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February 14, 2010

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## Haverford Plenary Resolution: Prioritization of a Renovated Dining Center

**By Andrew Thompson**

Presented by Owen Drake '09

This resolution was presented to increase the priority of renovating the Dining Center, in the hopes that significant renovations would improve the quality of dining services, and in light of the fact that the current economic climate precludes Haverford from beginning construction on any brand new buildings.

“The Dining Center is old, too small for everybody, there’s not enough kitchen space, and it’s dark and depressing. We’d all like to see the food improve, but there’s no way to do that with that space,” said Owen Drake '09 in his presentation.

The question and answer session generated three questions. The first was whether Drake had taken the Master Plan into consideration. Drake said he had. “I’ve talked to Dean Kannerstein and members of the Master Plan committee, and this is our way as a student body of saying that we give priority to a renovated DC,” said Drake.

Christine Letts '12 asked if Drake had consulted employees of Dining Services to see if the space was the actual problem with food quality. “There are a lot of problems,” said Drake. “We’re worse than Bryn Mawr because we have to cook greater quantities. If we have more space, we can prepare a wider variety of foods.”

Cody Oakley '10 asked how much the renovations would cost. “I have no idea, it’s something that would be difficult to estimate,” said Drake. “It will be less expensive than building an entirely new [Dining Center.]”

The pro-con debate generated four pro comments and six con comments. Pro comments included that the DC gets really crowded at key meal times, like dinner around 6 p.m.; President Emerson has mentioned renovations to the DC as a cause with a lot of potential alumni support; it might thus be a quick project to implement.

On the con side, comments included that rarely does the DC ever become fully crowded; it would be a misallocation of resources and the college should improve other aspects of the campus first, such as dorms; and the problem with food quality is less about space and more about understaffing.

Owen responded to the pro-con debate. “I’d love to see a new DC, but that’s millions of dollars. This is something small we can do, just to knock down a few walls,” said Owen. “If we can get the school to invest time and energy in this project, that will necessarily engender more consideration in other aspects of dining services.”

The resolution failed by visual ballot.

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