

BRYN MAWR

SELF GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Spring 2023 Plenary

March 27 - March 31



Email: sga@brynmawr.edu

Instagram: @bmcsga

Twitter: @bmcsga

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.

IMPORTANCE OF PLENARY

Bryn Mawr's SGA was established on the premise of self-governance, meaning that every student is a member of SGA and has the power to influence major decisions such as creating the Lusty Cup Cafe or advocating for the College to hire more professors of color. The platform is used to make changes and policy suggestions to administration and often, show administration where student concerns lay.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Reaffirmation of the SGA Constitution
2. Recommitment to the Values of the Honor Code
3. Improvements to Signage and Maps in Park Science Building
4. Election Requirements for Head of the Honor Board
5. Creation of a Student Workers' Representative and Committee
6. SFC Bylaws Updates
7. Routine Updates to the SGA Constitution

Resolution #1: Reaffirmation of the SGA Constitution

Presented by the 2022-2023 SGA Executive Board

Summary: The Bryn Mawr College Self-Governance Association -- the first collegiate student government in American history -- was established in 1892 as a way for the students to govern themselves. SGA is having the voice and the power to create positive change in our community through confrontation, discussion, and action. SGA also empowers us to create a community of mutual respect for all Mawrters. This resolution is to reaffirm our commitment to the spirit of self-governance, the Honor Code, and the SGA Constitution.

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,

Be it resolved, we, the members of the Self-Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College present today, the 26th of March, 2023, on behalf of the entire Self Government Association, reaffirm our commitment to self-governance, the SGA Constitution, and the Honor Code.

Resolution #2: Recommitment to the Values of the Honor Code

Presented by Head of the Honor Board Carlee Warfield

Summary: This Resolution serves to reaffirm our commitment as the Self-Government Association to the values of the Bryn Mawr College Honor Code. Confrontation is necessary for the Honor Code to work. The Honor Code calls for students to confront infractions of the Honor Code face to face and in a constructive manner. We acknowledge that active practice of confrontation is necessary to maintain the Honor Code as a contract between students, and a defining factor of the relationship between students and faculty and reaffirm our commitment to practicing such confrontation.

Whereas, the life of the Honor Code relies on community investment and engagement,

Whereas, all members of the undergraduate community have a responsibility to abide by the Honor Code,

Whereas, confrontation is the necessary first step toward bringing an infraction to the attention of the Honor Board, and is a responsibility listed in the Code (Article II, Section A),

Whereas, our Bi-Co partner, Haverford, lists a similar responsibility for individuals to the community in its Honor Code (Article 2, Section 3.06),

Be it resolved that, we, the undergraduate students of Bryn Mawr College, reaffirm our commitment to positive confrontation.

Resolution #3: Improving Signage and Directions in Marion Edwards Park Science Building

Presented by: Hannah Lawrence

Summary: Marion Edwards Park Science Building is an academic building where most Bryn Mawr and Haverford students will have a class sometime during their studies, but it is notoriously complex in layout and difficult to navigate - especially for students who do not already have extensive knowledge of the building's layout. Bryn Mawr College has made a commitment to being accessible, but Park Science's confusing layout and few methods of orientation are at odds with this commitment. What methods of orientation that are present (maps and signage) are often out-of-date or located infrequently in the building. This resolution asks the College for improvements and updates in signage and directions in Park Science Building in order to improve accessibility of the building overall. This will reduce stress and confusion in students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the building, and work towards a more accessible campus overall.

Whereas, Park Science Building is notoriously difficult to navigate

Whereas, only 4 maps of Park Science are publicly available in the building

Whereas, all 4 maps depict Park Science pre-renovation, without the Atrium- making them inaccurate as of Fall 2018

Whereas, only 1 map is located in the Western (Chemistry wing) side of Park Science

Whereas, all Elevators do not have maps installed

Whereas, Hallway doors, Intersections, and Stairwells do not indicate which sets of rooms or wings they lead to

Whereas, Faculty and Staff must often put up their own paper signs to indicate the direction of classrooms, which may be misleading and/or inaccurate

Whereas, there are only 2 Campus Accessibility maps in the building.

Whereas, Floorplans of the building are not easily available online

Whereas, Bryn Mawr College has made a commitment to Accessibility, which includes clarity in navigating buildings.

Be it resolved, updated maps will be installed at every entrance to Park Science.

Be it resolved, maps will be displayed in all elevators

Be it resolved, maps will be displayed at prominent intersections in the building, such as hallways between the Eastern and Western sections of the building

Be it resolved, signs will be installed at Hallway intersections indicating which sets of rooms are in which direction

Be it resolved, signs will be installed on Hallway Doors indicating which rooms lay behind them

Be it resolved, signs will be installed in Stairwells indicating which sets of rooms are located at each level

Be it resolved, signs will be installed indicating the location of elevators in the building

Be it resolved, Campus Accessibility Maps will be installed at each entrance to Park Science Building

Be it resolved, an updated map of Park Science Building will be available on the Bryn Mawr College Website

Be it resolved, Bryn Mawr College will continue to update these maps with any renovations undertaken in the future.

Be it resolved, Bryn Mawr College will uphold its commitment to accessibility, especially in its Academic Buildings.

References:

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/offices-services/facilities/our-departments/planning-projects/park-science-center-renovation-addition/park-science-renovation-phase-one>

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/offices-services/facilities/accessibility>

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/offices-services/access-services>

ADA: Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, § 216.3, 104 Stat. 328 (1990).

Mastrodonato, G., Camarda, D., Borri, D. *et al.* Navigating in multi-level buildings: the effect of rotation. *City Territ Archit* **3**, 9 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40410-016-0038-9>

<https://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna40431143>

Map Data gather via building walk-through.

Resolution #4: Election Requirements for Head of the Honor Board

Presented by: the 2022-2023 SGA Executive Board: Ananya Hindocha, Desiree Bagot, Bryn Osborne, Catherine Fu, Lola Rodrigues, Fatmata Sesay, Carlee Warfield

Summary: The Head of the Honor Board is a highly sensitive and important position on campus. In our current SGA Constitution, there are no requirements as to who can serve as the Head of the Honor Board. There is certain training and experience that only those who have served on the Conflict Resolution Committee or the Honor Board will have. Therefore, we propose that the Head of the Honor Board should be required to have served at least 1 semester on either the Honor Board or the Conflict Resolution Committee.

Whereas, the eligibility clause in the SGA Constitution is general and unspecific, stating that “to be eligible to run for a position, a candidate must meet the specifications of the office for which the student is running.”

Whereas, there are currently no specifications or requirements to serve as Head of the Honor Board in the position description in the SGA Constitution.

Whereas, the Head of the Honor Board is a position that deals frequently with highly sensitive, confidential information and complex social and academic issues on campus.

Whereas, reading the text of the Honor Code can only give so much insight into the intricacies of the position.

Whereas, the Honor Board and Conflict Resolution committee have a unique understanding of the way the Honor Code functions, with being involved in deliberation and a variety of cases pertaining to the Honor Code.

Whereas, those who have served on the Honor Board or the Conflict Resolution committee have undergone unconscious bias and conflict resolution training, which are essential skills for the Head of the Honor Board.

Be it resolved, the Head of the Honor Board will be required to have served at least one semester on either the Honor Board or the Conflict Resolution Committee.

Be it resolved, it will be the responsibility of the Elections Heads to confirm the experience of candidates for the Head of the Honor Board prior to sending out nominations.

Be it resolved, this resolution will go into effect during the next academic year, 2023-2024.

Resolution #5: Creation of a Student Workers' Representative and Committee

Presented by: Elle Thompson and Maia Tsalik (The Constitution Review Committee)

Summary: Creation of a new Student Workers' Representative position on Representative Council.

Whereas, many Bryn Mawr students work on campus to support themselves or their families, and their interests should be squarely in the purview of SGA;

Whereas, it is the Student Government's goal to develop better pay for student workers over time;

Be it resolved, the Representative Council position of Student Workers Representative is created.

Be it resolved, a Student Workers' Committee made up of various types of student workers is created.

New Text of Student Workers' Representative

The Office of the Student Workers' Representative may be held by two people. If there are two people holding office, only one Representative is required to be present at meetings of the Representative Council. The duties of the Student Workers' Representative(s) shall include:

1. Being responsible for the representation of Bryn Mawr's Student Workers at each meeting of the Representative Council.
2. Advocating for long-term pay security for Bryn Mawr's Student Workers. Working with the Executive Board and Assembly to create policies intended to support Student Workers on campus.
3. Voting in the Representative Council votes, attending all SGA meetings, and participating in achieving Representative Council's long- and short-term goals.

New Text of the Student Workers Committee

The Student Workers Committee will represent student workers on campus and serve as a liaison between student workers and SGA to help raise concerns from student workers and advocate for their needs. The committee will be made up of various types of student workers

The duties of the Access Services Committee will include:

1. Advocating for long-term pay security for Bryn Mawr's Student Workers
2. Listening to student workers in order to understand the needs of student workers on campus
3. Meeting in order to evaluate how best to meet the needs of student workers.

Resolution #6: Changes to the Student Finance Committee (SFC) Bylaws

Presented by the 2022-2023 SGA Executive Board: Ananya Hindocha, Desiree Bagot, Bryn Osborne, Catherine Fu, Lola Rodrigues, Fatmata Sesay, Carlee Warfield

Summary: The SFC bylaws have not been updated in several years and no longer represent the interests of the student body. The functioning of clubs has shifted after the COVID-19 pandemic, and changes need to be made within the SFC bylaws to reflect this new reality. There are also new procedures and regulations around budgeting, cash advances, and reimbursements that must be included in the bylaws.

Whereas, the SFC bylaws are not up to date with federal laws and no longer represent the interests of the student body

Whereas, the functioning of clubs on campus has changed following the COVID-19 pandemic, and SFC bylaws should be updated to reflect this new system.

Whereas, there are outdated terms and procedures within the SFC bylaws.

Whereas, there are new policies and procedures around budgeting that must be included in the SFC bylaws.

Be it resolved, the SFC Treasurers will now be referred to as the SGA Treasurers.

Be it resolved, the President(s) and Treasurer(s) of each organization must attend the Leadership Orientation and Budget Workshop at the beginning of each semester in order to receive budget information.

Be it resolved, clubs should only allocate funds for events that will occur in the given semester. Clubs that have big tournaments or conventions in the following semester that need things booked in advance will be considered on a case-by-case basis and up to the discretion of the SGA treasurer(s).

Be it resolved, the last day to submit reimbursements for the academic school year is the day before commencement (i.e. the last day of finals in the Spring semester).

Be it resolved, if an event is not widely advertised to the campus (i.e. closed events), these events will be capped at 100 dollars. Should the club seek to request more, they will present at the Sunday SGA Meeting the day budgets are voted on, as there are no longer budget interviews.

Be it resolved, group performance t-shirts will be limited to a maximum of \$15 dollars per person.

Be it resolved, for mid-semester review, around the time of each semester's respective breaks (i.e. Fall break or Spring break) the SGA Treasurer(s) will release an application form via the SFC Moodle page and give clubs one week to submit their requests. This can take place before or after the break.

Be it resolved, clubs and committees may return allocated money back to the SGA fund during the mid-semester review of the previous semester to avoid penalization.

Be it resolved, mid-semester requests are not guaranteed approval.

Be it resolved, the SFC Moodle page will have links/copies of the reimbursement request forms for each SFC Representative, the cash advance request form, and the budget reallocation form.

Be it resolved, students must select the appropriate form, fill it out completely, and submit the google forms properly and make sure to include the necessary attachments for any request.

Be it resolved, for online packages, a picture of the order items after arrival or a copy of a bank statement/transaction is required.

Be it resolved, anyone who wishes to hire an outside vendor should work with Student engagement to set up a payment method.

Be it resolved, for cash advances, one must complete and sign the cash advance form posted on the SFC Moodle page and complete a google form submission for the assigned SFC Representative indicating the cash advance request and attaching a copy of the signed cash advance form.

Resolution #7: Routine Updates to the SGA Constitution

Presented by: Keyla Benitez, Maia Tsalik and Elle Thompson (The Constitution Review Committee)

Summary: Routine changes to the Constitution Committee descriptions.

Whereas, the SGA Institutional Memory Committee plans to make changes;

Be it resolved, changes are made to the SGA Institutional Memory Committee and the Constitution Review Committee, and additions are made to the Committee Guidelines describing when Committees will be formalized.

Addition to the Committee Guidelines

New Committees may be created under the purview of the Executive Board, by a petition of 10% of the Representative Council, or by a Petition of SGA as per guidelines listed in the Constitution Article IV, Section 2C.

New Committees may be formalized and placed into the Constitution after two years of their existence. In order for a new Committee to be formalized, the Vice President and Executive Board must describe their function and current accomplishments before Representative Council.

Addition to the Constitution Review Committee

1. Put forward a plenary resolution to review the biographies of Committees once a year and ensure their continued success.
2. Create biographies for all new Committees after two years of their existence.

Addition to the SGA Institutional Memory Committee

The Institutional Memory Committee shall be headed by the SGA Archivist and comprised of up to seven additional members of the SGA, four General Committee Member(s), 1-2 AMO Historian(s), and 1-2 SGA Web Design Specialists. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Appointments Committee in the spring semester; the role of the SGA Archivist is an elected position. The Committee's mission is to preserve the institutional memory of the Self Government and AMOs on the SGA Website. It will accomplish this in the following ways:

1. Working alongside Special Collections and Bryn Mawr College's Archivist to ensure all documents are digitized and available on the SGA Website.
2. Maintaining the SGA Archives as easily accessible for all.

3. **Completing exit surveys and oral histories of the Executive Board.**

Students applying to be general committee members must be current members of the Self-Government Association. **Additionally, they should be creative, passionate about the committee's mission, and willing to approach tasks with an open mind. Individuals will be asked to complete tasks alone and in collaboration with other committee members or departments. Lastly, all committee members should approach problem-solving with a positive attitude!** Duties of general Committee Members shall include:

1. Assisting in the collection of oral and written histories from members of the SGA.
2. Transcribing historical documents and recordings.
3. Updating the public SGA Archive via Wordpress.
4. **Attending bi-weekly meetings as called by the SGA Archivist.**

At least one member of the Committee shall serve as the Affinity Group Collaborator and be responsible for collaborating with Affinity Organizations. At least one member of the Committee shall serve as the SGA Web Design Specialist. These roles may be selected by the Appointments Committee or internally by the club, at the Appointments Committee's purview. Duties of the Affinity Group Collaborator shall include:

1. **Maintaining the findings aid, a section within a digital archive that allows searches for specific materials, for AMOs on SGA's public archive.**
2. Maintaining and update a list of contacts for each affinity organization (i.e. if possible: the email of the historian of the organization).
3. **Sharing primary documents contained in the SGA archives with associated affinity organization(s).** Notifying affinity organizations when either new information about them (i.e. plenary minutes) or archived information, discovered in archived sources, is published on the archive.
4. Assisting general Committee members and **attending bi-weekly meetings as called by the SGA Archivist.**

Duties of the SGA Web Design Specialist(s) shall include:

1. Developing and sharing with future Web Designer(s) a familiarity with Wordpress.
2. Keeping in close contact with the Secretary, **Committee on Institutional Memory, and Constitution Review Committee** to update and list information on the website where necessary.
3. Updating, formatting, and digitally constructing the public archive of SGA.
4. **Attending bi-weekly meetings as called by the SGA Archivist.**

The position of SGA Archivist is an elected position, held by only one person. The duties of the SGA Archivist shall include:

1. Calling and presiding over meetings of the Committee on Institutional Memory.
2. Attending meetings of the Representative Council in order to advise on issues relating to SGA. Presenting quarterly reports at Representative Council meetings on their findings that are relevant to current issues and discussions of the Representative Council and greater campus community.
3. Collaborating with the SGA Executive Board and Representative Council to grow institutional memory continuously.
4. Assisting in carrying out the SGA's long- and short-term goals.
5. Voting in the Representative Council votes, attending all SGA meetings, and participating in achieving Representative Council's long- and short-term goals.