

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

Wednesday, January 24, 2006

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:06 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** full attendance
 - a. At this time new members of BSG are introduced by Alex. They stand, and she first introduces Alex White, who is replacing Avery and Jacqueline, who is replacing Emily. Between them they represent Helmreich, Mac, Howell, and Baxter.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** approval passes unanimously
- IV. **Reports**
 - a. President: DeRay says that we have visitors here, but there are some exciting new things first.
 - i. He has been working with communications to get a national TV drama to adopt Bowdoin as their character's school. There is mass excitement when said character is revealed to be "McDreamy" of Grey's Anatomy. Patrick Dempsey's cousin is coming to Bowdoin next year. Excitement multiplies.
 - ii. DeRay would also like to do something about polar bears being on the "At Risk" list. We are talking about covering every polar bear on campus and having a week about polar bears. We would focus on things like what it would be like to have an extinct mascot.
 - iii. The president of the Colby student body is inviting us to visit a February meeting. Bates is in the process of electing a new student president.
 - iv. DeRay also repeats that the work we do is important. We have a packed schedule this semester.

There are two guests. One is Abby, who is speaking about Hanley Denning's death. He thinks that it is important for us to know about her so that we can make her known.

- Abby says that Hanley was a '92 Bowdoin graduate whose program in Guatemala helps educate children who live in a garbage dump. Their living consists of picking through the garbage in order to live. Hanley went down to learn Spanish, saw the dump, and decided to do something. She sold what she had (computer and car) and went down to help. It now serves 600 children. The project is important for Bowdoin because she could not embody the Bowdoin spirit of the Common Good any more. It is important to remember her name and continue the project. She died last Thursday. The project is grieving and stressed about the future. Bowdoin could serve by giving it a student foundation. We have sent a couple of Spring Break trips, but this is just one way that we can help. Abby is making talks to groups to spread the word and fundraise. She is asking everyone here to spread the word and encourage people to contact Abby if they know of anyone who would be interested in helping.

Burgess asks if there are efforts being made to see if the campus could raise some sort of funding. (Abby says no, because it happened so recently. She thinks that this raises a good point because there are many things that we could do. For example, she collected backpacks at one point. Half of the program is paying for their schooling—public school is not free. There is also

a center to reinforce the education. The project is unique and young, so it is open to suggestions.)

Ben asks what sort of relationship this school has with the Community Resource Center. (Abby thinks that they just help organize the Spring Break trips. She also knows of people who found out about it through the center. There is no really strong formal relationship, however, partly because it is not accessible during school (being in Guatamala). Maine is the base for the project, Hanley's support network.)

The group thanks Abby, who exits.

- Alex Cornell is here so that BSG can thank him for his service in Iraq on behalf of the student body here at Bowdoin. There is hearty applause. Alex says that it is nice to be back, and a little bit surreal. He notices the little things, like the maple leaves. He was in a beautiful place, but a very different world. He says that you bring a little bit more appreciation for Bowdoin after being there, especially in combat zones. He thanks anyone who sent things to the troops, including Bowdoin Dining Services. Also, Students For Peace sent granola, which was enlightening and surprising. It was nice to see the support. Everyone is invited to his discussion on February 17, when he will talk about his experience.

Will asks what happened to his knee. (Alex says that when he was on a raid in Fallujah, his job was to do grunt work as an assault man. He had about 70 lbs. of gear on uneven terrain. He had a torn ACL but ran around on it for months. He says that it will grow back stronger than it was, and Bowdoin is now more handicap accessible.)

There is applause, and he exits.

- b. Treasurer: Becca says that rock climbing came in for their classes, and volleyball came in for tournaments. Groups should still be on budget and using funds appropriately.
- c. IHC President: Alex says that they had a retreat this weekend. They discussed the process for college houses. What questions on the applications, the interview process, etc.

DeRay says to add the issues of the sexual assault misconduct policy and membership to the agendas.

V. Old Business

- a. Credit/D/Fail Follow-up Conversation: Burgess updates on the credit/D/fail conversations. They met with the recording committee about opening a discussion across campus. They are very interested in collaborating and getting that feedback.
- b. Community Response Committee: DeRay continues about the response committee and the meeting with Dustin and Mills. He is waiting for a response, and anticipates that he will either meet with a small group or come to a meeting. There was nothing new said, but they are talking about is this is possible, how it could be done. He is less than happy will Barry, and Barry probably feels the same.
- c. Budget Update: Dustin explains the budget and acknowledges that the last budget said that we had more than this one says. We made almost \$500 dollars on "stuff". He explains the rest of the budget: things that we are more or less locked into, or things that are set (pre-set costs). Operational costs looks like a big number, but it goes toward a lot of things and that number is not very large, considering. He's hoping to cut them next semester, though. DeRay mentions that the alumni were

supposed to split the cost for the Homecoming banner. Dustin mentions that this is what the computer looks like, errors were cut. DeRay says that the Colby Hockey one came from our account, and that the classes will put money back in for us. It is in the process now. Torri asks about NameTag Day. It is actually \$750. There is a typo there. A lot comes from unexpected costs. DeRay says that we got pushed back on supplies and things, and money was spent on a day when it wasn't expected.

VI. New Business

- a. Sexual Assault Misconduct Policy: DeRay talks about the Sexual Assault Misconduct Policy, which was approved. Our concerns, like those about gender equity, should be taken care of in the guidelines, not the policy itself. Dean McMahon and DeRay emailed over break, and she said that it was updated. He does not know if the process is up and running now, which is a concern.
 - i. Carolyn says that a writer from the Orient talked to her today about the concerns. She is hopefully meeting with Mary Pat on Monday about our role in the introduction of the policy. It is disconcerting that nothing has been done about the introduction of the policy.
 - ii. DeRay asks people to think about what it means to help the community think about the educational aspect of this policy. It is an important thing.
- b. Membership: Dustin says that there was some attendance stuff that we were looking into. Erma is stepping down. She has to be replaced, as a class representative, by in an entirely new election process. BSG affairs will coordinate this. The current plan is two info. sessions for prospective and interested candidates. We will need petitions of signatures and statements. Then there will be the 36 hour elections. It also affects the class—it is one seat. He asks Clark to make sure that the 2008 team is well aware of what is going on.

DeRay asks for concerns, because the info. sessions are on Monday, which is soon.

- Charlie asks about using the 2nd place person. Dustin says that no, there is a constitutional way of replacing someone.
 - Torri asked if she gave a reason. DeRay said that we won't talk about it. He says that people should talk to her directly if they are interested. He said that we will be working to make sure that this election is smooth.
 - Steph brings up an issue about the constitution, and whether or not people who were abroad can run this term, for they were not here the whole academic year. There is some confusion and dissent, and Dustin looks into the issue
- c. Winter Carnival: Carolyn talks about the Winter Carnival on February 17. A-Board is doing stuff, as are the classes, etc. She asks for suggestions about events, activities, etc. Now, we are just making sure that people who committed to things are talking to each other. Carolyn says that it is important to set a vision for this, because we are limited financially. She thinks that there should be things to do outside. We can sponsor things that are free for us, but just need manpower hours.
 - i. Steph asks what the A-Board is doing. The consensus is airbrush tattoos and a DJ with pizza in the pub. They are planning broomball tournaments on the ice. Steph asks if it starts Thursday or Friday, wondering if we could do something Thursday at the pub.

- ii. Rob suggests sumo suits, laser tag, and cotton candy.
 - iii. Alex says that there will be parties from the houses. There will be special Winter Carnival events. It is under control.
- d. Retreat Funding: Dustin talks about retreat funding. Last year a tradition was established for there to be a 2nd semester retreat to reflect on last semester, get to know each other, etc. The hope would be that this could be done sometime soon. Could Sunday work? How do we feel about this?
 - i. Rob asks if it will be a sleepover.
 - ii. Alex says that the houses can't make it.
 - iii. Dustin asks about next weekend, which is the superbowl (way to go, Dustin). Steph asks about this Saturday. Many people can't make it this Saturday, when the question is raised. Dustin proposes next Saturday. Again, many people can't go. Steph is going to a serious tobogganing competition. How about next Friday afternoon? Everyone says no.
 - iv. DeRay asks about this time next week, but longer, like 8-10, the meeting and retreat. He says that we could cater food. Charlie says "let's do something in Brunswick". Approval of funding passes unanimously.

Dustin continues with the issue concerning membership. There is that rule that Steph brought up. He cites page four of the constitution and points to the point where the issue comes up. The reason he thought that we had to have an election is on page 3. There is no actual section for resignation, only for removal. Section 2E in the packet is about being in school for the year. The first question is appointment vs. election.

- Carolyn says that it should be an election. The class representative should not be elected by us.
- Dustin continues with the second question: what do we think about the line about the student being on campus for the whole year. DeRay says that we need to make a formal decision about this tonight.
- Becca says that the junior class pool is smaller, and doesn't think we should limit it. Emily agrees, and says that it seems that it means that they need to be enrolled.
- Ben says that to interpret that seems to say that people abroad last semester should not be able to run. Sam agrees and thinks that it is clear, but that it should be amended.
- Dustin says that it would take a majority vote of the body, but that it could be a concern/complaint for people who want to run. (The same cycle repeats for the following hour and a half as follows):
- Torri says that we should change the rules. Otherwise we face the challenge of having people complain about unfairness.
- Carolyn disagrees with Sam and Ben. She thinks that we should change the wording after the election, but that "for which they are running," means that they are running for one semester. Steph disagrees and thinks that to say academic year mean 06-07. She thinks that it is unfair to set a precedent that hasn't existed in the past. She thinks that it will confuse things and mess things up.
- Clark understands why this rule is there initially. He says that the change will have to be wordy. Will says that the rule is only intended for a standard election. He wonders if we can pass an interpretation.

- Dustin doesn't think that we should do changes tonight because of the timing. He says that the only thing that concerns him is the word 'entire'. This is something that we will look at in the future.
- Sam asks that if we decide that people who were abroad are denied, but we want to open the election to them, if we could do an interview/appointment process so as to avoid this issue. Sophia asks if we could say that this is an appointment, but that we take the views of the class into account.
- Emily H does not agree to appointing someone to a position that was initially elected. She thinks that that should be explicitly said in the constitution. Becca says that the idea of us deciding seems a little top-down. The people should be able to vote, and she thinks that we should allow anyone who is here to run.
- There is much discussion about what an "academic year" is. Burgess says that there is enough room for interpretation to get away with this as it is. She suggests we go with the election as planned.
- DeRay says that we hold this election until we can commit to a decision. BSG affairs will meet, and anyone who is interested may attend. He doesn't think that being one down is harmful to the body.
- Ben says that he understands, but that he thinks that the problem here is that the point of the constitution gives us a framework, and that it guides us even though we don't agree with what it means. That rule says that if you are abroad 2nd semester, you can't run 1st, and we are suggesting changing it so that you can run only for 2nd and be away first.
- Steph says that she thinks we need to read it as saying what it says and not what we want it to say. She asks who would appoint. DeRay says that it is up for debate, but that he would insist that class officers are involved.
- Torri asks about numbers. She thinks that it would be the exact same number who were allowed to run last semester. She says that if we change the rules now, we will just make our situation more shaky. Kristen says that sending this to committee is making it unnecessarily complicated. She thinks that it seems like the representative should be here for the whole time—it means the whole time that they will serve—until the end of the year.
- DeRay says that this is not time sensitive, and that this issue is very ambiguous. The intent was that it would be from September to May.
- Carolyn thinks that we should vote on what entire academic year means. We should vote on it now and have BSG affairs work this out right after the vote.
- Will asks if we could have the elections for the person next year now. He wonders if we could run the election like that.
- Rob says that if you say you [DeRay] were there when it was written and it says the whole year, Sept. to May, then where is the question?
- Becca says that when you are abroad, you still enroll. She is incorrect, and many jump on the chance to say so.
- DeRay understands, but cannot commit us to make this decision. He says that because this is so unusual, we need to address this. It is too easy to go either way. It sort of gives us policy, but it doesn't give us one about resignation.
- Sam asks about if we can overturn DeRay's wish to table this and put the issue off. Sam proposes to read it as the entire academic year.
- DeRay says that all he can say is to urge people to vote against this. He recognizes the proposal.

- Dustin clarifies that the motion on the floor is to read the document as meaning that a person must be at Bowdoin for the entire year. Steph motions to table the vote. Ben clarifies that this would then be pushed to next week.
- Clark says that when these were written, no one was thinking about a special election, so that we should think about what we want in the future. It is good to set a precedent. He says that the class is capable of existing with what they have.
- Carolyn would argue for voting because this is not the same, but that if this came up in the U.S. government, they still proceed but then alter it afterwards. She agrees with time sensitivity but thinks that people will be less inclined to be involved as the semester proceeds. Torri says that she agrees. They all thought that it was fair that people be there the whole year. She says that it will take a long time to fix this issue, for us to agree on it, etc. She says that rules are written to be upheld. She feels comfortable voting as is.
- Sam seconds the point about immediacy and adds that in regards to fairness, it is not fair to say that people abroad in the spring can't run, but those in the fall can. That is not the way it is written.
- Burgess says that she agrees with Torri, and now thinks that the people on campus last semester had the chance to run and did not. With that in mind, opening the pool makes sense now even though it is not in the rules. She says that this is a very different body than was in place. She thinks that DeRay's proposal is a solid one, but that it needs to go no further than next week.
- Sophia responds to the sentiment that people want to open the document up. She thinks that we can add a rule about the case of a mid-year resignation. She thinks an asterisk would take care of the problem.
- DeRay says that because he entertains a motion, he cannot deny the rest of them. He asks if there is motion to extend the debate. Dustin does.
- Carolyn says that she thinks that the sentiment is that we wish people could run who were gone before, but she doesn't agree with changing the rule now to accommodate that desire. These rules are written to act according to them.
- Dustin says that neither side has sold him, but that he wants to say that he doesn't think it is a good idea to make judgments based on the people. He says that to make a decision based on the pool is not advisable. He says that to change the rules in any sense is problematic and he argues against it. It's bad policy. We are affecting someone's candidacy.
- Steph says that an asterisk is way too impulsive tonight, because people are worked up. She thinks that we should agree next week. Clark is most affected and he just said that it is not time sensitive.
- Clark has changed his position. He thinks that it would not be good for democracy to work as five people. He also doesn't think that this is not good for right now. We should vote on the rules that we have and deal with this in the future.
- DeRay says that as the president of both the class and the BSG, and that it is not true to call this time sensitive. He doesn't think that it is true.
- Torri says that it would be bad business to change the rules and then have the election. Burgess agrees that we have many rules about this body, but that this situation needs to be represented somewhere.
- Torri agrees that it should happen, but not tonight.
- DeRay asks for a motion to extend the debate. Steph motions to table, which Dustin says in the highest ranking motion anywhere. Steph asks if we are voting on the words academic year. Sam asks if this means that we hold it tomorrow or a week for now.

- Dustin says that the way elections usually work is not something that you vote on, but something that is decided by office. The plan is to have them next week.
- Steph asks if we are saying that anyone abroad cannot run. She motions to table. Rob motions to chair. Dustin says that this would certainly not affect anything prior. Burgess seconds the motion to table. Steph explains that it doesn't make sense that even though we interpret it to mean one thing, it should exclude people.
- Dustin says that an interpretation is not a change to the rules. He is saying that this is what the words mean.
- DeRay clarifies the motion to table the vote on Sam's motion. Those in favor: Dooley, Emily K., The vote is interrupted. Deray continues the count to table the vote on interpretation: Burgess, Dustin, Dooley, Bryce, Emily K, Bryce, Emily Hubbard, Steph
Opposed: Sam, Carolyn, Rob, Clark, Torri, Alicia, Sophia, Lynzie, Becca, Will, Charlie, Ben, Kata; ***motion to table fails***—we are now voting on interpreting the words to mean that you cannot run if you went abroad: those in favor: Sam, Rob, Carolyn, Emily K, Clark, Bryce, Torri, Alicia, Sophia, Lynzie, Becca, Emily H, Will, Ben, Steph, Burgess, Kata, Dustin; opposed: Dooley; ***motion passes***
- Torri says that we just accepted the words, and she motions that we continue the election as planned on Monday. Bryce thinks that we should postpone until next Wednesday.
- Carolyn thinks that the rules are written to be used, and that we should use them as they are written. We all agree that we may not like it, but that we need representation and that this can be changed after elections.
- Burgess says that people didn't run before, and that that is a major thing to consider. Torri disagrees, saying that last time we pushed more people to run, and that more people signed up after reopening elections anyway. Carolyn refers to what Dustin said about making rules based on the people involved, and what Burgess was suggesting is not good institutional practice. She thinks that voting in favor of Sam's rules implicitly means that we move forward.
- DeRay thinks that voting on people is different than voting on the situation. He thinks that this is sloppy. He wants to know how officers feel. He thinks that this is dangerous.
- Lynzie says that while she understands what Burgess was saying, holding elections within one semester is different than holding them in a different one because of people's schedules, etc. There may be a bigger pool.
- Ben feels like Torri's statement is pre-empted by Dustin's statement about the committee scheduling it. Dustin says that it is in the absence of directives.
- Bryce says that it is not good practice to vote on the people. He doesn't think it's the people, but the issue. He doesn't think that it's good practice to vote on something that people don't agree to. Getting rid of the rules, we would all like for it to say that people should be able to run, and that it is bad practice to do something that we don't want.
- Torri disagrees, and says that sloppy is the right word. It is already sloppy, and it should have been fixed before. Do we want to make it even worse by changing the rules right before the election, or do we want to just stick with the rules now? We need someone new.
- DeRay says that between now and next week gives us that opportunity to make a policy about resignations.
- Dustin clarifies the motion by saying that he is hearing that if we vote yes, we are saying to do it on the schedule we had before, and to say no would be to do something else.
- Alicia doesn't think that this will ever be perfect, and that there will always be these situations. She thinks that it will take time and should be done afterwards. She doesn't agree with the idea

that people have to be there the whole year, but that it should be left and the work done afterwards.

- Sam thinks that it boils down to if we want to announce and election, then have it.
- DeRay thinks that it is bigger than this. He says that even if we commit to having this, we should tease it out. He would rather hold off until we have a firm policy.
- Emily H says that it is changing the rules, though. She says that we cannot make a resignation piece before the election. It is too sticky.
- Burgess agrees with Torri and not with Alicia. She does think that it can't be close to perfect. It has been sloppy, but it should be fixed.
- Will yells that we could pass anything next week. We are talking about semantics, and at this point it is a trivial matter of intuitive logic.
- Those in favor: Sam, Rob, Carolyn, Clark, Torri, Alicia, Lynzie, Becca, Charlie, Will, Ben, Kata;
Opposed: Dooley, Bryce, Sophia, Emily H, Steph, Burgess
Dustin abstains because he will have to be the person to manage this.
 - e. Academic Advising Discussion: Burgess says that academic advising was briefed last meeting. She would like us to come with written things, notes about improvements in advising.

VII. Reports (Continued)

- a. Classes: Emily H says that they are planning sweat suits and welcome back pub night on Jan 28. We are having a V-Day treats and a countdown to graduation.
 - i. Clark says that Feb. 16 will be a class dance. There will also be students brought to the college to talk about Bowdoin.
 - ii. Sam says that the sweatpants are coming in to be handed out at pub night.
 - iii. Bryce says something inaudible, and Alicia says that the formal is the weekend before spring break. They are talking to dining services.
- b. ResLife: Lynzie says the ResLife is re-hiring. She says to encourage friends to apply. Also, they discussed the sexual assault policy. The proctors, R.A.'s, etc. are doing different programming. Now two people plan each campus-wide event.
- c. Activities Board: Rob says that Campus Wide is hosting a postcard table where students can write two postcards for free. Lively Arts is putting on an Acrobats Show. Feb. 3 is a concert with \$3 admission
- d. Academic Affairs: Burgess talks about the Library Advisory Committee. She says to take note of this if people are interested.
- e. Student Organizations: Steph says that the second semester Fair is next week. It is more low-key, but through advertising it should be more than it has been in the past. They will be judging the tables. SOOC is meeting tomorrow.
- f. Facilities: Will says that the night taxi and shuttle are running this week. The night taxi has extended hours until 2 because they get calls after 1. Laundry View is also a big thing, rates are increasing and the system will be in place.
- g. BSG Affairs: Dustin says that the linens and water are expensive, so it is cut. Leadership Development brochures are in Dustin's hands. He passes them. They fit the ideas made by the initial working group. This is a prototype. These are just examples, and e-mails will be sent. This is good info. about the content. He also says that over the next week, he will be talking about the inherent problems of elections. We will talk about that, get ideas, go to a group, put together a package of proposals,

- and then vote. There are processes that could make things better, but do not need to be voted on.
- h. Student Affairs: Send ideas for Winter Carnival. Go to Busting out Bowdoin. There are some good panels. They are pertinent to first-years and others, too.

VIII. Announcements, Comments, Discussion

DeRay says that this was one of the most important meetings we have had. He says that proposals are important for clarity. We should all be proud.

IX. Adjournment at 10:01