

Bowdoin Student Government

Meeting Agenda

02/18/09 - Kanbar 107

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. President's Welcome
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
- V. Public Comment Time
- VI. Guests
- VII. Committee Reports
 - 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
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Co-ed housing resolution
- IX. New Business
 - a. Movie Tickets
 - b. C/D/F
- X. Member Reports
 - a. Class Representatives
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 - c. A-Board Representative
 - d. Athletics Representative
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Bowdoin Student Government

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Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

11 February 2009

I. Call to Order at 8:34.

II. Roll Call: Mike Ugo Caroline Rutledge Christian Esther Anirudh

III. President's Welcome: We have a very exciting and diverse meeting tonight. I was very impressed with everyone last week, thanks. I hope for a repeat performance tonight. At 9, Dean Laura Lee and Mike Newman from J-Board will come with Anirudh from the Jboard selection process. We, the BSG, have a hand in their selection process and we have the names of all the candidates in an Exec session. The purpose is to try to gather positive or negative information about the candidates for them. Under new business, we're adding Item C, health center survey run through. With that, let's get started.

IV. Approval of the Minutes: Approved.

V. Public Comment Time: No one.

VI. Committee Reports

a. **BSG Affairs Committee:** We did not meet this week. Successful newsletter that went out. Sophia, anirudh, and I will meet with Dean Lee about the Jboard resolution.

b. **Student Activities Funding Committee:** money's good.

c. **Student Affairs Committee:** Carly- we are working on social issues installations.

d. **Student Organizations Oversight Committee:** We chartered Japanese dance group club (tokuru?). We're working on the leadership development series. CPC is talking to club leaders about resumes on either Feb 24 or 25.

e. **Academic Affairs Committee:** great news from weekend with trustees. We will be offering Arabic next year (1st and 2nd year). The administration says we will have a 3 year pilot program! The other thing is campus conversation on Friday. The other trustee thing- we talked about how the academic affairs world will be affected by the economy. Thinking about everything, we're in pretty good shape.

f. **Facilities Committee:** we're working on research on coed housing policies at other schools and sustainability on campus.

VII. Old Business

a. **Co-ed housing:** **Mike** says: In the manual we have information from other schools (John- some schools got back late, so I can tell you about it).

Nyle- can you remind me what I have? Oh yeah, Stanford has a coed policy. Pomona doesn't allow it, but has gender neutral bathrooms. Carleton allows it. **Kristin-** Brown, Wesleyan, and Dartmouth have gender neutral housing. Dartmouth- Transgender first years can get guaranteed singles. Brown- specifically addressed that they won't make you tell your parents. Discouraged students in relationships from living together, but wouldn't question their motives. **Mike-** Harvard- LGBTQ students can have gender neutral housing. **Nyle-** I'm confused. **Jack-** Harvard's housing policy was hard to find because it's all password protected (hahaha). **Carly-** seems odd that you have to tell the institution. **Sophia-** we see a variety of different programs (lists the different ones). I think the reason we want to convey these is to get an idea of what's going on elsewhere and to see where the body wants Bowdoin to go. We want to make a specific policy oriented recommendation.

- **Greg-** one school says that you need approval from dorm admin. I think that's interesting, something bowdoin's Reslife would want.
- **Justin-** I'm interested in individual dorms. How expensive to add locks? Like 2 girls and 2 guys in a quad but locked bedroom doors.
- **Rasha'-** let's move forward with coed housing, but more research on Wesleyan, Swarthmore, and Columbia. I think if it's not a problem then it shouldn't be a big deal at Bowdoin. I think that locks on doors is unnecessary. Adds stigma to living arrangement. In your contract you say you won't violate code.
- **Dan-** in favor for upperclassman but not first year. Crammed for space as it is, this will create potential for Reslife hassles and roommate switching. Don't know about demand, but going too far.
- **Ian-** all or nothing. For upperclassmen, there's no need to identify a reason.
- **Sam-** I was kind of surprised about how there's no gray area. I agree with Dan. Not allowing first years is a good way to do it but without extreme.
- **Nyle-** Carleton allows it as a choice if first years inquire about it. Worth thinking about.
- **Branden-** I understand about not causing hassles for Reslife, but I don't think it should be different for first years. If we could find a way to not put Reslife in a bundle but still give everyone the option, good equal opportunity.
- **Greg-** I agree, but I wonder if the physical structure of Bowdoin could accommodate that. Would it have to be West or Osher?
- **John-** I'm not entirely sure where I come down on the issue for freshman, but I don't think I agree with Greg because in Brunswick triple you can have coed as long as you have different genders in each room (no locks), could be like freshman dorms.
- **Derek-** for first years I worry about making that an option to click, because it would be too self-selecting and self segregating in a way I wouldn't like to see.
- **Nyle-** maybe only Reslife could answer this, but I think this could make it easier for Reslife. Make it so you could have 3 and 1.
- **Sophia-** you can do that in certain places. There are a lot of opportunities, but

we should remember that you don't always pick where you live so you might be out of luck.

- Branden- devil's advocate with Derek's point- chem free is already self selecting. I still don't know how to do this with first years, but when you fill out the roommate survey there could be a phrase showing that you have some type of choice about trying to accommodate housing so that students can inquire in order to be more comfortable.
- Greg- if you were LGBTQ boy who wanted to live in girls, wouldn't you also have to talk to those 3 girls?
- Dan- Reslife is great about making exceptions. There hasn't been a transgender student in a while, but I think if one came next year then Reslife would be great at dealing with it. I think that's not a huge concern, I think it's more about just giving people a choice.
- Sophia- I wouldn't be so sure that there aren't transgender students here.
- Carly- there can be a Reslife policy to make transgender students more comfortable.

Sophia- This has been a fruitful conversation, gave us a lot to think about. We will go forward and try to find a way to move on with this. I talked to Mary Pat McMahon, director of Reslife, and she expressed interest in coming to a meeting. Dooley and facilities and anyone else who's interested, this is your time to really get involved. It is better to get ideas in now, than as amendments during debate.

VIII. New Business

a. J-Board Applicants (they're not here yet, so saving this for later)

b. Campus Conversation Question Prep: Sam- let's brainstorm questions to talk about. Sustainability (overarching topics at Bowdoin). I want to make this unique and relevant.

- Greg- some professors don't like when you type notes on laptop, which I think is more eco friendly.
- Mary- lots of Bowdoin students don't know about the carbon neutral pledge that we signed.
- Sam- like what exactly that means
- Mary- we've made wonderful steps, but the next step will be student sacrifice.
- Nyle- I was perusing ebear looking for a job, and there's a joblisting for dan the can a mascot. Mike made a joke that I didn't hear but everyone laughed so I'm sure it was funny.
- John- when I sent email to department coordinators. Rosie Armstrong, prof in ES, hopes to come and that we would give her any suggestions that come up.
- Kristen- this is general, but the term sustainability gets thrown around a lot by everyone, but how do you define sustainability by the individual vs institution?
- Sophia- yeah and also like *why* be sustainable?

- Nyle- a lot of people don't really understand repercussions of global warming, it would be cool to present real damages of global warming, especially in developing countries.
- Greg- bring a dead polar bear (there's a couple on campus).
- Sam- the library goes through something like 5 million papers a year—we're going to make a fact sheet.
- Greg- I don't understand why they make us print out long readings.
- Mary- at college you go through a lot of resources...
- Sam- it goes back to the sacrifice.
- Luke- ereserves prevent printing out whole books.
- Greg- I just hate ereserves!
- Nyle- there can be a fact about how much money you can make by recycling cans.
- Ian- we can provide some of the financial benefits to sustainability, why it makes sense to make these investments now.
- John- for professors and everyone, how can sustainability be brought into the classroom and be made relevant?
- Sam- thanks for the ideas. That was awesome. Also, at the last conversation we had a great turnout but there were only 7 students. That being said, us being the hosts of this, we should try to be there! We're the people who've thought about this already, and we'll be taking action.
- John- 1230-130.
- Sophia- bring your roommates. People will be interested!
- Ian- invite ES majors
- Sam- k we'll do the ES list and Morgan got in touch with the Evergreens and Sustainable Bowdoin.

c. Health survey: Sophia- Carly and I got a bunch of feedback on our initial survey. We thought this would be a good time to get an additional round of feedback from everyone. BSG name will be on this. SO:

Carly- Ok everyone read this. First is just some general information. How many visits to health center? Why haven't you visited (if you haven't)? (branden- do you have a chance to say that you haven't gone because of what you've heard? Carly/Sophia- there's another box. Mary- did you purposely not include that? Sophia- the offices involved felt that would be a leading question.) Which services have you used, and how satisfied were you? (very satisfied → did not use). Questions about wait time, staff quality, privacy (should that be its own question?)...

- Greg- is there something about proper diagnosis?
- Carly- more questions- understandable, clear and complete, opportunity to ask questions, good care, consistency, overall satisfaction, aware of methods to give feedback. Have you used health center website? Was it informative? List of potential changes: evening hours, 24 hour call treatment line (who are you calling??), outreach programs in dorms, self care space...

- Greg- what about a doctor?
- Sam- good point.
- Multiple people- what is a self care space?
- Carly- Survey ends saying this is anonymous but it gives a person to contact with questions or concerns.
- Greg- for the thing about did I receive the care I expected? It's kind of a leading question.
- Derek- we know that there are lots of problems that people have with health center, and I think this misses the tough questions. What about like, I don't trust the health center?
- Dan- isn't there an overall confidence question?
- Carly- sort of.
- Nyle- I'm wondering what the point of this survey is. Is the health center looking for 300 or 5 responses? I think it's too long that we won't get any responses, but this is only going to delay actual action on this front. I think we should go for a smaller more concise survey.
- Luke- this doesn't seemed to have changed much since break. What about correct diagnosis?
- Sophia- "they" feel strongly about not putting a misdiagnosis question.
- Lindsey- I think that is ridiculous that they won't let us put that on the survey.
- Sam- I think this is short.
- Carly- they tend to get a high number of responses.
- John- Sophia and I found out that there's usually a very high rate of response.
- Mary- surveys are good for procrastination. I think this isn't getting at the heart of the argument.
- Luke- I agree.
- Dan- put the overall satisfaction question on its own page with an if not why box. It's not leading.
- Sophia- can we get more comments like that? Suggestions?
- Greg- questions about reputation of health center, and hours. Important for admin to know that it probably doesn't have a great rep.
- Kristen- I like Dan's idea but it might get too many long anecdotes.
- Dan- worth it.
- Branden- I like greg's idea. You could do the reputation with a number scale, and having the other comment section gives you a chance to give negative responses.
- Kristen- two issues here- reputation of health center and actual experience of health center?
- Sophia- having had a number of meetings about those questions, the deans office is relying on the comment section to give good evidence. Maybe there could be something better than just a comment box?

- Lindsey- I like dan's idea.
- Dan- take that question and make it yes or no on it's own page and then if no, why?
- Carly- other question is- do students know about online feedback form?
- Justin- it should say at the end that there are other contact methods.
- Lindsey- I would like it to say: I am satisfied with my experience.
- Carly- the yes/no questions don't really allow for gray.
- Sophia- in the interest of time, are there any more comments?
- Branden- I still think it's lacking any issue of reputation.
- Mary- what's the real difference between very satisfied and satisfied?
- Nyle- provides neutrality.
- Carly- odd number of options allows you to remain neutral.
- Sophia- this might be a place to put in the reputation question (on page with question about why you haven't visited).
- Sam- uhhh well anything I'm thinking is too negative.
- Kristen- break down the question in terms of services.
- Carly- what if you just put negative perceptions?
- Dan- what if we made it it's own question- what is your perception of the health center? Good, bad, neutral.
- Mary- your experiences, your peer's experiences, or both?
- Sophia- I'm going to call the discussion to a close. This was productive feedback. We'll be sending it along and hopefully it'll get moving in a timely matter. You'll be hearing more about this soon.

IX. Member Reports

a. Class Representatives:

2009: we had seadogs last night and we're working on senior week.

2010: we're designing sweatshirts and looking for new COO.

2011: sophomore service day was awesome and we're working on semiformal first Friday after spring break.

2012: we're planning a semiformal on Feb 27 (Nyle's birthday!) and getting designs for t-shirts

b. IHC Representatives: this is info week, each house is having 2 events during the week and a party on Friday. Apps are due the 23rd.

c. A-Board Representative: no events for about a month. Ivies contracts are underway and hush hush.

d. Athletics Representative: she's not here, and there's no report.

X. President's Report: this weekend was trustee weekend, many of you went to meetings. If you're a committee rep, send your report to John on that meeting. Thanks for coming to the forum on Thursday, all the trustees were raving about it. The trustees actually used the information you guys provided. If anyone has

feedback, I'd like to hear it so let me know. Also, I've been getting lots of positive feedback about newsletter, so thanks John and Ian. And there's been positive feedback on the installation about social issues event. If you haven't seen it, the panel is up in the union near the pub, go look at it, fill out the cards, make your friends do it! It will be there for 2 weeks so the next one will be up in a week. We will probably be in the security report this weekend for some unintentional spray paint on the floor, but don't worry! You can just say that sometimes spray paint goes through fabric and, oops it's the loading dock! And it's already starting to fade away. **Kristen-** it's very thought provoking. **Sophia-** other than that, I would like to see exec and social issues people after, but we won't adjourn because still waiting on J-Board. Any things to bring up?

- Nyle- might be futile, but can we add $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ credits for students with long labs. The sheer responsibilities for people like premed kids it's impossible to take $\frac{1}{2}$ credit classes.
- Dan- I think that people would like that. Definitely talk to (science) professors and try to see if they're behind it.
- Greg- more oversight for outsiders coming to the library. Maybe they should have to sign in or something? There was a masturbator, thefts, myspace guy.
- Mary- I agree with greg. Masturbation (by strangers in the library) is weird. I have an issue with parking tickets on campus. You get them, personally I don't pay them. I expect them to go to my account where my parents will pay them. I haven't really changed my behavior. I hate them. Let's talk.
- Sophia- we used to do a raffle for a "platinum" parking pass. BSG doesn't traditionally have a huge community service component, but that could be a big possibility.
- Justin- a member of our class is working on sending medical supplies to Nicaragua, and we have some programming ideas to raise funds, but he could use more.
- Kris- LASO's going to have an auction for it.
- Sophia- have him come in for public comment time.
- Dan- also do a thing for relay for life.
- Carly- is security cool with this ("platinum pass")?
- Sophia- they have been in the past.
- Lindsey- given the current economy, let's do something local that deals with food or something like that.
- Nyle- other raffles for charity, one time get out of jail free for Randy.
- Sophia- we can look into it, with a long list of fine print. Also, there's a fund in the school that staff and faculty donate to- when a staff member is going through hard times, they can access this fund. Might be an interesting thing to support them.
- Mary- is that loan or fund?
- Sophia- grant.

- Greg- can we make it so you can pay tuition by credit card?
- John- the college pays interchange fees and insurance fees on credit card machines, so it ends up costing a lot of money, but we can look into it.
- Justin- general question, when will information be released about new fitness center?
- Sophia- there's a lot of info out there, but there have been some changes. We can try to find the public information. I know that there will be a climbing wall, yoga studios, individual rooms, and the health center will be half of the top floor.
- Justin- will it have more capabilities than it does now?
- Luke- what's going in Dudley Coe after? Student activities needs space?
- Sophia- ok.
- Branden- what's up with advertisements on new building?
Sophia- construction materials.
- Allen- (yay first time talking!) sustainability.
- Dan- what's going into old workout rooms in smith union?
- Allen- the bookstore will eventually move in, but that will cost over a million dollars (will be fabulous when we do it, but not now because of economy). There will be a group of students, including John, to meet on Friday to discuss.
- Greg- school spirit! It's February and I'm depressed to be in Maine.
- Sophia- table tents about why we're better.
- Nyle- open mike room/performance space.
- Justin- if the bookstore's moving, what will happen to that space?
- Allen- **(on the DL)** the C-store will possibly move into that space. Also BOR will move into the union out of the basement of Dudley Coe.

Sophia- arrival of J-Board.

John- movement to extend to 10:15 and enter executive session.

Sophia- opposed- greg and ian, movement passes. In favor of exec session- all in favor.

XI. Adjournment after moving out of Executive Session at 10:10pm.

Bowdoin Student Government

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 0809024

Proposed by: Facilities Committee

Date: February 18th, 2009

REQUEST CONCERNING A GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING POLICY

Background Information

Brown University: http://reslife.brown.edu/policy/gender_neutral.html

-Upper-class students in certain designated buildings have the option to live in gender-neutral housing

Swarthmore College: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/x9564.xml>

- Upper-class students in certain designated buildings have the option to live in gender-neutral housing

University of Pennsylvania: <http://www.businessservices.upenn.edu/housing/GNAgreement.pdf>

-Students must sign an agreement but are eligible to live together once the contract is signed

Opinion

Currently, gender-neutral housing is only allowed if members of the opposite sex are not forced to share a bedroom. This policy marginalizes the concerns of students who may identify as LGBTQ or for other personal reasons may prefer to room with members of another sex. In many cases, due to priority of lottery picks or housing preferences (apartment/dorm-style living), students of differing genders who wish to live together are forced to seek other living arrangements. At peer schools such as Swarthmore, UPenn, and Brown, gender-neutral housing by room is allowed.

Action Requested

In order to better meet the needs of students who would prefer to live with a member of the opposite sex, the Office of Residential Life should adopt a policy that:

- Allows gender-neutral housing in all circumstances for upperclassmen
- Does not require justification for such a living arrangement