Candidates' Forum Minutes  
8 pm, Campus Center Main Lounge, 1 October 2008

Erica Seaborne, Elections Co-Head: For those of you who don't know us, we are the Elections Co-Heads. Welcome to Candidates' Forum! There are a few groundrules: All questions must be asked within the spirit of the Honor Code, and if they aren't, we reserve the right to call you out of order, and we will ask you to rephrase – this is the same for all answers from candidates. The Candidates' Forum is not timed, but if we feel you are going on for a long time, we will ask you to pass the mic. Thanks for coming, we really appreciate it.

Amber Zambelli, Elections Co-Head: Candidates' Forum will follow proper meeting procedure – so for all of the people on the stairs or upstairs, you need to come down to the floor to speak, offer a point of information, or ask a question. Please state your name and class year before speaking. You may ask questions to individual candidates or to all candidates for a position, and we are also allowing points of information to be made.

2011 Songsmistress
Julia LeBouvier  
Zandra Martinez  
Nina Jankowicz

Christina Wagner, '11: Why do you feel that are you qualified for this position? 
Nina Jankowicz, '11: I love Bryn Mawr traditions, especially Step Sings and Lantern Night. I love music, it's my life. My qualifications include leading Extreme Keys, participating in Greasepaint Productions, and other outside musical endeavors.  
Zandra Martinez, '11: I love Step Sings; they are my favorite part of traditions on campus. I love singing, and therefore I sing all of the time. I worked at a Girl Scout camp this summer and led songs with 100 people at a time singing.  
Julia LeBouvier, '11: Being songsmistress last year taught me a lot. Being Sophomore songsmistress means helping out the freshman songsmistress a lot, especially at Lantern Night. Being able to be personable is key. A lot of people have approached me, and seen my personality, and seen how I can reach out to you guys. The best part is that I can be goofy one night and snap back to academics the next day.

Jill Walker, '09: I would like to know what your best dance move is to impress you at Step Sings?  
Julia LeBouvier, '11: (Ain't no mountain high enough dance moves)  
Zandra Martinez, '11: (Awesome twirls)  
Nina Jankowicz, '11: I do musical theater, so I can't really break it down that way, so I'll break out a show-tune!

Social Committee Head  
Sarah Capasso, '11

Christina Wagner, '11: What is So-Co to you, and how do you plan to incorporate it more into the community?  
Sarah Capasso, '11: Being social is different to everyone, but I feel like a lot of people on this campus form cliques, so in So-Co one of my goals is to get more people and diversity to get together and hang out. We should all be able to get together have a party, social. Mingling, talk to each other, and getting
to know new people is really the point.

Jill Walker, '09: Are you party trained?
Sarah Capasso, '11: Not yet, but I will be next round!

Kendalyn Brown, '09: In the past, the Social Committee has been made up of only the heads, so as one person, how do you see it happening and things getting done?
Sarah Capasso, '11: I would think of an idea and enlist people who are interested in that idea to work out the plan with me and execute it.

2010 Songsmistress
Amanda Lee Darby, '10

Brittney Thornbury, '11: I wanna see a dance move, too!
Amanda Lee Darby, '10: I can do this! (Dances amazingly well).

Hannah Curry-McDougald, '10: What makes you qualified for this position?
Amanda Lee Darby, '10: One needs to be outgoing and approachable and not prone to stress. I know that people in the past have just freaked out and were overworked. I'm laid back, and able to handle the responsibilities of this position. I've been in Lavender's Blue for 2 years, I'm a theater minor, co-head of Greasepaint Productions, and I arrange music and am not afraid of being in front of people.

2nd Year of 2-Year Honor Board Position—Held by a Senior
Margaret Fraser, '09

Christina Wagner, '11: What experience do you have with the Honor Board?
Margaret Fraser, '09: Not much, but I would do my best to work with them. I've read the Honor Code, so that's a good start. And I've been here for 3 years living under the Honor Code.

Amanda Lee Darby, '10: Why is the Honor Board important?
Margaret Fraser, '09: It's one of the main reasons I came to Bryn Mawr. Everyone talks about the spirit of the honor code, and it gives people responsibility for themselves.

Katie Kellom, '09: What's your favorite thing about confrontation? Is it positive? Have you ever done it?
Margaret Fraser, '09: Positive confrontation is the key, and that's sometimes difficult – it seems so negative to people, and people have a hard time doing it in a positive way. It's something that we've all been working on. I think it can and should be a good thing, but not always.

Rachel Roepke, '12: What is a good and bad confrontation, in your opinion?
Margaret Fraser, '09: People talk about others behind their backs a lot here. Being able to talk to someone without making it seem like their fault is important, without putting blame on anyone. One should be able to do that and talk to all parties, and have facilitated dialog.

Amanda Lee Darby, '10: Do you see any laws that you would like to work on changing, like procedures within the board?
Margaret Fraser, '09: Since I've never been on there, I wouldn't be able to definitively talk about the
flaws, but the Honor Code itself is vague – which can be helpful in some ways. It takes into account circumstances of situations.

Susie Kim, '11: Have you ever been in a confrontation, and if so how did you handle it?
Margaret Fraser, '09: I've not actually been involved in one, but I've talked through things with others. It's hard to know, but it is really hard and it's hard to take criticism from others. That's why I think being a senior has been helpful, because I've really grown, and learned how to handle things and talk to people.

Civic Engagement Office Representative
Anagha Kumar, '11

Christina Wagner, '11: What is the CEO to you?
Anagha Kumar, '11: I did not nominate myself, and I didn't ask them to do it, but I was really glad to accept, not just because it will look good on my resume, but as people privileged enough to be at Bryn Mawr, we should spread the light, so to speak, and make a difference in our communities. There are so many great programs that you can really be involved in. It's about helping others out.

Hannah Curry-McDougal, '10: In what ways have you been previously involved with the CEO?
Anagha Kumar, '11: Last year I wasn't involved with them, but this year I applied for the Salvation Army program, and next semester I will apply for Belmont Mentoring.

Kendalyn Brown, '09: How will you work to get a lot more students involved with the CEO? – it seems underutilized at the moment.
Anagha Kumar, '11: I think the main thing I will do is use email – there are a lot of programs that just slip under the radar – so I would use posters, but mostly email.

Student Curriculum Committee Head
Judy Barr, '09

Kendra Hayde, '09: Having been a previous co-head, what would you do differently running the committee as one person rather than as a co-head, and also just the second time around?
Judy Barr, '09: Having been a previous head, I have seen what is important to the committee. I would work extra hard to get responses from the community and get details from the community about what they want to discuss and what is important to them.

Amanda Lee Darby, '10: What kind of a time commitment is heading this committee?
Judy Barr, '09: Once a week meeting with students, SGA, and then once a week with the Faculty. It's about 5-6 hours a week. I've done it before. I was a member frosh year, and then I was elected in and emergency election as co-head at the end of frosh year. I was co-head, then went abroad, and after I came back, I sat in on the committee. I also play rugby, and I write for Bi-Co Arts. This is something I've always privileged. I wanted to come back even without a co-head.

Sadie Marlow, '11: Did you have anything to do with changing wellness?
Judy Barr, '09: We have nothing to do with that, since it's directly with a department.

Caroline Troein, '09: What is the greatest challenge for the Curriculum Committee and how would
Judy Barr, '09: It's own lack of confidence – it's passed over in dorm elections, and no one does it when they do volunteer for it. We have success with open campus teas on occasion. We want enthusiastic responses. I want to work on making it a really strong committee with a voice, because it has a lot of influence, and also I want to increase transparency.

Katie Kellom, '09: We just passed, for a second time, a plenary resolution about being able to uncover C/NC grades – I'm curious, in your opinion, and with experience, does it go through your committee?

Judy Barr, '09: The person who did it last time graduated and wasn't able to push it through the faculty committee – the composition changes of that committee every year, too, so it may be voted upon differently this time around.

Susie Kim, '11: Just for clarification, what does the SCC do?

Judy Barr, '09: Basically, it is a student body committee that works as liaison between faculty and students with matters about the curriculum – Blue bus schedule, CSEM, minors, double minors, how capstone projects work, thesis requirements, the writing program, faculty advantages for teaching CSEM. On the faculty committee – we hear about departments who have trouble hiring people. It's basically a broad-scale overview of making an effective undergrad education.

Members-At-Large (6 positions available)

Sumedha Niranjan, '11
Brittney Thornbury, '11
Susie Kim, '11
Zandra Martinez, '11
Emma Wisniewski–Barker, '11
Sadie Marlow, '11

Christina Wagner, '11: What has your involvement been with SGA and what is the role of a Member-at-Large?

Sumedha Niranjan, '11: So far, I've attended all SGA meetings – I want to be able to contribute to SGA meetings and support decisions made in the community.

Brittney Thornbury, '11: I've been to almost all meetings – and I have the time to go to SGA, and I know a lot of people don't have time. They are supposed to be a voice for the community.

Susie Kim, '11: They should be a liaison between the student body and SGA. I know that in the past, they had the umbrella program where each member goes out to different clubs and interest groups in order to better represent them, and I would like to take that forward.

Zandra Martinez, '11: I started attending SGA last year, and have attended most meetings. I love SGA and volunteer to help in any way I can. I think being a Member-At-Large would help me have a greater impact. I think it is a voice into all of the students in the community.

Emma Wisniewski–Barker, '11: I think that one of the most important parts of the position is talking to the people who don't regularly go to SGA, and reach out to people and bring in their opinions.

Sadie Marlow, '11: I'm involved in lots of things on campus, and have a lot of different friends, and a lot of them seem to be very opinionated even though many don't go to SGA. I would like to make sure they are heard.

Amanda Lee Darby, '10: You all clearly have the same sentiment in that you want to give the students a voice, but with the exception of one of you, you didn't say how you wanted to do it. So could you all explain that?
Sadie Marlow, '11: I'm involved in a lot, being a science major. I think the reason there are six people is so that you get a big spread of opinion and background. We're all heavily active in all sorts of things on campus. Just asking, talking to people just before meetings about their opinion is important, because sometimes, emails get ignored.

Emma Wisniewski-Barker, '11: I'm involved around campus too, and I think part of being in so many activities is that you get to know so many different people. Talking to them, face to face, is best. Talking to everyone about what's going on is important.

Zandra Martinez, '11: Talking to people is the best way to make sure their voices are heard. I'm involved in a lot of places around campus. I hear lots of different voices around the community.

Susie Kim, '11: The reason I'm in favor of the umbrella program is that you leave your comfort zone and start talking to people you wouldn't normally get to know or hear the opinion of.

Brittney Thornbury, '11: I know a lot of people randomly too, so I think I can talk to them about what they think about SGA. Also, the internet is awesome. You can use facebook and the anon boards.

Sumedha Niranjan, '11: Being approachable and getting yourself out there is key. You should hear other people's opinion within SGA, and I know a lot of people around campus.

Caroline Troein, '09: What do you feel makes the Member-At-Large position unique?

Sumedha Niranjan, '11: One person representing the general community, and also bringing in new activities and thoughts to SGA.

Brittney Thornbury, '11: This position is a lot less specialized than others, and it's really for people who like to going to SGA meetings, which I do. You aren't particularly interested in one part of SGA, but all parts – you are kind of like the undercover agents of SGA.

Susie Kim, '11: Members-At-Large are really the working ants of SGA, and really help to bring it all together.

Zandra Martinez, '11: It's not a specialized position, and you are there to get the voices of all of the community members heard.

Emma Wisniewski-Barker, '11: Again, it's not specialized, and you bring in outside opinions.

Sadie Marlow, '11: Just like that. It's unlike a lot of positions where you don't have a job to do.

Kendra Hayde, '09: As a Member-At-Large, not only do you represent the student body as a whole in SGA, but you also work internally with SGA to help out all of the other members to get projects done, and get feedback from the community about things they are also working on. In that capacity, you are required to work both in groups and independently. Could you please talk about your strengths in working both individually and in groups?

Sadie Marlow, '11: I get homework done, and go to classes, and I am able to get stuff done on the side – I work well in groups as well, and am proud of the fact that I get along with lots of people in lots of situations. I like to listen to people.

Emma Wisniewski-Barker, '11: Individually, I make lists. I like to write things down, get organized and cross things off. In groups, I am OK with taking the backseat, but if stuff doesn't happen, I will take charge and get things done. I'm not a fan of wasting time.

Zandra Martinez, '11: I'm in a lot of different groups on campus, and can say that I work well in those groups, and know how to listen. I also know when to step it up within a group and take initiative. Individually, I'm a big fan of self-motivation, making lists, and also giving treats to myself for getting things done.

Susie Kim, '11: Right before this, I came back from teaching the Trig mini-course, and I really enjoyed the whole experience, because you are getting your teachers' directions and teaching others all at the same time. As a group, I can get the ideas of all of the students and transfer those back to SGA.

Brittney Thornbury, '11: I like pressure and procrastination, so I work well under pressure, and I get
things done efficiently. Within groups, I'm usually the follower, but I do things well and learn quickly. Customs has helped with learning how to work with partners.

**Sumedha Niranjan, '11**: Individually, I'm a list person, and I always have different to-do lists. I work better under pressure, but I get the job done, which is key. In groups, I'm a big people person, and I love contributing.

**Katie Kellom, '09**: In the beginning, you all talked about how you all have so many contacts outside of SGA. What one thing would you put on the agenda to have a discussion about at SGA?

**Sumedha Niranjan, '11**: People don't know what's going on in SGA. I would talk about informing people of what's going on around campus. People on my hall don't understand importance of SGA.

**Brittney Thornbury, '11**: I'm in Mixed Company, and I think that a lot of the cultural clubs don't get to talk about what their clubs are about, and people are afraid to ask. So, I would ask them to come and talk a little about what they are about.

**Susie Kim, '11**: I spend a lot of time at Park, and I feel that Park is a little under-represented, and people want to get their voices heard.

**Zandra Martinez, '11**: Apathy is a huge issue on this campus. We need to get more people involved by talking about things they are interested in. We should have different clubs come to SGA and share things about what they are working on, and bring in different people who don't normally come to meetings.

**Emma Wisniewski-Barker, '11**: I would like to see a lot more participation – something else needs to happen. I would build on recent developments of “Your Two Cents”, and I think that if people thought that what they were saying was actually being heard, they would care more.

**Sadie Marlow, '11**: SGA really doesn't get a lot people to come any more. People think that their thoughts don't matter. They get to tell us what they think at meetings as Members-At-Large; we can put in two cents for them.

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**2012 Class President(s)**

Rachel Roepke and Charlie Caplan
Sarah Nelson and Allaina Propst
Liana Donohue
Blair Smith and Natalie Simpson
Gabby Marangell and Sana Venjara
Brielle Stark and Karina Grant
Jennifer Wright and Mary Zaborskis

**Christina Wagner, '11**: Why are you running, and what do you see as your biggest challenge?

**Blair Smith, '12 and Natalie Simpson, '12**: It's hard to answer, since we don't know what to expect as our biggest challenge. We just hope to fundraise and unify our class, because we don't know each other all that well. We want to unify us, and we think that community service is the best way to do that. We were thinking about slip 'n slides on Merion Green, a tye-die t-shirt battle, water guns. We want to get the class together – because it's hard to go beyond the people in your dorm.

**Liana Donohue, '12**: I'm running because the big issue right now is that no one knows each other. Everyday I sit next to this amazing girl in one of my classes, and I come to find out that she's actually a freshman! We should be closer, and be closer to our sister class. I was thinking about a Frosh/Jr class talent show, Olympics, and even more events for us, in addition to teas throughout the year. Community activities, like community service month in Philly would help, because we need unity.

**Sarah Nelson, '12 and Allaina Propst, '12**: Class unity is huge issue. We would have different themed teas, and some concerts, and we thought about having a frosh garden on campus. We don't
have much financial backing, so we'd need to fundraise. We need class unity, and campus unity with other classes – since we don’t know everything about the college we should. We should work with their class presidents as well, and just work generally about getting to know about budgeting and fundraising, and work with everyone.

Rachel Roepke, '12 and Charlie Caplan, '12: The reason why we are running is because we wanted the frosh to have a voice – it’s not the upperclasswomen's fault, it's not our fault, but I've only been here for a month, and my biggest concern is that the frosh just get lost, mostly because people get confused and back away from the system. I wanted to make sure people are aware of what's going on, and why, so when they do go to SGA and try to get involved around campus, they don't go away and leave because they don't know what's going on or how it works. Frosh should get a voice, and know what's going on in SGA, but also have fun doing it. People have mentioned ideas for activities – encouraging involvement in everything would be key. We were thinking about having something like “mix-it up day”, where everyone has to sit with people other than their normal friends at lunch, etc. We should all scramble and talk to other people – this could be with Customs groups, dorm, and clubs. The biggest thing is that people get around and get to know other people and know what's going on.

Gabby Marangell, '12 and Sana Venjara, '12: We need to create unity, and obviously, since we haven't been here long – get to know SGA and its process. I think that being SGA class co-presidents gives us the perfect opportunity between getting to know everyone, and setting up awesome activities, but also bringing their ideas to SGA meetings. People keep talking about campus unity, but before we came here, we heard a lot about Tri-Co unity– but we feel that Swat is lost in the mix. Gaby has friends at Swat, and it's perfect to start strengthening that relationship frosh year. A hardship is that we haven't been here that long.

Brielle Stark, '12 and Karina Grant, '12: I've done a lot of community service in clubs, but what has always inspired me about good leaders is that they have an ability to make people excited about what they want to do. They want unity, but also want people to have pride in what people are doing. We want to strive for that – and do it efficiently. Community involvement is super important – all of the experiences we've had can bring separate backgrounds to the mix.

Jennifer Wright, '12 and Mary Zaborskis, '12: We are both madly obsessed with Bryn Mawr and with the Class of 2012. We would like to bring our energy and spirit to the class of 2012. We would love to focus us in uniting through fun – funity – by having major events, like a concert that we could organize with people from our class, and then some ongoing things that would go on – we would get a birthday wrap for people on their birthday or half-birthday – and a monthly newsletter. The newsletter – one of the great things is that we have SurveyMonkey this year, so we can ask what you want and we can send out questions before we plan an event. If people don't want it, we won't do it. Even if you can't make it to something, people will still be connected to their class through the newsletter.

Amanda Lee Darby, '10: This is a direct question to Liana – what do you think will be the disadvantages and advantages to being a sole President rather than a co-President?

Liana Donohue, '12: An advantage is that I will be able to get input from every single classmate, because I am alone – I want to put a suggestion box in front of my door. A challenge will be time management, but I was Sr. class president alone last year, and was able to keep everything in line – I know how to work alone and can do it well.

Christina Wagner, '11: Since everyone is running in a pair except for Liana, for you all, how do you plan to resolve conflicts that arise between your running-mate and you?

Blair Smith, '12 and Natalie Simpson, '12: We work well together, and our arguments are humorous. We work well. I am very communicative, so my friends know that if something needs to be done, I will voice it and you will hear it from me. I am very good at it.

Gabby Marangell, '12 and Sana Venjara, '12: Our role in coming to SGA is to bring our own
opinions, but also to represent the frosh class, so if we disagree, we should turn to the frosh class and survey the general opinion of them. We both are very easy going but we don't take anything personally. We really want to represent them well.

**Brielle Stark, '12 and Karina Grant, '12:** I like conflict, because it breeds discussion, and I think that's useful so you can come to a good consensus. It's less about us than the people we represent.

**Jennifer Wright, '12 and Mary Zaborskis, '12:** It's really hard to get us to a point of fighting – if we do come to a disagreement, we both are people who talk it out. As co-presidents, we would be more concerned with serving the class, so we will look at how our decision would affect them.

**Sarah Nelson, '12 and Allaina Propst, '12:** We wanted to run because we were both interested in student government, but we thought that we would better represent the frosh class because we are 2 voices representing 350 people. We are roommates, so we've already had conflicts, and we've gotten over that. I found a horoscope about the two of us, as we are Virgo and Pisces. Conflict will arise, but you will get past it, as you have complimentary and harmonious attitudes towards each other.

**Rachel Roepke, '12 and Charlie Caplan, '12:** I have no clue how we are horiscopal-ly, but we get along very well together – because we have very different backgrounds. We can generate discussion and take 2 different opinions and find an equilibrium that would be the best for everyone, not just our class, but the campus as a whole. Another thing is that it is important that the class presidents present a united front, whether or not they disagree within themselves. That disagreement being public unsettles people – we would work through it ourselves, and try not to make other people back our sides. We would work with each other and want to know what people are saying in order to get achieve compromise for everyone.

**Elizabeth Held, '12:** How have you acclimated yourselves to SGA?

**Rachel Roepke, '12 and Charlie Caplan, '12:** Charlie - I've not been to meetings, but I've read the minutes, and went to Plenary, and also absolutely love the Mawrk Notes. Rachel – I've been to an SGA meeting, and was at Plenary as well. I also do read the minutes and emails – which is apparently a rarity.

**Sarah Nelson, '12 and Allaina Propst, '12:** We were both at plenary – we thought it was a great way to get involved in the community and voice opinions. We came up with something to change – it ran very late into the day, and we got hungry, so we thought it would be a nice idea to serve lunch.

**Liana Donohue, '12:** I've been to Plenary, and went to SGA – I wanted to see who the President was going to be before I got too involved. I have some ideas, because I wanted to revamp Plenary by making it more exciting.

**Blair Smith, '12 and Natalie Simpson, '12:** We've attended 2/3 of the meetings, and all of the meetings. Plenary was awesome. Plenary was long. I read the emails. I like sending them as well.

**Gabby Marangell, '12 and Sana Venjara, '12:** We've both been to plenary, and both been to all of the SGA meetings. We've talked with our Customs people who are both actively involved in SGA to learn about the process.

**Brielle Stark, '12 and Karina Grant, '12:** We both went to tri-co, and Aheli was one of our student advisers, so it was nice to talk to her about it. One of my crew captains is also involved in SGA. One went to plenary, and one didn't but went to a student leadership conference in VA instead.

**Jennifer Wright, '12 and Mary Zaborskis, '12:** Both have been to 2/3 SGA meetings, and stayed through plenary.

**Committee On Public Safety Head**

*Taline Cox, '10 and Steph Hilton, '09*

**Kendra Hayde, '09:** Can you please sing a song for us?
Taline Cox, '10 and Steph Hilton, '09: Why, we're glad you asked!

_Tali and Steph,
Fighting crime!
Getting the bad guys
One at a time!

Julia LeBouvier, '11: Do you have dance moves to go along with that?
Steph Hilton, '09: We can only dance with Public Safety, it's in our contract.

Sarah Capasso, '11: Who is your favorite Public Safety officer?
Taline Cox, '10: Mike Ramsey.
Steph Hilton, '09: He's the One card coordinator now, but mine is Wendell.

Hannah Curry-McDougald, '10: What does COPS do?
Taline Cox, '10 and Steph Hilton, '09: Our job is to keep the community aware of issues of publix safety. We meet with the head of Public Safety once a week, so if the COPS reps from each dorm have issues, we bring it to them.

Amanda Lee Darby, '10: Do you know anything about why the crime blotter is no longer in the newspaper?
Amber Zambelli, '09: All crimes are blotted, but it has died in the paper incarnation.
Brittney Thornbury, '11: Point of information – it's online on the biconews.com website. It has chipmunks this week.

Blair Smith, '12: Why didn't we get rape whistles?
Taline Cox, '10 and Steph Hilton, '09: They were unavailable during customs week. You will be getting them in Wellness.

--Minutes respectfully submitted by Kendra Hayde, SGA Secretary.