

Bowdoin Student Government

Meeting Agenda

11/05/08 - Daggett Lounge

- I. Call to Order (8:30pm -
- II. Roll Call
- III. President's Welcome
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
- V. Public Comment Time - 8:40pm)
- VI. President Mills (8:40pm-9:20)
- VII. Bowdoin Evergreens // Bottled Water at Bowdoin (9:20pm-9:35pm)
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Town Council Liaison (9:35pm-9:40pm)
- IX. New Business
 - a. Dudley Code Satisfaction Survey (9:40pm-9:45pm)
 - b. Adjournment Rule Change (9:45pm-9:50pm)
- X. Committee Reports (9:50pm-9:55pm)
 - a. BSG Affairs Committee
 - b. Student Activities Funding Committee
 - c. Student Affairs Committee
 - d. Student Organizations Oversight Committee
 - e. Academic Affairs Committee
 - f. Facilities Committee
- XI. Member Reports (9:55pm -
 - a. Class Representatives
 - b. IHC Representatives
 - c. A-Board Representative
 - d. Athletics Representative
- XII. President's Report
- XIII. Adjournment - 10:00pm)

Bowdoin Student Government

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Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

29 October 2008

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:33 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Derek Brooks is absent, Greg Tabak is tardy.
- III. **President's Welcome:** We have a full agenda. We are working on incorporating ideas from the retreat into the agendas. Keep sending thoughts and ideas.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** There is a motion to approve, which is seconded. Approval passes unanimously.
- V. **Cristle Collins Judd, Dean for Academic Affairs:** Sam says that there is a brief overview in the packet about the Academic Affairs Office (it was also sent out in an email). Cristle passes a sheet so that people know what the office does. They do hiring, promoting, tenure reviews, budgeting for position, etc. They are in the middle of the tenure process, which takes nearly 9 months. Roughly 40 people look at a faculty member's materials before he/she is tenured. They lead curricular discussions. There are faculty seminars regularly, faculty lunches, and talks about teaching that the office often sponsors. They got a grant recently for women in the sciences to start fellowships next year. They also have a grant to underwrite faculty sabbaticals. The office oversees academic support, like study away, the learning center, the registrar's office, etc. Academic spaces (renovations, etc) also fall under their purview. External reviews for departments happen every 10 years (this year econ, math, government, and education)—this is an ongoing process. The handout also includes a list of staff involved in the office. They added a rotating faculty position. Steve Cornish focuses on the student side of matters. They need to make sure to meet demand and manage the curriculum that way. Cristle is in her 3rd year at Bowdoin. She was at Penn for a while. She has three priorities: (1) how do we have a world-class faculty of great scholars who can also teach? (2) how to support a culture of educational inquiry for student? (3) how do we promote the arts? The new recital hall and the museum have opened in the past few years. We had 44,000 visitors to the art museum in one year. They are looking at the Arctic Museum as well.
 - Mike says thanks for making Arabic a reality. He wonders where this is headed. Cristle says that it is a “work in progress.” They tried to move quickly to figure it out, and they hope to manage a 2nd year. They aren't at the stage to make it a full-out language program, but they wanted to find an intermediary solution. Offering as many languages as possible at a small school like this is a challenge. You are here for 4 years as a student, and things happen over longer terms, so you often encounter these works-in-progress. They won't suddenly have full programs, but these things grow; they often grow organically out of faculty interest at Bowdoin.

- John asks what effect the current financial crisis has on hiring new faculty. Cristle says that everyone saw President Mills' statement. We have been careful about planning sustainable programs. They are committed to the consortium for faculty diversity. They will be cautious in adding new positions beyond those that they have created. They want to hire people that grow and change with the field, but they also need the financial resources to support this growth. She doesn't see scaling back, but they won't necessarily be at warp-speed in hiring people. They are replacing people, but may not grow much beyond that. They won't step back from anything in program, but expansion may be slower. There are places that are announcing hiring freezes, but we aren't at that place.
- Bryce wonders how Cristle sees the office's relationship with student government. She says that they have a few ways to connect, with BSG and the general body. She sees Sam regularly, and there are BSG students on committees. BSG is a good sounding board for issues. She started an advisory group that meets when they can to throw issues around. BSG is good to use as a focus group; via the subcommittee, she counts on feedback. It's hard because the office sometimes feels cut off from students. She's teaching a course in the spring, but it is sometimes hard to get this connection.
- Morgan hasn't heard much about student advising after orientation and she wonders how this is going. Cristle says that they are trying to reflect on this and plan for the next steps. They had a meeting yesterday to look at student advising: what do they know, and what feedback can they get? They mapped out the time-table for when they want focus groups. They decided on early next semester. They try to consider what faculty needs to know in order to be good advisors. The curriculum is complicated. She is thinking all the time about classes in all departments, but they need to consider supporting faculty knowledge in this area.
- Alicia sees different posts for committee applications every year. She says that these committees are good for information, but there was an open discussion that the campus became aware of. Have they thought about other modes of communications for the campus at large so that student who can't commit could be involved. Cristle says that it depends on where the responsibility lies. For a lot of things, they set up a series of focus groups. Small group feedback tends to be more effective. Referenda often lead to grey areas and polarization. Alicia says that she doesn't see the harm in adding polls. Cristle tries to see how that would fit their decisions, because their issues are often not up-or-down, black-or-white.
- Justin wonders if the school assists students in planning if they are dismissed. Cristle says that it depends on the J-Board. People who are allowed to transfer credits from another school do get help from Steve Cornish and the registrar. Bowdoin cares deeply about the welfare of students—faculty are concerned with getting students to the right place. Justin asks if the assistance comes after they return, or before they leave. Cristle says that if students reach out, they usually get a response. The same works with summer credit—they try to match it up beforehand. Faculty wants students to have successful educational experiences.
- Anirudh says that registering for freshman seminars was different this year. Why did they switch this system? Judd says that seminars are capped, and that people would get disappointed when they came to campus wanting one seminar that they didn't get. Their sense is that seminars should be introducing student to the college and making sure that they learn how to write. The topic of that seminar is just one part of the goal. The feedback was that advising conversations were better because

they could focus on what *kinds* of things students like to study. There wasn't a lot of shifting in phase 2. They try to offer seminars that they feel good about, and that they think all offer quality experiences. She polls the room about enrollment in seminars and happiness in them. Some faculty said that they only wanted student who chose the class as a first choice. Sometimes student go into these classes, though, so keen on the topic that they aren't interested in what the professor wants to say about Jane Austen. It will be the same in the spring.

- Nyle wonders how professors create classes. Three things are bounced around. "Tan sheets" are for professors to list what they want to teach. These sheets come out of departmental discussions about requirements they need to meet, what majors need, and how research interests are involved. They also think about first-year seminars and time blocks. Most departments work in a three or four year matrix. These change, and sometimes there are external requirements, but all these things meet: faculty desire, student desire, outside influences. Nyle wonders if this is how Arabic was created. Judd says yes, partly, but she came here as someone studying Arabic in a graduate program. There are some things that they don't offer because they are outside the liberal arts goal or they aren't feasible at a small place. Nyle wonders if a student could ever see a class created by request. Judd says that the process could happen quickly: it depends.
- Sophia is of the class that has the ABCD distribution requirements. All classes fit into one of these. Why don't all classes fit into at least one of the new requirements? Cristle says that they intend for students to have specific kinds of encounters in the classroom. There are specific classes that prepare students to face a global world and to face different societies. All student need to encounter courses in art, natural sciences, etc. All courses will not fit into these categories, which ask for introductory encounters. Classes might be internationally-focused, but not in the comparative way that the requirement stipulates. Sophia says that there are 3 minutes left of discussion.
- Christian was abroad last semester, and there was an issue that people were talking about. He heard that 23 kids were not given their first choices for classes while there was room in the classes. They were put in their 2nd choice classes to keep them alive. Judd says that registration has maximum enrollment requirements and minimums—many classes under 5 students should be cancelled. Ultimately, it's not a great use of resources. The registration system is pretty tight. Some classes didn't meet the minimum requirement, but there were people there who wanted this as a first-choice. They moved students to keep these classes alive. Cristle says that this won't happen this spring. Christian says that classes were saved because people wanted it as a first choice, is this right? Yes. If a class rejects 50 people from a first choice already, how do we make sure the aggregate number get the first choice? Christian says that ultimately, some students *were* moved out of their first-choices, correct? Cristle says that those people moved back in phase 2 when they saw the openings. She says that our registration system is archaic.
- Bryce sees similarities between what was done last spring and this fall with the first-year seminars. It seems that while there may be some initial mix-up, for those who ended up in a 4th choice that they didn't like...Cristle says that first-years are required to take these seminars, so there is an obligation to make these spaces. How do they think about what the seminars do? They looked at the data of how people were making their choices. There's no way of knowing, in looking at a list, how satisfied people will be. How do they recognize student preferences...but still acknowledge

that ranking might not work? Priorities vs. preferences. Bryce also asks how she feels about Grade/Credit/D/Fail. Cristle says that requirements can't be taken C/D/F for the class of 2012. That came out of discussions that were trying to push C/D/F the other way. Her personal sense is that when C/D/F becomes the priceline approach, it becomes about GPD management. We will see what the committee recommends. C/D/F now is for electives—it's about exploring. It's frustrating to get an A in a C/D/F class, but it's about exploration.

- Justin asks about online registration. Cristle says that they studied the student information system last year, which would include this. They have put it on hold because of the cost and the current economic situation. There are ways of navigating, but registration won't change right now.

VI. Public Comment Time

- a. Bowdoin Evergreens Presentation on Bottled Water at Bowdoin: They have prepared a powerpoint and a presentation. The Evergreens introduce themselves. They are here to talk about Take Back the Tap. It is a nationwide campaign of campuses, restaurants, and cities to try to eliminate the use of bottled water and increase confidence in tap water. Tap water is cheaper than bottled water. Bottled water costs between 89 cents/gallon to 8 dollars/gallon. When our economy is in the tank, it's taxing on the budget. Is bottled water cleaner and safer? 40% of bottled water comes from a municipal tap water source. Tap water is monitored by the EPA, which undergoes more regulation than the FDA. They have to monitor bottled water and a lot of other responsibilities. A loophole exempts 60-70% of bottled water, because they bottle in the state of the source. Tap water in Brunswick is tested multiple times a day. Bottled water is tested once per week. Leaching occurs, which is not always picked up in testing. It contains fertilizer residue and pain medication. Tap water is more regulated, so they know if it contains this. Nestle and Poland Spring come from Maine because we have some of the best tap water on Earth. Through clever marketing and downright trickery, they sell to the public. There is no such thing as environmentally-friendly bottled water. They cite statistics about the cost, carbon dioxide emissions, and plastic production. People think that recycling the bottles makes it "green". 80% of bottles don't end up in the recycle bins. People also reuse bottles, which is not friendly for the individual. Leaching occurs from the plastic (phthalates and BPA which lead to genital deformities, cancer, and fertility problems). Environmental justice is important—bottled water companies exploit a public resource for profit. This is a timely issue in Maine because of the water wars. There are people concerned that they are losing control of their water. Poland Spring is taking water from lakes and rivers that have recently dried up and gotten scummy. Poland Spring is expanding, though, and maintains that they are being sustainable. Nestle convinces people that they are a good corporate neighbor when they move in. There are legal battles. There is loss of control and transparency. Corporations argue that they are good for local economy, but they don't provide many jobs, and the jobs are pretty dangerous. What can we do at Bowdoin? Dining Services used almost 23,000 bottles in 7 months last year, not including the C-Store. They want to not use bottled water at graduation, alumni events and concerts, the C-Store, or Express lunch. They

would instead want to provide reusable bottles for every student. Dartmouth replaced lunches with reusable lunch kits. Smith College bought student reusable aluminum bottles and diverted water from fountains for student to fill bottles. NYU is granting students money for water fountain projects like building fountains and testing water. They ask for BSG's endorsement of the campaign, and for us to use our own resources to support this. It is the right thing to do.

- Dan asks what suggestions would be for not using bottles at events. There are options, like pitchers, etc.
- Mary wonders if the solution would be to use plastic cups at events. No, that would not make much sense at all.
- Discussion continues about the cost of these changes and the impact it would have.

VII. Old Business

- a. SAFC Rules Authorization: Ugo says that the only amendment is that they added that the Exec. Committee needs to authorize allocations that are beyond guidelines in the book.
 - Bryce asks if it was SAFC discretion before. Yes.
 - Those in favor: unanimous.

VIII. New Business

- a. Questions for Barry Mills: Sophia would love to hear ideas.
 - Greg wonders about spring break trips for non-essential sports teams.
 - Mary thinks that the Bowdoin Hello has declined on campus.
 - Sam wonders about the Amethyst Initiative.
 - Mike wants to ask about Arabic.
 - Nyle wonders about financial aid.
 - Rasha asks about diversity at Bowdoin in comparison to peer schools.
 - Sam wonders how he sees Bowdoin at the end of his tenure.
- b. Representative to Town Council: Ian sent an email out. The basic idea is that a number of decisions recently in Town Council have affected Bowdoin students. He wants to create a liaison position for someone to set up communication. Murmurs of seconding.
 - Greg wonders if we are welcome. We may not be, but as these meetings are open to the public, this is a something of a mute point.
 - Sam thinks this is a great idea because it's hard to keep up with these affairs and that they do affects students, especially off-campus.
- c. BSG Bowling Bus: Hannah says that a girl came who wanted to charter a Bowling Club solely because she wanted vans on Thursdays. She didn't think this was grounds for a charter, but she considered an on-demand service for the bowling alley that would be free, but with tips. Ugo says that it is a hit at the alcohol divide. John asks about developments with Brunswick Taxi. Mike says that they will try this for free, because we aren't using the shuttle much. We'll see how it works and could allocate for it next semester if we need to pay more. Next week, the \$1500 won't be part of the amendment.

- Ian wonders why we don't just use college vans. Ugo says this is offers bigger capacity. Hannah says that there are 20-30 people who go every Thursday. This may increase if we add this service. This is easier than renting vans, which is difficult this semester.
 - d. **Movie Tickets:** Mike says that they are popular, and he moves to vote tonight. John says that we have 1000 in the budget for this, and we get money back. This is still budget-positive. He could get the tickets here by Friday. Rasha asks when he ordered the first ones—right after the first meeting. Mike says that they did go fast. There were 30-40 left last week, and there were big bills in the box. He thinks that someone bought a ton because there were big bills in the register. Justin says that it was AfAm.
- Those in favor of voting tonight: unanimous.
- Those in favor: unanimous.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. **BSG Affairs:** Recap of J-Board discussion, mass communication plan, and looking at suggestions for cutting costs.
- b. **Student Activities Funding Committee:** Ugo says that money is good and going out.
- c. **Student Affairs Committee:** Health Center survey went well, they got over 200 filled out. They spent a long time compiling the information. Club leaders are not responsive. Two clubs have responded.
- d. **Student Organizations Oversight Committee:** They are doing a frequently asked questions sheet and will do field trips to check on club health.
- e. **Academic Affairs Committee:** Judd was here, and Sam would love to hear comments or concerns. The next CC will be in 4 weeks.
- f. **Facilities Committee:** Randy is coming in 2 weeks.

X. Member Reports

- a. **Class Representatives**
 - 2009: Pub night was successful, there is a Sea Dogs night coming up.
 - 2010: Candy Grams for Keep ME warm, lanyards for the parents.
 - 2011: COO
 - 2012: Meeting for COO stuff.

XI. Adjournment at 10:00 p.m.

Bowdoin Student Government

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 0809011

Proposed by: Ian Yaffé

Date: November 5th, 2008

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BYLAWS AND CREATE THE POSITION OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON

Opinion

As the voice of Bowdoin's Student Body, the Bowdoin Student Government should send a liaison to the meetings of the Brunswick Town Council (bi-weekly on Monday nights) to communicate between the two bodies.

Action Required

Ian requests that the Bowdoin Student Government Assembly creates a liaison position between the BSG and the Brunswick Town Council. This position will be appointed by the BSG Assembly from among its membership each semester. The BSG Liaison to Town Council will be responsible for: attending all Town Council meetings, bringing forward issues related to the Bowdoin community to the BSG in a timely fashion (preferably before they are voted on by Town Council), representing the BSG's opinion to Town Council during appropriate public hearings, and making a semester report of Town Council proceedings to the BSG Assembly.

Bylaws Amendment

Add the following at the end of the bylaws:

Article V) Assembly-Appointed Positions

A. Selection Procedure

- i. Nominations will be taken from all members of the Assembly (excluding the President).
- ii. The candidates will have the opportunity to accept or reject the nomination.
- iii. Each candidate will give a speech of no more than two minutes as to why they should be selected for the position.
- iv. Each member of the Assembly will indicate her/his top two choices (or top choice in the case of a two-way race) on a secret ballot.
- v. The candidate with the lowest vote total will be removed from consideration.
- vi. This procedure will repeat until there is a two-way race.
- vii. The winner of the two-way race will take the position.

B. Town Council Liaison

- i. The Assembly will select, at the beginning of each semester, a liaison to the Brunswick Town Council using the procedure outlined above.
- ii. This liaison must be a member of the BSG Assembly.
- iii. The liaison will attend all meetings of the Brunswick Town Council and apprise the Assembly of issues relevant to Bowdoin Students. The liaison will attempt to communicate these issues to the Assembly before they are voted on by the Town Council.
- iv. The liaison will be responsible for representing the opinion of the BSG, and by extension the Student Body, at the town council meetings.
- v. S/he may not represent an opinion as that of the BSG or the Student Body unless a resolution has been passed to that effect by the BSG Assembly.
- vi. The liaison will make a semester report of town council proceedings at the end of each semester.

Bowdoin Student Government

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 0809012

Proposed by: Bryce Spalding

Date: November 5th, 2008

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BYLAWS AND CHANGE THE AUTOMATIC ADJOURNMENT RULE

Opinion

The 10:00 automatic adjournment rule is hampering our functionality and causing reports to be skipped.

Action Required

A change in the bylaws to automatically vote at 10:00pm whether or not to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. To pass, this vote would require a majority of the Assembly present. Additional automatic votes would be held at the end of this and each subsequent 15 minute period under the same guidelines.

Bylaws Amendment

Remove the following from the bylaws:

Article 1 §B.i : Meetings will automatically adjourn at 10:00pm.

Shift the numbers in §B up to fill in the gap.

Place in §B the following language:

iii. At 10:00pm, meetings will automatically adjourn unless a majority of those present vote to extend for 15 minutes. Another automatic vote to extend will be held at the end of each subsequent 15 minute period.

Bowdoin Student Government

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 0809013

Proposed by: Bryce Spalding

Date: November 5th, 2008

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BYLAWS AND CHANGE THE AUTOMATIC ADJOURNMENT RULE

Opinion

The 10:00 automatic adjournment rule is hampering our functionality and causing reports to be skipped.

Action Required

A change in the bylaws to automatically end consideration of Old or New Business at 10:00pm but to allow reports to happen between 10:00pm and 10:10pm should it be needed.

Bylaws Amendment

Change the text of Article 1 §B.i from Meetings will automatically adjourn at 10:00pm to All discussion of non-report items will end at 10:00pm, but reports may continue until 10:10pm.

Health Center Survey

		Confidence Level:			
		Not at all confident	Moderately Confident	Confident	Extremely Confident
General Opinion:					
Positive	75	0	18	32	25
Neutral	115	8	102	1	3
Negative	64	44	19		
Total	254	52	139	33	28

Problems Cited:	
Misdiagnosis	54
Wrong Prescription	21
Misinformation	2
Poor Treatment	19
Total:	96

Suggestions:	
Full-time Doctor	22
24/7 Hours	27
More Weekend Hours	8
Walk-ins or Emergency Option	11
Listen/Care more	22
Be Better	16
Online Scheduling	5
Scheduling Communication	16
Total:	127