

Bowdoin College
Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government
29 November 2006

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

II. Roll Call absent: Clark, Erma

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Carolyn thought of the name “Busting out Bowdoin”
- b. Approval of minutes passes

IV. Reports

- a. President: DeRay spoke with the President of Bates Student Government about starting the conferences again. They are looking into splitting the manpower to start back up again. The USM/Bates meeting was during the trustee meetings, but it seems like we didn’t miss a ton. We are also inviting Tom Tessler of Colby at the beginning of the year.
- b. Treasurer: Becca says that money went to fund a lecture from a professor about the psychology of suicide bombing. Money was also awarded for the holiday band shell and to dance groups. the bellydancing group got costumes for their performance. BCF is giving a faith conference. We voted to change the set gas price to after reviewing the money given over semester. It seems we have been over funding for gas. There was lots of research looking at average miles per gallon. There will be a lot of voting on more changes next week.
- c. IHC President: Alex talks about the house selection process next year and that two new college houses will be added to equal 8 total (possibly Boody and Burnett)
- d. Classes:
 - i. Bryce talks about the Friday pub night and the brochure for advertisement. Alicia mentions the t-shirt designing competition that will be opening to the class as well as plans for a formal event.
 - ii. Sam says that they are working on sweatpants to be ready when we get back from break and the website hopefully to be up next week.
 - iii. Ben mentions the stuffed animal drive for the Women and Children’s Shelter.
 - iv. Torri talks about the 5 raffles and the junior-senior ball that we are working on. Tickets are three dollars before the night and four dollars on Saturday. The DJ is from the admissions office. We are also planning for senior week and taking suggestions in that area.DeRay recommends that people stop buying sweat-things.
- e. IHC Representatives
 - i. Emily says that Quinby has a Holiday party this weekend and that Professor Waterson is speaking Dec. 6. They are also sponsoring a family for the holidays. Howell has a midnight L.L.Bean trip and are also putting together a Howell library. They also have a great website with everything that they are doing—it is really intense, with links and cartoons.
 - ii. Avery discusses the Mac poet tomorrow and a holiday dinner on Saturday as well as an affiliates event Friday.
- f. Community Service Council Representative: Kristen talks about the food drive for cans and money and the mini grant applications due Friday.
- g. Residential Life Representative: Lynzie talks about wrapping up in terms of programming and placement of juniors returning from abroad. The application process starts Dec. 8.

- h. Activities Board Representative Rob says that they are in the midst of booking a winter concert for Feb. 3 along with acts for Ivies. The concert survey results are in and the general feeling for the event is not 100%, but that it looks very likely. There are a few things to work out and it would be at Colby this year. Funding would be from the Lively Arts Committee--\$10-15 thousand. It is not at Bowdoin because of our gym.
 - i. Dustin asks about the money and Becca says that they are working on it.
 - ii. Lynzie asks what place we are thinking about if it were here. (The answer is Morrell gym or potentially outside)
 - iii. Kristen wonders if there is less flexibility for Ivies. (No, because there are three committees, this would be funded by Lively Arts, not Concerts and Comedies, so there is no money taken away from that event.)
 - iv. Burgess wonders about transportation money. (Yes, this was taken into account. The plan is to charter buses, maybe 7, but nothing is in stone.)
 - v. Ben wonders how many students would be able to go. (The answer is 700.) Carolyn asks about equal tickets for each school. (There will probably be more for the host school, but the idea is that others do get an equal number.)

V. New Business DeRay says that other reports will move to later in the meeting, and that we will jump right into the discussion with Randy Nichols of Safety and Security.

- a. Randy Nichols says Hi and that it's good to be here. He thanks BSG. He has been here for a year and three months and has been involved with BSG on many levels—he has had conversations with people, worked on projects, etc. Also very valuable is the security advisory committee with which there has been great communication. Ideas have come from there and concerns that come up in forums are brought to attention—from talking with people at this table as well as around campus, I appreciate the support.
 - Torri wonders about the Brunswick police dept. She heard a lady that she babysits for say that there were officers from the force that were reserves were sent to Iraq and that now there are fewer officers in Brunswick. Does this affect the campus? It seems that there were more around in previous years. Is this true?

The force has lost people to the Iraq service as have most state depts. The coverage and ability to respond is not hindered, however—they still respond quickly and work well. As far as patrol, he's not sure that it is different—you do see cruisers on roads, but the police have had few reasons to come on campus in the last several months—they only come when asked for something we need help with from students or security. The police dept. comes in to give official warnings, etc. but as far as routine patrol, it rarely happens.

- Emily H talks about the security in the tower.

This is a very tentative arrangement. We have had a couple of meetings and are looking into assisting during the business days. IT has offices there and there is a bookstore downstairs as well as events, and there are no means to monitor or track from the outside. There are concerns about it, esp. because it is such a huge residence hall and doors are unlocked or propped. The idea is to make an information desk for that purpose along the lines of a daytime place to go check in and get directions, find the bookstore, etc. There is also some talk about a night use of the space, esp. on those more active nights (ex. Friday and Saturday night) when there are issues in the lobby. It may be helpful to have a presence there to act as eyes and ears. It is all preliminary and not funded yet. The earliest we will see action here is next school year.

- Sam wonders if they could use the same space that they do in the summer with the help desk.

They are thinking more of something dead ahead as a resource for the public and for students. As far as how this map be used in the summer he's not sure because this is in a very formative stance right now. There are concerns about what they are looking for this person to do exactly, to monitor

student activity or whatever. They don't know how this will evolve and they do need input as far as how students feel. It is a security role but also administrative issue.

- Alex asks along the lines of safety in the tower because it can be a strange place to live with the access throughout entire floors. Is there talk of changing the layout?

This is really a ResLife issue, but there is talk on this matter. The concern is in propped doors and that anytime it is this way, there is free access to three living spaces. It is an education piece to be aware that leaving doors open has an impact on everybody on the floor. There have been scares with people gaining access to residence halls. Many thefts are occurring from carelessness with leaving belongings around or leaving rooms propped. The answer is yes, we are aware of this issue.

- Ben has questions about the article in the Orient about the Baxter room security. Are these routine random checks or must there be a tip?

Randy first wants to commend Baxter for the decorations on the house. Walk-ins are routine—we walk a random pattern through the halls and common areas and it is very much part of our routine. In this particular instance, an officer literally walked down hallway and did a double-take when he saw alcohol in a wide open door in plain view. He was a new officer and was not completely sure about procedure, so he went to a senior officer about how to approach the issue. It was in plain view and policy states that hard alcohol is prohibited on campus—it is confiscated when we see it, and there was more in a bar right there within feet of the visible alcohol. There were empty hard alcohol bottles that could be seen, and what happened was in reasonable expectations—it was all permissible. We do respect students' privacy and students themselves and will not spy or conduct unreasonable searches. We do what we do for the health and safety of everybody. If there are any concerns about motives, they are good—we value our relationship with the student body.

- Emily k asks about the info desk and is unclear about how a student manning the desk would be able to tell who to let in, etc.

Randy says that this is something we need to think through. There are students who work in this capacity already, and he likes the idea of having the presence of student or staff. There was a day when a security officer was stationed at that location, but it was phased out years ago. There are more concerns with Coles tower because of the general access that people have to the space—someone may be going to vend at the bookstore downstairs, or they may do up ten floors as a diversion and see what's up there. They want students involved in the process.

- Will says that the concerns with Baxter house is that there was no policy in the handbook that was accessible and available to clarify security's access to the room—the entry and search of the room.

Randy says that the paragraph above the search entry is about college spaces. They may go in for a variety of reasons including health and safety. It is within authority to go into spaces, but we do respect your spaces. Unless we have a specific reason to go into a room, we don't go in.

- Torri mentions a new thing that the front door to chamberlain has been left unlocked.

Randy wonders if there is a malfunctioning door here. DeRay says that at night the lock cuts off. Randy says that somebody will check on this and submit a work order. We need that kind of direct student involvement—people must report things immediately so that security can take immediate action. Sometimes doors appears to shut but they don't latch.

DeRay thanks Randy for coming.

b. Bus to Colby Hockey Game: Carolyn is in the bathroom, but DeRay says for everyone to read the proposal for the bus and opens the room for discussion.

- Sam inquires as to the number of buses—is it one or two?

DeRay says that we won't get a ton of tickets anyway and would not be able to fill more than one.

- Dustin thought that we should give the bus a chance last time, but that it was clearly not the best use of funds, to which Ben replies that this seems to be a completely different situation. Kristen agrees.
 - Torri agrees that it is a different event but admits that it is the same students. Last time we could get people to sign up but not to show up. The other thing is that a lot of people have a lot of work due coming up.
 - Steph agrees with Torri and thinks that we also need to consider that there is a home game that Friday that people can go to. It is a busy time and it seems like a waste of money.
 - Carolyn makes the comment that someone else would need to commit to chaperone if this is approved because she cannot.
 - Emily asks if we could do vans, which would be cheaper, and we would not commit as many people. Carolyn responds that finding drivers would be more than difficult.
 - Burgess would normally agree with Ben about the importance of the game, but because of what happened before, it doesn't make sense to commit the money.
 - Mike asks about the bus last year, if the games were back to back last year and how the turnout was. It was full, there was a good line of people.
 - DeRay thinks that we should send a bus because it is a big game and that people will go.
 - ***Approval fails to pass*** in favor: Rob, Emily K, Avery, Lynzie, Kristen, Ben, Bryce, Charlie, Sam, Carolyn; Opposed: Kata, Sophia, Alex, Torri, Emily G., Emily H, Alicia, Burgess, Will, Steph, Becca, Mike, Dustin
 Rob whispers maliciously about people not having school spirit and badgers Dustin for voting against the proposal.
 Burgess and Torri mention setting up posters for Friday and using leftover material from the event before.
- c. Darfur Resolution Follow-up: Dustin describes the attempt to put into words the resolution of weeks ago and the feelings about what was spoken then. They want a name that is less specific, which does not mean they are not passionate about the issue. We want to get this out to talk about and vote about taking this further.
- Becca wonders if not passing this means we will not do anything at all. (The reply is that we will redraft or stay with the resolution of before that was clearly unsuccessful—with that our action is much more limited) Is there any way to turn back if this fails, or will it still be in limbo with nothing happening (DeRay says that there was a unanimous vote in Barry's favor. Where does this leave us? At the trustee committee meeting, with them telling us that there is no group.)
 - Torri asks that if this is not approved, does it mean that we have changed our mind? (DeRay says that in no way does it change our thinking)
 - Dustin says that in terms of what it says, it calls for the creation of a committee similar to other faculty committees, with details to describe what it will be like. Notable general things include the call for two reps. and a meeting in the beginning of year to set up. The group will only meet when responding to a concern.
 - Sophia refers to the portion about the group being called upon after any community member calls it to action--does this mean any one person could bring something up and that the group would have to act? (Dustin says that they wouldn't have to respond, merely to consider the action.)
 - Charlie asks how this is different from Crimes against Humanity (Dustin says that it has a more general focus and that before, the committee didn't have a structure like this and that is was not clear. This looks like the bias incident group in terms of members, structure, etc.)
 - Will is afraid that this becomes another proposal that nothing happens from. He wants to know what happens tomorrow or next week. He thinks that there should be some kind of plan before he is comfortable approving this. Is it actually possible to get something through? (Dustin says

that the initial response will be to speak to Pres. Mills. Another option is to go to the faculty, where the committee on Governance could look at it. DeRay says that Mills is 100% opposed and that this could be used as leverage in a more effective conversation about what they want to happen.)

- Will wonders if this will become a symbolic argument. If Mills is absolutely against it, how can we bypass that? (Dustin says that this is an attempt to move away from pure symbolism and that it can be used as a leverage point. We stuck with someone else's plan before, but this gives us a negotiation factor and something concrete to talk with faculty about.)
- Bryce asks if we are essentially voting to vote at this point. Will requests that this be quoted.
- DeRay says that when we vote on voting, it is to have some sense of the decision to talk on or not. Favor of voting: Rob, Kata, Torri, Emily, Alicia, Steph, Becca; Opposed: Emily, Sophia, Ben, Bryce, Burgess, Will, Sam, Dustin; Abstain: Charlie because he would vote but knows that others would want conversation to continue, Lynzie because she is in the middle. Rob asks what a table has to do with anything. It's a rough crowd tonight, though, and the group responds humorlessly.
- Move to extend debate: unanimous except for Mike, who abstains due to the ridiculousness of the situation
- Lynzie says that likes Will's point and would like this to be brought forward. There is fear of not going anywhere and getting overlooked.
- Sam says that in the past when committees fail it is because they go in and think that the general spirit is good, but that doesn't mean much. This has outlines, a framework, and a precedent to follow to create and have the opportunity to do something.
- Becca thinks that a lot of this is doing something for the sake of doing something and she doesn't think that this will go anywhere. She is also not comfortable saying that we will create a faculty group without talking with them first and having that perspective.
- Dustin says that it's a problem we will always face: bills either don't have detail so we won't vote, or they have detail and there is concern that people think they are being legislated for
- Carolyn thinks that this is a sound policy and that we are forgetting that we have the option not to endorse this policy at all.
- Ben is sorry about the confusion earlier, but that he thought is hadn't been discussed enough. He agree with Carolyn. As far as the document itself, we need to look at every word written. If there are even three words that we do not agree with and it is passed—like last it came back to bite us.
- Torri says that we need a sound argument to talk with the faculty. If we can't agree, why talk to them. Whether people agree or don't with this paper, we already agreed as a group as to our opinion on this issue. We either move on it or it dies, but in reality we made a decision as a group that was published. People need to bring ideas forward to change and draft the document is there are problems.
- Sophia thinks that some of this wording is still vague in that it says that some situations require response in various forms—she voted against it last because she saw problems. It is true that when we commit to it, we are committing and she doesn't want to vote on something that isn't great.
- Dustin says that the next step is to decide how to change it and that we can make that step now. DeRay reminds the group that we could table it tonight and that people would need to commit to fight about this in small group. We can talk about it again, but people should put in the time and energy to make it look agreeable.
- Sophia says that also if we vote against it, it doesn't have to die. It could still be reviewed and re-presented (Dustin says that we could do it this way, but tabling shows the will to carry it forward)

- Alicia mentions that we already agreed to support this and if there are specific concerns, people are responsible to act upon the agreements. As a group, we should act on our previous decision.
- **Motion Tabled** Favor: Rob, Emily K, Emily H, Ben, Bryce, Burgess, Will, Steph, Sam, Carolyn, Mike, Dustin; Opposed: Kata, Sophia, Torri, Lynzie, Alicia, Charlie, Becca
Dustin says that Emily H. will schedule a meeting so that people can come and help change this proposal.

VI. Announcements, Comments, Discussion

- a. Sam says that the group that is looking at this want some form of response so that they can act soon. Burgess says that it is important to know that the decision to move to Credit/D/Fail instead of Pass/Fail was not made with student involvement besides those on the committee. The decision in years before to change from pluses and minuses also did not include responses from students.
- Will wants to start by clarifying why it is unpopular (Burgess responds that they have heard that the appearance of “D” makes students worry too much about the grade rather than full exploration of a class that they wouldn’t normally take.)
 - Ben asks if the Recording Committee passese this if it is final (Sam says that it wouldn’t pass anything, rather it would be a form of recommendation before the faculty as well as many other places)
 - Carolyn disagrees with Burgess and Dustin and thinks that if the college has concerns with students taking easy classes pass/fail and getting D’s without effort, then they need to pursue different means of dealing with that instead of this policy.
 - Sam plays Devil’s Advocate and says that the concerns with the policy is that it creates hard situations when up to 60% of a class doesn’t care because they are taking a class pass/fail—it is an issue of what it does to the classroom environment.
 - Ben wonders about looking at other schools, for example Brown, where one can take every class pass/fail (Sam says that yes, this is considered, but that he was asked not to share with BSG)
 - Burgess says that in terms of other schools, it seems split in the Ivy League—some have credit/D/fail and some have pass/fail, but the real true anomaly is Dartmouth. They have the option called “Non-recording”, which provides an alternative that highlights the problems in the pass/d/fail situation. It is an option to take four classes this way. A student sets a grade to receive as the lowest grade that they want recorded. The way that it shows up depends than on the students grade in the end and the decision that he made in the beginning of the term.
 - Torri says that based on Bowdoin students, that average Bowdoin student is engaged in the classroom and that there needs to be some trust in the students. Some people that she knows have had difficulty with the new options because of the fear of a “D” showing up on a transcript.
 - Steph knows that it is not true across the board, but in regard to the quality of learning, if a student takes a subject that he knows nothing about, it will probably be a lower level course. We should keep in mind that that is the classroom situation, not higher level seminars.
 - Rob thinks that as far as caring, he doesn’t think that it changes the amount of effort. In his experience, the “D” option just made it more miserable because of concern of that “D” showing up on a transcript.
 - Will says that this is always a hot topic and that if student input is not reflected in this policy, then it needs to be reviewed.
 - Emily H asks Sam or anyone who knows how long it is before the decision to take a class credit/D/fail needs to be made (6 weeks, petition accordingly) She knows that petitioning is difficult and wonders if there have been any ideas about lengthening this period. (They could go to the end of semester, but the concern with extending it is that the goal is to get people to explore new areas and that it is so that students don’t have to worry about the grade at all.)

- Dustin questions which way they are leaning (Sam says that it is tough because members have about eight different opinions and there is no point to sit down and reconcile. Next week's meeting could be trying and there is still no promise to get anything out of it) DeRay thinks it would be interesting to see some numbers about students taking the option since it has been changed.
- Ben wonders if the main issue is that kids will not try at all (They have asked several faculty and gotten many answers. Student voice is that much more important, but the issue is that students don't try, disrupt the classrooms, and are not getting the full meaning out of it but are rather exploiting it. Burgess says that when faculty voted it was 61 to 6, which is a convincing vote)
- Lynzie thinks it would be cool if the decision were at the end of the semester. Students could decide what to take with the option at the end. It is an opportunity to explore in all classes in any way with the knowledge that there is the opportunity of relief at the end of the semester.
- Dustin encourages the committee to establish a forum to get concrete student input.
- DeRay says that he will submit a letter to Jim McCalla (the committee chair) and that the academic advisory group should meet on this sometime.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Student Affairs: Carolyn: says that on Monday from 6-7:30 they are hosting an informal dinner with the Friends of Bowdoin as an opportunity to meet community members. It is in a Moulton side dining room. DeRay says that these are people we have seen around. Carolyn also says that she met with Mary Pat yesterday for follow-up and that the policy will probably not be active until next semester. It will be introduced through a targeted approach using proctor groups, RAs, etc. They are also working on a one-page synopsis.
- b. Dustin talks about the Ipod thing, saying that they got an official address and that it is definitely on its way. Please read the minutes from last week's meeting, which are very complete. (What, like that's new) Progression on the Leadership Development committee is moving along, as is the publication BSG=you, which will highlight and explain what BSG does. Will is helping with production to make it user-friendly. DeRay says that this will also be a group discussion, and that it is important to remember that BSG does represent the students in a very real way.
- c. Will says that the raffle kicked off today successfully--\$300 here in Thorne and \$200 elsewhere. The airport shuttle was ridiculously successful, which proves that we need a better solution because it is getting out of control. The shuttle service ran! It is campus wide this week, the only problem being that it is too popular. Alicia mentions a problem with the rates being higher than expected. This happened because the fare is split between the people riding—when someone doesn't show, it goes up for everyone else.
- d. Steph says that SOOC is taking next steps after everyone is checked in and new groups are chartered. On new group is the Global Aids Campaign, which is a national movement about awareness and education. Also, Becca and Steph will meet with Jeff Ward to talk about JV and club sports.
- e. Burgess met with Dean Judd to talk about last time and basically clear up questions she had about our frustrations. We came out with an understanding that there is value in her coming back. A better way to frame this may be for her to give rundown about how Acad. Affairs works so that we understand what is involved in bringing about changes. Student input is wanted on the issue of Academic Advising. DeRay says that it may be time to let the Dean Judd issue settle.

VIII. Adjournment at 9:57