

Bowdoin Student Government

Meeting Minutes / November 1, 2006

I. **Call to Order** at 8:07 p.m.

II. **Roll Call** absent: Ben, Sophia, Avery, Lynzie; late: Torri, Emily G, Steph

III. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Emily H. notes that there was a good turnout at Ladd and that the pub night had not happened yet, so it *would* be a good time, not it *was* a good time.
- b. Charlie recommends that minutes are printed double-sided
- c. Becca says that the funding for clubs is not retreat funding, but just general club funding.
- d. DeRay indicates several items: that “p.m.” be added to the times and that there is an empty bullet on page 5 above the announcements. He does not think that this time is just for big problems.
- e. Vote on Approval of minutes *Approval Passes*

IV. **Reports**

- a. President: DeRay thanks Dustin for filling in for him last week. He has received lots of feedback about last week’s meeting, mainly that it was emotional and productive.
 - ix. There are three important practical things that the BSG will be talking about soon: (1) the issue of what students want from career planning center (2) keeping Darfur on our minds because we need to bring closure to the issue and respond in some capacity (3) reaccreditation: Dustin will keep everyone updated about when and where the meeting are. People here could go and talk about student life.
 - ii. Next is the emotional stuff. The work we do is important. It is important to remember that there is no principal’s office here. We represent the student body; what we do really matters, because we are the only group that can claim that we represent everybody. We need to take what we do seriously—if ethics work so that we must risk it, then it is important to have hard conversations. What this means in terms of the next step, we are meeting with Mary Pat next week, and we need to consider how we will bring administrators before us to talk in these situations. Even though it may be sensitive, our role is to represent students. You are part of the body and never alone.
- b. Treasurer: Becca say that SAFC had a busy week. They decided to break up into committees to work on specific projects. She cites examples such as finding better gas price to use (the one the college uses seems high), also working on professor honorariums because they are going up and up, so we may cap that. Another committee will work on t-shirt places, and one will focus on hotels in the area. All these things will be in one place in the blue book online. The biggest spending this week was for the pre-health society that is bringing the first Navajo woman surgeon and to the Americans for Informed Democracy—they are bringing panels to speak.

- c. IHC President: Alex does not have much to report. They are looking forward to the carnival and getting houses involved together in a larger capacity.
- d. Classes
 - i. Bryce says that 2010 is planning a pub night for Dec. 1, where they will serve food and talk about plans for shirts.
 - ii. Alicia indicates plans for a winter black and white formal after winter break.
 - iii. Sam mentions clothing and a Mr. 2009 pageant like the Miss America one but for 2009 guys.
 - iv. Erma says that they had a good pub night and that they are working on getting sweatshirts to people who didn't show up. There will be one more pub night before its done. Clark says they are looking into more community service opportunities too.
 - v. Emily H says that senior pub night last night went well. They gave a gift certificate for best costume, which was a lot of fun.
 - vi. Deray expresses excitement for the junior/senior ball.
- e. IHC Representatives
 - i. Kristen says that Baxter is planning a government professor dinner for before the election as well as working on remodeling the basement. Ladd's haunted house was great, and they are looking forward to house member's father (a professor of human sexuality) coming for dinner to talk of an undisclosed topic.
 - ii. Alex indicates that Quinby is having an 80's strikes back party this weekend as well as starting a professor lecture series, which is kicking off now to continue through the month. Mac's Halloween party is this weekend and will be huge. They wanted more setup time so moved it back a night. Helmrich's dinner last week for rap group was fine despite the difficulties with power. Howell's music festival was great, and they are looking forward to next week's party.
- f. Community Service Council: Emily K. notes a few things (1) local tutoring opportunities (2) Grants to work in public services over winter break and be reimbursed for expenses
- g. Activities Board Representative: Rob says that there was low attendance at last week's concert but that it was a great show. There was a slight bump last week because the drummer from the band scheduled for Nov. 10 passed away. However, he has been replaced and there was no need to reschedule. (He is questioned about the turnout) About 150 people came, considerably fewer than the expected 400. It was a free show, however, so the loss was the same.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs: Burgess indicates that there is a document that has been passed along about last week's conversation. It discusses ways to deal with these types of problems with administrators. There was a brainstorming meeting about ways to make academic affairs noticed and put these ideas into motion.
- b. Student Organizations: Steph says that they met twice and have reviewed all check-ins except the Quill, which was late thanks to Will. (Will shrinks into his seat and Steph shoots him a look) Steph continues that they are working to appropriate check-ins and that there was some confusion with rosters. They also want to organize meetings where leaders can come together to talk about cosponsoring events. There are also ideas about a mid-semester student activities fair for those who did not have the opportunity to join earlier to join in a non-intimidating way. The confusion with the rosters are that there are

questions about whether or not clubs with 5 people are legitimate groups of gatherings of friends. They have not worked on the new charters with the exception of BMASV.

- c. Facilities: Will says that the shuttle contract is in. (applause) It was like Christmas when he came into the office and the shuttle contract was there. There has been large demand for the Thanksgiving shuttle, so he may start it early to make everyone happy. Also, he is starting to communicate what was discussed last week about upperclass housing. There are meetings for security on Tues. and IT on Thurs. Security advisory went well, and they are starting planning for safety day (Dustin questions the trajectory for housing legislation. The response is that there is lots of time to get to that because nothing will change this year. It is a policy thing and not a deadline. We will let this be a semester discussion to find out what college can do for housing.

(DeRay takes this time to talk about something that he does not think is a great idea. There will be a desk in Coles Tower built in after Thanksgiving break that will be staffed 8 am to 2 am. There is much objection and general confusion within the group. Will's use of the word "kiosk" seems to enlighten the membership. It is a general deterrent and meant for safety and security reasons)

- d. BSG Affairs: Dustin says that the Academic Affairs meeting went well. Next week's meeting is in Daggett and the next is scheduled to be in Hutchinson. However, he is trying to move it because it is small. The leadership development proposal should be ready for next week and there are plans to move on to the administrative level. There is also work with a "BSG = You" booklet full of information for students that is more concise and better done than the handbook. They are in the planning stages of that. The next steps in the plan on the committee issue next week are to develop it further. The initial round of check-ins for people appointed to college committees is at this time. There will be an email next week about an event without name—for now "Obscurity T"—to get members to meet administrators that they wouldn't meet otherwise. The plan is to go week by week to meet obscure people who have an effect on life here beyond the student and academic affairs. Also, they should get a sense of the students here.
- e. Student Affairs: Carolyn reminds people to encourage their friends to respond to the email if they want to take the bus to the Colby game. Nametags for nametag day will be color coded by class year and hopefully the birth month will be on the label as well. Dining table will be color coded by birthstone as a way to get people to meet each other in a non-abrasive way. Professors are involved in this as well. There will be opportunities to decorate nametags at the tables as well as a stand with food, popcorn, maybe cotton candy, a raffle, etc. Later in the meeting we will be going over the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Be preparing for Dean Mary Pat McMahon's visit next week.

VI. Old Business

- a. Darfur Resolution: Dustin explains that this is about where to go with the discussion from several weeks ago. It is about trying to work under the response from the reports that were received. We are left with a name that is perhaps too intense as well as a strict outline of what was in the report. We need to outline good steps and a policy based on the discussion with Mills and the campus community.
 - i. DeRay says that something should be patched and ready next week because there won't be much time at the meeting to talk about it.

- ii. Torri thinks that it was agreed on that the committee should encompass both faculty and students.
- iii. Sam thinks that it is important that this group be able to respond quickly.
- iv. Kristen sees the Bias Incident Committee as a model for something on a larger scale. At this point, Dustin questions whether the lack of comments means general agreement or something else.
- v. Alex mentions that we need to emphasize that there would still be movement from the students—this would just be a mechanism for that. Torri agrees that as students we just can't always organize ourselves and that this would provide a controlled environment.

VII. New Business

- a. Response to Dean Judd's visit: DeRay introduces this topic by saying that we are committing ourselves to the written word in ways that we haven't before, and that we need to understand this.
 - i. Dustin says that this form is an attempt to walk the line between indicating what was a problem last week and finding a way to go forward proactively. Something went wrong last time an administrator attended a meeting, and the questions remain of what we do now and what went wrong. There are two important statements: (1) Another meeting like before could not be done in the same setting. The room dynamic needs to change, which encompasses the environment as well as the time. (2) Both sides need to come in good faith, meaning that we must respect that some things are confidential, but that they should also respect us enough to respond with complete and real answers. We need to ask questions to get to a place with more depth, but they need to be willing to go there.
 - ii. Torri feels that we should hold them to the same rules as far as going off the record, because once that happens there is no substance to what is said.
 - iii. Becca wonders if this is the same format that will be used if addressing another administrator (paragraph 2 would be dropped) It is a problem to use "different" when referring to the setting, etc. because it is person-specific.
 - iv. Alex questions if this is going to Dean Judd and thinks that we should write it so that more of the burden is on ourselves. We would not want people to be offended upon reading it. DeRay points out that some conversations are very different—someone could be coming just to talk vs. to answer questions.
 - v. Becca doesn't think that a different setting is essential for everybody.
 - vi. Bryce thinks that it is important for members to come to meetings with specific questions and desires to express to the fullest what we want to know.
 - vii. Emily G. suggests sending an e-mail before a meeting with a list of serious issues so that they may be able to be prepared to discuss these things.
 - viii. Clark mentions an alternate setting to just be able to get to know people so that we can better deal with issues when they come up.
 - ix. DeRay wonders what Dustin feels should be done with this by the group as a body. (Ideally, a vote to put this into the record as accepted by the group, granted changes would be made)
 - x. Carolyn is comfortable with accepting this with the mindset that it would be crafter somewhat differently as a further statement—this is more like a response

to what happened last week. (Dustin's concern is that passing a specific plan for one events makes it seem even larger) Carolyn thinks that the wording needs to be much more general. (Dustin says that this could theoretically be accepted as a report so that something is there to be adjusted. This answers questions about what went on in executive session. Dustin relays his experience of encountering the Dean in a social situation. She mentioned the executive session. He explained the concerns about repercussions, etc.—overall, something that she saw as a surface discussion caused disturbance that she was not expecting. DeRay also describes his even more brief encounter.)

- xii. DeRay agrees that we should commit to every word or to none and that there is no in-between. Motion to table: **Tabling Passes** with support from: Emily G, Burgess, Emily H, Bryce, Torri, Clark, Rob, EmilyK, Alicia, Becca, Will, Kata, Steph, Kristen, Erma, Sam, Mike, Dustin. Charlie opposes and Carolyn abstains because she thinks that we can commit to this in a way that it is not word-for-word, and she would support a more specific response.
- xiii. DeRay mentions a BSG powwow over email.
- b. Sexual Misconduct Policy: Carolyn says that everyone should have received an email from Tim Foster with the link to the staging website for the new policy—it hasn't been enacted, but the hope is for Dec. 1 (it may be Jan. 1) but it is coming soon. Take time to go over it, it is somewhat dense but the biggest changes are in a few areas. One is the addition of the term “sexual misconduct” instead of “sexual assault” (pg 2) she reads of this difference.
 - i. Also notable are the procedures in the case of a complaint. She outlines the three options and levels of the system. One new addition is an outside investigator who makes a recommendation to the board about whether or not the case has merit. The board involves deans or someone appointed, a faculty member, and a j-board rep.
 - ii. DeRay refers to page 3/9 and wonders what the reasoning is behind having one student and two faculty. (This was not something addressed in the meeting, but this is a good question for next week. It is probably because they are more objective and already trained to deal with sensitive controversial issues.)
 - iii. Dustin wonders where this is in the process if she wants this out by Dec.1. (Carolyn responds that it is essentially done unless Mary Pat gets a lot of feedback that indicates that there are problems with it.)
 - iv. Carolyn points out that a problem she has found is that it does not mention a way to make the responder attend mediation.
 - v. Torri wonders if we can see the policy from the University of Virginia that this is based off of.
 - vi. Clark wonders how they can deem that it was “extremely successful” if it has only been in action for one year.

- vii. Dustin has several points (1) He is curious about what UVA thinks about this and would like to see some material on that (2) This policy is “quite something” and is characterized by a large amount of technical terminology. He suggests that people refer questions to committees, etc. (3) Because of the nature of this topic, don’t worry about coming next week if you are uncomfortable with the subject matter.

VIII. Announcements, Comments, Discussion

- a. iTunes-U: DeRay says that this is a great idea in theory, but that he is not confident about the plan regarding use of this space, etc.
 - i. Will says that this has many features that we think are valuable but that there are no clear plans about how to use this (no search directory, etc.) He is looking for any ideas about how to get faculty to use this, how to find out about the resources that this offers, etc. DeRay indicates that he wants to have a conversation about how to get people to use this.
 - ii. Charlie mentions the radio station.
 - iii. Will says that we need to be aware of rights and getting okay-ed from the management in some situations.
 - iv. Will explains the basic process of using the source by using the Arctic Studies as an example. He thinks that the problem can be seen when we realize that their idea to launch this was to put a link on the student gateway.
 - v. Steph thinks that advertising is the issue and wonders if there are music benefits. (Anything that is provided by the college itself)
 - vi. DeRay says to think about it and report any good ideas.

IX. Adjournment at 9:25