

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the Bowdoin Student Government

February 28, 2007

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:08 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** absent: Emily H; inexcusably late: Clark
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** approval passes unanimously
- IV. **Public Comment:** DeRay indicates that there is no public comment this evening.
- V. **Reports**
 - a. **President:** DeRay says that there is a circle around the moon, like a cloud. Carolyn hit a deer on the way over. Carolyn offers to explain the ring; it is a reflection of light on the water in the atmosphere. It will probably rain soon. DeRay continues, saying that elections are after spring break. Kim from ResLife is coming next week. Jot down questions for her to think about. She's committed to having numbers for housing. If there are any more comments about the meeting space, see DeRay or tell Dustin with opinions or suggestions. The officers are committed to going to Colby on Sunday. We will also visit Bates sometime.
 - b. **Treasurer:** Becca spent time this week with the Asian cultural groups for Asia Week. They decided not to fund the Frisbee trip. BQSA is going to a conference, Quill is going to a dinner, and Frisbee was given money for a tournament. A combo of dance and martial arts group came in for instruction. The College Republicans, Dem Left, and the Democrats are bringing in an officer who was recently in Iraq. The fencing club came in for funding as well.

At this point DeRay requests that one of the tables be pushed back. The look on Torri's face when her meal is disrupted causes Alex to panic.
 - c. **IHC President:** Alex doesn't know. She says that they are in the middle of the selection processes. They are meeting with Barry Mills next week.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - a. **Campus Attendance Policy Discussion:** Carolyn can give us a brief overview, and we can talk about how we feel without Tim and the Committee being here. We can talk about what steps we can take and our position regarding this.
 - Alex feels good, and feels that this is student-friendly.

- Dustin thinks that this is a good strong step in the right direction. This lays out steps about what could happen. The question is what we could do in support.
- Carolyn asks about general campus response. She doesn't think that this will grab hold of the faculty unless it is strongly supported by the student body. They need to be strongly behind it in order for it to be passed. How do we breed broader student support?
- Torri says that we could make it more specific to other student groups, instead of just focusing on athletics. Other students may voice this also. Athletics also doesn't want it to seem that it's coming straight from them.
- Will thinks that the response at this meeting seems neutral because we talked about it last week. If we could condense this to bullet points about how this affects the student body, that it what we should be doing.
- Sam is worried about the specificities for scheduling. He doesn't think that this covers everything, so what happens when there are exceptions to the exception. Carolyn responds that nothing about this is binding. The point is that they are guidelines. These statements exist somewhere else. She understands this concern.
- DeRay says that Tim plans to introduce this at the April meeting, so it will be voted on potentially in May.

VII. New Business

- a. Grade/Credit/Fail Proposal: Burgess refers to the first page after the minutes. There is also a user-friendly version. This is coming from a collaboration of an officer meeting and academic affairs to help give recommendations to the recording committee. We need to think about how we feel about the wording of this and the document itself.
- Sam says that they don't want to just put forward a policy, but have a discussion and create options. This conversation should be broad and presented to the faculty. The last line is key. He is worried about passing a firm document, because that's not what they're looking for.
 - Dustin says that we have talked about this a fair amount and have had a forum. There is value on coming together about details. This could be a starting point by just presenting this as far as how we feel about details goes. This isn't us recommending a policy, but rather details. Dustin asks Sam who they will be talking to about this. Sam responds that it is talking within the committee now that there are other voices. What do we want the next step to be, and how should this be presented to the faculty? We are afraid that presenting any document will just be sent back to us. Potentially, they could create a policy from within the faculty. A timeline is uncertain, but he hopes that there is something in the works before spring break. There is a meeting next week and we will take it from there.
 - DeRay says that it is important that we know the proposed policy well enough to talk about it. If you don't understand these things well enough to explain, you need to ask questions.

- Ben asks if we should endorse something if it comes across as a mandate. Sam says that it is important that this come across as a general statement. Torri asks if it is possible to present this as an idea. Sam says that this would be great.
- Burgess understands what the Recording Committee is thinking, and because of this, it is important to take an actual stance. We need to be sure that we are clear about how we feel this is going. Students should be there to help faculty work through this—we need to be strong about how we feel.
- Will asks if they are afraid of BSG endorsement, or of student endorsement. Is the issue that they feel this is being pushed upon them? The language is soft enough in this document. Sam replies that the issue is not how we say it. We need to put something forward, agree that this is what the students want, and this is what will hold weight with the committee.
- Ben says that on the user-friendly copy, goal #5 doesn't appear on the other version. He thinks that to be less forceful, this should be left off. This is in light of being more like a recommendation. Burgess says that this is just for the group right now. Burgess thinks that it should stand as it is now, leeways are not written in the current policy.
- Bryce asks if a student were to take a class grade/credit/fail, if this would count toward the major/minor. Sam says that it depends on the department. The fear is that it would slip to credit and not count toward the major. Dustin thinks that the departments do and will iron this out regardless of the policy.
- Torri asks about 2(b). She sees that they are eliminating the idea of a “D” going on the report card, but wonders if we could make this softer. Do you go to your dean on your first one, or later? Burgess says that this is not being passed in, but this is saying that people will know if they get a “D”. Students can't get lost in the shuffle. A credit goes on the transcript, but because the professor doesn't know that the student is taking it credit/d/fail, he will still submit a grade.
- Becca wonders why we wouldn't want to record the “D”. Rob explains that D's suck. Burgess thinks that this is a bargaining piece. The looming-nature of the D is the explanation. Sam says that it would be Grade/Credit/D/Fail, which is like letters.
- Dustin wants everyone to read a certain piece. Ben points out that endorsement is spelled wrong, and suggests the addition of the word “seems”.
- Kata asks what happens assuming this gets to the faculty. Can they modify this in any way they want? Dustin says that from a procedural prospective, this serves as a voice for Sam to bring. They will be working from a different place.
- Steph says that there is an issue in the second paragraph. The wording should be “he or she”, not “they”.
- Sophia says that there is a problem in the second paragraph; is “our reason” a reflection, or we are reflecting because...our reason is not a reflection. Dustin explains that this is just a switch from passive to active voice, and marks the change accordingly.
- Alex says that at the end, the implementation portion sounds like a demand. The wording could be changed. Kristen says that this is called a

recommendation within the document, and wonders if it could be called this instead. People like this.

- Sam and Burgess talk about changing the last sentence. There are several suggestions, some wordy, some not.
- Dustin goes over all the changes: the title, the “seemed to seems”, the passive to active voice, and the subject/verb agreement issue. The last sentence is changed, but there are, alas, issues with this new one as well. The final result: “work toward the creation of a comprehensive policy.” ***Those in favor: unanimous***
- b. 50 Things to do Before You Graduate List: Will says that the first page are repeats, bold ones were repeated 10 times or more. There were about 250, maybe 240 submissions. The ridiculous ones were put in too, but some were edited for language.
- Steph clarifies that these will be edited. She thinks that they need to be consistently styled. Will says that these are essentially copied from what people sent. They will certainly be edited.
- DeRay says that we talked to ResLife about this. People can raise their hands if they want to be involved in the fine tuning of this project. He asks when the list should come out. Torri suggests right after spring break.
- Burgess points out “get a girl pregnant”. Laughter ensues.
 - c. Half-Term Amendment: Dustin talks about Amendment #2. Next week is the deadline for talking about elections reform. He says that we have two votes, one that he expects to be tabled. Amendment #2 will probably be tabled, but look at it and think about it. It is an attempt to account for junior studying abroad. It splits one of the junior representative seats into two semester terms. There would be three separate elections, and this is what we would need to have that work.
- Torri asks whether or not the election would be opened to people who are abroad at the time. Is the system open to people not on campus? Dustin responds in the affirmative. This year we did a decent job getting information to people. Can people *run* when abroad? Yes. Currently this wouldn’t happen. DeRay says that this is why the elections are 36 hours, so that people abroad can get online.
- Nate thinks that this should only be the case if the people running for half year terms have experience on the BSG. Maybe the wording should say that the term may be split if the people running have experience. The idea of this is to not take away a qualified candidate, but to just make this more efficient.
- Steph doesn’t think that this should be a case. The year positions aren’t restricted, and they shouldn’t be for the semester terms either.
- Sam also disagrees, but he doesn’t think that the seats need to be one full year and one of halves necessarily.
- Will says that the problem with the proposal is that it limits it to just four people. Will says that the problem is an entire other process to run.
- Torri likes Sam’s idea but thinks that the problem with both people changing is that the whole officer team switches. It goes down to a 4-person term.

- Carolyn thinks that we should have elections in the fall and the spring. There aren't necessarily always candidates who want to run on tickets.
- Dustin says that he gets what Sam is saying, but it screws people who return in the spring and study in the fall. He explains how this works for those who study abroad in the spring, but not in fall. Sam says that there is another election for people in the spring. The process is a bit of a nightmare.
- Alex thinks that it is great to involve people who go abroad. This should be written so that it is clear whether or not people have to run on a ticket. She also thinks that if polls are open for 36 hours, she doesn't think that there will be a lot of people who want to run—a week for getting the best person...In the fall, you run in the prior spring to serve in the fall. That leaves a spot in the spring, to run when you get back.
- Jackie says that there was a separate election in the spring, and there will be problems generating interest.
- Emily K likes Sam's idea, but thinks that one election should be held, and that the winner gets the position. If it happens to be a half-year, that is what they serve. You would just need to hold one election. Dustin responds that this could work. One theoretical possibility is to have elections in the spring the year before (soph.) with three races into which one could enter. It is all sorted out, it is neat and clean. A person could run for fall and spring if they were committed.
- Ben says to say that there are two spots for each term. You could submit your name for both semesters. You vote for two names for each semester.
- Sam says that this could create a constitutional issue in election rules. Also, he asks how Alex and the IHC people did elections. They had everybody run (about 5 for 3 slots). Everyone was ranked, complicated math was done, and they got the top 3. A second election filled the open spots.
- DeRay thinks that there is value in having a person there for the full year. The potential for having four different people is troublesome.
- Steph asks what would happen if someone put their name in for both and only won one.
- Kristen thinks that this would be an odd way to do it, but up to people if that's how they want to run. She thinks that you have full-year, spring, and fall, and to pick a name from each category.
- Jackie asks what happens if no one wants to run who is abroad. It looks like it is required. Dustin envisions it as an awkward situation where a full-year person would fill a semester spot. Strange, but workable.
- Alex wonders why one person has to be a half-year person. Dustin's concern is the one just described. DeRay says that the danger is there being a blank spot left. There is a misunderstanding. Alex repeats that it is weird to have one required to be abroad, which is what this makes it sound like. If no one going abroad wants to run, there is an empty spot. Dustin says that this is why it says a half-year term, instead an abroad term. Jackie says that the language could be changed to "can be" instead of "will be". Dustin thinks he gets it. If the idea is to change "would be" to "could be", we shouldn't. Even if that situation comes up,

someone could fulfill two half-year terms. We are obligated to offer up the half-year terms, which makes it more solid.

- Will says that it is still a popular vote. If someone is second in the full-year spot, that person could be used to fill an unfilled spot from the semester positions.
- Sam says that you are voting for one person against another...okay, if the spot is empty.
- Sophia says that this is making her brain explode, but that the simplest way would be to run for a full-year or to run on a ticket.
- Charlie says that it sounds like a good point, until you run into something like name recognition, which is what everything comes down to.
- Torri doesn't like the idea of running on a ticket, because people are forced to find someone to run with. The simplest way is to have three spots. It complicates things to necessitate running on a ticket.
- Dustin withdraws the bill temporarily. DeRay asks for final comments for redrafting purposes.
- Kata thinks that it is important to consider the actual number of votes that people get if they are divided into categories.
- Torri likes this as written.
- Alex thinks that it is important that we want the best people for the job. Dividing it up so much loses this effect. A full-year person who may be more qualified wouldn't get it because they aren't going abroad. She thinks that it should be popular vote.
- d. SAFC Removal Amendment: Dustin says that last week we did the work so that we know what to do in removal and replacement, except for the roles outlined in this amendment. These are the people who don't have a place in the constitution. This explains what happens in these two roles.
- Dooley wonders how Becca feels. She helped in this process, so she feels good about it.
- Torri asks if there is something for replacing the people. Dustin says that it isn't written, but he thought that it clearly goes back to the system.
- ***Those in favor: unanimous***
- Steph asks why we have to have a student-body vote when we tried to do this two years ago. Dustin says that anything labeled an amendment needs 2 votes here and 50% of the votes from the body. Steph asks if a certain percentage need to vote. 2/3 of the people who decide to vote need to vote in favor.
- e. Elections Reform Discussion: DeRay wants to revisit this question. Who should be able to run for BSG President? How do people feel now?
- Jackie says that the question last week was if people in other leadership positions would be able to run, and she doesn't think that they should because there is no way of knowing how these people were put into power.
- Alex W agrees with what Ben said last week about it being student government and everyone being able to run.
- Emily K says that new ideas and changes aren't necessarily a bad thing

- Becca agrees and thinks that we could say you have to be head of a club that governs a certain number of people.
- Burgess doesn't think that that should be included. She thinks that it should be open to everyone, and that Emily's point was good, about using experience for campaigning.
- DeRay thinks that there have to be requirements to make people accountable.
- Sam thinks that it is important for people to be on BSG beforehand. He doesn't think that anyone can do as good of a job without knowing how often they need to talk to people, how committees work, etc. You can't understand how BSG=Life
- Rob thinks that if it's called Bowdoin *Student* Government, then any student should be able to run.
- Sophia is worried about people having throat-clearing time and not doing anything for the whole first half of the year.
- Alex thinks that theoretically, any student can run if they think about it a year in advance. Opening it to everyone isn't good for anyone.
- Charlie says that you can start 25/26 seats new.
- Torri says that we talked about organization, and because the range of organizations is different, because, for example, all that Polar Bear Nation does is send emails.
- Jackie says that if we open the Presidency to anybody, what happens if the entire board turns over and the President doesn't know what's going on and nor do the other members. She gives another extreme example, using the President of the United States an example. There is some disagreement about the requirements for the US Presidency.
- Dooley doesn't know where he stands, but he thinks as far as accountability goes, this would be entirely too hard to handle. It doesn't seem workable. Sam agrees with this, and with what Carolyn said about it being important that the person leading the body and the voice of students should be someone with some experience. If this person relies on someone else leading them, it is messy.
- Steph doesn't think that it's up to the BSG to say that someone who leads another group isn't capable of running this group. We are being elitist in saying that only one of us can do this job.
- Burgess does not agree with what she said before, but with everything said after Sam, and not with Steph. She thinks that there is opportunity in the fact that all the other positions can be filled by new members. The VP positions are active and important as well. DeRay's job is different from those with skills in leading committees and things. People have to know that they really want to be in a place. Name recognition becomes scary in this situation.
- Ben doesn't think that this is bad. The more people that do this, the better. To be respectful, who are we to say that someone can't be President of this school. I don't think that we do as good of a job as we think we do. I don't understand this mindset, because we are voted on by the students in our grades. It is about who

people want in these positions. He can understand that fright, but maybe there is something better than what we are doing here.

- Kristen agrees with what Burgess said. If people want to be involved, why weren't they before—not everyone knows that you have to be on BSG before running for President. There are a lot of opportunities that involved commitment.
- Alex says that to say we are being haughty is wrong, because no one is being excluded. Anyone can be President, as long as they have the foresight to become involved beforehand. She had no idea how important BSG work was, what kind of work they do, etc. There is no way to know what it means until you are on the body.
- Will reiterates what Kristen said about people asking questions and finding out. He thinks that the position of the President is defined by the fact that they can bring an understanding of the big picture.
- Torri says that this is not a matter of inclusion and exclusion. Anyone can make up their mind and run for office. Also, about BSG not being publicized, if you read the Orient—*ever*—you know about the BSG. We also have a very accessible website. If you don't figure this out by your senior year—too bad. This doesn't capture the passion and zeal with which Torri presents this argument. Anyone there would remember. She continues, acting out the roles of people deciding to run. If you want to do it, you can. Ben replies with a resounding Bull*%^@!
- DeRay says that we have to take a position next week. Rob motions to extend, because he likes this. If his extension is turned down, he's never talking again. He is informed that there is no possibility to extend, to which he replies Bull%^\$*!
- Dustin says that there was the idea that people could run on tickets. Sam thinks that there is too much variability between people and abilities.
- Becca says no, and Steph agrees with her. Burgess says no, as does Bryce. DeRay says to stop saying this (no more “no”), and Steph says that No is meaningful. DeRay calls on Alex W., who was going to say “no”.

Dustin proposing another topic, saying that this is the first time that all of the elections will be moved to the spring. How have spring elections worked so far and should something change?

- Torri feels that the senior elections should stay within the senior year.
- Steph thinks that BSG officers should not be held in the fall. Also, what was the reasoning for class officer elections being in the fall? They were not warned that elections would be moved.
- Charlie says that spring is fine, and you can win if you run from abroad.
- DeRay thinks that senior year elections should be in the fall.
- Torri thinks that for people gone the entire year develop a disconnection from campus. She strongly feels that senior elections should be in the senior year—this is how we get the better candidate.
- Sam says that they didn't do much until the fall. It isn't crucial to have a body until fall.

- Bryce thinks that spring elections are better. He thinks that their officer team would've been better (though this would've been impossible). It took a month to get elected and into the roles.
- Torri disagrees based on the fact that even though they got elected in the fall, they caught every activity that was going on. She doesn't feel that they lost anything.
- DeRay asks about improvement in the first-year elections process.
- Alicia thinks that it is completely different. It took first-years a while because they were new on campus, but for seniors this shouldn't be as much of an issue.
- Will thinks that there could be a poorly run election, but if first-years aren't given information or training, that is where the problems come in.
- Torri asks if the retreat helped. This was something new. Alicia says that it did. Whatever lack of activities was because of our work, not lack of resources or anything. Bryce disagrees, and thinks that it might be helpful to have a student advisor from BSG.

Dustin introduces the question of whether or not a person should hold both position of a BSG officer and a class representative.

- Ben thinks that it is a bit of a conflict of interests, but that his opinion is just that the more voices, the better. Bryce agrees, and doesn't know if people know when voting that people could end up in both positions, which could be a factor. He also thinks that the time commitment, while it is possible, it would serve everyone better if there were different people in the positions.
- Sam doesn't think that the jobs overlap much at all. He thinks that you do different tasks. His concern is that a president overwhelms the class reps. Alex doesn't think that it is overwhelming, because the BSG president doesn't get a vote. He doesn't think that more is better, but the best is better.
- Torri says that she is torn on this issue. Even though DeRay doesn't vote, he does talk. Not that this is a problem, but it exists.
- Burgess says that this is the place to bring in the philosophy of democracy. The power dynamics, however silent, can be strong enough to make things awkward. This can still happen without people realizing it.
- Rob thinks that there needs to be a separation of power. He doesn't agree with Alex, but he does agree with Ben. He doesn't think it's the same as saying that we are always letting the people choose whoever they want.
- Carolyn agrees that more is better in terms of perspective and in terms of getting leaders in.
- DeRay thinks that it is easy to overstate how the roles overlap. He thinks that the perception issue in the way the positions are perceived is the problem. He thinks that this could work itself out in the voting, though.
- Torri says that we talked about democracy. She asks who ran against DeRay. Derek. Tansing ran for senior class. Torri asks for a ratio as far as votes. Dustin says that it was significant. Torri imagines that the majority of people voting last year knew that he was running again this year. They want the best person possible in office, and we don't want to place restrictions.

- Dustin is of two minds, and so are the election rules. With the new system with elections in the spring, we do disagree. Currently, you can be both, but the election rules say that you can't run for two positions in the same election simultaneously. This does need to be sorted out next week.
- Alicia thinks that you should be committed to one position. The more time with one, the less in the other. There are a lot of other things to do, and she doesn't see the two roles as played by one person as the most efficient.
- Becca feels funky about having the schoolwide elections and then the class elections. They should be at separate times.
- Steph doesn't think that we have any right to say that someone in two positions would lose time in one position while spending time in another.

Dustin says that the next question revolves around the representative seats. Because there are two seats, the elections are opened back up if the spots are not filled. This allows people to come back into the race and potentially beat people who were in on time.

- Charlie says to let the person be in if they were in on time. There are second and snapping.

Dustin explains the last one. Should campaign materials be limited at the copy center? College resources cannot be used for campaigning. It might be more economic to let each candidate print some materials at the copy center for people to access. DeRay adds that people cannot give out things besides posters.

- Will asks Alan if they could provide funding for people. Alan nods.
- Alex doesn't think that money should ever be an issue, so some support should be provided.
- Torri asks why we don't let people give out candy and stuff. Rob says that you could give out candy with razor blades. Other people say that it comes close to bribery, and issues of money. Torri thinks that if we are providing some monetary option, why we are saying that people can't use their money?
- Dustin says that it will be hard to shut down the edge in all senses, but we are stopping in at some point. It gets the gift-giving aspect out. Even the biggest poster in the world is still a poster. Alex doesn't think that having more posters is that much of an edge.
- Sam doesn't think that give-aways should be allowed.
- Steph says that there is a way to use money on paper that benefits someone with the funding.
- Becca thinks that we can give \$2 per person, which is 100 posters. Dustin thinks that we can figure out a number outside this arena.

VIII. Reports (continued)

a. Classes

- i. Bryce says that they have the formal this weekend. Alicia adds that they submitted a letter to Hannfords to sponsor the bake sale, and that there will also be an advertisement in the Brunswick newspaper.

- ii. Sam says that they are giving out the last of their sweatpants, planning the formal, and Mr. 2009 may or may not be happening. Ben says that they are getting headbands to wear with the sweatpants.
 - iii. Dooley asks if they got RSVP's. Alicia says that Matt sent out e-mails for people who didn't get invitations. They got ½ of them. People can still show up, they just wanted numbers.
 - iv. Nate met with John and Alyssa to get up to speed. Clark says that there isn't much that's new. They are planning a pub night and getting sweatshirts out.
 - v. Torri says that they have 85% of plans for senior week. They hope that seniors get their pictures submitted. Sweatshirts are coming, and we are getting a lesson in budgeting
- b. IHC:
- i. Kristen says that there is a Ladd Safe Passage Event and an affiliate program.
 - ii. Alex says that Howell is holding a poker tournament.
 - iii. Jack says that Mac is doing a professor dinner and art walk, which is open to affiliates as well. After Spring Break there are professor dinner things. Quinby is working on their Ritter Party.
 - iv. Torri asks if the charity dinners are taking place inside the houses. Sophia mentions Plates for Change. The Hunger one is at Ladd.
- c. A-Board: Rob says that the Regurgitater is coming, and that Josh is confirmed for Ivies. Go Bowdoin Hockey.
- d. Academic Affairs: Burgess thanks people for talking about Grade/Credit/Fail.
- e. Student Affairs: Carolyn talks about faculty appreciation week. Kim is coming next week about number for beds and possible deficits. She will talk about options for the lottery. Come with your a-game.
- i. Torri wants to know about inviting people (of the student body) to the meeting. People feel strongly about this.
 - ii. Ben asks if we could give her a copy of the editorial from the Orient.
 - iii. Sophia wants to know the basic formula. It is not finalized, and Carolyn promises that she won't give out anything.
 - iv. Kata wonders if there are plans to have new chem. free housing on campus.
 - v. Will wants to know about plans for upperclassman housing.
- Burgess adds to her earlier report: she has invited dean Judd to come back to talk about the advising system. She cares a lot about this, and we can give her feedback.
- f. Facilities: Will says that Polar Bear Awareness went well this weekend. There is a website up. 50 Things is being handled this week. They are working on a box with Bart and Gregs.

- g. BSG Affairs: Dustin says that the CRC is in process. There is no hold on the budget. Class Reps meet with DeRay after the meetings. Next week we will be launching a program to get BSG better known. Elections guidelines will be issued next week. There will be a raft of constitutional reform next week. Please be here, because we need 21 votes. Alex wonders if this can be in the very beginning of the meeting. They will get in touch with everybody about specifics.

DeRay says that Katie Longley will be coming to talk about the budget and the naval base. Mitch Davis will come to talk about the email system.

IX. Adjournment at 10:08 p.m.