

Defy Gravity at

PLENARY



Sunday, September 28th

Fall 2014

sga@brynmawr.edu

sga.blogs.brynmawr.edu

Twitter: @bmcsга

Facebook: Bryn Mawr College Self-Government Association

Campus Mail: Box C-1735

BRYN MAWR

SELF GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

1. Overview of Plenary (Welcome)
2. Approval of the Rules of Order and Agenda
3. Resolution 1: Increasing Pool of Faculty Representatives to the Honor Board
4. Resolution 2: Allowing a Dean's Designee in Honor Board Hearings
5. Resolution 3: Increase Books on Reserve in Library
6. Resolution 4: Updating the General Language of the SGA Constitution
7. Resolution 5: Extending the Resignation Period for Assembly Members to Align with Elections By-Laws
8. Resolution 6: Halal Meal Options for Muslim Students
9. Resolution 7: College Participation in SEPTA's University Pass Program: 10% Discount SEPTA TrailPasses
10. Resolution 8: Reflecting the Integration of Civic Engagement and Career and Professional Development into LILAC through SGA Representative Council
11. Resolution 9: Increasing the Number of Tenure-Track and Tenured Faculty of Color at Bryn Mawr College
12. Resolution 10: Establishing a Time Limit for Reaching Quorum and Digital Reaffirmation
13. Resolution 11: Inserting Content Warnings in Syllabi

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*. This ensures that the will of the majority is done while protecting the voice of the minority. The rules of order may seem awkward and sometimes constraining, but they 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 resolution - 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 resolutions, 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 QUESTION microphone.**

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

****If you wish to make a statement in opposition to a proposal, please use the red CON 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 person at the microphone will be allotted more than one minute to comment on the resolution.

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 their proper seat during a vote, so 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. 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.

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 composition of 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.

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 by and uphold the Social Honor Code by respecting this rule.

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

Resolution 1: Increasing Pool of Faculty Representatives to the Honor Board
Submitted by Melanie Bahti '16

Whereas, academic hearings conducted by the Honor Board include both student and faculty representatives;

Whereas, Article I, Section B, Subsection 1 of the Honor Code currently reads:

The Academic Honor Board consists of the Dean of the Undergraduate College, three members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and eight students from the Undergraduate College: three students from the senior class (at the beginning of the fall semester), two students from the junior class (at the beginning of the fall semester), two students from the sophomore class (at the beginning of the fall semester), and one student elected as Head of the Honor Board by members of the Association.

Whereas, representatives on hearings have in practice included two student members of the Honor Board drawn from the total number of elected members, the Head of the Honor Board, the Dean of the Undergraduate College, and two Faculty Representatives to the Honor Board;

Whereas, in practice five Faculty Representatives to the Honor Board serve at hearings on a rotating basis based on availability and conflicts of interest;

Whereas, this practice mirrors the way in which student representatives to the Honor Board rotate to serve on hearings;

Whereas, options for scheduling hearings would be constrained by a smaller pool of Faculty Representatives;

Whereas, the Honor Board and the Dean's Office strive to resolve potential breaches of the Honor Code by conducting hearings promptly;

Whereas, students have the right to request that a student or faculty representative to the Honor Board not serve on their hearing if they have a conflict of interest;

Whereas, a student could have multiple conflicts of interest with the three faculty representatives to the Honor Board, and in practice two faculty representatives are present at each hearing;

Whereas, in the event no faculty representatives to the Honor Board are able to serve in a hearing, a member of the faculty who has previously served on the Honor Board has been asked to serve;

Whereas, the current practice of having five total faculty representatives has worked well in the current Honor Board's experience, decreasing the possibility of multiple conflicts of interest and facilitating speedy scheduling of hearings;

Be it resolved, that Article I, Section B, Subsection 1 of the Honor Code be modified to read:

The Academic Honor Board consists of the Dean of the Undergraduate College, **three to five** members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences **elected as Faculty Representatives**, and eight students from the Undergraduate College: three students from the senior class (at the beginning of the fall semester), two students from the junior class (at the beginning of the fall semester), two students from the sophomore class (at the beginning of the fall semester), and one student elected as Head of the Honor Board by members of the Association.

Be it resolved, that there now be an Article I, Section B, Subsection 1, subsection a that reads:

In the case that most current representatives of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences are compromised because of conflicts of interest or scheduling, the Dean's Office will request that a faculty member who has previously served on the Honor Board be asked to serve on a hearing.

Be it resolved, that the Honor Code be adjusted on the SGA blog to reflect this modification upon passing of the resolution;

Be it resolved, that the Honor Board send a modified version of the Honor Code to the Dean's Office to ensure that future student handbooks be printed to include the most recent version of the Honor Code that reflects this change.

Resolution 2: Allowing a Dean's Designee in Honor Board Hearings
Submitted by Melanie Bahti '16

Whereas, Article I, Section B, subsection 1 of the Honor Code reads:

The Academic Honor Board consists of the Dean of the Undergraduate College, three members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and eight students from the Undergraduate College: three students from the senior class (at the beginning of the fall semester), two students from the junior class (at the beginning of the fall semester), two students from the sophomore class (at the beginning of the fall semester), and one student elected as Head of the Honor Board by members of the Association.

Whereas, Article II, Section A, Subsection 1, Subsection d reads:

The Head of the Honor Board and the Dean of the Undergraduate College will read both statements to determine if a hearing is warranted. If it is unclear whether a matter should be addressed by the Academic or Social Honor Board, the Head of the Honor Board in conjunction with the Dean of the Undergraduate College shall decide to whom the matter will be referred.

Whereas, Article II, Section A, Subsection 2, Subsection c reads:

In the hearing, the confronted student has the option to be present for all testimony given. The student's dean is present during the entire hearing, but does not have a vote in the final decision. The hearing is conducted in an informal manner. As soon as the hearing is over, the student is informed of the Board's decision by the Head of the Honor Board and the Dean of the Undergraduate College. The Dean of the Undergraduate College informs the professor of the confronting party.

Whereas, the Honor Code requires that the Dean of the Undergraduate College be present at all Academic Honor Board hearings;

Whereas, the Head of the Honor Board is also asked to be present at all Academic and Social Honor Board hearings unless there are conflicts of interest ;

Whereas, Student Representatives to the Honor Board, Faculty Representatives to the Honor Board and members of the Dean's Office of Bryn Mawr College wish to respect conflicts of interest;

Whereas, all students have the right to have their Dean present at a hearing as stated in Article II, Section A, Subsection 2, Subsection c (recorded above);

Whereas, the Dean of the College may have advisees who find themselves in front of the Honor Board;

Whereas, the current Undergraduate Dean of the College has expressed the importance of having a designee from the Dean's Office take on her role in hearings so as to respect the rights of the student;

Whereas, this practice has been followed in recent years;

Whereas, the Honor Board would like the Honor Code to properly reflect hearing practices that take into consideration the needs of the student;

Be it resolved, that the Honor Code sections related to hearing procedure be modified so that all mentions of the role of the Dean of the Undergraduate College be followed by “or his/her/their designee from the Dean’s Office”;

Be it resolved, that the Honor Code be adjusted on the SGA blog to reflect this modification upon passing of the resolution;

Be it resolved, that the Honor Board send a modified version of the Honor Code to the Dean’s Office to ensure that future student handbooks be printed to include the most recent version of the Honor Code that reflects this change.

Resolution 3: Increase Books on Reserve in Library

Submitted by Rachel Massey '18

Whereas; many Bryn Mawr courses exceed an enrollment number of twenty,

Whereas; this is particularly true for introductory level courses, and other courses that fulfill distribution requirements,

Whereas; Bryn Mawr libraries typically have one book or course text on reserve for many of these courses,

Whereas; Bryn Mawr libraries only allow students to check out books or course texts on reserve for three hours at a time, with the possibility of two renewals,

Whereas; students are given assignments to complete within the first week of classes, when they may be unable to obtain a book from the bookstore, or order it in time to complete their coursework without utilizing the books or course texts on reserve,

Whereas; students with limited schedules due to other classes, work study, extracurricular activities, other school-sponsored activities or with responsibilities or interest that extend in to the community have difficulty finding a time in which the one book or course text on reserve is available,

Whereas; textbook prices have risen dramatically over the past few years without considering the potential financial impact on students and their families,

Whereas; much of a college student's work requires extensive reading for a full and rich understanding of the course material,

Resolved, the student body recommends that Bryn Mawr libraries will increase the number of books and course texts on reserve so that there is at least one book available for every twenty students enrolled in a course, while acknowledging that modifications to the amount of textbooks or course texts remain amendable depending on the course need, to better provide for the student body's academic needs.

Resolution 4: Updating the General Language of the SGA Constitution

Submitted by Madelaine Dubin '16 and Brenna Levitin '16

Whereas, the Constitution of the Self-Government Association does not accurately describe the ways in which the Self-Government Association currently operates,

Whereas, the Self-Government Association Constitution has not been maintained in a way which promotes consistency and usability,

Whereas, the Constitution has several grammatical and spelling errors,

Whereas, consistency in articles should be improved,

Whereas, repetition of Representative Council responsibilities under each position is unnecessary,

Whereas, the descriptions of the Off-Campus Representative and Haverford Representative positions can be restructured to promote clarity,

Whereas, the Treasurer's task of keeping time at Self-Government Association meetings is not assigned in the Constitution,

Whereas, the Secretary does not preside over the Members-at-Large,

Whereas, the Office of Intercultural Affairs now falls under the Pensby Center,

Be it resolved, that the changes listed in Appendix A be made to the Constitution.

Appendix A:

Changes will be as follows:

That the use of any form of "Association" when referring to the Self-Government Association in Article I, Section I, Subsections A, C, and D; Article I, Section II, Subsection A, D, E, and F; Article II, Section I, Subsection A; Article II, Section II, Subsection A; Article III, Section I, Subsection B, Points 2 and 6; Article III, Section I, Subsection D, Points 2 and 6; Article III, Section I, Subsection E, Point 9; Article III, Section I, Subsection F, Point 5; Article III, Section II; Article IV, Section I, Subsection A; Article IV, Section I, Subsection D, Point 4; Article IV, Section I, Subsection E, Points 2 and 3; Article IV, Section I, Subsection F, Point 3; Article IV, Section I, Subsection H, Point 2; Article IV, Section I, Subsection I, Point 7; Article IV, Section II, Subsections A and B; Article IV, Section III, Subsections A and R; Article VIII, Section I, Subsection A; Article VIII, Section II, Subsection A; Article IX, Section I; and Article X, Section I, Subsection A shall be changed to "SGA,"

That the use of "the entire Association" shall be changed to "all members of SGA,"

That the use of "Amendment" in Article I, Section II, Subsection F shall be changed to "amendment,"

That the use of “Faculty and Administration and Students” in Article III, Section I, Subsection B, Line 5 shall be changed to “faculty, administration, and students,”

That the use of “assembly” in Article II, Section I, Subsection E shall be changed to “Assembly,”

That the use of “office” in Article III, Section I, Subsection C, Line 1 shall be changed to “Office,”

That the line “If there are two people holding office, only one Representative is required to be present at meetings of the Representative Council.” shall be added to Articles IV, Section I, Subsections D and E,

That the phrase “Committee on Public Safety” in Article II, Section I, Subsection C; Article IV, Section I, Subsection N, Points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8; Article VI, Section VIII; Article VI, Section VIII, Subsection A; Article VI, Section XI, Subsection B; Article VII, Section II, Subsections I, J, and K shall be changed to “Campus Safety Committee,”

That the phrase “Public Safety” in Article IV, Section I, Subsection N, Points 3 and 4 shall be changed to “Campus Safety,”

That Article IV, Section I, Subsection A read as:

Subsection A: The Representative Council shall act as the Voting Body of the Assembly and SGA.

Representatives shall attend and participate in the Representative Council meetings. Representatives will vote on behalf of the representative’s constituents in Representative Council meetings.

Representatives may serve on committees formed by the Representative Council.

Representatives shall participate in achieving the Representative Council’s long and short term goals.

That all remaining Sections be numerically adjusted,

That the following lines be removed as they are now satisfied by Article IV, Section I, Subsection A: Article IV, Section I, Subsection B, Points 2, 3, 5, and 6; Article IV, Section I, Subsection C, Points 2, 3, 4, and 5; Article IV, Section I, Subsection D, Points 7, 8, 9, and 11; Article IV, Section I, Subsection E, Points 4, 5, 6, and 7; Article IV, Section I, Subsection F, Points 5, 6, 7, and 8; Article IV, Section I, Subsection G, Points 4 and 5; Article IV, Section I, Subsection H, Points 5 and 6; Article IV, Section I, Subsection I, Points 11 and 12; Article IV, Section I, Subsection J, Points 7 and 8; Article IV, Section I, Subsection K, Points 9 and 10; Article IV, Section I, Subsection L, Points 4 and 5; Article IV, Section I, Subsection M, Points 5 and 7; Article IV, Section I, Subsection N, Points 7 and 9; Article IV, Section I, Subsection O, Points 3 and 4; Article IV, Section I, Subsection P, Point 4; Article IV, Section I, Subsection Q, Point 3,

That Article IV, Section I, Subsection D, Point 1 should be changed from “The Haverford Representative, which shall represent the Association Members Residing at Haverford College, may be held by two people.” to “The Haverford Representative(s) may be held by two people,”

That the phrase “Office of Intercultural Affairs” in Article II, Section I, Subsection C and Article IV, Section I, Subsection Q shall be changed to “Pensby Center,”

That the statement “The Treasurer shall keep time at all meetings of SGA.” be added to Article III, Section I, Subsection D as Point 9,

That the statement “The Secretary shall call and preside over meetings of the Members-at-Large.” be removed from Article III, Section I, Subsection E, Point 3 and that subsequent lines be renumbered accordingly,

That the words “Web site” in Article III, Section I, Subsection E, Point 10 shall be changed to “website.”

Resolution 5: Extending the Resignation Period for Assembly Members to Align with Elections By-Laws

Submitted by Molly Mac Dougall '16

Whereas, Article VIII, Section 1, Subsection E of the Constitution states that “Any member desiring to resign from the SGA Assembly shall submit a written resignation, no less than two weeks prior to official resignation, to the Secretary of SGA who shall present it to the Assembly for action,”

Whereas, the Elections By-Laws dictate an elections cycle to take three weeks, as exhibited in Appendix A, including: Nominations that “begin two weeks before the election and run for one week” (Article I, Section 1, Subsection A), a Candidates Forum that is held the week before the election (Article III, Section 1, Subsection A), Campaigning that begins the morning after Candidates’ Forum (Article VI, Section 1), voting, which is to be held on a Monday and Tuesday (Article VIII, Section 1), and run-offs, which are to be held on a Thursday and Friday (Article VIII, Section 2),

Whereas, rushing an elections round to have a replacement for a resigning Assembly Member violates these by-laws,

Whereas, rushing a process does not necessarily allow for proper information dissemination or identification of all interested candidates,

Whereas, the length of the resignation period has previously presented problems for running an emergency election (March 2014 Emergency Election), preventing interested voters from voting,

Be it resolved that, Article VIII, Section 1, Subsection E of the Constitution be amended to read “Any member desiring to resign from the SGA Assembly shall submit a written resignation, no less than three weeks prior to official resignation, to the Secretary of SGA who shall present it to the Assembly for action.”

Be it resolved, that the amended clause in the Constitution is sent to the Dean’s Office to be updated in the Handbook and the Webmistress/master/mistex to be updated on the blog.

Appendix A

Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Nominations Begin!	Nominations	Nominations	Nominations	Nominations	Nominations	Nominations
2	Nominations	Nominations & Info Sessions	Info Sessions	Info Sessions	Candidates Forum	Campaigning	Campaigning
3	Campaigning	Voting	Voting	Result Tabulation	Run-Offs	Run-Offs	Result Tabulation

Resolution 6: Halal Meal Options for Muslim Students

Submitted by Alizeh Amer '16

Whereas, it is mandatory for all students living on campus to enroll in the unlimited meal plan;

Whereas, lack of protein in diet may lead to adverse physical and mental effects, such as arthritis, muscle deterioration, heart problems and severe depression, anxiety and fatigue;

Whereas, many Muslim students observe the religious practice of only eating meat that is Halal - pertaining to certain meats that cannot be eaten such as pork and for permissible meat such as chicken to be slaughtered in a specific way;

Whereas, lack of halal meat options effectively limits some students to vegetarian and vegan options;

Whereas, lack of halal meat options may create a spiritual dilemma for students choosing between their physical needs and religious practices;

Be it resolved, the student body recommends Dining Services to provide more halal options for Muslim students in the Dining Halls.

Be it resolved, the Executive Director of Dining Services Bryn Mawr/Haverford and Associate Director of Dining Services will continue to take steps to provide pre-prepared microwavable halal meals for students on an individual basis.

Resolution 7: College participation in SEPTA's University Pass Program: 10% Discount SEPTA TrailPasses

Submitted by Rae Hamilton '15 and Jacqueline Slaby '15

Whereas, the Bryn Mawr Community is aware of the growing transportation costs to get into Philadelphia and surrounding areas;

Whereas, there are bodies of people on campus who would benefit from having a discount pass program- such as but not limited to McBride Scholars, faculty, and staff;

Whereas, students and employees would be able to opt-in to the program at the beginning of each semester;

Whereas, students and employees who choose to participate in the University Pass Program will have unlimited rides on SETPA's trolley, bus, subway and Regional Rail services for the duration of that month/semester the pass stipulates;

Whereas, this will encourage students to seek opportunities off campus and explore the communities around, thus enriching their academic, social, and civic activities;

Whereas, other institutions of higher education in Philadelphia have been successful in implementing a SEPTA university pass program;

Whereas, this program would be a separate initiative and would not affect the 'Five Complementary' SEPTA tickets Student Activities offer to students on a semester basis;

Whereas, a survey conducted by two current Bryn Mawr students who serve on SEPTA's Youth Advisory Council, Rae Hamilton '15 and Jacqueline Slaby '15 reveals 96% of surveyors indicated that if they were to participate in the University Pass Program they would be more likely to use SEPTA and seek opportunities off campus. if the student body would be in favor of Bryn Mawr's participation in SEPTA's University Pass Program (under Appendix A);

Whereas, in the same survey 97% of surveyors expressed their support of Bryn Mawr College's participation in the University Pass Program (under Appendix B);

Be it resolved, the student body recommends Bryn Mawr College to match SEPTA's 5% discount to provide a 10% discount on TrailPasses for students and employees as a participant in SEPTA's University Pass Program by Spring 2015.

Appendix

A. SEPTA's University Pass Program Survey: Future Discount Options - Students
Prepared by Rae Hamilton '15 and Jacqueline Slaby '15

Future Discount Options - Students

If you decided to opt into the program, would you be more likely to use SEPTA and seek opportunities off campus?



Yes	161	96%
No	0	0%
Not Sure	4	2%

B. SEPTA's University Pass Program Survey: Fall 2014 Plenary Resolution - Petition
Prepared by Rae Hamilton '15 and Jacqueline Slaby '15

Fall 2014 Plenary Resolution - Petition

Would you like to sign the petition that will be submitted to SGA for Fall 2014 Plenary?



163	97%
0	0%
1	1%

Resolution 8: Reflecting the Integration of Civic Engagement and Career and Professional Development into LILAC through SGA Representative Council

Submitted by Swetha Narasimhan '15

Whereas, in the Self-Government Association Constitution, in Article IV, Section I, Subsection P, it states that “The Civic Engagement Representative shall attend meetings of the CEO and serve as a liaison between CEO and the Assembly.”

Whereas, the formerly known Civic Engagement Office, abbreviated CEO, has changed its name to Civic Engagement, abbreviated CE,

Whereas, Civic Engagement and Career and Professional Development, abbreviated CPD, have joined forces to form Leadership Innovation Liberal Arts Center, abbreviated LILAC,

Whereas, LILAC aims to promote interaction with students as much as possible,

Whereas, the Representative Council should include a liaison from the whole office of LILAC, not just the CE branch,

Whereas, a student representative to the CPD would widen the staff of campus represented in the Representative Council,

Whereas, CPD and CE will remain distinct offices with distinct purposes under the umbrella of LILAC,

Whereas, the Self-Government Association should strive to support the changes implemented by offices on campus that act as student resources,

Whereas, student representation from a variety of offices and resources on campus is important,

Be it resolved, that there be created LILAC representatives to the SGA Representative Council consisting of two positions entitled “LILAC: Civic Engagement Representative” and “LILAC: Career and Professional Development Representative”

Be it resolved, that Article IV, Section I, Subsection P, be changed to read “The Civic Engagement Representative shall attend meetings of the CE staff and serve as a liaison between CE and the Assembly.”

Be it resolved, that in Article II, Section I, Subsection C, the position of “Civic Engagement Representative” be changed to read “LILAC: Civic Engagement Representative.”

Be it resolved, that there be added in Article II, Section I, Subsection C, a position of “LILAC: Career and Professional Development (CPD) Representative.”

Be it resolved, that Article IV, Section I, Subsection P be changed to read “LILAC: Civic Engagement Representative”

Be it resolved, that Article IV, Section I, Subsection P, point 4 be changed to read “The Civic Engagement Representative will consult with the CPD Representative to share one vote representing LILAC in the Self-Government Association Representative Council”

Be it resolved, that there be added in Article IV, Section I, a Subsection R: LILAC: CPD Representative, reading:

1. The CPD Representative shall be held by only one person at any one time.
2. The CPD Representative shall attend meetings of the CPD and serve as a liaison between CPD and the Assembly.
3. The CPD Representative may serve as a liaison to SGA-funded groups who might benefit from CPD resources.
4. The CPD Representative will consult with the Civic Engagement Representative to share one vote representing LILAC in the Self-Government Association Representative Council.

Be it resolved, that the LILAC: Career and Professional Development position be elected through the process of a Special Election to be held soon after Fall Break 2014, and in the future through one of the normal elections rounds.

Resolution 9: Increasing the Number of Tenure-Track and Tenured Faculty of Color at Bryn Mawr College

Submitted by Kristian Sumner '17

Whereas, 17% of Bryn Mawr College's tenured/tenure-track faculty are of color¹,

Whereas, there are 111 total tenured/tenure-track faculty and of this number, 4 are African-American, 5 are Latino/a, and 10 are Asian-American²,

Whereas, there is currently no transparency between Bryn Mawr faculty and students involving attempts to increase the diversity of tenured/tenured-track faculty,

Whereas, the entire student body would benefit from more tenured/tenure-track faculty of color at Bryn Mawr College.

Whereas, having more tenured faculty of color will help increase the diversity on campus,

Whereas, increasing the number of tenured/tenure-track faculty of color would send the message that the current faculty care about helping diversify the campus,

Whereas, the current method of hiring faculty of color, "Target Opportunity Hire", is limited by the people on the search committee and whom they know in Academia,

Whereas, the number of full-time undergraduate students of color is 361 out of a total number of 1315 students, or 27.5%³,

Whereas, the small number of faculty of color alienates both the faculty of color and the students of color,

Whereas, this percentage is so small the faculty/students of color are often the only person of color in a class or department meeting causing them to be seen as the representative of their race,

Whereas, this feeling of having to represent a race leads to students of color not participating in class for fear of having their words judged solely based on their skin color,

Whereas, with more tenured/tenure-track faculty of color these students who feel silenced in their classes will have more professors they can identify with and who can help the other professors who are not of color to understand how certain classroom environments can ostracize students of color,

¹ "2013-2014 Bryn Mawr Factbook: Faculty", Bryn Mawr College Office of Institutional Research. <http://www.brynmawr.edu/institutionalresearch/documents/Faculty1314.pdf>

² "2013-2014 Bryn Mawr Factbook: Faculty" Bryn Mawr College Office of Institutional Research. <http://www.brynmawr.edu/institutionalresearch/documents/Faculty1314.pdf>

³ As of Fall 2013, 66 African-American, 126 Latino/a, 139 Asian-American, 2 Native American, and 58 multiracial students were full-time undergraduates at BMC.

"2013-2014 Bryn Mawr Factbook: Diversity", Bryn Mawr College Office of Institutional Research. <http://www.brynmawr.edu/institutionalresearch/documents/Diversity1314.pdf>

Whereas, having more tenured faculty of color will help enact necessary change in the administration involving racial issues that occur on campus,

Whereas, these racial quagmires involving faculty and students of color would be handled better if more people of color were involved in the decision-making process due to the fact that they have personal experience dealing with issues involving race,

Whereas, Bryn Mawr College lacks the significant number of tenured/tenure-track faculty of color to create an irrefutable presence on campus,

Whereas, this low number of tenured/tenure-track faculty of color inhibits the growth of all students, especially the students of color who do not see themselves sufficiently reflected in the tenured/tenure-track faculty,

Whereas, the longer it takes to implement new strategies in hiring more tenured/tenure-track faculty of color, the longer this institution fails to provide an array of successful and professional role models for students of color; "robbing them of material to fuel their aspirations and undermining the sense of hope that they should be able to expect as brilliant and hardworking students"⁴

Whereas, it is not the job of current faculty of color or current students of color to educate their colleagues, comrades, and classmates, on the history of race in America and the cultural differences and racial issues still present today, at Bryn Mawr and the rest of America,

Be it resolved, the faculty of Bryn Mawr College will acknowledge the abysmally low number of faculty of color and the implicit (and explicit) biases at work that prevent them from increasing the number of tenured/tenure-track faculty of color,

Be it resolved, the current committee(s) whose job it is to seek, to hire, and to appoint tenured/tenure-track faculty will make it their mission to obtain more tenured/tenure-track faculty of color,

Be it resolved, the position of Faculty Diversity Representative will be recreated and added to the Faculty Search Committee responsible for hiring faculty,

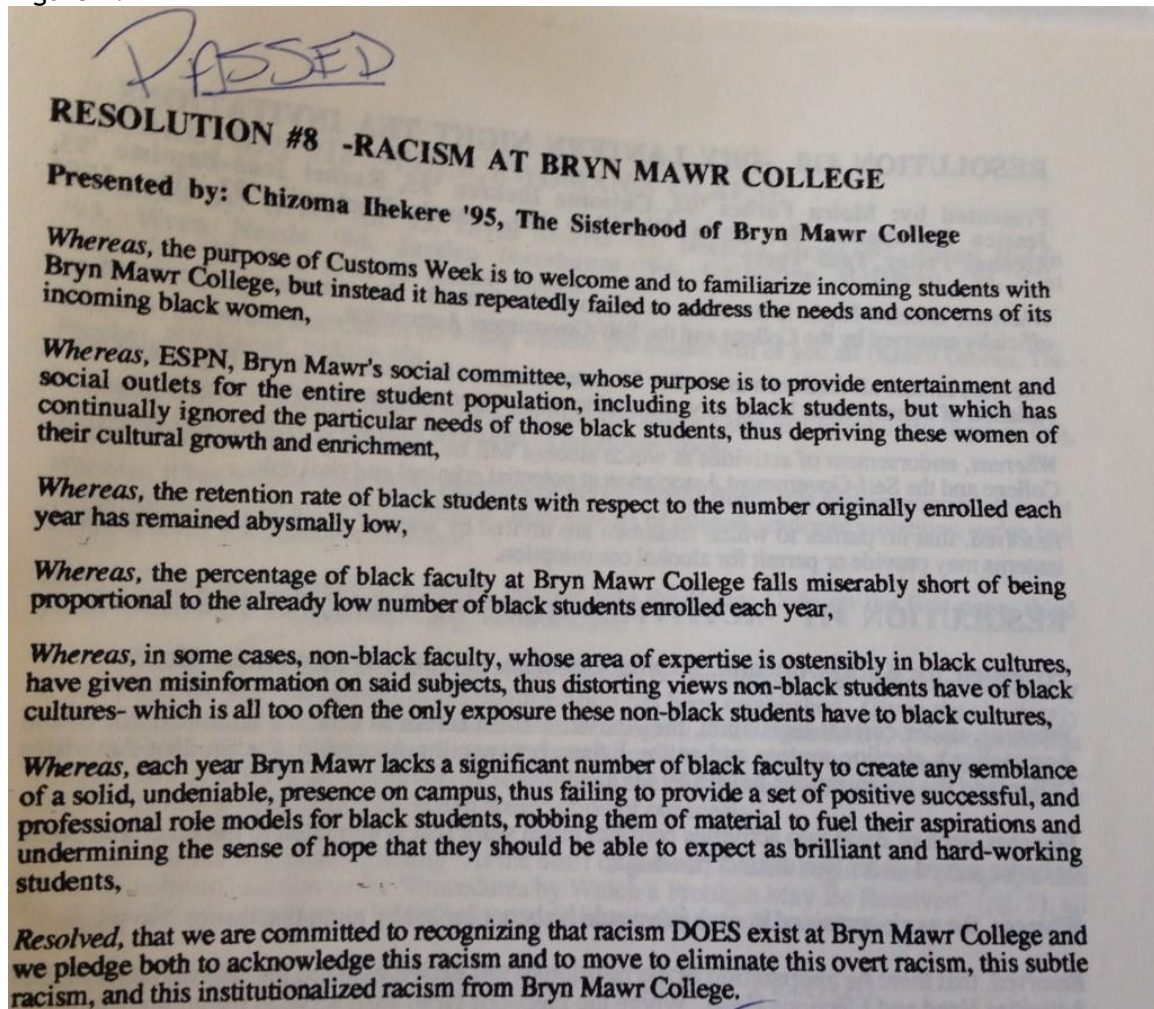
Be it resolved, the Faculty Diversity Representative on the Faculty Search Committee will have an equal vote in the faculty hiring process,

Be it resolved, more tenured/tenure-track faculty of color will be hired not just to fill a position that was vacated but because of how exceptionally qualified and respected they are in their field,

⁴ Reference to the 1993 Plenary Resolution addressing racism at Bryn Mawr College. See Appendix Figure 1.

Be it resolved, the Bryn Mawr College Administration will work with UPENN to open up more of their “Cultural Diversity in the U.S”⁵ classes to Bryn Mawr students, or hire more faculty of color to teach similar courses, like “Blacks in American Film/TV”, “Homelessness and Urban Inequality”, “South Asians in the U.S”, “Latinos in United States”, and “Race and Ethnic Relations”.

Appendix
Figure 1.



⁵ University of Pennsylvania College of Arts & Sciences, College Requirements Course Listings, <http://fission.sas.upenn.edu/col/genreq/results.php?type=C2&cls=10>

Resolution 10: Establishing a Time Limit for Reaching Quorum and Digital Reaffirmation

Submitted by Nora Scheland '15 and Rebecca Cook '15

Whereas, Article I, Section II, Subsection C reads that “Plenary shall be held twice during each academic year (once each semester) in accordance with Article VI, Section X. Plenary quorum shall be one-third of the undergraduate student body. At Plenary, a simple majority of those present is required to pass all proposals, amendments to the SGA Constitution, and resolutions.”

Whereas, it has been difficult to reach and maintain quorum in recent years (specifically, Fall 2013, where quorum was not reached and Spring 2014, where quorum was reached and then lost),

Whereas, it is imperative to maintain self-governance at Bryn Mawr College by holding Plenary,

Whereas, it is important that Plenary be held once a semester at Bryn Mawr College due to time sensitive changes and to spread decision making across the academic year as some students are abroad each semester,

Whereas, Plenary brings about important changes on campus while allowing students' voices to be heard,

Whereas, the Reaffirmation of the SGA Constitution is essential to the daily operations of the campus and community, allowing for activities like self-scheduled exams and SGA sponsored clubs and events,

Whereas, a majority of the student body has expressed a need for a time limit through surveys and Self-Government Association (SGA)-led discussions,

Whereas, the SGA Representative Council voted in favor of having a time limit on Sunday, January 26, 2014,

Whereas, it is necessary to set down a procedure in the event that the time limit to quorum is reached before quorum has been established and plenary proceedings need to be tabled,

Be it resolved, Article I, Section II, Subsection G of the Constitution of SGA of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College (henceforth known as the SGA Constitution) read, “A time limit of 3 hours will be maintained for reaching quorum at every Plenary. If quorum is attained and later lost, a time limit of 30 minutes will be established to regain quorum. After these 30 minutes have elapsed the waiting period will cease. If quorum has not been reached the attendees will be dismissed. If quorum has been reached plenary will proceed. If quorum is lost again, plenary must end. There will be no subsequent waiting period”

Be it resolved, Article I, Section II, Subsection H of the SGA Constitution read, “If quorum is not reached at the Fall Plenary, then resolutions will be tabled until the next Plenary occurs to be brought forth again at the resolution writers' discretion.

Plenary will not have been held that Fall semester.”

Be it resolved, Article I, Section II, Subsection I of the SGA Constitution read, “If, before quorum is lost, any resolutions have been presented and voted upon, the results of those votes stand. All other resolutions may be tabled until the next Plenary occurs to be brought forth again at the resolution writers’ discretion. Plenary will have been held at that time.”

Be it resolved, Article I, Section II, Subsection J of the SGA Constitution read, “If quorum is reached at the Spring Plenary, the Constitution is reaffirmed, and then quorum is lost, Plenary has been held. All remaining resolutions will be tabled until the next Plenary occurs to be brought forth again at the resolution writers’ discretion.”

Be it resolved, Article I, Section II, Subsection K of the SGA Constitution read, “If quorum is not reached at the Spring Plenary, then a Digital Reaffirmation will be held to reaffirm the SGA Constitution. A Digital Reaffirmation will have a quorum of one-half the association. The time limit for quorum will be 48 hours. The Head of the Elections Board and Head of the Honor Board will oversee the vote for the Reaffirmation of the SGA Constitution. All remaining resolutions will be tabled until the next Plenary occurs to be brought forth again at the resolution writers’ discretion.”

Be it resolved, Article I, Section II, Subsection L of the SGA Constitution read, “If quorum is not reached for Spring Plenary or the Digital Reaffirmation, then the newly elected SGA Executive Board, SGA Executive Board Emeritae/i/a, Plenary Committee and Representative Council will decide how to proceed. Consequences, which are up to the discretion of these parties as well as the Dean of the Undergraduate College, may include but are not limited to the following: all SGA reimbursements and payments for purchases after the Digital Reaffirmation will not occur, the dissolution of academic and social practices as described in the Bryn Mawr College Honor Code, and the disbandment of the SGA Representative Council.”

Resolution 11: Inserting Content Warnings in Syllabi

Submitted by Brenna Levitin '16 and Emmett Binkowski '16

Whereas, the backgrounds and personal histories of the Student Body are diverse,

Whereas, in the spirit of the Honor Code diversity should be recognized,

Whereas, the mental health of the Student Body is an important concern that should be given due consideration,

Whereas, some classes deal with material that could be detrimental to the mental health of the Student Body,

Whereas, the Student Body has the right to emotional security in their classes,

Whereas, the Student Body has the right to know ahead of time the content of class material,

Whereas, students should not need to make themselves vulnerable by communicating triggers with individual professors personally,

Whereas, Content Warnings are defined as, for the purposes of this Resolution,

Notes used to alert people when the content of an internet post, book, article, picture, video, audio clip, or some other media could potentially trigger harmful reactions, such as post-traumatic flashbacks or self-harm,

Be it resolved, that anyone responsible for creating a class syllabus is highly recommended to include Content Warnings for potential triggers in class materials where necessary,

Be it resolved, that recommended Content Warnings include, but are not limited to: sexual assault, domestic violence, abuse (specify one or more of: physical, mental, emotional, verbal, sexual, child abuse), pedophilia, racism, homophobia, transphobia, suicide, self-harm, eating disorders, abortion, gore, drug addiction, and alcohol addiction.

Be it resolved, that a committee be formed to discuss the introduction of content warnings in syllabi, consisting of four students to be appointed by the SGA Appointments Committee, two faculty and/or staff members, one faculty or staff member of the Curriculum Committee, and one representative of Access Services.

Appendix A: Suggested formatting for Content Warnings in Syllabi

Example 1:

Monday, January 28:

Screening Leon: The Professional in class

Content warnings include: gore, physical/sexual/child abuse, pedophilia, sexual assault, domestic violence

Example 2:

2/12/2014

The Last Patriarch, p 1-103

CW: sexual assault, domestic violence