

Bowdoin Students Government

October 21, 2009

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:31 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Aaron Cole is absent. Nick is our Orient Reporter this week. Greg Tabak and Derek Brooks arrive late.
- III. **President's Welcome:** Welcome to the third meeting. We are not funding anything tonight; we will instead have engaged discussion. Dooley encourages everyone to stay on topic, please—if you stray or repeat comments, he will cut you off for efficiency's sake.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes is seconded, minutes pass unanimously.
- V. **New Business**
 - a. **Town Liaison Position:** Proposal 0809041. Branden says that the conversation about this started last year. Ian Yaffe came up with the idea to have a liaison from BSG at the Brunswick Town Council meetings. He thinks that we should decide if we want to do this and talk about how we should do it. Anirudh says that since we are changing the bylaws if we approve this, we will have to vote two times—this would be next week and the week after. Last year we went through one voting process, and then there was some ambiguity.
 - Bryce asks how often the Town Council meets. Dooley says biweekly on Monday nights, as per the second line of this bill. Bryce thinks it's a great idea. There have been a few things in the past few years that have put the town and Bowdoin at odds. Dooley gives an example: two years ago, a Brunswick resident proposed to limit the number of non-related people that could live together—it was referred to as "The Boarding House Rule." Bowdoin students were trying to scramble to get in touch with the council, but nothing was organized at that point. Something of this nature could very well come up again.
 - Kata wonders if we have talked to the Brunswick Town Council. Branden says no, but that the meetings are public anyway. We could add something about necessary smooching before and/or after.
 - Jack wonders if we could have someone attend a meeting first, just to see if it works before we changed the bylaws.
 - Anirudh says to keep in mind that someone needs to take the lead and assume this position if we approve the bill.
 - Kyle wonders why we are limiting this to the assembly sitting here tonight. Greg thinks it's important that it's a BSG person. He asks Kata to stop shaking her head. He thinks that the person should be responsible for coming to the meetings, and that there won't be good communication if the person doesn't show up.
 - Branden agrees that it doesn't need to be restricted, but that as a student government, we should know what's going on both on-campus and in town. Kyle says that the person we select still doesn't need to be on the body now. This could

attract someone different, who hasn't been interested in BSG because of the work we do—this is a very different kind of position. Branden is just afraid of losing information.

- Isa asks if it's biweekly or bimonthly. Greg says that we already had this debate, everyone thinks they're smart, but that biweekly and bimonthly mean the same thing—it works out to two meetings every month, a meeting every other week.
- Bryce thinks that there could be an application process for this from the BSG at-large group. Emma says that they could just drop one at-large and appoint the liaison.
- Rutledge thinks that Jack brought up a good point—that we should attend a meeting before we commit to anything. He thinks it's great if there's someone here who wants to go and represent Bowdoin. Three or four people could go, in fact, and no one could stop us. His initial thought is that no one here is willing to jump into more meetings, though. He doesn't know if we are good enough at representing our own students and the opinions of our group. He is hesitant to pass anything like this until we check it out. It's a beautiful platitude, but he doesn't think that we are ready for this. He sees security as our liaison with the town.
- Bryce says that there are other concerns that security doesn't address, like housing. Rutledge wonders what the BSG opinion on housing is. Bryce says that if a question came up, we would meet, come to a majority opinion, and encourage the student body and BSG members to go to a meeting to get something passed.
- Dooley says that we have reached 5 minutes. Motion to extend passes.
- Greg thinks that it is important to go before the town council because Bowdoin has a tendency to roll over when it comes to the town—when it comes to things like the brothel laws. We pay a lot of taxes and don't use many resources. Greg has a “language moment” which elicits a collective gasp from the group. Addison asks him to explain—what do we roll over for? Greg says he doesn't like the town. We let them use all our facilities.
- Bryce thinks that this would be a good way of showing how mature Bowdoin students are. We could show a good face at town meetings and give a positive spin to Bowdoin students. We could get away from the mentality that we are rowdy and rambunctious.
- Kata says that this isn't about being a Bowdoin student, it's about being a Brunswick resident. It's important that we are aware of issues that are affecting other Brunswick residents. This isn't a place to defend Bowdoin students or tell the town to screw themselves—it's an opportunity to build a positive relationship.
- Jack doesn't think that we even know if this is worth pursuing yet.
- Dooley wants to hear a good reason to get this position.
- Rutledge says that this proposal points to a feeling that we should involve ourselves with the town. He doesn't think we should limit this to being a BSG position. There are people who live off-campus who might not know about these open-attendance policies. We could invite people to come try out a meeting, and then see if those people who show up are interested in the position.
- Branden thinks that a lot of students live at Bowdoin, but they don't live in Brunswick. That's not helpful for the experience here. We should try it out, he

agrees. For so long, people have felt that they live at Bowdoin, not in Brunswick. The town-gown relationship here is better than at some schools, but it could grow and be much better. How many people here know about prop 2? He just found out. We can vote on this, but no one knows what it is. It's about tattoos, he thinks.

- Rebecca wonders if everyone could be required to go at some point. Addison calls it a rotating shift.
 - Dooley wonders if there is anyone willing to attend the next town council meeting with him. Greg wonders if he can get him out of his movie for class.
 - Branden wants a fake vote. We call this "Straw Pole," he is told.
 - Rutledge motions to extend debate as he leaves the room. The motion is not seconded.
 - Straw pole vote, completely informal—is this something we want a current BSG member to do? Rutledge thinks we need to create a special committee to talk about this. Dooley clarifies the vote. It looks like people want to open the opportunity to students not on BSG.
- b. Credit/D/Fail Discussion:** Dooley says that this resolution passed last year. This is for informational purposes so that you know what happened last year. Bryce continues, explaining that there is a working group appointed by Dean Judd that said that a two-week decision time was adequate, in that they should lesson the Credit /D/Fail decision from 6 weeks to 2 weeks...the second is that professors shouldn't be able to see who is taking a class credit/d/fail, and the third was to get rid of the "D". We were not in agreement with the first resolution. He is coming to hear what our thoughts are on this. It will be discussed soon by CEP, and he wants to represent what...what we want, and then go to see what other students want. Dooley says that this is coming up again with the administration. We want student opinion on the deadline change. Bryce says that that's the only thing he wants to get into tonight. Dooley says that it's the only thing that we *will* talk about. Bryce asks if anyone disagrees, and why are 6 weeks necessary?
- Greg says that if he only has 6 weeks, he will take it Credit /D/Fail instead of ever trying. If he sees that he can do okay, he will take it for a grade. It is better for the class overall.
 - Anirudh agrees. He thinks that many classes only once a week—you could've only had two classes, or even one. It would pose many problems. Why do they want to change it? Bryce will get back to him; he doesn't know the reasons.
 - Jordan says that lots of classes don't have any grades in after two weeks.
 - Kata thinks that we shouldn't frame this argument in terms of grades. A more effective approach would be to talk about exploration. Two weeks isn't a chance to explore. Bryce echoes this...we don't want to frame this as a grade protection argument. This will be the biggest way for them to shut us down.
 - Addison happens to think that grades are important, because that's what students care about. If you are trying to explore, you might go into a new subject, and in two weeks, it's hard to know if you can make headway.

- Branden wants to know the rationale from our peer schools that have similar programs, or those that are more lenient than ours. This might help us frame our argument.
- Dooley says that the example we have tried for in the past is the Dartmouth system—you set a grade goal, and if you get this grade, it goes on the transcript. If it's below, it'll be "credit" or "fail." This has seemed like a stretch in the past, but we are trying to make headway. Addison wonders if the information is available to professors.
- Emma says that at Carleton, you can take 5 classes Credit /D/Fail. At the beginning of the trimester, you mark a class to be Credit /D/Fail, and you decide on the last day of classes if you actually want it graded or not. You have the whole trimester to see how you feel. Greg says that Princeton is the same way.
- Kata thinks that this is a much more effective approach. It's less grade-based.
- Dooley says to talk to Bryce if you are interested in this.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **BSG Affairs Committee:** Anirudh says that they did constitutional work with elections. If all goes well, we will have a proposal next week.
- b. **Student Activities Funding Committee:** Kyle says they slammed through 19 budgets last night. A big issue that you might hear about is that there were students trying to start Alpine Ski Club. There was a lot of support, but the consensus was that extending our programs to include something like this is not feasible at this time. It would be very expensive.
- c. **Student Affairs Committee:** Addison says that they talked about the cost-cutting guide. He also talked about the logo situation. Layout stuff will be dealt with as well. Dooley explains that they have been trying to find someone to do graphic design for the cost-cutting guide. Rutledge suggests Jenna Breiter.
- d. **Student Organizations Committee:** Branden says that they didn't have any clubs come in. They are working on online charter-request forms. They are also planning club visits to figure out what's going on with different groups. We reworked regulations for the poster-design team. This is a group of students who will design posters for clubs if no one from the group wants to. Club leader dinners start this coming Tuesday.
- e. **Academic Affairs Committee:** Bryce just did his report on Credit/D/Fail. The big thing on the plate now is Campus Conversations. He might not have explained it last week...it's really a lunch, so you'll get trays and bring them upstairs. It's a lunch to talk to professors and students about issues, informally. We put questions out on a sheet of paper...so you talk in an informal but hopefully important process to get information from students and professors. Invite your friends—drag them along. We have put up table tents and sent emails (for the Campus Conversations). It is this Friday, the 23rd, from 12:30-1:30. It is in Moulton, in Maine lounge. Hannah suggests having someone downstairs. Bryce says that there will be two people downstairs. A good thing is that you don't need lunch plans; you can show up without eating lunch. The other big thing is professors. They usually come, but he is worried that student representation hasn't been good in the past. You have 4 professors, it would be great if you

could get 1 or 2. If all 4 come, Dooley will buy you a cookie. Greg says that they have good dessert trays.

- f. **Facilities Committee:** Isa says that they just did intros, and there will be a resolution next week.

VII. Member Reports

a. Class Representatives

- **2013:** First meeting was Sunday, they met the advisor, exchanged phone numbers and stuff. They are working on appointing a community outreach officer.
- **2010:** Rachel says that they had a busy fundraising week, but they are reevaluating because they didn't make as much profit as they wanted. They are talking about Junior/Senior ball. Rutledge had fun handing out chocolate polar bears for money, but he wished the money were going for something more important than the senior class—like polar bears. A lot of people reading the report were on Rutledge's side, he remarks.
- **2011:** Mark says that Grant got a concussion, so they didn't meet last night. Greg calls it win-win.
- **2010:** They talked about a community event and a black and white dance. Ladd is going to paint their walls.

b. IHC Representatives: Still have houses.

c. **E-Board Representative:** Chris says that Racer-X was a good show. Who liked the concert in the gym instead of the union? Addison thinks the gym was too big. Branden thinks that the socializing out in the halls was good. Chris continues that they are preparing for parent's weekend. It is a panel with restaurateurs and farmers about local food and produce.

d. **Athletics Representative:** Clare is very sorry about the polar bear nation t-shirts. She explains that they are usually ordered from Game Day Athletics. They switched to Nike and thought they would save money. The shirts didn't get in, but they will hand them out in the union tomorrow. They thought they could remedy this by putting BSG's name on something without having us actually fund it. Kyle wonders if they have tried to get the funds back from Nike. If there is a contract, we should totally get the money back. Rutledge says we could've adopted a family of polar bears for \$250. Bryce appreciates the effort and suggests that they put BSG on the shirts next year. Clare says that if there is anything BSG wants their name on...let athletics know.

VIII. **President's Report:** Dooley says that he hopes everyone is there for the Campus Conversation on Friday. Email your professors. We want a strong presence from all areas on campus. Bring someone. Branden says that he was scheduled to be out of town, so he will not physically be there. Dooley says that there is some fun business to attend to as well. We are going bowling tomorrow. Is everyone planning on going? It will be free. Dooley will pay for everyone. This is something that we plan for. That being said, 9:15 at Moulton. Email Tessa if you can't make it. If you can drive, let Dooley or Tessa know. It is a good opportunity for us to get to know each other, and hopefully encourage us to engage more, when we know each other post-

bowling. Rutledge says that if you can't be bowling, there is a concert in Chase Barn Chamber.

IX. Adjournment at 9:23 p.m.