

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

April 4, 2007

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:07 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** absent: Steph, Lynzie, Rob
- III. **Approval of the Minutes:** Jackie spells her name Jacquie because she's not a boy. Approval of Minutes passes unanimously.
- IV. **Reports**
 - a. **President:** DeRay says that we will be engaging the topic of the half-year representative positions. We will essentially be poll voting. He met Bill Jack. Bates student government is having some unique problems and is trying to find its bearings. They basically finished their work with the student government already (for the year). We will have some visitors before the end of the semester, like dining in two weeks and Katie Longley to talk about the Naval Air Station. Burgess mentions that Dean Judd will get back to us about the possibility of meeting on Wednesday. They are thinking about working out more flexible times. Dustin says that Susie Dorn may come, pending the decision for the Center for the Common Good.
 - b. **Treasurer:** Becca says that the Longfellows CD was tabled. Mask and Gown wants to put on a 24-hour show. She explains what a 24-hour show is. BCF, the AfAm society, and Hillel are putting on a Gospel Fest. Americans for Informed Democracy are putting on an event for debating health care issues. Urses Versus has a concert in the church next to campus. DemLeft has a Fair Trade week for labor awareness. KASA has the annual Korean barbecue coming up.
 - c. **IHC:** Alex says that House selection is pretty much finished. Letters will be out by Friday for the eight houses. There will be a brand new IHC soon.
 - i. Sam asks about what spaces are in which houses. Alex says that there are some houses that have empty spaces and some houses that had many applicants. There was not a lot that was out of the range of what we expected. She lists the houses that do not have spots. Howell and Helmrieck do have spots, all of which will be lotteried to be filled. There were incredibly strong applicants.
 - ii. Dustin asks about the numbers the ResLife posted, and the fact that they don't match the reported numbers. Alex explains that there is a house lottery that happens separately within the houses after the pool is decided.

- iii. Carolyn asks if ResLife has talked about why there are holes in some houses. Alex says that she would rather not talk about which houses have gaping holes, but that she personally thinks that the house system is missing the element of tradition. Houses can get in ruts, where a group steps in to the house, it doesn't work, and then the next group is small and has problems as well. This just turns into a spiral, but it seems that this year looks like it should be good. One of the holes is sometimes chem.-free, because there is a smaller pool going for that. Alex says that there are also some houses that are physically falling apart. Carolyn was curious to see if there was an effect of the four-person blocks, which Alex doesn't think there was.
- iv. Ben asks how the quiet social house (college house) was chosen. Alex explained that there is really no quiet house, but that a house is affiliated with a freshman dorm that is a quiet dorm. However, many of the applicants addressed considering this affiliation and contrasting ways to work with this. Alex says that there were one or two spots in the house.

Charlie complains about the agenda and its very apparent formatting/content errors, and Clark notes that the agendas of those around him don't match the ones on the other side of the table.

V. **New Business**

- a. Half-Year Term Representatives: Dustin says to take a deep breath to prepare for something that could be complicated. He advises that people turn to Will's diagram, and to cross out the Keuthen solution because she is withdrawing it. These diagrams will only make sense after they are explained. People take a minute to review the bills before he introduces them. Dustin stands in the space next to the table arrangement and requests that people with empty papers join him for an interactive explanation.

There are three systems, the first (BSG Affairs) in which there are fall and spring people, a barrier, and full year reps. Voters pick one of each. Someone could also jump into both pools. Alex's amendment to this would be that if there were no half-year reps, everyone runs together in the full-year race.

Dustin explains the next option (The Tavel Plan), where there is an election in April. If people elect two full year representatives, they run the entire next year. If this is not the case, there is another election in the fall to fill the spring term position in which people can run who are away in the fall or who ran before and lost. They could both end up being half-year seats. Clark's plan is next. There are two buckets, one for each term. Full year people run in both buckets. Voters pick two people in each pool. The top two from each pool serve. In this plan, the full-year spot could be eliminated, as could the half-year spots.

- Sam asks about the writing under the diagrams, and what "rank order" means. It means that the highest votes win the spots.

- Torri thinks we should add that there are November elections to fill spring seats in Nate's plan. If there's no need for a spot to be filled, there is no November election. It could be a week later—the timeline could change. Actually, no dice—the school year would be over by that point. It is a timeline issue.
- Alex asks Nate and Clark what one of their plans solves that the other one doesn't. Nate says that the main provision of both is to take away the strategic complications of running. The student government wants continuity. This way, people running for the year have advantages based on merit in his system. Clark says that for the spring term, everyone will be on campus for the elections in the plan that he has devised. Dustin says that the difference is that Nate's has an advantage for full-year reps, whereas Clark's is more blatantly simple. There are no built-in advantages in Clark's plan. Nate's theoretically dis-cludes spring people.
- DeRay refers to Clark's, which says that there are always two separate elections, but contemporaneously. They are at the same time. They are like separate officer positions.
- Alex asks Dustin how hard it is to run another election in November, and how hard it is to run from abroad. Dustin says that it is not that hard to run that election. It is just a matter of getting the computer system up. It is kind of a strange time of year, and there are turnout problems. Becca says that the hardest thing about running from abroad was that she had to contact someone here for signatures, and she had to send out many emails, etc. It is doable, but requires that you be watching for it and have contact. Experience would help too.
- Torri asks about Nate's proposal, and the option that someone runs for the spring, doesn't get as many votes for the fall and full-year positions, and can't fill the spring seat. Nate says that it is then dependent on the November elections. Dustin gives an example using people's names, which always seems to help.
- Becca asks why he would think that it's a good idea. Nate says that it is all about benefiting continuity for the student government.
- Torri asks if the only two plans that allow the entire class to vote on campus are Clark's and the BSG Affairs one.
- Dustin says that DeRay will call off each and to vote for the one that you like best. We consider them in the order in which people seem to like them. Alex wants to be sure that one of these passes, and if we could reintroduce them if nothing passes. Torri suggests that we kill ones we don't like first.
- Sophia asks about trickling up and down, and if these are still issues. Alex says that it is kind of taken care of, because the best people get the spots. That was Emily's, but it is essentially Clark's—it gets the same result.
- DeRay leads through the polls. BSG Affairs: 9; Tavel: 1; Gascoigne: 13, plus one honorary from the secretary
- Nate says that he would rather put his effort toward Clark's if there is clear support for it. It is, for all intents and purposes, withdrawn.

- Dustin explains that the BSG Affairs Plan is back because it gives another option in the arena for consideration.
- Torri thinks that BSG Affairs is better because something that she likes is that one seat would continue as a full-year seat. This plan allows that there is always a full-year spot filled. With Gascoigne, there is the possibility of there being two full-year or two half-year spots.
- Kristen says that it would be very easy to elect four different people, and that it would be hard for there to be a turnover of both seats.
- Clark says that in this method, the people that your class wants for that spot *will* be elected. He explains how a great candidate could be lost in the BSG plan, and how his allows for the best candidate to be chosen.
- Carolyn thinks that continuity is the strongest proponent of the BSG Affairs plan. She says that people could chose a semester depending on how competitive they think it will be. The ability to strategize is still possible in the system. She understands how he will respond. Ben suggests the stipulation that you have to have your name in the full-year race if you will be here the full year in order to run in that race.
- Jacquie (notice the spelling) says that the difference is necessity vs. opportunity. She thinks that Clark's bill will be confusing to voters.
- Alex says that she supports Clark's bill, and says that as part of a team that got half of the officers replaced at the semester, it was refreshing to have these new people and was not a problem at all. People were caught up quickly. Mediocre candidates would be more detrimental than switching the sports half the way through. Alex explains to Carolyn how Clark's plan doesn't have the same dangers about people getting spots because of the position they run for.
- Sam says that in Clark's bill, you compete against everyone else in that spot when you run. If you beat the other people in that spot, people think you are the best candidate. He also thinks that it would be more confusing to have two pools and one other than two just have two, like Clark's.
- DeRay says that we can continue to talk, or we can move to a vote. Talking more is not ideal and will push this to next week. Dustin clarifies that it is, in fact, as far from ideal as it could get.
- Jacqu (how do you like that spelling, eh?) asks one last question. Why can't we throw all the amendments into one pool and have a trickle-down set-up. Emily explains that it is the same result as Clarks. It is two columns: Fall and Spring, and someone there for the whole year will be on both lists.
- DeRay asks if he worries about the lack of continuity. Clark says that they have displaced a number of members, and that fresh perspectives have been good. It spices things up in a good way.
- Torri thinks we are underestimating what it means to go from a six-person to a four-person team.
- Sam says that there is not so much going on that new people can't be caught up. It hasn't slowed us down to get new people in BSG.

- Ben says that there is nothing that you miss out on. To not be there when you order the wristbands is not the end of the world. Well said.
- Emily H. says that she feels odd about making the decision without class input. We are changing the election without talking to other people in the class.
- Alicia says that people know that they will be serving in the spring while they are abroad. This means that they can stay in contact and be ready to fill their roles when they return.
- Dustin says that it puts us at five seats that could turn over. There are seven more without specific rules for stopping that from happening. Both systems could work from an elections point of view.
- Nate asks if because the essence of his was to counteract the problem of discontinuity, if we could bring back the Tavel. Um, no.
- Those in favor: Kristen, Carolyn, Torri, Dooley, DeRay, Rob, Emily, Bryce, Sophia, Dustin; Those Opposed: Burgess, Will, Emily, Nate, Charlie, Alex W, Clark, Alex L, Ben, Becca, Jacqu (haha), Alicia, Sam, Kata
- Those in favor of the Gascoigne Plan: Burgess, Will, Emily, Kristen, Nate, Carolyn, Charlie, Dooley, Alex W, Rob, Clark, Alex L, Ben, Becca, Bryce, Sophia, Jacqu, Alicia, Sam, Kata; Those opposed: Torri, Emily H; Abstained: DeRay. Dustin announces that the motion fails. Stay tuned.

VI. Reports (continued)

- a. Classes:
 - i. Emily says that the class ordered sweatshirts.
 - ii. Nate says that they are trying to get a supersnacks event. Clark says that they are trying to plan an event to hand out their sweatshirts.
 - iii. Sam says that they had their dance, which went well.
 - iv. Alicia says that t-shirts will be here for pub night
- b. Community Service: Emily says that relay for life is going on, and they are looking for ASB leaders for next year.
- c. A-Board: Rob says that there are lasertag and Ivies coming up
- d. Academic Affairs: Burgess says that emails went out to faculty about pictures for a billboard featuring profs. in their younger years. They are also in contact with dean Judd and looking into meal cards for professors so that it would be easier for them to go to lunch with students.
- e. Student Affairs: Carolyn says that faculty/staff appreciation is next Thursday. There is an ice cream social for staff, which we need volunteers for. There will be cards for the departments for people to sign. We will be voting for superlatives, and need people to monitor that table. The attendance policy has a new name, and will go down in beautiful flames of fire (as opposed to flames of...?). A professor railed against the policy.
- f. Facilities: Will is disappointed with what happened tonight. 50 Things is happening. Officers need to be approved. Stickers will be ordered and cards prepared for faculty/staff. Bryce went through many submissions. Nate took care of shuttle service. Facility Advisory happens tomorrow. Dining went

through pub delivery, which can't happen because of labor laws. There may not be Coke in the future. Comment Card is not happening. Becca says that there will be surveys on the tables. Will is excited to transfer the role of facilities because he won't be there any longer.

- g. BSG Affairs: Incidentally, the bill passed. The previous error was due to the fact that Dustin failed to count himself in the tally. The referendum will be next week and will run like an election. They will be working on publicizing this before the weekend. Information to explain this will be available. This will affect the elections coming up. Until the referendum passes, we will technically be under the old rules with the amendments that were passed. If the bills passed, the elections will be under the new rules. We are banking on this passing. We need 2/3 to pass. We are begging to have something in the Orient about this. Rules will take effect as campaigning begins. The concern is a no vote.
 - i. Ben asks if it will be understandable. DeRay says that it is important that we do legwork. We need people to vote for this, or they will be the most special elections we have ever seen.
 - ii. Alicia says that the junior class officers especially should publicize this (actually this year's sophomores).
 - iii. Sam asks if we will have advertisements about election. DeRay explains that the roles were moved to Steph because Dustin is running, and that she is in New York now. Dates should be firm by Thursday. Dustin says that Emily H is organizing things from our perspective.

(Post-Action Comment Time)

- Torri says that (1) she didn't vote for the proposal because it was a rushed vote (2) two people were absent, which spoke to the idea of people not understanding their commitment to the group.
- Carolyn is glad we passed something, but she was more in favor of the BSG Affairs bill because of how she feels about the process of democracy. The overall result is positive.
- Dustin says that things have changed a lot in BSG again this year. We will have to explain this, to talk about it.
- DeRay didn't vote for it. He is against the Gascoigne plan for reasons that Carolyn mentioned. He thinks that it could work for us, but that we need to ease into it. Having a firm commitment would be nice, and turnovers could be dangerous. Institutional memory will be lost. He worries but thinks that it could work. It did seem rushed and we didn't talk about any of the words. Think about it.
- Alicia thinks that the bill was so straightforward that we didn't need as many amendments to the amendment, and doesn't think that there was a problem with the lack of discussion. Maybe an asterisk next to names that will be here for the full year would be a positive solution. Clark says that it could be an election rule.

VII. Adjournment at 9:26 p.m.