

Bowdoin Student Government

Meeting Minutes / November 15, 2006

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:06 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** absent: Erma, Alex, Avery
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Carolyn whispers to Dustin that names should be highlighted so that it's *easier* for people to find their names on the minutes.
 - b. DeRay points out a mistake on the 3rd page.
 - c. Becca mentions that Up Till Dawn in a fundraiser for St. Judes.
 - d. Approval of minutes passes
- IV. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Torri would like to add a short conversation at the end of discussion about the letter that "Toby" plans to write to the Orient concerning the BSG and a mysteriously missing Ipod. DeRay says that this can be discussed with "Nametag Day" and Old Business.
- V. **Reports**
 - a. DeRay asks to keep reports concise this week. He indicates that Pres. Mills is at the meeting and that the trustee meetings in Boston went well. They spoke about Darfur, and the position is still the same with regards to student activism.
 - b. Becca talks about a busy week for SAFC. WBOR came in requesting money for lawyer fees, and SAFC decided to approve ½ of the amount that they were asking. They felt that they could fundraise the rest. Money also went to LASO, a debate team tournament at MIT, and a dance group dance show. Pres. Mills asks if WBOR is legal yet? The response is that they are pending and that it is a slow process. Becca elaborates on their financial situations, saying that they will find the money because they can sell equipment. Also, they haven't gone anywhere else to ask for money (at which point Pres. Mills comically shields his face with a folder); they can also pay in deficit.
 - c. Alicia mentions a competition for Name Tag Day tomorrow (whoever can meet the most new people). She also mentions a pub night for Dec. 1.
 - d. Ben says that they have been focused on media for Name Tag Day and sheet cakes decorated like Name Tags. They are working on the website to make is appropriate for use.
 - e. Sam adds that they are working on clothes, and have most recently thought about sweatpants.
 - f. Clark says that his class has an e-mail account now and that most of their energy is spent in planning for the Junior/Senior Ball on Dec. 2.
 - g. Torri also says that the Ball is the first thing on their agenda now. They will be giving "sweet gifts" to people wearing nametags and there will also be raffles for polar points. Tomorrow night is Pints with Professors, where there will be free pizza for participants. This event is only for seniors. DeRay adds that the class is supporting rather than sponsoring this program.

- h. Kristen says that Baxter and Ladd both have upcoming events. Ladd is hosting the Blood Drive and a professor dinner on Monday night.
- i. Emily K says that the community service resource center is looking for leaders to take charge of No Poverty Week.
- j. Lynzie says that they had a meeting about the flu shot and that there will be a person at dinner to offer the option of receiving the flu vaccination at mealtime (I assume not literally while food is entering your mouth, but within the immediate time and place vicinity) This is pretty intense. On Nametag Day, first-year proctors will hand out NameTags. ResLife Programming ends Dec. 8, so proctors will be available to campus-wide programming and working with other groups.

DeRay asks about hiring those already involved in ResLife and when the applications are due. Lynzie replies that those are due when we come back and sessions for people who want to be involved start after Winter Break, which is early. Applications will go through E-Bear.

- k. Rob says that the Pat McGee Band was awesome and that there was a good turnout. They are talking about a winter concert and a CBB concert that would entail \$20000 on Bowdoin's part toward a pool of money to hold the concert. The downside would be that it wouldn't necessarily be at Bowdoin this year. It would be in the spring but would not replace Ivies concerts.

Torri asks if that is a set amount and if the other schools both also pledge same amount—also, transportation has to be taken into account. That is the case. Voting has already started online.

Dustin asks if they can spend on off-campus events, to which Becca replies that SAFC is in the process of speaking with the A-Board about the event. Rob says that this is a chance for student to choose who they want to see. He drops the names of Snoop Dog and Avril Lavigne.

- l. Charlie mentions different ideas for Academic Affairs including Department Days which would give students a chance to talk with others who have information about making major decisions. They have been acting as an advisory body and have also attended trustee meetings. They approved the Intellectual Property Policy, and Dean Judd gave updates on many things including constructions. Deray says that Burgess had a great meeting with Dean Judd.
- m. Steph says that they met twice and have now seen all the new charters. They include the Triathlon Team, 1000 Teachers (bridges gap between teacher wannabes and alumni or other practicing teachers), Baking Club (which will act as a testing team for dining as well as plan charity events), Polar Bear Cheerleading and Stuff 101 (whose mission is to talk about political, social, ethical, racial issues. There is one issue with a club with a similar mission to one already in existence, so we will bring them in together to modify charters so as to charter both.
- n. Will says that they are focusing on Name Tag Day. Committees have met, which was good to check in with Ted and Jeff. The Thanksgiving shuttle has about 80 people and is expecting more. There will be a big push this week now that he is confident about the shuttle, and the platinum pass raffle will be after break. Ben wonders what happened with the movie tickets? Will responds that they are there.
- o. Dustin explains what he thinks happened with the Ipod. NameTag Day was about a year ago. (At this point there is a great deal of thoroughly unnecessary discussion about the

exact date of NameTag Day last year and what the time span really is.) Anyway, Toby won the Ipod, we sent for the Ipod, and he studied away with many address changes. We found out this year early in October that the situation became mildly complicated, and we are not entirely sure what did happen, but we are working on it. It may be in D.C. somewhere, or in Vermont.

Board meetings went well, and the launch at the JFK library was great. There was a fair amount of students. As far as the financial planning committee, Dustin can only be esoteric, but it seems good from a layman's prospective. The board accepted Mills' recommendation on Darfur. Other things happened in terms of the line of credit, and there was a resolution about looking forward into the land at the naval air station.

BSG Affairs are moving on with BSG=You. Leadership development is rolling forward, we are contacted various people around campus to get a feel of where we are going with the project. Beyond that we are reflecting on the semester, and there will be a good financial report by end of semester.

- p. Carolyn attended the trustee student affairs meeting. They talked about the new sexual assault misconduct policy.
 - i. Regarding ReO, it will be an interesting weekend. She would like to preface discussion of the name by saying that she thought of it against other names like "Busting out Bowdoin" It is about trying to make resources available that aren't readily available and opening doors. She is skeptical about how it will come together.
 - ii. Last Friday there was a poster table to support field hockey, but there was minimal turnout because there was no contact. On this note, the Colby bus was also a major flop. Despite the response of 35 students, only 15 students came on the bus, so she doesn't recommend it for the future. They will be giving out the legendary foam paws at upcoming hockey games
 - iii. After Name Tag Day they will be looking at community service initiative for BSG on a whole before break.
 - iv. She emailed Mary Pat about following up and will email her again.

VI. Old Business: NameTag Day

- a. Carolyn says that moments ago the student nametags were put in plastic cases. She holds up Kevin Francis Rudolph's as an example. They are color-coded by class year. All that is left to do are those for the staff and faculty. They also need to be put in mailboxes. People with free time after this need to come to the mailroom to stuff the mailboxes. They also need to be dropped off in the departments. Tomorrow at 10:30 we need volunteers at Moulton and Thorne to set up for the Birth-Month Lunch. There are two helium tanks for the dining halls and baggies for the months. Just do a few helium balloons for each because there is not that much helium and blow the rest normally. We also need people in Smith Union for the decoration and popcorn table as well as people to clean up areas in the dining halls. There are signs for the months with balloons. People should have no trouble getting in to the dining areas for set-up. Carolyn adds that she's busy tomorrow but will be around for set-up. Sign-up, we need people!

VII. Discussion with President Barry Mills: DeRay introduces Pres. Barry Mills and says that unless he has something to say, they will go straight to questions.

- Lynzie asks about the advancements that have been made since he came here several years ago. Pres. Mills starts with a discussion of the faculty and curriculum reform that took place a couple of years ago. It hadn't happened in 25-30 years. It was a major effort by the faculty. Many people had input. It could only happen because the faculty felt support and that they were ready to have the conversation. He also says that Admissions has increased financial aid. He stops abruptly and asks if there is anyone from the newspaper present. (Travis responds yes, then quickly re-thinks this and says no) Pres. Mills continues, saying that Financial Aid has increased substantially. In 2001 there were 650 on aid, and now there are 750. The average grant has also gone up considerably. He feels that the student body has changed. There will be a continued commitment to diversity. Health and wellness, fairness and equal treatment, and leadership training are important issues as well. He thinks that gender issues were boiling when he arrived and that although the divide is something that is still paid attention to, it is not nearly at the point that it was a few years ago. He was pleased to see that 70% of last year's graduating class felt highly connected to the class opposed to 30% from 2000. It's not bad if students are satisfied. Finally, there have been a number of big renovations, and this will continue. The art building renovation is finally happening, as well as work on the dorms, chapel, and new recital hall. It's been an active 5 years, and momentum will not stop. We will continue to push ahead. This is a great place but it is easy for a place like this to get complacent.
- Ben asks about the capitol campaign and is curious about new professors. He has heard that there are 3 and wants to know what departments they are in. Mills says that there are actually 12 new spots. He answers that what we did 2 yrs. ago is that we asked the departments and programs if they are excellent and how they could be excellent. One factor in making these determinations are class enrollments. For example, the government department has many people. The CEP went through the process to allocate positions and balance priorities. Of 12 positions, 8 are allocated already. However, this and raising money are not the same things. We are hoping to be successful. Examples are trying to convince that there is necessity to hire someone for creative writing as well as someone in the oceanography field, a theater and dance position, and a government position in development politics. Basically, Crystal is new, and it is a long march to raise money. It made sense to stop for a while, go back and look again after Crystal studied and became familiar with the faculty. They have raised money for a significant number of positions, but it is not allocated around yet. Faculty will only be added when there is that money or the prospect for that money. It costs 2.5 million for a faculty chair—some pay over "x" amount of time. When we feel there is enough \$ in the door, we will do searches. It will hopefully be quite soon, in the next year or two.
- Kristen asks what they are planning to do with the land from the naval air base and if they will be involved with the community in dealing with the rest of the land. Mills says that in thinking about plans for the land we have to think about the long-term opportunity. What we are immediately working on is looking at environmentally protecting part of it. We could act as some of the best environmental stewards of the land. We could use it as an environmental laboratory, or we could create parking solutions. In the long run when the people in the room are successful alums, we can decide what will be done with it. The rest is a kind of living laboratory for what Maine is about. When the air station leaves, the reality is that we will be the second largest employer in Brunswick, so jobs are important. As far as the community aspect goes, the organized groups looking at it are open space conservation groups. Business groups have not

been involved yet. The big decision is about the airport portion and whether or not it could be for light air or for fixing planes. We will surely be involved because we bring good thinking to the project. Students are already working on this issue and investigating the land and options for it. Mills feels that students will get involved particularly on conservation side. Whatever the case, the concern is in creating a stable and supportive economy.

- Clark says that one concern that can come up repeatedly in conversations with friends is the issue of upperclassman housing. Pres. Mills replies that right now there are 1700-something students on campus. In the spring there will be fewer, around 1705. This is larger than expected and desired because we are at a ten-year historic low as far as students out sick or thrown out for other reasons are concerned. There are also not as many students studying away as there have been, and very few students live off campus. The housing model was built anticipating that more would be off campus. People won't rent to seniors and the Brunswick police are part of the decision as well. This said, we are crunched, but we won't be next year. This year's senior class is very large, whereas next year's is much smaller. Enrollment looks somewhere around 1680 for next year. Even with the new configuration, they are considering reclaiming some housing for seniors from first-years. The Harpswell-Pine buildings are in better shape than people are willing to say—they are not great, but they are certainly not bad. The real answer may be in when we will have enough money to build Brunswick apartments up so that the space is used more efficiently. We aren't contemplating borrowing money for this purpose—the next borrowing will be for the hockey rink and fitness center. Then we will think about renovating academic space. He hopes that Bowdoin can prosper with the housing as it is and feels that that is the case. Clark follows this by asking if there is no line item for upperclassman housing. Mills says that the thinking is that this is the time to build the endowment, not buildings. The judgment was made by the trustees and by Pres. Mills. Donors think about financial aid and academics more than buildings at this point. It becomes a question of how much debt we are willing to take on. The borrowing capacity could increase if the endowment does. There are issues with the tower and the quality of housing elsewhere as well. Pres. Mills wants very much to be responsive but has increasing anxiety regarding the presence of an Orient staff member. Very generally, he estimates that in 2010 or 2012 we can look at these issues, unless the endowment grows hugely. The freshman classes are not increasing.
- Sophia wonders what goals didn't materialize or that he would like to work on in the next 5-10 years. Pres. Mills outlines two things: One thing that he was wrong about and one that they have not done enough of yet. He was wrong about the ideal size of the college, or about changing the current size. He thinks that a good argument can be made that, with a ton of money, Bowdoin could be a lot stronger at a couple hundred students larger. The reality is that that can't afford it. Extracurricular-ly, the campus body could be more interesting and involved. The metrics endowment has grown but not enough to be able to increase. The trustees thought that we should get bigger, but we are at the right place to be at the current set of circumstances. We can make collaborations with other places to broaden and deepen opportunities, but it would not require more buildings, etc. We are succeeding with the campaign and aiming toward diversifying faculty, looking at issues in student life, and examining the alcohol divide. It is a big issue how this affects (“whacks up”) students, especially those that don't fit in initially. Sometimes it takes people a long time to find others that they feel that they fit with.
- Torri asks about the usage of the naval base and housing, especially that on McKeen St. as if it could be available for campus housing. Pres. Mills says that yes, they have thought about a lot of things including McKeen St. and whether it would make sense to buy, lease, or temporary

occupy this space. Some think that it's too far away. There is also the issue about using it as a swing space—we could put people there for a while in renovation periods, but Mills is not sure we'd want to own it. We could think about using it in the real estate market—buying it and selling it later—because land in Brunswick keeps going up. Finally, he's not sure that the community would be happy with campus housing out there across from the church.

- Will says that he has had many questions from students about why the college doesn't pay for the shuttle for students to get to the airport, etc. easier on holidays. He explains the cost of various forms of travel to the President. Pres. Mills says that his unsatisfactory answer is that there are a millions things not paid for and not done by the college. Students should be on Steve Joyce's doorstep to see if they can communicate to work something out. Maybe there should be a system to get people who need money to contact him, or at least to know that this resource is available. Mills mentions that he feels like David Spade in the commercial where he sits in a room saying "No, No, No..."
- Lynzie questions the financial aid system and why private scholarships, etc. reduce the aid provided by the college instead of just helping the family portion. Pres. Mills answers that Steve Joyce figures out how much a family can afford, and the grants and loans are given accordingly. When students get additional money locally, etc. that was not figured into the original calculation, aid is reconsidered because there is a certain amount of money given and we choose to support as many students as we can. If we were richer, we could certainly consider paying the same, but the choices with a certain amount of dollars for financial aid, which is in the millions, not the billions. Deciding what to do with more money would be an interesting problem to face in the next few years, and one that we would like to have to deal with.
- Sam wonders where money is going and how students can get involved. Pres. Mills says that the money goes into buckets (ex. financial aid, faculty, money to finish a building, Student Life, etc.) Selling programs and buildings to donors is difficult. The most effective means would be to talk with Tim and Student Affairs about ideas and to help them think through these options. Referencing specific events helps.
- Carolyn follows up the naval base issue, asking if they are retaining rights to the landing strip. Pres. Mills responds that the military people want control of the tower but that no one wants the airstrip. The International Guard wants some control on Bath Road.
- Steph asks Pres. Mills's opinions regarding the success of the house system since Greek Life is gone. President Mills doesn't think about Bowdoin in terms of Greek life vs. College houses, rather, he thinks of it as Greek to Residential in a general sense. By that he means that after the fraternities, the fundamental decision in changes the dynamics was this hall [Thorne]. They could have renovated those places and kept kitchens to have people eat together, but they decided not to. The hall has changed the grand dynamics, because lots happens around food. It has made the houses places to sleep, hang out, and party, not necessarily eat. He thinks about it not as house system but residential system. His sense is that this is a much better place than it was ten years ago. The level of activity (for example the activities that were discussed tonight) was not happening ten years ago, and the variety is a result of breaking open those doors and bringing people out onto campus. Is it nailed? No. Will it be? No. There will always be changes in generations and in how people want to live. Mills says that when he came, the school was pretty much all white and from New England, and now it is not as much like this. Every generation of students and administrators must look at ways to make the system work for the changing years. Today we need to look at issues regarding the view that houses are dominated by white men and that it is largely about alcohol, or at least the parties are about alcohol. It

would be interesting to study if this is true and to think about what this means and questions what we want. We can never declare victory, but Bowdoin is a better place than it has been and this is due largely to the absence of fraternities. Gender equity has also changed for the better since then.

- Dustin asks what Mills is worried about for the coming 10 years. Barry sighs and rocks. He says that the hardest thing to think about is that we are an incredibly great, expensive place and that in order to get the very best students we need strong credentials and a strong reputation, and we also need finances. The issue becomes in looking at the places we aspire to be, the decisions we will be making need to stay true to who we are. Instead of chasing other places, we need to decide what's right for Bowdoin, not what another place did. We need to have confidence in what our school is and build and grow and at the same time stay competitive. Tangibly, he worries about the demographic shift because Maine is shrinking. New England is shrinking, which has been our sweet spot, so we need to be attractive to other parts of the country. The real issue is resource planning and staying true to ourselves, making decision about what we're about. It is too easy to decide what to do according to what others do.
- Torri asks about CPC and life after Bowdoin. She worries that CPC has failed students and that others comparative schools have already had programs and workshops that Bowdoin is just introducing. DeRay interjects that he had a meeting today and that CPC is committed to working with students. Pres. Mills insists that he speak with the Orient reporter after the meeting and wonders if the notes could be taken less literally. CPC does a great job but the demands of the students are great and complicated, as they should be. As an adjunct member, he has had informal talks with students and seniors about plans in this area. He recognizes that students need real-world advice and experience. Students need to be directly told how to act. Bowdoin is a wonderfully supportive, forgiving place, which is rather unlike life after Bowdoin. He understands that this is a frustrating this for students, but the world is moving and we are trying to move with it.
- DeRay wonders if there is anything in the air in regards to early decision. Pres. Mills says that nothing will be done in this area and that the reasons given in other cases (ex. Harvard) are not necessarily valid from our perspective. When asked what we would lose if we did away with the early decision option, Pres. Mills says that we may turn away people who are truly interested and committed in coming to Bowdoin from early on. There may be a sense of unfairness that there are two doors to walk through in coming to Bowdoin and that one is more available to those that do not apply for aid, but now 41% of the class is on aid, and he feels that this is a strong number.
- Lynzie notes that this is a place that births great leaders, and wonders what advice Pres. Mills can give as a leader to those who face situations in which different ideas are thrown around and issues are presented. Pres. Mills begins by saying that everybody has their own style, but that he has never met a successful leader who isn't a really good listener. People often hear what others say, and they can listen to the words and not hear what they're asking—it is important to get at what they really want to know and what they really care about, to listen and inspire, to believe in the people that they lead and to help them be better by knowing that you believe in them. Denigrating people only leads to loss through lack of connection. You need to be creative and listen to viewpoints, to solve problems, and to believe in this kind of process. Also, be willing to make decisions and hard choices—if you don't, the situation could spin out of control and people lose faith. You have to be willing to stop the merry-go-round at some point and direct. You can't take criticism too personally. At the bottom line, be true to yourself and don't model after

someone else, be genuine, work hard. Finally, Woody Allen said that 90% life is showing up. You gotta show up a lot—knowledge and facts are control and preparation is huge.

- Ben has several questions (1) Can the school borrow a couple million from the endowment if it needs? Pres. Mills says that the general rule is that we spend 4.5-5.5% of the principle amount regardless of increases in the endowment that year. We have been at a 5% spending rate for a while. (2) Ben has heard a lot about the Johnson house and wonders what will happen to the cultural groups if they get displaced. Pres. Mills says that the preference is to reclaim the Johnson house because history tells us that with due respect to the organizations, the space has been underutilized. Apparently, this is a desirable space as far as housing goes, and we need to look at it and understand how it would be best used. It would be great to have more space in the union devoted to student groups, and this is conceivable. The bookstore could be moved, for example.
- Emily G (Pres. Mills recognizes that she did a wonderful job at the launch) asks about efforts that Bowdoin is or is not making in reaching out to public school and less privileged areas. Pres. Mills says that he met this year with Erbie Mitchell the “force of nature” who we are fortunate to have on campus. He brought college counselors from James Madison high school in Brooklyn, and Pres. Mills invited them to send students up. It is a stretch to convince students that they can afford Bowdoin. The relationship with Geoff has helped. It is hard, but we are continuing to do better and we will keep working in this area. Progress is made one student at a time.
- Steph doesn’t want her question to come across negatively. She wonders if there is a department that needs more work, or one that could be “more better”. Pres. Mills winces. There are programs and departments that need to be strengthened, but he is not comfortable in this environment talking about his issue. There are some that are stretched because of the number of students, some that have experienced turnover, etc.
- DeRay asks if Pres. Mills feels that he travels too much. Mills says that it depends on what is going on, and that there were points last year when he felt stretched with the amount of traveling that he was doing. The answer is yes, that it is hard to travel and stay connected, but that he is actually more connected than may be expected when he is away thanks to technology. He is cognoscente of this as an issue, but does not feel that it is a huge one. He says that in his recent office hours he has had to search for people to talk to, and that this time is not utilized. He struggles to make them work and trolls the Union for contact. Symbolically they are great, but it is not a productive use of his time in the way that it is used now.

Carolyn adds final statement about Name Tag Day, stating that it is impossible to set up Moulton and Thorne with just Kata. She knows that everyone is busy but asks that people please sign up. She doesn’t actually clone herself.

VIII. Adjournment at 9:57