

Bowdoin Student Government

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

14 November 2007

30 College St.

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:04 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Tony Thrower, Rutledge Long, Dennis Burke, Sam Kamin, and Alison Spencer are absent.
- III. **President's Introduction:** Dustin says that there are three notable pieces to tonight's meeting. Printing and Programming, as always, are not actually going to be discussed. Katie Hyman is here from the J-Board, as is the J-Board advisor, Laura Lee. This is an annual report in some capacity. We will also open this up to questions. Process for selection of members is open for discussion, specific cases are not. He'll bang the gavel if anyone's out of order.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Nicole moves to approve the minutes. Approval passes unanimously.
- V. **Public Comment Time:** The Public is all set and has nothing to say at this point. This includes Travis.
- VI. **J-Board Presentation with Katie Hyman and Laura Lee:** Katie points to the copy of the annual report at the end of the packet. This is the same thing that everyone received in their mailboxes. It briefly discusses the cases of the previous year. Last year the board heard 24 cases. Seventeen involved academic code violations and 7 were social code issues. The J-Board wants to reiterate the core values of our community. They are concerned with academic integrity and basic safety of the campus. Katie will probably be back in late January regarding the application process for new membership. There might be questions about the report and also about the new BSG appointee. In early February, the J-Board asks for applicants for the next year. There are two rounds of interviews throughout two weeks. The BSG will appoint someone to sit on the board for the application process. That person will be at the interviews. Laura adds that there will be a pre-interview meeting to talk about the process and what they are looking for. Applications are due in late January, and interviews start February 4th. There are individual interviews from 4:30-9 pm every night. Then there is an initial cut that is usually small. Most people are invited back to group interviews. The final selection should be Wednesday the 13th. It will be over after that. The BSG appointee would simply report back at that point. The Executive Session would be in the middle of that, when BSG hears the name of applicants and can give feedback. Dustin says that this is the new way of looking at the process, the product of discussions from last year.

- Dooley wonders why the names of the members aren't published anywhere. Laura says that they are included in the community letter...it lists the names of the members. They talked about having a webpage that would have accessible information about timeline and members. Dooley thinks that that would be a great option.
- Sam D asks if the number of cases has been generally increasing, or what the typical caseload would be. Katie isn't sure that there is a typical load. Laura says that there is no clear trend. She did average the last five years for academic cases: 11 per year. It varies wildly, though.
- Ben F asks if the J-Board submits something to faculty to let them know how they deal with these cases. Is there a standard to determine what constitutes academic dishonesty? Laura says that the professor often contacts her, and then they talk about it. It doesn't mean that it is automatically a case...they usually talk about it initially. It isn't always this discussion, though. Something they consult with others in the department or the department chair.
- Kata asks about the appeals process of J-Board decisions. Laura says that the two grounds for appeals are any new information or any procedural errors believed to have been made. If a student appeals a case, there is a window (5 days) to make the appeal. There is an administrative committee to deal with that.
- Clark says that in terms of procedural things and guidelines in dealing with cases, it seems vague in the handbook. Is there another set of guidelines that they use that is more defined? Laura says that she would have to look at it. It's possible that it doesn't spell out the order. Clark asks if there is explanation for how they would hear a certain case. Katie says that there is a definite structure for dealing with cases. They define what happened, assign a sanction to recommend to Dean Foster, and then he decides whether or not to accept the sanction. Laura says that if appropriate, they could refer to past cases if they seem similar.
- Sam D asks if there is a difference in how academic and social cases are dealt with. Katie says that social cases are heard by 5 members of the board (purely students), and academic cases meet a board that includes some faculty members.
- Ben L asks why there is the difference...why don't professors sit in on social code cases? Katie says that they deal with a different side of life on campus. It doesn't really involve professors. Laura isn't sure about the reasoning. Faculty or staff could sit on these cases as part of a community response. This could be an argument. In keeping with the idea of a hearing with your peers, the social cases are dealt with by students.
- Darren asks about IT security with student folders on the scratch drive. Was there follow-through with this issue? Laura says that she wasn't advisor in this circumstance, but that this was definitely an error. She doesn't know if there is a check system as a result of this.
- Sam S asks if police off-campus are involved in cases of theft, or if security on campus is. Laura says that security is usually involved, because that's how they

even know about the case. The police are generally not involved. If they were, it would be a separate process.

- Ben F asks if Dean Foster ever doesn't accept the rulings. Laura says that he has recommended changes, but this happens very infrequently. Ben says that it is more of a formality, then. Laura says that you could think about it this way. He makes sure that the board isn't severely veering from the standards of sanctioning.
- James asks if students facing charges have access to prior cases. Laura says that the letter that they send out is the access to prior cases. A J-Board webpage could provide access to these reports.
- Clark wonders where we stand in the dismissal process. Is there talk about looking at this? Laura says that she and Dustin did talk about this. There are ongoing discussions, but Dustin says that BSG's role is not the same in the process...it is a joint committee-type-situation. Laura says that this process doesn't appear to be changing.
- Nicole asks what protocol is if there are any questions concerning the integrity of J-Board members. Laura says that they should come to her or Katie. They would have to follow up and do some investigation.
- Ben L asks if J-Board members have immunity from the process. Laura says that they definitely do not have immunity. The hearing would be difficult. Ben asks how they would be tried, though, because the J-Board members are all colleagues. Laura says that there hasn't been a case like this. She's not sure if there would be a different Board constituted for this, or if it would be an administrative handling.
- Ben asks what the protocol for past violations is in application to the Board. Laura says that having a violation is not an automatic disqualification. It depends on how you handle this afterwards. One board member was suspended for an academic issue, and they brought this with them.
- Dustin asks if there is a statute of limitations. What if he plagiarized his first semester and it came out now? Laura and Katie think hard. Laura says that there is still a possibility to bring this case up once you are still a student. Once out of the college, though, there is no process for this. As a current student, though, the grades could be changed and the professor dealt with.
- Dustin asks how they decide who hears a specific case. Laura says that she decides, and it's based on gender balance and availability.

VII. Old Business

- a. Language Instruction Bill: Dustin says to take a moment to review the language instruction bill. This has been kicking around for a while, so just remind yourselves of the content.

Dooley asks people to sign up for tabling for snapbands this Friday in the Union. After break they are raffling the platinum parking passes for the sponsor-a-family thing, so volunteer to sit for an hour. Dooley says that you're not that fucking busy, so sign up.

- Sam D says that this is the same bill from the last four weeks. The idea is to provide a way for student groups to receive funding that we decided should not come from SAFC.
- Dooley thinks that we have exhausted this bill.
- Those in favor: unanimous except for Ben F, who is opposed

VIII. New Business

- a. Printing: Does anyone want to say anything about Printing
- Clark asks if there is a way to print double-sided on a printer from your own computer. Amir says that you don't always have access to those properties.

IX. Executive Session: Kyle and Travis step out.

X. Officer Reports:

- a. SAFC: Nicole says that they will be setting up a time to organize the financial report.
- b. Student Affairs: Kata says that Student Affairs is having a can-collecting competition between first-year dorms. The IHC will provide a list of HouseReps to help with the Red Cup Affair.
- c. BSG Affairs: Kata says that they talked about the Community Response Committee. Dustin has a new member: Blair McElroy from counseling. They also talked about a BSG board in the Union. She has talked to Will Hales about elections reform. They are trying to figure out why students don't run in the elections. It looks like December 5 will be Bowling.
- d. Facilities: Dooley is working in getting a reverse vending machine. He is working with ResLife and Tony about the chem.-free housing thing. They are taking data before break and responding next semester. Dorm visit was not good. No one showed up.
- e. Academic Affairs: Sam D says that Credit/D/Fail was moved to next week. They did discuss it, but they didn't come to any decisions. CEP conversations are confidential. They are working on that as an ongoing issue. They are coming to some conclusion next week (or the conclusion that they can't come to a conclusion). Ben F asks if there are more matters that are coming up, or if people just can't decide. Sam says that there is more data and more process-oriented steps. There were also things that Dean Judd thought were more important.

In a meeting with Dean Cornish and Mary Pat McMahon, they talked about having a loose tentative proposal by winter break to look at peer advising, a review of communications (faculty handbooks, contact over the summer), and setting expectations, and integrating parts of the first-year experience into advising. Dean Cornish is excited. They also talked about faculty/BSG relations.

The December 5 meeting is invite-your-professor-to-BSG day. It will be a short meeting in the afternoon.

Carmen from the LMC got back from Berlin, so they are working on creating a time to talk. Students interested in Arabic are trying to organize a club. They are very excited about it and showing obvious interest.

- f. SOOC: Will says that they chartered the French Club. The Newsletter was published as well.

XI. Member Reports

a. Class Officers

- i. 2008: Ben L says that they had a soirée on Friday that was successful. They gave a great class gift. They have a bowling night on Thursday.
- ii. 2009: Christian says that they planned for the rest of the semester. There will be a pub night and Bowdoin logs. Finances look good.
- iii. 2010: Bryce says that there is a pub night for sweatpants and remaining mugs.
- iv. 2011: Hannah says that they are excited about the Dr. Dog concert that they helped fund. They are looking toward a freshman/sophomore formal and a class gift. Dooley won't go to the formal.

- b. IHC: Kristen says that IHC is programmed for the rest of the semester. They are doing Secret Snowflake between the Houses. They are planning for re-Orientation.

- i. Dan says that Barefoot Truth is coming to Quinby (payed for by Burnett). Sean wants flat-screen TVs instead of posters around campus.
- ii. Sam S says that Howell is making cookies for mask and gown and masks for the masquerade ball. The Helmreich President has nothing to report.
- iii. Kata says that Vince Conte is speaking today. Ladd had a Halo tournament on Barry's old TV. Baxter is doing their thang.

- c. James says that they approved a ballot for Ivies. The list includes: Lupe Fiasco, Chamillionare, Guster, Motion City Soundtrack, Dropkick Murpheys, Jet, Hellogoodbye, and Fat Joe. Tell your friends to vote. They are due Wednesday after break. These are physical ballots that go in the mailboxes. Clark asks if they are all the same price. James says that these are the headliners, and that the cost is upwards of the entire budget. (The Ivies Concert budget). Sam S asks if you can list a top three. James says that it is top 5 or top 3. They are having a comedian come in and a masseuse for SunSplash on December 6th.

Sam adds that Howell is having their big Poker tournament this weekend.

- ## **XII. President's Report:** Dustin requests a moment of focus for his report. We gained traction by passing the Arabic resolution. The group forming has a lot

of names of interest. It is on the table. We have to be extra organized as we shepherd these student from the SOOC to the SAFC. They are excited about the tapes. After they are formed, we will bring them to the administration to indicate that there is interest. Sam says that they are working with Alex Locke to pick good tapes. They are also putting together a report about what peer schools have in terms of Arabic. Dustin continues that there is a legitimate concern about the time it will take with the language instruction issue. He hasn't heard much from Dean Judd.

Regarding Credit/D/Fail, he heard responses that indicate that maybe all hope is not lost. They may mobilize BSG to get faculty involved in a way that makes our hopes possible. We are also making our own data...encouraging data.

Governance Committee stuff marching on. Committees are falling left and right. a final response will go out to the group. There is no Sunday meeting. There is a meeting on November 28th. If things happen that require follow-up, he'd rather not leave them hanging.

XIII. Adjournment at 9:37 pm