RESOLUTION: W2018-SBX  
TITLE: Dining Hall Sustainability: Reusable Containers and Eliminating To-Go Cups  
SPONSOR: Rae Aaron, Speaker  
DATE: January 21, 2018

Whereas Middlebury College Dining Services currently spends $20,989 per year on to-go cups and lids;

Whereas this amounts to 241,000 cups, all of which end up in a landfill;

Whereas the college also spends $27,156 per year on to-go containers, using 181,200 containers in total;

Whereas while containers are compostable, it is difficult to predict where they will end up and misplaced containers have a significant impact on staff;

Whereas Dining Services is supportive of exploring alternative to-go solutions;

Whereas Several other colleges and universities including Dartmouth, Harvard, Oberlin, Columbia, Princeton, Tulane, and Xavier (see video) have implemented successful to-go programs;

Whereas the SGA supports initiatives that increase sustainability at Middlebury, reduce waste in the dining halls, live in accordance with the values of our community, and maintain convenience for staff members and students;

Be it therefore resolved…

That the Student Government Association recommends the following regarding to-go cups:

1. Disposable to-go cups are banned from the dining halls for 4 years after which they may be reassessed;
2. Education and outreach efforts prepare students for this switch;
3. Affordable to-go mugs and water bottles are made available for purchase in the bookstore and/or distributed to students by the Commons;
4. Significant discounts are made available at Wilson Cafe, Crossroads, and other locations around campus for students who bring their own reusable mugs;

That the Student Government Association recommends the following regarding to-go containers:

1. Middlebury Dining Services purchases 3,000 reusable to-go containers costing $15,000, with projected savings of $12,000 in the first year alone, and carabiners/tokens costing $2500.00 for 5,000 tokens;
2. Each student receives a carabiner or token that they can exchange for a to-go container in any dining hall;
3. When finished with containers, students bring them back to be washed and exchanged for another token;
4. If a student loses a container or token, the student is charged $5 for a new one;

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Aaron, SGA Speaker
Sierra Moen '17.5
Leif Taranta '20.5 Sustainability Office Intern