Bowdoin Student Government

February 7, 2007

I. Call to Order at 8:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call absent: Torri, Lynzie

III. Approval of the Minutes

a. DeRay mentions that it was the officer team along with two other people.
b. Charlie recognizes the splendor of the minutes from last week's meeting.
c. Approval of the Minutes Passes unanimously

IV. Public Comment: Matt Martin comments about the Community Response Committee, which he thinks is great. It is great to put something together and finally reach a compromise with Pres. Mills. He likes the draft. He has been hashing out ideas about these things for a few years, since his interest in Darfur began. He has a few ideas to throw out: when he first advised on the committee, they suggested working with other institutions. It would be complicated to choreograph, but could be something to consider. Another thing is that it would be great to reach out to the alumni. An association of all these institutions and their influential alumni could be great, because there is a lot of influence there. This could be an early warning system. The third issue is instituting a threshold for what issues could come before the CRC. In the language it says that the issues must be clear and apolitical. There are a lot of worthwhile causes, but what we ran into in the advisory committee was people asking about global warming, Palestine, etc. if there was divestment for Darfur.

- Ben asks for suggestions about judging the threshold. Matt says that the idea about a clear humanitarian crisis and a sense of urgency are critical.
- Alex asks about alumni. She wonders if he's suggesting that a seat be reserved for an alumni on the committee. He just thinks that they could target action that directs or focuses toward these connections. Mills protects his alumni list, but he is able to go to this in some issues, like Katrina. It magnifies the effect that Bowdoin has.

V. Reports

a. DeRay says that last week was a good meeting and Orient showing.
b. Becca says that the film society came in for money, as did Polar Bear Swing. Debate team is going to BU, Global Justice is bringing a speaker from Thailand as well as attending a conference. Yoga came in for instructional fees. Hillel came in for a Friday service. Baking Club came in for their first baking event. Bowdoin Republicans are bringing a Professor from Stanford. They raised a lot of money themselves. Volleyball came in for a tournament too.
c. Alex says that not much changed since last week. They are planning winter carnival.

VI. Old Business

a. Community Response Committee: Dustin says that this will be presented in chunks. It is built around ideas for a working group that we got from here and other places. There is also

a page of facts, which could be something to give a faculty member, for example, as a guidelines page. The most important line in the first one. He reads the introduction. The mission statement is there, largely from the previous resolution. There is also a part about membership. He goes through the listings.

- DeRay asks how Coca-Cola or global warming would have a relationship to the committee. Dustin says that humanitarian crisis is interpreted to mean this. The committee will largely have to do this very interpretation.

Dustin continues that the next section is leadership, the same system that was presented before, with the service overlapping so that there is always an experienced leader. It also says that BSG will provide support. There is also a portion that vaguely describes how meetings will be held, and when. The rest talks about public access. There is always a public phase before the private one, which encourages people to get involved. Meetings must be announced.

Dooley explains the process, which is left up to the committee itself. Any student, staff, or faculty member may file a concern, after which they will meet within ten business days. They will decide if a response is warranted or not. They will announce if a claim is denied and continue talking if they decide to take action. They present the recommendation to the President within a calendar week, to BSG, and online. They also announce the President's response. Dustin explains that the last cause is for sustainability.

- Alex asks if we could add a definition of humanitarian so that it could be interpreted the same in the future.
- Sophia says that we should mandate that in filing a concern, you need to show legitimate research to prove the extent of the crisis. She thinks that something mandating this could be built in. The committee could use this as a basis.
- Ben agrees with this. He wonders if it is bad if the definition of humanitarian crisis changes. He thinks that this would be a difficult thing to do. Alex responds that this would be done in light of what happened last week. She wants to show that we are being broad. Ben mentions the word urgency.
- Carolyn asks if it could be an advisory definition to the committee itself. She thinks that we need to have faith in the community, but that a definition could be a suggestion.
- Charlie likes the amendment process in the case that this becomes a free-for-all. He agrees that for now, though, he thinks that there needs to be faith.
- Ben refers to the second line and typos that should be corrected. He also says that in Section 2C, this seems like we are writing in the ambiguity that we talked about last week. The role of the BSG is too vague. This could be coordinated with defining our role with the J-Board. Dustin agrees, but his concern is that we are working with the faculty, and we don't know how they'll want this to look.
- Sam says that there are two section 2's. They are on this.
- Burgess says that the hope is that this becomes an actual committee. Ben is just concerned with the ambiguity of the BSG's role.
- DeRay asks how people feel about the membership of the committee. Next week we will start the process of forming the group/recruiting.
- Steph asks what happens if we can't get faculty. Dustin says that seats could go unfilled. Becca mentions that we could rearrange and get more students. Sam would worry about students outweighing other people in the group. Carolyn thinks that we could write that in the case of an unfilled seat, BSG will review with the committee the best way in which to fill the seat. The people and the dynamics on the committee will matter. Dustin likes that idea.

- Sophia is confused about the meeting structure. She is wondering why there are regular meetings and special ones. Why not pick one or the other? She feels like this is weird. Dustin agrees to a large degree, but: if they meet for a concern, this counts for one of the three meetings. The whole idea is that action is done quickly. The meetings are required regularly because this is starting, and this should help getting people to understand how this works.
- Dustin moves to amend Section 5, "Process" adding (A2) about well-researched, formally presented causes.
- Sophia says that we could say something about illustrating the concern as being humanitarian. Clark says that we could just tag this onto (a).
- Vote on the first amendment: All those in favor: unanimous; ***Motion Passes***
- Dustin's second amendment adds a definition of a humanitarian crisis: an urgent situation negatively affecting human life in a significant way.
- Emily H. doesn't understand why it has to be urgent. Why couldn't they address global warming in some regard? She is uncomfortable with the word "urgent." Will seconds.
- Charlie thinks that you could make an argument that everything is urgent. Clark thinks that "urgent" is fine. Emily thinks that this is exactly why the word doesn't need to be there. Steph thinks that we should take out the word "urgent" too. Jack thinks that we should look up an official definition instead of winging it. Rob thinks that the word "urgent" is fine.
- Dustin argues that other organizations struggle with the same problems with a definition, and that simple and straightforward is fine. Emily K. doesn't think that our definition clarifies anything. Sam thinks that the point of adding the definition is to broaden the possibilities. He is in favor of the broadest definition.
- Carolyn reads the wikipedia definition.
- Alicia thinks that even with a broad definition, people will interpret it the way they want to, and the final interpretation will be by the committee.
- Dustin keeps the motion as it is. The first way will be with the word urgent. Those in favor: Rob, Alex, Burgess, Bryce, Emily K, Caro, Will, Kata, Becca, Sophia, Mike, Dustin
  Opposed: Emily H, Clark, Sam, Steph, Alex, Alicia, Charlie, Ben, Kristin, Jack
- Dustin moves to amend Section 2, "Membership" to add clause (h) to read: in the case of an unfillable seat, the BSG will work with the CRC to find an alternate solution.
- Dooley likes it.
- Sophia says that the BSG appoints the student members anyway. She feels like this clause is not necessary to add (h) because they'll know if there's a seat or not. It doesn't say now, but that they will. Dustin agrees in all cases except with the faculty.
- Those in favor: unanimous except for Sophia and Jack; ***Motion Passes***
- DeRay asks if we could change membership (b) to say similar to instead of "same."
  Those in favor: unanimous except for Ben, who is opposed
- DeRay says that now we vote on the whole proposal, with typos fixed and amendments.
- Carolyn asks if we are deciding that the college is voting on things that don't directly affect the college. She wonders if this bothers anyone besides her. She doesn't think that it's our…responsibility? Charlie points out that we have the ability to effect the situation, though.
- Dustin mentions Hurricane Katrina or the tsunami. These are hard links, but things that people have brought up.

- Sam asks if someone on the committee could bring something. Dustin says yes. Ben asks if the person could then sit on the committee. Yes, but this could be changed.
- Alex says that you should not sit on the committee if you brought it up, because they are supposed to be objective. Burgess understands, but thinks that when the group is meeting, they may bring up collaborative things.
- Clark thinks that this is an interesting point, because it would leave an empty seat. Should there be an alternate?
- Charlie thinks that every legislative body would allow the person who brought the bill to be on the committee. For them to not be able to vote on it seems absurd.
- Alex disagrees with herself, and thinks that we appoint these people because they are responsible and intelligent. They should be able to discuss their ideas with the groups.
- Kristen doesn't think that it is a conflict of interest. The discussion will still happen. Ben doesn't think that you should write the response of it is your complaint. You could sway consensus. You couldn't sit on your own J-Board hearing.
- Those in favor of the motion: unanimous

b. Class of 2008 Representative: Dustin says that they held three info. sessions and that zero people attended. Therefore, the number of appointed seats increases appropriately. There are now application sheets and interviews must be set up.

- Alex asks if people didn't come as a statement on what we decided.
- Jackie says that it wasn't advertised.
- Dustin doesn't think that Alex's suggestion was the case. Steph says the same thing. Steph is concerned that no one will apply for appointment.
- Bryce mentions that now people who were abroad can apply for appointment.
- Ben asks how we go forward with the next step. Dustin talks about a meeting in the near future about an amendment for resignations.

c. J-Board: DeRay says that he is sitting in on the J-Board process, which is smooth. He says that he, Dustin, and Becca met with deans to talk about the process. There was an understanding that it could be a better process. They agreed on a committee forum to talk about improvements and suggestions. He wants us to talk about what we are looking for going in. There is nothing about a dismissal procedure. It was clear that they would not come to us after they had approved members. Dismissal is not something that we can ask them to come forward about. This year, he neither participates nor votes.

- Steph doesn't see what the point of reporting to us on the members is, because it's public information.
- Burgess thinks that it is valuable because we are a group intended to spread information on campus. Steph replies that this is pointless. We should have far more impact.
- Dooley is not sure how this changed from the President sitting in, etc. to nothing. DeRay replies that when the BSG president 2 years ago talked about the relationship, there was an understanding that it wasn't clear. When they talked about it, it didn't make it into this policy. They just saw it differently. It isn't school policy. We all agree that the process should change in the future.
- Ben asks how he wants the process to change. That is the question at hand. DeRay doesn't think that it's awesome that the groups chooses itself. Faculty are invited, but they haven't been present when he has sat in. In terms of representing the community, more people should be present.

- Those in favor of funding: unanimous

b. Faculty/Staff Appreciation: Burgess asks for ideas to give back to faculty and enhance student/faculty relations (events to sponsor). DeRay says that they have to do hottest teacher, etc. He says that they did a breakfast café, and ice cream socials.
   - Steph thinks that it would be fun to have professors and staff bring in baby pictures and do an event where you could guess who's who, or do a scavenger hunt or something. Charlie says that it seems like we are appreciating ourselves, because it's fun for us. He thinks that faculty/staff profiles could be good.
   - Sam suggests Pints with Profs.
   - Dooley says that we need to be conscious of the budget. Steph's idea is creative and cheap. DeRay doesn't want us to be too cautious with money. He wants us to spend it.
   - Sophia says that we could do an Invite Your Prof. to dinner night. BSG and Student Government could do this. Steph says that we could do something to bring your professor to lunch. Carloyn says that they could do this, and the profs. could go to get meal tickets. She says that people get mad about the rush of ticket requests.
   - DeRay asks about staff, like admissions, IT, facilities, the deans, the administrators. Dustin says that we got good participation from staff, more so than the faculty.

c. DeRay asks everyone to hand in a piece of paper listing people that they would like to bring in for discussion or issues that they would like to deal with before the end of the year.

VIII. Reports (Continued)

a. Classes: Bryce says that they had people at the forum last week. They discussed community service and stuff. Alicia says that it was about quality, not quantity. They are going to have a Coffee House. They met about goodies to have at the formal and will meet with their advisor to vote on a t-shirt.
   i. Sam says that they are picking up sweatpants this week, and planning a formal and Mr. 2009. They are also selling roses.
   ii. Clark says that they are working on Carnival. They are looking forward to another gift for the class.
   iii. Emily H. says that they met with former officers to talk about the senior gift. They are selling crush cans. There is a 100-day countdown celebration. Carolyn wants to call it 100-nights.

b. Community Service Representative: Emily K. talks about the Red Cross Blood Drive and hiring students for summer work positions.

c. A-Board:Rob says that there was a concert that went really well. They haven't calculated revenue because the register was broken, but it was a success. They confirmed a bid for Kevin Little. They have enough money leftover to spend on another act, and there was confirmation on Rozelle. They are friends, so they may collaborate.

d. Academic Affairs: Burgess says that they will meet next week to talk about the library advisory committee. The credit/D/fail forum will not work, and they are looking to reschedule to the day before.

e. SOOC: Steph says the they met with new groups, one of which was chartered (the Polar Pep Band). They are working on issues with the others. They are planning a check-in for newly-chartered groups.

f. Facilities: Will got in touch with Brunswick Taxi. They are not sure about extending hours, but they are working on a solution. They got a proposal from a company that would provide

laundry service that would deliver laundry. It is less than the place we are using now. Movie Tickets came in, and the shuttle schedule will be revised. There may be a one-cared system downtown, and there is work with that. There are also laundry-view issues. There is also something in the works for military awareness.

Rob mentions that he had a request for someone to dress in the polar bear costume for the last squash match. DeRay tells him to give the name to either him or Carolyn.

g. BSG Affairs: Dustin thanks everyone who was at the working group. The rules of order were in the packet, which he used several times this meeting. There is nothing new there, this is just visible. Election reforms need to happen. There will be a working group in a similar style on Sunday at 6 in the Smith Conference Room. Please Come. Email thought/concerns to Emily. Nothing major has happened with the budget.
h. Student Affairs: Carolyn met with Mary Pat McMahon about the policy. She got "yelled at" about the comments about the policy that were made. She said that she was not responsible for the communications portion of the policy. She saw the document that will be put in people's boxes. There should be a formation of a committee to be informed about the policy.

IX. Announcements, Comments, Discussion

a. DeRay says that they start the advisory process, which starts with the library process committee. He calls them out and asks people to show interest and volunteer.

X. Adjournment at 9:55 p.m.