A Resolution to Restructure College Council

WHEREAS The College Council, as the student government of Williams College, is charged with representing the student voice on College matters;

WHEREAS The composition of College Council should as closely as possible reflect the students it represents;

WHEREAS The existing structure of College Council disproportionately represents first and second year students;

WHEREAS There is a demonstrated need for the institutionalization of an additional position dedicated to managing College Council’s finances;

WHEREAS College Council is committed to supporting student organizations and actively improving student life at Williams;

WHEREAS College Council is committed to advocating student interest with regard to academic policy and issues relating to community and diversity;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Williams College Council:

1. Supports a constitutional amendment to alter its structure and membership via an all-campus vote in the Fall of 2012.
2. Supports the continuation of the Neighborhood Board Representatives until the Spring Mid-Year elections in 2013.
3. Recommends that the following structure be adopted:

I. Membership
Four semester-long representatives from each class year will be elected in the Fall and Spring elections.
Four Vice Presidents, each elected with a focus on Intellectual Life, Community and Diversity, Student Life, and Student Organizations. An Associate Treasurer, elected in the Fall and Spring elections.

II. Duties

The Vice President for Intellectual Life shall address all issues of academic life and navigate the intersections between students and faculty at Williams. The VP for Intellectual Life will chair an Intellectual Life Committee that will represent student interests in all matters relating to educational policy. Membership of the committee will include members of Council, the student chairs of College committees including but not limited to: Committee on Educational Policy, Lecture Committee, Winter Study Committee, Calendar and Scheduling Committee, and Free University. The committee will be the primary forum for students to address academic-related issues and to advocate for the academic needs of students. The committee will make official recommendations to College Council.

The Vice President for Community and Diversity shall function in the same capacity as the All Campus Representative for Community and Diversity. Additionally, the VP for Community and Diversity will chair a Community and Diversity Committee that will represent student interests in all matters relating to issues of community and diversity. Members of the committee will include members of Council, the student chairs of College committees including, but not limited to: Committee on Diversity and Community, Williams Reads, College and Community Advisory Committee, Claiming Williams Steering Committee, etc. The committee will make official recommendations to College Council.

The Vice President for Student Life shall address all issues of non-academic student life, including but not limited to, athletics, social life, programming, etc. The VP for Student Life will communicate with the Office of Student Life and the Dean’s Office, and will chair the Student Life Committee. The Student Life Committee will represent student interests on all non-academic matters relating to student life. Committee membership will consist of members of Council, the student chairs of committees such as the Great Ideas Committee, Committee on Undergraduate Life, Dining Services Committee, Campus Safety and Security Advisory Committee, and representatives from additional bodies such as the Neighborhoods and ACE. The committee will be the primary forum for students to discuss issues such as housing and social life, and will make official recommendations to College Council.

The Vice President for Student Organizations shall serve as the primary contact point for all student organizations under College Council's mandate. The VP for Student Organizations will work with the Office of Student Life on issues concerning student organizations at Williams, and will collaborate with the Treasurer to support student organizations financially and institutionally. The VP for Student Organizations will chair the Student Organizations Committee, which shall
approve new student groups and oversee and support all existing College Council student organizations. Membership will consist of members of Council. The committee will be responsible for formulating College Council policy governing student organizations.

The Associate Treasurer will assist the Treasurer in maintaining Council’s books and overseeing its weekly finances and will serve on the Finance Committee as well.

III. Executive Committee
The Executive Committee will be elected by the student body at large during the Spring elections and serve yearlong terms. The Executive Committee will consist of two Co-Presidents or a President and Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Vice Presidents, each with a focus on Academic Affairs, Community and Diversity, Student Life and Student Organizations. The Executive Committee will assume the duties of the Appointments Committee.

Ayes:
Nayes:
Abstentions:
First Reading on May 9, 2012