. Bryn Mawr: Bryn Mawr College, 2010. Bryn Mawr College. Bryn Mawr College, 15 Jan. 2010. Web. 15 Sept. 2013.

(C) Facts and figures used were found in a resolution put forth by the MA United Church of Christ advocating for fossil fuel divestment.

Antal, Jim. Resolution Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies. Publication. N.p.: n.p., 2012. Massachusetts Conference UCC, Dec. 2012. Web. 19 Sept. 2013.

(D) In a vote taken on a proposal to recommend divestment at the February 3, 2013 SGA meeting, the Representative Council of the Self-Government Association voted in favor of divestment with zero votes of opposition and four abstentions.

Self-Government Association, comp. Bryn Mawr College SGA Blog. Proc. of February 3, 2013 SGA Meeting, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr. Bryn Mawr College, 7 Feb. 2013. Web. 15 Sept. 2013.

(E) The response was sent via email to the members of the Environmental Justice League following an in-person meeting the previous April and a subsequent conference call in June.

Holland, Cheryl L. Letter to Bryn Mawr Earth Justice League. Aug. 2013. MS. N.p

Summary

Damage caused by extraction, transportation and burning of fossil fuels is a real and present threat to our generation, especially indigenous peoples, people in the global south and those with fewer resources who bear the brunt of destructive industry practices and will face the worst costs of climate change. The nationwide divestment movement seeks to address the lack of action on this issue by making the connection between money and destructive practices. Bryn Mawr has an opportunity to be a leader in this movement, highlighting its commitment to social justice and to student involvement in decisions by moving the money of its endowment out of the fossil fuel industry. Members of the Environmental Justice League (formerly the Earth Justice League) seek to continue negotiations with the Board of Trustees while calling for more transparency in decision making processes on campus. This resolution is an opportunity for the student body to speak directly to the Board on this urgent matter.

Rationale

Climate change is a very real and immediate issue that will impact the future of the planet not just decades into the future but tomorrow as well. Climate change is an issue of environmental justice and social justice as the phenomenon disproportionately affects those nations least responsible for the anthropogenic carbon that exacerbates the warming of the planet. Individual actions—recycling, turning off lights, and conserving energy in the home—though helpful do not have the broad systematic impact that divestment could bring about.

The divestment movement is powerful and continuously growing. Already six schools have divested and over 200 schools in addition to many churches and municipalities are campaigning for fossil fuel divestment. Investments are political and divestment sends fossil fuel companies a message opposing “business as usual” practices. Divestment provides an opportunity for students to stand up and bring about real political change for a better planet.

This fits our mission as Bryn Mawr College as an institution resolves to “encourage students to be responsible citizens who provide service to and leadership for an increasingly interdependent world.” It is also a bad investment.

Environmental Justice League began the campaign for fossil fuel divestment in winter of 2012. Environmental Justice League has received 250 student signatures on a petition supporting divestment as well as a vote of support from the Self-Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College. Environmental Justice League has had two meetings, one with the Committee on Investment Responsibility and one with the Investments Policy Subcommittee, as well as a conference call with the Committee on Investment Responsibility, but has been informed that the committee will not recommend divestment to the full Bryn Mawr College Board of Trustees.

Environmental Justice League asks that the Board provide greater transparency regarding Bryn Mawr's investments and the Board's decision-making process. In the past, the Board has made little effort to validate student voices and concerns and allow students to take part in Board decisions. Environmental Justice League believes that by offering greater transparency to and more actively working with students, Bryn Mawr can realize its true potential as a self-governed institution.

Environmental Justice League asks that those present at plenary support this call for greater student power and involvement and take this opportunity to stand up for the right for student voices to be heard. Environmental Justice League may have received a "no," but will not stop pushing to achieve its goals.