

MEMO
1978
Haverford College

TO: *See Below FROM: Greg Kannerstein
RE: DATE: 3/8/78

While we will be producing an edited transcript of the open meeting of the Board of Managers Student Affairs Committee on coeducation March 5, several requests have already been received for a copy of the very thoughtful comments of Marianne Brown '80. It is enclosed herewith.

GK/pc

Ry K.

*College Committee on Women at Haverford
Administrative and Advisory Staffs
Student Affairs Committee of Board of Managers
Chairman John Whitehead, Board of Managers
Carl Sangree

Marianne Brown
March 5, 1978

I am speaking today because I would like to see the perspective of Haverford women clearly expressed on the co-education issue.

There are inherent limitations in our ability to join this community because of our small number.

We have had an overwhelming welcome from the bi-college community, from both Haverford and Bryn Mawr. We haven't found ourselves to be in competition with Bryn Mawr students. But unlike them, we have chosen Haverford as our home base.

We chose Haverford because of its strong sense of community, which is embedded in its Quaker roots and displayed in our Honor Code. We are eager to assimilate ourselves here first and foremost as Haverfordians, but there are problems with our ratio of 875 men to 20 women.

To begin with, it's difficult to hire a gynecologist 1/8th time. Bryn Mawr, rightly perhaps, won't accomodate our needs for women's health care and Haverford, at this rate, simply can't.

Our housing situation has created problems because of our small number. The room draw situation is fair and tolerable for this year, but it is clearly temporary. If we wish to live with Bryn Mawr students, we must come to Haverford through the Bryn Mawr room draw. If the Bryn Mawr women in our suite do not draw into the Haverford campus, then we must re-group amongst ourselves, a group of twenty very diverse women.

Women Haverford students know that a liberal arts education should train the body and well as the mind.

40% of all Haverford women have played or are playing on varsity teams at Bryn Mawr.

55% have participated in intramural volleyball, indoor tennis and indoor lacrosse this winter.

Yet we are too small in number to form our own athletic teams.

We have temporary permission to play on Bryn Mawr varsity teams, but if we form just one team of our own, we lose that privilege. If Haverford continues to accept 20 women each year as transfers, our total could be no more than 60. Until Haverford fully commits itself to co-education, a feasible athletic program for us is impossible.

We have been surprised by the unequal sex ratio in the classes on this campus. Many of us have transferred here from co-educational colleges.

We know that the co-educational atmosphere is more healthy. We know that the thoughtfulness of the teaching is improved by the presence of both men and women in the classroom.

We know that the educational goals of Haverford are different from Bryn Mawr's, and we espouse these goals, and we think that our larger contribution in the classroom will quicken the fulfillment of Haverford's educational ideals.

This community has welcomed us with open arms. The Student Affairs Office is making every effort to get a 1/8th time gynecologist. The Room Draw committee deliberated for weeks over the problem of our small number. Penny Hinckley has done everything in her power to bring a women's athletic program to Haverford. Women faculty members have met with us as a group to hear our concerns for equal representation in the classroom.

Everyone has done everything possible to welcome us, and it's clear the time is right for full co-education.

However, our successes as Haverfordians have been limited in all spheres by our small number.

Bryn Mawr has welcomed us not with toleration, but open friendliness, and almost all of us have successfully participated in co-operation both on the academic and non-academic levels.

I am taking my second course at Bryn Mawr this semester, and I know Haverford and Bryn Mawr are different, yet not separate. I don't see myself as a threat to Bryn Mawr women, because I have a different place in the bi-college community.

My perspective, my commitment to Haverford, supplements and does not destroy the bi-college community.

As a Haverford woman student, I expect the same for myself as for any other Haverfordian. I want the same. It's what I came here for.