

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

18 April 2007

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:08 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** absent: Torri Parker, Alex Lamb, Lynzie McGregor
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** approval passes unanimously
- IV. **Reports**
 - a. President: DeRay says that this has been quite a week in terms of emails and petitions. He wants to give the group a chance to talk about this, which will be in the elections discussion. There will be background information, dates briefing, and an explanation of the treasurer position. We met about the CPC the other day, which someone else will talk about in their report. This is our last formal meeting as BSG. The next one will be a pass-the-torch kind of thing. This has been a great year. Stop talking, guys. Everyone should be proud of the work that has been done. We had Crystal to spark out our year and numerous confrontations, most involving Torri.
 - b. Treasurer: Becca says that SAFC has a lot left for the year. Vague got money for their show, LASO barbeque, SED is bringing a speaker on depression and suicide in college. Men's Ultimate Frisbee has a Sectional tournament, Improvabilities is designing a website, the College Republicans came for a Global Warming speaker (they were awarded some of the funding), and BWA is coming out with the last "F-word" and are going to lobby-day.

DeRay introduces Bill, the president of the Bates Student Government. Everyone introduces him or herself. Notable introductions include Burgess, who sits next to Hannah because she's awesome and Randy, the Security Director.

- V. **New Business**
 - a. Randy Nichols, Director of Safety and Security: Randy is here. It was Will's idea, and Steph supported it. Will says that this visit would be appropriate in light of the Virginia Tech tragedy so that we can get an update about our security on campus.
 - Randy says that he felt terrible for his counterpart in Virginia. What gets lost in all this is how the security and police down there must feel. They must be devastated.
 - Will mentions the ConnectEd system. Randy says that he timing certainly is strange, because we have been bringing this on for months. This is the most sophisticated noting system today. Thanks to Mitch at IT, we were able to get this back in October. It is a massive notification system. Within minutes, every

student, faculty, and staff member will get details and instructions about any ongoing emergency. Up to 6 phone numbers, email, and text messaging can all be used for notification. The first test was today, and within 3-4 minutes, 3000 messages went out. It goes out through a huge server out west. Even if power and IT went down, word could still be gotten out. We are bringing this into effect, and the email portion was tested today. The database and other aspects are being finished in the upcoming weeks. There is also a separate block for notifying departments separately. We will build one for parents as well. We will be able to send messages to just parents to explain the situations in emergencies. Parents get a separate, reassurance-type message. We are the only college in Maine to have it, and one of the only colleges in the East. Newspapers were calling today to get our take, and Randy was able to tell about the system. The test today went well. As far as the incident in Virginia, these things are extremely rare, and this could have happened anywhere (mall, office building). He thinks that people feel better about aspects of this today than they felt a couple days ago. The shock of not knowing who was behind it added to the trauma and confusion in the beginning. Now, knowing that it was a student who was disturbed, people can see what happened. Things are calming down, but there was frenzy in the first couple days and a lot of blame going around. He has never been involved in any major operation that went like clockwork. There was never a critique when we said that everything went perfectly. When there is a shooter on campus, there are big problems. It takes instant tactical response. What we would do is try to contain the situation so that it is controllable, protect the people on campus, and contain the threat in some day. It instantly becomes a police tactical operation. We rely on the Brunswick police, county, and state police. The emergency plan is for all types of situations. The command center comes together and brings the agencies in that are needed to tackle the problem. In his career he has been involved in tense situations (hostage situations, manhunts), and these are very difficult, but they are usually able to get the person. In hindsight, things could always be done better. We rely on experience that people bring into the situation. Often the command post is the front seat of a police car, because there is barely time to set up. We have a good relationship with town, state, and federal police. We can have amazing resources in a quick period of time. The Maine state police is the best in virtually every aspect of police work. The tactical team that deals with these situations is one of the best in the country. A key component is notification. We hear about locking down the campus, which is easier said than done. What we will be able to do is communicate and get people the basic information that they need.

- DeRay asks if there are cameras in the stacks. Randy responds no. Carolyn makes up a story about WWII sirens.
- Kristen asks about media coverage with the students, and the fact that media was accosting students who had lived through the trauma. Is there a plan to deal with that? Randy says that media relations are important to him. One of the first things to do is give the media a place so that they can be controlled. They can go anywhere where the public can go. If a student wants to be interviewed, there is nothing we

can do to stop it. He thinks that students should be cautioned about the risk of being exploited. He is surprised with some of the questions that students are asked.

- Carolyn asks if, given most means of communication rely on technology, there is any thought to have some sort of loudspeaker off the bells or something. Randy says that they have discussed this, and that a low-tech approach has a lot of good aspects. You would want something that would be put out in various locations. This is something that could be discussed further.
- Alicia asks what a con would be. Reading the reports from the Virginia incident, emails were sent but people went to class because they didn't see the email. She is worried about that student without a cell phone and how he or she will be aware. Randy says that there may not be cons to a system like that, but that they have to look at it as part of the larger system. Also, say that you are in a class with phones off, the person down the hall could come—everyone will be notified and the information will spread quickly. Anything to foster early notification is good. Not that something like that could prevent anything bad from happening, but it is important to get out the right *kind* of information so that a panic is not created. We have to put a lot of thought into how the informing is done.
- Dustin asks Randy to speak to the weapons policy. Randy says that weapons are forbidden on campus. Hunting rifles are stored, a form is filled out with security, and it is let in and out for specific needs. They are not allowed in dorms, living spaces, or other buildings. We don't even allow paintball guns or knives. DeRay asks if people take advantage of this policy. Randy says yes, a very small number. This is for students, faculty, and staff.
- Ben finds this surprising, that a student could store a gun and check it out like a library. It seems bizarre to him. Randy says that they are always evaluating their policies, and this is a means of controlling legitimate use of a weapon. They would take other action if they felt they were misused. Some students target practice, and they have this right. We don't have an issue with that. It is a common practice, and the way that other campuses handle it.
- Will asks if federal, local, or county police forces have contacted him. Randy says that the Boston PD has offered the colleges to come in and go over situations. It is always a good thing to do, and we want to look at what *can* happen. Tragedies have happened at Bates, for example, as well as Colby. He has tremendous contacts with experts, and they will use this as an opportunity for training. They have a drill in June, and they will put aspects of the situation in Virginia into the drill, including a lock-down.
- Clark asks if there were plans to integrate training with students in how to react in a situation like this. Randy says that ResLife does some training, but that they could do a lot better with that. RA's and proctors are a tremendous resource. There should be a series of sessions to talk about what to do when situations develop. There are certain things to do to immediately make yourself safer. The other thing on that topic is that when these situations come up, it is a wild card. Any information that we can get in advance of these things makes a huge difference. Look how many people have come forward with warning signs that could have been

preventative. They look at it now, and it was laid right out. There are key things that can be used as indications that people need help. The alertness of the student body is huge, in terms of mental health of other and looking for people who may not belong on campus. You cannot annoy us at security (meaning that no concern is annoying, not meant as a warning not to intentionally annoy security, which I'm sure is ill-advised). Many of the times, you are absolutely right with a feeling, and we are able to act very proactively. Even in a situation that is neutralized quickly, terrible things can happen. We are all part of security.

- Burgess says that, when talking about RA training, it seems unfortunate that being an RA puts a person's life in danger. She hopes that the stress isn't put on their lives entirely. Randy says that one of the first people killed was an RA. You need to consider why people are in these positions. It is in their natures to act to protect and lead. Every student has a huge role in safety and security, but that doesn't mean putting yourself in harm's way. Even things like the most common threat, alcohol—people need to take action and tell somebody. The risks are the everyday things, like crossing at crosswalks (a student was hit the other day). What happened in Virginia *can* happen, but it is the first time that anything of that magnitude happened in this country. The daily threats are alcohol and crossing the street.
- **Jacqu** asks how big the security staff is. Randy says that the fulltime staff is 20, and another 8-10. Iviess we will have some extra people on. Tonight there is a supervisor and two officers patrolling. Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays there are more. Sometimes we get caught shorthanded. A lot of nights Randy comes in to fill gaps and be around see what's happening. This compares well with our peer schools. Sometimes we will have 6-7 on a night, like the Colby-Bowdoin hockey game. Security comes out of the woodwork on that one.
- Sophia says that a professor read veiled threats and that it fell through the counseling department. Is there a framework as to how something like this would be handled? Randy says that this is a rough situation, because it could always be nothing. People have to go with what drives you—let people make that situation. You can never go wrong in bringing something up to an authority. There are often mixed opportunities. You don't want an oppressive state, but there is a balance of safety. I would say to tell someone if you have a feeling. Sophia asks how it would be handled. Randy says that they would coordinate with the deans, and that it would be case-by-case.
- Emily H. asks about the officers. Are any on call in addition to those here? Randy says that anyone is on call. If you can get them, we can say "get in here." He is on call 24/7, and he expects supervisors to be readily available. He has told people to be there through Iviess. They will be there participating in the festivities. He is meeting to talk about Iviess protocol. It went well last year, but they are always one bad situation away from it being branded a failure. It will succeed or fail based on how students work with security. They want for no one to get hurt. People need to watch out for each other. It all comes down to the relationship with the student body, which is what keeps Bowdoin safe. If security was oppressive and heavy-

handed, it would be a less safe space. Safety is in the balance, which is hard to maintain. There needs to be mutual respect. We try to make decision based on what is right in a particular situation. If the students aren't with us, people will get hurt, things will go underground. We use our heads. If five student walk by with beer, I ask them to throw it out, and they do, I won't take their names. I probably already know them, but that person who doesn't cooperate is the one we will focus on. We are very tough on hard alcohol. Most of the cases are hard-alcohol related, and female. It is a no-tolerance area. He is meeting with the crack-house people this week to talk about the risks associated with furnishing alcohol to minors. He doesn't want any Bowdoin student in court. They met with the police and talked about their policy. Safety and health are the issues. We want the police on the same page. Police would call us with every contact with a Bowdoin student. They handled everything in-house. They will try the same thing next year. The police will be around, and if the law is violated, you may be subject to court this summer.

- Thank you Randy. The noise that is heard in the house intermittently is not a threat, merely the ice machine.
- Randy is fabulous. Everyone is shocked by the gun policy. Dustin would be comfortable with a one-day notification. It may be like this. Nate says that the person would have it in their room or a locker, so this is better.

b. Bill Q & A

- Ben is curious what the structure is like. Bill says that they have two branches, Executive Council and Representative Assembly. The judicial branch is part of the latter. There are officers in both groups. They are not together at all, so there are problems with cohesion. In some ways, it works, because whatever passes is what both branches want. Meetings are similar to this. There are spots in Assembly for 74 people and 3 officers. There are 5 per class and 1 per every residence, those with more 50 get one for every 50 people. It is very inclusive, which is a great benefit, but we are looking into downsizing. There are problems with seniors coming to meetings. They are often not represented proportionately.
- Sam is wondering if there are ever problems getting enough people to run. Bill says that he heard the president's position is unopposed, which does not happen. He has always run against one or two other people.
- Steph asks how meetings are run and if anyone can run for president. Bill says that legislative officers run the meetings. The chair of the assembly has the gavel. He talks during his report. Rules of Order are used to some degree. They are pretty loose on who can talk. Meetings are usually every week for about an hour and fifteen minutes. The maximum attendance is around 40. We have brick-style dorms and wood-style houses, all of which get reps. If they don't want one, there is no rep for them. We say that you have to have been at Bates for two semesters to run for President. This is because we have a short-term period.
- Carolyn asks who holds elections and who composes the executive branch. Bill says that representatives are elected by the dorms by the residential life staff. Class rep elections are online, as are executive officers. Treasurer is not elected, but appointed. The executive branch is the President, VP of Student Committees

(oversees about 40 committees), VP for Student Clubs (elected by Club leaders), the Treasurer, and four spots for advisory committees that meet with various groups.

- Kata asks what sort of issues they tackled this year. Bill says that they have representatives who introduce legislation. They have things from guest access for dining, filling puddles in walkways, increased access to study spaces and labs.
- Steph asks if there is compensation for the executive board. He asks how this works here. They don't have that at Bates.
- Dustin asks about systems or structures to communicate with students. Bill says that they have email lists that people subscribe to, a newsletter that he oversees that comes out every other week. They have two bulletin boards where these are posted. They have email systems, clubs with email lists, and the Bates Daily. It is the publication in the dining halls and should be an unbiased publication. Student Newspaper is not used for advertising because they would have to pay like any other group.
 - c. Elections Discussion: DeRay says that the petition failed. Emails were sent out to the BSG. We plan to send notification tomorrow morning. There have been rumors about Shadow Student Government.
- Dustin asks about Shadow Student Government. Will says that they got a couple great emails about the elections messages that didn't come out on time. The reason was that the server was down for list emails.
- DeRay says that someone said there is a movement to start another student government. He is slightly concerned. This is difficult because the people talking about this haven't been here. Sam asks if they would have to come for us for money. Charlie doesn't think that a Shadow SG would be chartered.
- Clark asks why the referendum was handled by the elections commission, when it would usually be handled by the BSG Affairs committee. Also, why was it before the election?
- Carolyn says that it didn't go to BSG Affairs because of the conflict of interests. It was also about an "in-process" election. It was handled before the election, which she was a big advocate of, because she thought that it was the best process. If a referendum is signed by 365 students, it needs to be entertained. If it had been turned in during voting, it would have been handled afterwards. There are arguments for both sides. DeRay says that Emily H. has been involved as staff in the Elections Commission. BSG Affairs has been involved. Dustin and Will were taken off the elections website, but Emily has been the representative of the Committee. Clark says that the Elections Committee doesn't have authority to deal with this. Shouldn't the Committee run the election without Dustin taking part? Dustin says that BSG Affairs has no mandate over referendum. Petitions are handled by the President, who schedules and deals with this according to Article 6. Also, the Elections Commission has been doing a great job with Emily. He hasn't been involved, and understands his removal. He appreciates the work that has been done, and thinks it is great. DeRay says that the officer team should not be the Elections Committee. Others disagree.

- There was a complaint about someone's eligibility to run. We had an epic meeting, and we looked at the rule about sitting on the SAFC. The rule was not there. When Joe rewrote the section about oversight and authority between SAFC and BSG, section 3 was deleted and replaced. The qualification for the treasurer position was omitted. The rule has been gone for a year. This will be an issue for next year. Dustin says that this is Section 3, which used to be pages long. Section C included this, which is now gone. He takes responsibility for not noticing that it was gone. He was not included in this, so he does not know where it went or if it was intentional.
- Carolyn says FYI: Petitions should have signatures, names, and class years. Otherwise, they are hardly legible. In no way does she think someone would (wave hands) cushion, but you would rather prevent this.
- DeRay says that it is important that we have to respond when 20% of the student body says something. This is a testament to student activism. It happens.
- Ben asks why we don't write a response. Clearly, BSG is not a well-liked body. DeRay asks who it would come from. Ben says it would come from us, regarding the positions. Is there is talk of a Shadow Government, people are pissed. This can't slide by.
- Charlie agrees that something should be done. In perspective, 290 people voted for it and 161 voted against. It is practically getting your extended group of friends to vote on something. This isn't overwhelming. Ben says that it could be an editorial, and we should respond.
- Burgess agrees, and thinks that if Ian had come and voiced something, we would have been welcoming. We spent time on this issue, which is hard to express to the student body. It is easy to say that we are an exclusive group, but I wouldn't say that we try to close ourselves off. We need to make it known that we are trying to get out there. We gave it the time and are welcome to these things.
- Dustin says that a letter from DeRay would be appropriate, because he is supposed to be the voice of the body. He could write something and run it by us.
- Carolyn puts out the question of whether or not the Orient is the right forum, or if mid-elections is the right time. The Elections Commission comes out with a stance during elections, and it gets into murky waters. If it is DeRay, it is different. Dustin suggests that the Elections Commission never come out with a statement related to a ruling. DeRay will talk to the Orient about getting a spot. He encourages people to talk to the Orient. He feels overexposed. We talked for two months, so we should have something coherent to say. Email comments to Anne.

VI. Reports

a. Classes

- i. Emily says that they are working on Senior Week.
- ii. Nate says that they have a supersnack.
- iii. Clark mentions the class sweatshirts.
- iv. Sam talks about sweatbands that should come in next Wednesday. They are King Size. There is a pub night coming up.

- v. Bryce mentions pub night and class t-shirts.
- b. Community Service Council Representative: Emily K. talks about Relay for Life and the Blood Drive.
- c. Academic Affairs: Burgess says that Faculty/Staff Appreciation was great. People were appreciative, and she got happy emails. From the library meeting, people should be aware that the library intensely wants to hear from students. They want a café in the library. It would be on the other side of H&L. It would require some shifting. They would need students to push it. Donnie wants it to happen.
- d. Student Affairs: Carolyn says that Faculty/Staff was great. The sparkling cider is still behind the desks. Also, the attendance policy is not getting introduced to faculty. Tim pulled it after talking to Barry or the Recording Committee. The Governance Committee was also involved. Carolyn adds that faculty replied “hear, hear” to the mail. DeRay points out that this is all the committee has done all year. Carolyn replies, “yeah.” DeRay throws in that the J-Board relationship is not so healthy, and that they are trying to push changes. There is a possibility that they vote on new changes at the next meeting to have it before everyone leaves. Carolyn reads the email she got aloud. It is disappointing after the hype.
- e. Student Organizations: Steph says that SOOC is meeting this weekend to round out the year for the third week in a row. She is working on thank-you cards for faculty who have helped BSG.
- f. Facilities: Will says that 50 Things went out. It is also on the BSG website. Randy came in, as we are well aware. He talked to Dell Wilson about the one-card thing, and they should hopefully allocate money over the summer to install a program. He had a facilities phone call with the trustees. They are buying a building on Cleveland, the last before they own the street. Facilities saved a million dollars, they did Thorne speakers, and they are adding carbon monoxide detectors. Dean Judd found \$250,000 in a grant to improve classrooms. We are having modest saving for energy stuff and ventilation for the dishwashing rooms. This is very behind-the-scenes. Carolyn yells to vote for Will. She then thinks about what she said and hides in her arms, shaking her head in disbelief of her own error. It is deemed wildly inappropriate.
- g. Bowdoin Student Government Affairs: Dustin says that they discussed very frankly with Barry and Tim about experiences and stories about the CPC. They will give details about the final meeting. We were under budget for faculty/staff appreciation. He will be working on transition.

DeRay says that he will be having meetings about the transition to next year. One of the bells is missing in the chapel chimes. Sometimes people forget to turn them back on. This is it, guys. We’ve had a good year. Be proud.

VII. Adjournment at 9:37 p.m.

