

BRYN MAWR

SELF GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Spring 2024 Plenary

April 7th, 2:00PM, Goodhart Auditorium



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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 to 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. Addition of AI Guidelines to the Honor Code
4. Changes to SGA Treasurer Eligibility in the SFC Bylaws and the SGA Constitution
5. Student Finance Committee (SFC) Bylaws Updates
6. Creation of the Students for Disability Justice Committee
7. Routine Updates to the SGA Constitution
8. Repainting the tea pantries in Rhoads
9. Creating a Food Pantry at Bryn Mawr College
10. Reestablishment of the SGA Kitchen and Reworking of the SLAWC
11. Calling for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza
12. The Development of an SGA Ethical Spending Committee

Resolution #1: Reaffirmation of the SGA Constitution

Presented by the 2023-2024 SGA Executive Board

Summary: The Bryn Mawr College Self-Government Association—the first collegiate student government in American history—was established in 1892 as a way for Bryn Mawr students to govern themselves. Self-Governance means 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, presented every spring, reaffirms 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 collegiate self-governance in the United States,

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

Whereas, self-governance allows us to have open and constructive communication around the issues affecting the lives of students at Bryn Mawr

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 the full potential of our community, we require a repeated commitment on the part of each and every student,

Be it resolved, we, the members of the Self-Government Association of the Undergraduate School of Bryn Mawr College present this resolution today, the 7th of April, 2024, on behalf of the entire Self Government Association, to 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 Xenya Currie '24

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

Whereas, the Honor Code is the foundation of the Bryn Mawr College community,

Whereas, the Honor Code offers Bryn Mawr students unique academic and social privileges, including, but not limited to, take-home tests and quizzes, self-scheduled exams, and self-governance,

Whereas, the Honor Code centers truth-seeking and restorative practices, by creating space for conversations among community members to occur after a breach of trust or violation of the Honor Code,

Whereas, the continued life and health of the Honor Code relies on community investment and engagement, particularly through being willing to engage in positive confrontations after a breach of trust or violation of the Honor Code,

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

Whereas, positive 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),

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

Resolution #3: Addition of AI Guidelines to the Bryn Mawr College Honor Code

Presented by: The SGA Executive Board 2023-2024

Summary: This Resolution proposes an amendment to the Bryn Mawr College Honor Code to explicitly state that the uncited use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, towards the completion of assignments constitutes plagiarism unless the professor has specifically authorized the use of generative AI tools for the assignment at hand.

Whereas, Article IV, Section A, Subsection 2a of the Honor Code reads:

In reports and other written work, sources of information and of ideas and opinions not the student's own must be clearly indicated; the source of direct quotations must be acknowledged. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Whereas, Article IV, Section A, Subsection 2b of the Honor Code reads:

In laboratory work, each student, unless otherwise directed, is expected to make all the necessary measurements, drawings, etc., independently, from their own observations of the material provided. All records, including numerical data for working out results, are to be used by the student independently and as initially recorded.

Whereas, generative AI tools are “artificial intelligence technolog[ies] that can produce various types of content, including text, imagery, audio and synthetic data,”¹

Whereas, recent technological developments have made generative AI tools—such as, but not limited to, ChatGPT—available for the public's use through both free and paid programs,

Whereas, generative AI tools “can create fake citations,”²

Whereas, even when generative AI tools may be citing a real source, “the cited content may be inaccurate,”³

Whereas, AI-generated text, data, and images are not the student's own work,

Whereas, presenting AI-generated text, data, or images as one's own original academic work is academically disintegrated and dishonest,

¹ <https://www.techtarget.com/searchenterpriseai/definition/generative-AI>

² <https://libguides.brown.edu/c.php?g=1338928&p=9868287#s-lg-box-31190874>

³ Ibid.

Whereas, submitting AI-generated text, data, or images without citing the generative AI tool as the source constitutes plagiarism,

Whereas, generative AI tools are external resources that should not be used in any closed-book quizzes, tests, or exams, unless they are expressly listed as a permitted resource,

Be it resolved, that the Honor Code be updated to explicitly state that the uncited use of generative AI tools towards the completion of papers, reports, and other written work, including laboratory work, constitutes plagiarism, unless the professor has specifically authorized the use of generative AI tools for the assignment in question.

Be it resolved, that a new subsection, subsection f, be added to Article IV, Section A, Subsection 2.

Be it resolved, that the newly created Article IV, Section A, Subsection 2f of the Honor Code read:

Generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of any course assignments, exams, or written work, including laboratory work, unless an instructor for a given course has specifically and explicitly authorized their use for the assignment in question. Presenting AI-generated content as original student work, submitting AI-generated content without citing its source in artificial intelligence tools, and relying on generative AI tools for closed-book quizzes, tests, and exams all constitute violations of the Honor Code.

Be it resolved, that the text of the Honor Code be adjusted on the SGA website and in future Student Handbooks to reflect this modification upon the passing of the resolution.

Be it resolved, that all Bryn Mawr College faculty members be informed of this update to the Honor Code upon the passing of the resolution through a faculty-wide email.

Be it resolved, that Bryn Mawr College faculty members retain the authority to choose to authorize the use of generative AI tools for assignments in their courses as they see fit, so long as the expectations surrounding the use and citation of these AI tools are clearly communicated to their students.

Resolution #4: Changes to the SGA Constitution Regarding SGA Treasurer Role Description

Presented by Abhi Suresh, SGA Treasurer Spring 2024

Summary: The SFC bylaws have not been updated to reflect the practices of nominating SGA Treasurer candidates and those who are eligible to run for SGA Treasurer.

Whereas, the SFC bylaws are not up to date with SGA Treasurer Election procedures.

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

Be it resolved, in order to run for SGA Treasurer, an individual must serve on the Student Finance Committee (SFC) for at least 1 full academic year. Individuals who are in their 2nd semester on the committee (i.e. started in the Fall Semester) are eligible to run for SGA Treasurer.

Be it resolved, SGA Treasurer(s) will nominate all possible SGA Treasurer candidates from those on the committee who are eligible (this does not exclude any other member of SGA from nominating candidates)

Be it resolved, the SGA Constitution will reflect these updated candidate requirements in the SGA Treasurer section, which details the role and its requirements.

Be it resolved, the SGA Constitution Committee Head and the SGA Treasurer will implement the above changes.

Resolution #5: Student Finance Committee (SFC) Bylaws Updates

Presented by Abhi Suresh, SGA Treasurer Spring 2024

Summary: The SFC Bylaws have not been updated to reflect SGA Treasurer practices and changes that have been passed down throughout the years, in addition to the bylaw changes that were passed in March 2023. The SGA Treasurer, Abhi Suresh, has updated the SFC Bylaws to reflect accuracy and practice.

Whereas, the SFC bylaws are not up to date with SFC and SGA Treasurer practices,

Whereas, the SFC bylaws are outdated in language, practice, and usage,

Whereas, the SFC bylaws are outdated in department overlap and the role of the Office of Residential Life and Student Engagement,

Be it resolved, SGA Treasurer has rewritten the bylaws to reflect utmost accuracy.

Be it resolved, the SGA Treasurer has rewritten the bylaws to reflect current practices and proceedings with the Office of Residential Life and Student Engagement.

Be it resolved, one main change to the SFC bylaws is the addition of the Club Funding Increase Scheme, as follows:

1. If the Club budget is \$5,000 or less, they are subject to the possibility of a 50% request increase for each semester.
2. If the Club budget is \$5,000 - \$10,000, they are subject to the possibility of a 25% request increase for each semester.
3. If the Club budget is above \$10,000 (based on Spring 2024 semester), they are subject to the possibility of a 12% request increase for each semester.
4. Please note that all funding increases are subject to proper justification. Failure to do so will result in minimal or less-than anticipated budget request increase(s).

Be it resolved, future SGA Treasurer(s) can refer to this updated bylaws document document for SFC and club proceedings.

*Attached are the updated SFC bylaws, changes made, and reasoning for changes.

Resolution #6: Creation of the Students for Disability Justice Committee

Presented by the SGA Access Services Committee: Esenia Banuelos '26, Autumn Kelley '27, Karleigh Bath '25, Jenna Mackenroth '26, Ariel Zhao '26 and Sam Ritter '27

Summary: Per Article VII of the Student Government Association (SGA)'s Constitution, under Section 2, the Access Services Committee is characterized by its duty as a "liaison between Access Services and SGA to help raise awareness about disabilities concerns and access issues on campus". However, since its revival, the Access Services Committee has not been able to fulfill this responsibility, shrouding the Committee's working relationship with the Department in deep confusion. The Committee has been actively discouraged from doing so by the larger administration and our intended primary collaborator, the Access Services department.

For further context, as of February 2024, the Access Services Committee was asked by the Access Services Department to cease all planned work/events related to accessibility and agree to send all materials for students and faculty, including, but not limited to our accommodations guide, for further vetting and serious editing by the Department, for the purpose of strengthening our relationship with the Department as implied by our namesake. We were asked to simply collect students' experiences with the Department through semesterly Google Forms, submit the information to the Department, and do no further.

The Committee has had to work independently of the Department through means that have defied our Constitutional endowment. As a representative Committee of the student body, we have found it extremely discouraging to be reprimanded for attempting to pursue clarity over the accommodations process, a standardized accommodations process for international students, and further manifestations of inaccessibility on campus – we have, instead, been encouraged to perform responsibilities that defy a core Committee mission, "[To work] closely to support any groups on campus dedicated to helping students facing access issues." (SGA Constitution, Article VII, Section 2, Third Heading). As the only Committee related to accessibility on the Representative Council of the SGA, we propose the creation of a new Committee, named "Students for Disability Justice". This Committee will be open to students interested in creating opportunities for community engagement surrounding disability justice, and to engage in action that is generally meant to increase awareness for manifestations of inaccessibility around campus. We find that the connection to the Access Services Department through an existing Committee is still essential, and we are proposing that said Committee continues to exist for students who are interested in fulfilling this relationship. As a reminder, we intend to make a new Committee, and thus, the SGA Access Services Committee will remain intact and fully functional in coexistence with the Students for Disability Justice Committee.

Whereas, the SGA Access Services Committee is representative of the student body,

Whereas, the SGA Access Services Committee works in tandem with the Access Services Department,

Whereas, the SGA Access Services Committee must raise awareness about disability concerns,

Whereas, the SGA Access Services Committee must seek approval for creation of student resources and materials,

Whereas, the SGA Access Services must meet regularly with the Access Services Department,

Be it resolved, the Students for Disability Justice Committee will become a separate entity and working Committee in the overall SGA.

Be it resolved, the overall student body will be able to elect all positions to best reflect the interests and experiences of the disabled community on campus.

Be it resolved, members of the Students for Disability Justice Committee will be able to function and organize events for student engagement and create campus resources without the explicit or necessary involvement of the Access Services Department, as the Access Services Committee will continue to fulfill that latter need.

Works Cited:

<https://sga.blogs.brynmawr.edu/constitution/>

Resolution #7: Routine Updates to the SGA Constitution

Presented by: Maia Tsalik, Maddie Thomas and Chaewon Lee (The Constitution Review Committee)

Summary: Routine changes to the Constitution Committee descriptions.

Whereas, the SGA Constitution contains committee and position descriptions that are no longer accurate,

Whereas, these descriptions have not been accurate for nearly five years,

Be it resolved, corrections are made to the Appointments Committee, Elections Board, and Board of Trustees Representative(s) position descriptions.

Correction to Article VII, Section 1: Appointments Committee

The Appointments Committee shall consist of the Vice-President of SGA and four members of SGA who are not members of the Assembly **to be chosen through the appointments process**. The Vice-President shall be responsible for the Committee's report to the Representative Council and for the Committee's agenda.

Correction to Article VII, Section 7: Elections Board

The Elections Board shall consist of **no more than five committee members and up to two heads**. The Head of the Elections Board, sometimes referred to as Elections Head, may be held by up to two people, and is an elected position. The Head of Elections Board may appoint one or more assistants if necessary.

Correction to Article VI, Section 3, Subsection C: Board of Trustees Representative(s)

The offices of Board of Trustees Representatives **is an elected position that may be held by two people at any one time**. The duties of the Board of Trustees Representatives will include:

Resolution #8: Repainting the Tea Pantries in Rhoads

Presented by Katelyn Stealey '25 and Bryn Osborne '24

Summary: This resolution proposes an update to the paint color of the walls in the tea pantries of Rhoads North and the ILLC, to better facilitate student comfort and community building. The purchase of paint and the overseeing of the painting process will be facilitated by the Student Finance Committee, Residence Council, and the DLT and Dorm Presidents of Rhoads North and the ILLC.

Whereas, Bryn Mawr College dorms are intended to be “comfortable living spaces that encourage community building and individual growth.”⁴

Whereas, the current color of all of the tea pantries of Rhoads, including Rhoads North and the Intercultural Living and Learning Center, is a vivid dark red.

Whereas, according to the 2015 research study “The influence of color on student emotion, heart rate, and performance in learning environments,”

“66% of participants reported that vivid red was associated with depression, annoyance, discomfort, warmth, and with negative concepts such as blood, war, and danger. Furthermore, the participants felt nervous and stressed, and said that the color distracted their vision because of its highly reflective nature.”⁵

Whereas, Section 22 Subsection C of the SGA Constitution (as of its last ratification in March 2023) reads:

“The Residence Council shall preside over the Residential Council Fund. The Purpose of the fund shall be to cover lasting improvements, replacements or repairs to dorm common spaces beyond what Facilities is able to provide. The Residence Council Head(s) shall communicate and work with Facilities on all appropriate projects.

The Residence Council Fund shall be allotted \$1,000 each semester by the Student Finance Committee and be collective. This Fund shall be capped at \$8,000.

Proposals for spending from the fund shall be brought forward to the residence council by

⁴ Bryn Mawr College. (n.d.). Residential Life. Bryn Mawr College. Retrieved March 29, 2024, from <https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/offices-services/residential-life>

⁵ AL-Ayash, A., Kane, R. T., Smith, D., & Greene-Armytage, P. (2015, April). The influence of color on student emotion, heart rate, and performance in learning environments. *Color Research and Application*, 41(2), 109-216. 10.1002/col.21949

students, Dorm Presidents or the Residential Council Head(s). Approval for spending from the fund must be voted on by the Dorm Presidents, one vote per residence, and shall require a two-thirds majority of quorum. When money is expended from this fund, the Residence Council Head(s) must announce the decision at the next Assembly meeting.”

Whereas, no student, Dorm President, or Residential Council Head has brought forth a proposal to the Residence Council for using the Residential Council Fund to cover a repair or update to a communal dorm space in recent SGA history (since fall 2020),

Whereas, the fund has become functionally obsolete, with no specific money from the SGA budget set aside for the fund by the Student Finance Committee in recent history (since fall 2020),

Be it resolved, the ‘24-’25 Dorm Leadership Team of Rhoads North and the Intercultural Living and Learning Center will each request \$150 from the Student Finance Committee’s funds in order to support the purchase of 10 gallons of wall paint in a more pleasant and calming color, which will be decided on by the Rhoads DLT in conjunction with facilities.

Be it resolved, that the ‘24-’25 Dorm Presidents of Rhoads North and the Intercultural Living and Learning Center will contact facilities in order to collaborate on the timeline for repainting of the tea pantries.

Resolution #9: Creating a Food Pantry at Bryn Mawr College

Presented by Miya Matsumune '26, Bryn Osborne '24

Summary: There is a clear need on campus for more free dining options for students outside of dining halls. For FGLI students, those who have food and dietary restrictions, and people who have activities (religious, athletics, internships, etc.) that take place during dining hours, there are no free dining options on campus. We propose that a food pantry, which would be open to all students at all hours and only contain pre-packaged and sealed foods to start, should be established on campus. This could be expanded in the future to include paid Food Pantry Coordinators, refrigerated, perishable, and frozen foods, and multiple spaces on campus in the future.

Whereas, students on campus have no free on-campus dining options after 7:00 pm on weekends and 8:00 pm on weekdays, or before 10:30am on Sundays,

Whereas, students who are low-income may not have the funds to purchase food from Uncommon Grounds or other on-campus food locations (vending machines, Lusty Cup, etc) after the dining halls are closed,

Whereas, students who are low-income may struggle to obtain/purchase food over breaks while staying on campus,

Whereas, students who may frequently commute off-campus for internships, classes, events, religious activities, etc. often struggle to eat within the dining halls' set hours,

Whereas, students with food allergies and dietary restrictions often struggle to find safe options in the dining halls, especially when Erdman Dining Hall's Free Room is closed, and other on-campus dining locations,

Whereas, student athletes who have practice early in the morning and/or later into the night often struggle to eat within the dining hall's set hours,

Whereas, we do not want the burden of feeding students outside of dining hall hours to fall on student workers and full-time dining staff. Therefore, we are not suggesting extending the dining hall's hours,

Whereas, meal plans are mandatory for students who live on campus, and students should be able to access meals on campus without paying extra, as they already pay a large portion of their bills to dining every semester. Food and Housing is \$19,400 for the Academic Year of 2024-25, Room Only is \$11,080, therefore food accounts for \$8,320,⁶

Whereas, the success of the redesign of Erdman Dining Hall's Free Room and the frequent emails to remind students not to take too much food indicates a desire for packaged foods and frozen meals,

Whereas, 81 colleges and universities, including Temple University, Pennsylvania State University, and Carnegie Mellon University are PA Hunger-Free Campuses. Bryn Mawr College is not designated a PA Hunger-Free Campus,⁷

Whereas, Haverford College has The Nest, a student-run space that aims to address food insecurity on Haverford's campus. The Nest is run by and for students, and carries both perishable and non-perishable items that are available for FGLI students,

Whereas, there have been other Plenary resolutions passed in recent years that have aimed to increase food access on campus, which demonstrates student interest and need,

Whereas, all students on campus, regardless of economic status, deserve to have access to food at all hours of the day and night,

Be it resolved, the food pantry would begin as a bookshelf with closed containers and boxes of packaged food in the campus center. Students who organize events such as HAs and club e-boards could leave leftover packaged foods from their events there for others to take. All food would be packaged and sealed, no opened packages yet.

Be it resolved, SGA would provide a minimum of \$500 a semester for the first year of the pantry to fund the purchase of storage supplies and packaged foods.

⁶ <https://www.brynmawr.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid-cost-attendance/tuition-fees-costs>

⁷

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Postsecondary-Adult/PAHungerFreeCampus/Pages/PAHungerFreeCampus.aspx>

Be it resolved, the campus community will be surveyed about what kinds of foods they would like in the pantry and what format (location, times, access, etc) would work best for students. Dietary restrictions and allergies will be taken into account.

Be it resolved, Miya Matsumune and Ayantae Cunningham, the Erdman student managers, would take on management and cleaning of the food pantry for the first year as a temporary solution. They would each check up on it at least once a week, therefore it would be cleaned twice a week minimum.

Be it resolved, the food pantry will be governed by the Social Honor Code. Students will be expected to abide by the rules of the food pantry, including not stealing and adhering to cleanliness standards. Failing to abide by these rules may result in an Honor Code violation.

Be it resolved, if this resolution passes, interested students and SGA will meet with administration to discuss ways to expand campus food access and the food pantry in the near future. Future ideas include paid Food Pantry Student Coordinator positions under the Career & Civic Engagement Center, multiple locations around campus, and expansion to perishable/refrigerated and frozen foods.

Resolution #10 : Reestablishment of the SGA Kitchen and Reworking of the SLAWC

Presented by Kendall Phillips

Summary: The process for students to cook a meal on campus is unnecessarily complicated. To reserve the Health and Wellness Center's Community Kitchen, students are to utilize the college's EMS Web Service, and often must book weeks in advance for an open time slot on the platform, leading to issues with the parties who rented the space not showing up. Students must then purchase all ingredients and most cooking materials and dinnerware, leading to an undue financial burden. Additionally, there is a kitchen located on Cambrian row that was formerly used by students and has since fallen into disuse. In short, Bryn Mawr does not have a properly functional system. This resolution is meant to affirm the lack of a functional cooking space and reservation systems on campus, outline potential steps forward, and establish a small fund to fill the kitchens with needed materials.

Whereas, Access to a functional on-campus kitchen is vital to building community and fostering wellness and engagement.

Whereas, The current system is filled with problems that make it unnecessarily difficult to reserve and use the kitchen space.

Whereas, The success of Haverford's VCAM kitchen is proof that students can have access to a community kitchen without guardrails.

Whereas, The student body does not feel like the current system of on campus cooking space is beneficial to the community.

Be it resolved, The student body asks for the reestablishment of the SGA Kitchen on Cambrian Row and revised approach to the SLAWC Community kitchen.

Be it resolved, SGA will work with Conferences and Events, Facilities, and Dean of the Health and Wellness center to revise the current booking process for the SLAWC Community Kitchen and reestablish the SGA kitchen.

Be it resolved, SGA will create a one-time fund of \$500 to stock the kitchens with cooking supplies and basic ingredients.

Resolution #11: Calling for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza

Presented by: Bi-College Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Bi-College Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)

Summary: Israel has been a colonial force in Palestine since 1948, a force that has escalated into today's military occupation. The state of Israel has maintained a violent siege over Gaza for 16 years. After the October 7th attack by Hamas that killed 1,139 Israelis,⁸ the state of Israel has escalated an intentional blockade on food, water, humanitarian aid, and medicine in Gaza. The indiscriminate Israeli siege has murdered over 32,000 Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including over 13,000 children⁹ (as of Friday, March 29, 2024), by state violence including starvation, sickness, and military force. We have a responsibility, as students of an elite university situated in the United States to recognize the immense power the United States government has pertaining to this genocide. In this capacity, the students of Bryn Mawr College call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank in alignment with the College's values of gender and racial justice, the promotion of lasting peace, and the creation of humane paths forward.

Whereas, the Bryn Mawr College mission states that "Bryn Mawr is committed to women's education and empowerment, to gender equity, and to supporting all students who choose to pursue their studies here. Equity and inclusion serve as the engine for excellence and innovation. A commitment to racial justice and to equity across all aspects of diversity propels our students, faculty, and staff to reflect upon and work to build fair, open and welcoming institutional structures, values, and culture,"¹⁰

Whereas, we the student body are committed to gender and racial justice, promoting lasting peace, and creating humane paths forward,

Whereas, millions of lives are at risk if violence continues, peace is not achieved, and basic human needs are not met,

Whereas, all of the universities in Gaza have been bombed and destroyed by the state of Israel,¹¹

⁸ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.brynmawr.edu/about-college/mission&sa=D&source=apps-viewer-frontend&ust=1711856771483485&usg=AOvVaw0ogd5_5rVNsa8XkD1e4HHo&hl=en

¹¹

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/24/how-israel-has-destroyed-gaza-s-schools-and-universities&sa=D&source=apps-viewer-frontend&ust=1711856771483476&usg=AOvVaw2O8dVqiEJchqD3A0e-EORY&hl=en>

which is scholasticide,¹²

Whereas, organizations including the United Nations, Amnesty International,¹³ and the Quaker United Nations Office have called for a ceasefire to prevent the furthering of this humanitarian crisis and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law,¹⁴

Whereas, we as students in the U.S. hold a privileged and empowered position,

Whereas, the government of the United States holds immense diplomatic and military power to stop the aforementioned atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank,

Whereas, prestigious institutions of higher education such as Bryn Mawr College have historically had influence over American political movements,¹⁵

Whereas, we cannot simultaneously claim to hold the aforementioned values and allow these atrocities to continue,

Be it resolved, We the student body of Bryn Mawr College by way of the Self-Government Association call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank.

Be it resolved, we the student body of Bryn Mawr College by way of the Self-Government Association call for the increased access and flow of humanitarian aid in the region.

Be it resolved, We the student body call for Bryn Mawr College by way of the President's Office to publicly and officially stand for peace and anti-militarism by supporting an immediate and permanent ceasefire and encouraging peer institutions to do the same.

Be it resolved, We the student body call for our elected officials, particularly Senator John Fetterman, Senator Bob Casey, Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, Pennsylvania State Treasurer Stacy Garrity, Pennsylvania House Representative Tim Briggs, Pennsylvania Senate Senator Amanda Cappelletti and others in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and across the U.S., to consistently and vocally support the call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Be it resolved, we the student body of Bryn Mawr College acknowledge that every individual experiences the trauma of war differently, and that as a campus community, we will hold each other accountable to uphold the values of the Honor Code and grant each other grace and empathy as we navigate this difficult time.

¹² <https://scholarsagainstar.org/toolkit>

¹³ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/03/un-resolution-must-pave-way-for-enduring-ceasefire-to-alleviate-mass-suffering-in-gaza/>

¹⁴ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-pre-01-00-en.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/05/us/student-protest-movements.html>

Resolution #12: The Development of an SGA Ethical Spending Committee

Presented by: Bi-College Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Bi-College Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), and Sunrise Bryn Mawr

Summary: Bryn Mawr College's Self-Government Association (SGA) was allotted \$550,000 for the Spring 2024 semester, most of which is distributed to clubs, affinity groups, and special events under the purview of the SGA Treasurers and Representative Council (henceforth "student groups"), for the purpose of the well-being of the undergraduate student community. This number is subject to fluctuation, derived from the cost of SGA dues multiplied by the number of students in the undergraduate body. To guarantee the use of these funds is representative of the values and commitments of the student body, the undergraduate community should be provided resources to understand the social, political, and environmental impact of our spending. Thus, we propose the creation of a Special Committee with the intent of developing the Ethical Spending Committee (ESC), which will educate and guide student groups in the use of SGA Funding so as to best reflect the values of the student body.

Whereas, the Bryn Mawr College Self-Government Association has a responsibility to represent student interests and uphold principles of justice to the best of its ability and should commit its funds, which originate from student fees, to ethical uses only,

Whereas, students have used Plenary resolutions since 2013¹⁶ to express support for the ethical use and investment of College funds, including multiple resolutions in favor of fossil fuel divestment which passed with overwhelming majorities,¹⁷ demonstrating ongoing student interest in aligning College spending and investment with the values of the College and the student body,

Whereas, economic boycotts of companies have been a long-standing practice of financial activism by groups such as the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement,¹⁸ a non-violent movement for freedom, justice and equality for Palestinians,

Whereas, the Bryn Mawr student body must be educated and aware of how unethical spending of SGA funds does harm to themselves, the Earth, and others,

Be it resolved, a Special Committee is created during the next round of appointments, with the purpose of developing guidelines and procedures for SGA Ethical Spending Committee (ESC).

¹⁶ [Fall 2013 Plenary Packet](#), Resolution #3: Student Collaboration with the Board of Trustees and Divestment

¹⁷ [Plenary Packet Spring 2022](#), Resolution #5: Bryn Mawr College Student Body Affirms Support for Full Divestment From Fossil Fuels

¹⁸ The [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions Movement](#) was established in 2005, "to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law."

Be it resolved, ESC must have an elected leader, the ESC chair, who will be responsible for appointing 4-5 members to be responsible for the group's research and policy writing.

Be it resolved, the ESC will create a list of companies ("target list") that engage in unethical practices, including investment in human rights abuses, climate destruction, and other harms. Each semester, this list is re-evaluated based on the BDS targeted boycott list, and/or other pressure campaigns that the ESC feels align with student concerns.

Be it resolved, based on this target list, the ESC will suggest ethical spending guidelines for student groups to follow, and will inform student groups of these suggested guidelines at the SGA Budget Workshop at the beginning of each semester.

Be it resolved, the ESC will provide student groups with information about how the companies they have bought from commit or contribute to unethical practices.

Be it resolved, the ESC will provide resources to aid student groups in spending their allotted budget ethically and in good conscience.

Be it resolved, the ESC will be responsible for reviewing the spending of SGA Funding under the purview of the SGA Treasurer to advocate against purchasing from companies on its target list.

Be it resolved, the ESC will present the amount of SGA money spent on the target list at a semesterly SGA meeting, without the mentioning of specific student groups, in order for the student body to grow awareness of its ethical footprint.