

# Plenary



**Spring 2013**

Sunday, February 17, 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: Reaffirmation of the Constitution
4. Resolution 2: Community Presentation of Honor Board Abstracts
5. Resolution 3: Financial Transparency

## 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 a 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: Reaffirmation of the Constitution**

Submitted by Natalie Kato '14, Rebecca Cook '15, Syona Arora '15, Amy Chen '14, and Amani Chowdhury '14

*Whereas*, the Self Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College is the first and oldest system of self-governance in the United States,

*Whereas*, the spirit of self governance permeates almost every aspect of the Undergraduate Bryn Mawr College experience,

*Whereas*, the students of Bryn Mawr College have pledged to work together for the welfare, benefit, and preservation of the community as a whole,

*Whereas*, we recognize that to reach full potential of our community, we require a commitment on the part of each and every individual,

*It is hereby resolved that* we, the members of the Self Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College present today, the 17th of February, 2017, on behalf of the entire Association, reaffirm our commitment to Self-Governance, the Constitution, and the Honor Code.

## **Resolution 2: Community Presentation of Honor Board Abstracts**

Submitted by Irene Shin '13 and Amani Chowdhury '14

Whereas, releasing Honor Board hearing abstracts are imperative in keeping the Bryn Mawr community informed and in holding the Honor Board accountable,

Whereas, both Article II, Section A, Subsection 2, Point f, and Article II, Section B, Subsection 2, Point e of the Honor Code read:

*Once a month, at the first meeting of the month of the Assembly of the Self-Government Association the Head of the Honor Board will make a short, anonymous report of the hearing to the Assembly to be inserted in the minutes.*

*The format should follow as seen below:*

*A student was found (guilty/innocent) of (insert broad description of the infraction, i.e. plagiarism or forgery) this week. The board came to the consensus that (insert summary of the course of action to be taken). A more complete description of the case, in the form of an anonymous abstract, will be released at a later date as specified by the Honor Code.*

*After at least two semesters, but within four semesters, an anonymous synopsis of the case is published for the benefit of the community.*

Whereas, past Heads of the Honor Board have not abided by either of these sections of the Honor Code in recent years because of conflicts of interest and concerns about student privacy. As stands, the Head of the Honor Board does not release monthly reports to the SGA Assembly nor does she release Honor Board abstracts to the Bryn Mawr community,

Whereas, releasing Honor Board monthly reports as stated in the Honor Code may not take into consideration personal feelings and works against the Honor Code's intent of restoration over punitive action,

Whereas, the Honor Code currently uses terms like "guilty" and "innocent" in the format for abstracts, working against the goal of mutual trust, respect and concern,

Whereas, the way in which the Honor Code dictates the Honor Board to release information may violate student privacy,

*Be it resolved* that abstracts be written and released in order to keep the Honor Board accountable. This is essential for reasons of transparency and in keeping the Bryn Mawr community informed,

Be it resolved that the Honor Code under Article II, Section A, Subsection 2, Point f will be modified so that Academic Honor Board abstracts be released in the following manner:

*At the end of each semester, the Honor Board Head will release a final report of the hearings that took place to the Bryn Mawr Community. This report will include the number of academic hearings, the reason why they were brought to the board, and a broad description of the decision of each hearing. In addition, the Honor Board Head will present this information at the end of each semester to the SGA Assembly.*

*Included in the published report, the Honor Board Head must also include 5 to 6 random abstracts from no earlier than 2 semesters ago and no later than 6. This random selection should be representative of cases that are still relevant to campus life. All members of the Self Government Association have the right to ask the Honor Board Head for as many abstracts from hearings that have happened from no earlier than 2 semesters ago and no later than 4.*

Be it resolved, the Honor Code under Article II, Section B, Subsection 2, Point e will be modified so that Social Honor Board abstracts be released in the following manner:

*At the beginning of the spring semester, the Honor Board Head must release Social Honor Board Hearing abstracts from no earlier than two semesters ago and no later than ten. These abstracts should be presented to the SGA assembly and will be released to the Bryn Mawr community. The Honor Board Head should take into consideration issues of confidentiality while selecting these abstracts as there still may be collective memory over the incident. The Honor Board Head will consult the Dean of Undergraduate Students when doing so. If the Honor Board Head does not have any Social Honor Board abstracts to release, then she must state this to the SGA assembly at the beginning of the spring semester.*

Be it resolved, that the 2013-2014 Head of the Honor Board include this in the Honor Code and have these procedures followed throughout the academic year.



### **Resolution 3: Financial Transparency**

Submitted by Alexandra Spear '13 and Morgan Fine-Morris '14

*Whereas*, Bryn Mawr College has a long and proud history of self-governance and the recognition of student leadership,

*Whereas*, both the students and the administration of the College have the same goal of improving the institution and the administration has made changes towards that goal,

*Whereas*, there lacks a consistent forum for dialogue between the administration of the College and the students,

*Whereas*, current students and alumnae/i would be interested in knowing the general expenditures of the College,

*Whereas*, the College Budget Committee does not currently act as a forum to allow for student input or to accommodate student interests,

*Whereas*, some projects such as Perry House have lacked student input in the planning and budgeting process,

*Whereas*, many organizations, including the government of the United States, publish their budget every fiscal year for public access,

*Be it resolved*, that the student body recommends that the administration annually publish its budget for the current Fiscal Year, with detail down to the department budgets and project costs, on the College website,

*Be it resolved*, that a notice saying the budget has been published will then be emailed to all current students and alumnae/i,

*Be it resolved*, that the student body recommends that the administration host an open meeting at least twice a semester, not to coincide with SGA meetings, to discuss future plans for the college and current issues that students and the administration face, and that the President of the College, the Chief Financial Officer, and other Cabinet members as appropriate attend.

## **A note from Dining Services:**

As many of you know, Dining Services has made significant cuts within the last few months, and still needs to make some more in order to stay within its budget this year. In the last few weeks, Dining Services sent out a survey to the student body requesting information about priorities as they make these decisions, however, they realize that the amount of savings per item may be of interest to students in determining their preferences. On the adjacent page is an itemized budget that includes the amount saved and current status of various Dining Services based services. The status of many of these things may be negotiable depending on how students identify their priorities, even if there is an indicated decision made about it. An e-mail survey will be sent out shortly to gather more precise information, and a forum will be held shortly after to discuss these decisions. Specific questions can be directed to Bernie Chung-Templeton, Executive Director of Dining Services, at [bchung@brynmawr.edu](mailto:bchung@brynmawr.edu).

Item	Description	Potential Annual Savings	Already in effect
Food Cart	Closed	\$7,000	X
Menu Items & Ingredients	Reviewed and re-specified items on cucle menu (e.g. chicken breasts, salmon, London broil, turkey)	\$4,600	X
Soft Serve Ice Cream (Erdman)	Eliminate	\$36,000	X
Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice	Reduce to weekends only	\$32,200	X
Take Out Cup	Eliminated disposable cup (savings include cost of cup and food)	\$25,000	X
Student Labor	Reviewed and restructured student labor schedules. Hired 70 fewer students than in Fall 2011.	\$38,000	X
Maintenance (equipment)	Negotiated new maintenance contract with vendor	\$25,000	X
Travel & Training	Eliminated all travel and training for the department	\$9,500	X
Menu Enhancers & Monotony Breakers	Eliminated remaining for Spring 2013	\$8,000	X
Local Dinners (2)	Cancel	\$5,000	X
Thanksgiving Dinner	Modify menu, review all ingredients and replace with less expensive alternative	\$3,500	X
Holiday meal	Cancel	\$15,000	X
Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice	Eliminate fresh orange juice entirely	\$12,800	X
Take Out	Limit # of take out meals per week per student	\$35,000	X
Ice Cream Novelties	Eliminated (Spring Semester)	\$2,500	X
Flavored Cream Cheese (Breakfast/Brunch)	Eliminated	\$1,500	X
Celestial Seasonings/ Flavored Teas	Eliminated	\$1,800	X
Bars at Dinner (Erdman)	Replaced expensive bars with pasta bar	\$3,600	X
Meal Plans	Eliminate 1200 and 14 meal plans	\$68,000	
Black History Dinner	Cancel	\$6,000	
May Day	Food enhancements (e.g. strawberries, senior breakfast, meal set up outdoors, upscaled dinner)	\$15,600	
Garden Party	Eliminated Garden Party subsidy from Dining Services	\$11,800	
Commencement Brunch	Eliminate Special Brunch at Erdman	\$3,500	
Continuous Dining	Reduce or eliminated would result in some food savings-mostly student labor	\$30,000	
Quality of Ingredients	Look for further reductions to quality of meats, offerings of specialty items	\$4,000	
Unlimited Access (Traditional 20 Meal Plan)	Eliminated the ability to enter a meal more than once	\$1,500	
Guest Passes on Traditional 20 Plan	Eliminate	\$10,500	
Entrée Selections	Reduce number of entrée selections at Dinner from 3 to 2	\$25,000	
Dessert	Reduce number of days dessert is served. (e.g. only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, or Dinner only)	\$12,000	
Baked Dessert Item	Eliminate fresh baked item from Lunch and Dinner	\$18,000	
Continental Breakfast (Saturday)	Eliminate	\$25,000	