

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

13 Feb. 2008

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:36 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Kyle Ritter, Sam Kamin, and James Harris are absent.
- III. **President's Welcome**
 - a. **Introductions Game:** Dustin says that we are going to play a "game" (which is an optimistic term for what we're doing). He partners up new members with veterans. He says to learn about the person you were partnered with to introduce him or her to the group. You have two minutes. There is intense chatter for several minutes. The gavel pounds to order the meeting.
 - Bryce introduces Isa, the Programming Director from Brooklyn. There is no comment on why his position is exciting. Isa says that Bryce is from Wayne, Maine.
 - Dan L introduces Alison, who went to the Blake School in Minneapolis. She played tackle football in 6th and 7th grade. She knows the significance of the names of the lion king characters. Dan is the new VP for student affairs. He went to New Trier, in Illinois. He is excited about his position.
 - Sam introduces Kata, the Policy Director. She doesn't have to do John's job, now, which is exciting. She is from Wood's Hole, MA. Sam is VP for Academic Affairs. He is excited about distribution requirements.
 - Nicole says that Dooley is a sophomore and is in the market for new lady friends. Come see her for embarrassing stories about him. Dooley says that Ben L is from South Freeport, Maine. He enjoys languages, travel, fashion, food, exercising, and babies. He hates when people smoke near his clothing. Nicole is from Lewiston, ME. Dooley also has embarrassing stories about her. Kata offers that she is a super-feminist.
 - Rutledge says that Leah is from Connecticut. She plays basketball and has the inside scoop on this circle. She is bringing excitement. Rutledge is from South Carolina. He plays rugby.
 - John introduces Dustin, from Maine. He's excited about BSG because he doesn't know how to be excited about anything else. Dustin introduces John, a freshman from Arlington, VA. He has a passion for minutia.
 - Will introduces Sarah, who is on the soccer team. Her cleats are Adidas. She likes the Thanksgiving meal at Thorne. William is from NH. His house has no electricity and runs off a generator.
 - Dan H. introduces Justin, who likes apple ice cream. He plays tennis. Justin speaks about Dan, who lives in Ladd. He threw things down the staircase in the haunted house. He's a neuroscience major and plays JV soccer.

- Sophia talks about Jess, an at-large representative from South Korea (which is 70% mountains and has good snowboarding). Jess introduces Sophia. Dustin thinks that she can talk to statues. She lives in Brunswick Apartments.
- Hannah introduces Liza, who is pro-hazing. Liza says that Hannah is also pro-hazing. She is very into candy and John Connolly. She also talks about Lindsey, who likes burritos and wishes she had an Australian accent.
- Amir introduces Carly, who is in BWA. She was in student government before Bowdoin. Carly says that Amir is a sophomore RA who is involved in IT.
- Travis exists.
- Dustin says welcome to everyone, even Sophia.

b. Distribution Discussion Preparation: Sam is going to introduce something. This shouldn't be exceptionally hard. Sam says that he sent out an email about the discussion on Friday. There are 10-15 professors confirmed for lunch, when we'll talk about distribution requirements. We don't need to be radicals, but we want to get the conversation going. Hopefully we can all be there, 12:30 on Friday in Daggett. This is open to people who aren't in BSG as well. RSVP to Isa if you plan on going so that we can have an idea about who is coming. We want to think of questions to get discussion going. These will be in small groups. Does anyone have suggestions or topics?

- Liza spoke to Jill Pearlman. They talked about the process of submitting courses to apply for requirements. Pearlman didn't think that this process was fair to professors or students. She thinks that an objective committee should decide that. Talking about this process could be good.
- Justin wants to know if there is a way for a student to ask if a class can cover requirements.
- Will wants to know what the argument was if they were present when the vote went through.
- Dan wants to ask why professors choose to or not to submit courses to fulfill requirements.
- Kata thinks that the IP and ESP requirements are particularly troubling.
- Hannah says that she heard that 300-level classes never fulfill a requirement. Sam says that it's mostly true because the pre-requisites fill the requirements. Hannah thinks that the VA requirements are weird, too.
- Dan wants to know if they think that the new system is an improvement.
- Rutledge asks about requiring foreign language for studies abroad.
- Alison asks if professors think that students would still take a variety of classes if there were no requirements.

IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Bryce wants to clarify his point. Dustin wants to strike that and write instead that Bryce explains the point in question. The minutes should read "SAFC" instead of "SOOC" at one point on page 6. Sophia says that pub night is Friday, not Thursday. Approval of minutes passes.

Dustin says to cross out item #7.

V. **Public Comment:** None

VI. **Discussion of Academic Concerns for the Semester:** Sam D says that academic affairs has been busy this year. It is also where some less-successful things have happened. He says that several things that we have done have rubbed people the wrong way. We need to be very respectful in moving forward. We can be aggressive in a sensitive way. Advising and languages are on the horizon. There are a lot of programs going on, we just need to be respectful and work *with* faculty and administration instead of against them. We don't want this to seem like students-against-faculty. Friday afternoon forums will be great. We want to work constructively and show that we care. There is room in academics. There are things that we can do, but it's a hard fight.

- Justin asks what we did that was disrespectful. Sam argues that we weren't disrespectful, but that we rocked the boat and that they didn't take kindly to that. Dustin says that if we follow a certain process, this can go better. The goal is to start at the faculty level, by approaching them and asking for advice. We want to respect faculty opinions and our relationships with faculty. Sam says that we are going in new directions and doing things that students have not done before. It is uncomfortable for us and it is for them as well. We have learned lessons and want to do this well.
- Nicole feels that faculty have been disrespectful of students as well. They are saying that we are being selfish and aren't looking at real issues. She thinks that there have been some really awful things that have been said. Professors are talking to students about how apathetic we are, and she wishes there were something we could do. Dustin responds that we need to get faculty to a place where they have to say things publicly. We need to face these conversations. If these people are saying things but aren't bringing them out, then it doesn't matter that much. Sam D says that it also comes to the matter of how we came out about this. Sam says that they haven't seen anything like this since the 70's and we aren't working with the same societal ills.
- Alison says that it sucks that professors are saying these things, but we can prove ourselves by repeating our actions around something that isn't necessarily grades-related.
- Rutledge says that we may need to appoint a committee of student to talk to a committee of faculty to talk in a more organized way with each other. Dustin says that we are moving that way with these talks.
- Hannah says that she agrees with Rutledge. Before we rock the boat again, the shock factor may be lessened.
- Sam asks how many people went to lunch with professors. There are very few responses. There are a few people who have this on their calendars. Sam says that part of this reaching-out motion involves this one-on-one informal meeting. Talk about life in general, departments, etc. Please try to do this.

VII. **The Role of Student Affairs:** Dan says that the role of Student Affairs has been programming-oriented in the past. They have done things like NameTag Day,

etc. We are still going to do programming, but the major goal is going to be to break into the policy-realm. We want to put our hands in a lot of places. This is a good thing because Student Affairs is, clearly, a student-centered department. Academic Affairs doesn't always seem this way, but Student Affairs certainly should. Things that they are trying to do involve chem.-free and housing issues (hopefully before the lottery); they will also watch as Lynzie rewrites the Constitution; they plan to get involved with the Health Center, especially in getting free birth control back; they are also looking at the multicultural realm. Besides that, Student Affairs is interested in anything that BSG is concerned about in the Student Affairs realm. Isa is a programming machine, so that aspect will still be strong.

VIII. Committee Reports: Dustin says to listen well, because we need to re-do committee selection.

- a. BSG Affairs: John says that BSG Affairs is working on the Constitution. They are talking to Will Hales. The Hales Report is expected for next week. They are also looking at the Recording Committee petitioning process. They are revisiting the BSG Buddy System, and thinking of reforming it to focus on freshman dorms. If they can hook people while they're young, it may establish a system. The committee is focused on BSG as a thing, committees of the college, and functioning as a catch-all.
- b. Student Activities Funding Committee: Nicole says that they had a fabulously tame meeting.
- c. Student Affairs Committee: Dan already gave his report.
- d. Student Organizations Committee: Will says that they chartered two clubs. Hannah Peckler is joining as an SOOC member. They are working on a template for constitutions for clubs. SOOC is a bridge to enable clubs to get funding. They retain information about clubs and do club support.
- e. Academic Affairs Committee: Sam D says that they are working on the language tapes all year, which are happening now (on order). They should be in soon. They are trying to wrap up advising and C/D/F for next year. Advising is slow and they hope to have some peer advising program. They are looking at other aspects of C/D/F as well. Lunch Friday!
- f. Facilities Committee: Dooley says that they sent out the TV station/gym magazine survey. Nicole says that people take magazines from the gym. Dooley says that they are leaving the TV survey out until the end of the week. They will make final decisions next week. People could choose 5 stations that they didn't like. They could knock out two, maybe: top losers are SoapNet and some tech-y station. The most popular for adding is BBC America. The other thing going on is Safe Ride. There have been problems with the vans taking people to Cook's Corner, which is unacceptable. There is a meeting next week that he is not invited to, with some higher-ups. They got a new committee member. The new project for make-your-life-better is parking. They will try to

add temporary parking passes. His committee looks at physical resources of the college, like housing, dining, IT, Safety and Security, etc. Stuff that you do. Sophia says that a project would be to get sidewalks shoveled, including on Longfellow St. Dooley was thinking about snow removal. Dustin says that the streets don't belong to us.

IX. Reports

- a. Class Representatives
 - i. 2009: Sophia says that there is pub night on Friday. There will be snacks and drink specials. They are also have a debate over the second class gift. There has been a mutiny, so they are exploring options other than string backpacks.
 - ii. 2011: Hannah says that the formal is set for the 23rd.
 - iii. 2008: Liza says that there is a Sea Dog's night on Friday.
 - iv. 2010: Bryce says that the formal is the first weekend in March. They should get out the last sweatpants soon. The old ones are youth large and medium. Nicole thinks that you should give them to the local elementary schools.
- b. IHC Representatives: Lindsey says that they are looking at the constitution. She is gathering people who are interested in this committee. They are looking for 8-10 people. They want people who aren't involved in the house system on the committee as well.
 - Dan says that there is a nerf-gun fight and a swing dance event at Howell. He has a meeting with Reed (they are on Social Probation). There were cookies and a meeting for new applicants. There is a love night tomorrow. Ladd is working on reducing damages and had an open house event.
 - Sarah says that Quinby showed a movie tonight. They have a coffee house and a joint party on Friday. Mac has speed dating. Helmreich is on Social Probation. Baxter had an open house and is having another on Friday.
 - Lindsey adds that there are 5 people running for the BSG rep. position.
- c. CSC Representative: Alison says that there is nothing to report.
- d. A-Board Representative: Dan L speaks for James. There is a crazy company coming in that is setting up a Casino. Ben says that it is from 9-1. It is free to gamble. You could win a Wii or a camera. They will also have an auction, from which the profits will go to a charity. There will be beer specials and lots of other awesome stuff.
- e. Res-Life Representative: Amir says that the ResLife meeting was cancelled.

Dooley says that the BSG dinner is tomorrow night. Dustin asks if Bryce can come. Depends. Someone who is a member should come.

- X. **President's Report:** Dustin says that this has been a frustrating few weeks. Communication hasn't been exactly smooth. They are not necessarily gaining

traction. Two different people with different issues have come to him to ask for help from the BSG. One thing was reflected in the RIAA, and another should be introduced next week. These people thought of us, which is new and good and also strange. Also, they did interviews for at-large positions, and they heard the things that they want to hear in terms of people knowing about us (this is new). He was also at the trustee meeting, and trustees knew what we were doing. This is also new, and he thinks that they understand what we do better. There are ten more BSG meetings, so we need to continue with the issues we are working on and not be afraid to bring new ones. Encourage people to bring issues as well. The Hales thing is happening as well, which will have to be approved by the whole student body. Tim, Cristal, and Barry will probably come on different weeks. Be thinking about these things, and let him know if he should give them a heads-up. The retreat is the 23rd. Please come to that. It is important and we want to try to get everyone there. There will be food. It is noon to 4 p.m. Dan says that the menu is beer-can chicken with lemonade cans. Friday at 12:30 is important. Please come if you can. He passes out papers for choices for committees.

XI. Adjournment at 9:31 p.m.