**What is your name?**

Ivy Drexel

**Why do you want to be on this committee?**

I transferred to Bryn Mawr two years ago as a sophomore and immediately knew it was the right decision. I finally found a welcoming, unwavering, and passionate community that cared about me as much as I came to care about it. Bryn Mawr has given me exactly the academic rigor, support, and resources I want and need out of my college career, and I am hoping to do my part to show that kind of support and give back to my community. My amazing experience at Bryn Mawr thus far has made me passionate about the future of our school, and I would love to be a part of this monumental decision.

**How do you plan to represent student voices on this committee?**

I feel I have involvement in many aspects of the Bryn Mawr community and thus would be able to reach out and connect with many different different student voices. As a transfer student, I am able to empathize with atypical first-years and identify their concerns with adjusting to the new environment. I have also studied abroad and have taken classes at all three other institutions in the Consortium, and therefore would be able to communicate and represent the voices of our Tri-Co community members as well. Finally, I am a Co-Dorm President and thus attend all SGA and ResCo meetings, and have constant communication with my residents.

**What skills do you bring as an applicant?**

I've had many experiences working in groups and with the public, researching, and problem-solving. This past summer I had an internship at The National Archives, in which I had the opportunity to work directly with researchers, learn about their topic, and help them find the primary documents they needed. There were many different methods of locating information, and often times this process would require a number of sources. I adapted to these new methods quickly and was able to assist researchers as we learned from each other. However, some inquiries would require the collaboration of additional archivists besides myself. In these cases I would meet with people on my team and brainstorm different types of records or online resources that would best fit the particular topic or type of question. In this way, the internship not only strengthened my interpersonal and collaborative skills, but also expanded by researching and problem-solving skills. I was also asked to respond to letter inquiries from the public which sharpened my business writing.

Additionally, being in a cappella groups and various choirs for the past eight years has taught me how critical it is to not simply be in a group and communicate within it, but to together, symbiotically, to produce a desired result. Compromises and various resolutions must be made for a group to be successful.

**What do you feel are the most important attributes of the next President of Bryn Mawr College?**

The next President of Bryn Mawr College must be passionate and engaged. A passionate leader will strive for the best , and empathize and communicate whole-heartedly with staff and students to empower the Bryn Mawr community. Passion is vital for the President of Bryn Mawr College because passion is an attribute that is true for every Bryn Mawr student. An engaged leader will be informed and involved with the farthest corners of the academic community and beyond. The President should be willing and available to receive feedback from the community, and know and respect the concerns and issues of the school.

**Give an example of a time when you worked in a group and had to make a decision together. Please be specific.**

A prime example of group decision-making happened this past weekend, as my a cappella group hosted auditions for new students. With about thirty-five auditions, only twelve spots for callbacks, and five spots open in our group, we had to come together for serious deliberation. We had an open and honest discussion about the various traits we were looking for in our ensemble: personality and a positive attitude, willingness to learn, voice part, and listening skills. For some auditions, we were unanimous, and for others we were evenly divided. Each member of our group individually explained her reasoning for opposing or supporting the cases on which we were split, and then together, we discussed what we needed as an a cappella group and close community, and what we needed for our music.

This decision-making required us to be completely unbiased and honest. In some cases, we needed to make sacrifices, such as deciding against an applicant with an amazing voice but who was unwilling to learn how to arrange music, or choosing an applicant whose enthusiasm and personality made up for a missed note or two. After callbacks, our second and final deliberation was based on how well each singer blended with the group, and who put herself outside her comfort zone and tried some vocal percussion! Before these callbacks, my a cappella group had discussed at length exactly what we were looking for. This way, everyone was happy with the decisions made and it turned out to be the smoothest and most peaceful audition process I've yet experienced!

**Please list your time commitments for the remainder of this year and the summer. How do you plan to keep yourself organized and accountable to your commitments?**

Class Monday, Wedesday, Friday

Dorm President (SGA and ResCo meetings)

Chamber Singers Tuesday, Thursday

Extreme Keys a cappella (practice 2-3 times a week)

I've learned not to overcommit myself to obligations in and out of the academic community. I will be thesising both semesters this year but am sticking to a strict timeline of getting a certain amount of work done each week. I religiously keep a planner and write down even small engagements of time so that I have minimum conflicts. If there is a scheduling conflict for any reason I am always sure to keep those concerned informed.

**Imagine you were just named the next President of Bryn Mawr College. In 300-500 words, please outline your visions and goals and describe your course of action for the next five years.**

As President of Bryn Mawr College, I would continue to improve the necessary aid to students in need, reevaluate the stipulations for outbound students abroad, and continue to expand the resources and opportunities for students and faculty, in order to maintain Bryn Mawr's status as a one-of-a-kind institution.

Studying abroad is one of the many phenomenal opportunities Bryn Mawr offers to its students. The experience of living overseas, studying a new curriculum and culture, and engaging in a new discourse of the world, is immeasurable. However, many students have shied away from this opportunity for academic and financial reasons. Many majors, such as biology and other sciences, as well as double majors, are limited by the course load and credits required at Bryn Mawr because most higher level courses must be taken within the Bi-Co. Additionally, the policy of paying Bryn Mawr’s tuition regardless of the cost of the institution abroad, as well as the other expenses that going abroad entails, can be a limiting factor to students. In the next several years I will work with department heads and major advisors to coordinate ways for classes abroad to be taken into consideration as counting towards the more extensive major work plans. Thus, the student would have the opportunity to study abroad while not fall behind the projected graduation schedule. In the financial sector, I will work with our Study Abroad Office and international institution liaisons to reevaluate a median cost that will be fair to the student, the school abroad, and Bryn Mawr’s own funding.

Over the next few years I hope to see Bryn Mawr becoming even more involved with the arts, extracurricular opportunities, and the national scene. For example, this summer we hosted the Women in Public Service Project Institute, which allowed some of our students to engage in a political and social discourse involving the empowerment and leadership of women. This was an invaluable resource for faculty and students. Similarly, we always have a remarkable arts calendar to showcase renowned performers from around the world and introduce them to our community. But we can always do more! I will strive to increase the number of these presentations, forums, and seminars by at least two-fold in the coming years, and make sure they are advertised and accessible to all of the Bryn Mawr community.