Whereas members of the Middlebury community have limited facilities and resources to bring ideas into physical form,

Whereas all facilities that partially address this need have severely restricted access, and require individuals to be pursuing a specific major, or even more specifically, part of a class,

Whereas the college has limited space for interdisciplinary and cross campus projects that draw together science and arts in a manner truly deserving of the liberal arts,

Whereas the bunker is currently underutilized as an event venue as seen by 25live, where it can be seen that over the course of Fall 2015 the Bunker was used for 3 concerts and 1 play, going unused most nights.

Whereas the use of the Bunker now incurs additional costs compared to analogous concert venues on campus, since the riot in 2011 and subsequent required hiring of Green Mountain Security for events, which costs $8001000 for small events, and up to $5000 for larger events. The small events have an average budget of $2000,

Whereas members of the Middlebury community representing students from 28 different majors, faculty from 7 departments, and staff from across campus have demonstrated support for a Makerspace at Middlebury, as shown in a survey conducted in October 2015,

Whereas Liz Robinson, the Associate Dean for Student Creativity, Bill Koulopoulos, the director of academic technology, Tom Corbin, the director of risk management, have all supported the development and vouch for the feasibility of this Makerspace,

Whereas peer institutions such as the Claremont Consortium, Colorado College, all of the Ivy League, Tufts, Williams, and many others have invested millions of dollars creating similar facilities,

Whereas 92.4% of students responding to a survey sent out on March 15 responded in support of converting the bunker to a makerspace, and 99% of students said they would support the establishment of a makerspace (210 responses, and counting),

Whereas the administration has pledged support for a Makerspace conditional on support from the student body,

Be it resolved that...

The SGA strongly recommends a Makerspace be constructed in the Bunker to provide Middlebury with a communal space for innovation and creation.
Respectfully Submitted,
Joey Button and Leo McElroy, Students
Jewel Chen, Brainerd Senator
Tiff Chang, CoChair of Community Council