

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

26 Mar. 2008

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:32 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Rutledge Long, Sarah Hurley, and James Harris are absent.
- III. **Executive Session:** Executive Session commences at 8:34 and concludes at 8:38.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Dustin asks everyone to look at the minutes. There is a motion to approve the minutes. This motion is seconded and the minutes are approved unanimously.
- V. **Public Comment:** Travis says nothing.
- VI. **President's Welcome:** Dustin says that this could potentially be a short meeting. The order depends largely on his whims as the meeting progresses. There is a compromise regarding class officers that we will be voting on.
- VII. **Old Business:** Constitutional Amendments Regarding Class Officer Teams
 - a. John presents the amendments pertaining to class officers. He explains the first, which addresses the Leadership Council.
 - Greg asks if the Class President would be changed if we pass this. No, this name would remain. He asks what power this group has. John responds that their power is to call together the class-coordinating conference. It is a consultative body to keep lines of communication open. This group should always be in touch. Greg challenges this further, and Dustin indicates that there is a sentiment that the presidents want to meet more extensively.
 - John proposed a blanket motion to vote on all the amendments this week. Seeing 2/3.
 - Vote on first: unanimous approval.
 - b. Amendment 23 is to create a class-coordinating conference. This adds a member from each group involved in addition to the Leadership Council. This group will address changes to class governance. Class officers didn't feel included from the beginning, and this is an effort to put a body in place to talk about these issues. They will provide advice about shifts in the class officer team and give recommendations in regard to this. In order to change something for class governance, this group will have to propose this.

- Greg doesn't like the idea that changes have to be proposed from this group. John says that anyone can suggest something, but this group has to put it forward in the end. Greg thinks it sounds like they have too much power over themselves. John understands this and usually thinks that the BSG should have as much power as possible. The CCC doesn't actually have the power to change anything, they just suggest changes.
- Jess clarifies that it's not really an authority in that group, just an opportunity for suggestions. John says that the main objective is to get the class officer voice involved.
- Those in favor: 19; Those opposed: Carly, Greg and Dan (3); Motion Fails. There is confusion regarding how many votes are needed with one member gone, etc.
 - c. The next Amendment changes the name "Class Officers" to "Class Councils". The idea behind this is to make the title of the group more approachable. It also helps differentiate the class group from BSG.
- Greg wonders if there is still a president with no actual executive authority. John says that the class president will have the same power that he has now. This is a programming position, not an executive one.
- Ben L says that all class officers do is spend money for the class and try to keep them smiling.
- Alison says that the fact that they are keeping the titles President and Vice shouldn't get in the way of voting for anything else. They have to compromise somewhere.
- Liza thinks that the title of President means that he is the point person. Companies, for example, will contact the President.
- Will says that the other idea about this relates to the transparency movement.
- Greg wants the record to state that the class officers are resume builders. Keeping the title seems like you're patting your back.
- Those in favor: unanimous
 - d. The next amendment is to create the Community Outreach Officer. This person is now appointed by the other class officers instead of elected. What came up on Sunday is that the CSO is someone who is a little different from the rest of the mold, and this is what we want to keep about the position. This could be someone who might not be comfortable running class-wide. The interview process is a good way for an officer team to bond, also. This person should have a special place in his or her heart for community service. They are also responsible for communication to the classes.
- Sam K asks if a description of the interview process exists in text somewhere. John explains that is the same language that we use for ours. Sam asks if this is a non-issue.
- Greg wonders how you prevent patronage. Dooley says that in the appointment process, you will probably get people who ran but lost in the elections. These people will probably already be interested in serving the class.

- Bryce adds that the Class Council usually exists of a variety of people, not just buddies.
- Kyle wonders if appointing this position will negate the different-ness of the candidate. Will responds that the people picked from 2008 were motivated. The interview process is tough.
- Hannah says that if they appoint, they will be looking for certain qualities in that officer.
- Sam D says that the amendment stipulates that they are looking for someone interested in community events. John says that two classes this year didn't have CSO's, because the position isn't that popular. The same kind of people will be applying, but they might be people who aren't comfortable running.
- There is unanimous approval of the amendment.

e. Amendment 26 is about clarifying the positions of the officers. This is the language that gets passed out at information sessions. This was written with class officers and is meant to describe what the positions do and will continue to do.

- Bryce thinks that the first sentence of BSG representatives is interesting. If they provide a voice for their class, he would think of the position as a class representative. Hannah asks if that is what it is. Dustin says that the names waver. John says that the name pertains to the voting process. They want people while voting to know what the role is about. Calling it "BSG Representative" lets people know that they sit on BSG. Sam K draws a parallel to Senatorial seats.
- Alison and Nicole ask if the Community Outreach language will be added onto this. John says that it works with a cascading effect. He is going to amend this and include the current language for CSO in case the new COO amendment doesn't pass. Sophia wants to hear the language. John finds it with some trouble and reads this aloud.
- Those in favor of amendment to amendment: unanimous. Those in favor: unanimous.

f. Amendment 27 is specific to the junior class, allowing for half-year terms.

- Bryce is opposed to the possibility of 4/6 (which reduces to 2/3) of the membership changing over the year.
- Sam says that you don't always get the best people running for the positions because so many people go abroad. Will thinks that every junior class in the history of Bowdoin would agree. Sophia disagrees and thinks that it is hard, along with everything coming back.
- John thinks that this would provide a more representative group of the class. The detriments from transitions don't equal what is gained from having this section of the perspectives.
- Kyle agrees with Sophia. The Vice President is pretty useless, but it would be beneficial to have at least one more position full-year.

- Nicole thinks that this offers an opportunity for the President of the class to step up as more of a leader. This adds to their legitimacy. She agrees that it is more representative of the class.
- Sophia says that this won't change anything about BSG. She doesn't think they should pass an amendment based on the fact that there have been lame-duck candidates in the past. There are qualified people that don't go abroad, like Sam. Sam wouldn't touch a class officer team with a ten-foot-pole.
- Alison says that there *are* people that will carry over.
- Greg thinks that this gives a good opportunity without sacrificing the greater experience of going abroad. Ben says that they generally plan events in semester blocks anyway.
- Dan H says that it just gives someone an opportunity.
- Jess wonders why there can't be separate treasurers. Nicole says that there is a lot of institutional memory, and it is only by half-way through the year that it starts to flow well.
- Bryce feels that they should consider the effect of having 4 people changing. Lindsey thinks that we should trust voters to weigh this against the benefits. Sam D says that so much of the class is only here for half of the year.
- Those in favor: 19; Those opposed: Kyle, Sophia, and Bryce. Motion Fails. Bryce asks if there is opportunity for the issues that failed to be brought up later.

g. John proposes the same thing, but adds the VP to the full-year list.

- Lindsey asks about swapping it so that the CSO officer needs to be full-year, so that there only needs to be one round of interviews. John withdraws the last bill and reads the new one, that the CSO will be there for a year (we are calling this the Bruett plan).
- Greg wonders if the COO will be able to reach out effectively to everyone. John says that they are looking mainly at emails, and that they could get better at this with experience.
- Bryce wonders if it could be a problem that the group that appoints this officer could change. Lindsey asks when the appointments will happen. If they do happen in the spring, then every class officer will be involved. Great! This really *is* the Bruett plan!
- Jess wonders if there will be problems with the ranking in this system. Denied.
- Those in favor: unanimous.

VIII. New Business: Dustin is postponing the gender and sexuality discussion until next week. He is bringing something for that. There are giggles. Instead, we are talking about Ivies. He is meeting with Dining and Security about the idea that they need to provide food and open spaces for Ivies. Specifically, they want to look at making Super Snacks available.

- Dan H thinks that Super Snacks during Ivies would be a disaster. This is a huge complaint from Dining already because people are disrespectful and belligerent.
- Lindsey suggests snack stations in other places.
- Sam D suggests bringing the amnesty table back.

- Nicole wonders if we can pay dining employees more for Ivies. Dustin says that they would have to negotiate something.
- Greg wants free water bottles.
- Dooley says that dining and security are in favor of this, but the problem is getting people to work extra hours.
- Nicole asks about giving money to proctors and RA's to give food out at residences. Sam K thinks that this is a great call.
- In an aside, Sam K asks Ben L if there is word about the concert location. Ben says that they currently are waiting for the Quad to dry. Otherwise, they will be indoors.
- Greg asks about a bouncy castle. Ben says that there are no inflatables.
- Sam K wants new pictures from the student homepage.

IX. Officer Reports

- a. John says that they didn't meet this week.
- b. Nicole says that their last meeting is April 21. Operating Budgets are the following week.
- c. Dan said that they didn't meet.
- d. Will says that they sent out Constitution stuff and are wrapping up. Clubs can now request petty cash (under \$50) at the office instead of going to the Bursar's office.
- e. Sam D says that CEP will be talking about distribution requirements. People from the committee are talking about this with professors. There will be no Campus Conversation this Friday. They talked about advising as well.
- f. Dooley says that they talked about the idea of a perfect transportation system. They are looking at redesigning the contract with Brunswick Taxi. There will be more recycling bins in the libraries to account for the new food policy.

X. Member Reports

- a. Class Officers:
 - i. 2008: Liza says they are looking at the grad fair and calendars.
 - ii. 2009: Kyle mentions hoodies.
 - iii. 2010: Bryce says that they are looking at a pub night, Relay for Life, and hopefully a class night with snacks (not Super Snacks because of copyright issues).
 - iv. Justin says that they got cute t-shirts and are planning a possible pub night.
- b. IHC: Lindsey says that amendments are starting to pass.
 - i. Greg says that Quinby had a party. Reed is getting back on their feet and are having an open-house party.
 - ii. Dan H says that Burnett is babysitting for faculty. Howell is playing Legends of the Hidden Temple for Bowdoin Experience Weekend. Ladd has the middle school dance party this weekend. New house members are announced Friday. Mac has a party next Saturday.

- c. Alison says that the Common Good Grant Committee gave out \$15,000. There is a ceremony on the 15th. Apply soon to lead an ASB trip.
 - d. Ben L says that this Thursday is Battle of the Bands. GirlTalk will be pretty huge on the 18th of April. It should be out of control.
 - e. Sam K says that the housing lottery is coming up. There is a ton of information online. There is information about Chem-Free changes.
- XI. President's Comments:** Dustin asks for hands of people interested in having Barry at a meeting before the end of the year. He asks the same question with Dean Judd. Finally, he asks if there is anyone else people want to see. Sam K asks to bring Allen to a meeting. Randy could also visit before Ivies.
- XII. Adjournment** at 9:25 p.m.