

## **Bowdoin Student Government**

*Meeting Minutes 10/7/2009*

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:30 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Greg and Leah are absent. Derek and Rutledge arrive after roll. Kelsey says that “Kelsey” is fine and later amends himself, indicating that he prefers “Aaron”. Christopher goes by “Chris.”
- III. **President’s Welcome:** Mike welcomes all to the first BSG meeting of the year. This will be largely an informational meeting, but we will try to rip through it. There is some substance—we have two bills on the table tonight. Let’s go through the minutes from last year. We do this every meeting; you look through to see if you are misquoted or anything. If not, someone motions to approve.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes, motion seconded and minutes approved.
- V. **Public Comment Time:** This is a time when anyone comes in to bring something up. Nick is here from the Orient, but he doesn’t have anything to say. Mike reminds everyone to keep in mind that the Orient is always in the room.
- VI. **Committee Reports:** Each VP fills the assembly in on what they’re working on. They will explain the purpose of their committee and talk about what they’ve been doing these past weeks.
  - a. **BSG Affairs Committee:** Anirudh explains that BSG Affairs takes care of constitutional things, as well as making sure meetings run properly. This year they have been working on election cycles, the BSG board in Smith Union, getting tables for the meeting, etc. (Mike indicates that the round tables at which the assembly currently sits are a temporary solution—future meetings will have something more suitable.) The first issue Anirudh will be tackling is elections reform—let him know if you’re interested.
  - b. **Student Activities Funding Committee:** Kyle says that the SAFC allocates money to clubs on campus. To get the committee running, they went through an at-large process of interviews and applications. The SAFC is updating spreadsheets online this year so that people can see what they’re doing. Mike explains that you can’t join this committee tonight.
  - c. **Student Affairs Committee:** Addison says that Student Affairs deals with policy and program initiatives—anything having to do with student life. If something affects you as a student, start with him and he’ll direct you to whomever you need to talk to. Last year’s Cost-Cutting Guide is a current project; the purpose is to help students navigate a tough economy. It’s being edited now. Also, Isa is adding something to the Cost-Cutting Guide for little-known facts. The goal is to have this in print and online. He is talking to the library committee about the printing vs. copying issue. He wants to consolidate those accounts so that you don’t have to pay out of pocket. He is checking in with the Health Center as well.

There is a long list of things with Res Life, CPC, financial aid, sustainability, etc. There's a lot to be done.

- d. Student Organizations Oversight Committee: Branden explains that he deals with clubs, apart from money-issues. As a committee they are responsible for club support, and they make sure that clubs are sustainable and that they make a difference on campus. There are 6-7 clubs waiting to be chartered. There have been issues with the equestrian club, which they have been working on. He has also been meeting with students about an alpine ski club. They will continue to consider club charters, work on club support (things like club buddies), meet with administrators and club leaders, and consider bringing back the leadership series.
- e. Academic Affairs Committee: Bryce deals with everything related to academic affairs. In the past, this committee pushed to move freshman seminars back to a ranking system during class selection. They were also involved in bringing Arabic classes to Bowdoin. They are thinking about Credit/D/Fail. Bryce strongly feels that a Grade/Credit/D/Fail program is desirable. They want Arabic beyond the 3 year pilot as well. They are also thinking about advising. The first Campus Conversations is on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a lunch in Maine lounge to get faculty and students together.
- f. Facilities Committee: Isa says that Facilities deals with physical resources on campus. He has been running the shuttle programs and organizing the movie tickets. They are adding printers to first-year dorms. They want to increase late-night study space, and they just finished the TV survey. They are working on gender-neutral housing on campus, overseeing the dining and IT advisory committees, green initiatives, and reviewing the opening of the Buck center and the new lounge space in the union.

## **VII. New Business**

- a. How BSG Works: Dooley explains that BSG is broken into subcommittees. After tonight, everyone will have listed their preferences. You will find out later this week which committee you are on. For the rest of the year, you will have a meeting with one of the officers before the assembly meeting. This will be work specific to the committee. This is where most of the legwork gets done.
- b. How Meetings are Done/Rules of Order: Anirudh points to the last two pages in the meeting packet: rules of order. Any business that comes to BSG is voted on during the second meeting, unless this rule is overridden. Meetings automatically adjourn at 10. Extensions may be granted. Everything has a time limit, which can be extended with the 1/5<sup>th</sup> vote. New Business must be conducted with a 2/3 assembly. The chair only votes in the event of a tie. All votes are based on those present, except for those that require the entire membership according to the Constitution. He moves on to the Parliamentary Procedure. Anyone can introduce legislation. It can be amended in the meeting. Voting is based on a 2/3 majority; again, the two-week rule applies unless changed by a vote. Legislation can also be tabled. If no one wants to extend a meeting at 10, any leftover legislation rolls over to the next week. Recess requires a second and a majority vote. Someone has to motion to adjourn as well.



- Rutledge has an animated response to Isaac’s concern. He asks everyone to look at our country and what has happened financially on that scale. We should have budget ratios. We should have some idea of where we are headed with this money.
- Branden moves to vote tonight. Motion passes.
- Lyne asks why we vote with our hands. Everyone can see how we are voting and people might be peer-pressured. Kelsey suggests that she could move to vote by secret ballot. She could bring this issue to Anirudh.
- Bryce hopes to add in the amount of \$6 for the resell amount. We call this a “friendly amendment”—Isa is okay with it.
- Isaac wonders if students pay cash. Yes, or with their One Card accounts.
- Those in favor of funding request: Unanimous except for Isaac, who is abstaining because he wants to see the budget. The budget will be sent out tonight.

**VIII. Member Reports:** This is when everybody reports!

a. Class Representatives

- i. 2010: Rachel says that they are talking about appointing members to help with Senior Week. It has been good—the people who came today seemed really passionate. Senior week will be good. They talked about activities to do on campus. Rutledge says that there is a pub night a Sea Dogs coming up—they have a band and drink specials. Star and Bars will be an activity for Senior Week. The plan is to camp under the stars, go to bars, and be patriotic the whole time. He assures the assembly that the officer team is an ingenious little group this year.
- ii. 2011: Mark says that they have met twice and talked about fundraising. Grant is talking about Senior Week, which is well over a year away.
- iii. 2012: Tommy says that they are talking about sophomore get-togethers. Rebecca says that they are trying to think of a theme. Tommy continues that they are talking about community events.
- iv. 2013: Peggy says that they haven’t met yet, but have something set up next week. Mike congratulates the team on their recent election.

b. IHC Representatives

- i. Isaac says that they did the IHC Olympics. They are making sure house officers are adjusting. They are meeting as the IHC council (20 people) biweekly. There has been interest in inter-house cooperation. The houses are exciting to be working together and working with the resources that they have. They are planning stuff for homecoming now.

c. E-Board Representative

- i. Chris is co-president of the Entertainment Board. They underwent a pretty big revision of the group. There used to be a core group as well as newcomers. It was hard to get things done. This group you had to apply. It also includes vice presidents from the classes. They had a concert with Dan Mills and Samantha Ferrell. Hopefully they will do it again—it promotes Bowdoin-related talent. They are working on parent’s weekend. Hopefully they will have a panel of chefs and local farmers. There will be a Racer-X Concert and a Winter Concert.

- Branden wonders how first-years can join. Meetings are open to the campus. They also have a first-year form from the class officers. There might be first-years involved because people are going abroad.
- Rutledge thinks that we should get freshmen involved. Wasn't Chris, like, president as a freshman? How about getting representatives involved? One of the problems of the old A-Board is that they weren't representative of the campus. It was always just the president's favorite band. As much as Rutledge loves Alicia Martinez, he doesn't know if he agrees with her music or entertainment choices. Chris says meetings are during Common Hour now. They might switch it.

**IX. Athletics**

- a. Clare says that she is working with the Homecoming Committee, the IHC, and Polar Bear Nation in trying to plan homecoming.

**X. President's Report:** We are meeting next week. There will be stuff to talk about—homecoming and other bills are coming down the pipe. You will get a reminder email. We are going to pass around paper. Tear it in halves or thirds. Write your top three committee preferences and pass it back in. Are there any other questions? You cannot choose SAFC, by the way.

- Branden suggests bringing a planner to meetings—people will announce events, and it's an opportunity to write them down.
- Mike says that between Fall Break and Parent's Weekend, there will be a BSG bonding event. In the past, there has been a retreat. We will be bonding over something a little more fun.
- Bryce says that everyone is here representing a certain area, but to bring back what you talk about to members of your class, your officer teams, etc.
- Mike moves on to expectations and responsibilities for the year. First of all, his commitments are to be punctual, prepared, approachable, and honest. He won't try to hide anything. If you have anything that you don't think he's doing well, he expects you to let him know. This is everyone's BSG. Just because you aren't an officer or the president doesn't mean you can't speak up. He expects that everyone will be punctual and prepared. The meeting starts at 8:30. We send the meeting packet out in advance so that everything is not brand new by the time you get to the meeting. We should all be engaged when we are here. His job is to moderate. Make sure that you are in touch with your constituencies. The idea is that you are here and that you have a pulse on the student body. It is your responsibility to bring this to the table every week. You are representing hundreds of people and you need to know what's going on. As long as we keep these things in mind, we will have a productive year. We are here to move toward increased relevance to the students.
- Rachel wants people to introduce themselves. Nick, the Orient reporter, is first, and introductions continue around the circle.
- Dooley reminds the executive team to stick around to do committee assignments. Also, please stack your chair before you leave.

**XI. Adjournment** at 9:22 p.m.