RESOLUTION: F2017-SR4

TITLE: Approving Club Tennis

SPONSOR: John Gosselin
Jack Goldfield

DATE: 29 October 2017

Whereas official student organizations and club sports are a central element of students’ Middlebury experience and their creation and funding are core functions of the SGA;

Whereas the SOOC believes the Club Tennis has all the elements to succeed as a student organization other than the existing policy;

Whereas the Student Activities Office vetoed SGA Student Club Oversight Committee’s approval of Club Tennis on October 16, 2017 as a new student organization on the basis that...
   1) There is a Middlebury policy that you cannot have a club sport if there is an identical existing varsity sport,
   2) Club Sports are a financial liability;

Whereas the Varsity Men’s Tennis Team does not hold tryouts, co-ed tennis does not exist at Middlebury, and intramural tennis does not compete with other colleges and universities;

Whereas other NESCAC colleges including Williams, Bowdoin, Wesleyan, and Tufts have official Club Tennis organizations providing an outlet for competitive non-varsity athletes,

Whereas Club Tennis meets all requirements outlined on the Middlebury College General Procedures and Guidelines to become a new Level III Club Sport…
   1) There is no expectation for funding from regular College sources.
   2) There are no paid coaches.
   3) Athletic facilities will be provided only after all demands for level I, level II, and departmental needs are satisfied.

Whereas Club Tennis has all of the following qualifications…
   1) Enough undergraduate interest to generate a complete roster that meets the sport’s requirements,
   2) An established and responsible leadership (team captains),
   3) Interest from senior through freshman classes so team will sustain itself from year to year,
   4) A roster with a list of members and contact information,
   5) A list of intercollegiate opponents, for outside competition;
Whereas the Middlebury Club Sports Policy states that “Club sports fill a critical role in the overall Middlebury. Students may apply for new sports through the Student Government Association. Approval for new club sports is contingent upon the availability of appropriate facilities, storage, and staff oversight, and does not automatically guarantee funding.”

Whereas this is the fourth year that the Club Tennis team has been practicing and competing consistently and self-sufficiently, communicating with the Varsity Tennis coaches and other groups that use the tennis facilities;

Whereas Club Tennis provides a competitive and fun opportunity for non-varsity tennis players otherwise not offered at Middlebury, but central to many students’ college experience;

Therefore, be it enacted…

That the SGA requests that the Dean of Student Activities and Director of Athletics approve the SGA’s recommendation to create Club Tennis as a new Level III Club Sport, on the basis that the SGA supports the existence of co-ed tennis competition and the Senate and Treasurer will set a funding cap similar to other club sports;

That any new club sport to

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gosselin, Atwater Senator
Jack Goldfield,
Trisha Singh, SOOC President
Student Organization Oversight Committee (SOOC)