

Bowdoin Student Government

Bowdoin College

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

February 21, 2007

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

II. **Roll Call** absent: Alex Lamb

III. **Approval of the Minutes:** Approval Passes Unanimously

IV. **Reports**

- a. President: DeRay says that the President of Colby Student Gov., Tom, is here today. They are very different bodies: 26 vs. 45. Tom thanks us for having him, and for helping them learn more about what we do. He welcomes people to come to Colby and see what they do. DeRay asks for people to introduce themselves, which they do.

Public Comment: Ruth arrives to talk about Polar Bear stuff. Ruth is with the informal group of students that calls themselves Bowdoin Polar Bears against Global Warming. Membership is very open, and there is little time commitment. The idea is to get a broad swath of students involved in this issue, because we have an investment in this issue with the polar bear as our mascot. Something about our identity would change if the polar bear would become extinct. We want to raise awareness about how polar bears would be impacted. We aim to build toward an event on April 14th, a national day of action, "Step it Up." Bowdoin is a great place for an event, with our mascot and everything, and we want to hook people in with publicity and fun, low-key things. We want to get t-shirts, letters out to sign, and someone to speak so that it would be media-worthy. DeRay says that they are working together on Friday to cover the polar bears on campus as the first wave of the campaign.

- b. Becca has been in touch with the Women's Association, and they are helping support a forum to provide information about birth control and what is happening with that. Money went to the International Publication, Tae Kwon Do, Volleyball, and the Campus Activities Board was allowed to reallocate funds for Ivies. Anokha is putting on a campus-wide event with Indian Food, there is a CASA dinner as well as a Polar Bear Swing workshop. BCA is having someone from naval base about the role of religion in the military, and Global Justice is co-sponsoring an event about Afghan Women's Literacy. There is also money for producing the F-Word publication. There is a new rule to change the rule about A Capella CDs. The new rule is that there is a money cap, up to \$4000 a year for a CD. The council has the right to decide where this money goes. They still have to raise money on their own.
- c. DeRay again: DeRay introduces Nate, the new member for the 2008 officer team. He also says that we are meeting in Cram now. Comments? Burgess wants to know if we can vote. Ben asks how this was decided, and says that it is a pain to get here. Carolyn says that she will help shuttle people. There are a number of comments about the pole. DeRay says that we won't vote, but that we will try to work this out.

Attendance Policy Discussion (New Business): Carolyn says that Dean Foster and committee members are here. She introduces them, and says that they are here to talk about the new attendance policy.

Dean Foster thanks DeRay for putting them in the agenda tonight. He says that he and the Student Affairs Committee took on an issue that is getting increasing attention. He would like to give a context. The issue is time encroachment. What is happening with the time after the traditional class schedule ends? What we are hearing is that more and more people across campus are trying to schedule things in these times, whatever they may be. What we realize, and what explains these handouts, is that this needs to be addressed. There is a policy in the faculty handbook, but the policy that exists isn't getting the full audience that it deserves. This policy is not as prescriptive as those at peer schools. In all of the conversations, we tried to tell if this was truly an issue. We printed off schedules and looked at the times, and saw that there are tons of things going on, and that students are put in the position to make choices. This said, it is time to address the issue. This has been adapted many times. We met with the recording committee, the Athletic Council, and are here tonight. We are talking to the Performing Arts Department and others to get feedback. This will have to come through the faculty as a motion at a faculty meeting. This involves a month of discussion, followed by a vote. Foster says that he is committed to making sure that this becomes part of student literature so that they know about the policy. He wants reactions.

- A member of the Committee says something about the definition of timely. This is mostly in regards to athletics, which are scheduled far in advance, but there are things like meetings that come up not far in advance.
- Dean Foster says that it is hard to have this conversation without it becoming an issue of academics vs. athletics. That is not the whole story. He feels that we need to have more information early in the semester about what is expected of students so that we understand the commitment. How do we enhance communication between constituents?
- Lynzie asks if there is anything on Bearings or something that announces that things are subject to change. She has gone into classes where the teachers let them know that there would be Firday classes when it was publicized as a M-W class. Foster doesn't know if there's anything in Bearings, but the key point is that faculty needs to be clear from the beginning of the class. The system needs to be improved to get this information out. Student Records needs to know so that they can schedule times and get more information out.
- Kata says that it might be helpful to have even potential syllabi available to know what to expect or what a class might entail. Sam worries about students looking at the schedules and making decisions based on page numbers, etc.
- Burgess says that in the section that is colored under (A), "should not" leaves room in the wording for "should" to be possible. "Will not" may be better. Also, at the bottom of the paragraph, to what extent could the dean help the person in question? Dean Foster says that this is a policy, but at the end of the day, it is clear that the faculty members can set his or her own attendance policy. They may be more liberal or conservative. The dean's office can advocate on the behalf of students by writing to profs., but it is up to the faculty to make the final decision. He says that the vast majority of professors are accommodating, but there are stories about some that are not. He cites an example by telling a story about the women's field hockey team. We should explore options, look at the commitments to the class and the team, and have solutions ready.

- Will asks if he is implying that we go to faculty and promote this. What does he see as road blocks? Foster says that this issue will generate discussion and debate about the primacy of the academic experience. He thinks that a focus on the growth of the whole person is as important. There is learning inside the classroom, but an awful lot outside the classroom as well. There are members of the faculty that feel that these conflicts always swing in their favor. We have had many discussions about the importance of the whole experience.
- Ben talks about the process to push this through the faculty, and wonders if this is irrelevant if the faculty don't accept this. Foster replies that the existing policy is not even in the Student Handbook. We need to sit down with the Faculty Handbook and make sure that things that apply to students are in both. He hopes that a version of an improved policy is adopted. He just wants students to know that some version of these policies exists. Whatever version is accepted will be put in to give some context to the conflicts.
- Clark wonders if the faculty meeting approves the document, how binding it is. Foster says that it is binding. In the same way that they get messages about Religious Holidays, Reading Periods, etc., this would come out as a reminder and not left to the member.
- Dustin thinks that this is great. He asks if it doesn't get through, if there is a way to encode things on the Student Activities side. He thinks that they should be written down somewhere. He also wonders if they thought at all about assignments. Foster says that they haven't really talked about assignments. He doesn't want this to be all about the faculty's responsibilities. It is also about athletes, performers, etc. Some of these things are unexpected, but some are not. A lot of this is about communication. He throws out the idea that faculty and Recording Committee thought that it would be a good idea to welcome more information from athletics about practice times, competitions, travel times, etc. to use this to schedules and have conversations.
- Sophia says that in part (b), the exceptions are listed, and says that in an addition to the list, she is in a class that meets late in the afternoons, every day from Monday through Thursday.
- Kristen asks if there is anything about medical situations. Is this addressed? Foster says that it could be in this, and relates to the issue of advocating for students.
- Torri says that she wants to reinforce what Dustin said about assignments. As far as faculty is concerned, there is the idea of the responsibilities of students, which is not addressed enough in the document. They need to make sure that faculty knows that something is going on.
- Foster asks if Carolyn and the other members of the committee have other things that they want to talk about.
- A member of the committee talks about making sure that there is more information on Bearings. He feels like people have a good idea about what classes are easier or harder, and having more information available won't hurt people's opinions.
- Ben says that it is crucial for professors to be able to change their decisions in assignments. He doesn't foresee any faculty wanting to approve something that said that they couldn't change their syllabi. Foster says that they will sit out and examine this to make sure that they are not over-legislating.
- Emily H. asks if, for example, a meeting like this would count for an obligation for a teacher to consider changing tests or something. Athletics is mentioned, but extracurricular are not as much. Foster says that they have talked about integrating other examples. Think about all the things that have gone on since 4 today—we are just trying to minimize the conflicts, but not erase them altogether.

V. Old Business

- a. Community Response Committee: Dustin says that they have emailed 3 professors to set up a time to talk. One has declined the opportunity, and others are setting up times. DeRay is going to be talking to staff members. They will be sending out emails for students to set up interviews. Mid-next-week there should be a good grasp about members.
 - i. Sophia says that she learned about a Barry-formed Darfur committee. Dustin says that the committee was one that was detailed in his communication with the trustees. They have a very specific task, and it does not relate.
 - ii. Ben asks how faculty were selected, who was selected, and if nominations will be open to the public. Dustin doesn't want to talk about who was asked. They tried to get people who have been here, ones that are engaged in causes, and ones from a broad range of areas. He is open to suggestions about the selection of these members. DeRay says that they talked it over with the officers. They talked with Barry about who would be strong members. A minor change to the agenda is that 2 minute things are really 5.
- b. DeRay has the J-Board names. The new people were appointed. There will hopefully be an Op-Ed response from the officer team about our position with the J-Board. The Orient articles used the word "oversight". Steph and Emily H. will be the representative to talk about how the policies will change.
- c. Winter Carnival: Carolyn says that Winter Carnival was a success. The dance was well attended at one point, but not at others. There was a band in the beginning, which was an unanticipated surprise. She doesn't know how the events at the houses went.
- d. Credit/D/Fail: Burgess thanks people who were at the Credit/D/Fail conversation. There were faculty members there, whose insight was helpful. They passed out information about the Dartmouth policy to look at things that could serve as suggestions. We will send follow-up from here to the recording committee to look at drafting something. Sam adds that the recording committee will definitely do something. Whether or not they decide on a firm policy, they want to send something out. DeRay says to keep in mind that they could be in the spot to take a position as a body. We should be up-to-date on this, as well as the attendance policy information.
- e. The names of the J-Board: Sarah Richards, Emily Baird, Matt Smith, Lisa Braithwright, Hanne Wiesschok. He did sit through the process, which was competitive, which is good.

VI. New Business

DeRay says that the amendments take 21 votes to pass, and that if people need more time to look at them and consider, it is fine. They want to try to look at election rules before Spring Break, but he doesn't want voting on things people don't understand.

- a. Amendment #1: Dustin says that this is part of a potentially three-week process. This one should be straightforward. The first thing that this does gives representatives their own position. It also makes sure that they come from the class that they are representing.

- Sam asks if Nate would be in violation because he was not elected. Dustin says that a later clause takes care of that. Sam suggests putting something there so that the parts are not split up. Dustin explains that it will be a few lines down.
- Nate talks about changing the word to “will”.
- DeRay asks why this is important. Dustin says that it clarifies the Constitution and specifies the representatives.
- Charlie asks about taking semesters off, and which class you are grouped with in these cases. The body responds that you are with the class that you entered with. DeRay says that they will vote now. ***Those in favor: unanimous.***
 - b. Dustin talks about the addition of the letter “s”. They want to put the information by the relevant part, talk about the involvement of class officers, and address the case if this happens in the middle of the year.
- Charlie asks why it wasn’t the whole class officer team. Dustin says that it would be the awkwardness of having that many people at an interview. DeRay says that they talked about this. The officer team appoints other people. He didn’t think that all officers needed to be there, because it seems like a lot of people. Charlie asks why they took it away from the class, and not the BSG. Dustin says that they tried to make it as much like the regular appointment process.
- Ben mentions some things about clarification. This part doesn’t make any sense to him. These need to be distinguished as over the year, and he thinks that the first portion is poorly written.
- DeRay is confused by the word “incoming”. It doesn’t make sense to him without Dustin’s explanation. Carolyn thinks that part of it is hard because we are taking it out of context. The wording here is vague enough and clear enough. A number of situations could arise so that a suitable candidate is not found. Ben says that it is important so that it makes sense when taken out of context too. They should add something about following the election process. He also would change “incoming” to “elected”. Dustin says that the words are either “incoming” or “newly elected”. DeRay asks if we could come back to this. He would hate to butcher an amendment.
- Dustin moves to amend, using the new language discussed in the conversation. Sophia asks if it would be possible for it to say “elect a representative” instead of “an eligible member”. Dustin says that this addresses the eligibility created in the previous section. Those in favor of the amendments: unanimous. Clark says that this is wordy but natural for a Constitution. ***Those in favor of amendment: unanimous*** except for opposed: Charlie
 - c. Dustin talks about the removal clause. He outlines what is new, about filling the empty seats, the seats that may remain unfilled, and having to be able to serve until the next regular election for the seat to be filled.
- Ben asks if there is a reason these are so wordy. Dustin says that they try to think of everything that could go wrong.
- Sam asks why this doesn’t apply to the president or vice-president. There is already an amendment for this. Carolyn asks why this doesn’t address officers. This is somewhere else.
- Ben asks if someone was elected and resigned, and someone was appointed and resigned, if the third person would be appointed. This seems to be the case according to what is written.
- Clark wants to amend, Dustin stops him, asking him to remove this movement and go with his instead, replacing “chosen” with “filled”.
- Sam says that 2e3 should be replaced with 2b4b1.

- Ben asks what happens if Nate resigns. He would be elected, not appointed.
- Those in favor: unanimous Opposed: Clark, DeRay
- Dustin moves to amend 2e3 to be replaced by 2b4b1. Sam asks how 2e1 does not apply to the officer team. Dustin says that this diverges because there are specific guidelines for replacing officers already. There is some talk about quorums. Dustin rereads his last amendment about replacing. Those in favor: unanimous. ***Those in favor: unanimous***, Jackie abstains.
 - d. Amendment #4: Dustin talks about the 4th amendment, which deals with the situation that they dealt with recently. It makes the scenario for resignations as well as removals. He reads with his most recent amendments to the possible amendment. Those in favor: unanimous. Dustin explains the *next* amendment to the current amendment.
- Bryce wonders why we can't vote for all amendments at once. DeRay thinks we shouldn't. Those in favor: unanimous, except for abstained: DeRay. ***Those in favor of Amendment 4: unanimous***, except for Opposed: Charlie
 - e. Amendment #5: Dustin explains number 5, which refers to an appendix that doesn't exist. They now refer to election rules. The terminology changes to "Information Technology". There is also something about not filling two BSG seats simultaneously.
- Ben asks if this speaks to what he brought up earlier. No, this is about people sitting at this table, and not being about to essentially serve as two votes. Bryce wants to bring what Ben brought up next week. Ben asks why #5 is called replacement. It isn't, it doesn't have a name.
- ***Those in favor: unanimous***
 - f. Amendment #6: Dustin talks about #6. This replaces a line that is "not good," about elections being "declared". This is about class officers.
- Sam asks if this means that as soon as election results are announced, no one is able to act as student government. No, this is about the class officer team.
- Sophia asks about numbers in the actual constitution. Amendments 6 and 7 are weird. Dustin talks about section 5b. I don't know what he's talking about, and I'm quite sure that I'm not alone. He spits out a series of more numbers and letters. ***Those in favor as written: unanimous***, Rob abstains, and Nate is yelled at for not raising his hand high enough. DeRay is a shameless hypocrite.
 - g. Amendment #7: Dustin talks about 5b Roman Numeral 7 in the officer section. There is also an amendment so that it is in alignment with the amendments of earlier. Those in favor: unanimous. Dustin wants to vote on the whole bill now. ***Those in favor: unanimous***

Postponement on Amendment 8, which was added as (j) in the beginning of the meeting

VII. Announcements, Comments, Discussion

- a. DeRay talks about the questions on the next page. Dooley reads the first question and asks for questions and comments. The topic is negative campaigning.
- Jackie asks about the honor code. DeRay says that it was the only way to hold people accountable that seemed positive.
- Dustin says that this is important. He wonders if you can comment on the other candidate at all. This could be an issue, and Becca says that it has been one.

- Sam thinks that negative campaigning as a concept should be allowed, but there should be a line between personal and professional.
- Torri doesn't know if she agrees. Barack and Hillary have an issue about attacks between campaigns. She likes the "honor code" thing, because it holds people to themselves.
- Charlie thinks that it is good the way it is. Selecting negative campaigning is taken care of already, because people have the right to decide if they agree with the ways a candidate runs.
- Steph agrees with Charlie, but thinks that there is information that is relevant and information that is irrelevant. There should be something about it needing to be pertinent to the campaign. Becca agrees.
- Sophia doesn't think that negative campaigning should be allowed, because there is no line between what is relevant and what isn't. You could argue that information is or is not pertinent. Sam goes back to what Sophia talked about, for example "so-and-so is against abortion." This is not relevant, but is just meant to hit at a sensitive issue and is not relevant to anything going on in BSG. There should be provisions. It should be within rational limits.
- Clark thinks that it is important not to restrict campaigning, but to leave it open to the student body to decide what is important to the election at hand. Limiting what people can say is problematic. Negative campaigning might be important, to get information out. Ben agrees.
- Tom says that they have election guidelines that no one may tear down posters and advertising from other candidates. It is based on what Clark said, and that the student body would decide and judge based on rationality.
- Torri says that we have decided in this group that we will form opinions on world issues.
- Emily H. says that she feels that negative campaigning shouldn't be allowed because we run elections on a very small scale.
 - b. Dustin outlines the second question about running for offices.
- Becca says that people that have served as class officers or those in other leadership positions should be able to run, but there should be a stipulation about moving elections up to sit in on meetings. Steph says that she thinks that elections should be opened to more leaders on campus. She thinks that it should be required to attend meetings before the elections.
- Sam disagrees, and thinks that the positions are very specialized and require knowledge about structures and meetings. Clark agrees with Sam. He recognizes great leaders, and thinks that there are plenty of positions open to them. The president's position shapes the operation, and it would be difficult to do this without any experience. Charlie agrees, as long as this is publicized well.
- Ben thinks that this is a tough issue. In terms of student government, it is only student government, and he thinks that anyone should be able to run, as long as they go to meetings. He doesn't think that it is that necessary for people to have been involved in these for years. DeRay agrees, and worries that the group becomes too inbred. Other leaders have responsibilities, and he thinks that people may be making claims without understanding the full scale.
- Will says that being on Student Government for two years, he thinks that the role should be closed to people who have been on BSG. He thinks that people need to know what is in order, and he can't imagine working with people who don't have knowledge of the system and institutional memory.
- Torri agrees, and thinks that class officers and BSG members are completely different. It is hard for her to see many people in both roles. DeRay's presidential skills are brought into

their officer team, and she doesn't think that all officer teams work as well. She doesn't think that knowledge can be gained in a few weeks.

- Kristen reiterates that the structures are different of the institutions. The idea of stepping in from different areas and meeting spaces is difficult. It would take time to be able to catch up.
- Burgess understands that someone could be a good leader without being in the group, it worries her that there is the possibility that a body could be completely new in a year. Although it's not the important thing, it does seem like a problem.
- Steph says that she feels conflicted and is very torn. She agrees with Ben and feels that anyone should be able to run, but she understands that there are inner workings that may take time and experience to understand. The way the BSG works needs to be publicized, because she doesn't feel that people know what it would take to be president or how to be a representative. People stumble upon BSG, and there should be word out there about the opportunities.
- Carolyn says that she agrees with Steph, but thinks that it will become less of an issue, because BSG is changing. She also says that in theory, she would like anyone to be able to run, but thinks that auditing meetings would be absolutely necessary, even committee meetings. They need institutional memory, which gives a President legitimacy.
- Ben agrees, but hopes that there are members who would volunteer memory to the President if they are new. Anyone should be able to run, and if the students vote for that person, this is who they want. It may not be done the same way, but that is what the students want. People running are not oblivious.
- Lynzie says that she was class president last year, and thought that she could do what DeRay does, but she realizes that she had no idea. As a first year, she didn't know what BSG was all about. There is a certain knowledge gained being here that is crucial. She would go to meetings, and even that wasn't enough to lead the group. It comes from being engaged and being here. She thinks that a new perspective could come from someone in the group already. This same turnabout could come from within.
- Clark says that someone without the institutional memory may not understand what was happening before and how or why to change this. He thinks that if there are those people who want to change, he would run for Dustin's job or something.
- Becca would like to say that it would be great to have a new voice, and she contacts campus leaders. There are many capable people who could quickly learn jobs.
 - c. DeRay cares about this issue and would like for us to take a stand to propose ideas, etc. The new question 3 is: How would you change elections if you could.
- Dustin would allow class representatives to run for half-year terms. Class reps. can serve for a semester and add value.
- Jackie says that BSG has a lot of different positions, and she would like to see positions opening up, more streamlined.
- Clark thinks that it is important to make the election process more transparent. Debates may be a good idea, to have ideas going back and forth. He also thinks that publishing the fact that you can't run for President is important, so you know to get involved.
- Kristen thinks that it would be cool to push campaigning as much as possible.
- Lynzie likes the idea of speeches. In terms of debate, this is a hot topic. Speeches are great. You learn a lot about a person and can hear his or her voice.
- Kata thinks that it would be interesting to have teams run as tickets. It would add unification in the team, and may be something to discuss.

- Ben says that in terms of speeches and debates, he remembers being in the union and no one walking by. People don't seem to care enough. The campus seems apathetic.
- Torri thinks that visibility is important. We can play on email and facebook. This is how you communicate with students. Make BSG something that people want to be a part of.
- DeRay asks for any other questions that should be dealt with this year. Dustin says that Ben's suggestions came up, and also mentions Spring elections. We should look at how this worked.
- Torri asks what happens when someone doesn't run.

VIII. Reports (Continued)

- a. Class Representatives: Torri says that the 100 days celebration was a success. They are working on sweatshirts and senior week. The design is very classic, through the bookstore.
 - i. Clark says that they welcome Nate to the officer team. They are getting sweatshirts for people who were abroad. They are looking into a community service opportunity and planning a pub night.
 - ii. Sam says that they handed out sweatpants and had a pub night and was costly but fun. They gave out roses, which blew up in their faces, and are planning a formal.
 - iii. Bryce says that they also have a formal and are having a bake sale.
- b. IHC: Jackie says that Mac had a party, and Quinby had a Mario party. They are on probation, because people were in the basement, and security saw ping pong balls. Kristen says that Baxter has a Valentines party and are planning Relay for Life. Ladd is cosponsoring an event. Alex says that IHC had broomball.
- c. Community Service Representative: Emily K says that they are collecting applications to lead Pre-o trips and looking for people for summer jobs.
- d. ResLife: Lynzie says that applications are over for ResLife, and people find out about roles March 2. Burnett and Boody are going to be houses next year, and so we are pushing them. They are trying to do a debate, and getting a guy who is popular in the Pro-Life side of the debate to come.

Dustin asks who is sponsoring this. Lynzie says that houses are teaming up to get this guy and people from Bowdoin to argue the Pro-Choice side. They may turn this into a panel.

Charlie asks if this is a new thing, because he was asked to be on the panel as well. Lynzie says that they got a new guy who is big on programming, so this is increasing.

Ben thinks that a debate would be great. There is little controversy on this campus. Lynzie says that ResLife is different about bringing up these issues. Becca says that this guy approached Bowdoin through a student. They have this connection, and this is how it came about.

- e. Activities Board: Rob says that A-Board has breakdancing, lasertag, and Ivies coming up. They are working on bringing Josh Rouse before Rozelle and Kevin Little. The board will vote on food and inflatables.
- f. Academic Affairs: Burgess says that the formal went well, as did the library advisory committee meeting. There will be another meeting after break.

- g. SOOC: Steph says the SOOC chartered Bowdoin Women in Business and a Brazilian dance group. They checked in with newly chartered organizations, and things are going smoothly. They are implementing new rules, which are attached. Dustin says that this is an attempt to create a more straightforward part of the constitution for the SOOC. They pull out all the rules and guidelines that govern clubs. They are putting rules back in for clubs.
- h. Facilities: Will has talked with Chelsea about laundry view. Emails are coming late. The committee will work with Bart and Greg's about a drop-box. Brunswick Taxi work is being done. Dale is in Florida. Will has been busy with Polar Bear Awareness. There will be a table in the union on Friday. Clark asks if there is the airport shuttle. Will says yes, of course it is running.
- i. BSG Affairs: Dustin welcomes Nate. There is a new budget report. The next priority is getting BSG up to speed about having a public face. They need to be more informative and accessible. He thanks everyone for patience with the amendments. He apologizes how mechanical this seems and assures everyone that it will be easier for future years. They will next look at making this more accessible as far as numbering.
- j. Carolyn talks about the attendance policies and the efforts to pass it. On March 7 Kim P. will join us about housing situations for the upcoming lottery. She is talking us about the situation and waiting for numbers for study abroad. Kata asks if there are definitely 8 freshman dorms next year. Yes there are.

IX. Adjournment at 10:29 p.m.