

# Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

*26 Sept. 2007*

- I. Call to Order** at 8:07 p.m.
- II. Roll Call** Ben LeHay, Amir Abdullah are absent.
- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Dustin welcomes Tim Diehl from the Career Planning Center and invites everyone to look at the minutes. Nicole requests that ``you`re fucked`` be stricken from pg 9 of the minutes. Clark moves to change the word ``fucked`` to ``troubled``. Dustin abuses his power to push this amendment through without a vote (there seem to be no strong objections). Sam moves to approve the minutes. Approval passes unanimously.
- IV. President`s Report:** Dustin reports that we will be meeting in Smith Union for the rest of the month as an extensive trial. There will be some method of capturing sound [sometimes we call them microphones]. We`ll give it a whirl. We`re looking at the SAFC rules tonight. The process was slightly different in the past. Nicole will walk us through the changes. There are some concerns about how the CSRC was portrayed in the Orient, and Dustin wants to apologize about the light that this shed on the funding that we voted through last week. Dan says that 7/8 houses are providing funding (Quinby isn`t). Dennis says that Reed didn`t wither, so that`s 6/8. Last week we talked about how to have the chem.-free housing discussion—he asks what this looks like. There has been no progress made. Kim Pacelli will be visiting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. That week or the next, we will have an opportunity to talk to students. The Kamin-Martinez Commission addresses the issue of how class officers communicate with the BSG and what that relationship is. We hope to clarify that relationship in a Committee that doesn`t take up time in the BSG Assembly.
- V. Public Comment:** The Orient Reporter has no comment. He is the only representative of the public present.
- VI. Presentation By Tim Diehl:** Tim thanks the body for the chance to introduce himself and talk about where Career Planning is heading. He is in his second year at Bowdoin, and is excited this year in his role as director. He is excited about the opportunities for the program. He mentions that surveys

show that career preparation is the most important part of college experiences for students. The center is about any avenue that students want to pursue, not solely full-time careers. It's not only about students in banking and financing—this is a common misperception. He shows a chart that breaks down last year's graduating class by employment field. He includes a list of the top employers for Bowdoin graduates. Clearly, there is fragmentation as to where students end up—a great diversity of paths.

Tim outlines the goals of the CPC. He wants people to be pleased with the program and talking about it, say at the same level that people talk about dining services. They want to engage students when and how they live—more about coming to the students than waiting for them to come to us. They already held meetings with freshmen to think about career exploration. They are also targeting athletic teams and the Outing Club. It's all designed to tap into students' interests. Online resources are being enhanced. The second priority is reaching out to alumni and parents. This should expand the network, which is already strong and willing to help at Bowdoin. They want to create a more seamless interface. They are working on an online networking hub, tentatively called the "Bear's Den". The third piece is creating a culture of talking and thinking about these things at Bowdoin. This is more about the natural advising networking possibilities at Bowdoin.

He shows a chart that depicts the projected phases in reaching post-graduate career success. So far, there isn't a reputation for the center in helping at the initial stage, exploration. They are working on bolstering this. They do early-stage career advising. They went through a major over-haul of the library. It is all up-to-date this year. These books can be checked out. Another phase is experience (internships, interviews, resumes). They are doing two nights of the etiquette dinner this year, led by Karen Mills. The final phase is getting into a career that is suited to the student. This could be full-time employment, or it could be graduate school/fellowships. They do grad-school advising and prep courses.

He finishes by explaining that they are working to help students understand that their network is much larger than they may realize. It is a strong and important tool in how students go about this process. There is a lot of energy down from Barry Mills, through the office, and around campus. They are working to understand student needs to be able to best serve them. He asks how many people have been in the career planning center (a number of hands go up—the majority of the body). He doesn't think that this represents the greater Bowdoin community—we should spread the word. John sets up a throne of sorts and invites Tim to sit.

- Rutledge asks at what point the advising stops. Is the idea to get kids out the door with everything figured out? Tim says that they do advise younger alumni. Some part of a staff members' schedule every week is allotted to

alumni. They don't advertise this because they don't have the time to do a great deal of this kind of advising, but they do help people who come to the office.

- Nicole asks about health care going into grad school. She says that people don't know who to go to to have that conversation, and wonders if the CPC does anything about issues like that. Tim says that they ran a series of programs called "Life 101" that aimed to deal exactly with these issues—leasing an apartment, getting a car, investing in a 401K. Whatever they can do to schedule them to get a bigger turnout, they will listen to these suggestions. Nicole suggests making it sound less condescending—make it more directly about the matters at hand.
- Rutledge says that students want good and easy college life, and that it is scary to think about entering the Rat Race. What are ways to take that edge off? Tim says that they want to talk to students where they are already comfortable. They want to make sure that it is clear that they aren't pushing students in any directions, but that it is about exploration. A lot of the online tools can be used anywhere in a few minutes. He's open to suggestions about lowering the intimidation factor. Rutledge comments that the real world is a scary place. Tim says that coming to talks and presentations is a good way to engage without being invested. Sometimes you learn what to screen out instead of consider.
- Ben F asks to what extent they work with other schools and how he sees the CPC spreading work to other parts of the country. He was offered no help with his internship in California. Tim says that it is unfortunate that he got that message. He says that they would try to find alumni in those areas that students are interested in. They are a part of the Liberal Arts Career Network. There are some schools in this group in other parts of the country, so postings from these schools will show up on internship searches. That is one way that they collaborate. A lot of their resources are in consortium form like this. They do off-campus recruiting events that involve other schools. The purpose is to bring together students that attract employers.
- Sam D asks what work they do with programs or companies internationally. Tim says that advisors should work with students individually to meet these interests. The markets are smaller, and it involves a collaborative effort. There have been students to get in the door for internships in places like Hong Kong. As he gains experience, his knowledge of the alumni network expands, and he encourages this among the rest of the staff.
- James asks if they considered leading programs for different departments. Tim says that he is working with the department coordinators to break down this wall and make sure that information gets from professors to the center and visa versa. They are also looking at assigning staff members to departments to be aware of developments in interests, etc.

- Clark says that he appreciates how they are trying to go out and talk to students. He thinks that it is beneficial to talk to students one-on-one, and wonders if there is any plan to talk to students individually. A lot of people avoid big forums. Tim says that part of their goal in going into the bricks was to get students to come in for these interactions. The general meeting is the ice-breaker. There is staff with different expertise areas that we can pair people with when they come into the office. Libby is the designated ``exploration`` member. They are open to suggestions about bettering this.
- Dustin thanks Tim for coming. Applause.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- a. Student Activities Funding Committee (SAFC rules): Nicole says that there were some fairly extensive changes, many in the tone of the document. She doesn't like the finger-wagging type of rules that have been around in the past. The process is a little different. They have been trying out the system with shorter meetings for smaller proposals and longer ones for large amounts. This is working well, and it has been put into the bluebook. She's trying to place more responsibility on the club leaders and treasurers to get the budgets it. It is for their benefit, and it is their responsibility. She is also stressing the event debrief, which functions so that they can get an idea of how events work. She took out the section about non-Bowdoin vehicles, because JoJo wants students to go to the Bowdoin vehicles first. She made some changes in the assistant-coach stipulations. They are stressing options in purchasing equipment. The storage policy is key. The extended tours or road-trips are defined as outside of New England. For museum trips, it doesn't make sense to her that we fund up to \$15 or 75% of the cost. It doesn't make sense to pay 75% of \$5, for example. She thought more about caps than percentages. The same thing applies for lodging. Nicole further explains how the new lodging system makes more sense. The equation before was confusing.
  - Liza asks about gas reimbursements going down. Nicole says that they have actually been working with that changed number for a while. She thinks that this is a fair deal. It is also the number that the college uses.

Nicole continues that group dues must cover 15% of instructor costs. We have been working with this and it is fine. With the Workshops training, there is a cap so that the money can be dispersed among more students. The percentage was removed from the Retreat section. She further defined the portion on A Capella group traveling. This is in regards to transportation. Printing was another big issue. She doesn't want to make people use black and white. They will let people do what they need to do for big events to advertise well and use their money how they see fit. This

puts more agency with the group. The ``U-Save Rental`` should be gone in the Travel Section. Nicole says that they give \$50 for team snacks for Club Sports. These people need snacks.

- Ben F points out a grammatical issue `5 pages in from the backside`. In is in regards to ``You`re budget``. He asks why they changed from one to two events under ``Groups Leaving Campus``. Nicole says that new groups are being added—they are working with 87, and some get a lot more than others. In order to make it more fair, they are trying to spread wealth to more groups. They only fund one conference per semester anyway.
  - Dennis asks if an A Capella group would be allowed to petition for more money—for example, traveling to California. Could they subsidize money? Nicole says that this issue always goes to Allan. He says that people can`'t pay out of their pockets. Nicole says that she feels for this, but that even athletes pay out of their pockets for spring break trips and things. Couldn`'t it be seen as an away game? Sports teams don`'t play away games in California. They have to be careful when making exceptions to the rules. How this money is used is in the discretion of the group leaders. She determined the amount according to how many groups there are and how much other organizations use for transportation.
  - Sam thinks it would be good to include a statement about subsidized funding as a possibility. Nicole says that she definitely wants to include this.
  - Ben F says that he appreciates decreasing the formality, but that it seems to work against the SAFC at times. Phrases like ``if possible`` are too soft. Nicole is torn in these issues because she wants to put the responsibility on the groups. There is a consensus to keep the ``pleases``.
  - Dustin asks if there is a disclaimer that these are less of club rights, but more guidelines regarding funding.
  - Clark asks if she went through and tabulated how much spending this would project for the year according to allocations last year. Nicole says that most of the changes were in travel, and that the spending would not end up being that much more. Will adds that they do receive projected budgets from groups.
  - Dustin says that a completely updated copy will be available next week for review.
- b. Student Affairs Committee: Tony says that they discussed a few more programming initiatives that they will bring up next week. They are talking about the Red Cup Affair and working with dining about serving alcohol. They are talking about bringing Eclectic Collective back and

other cheap entertainment (some guy from Making the Band). They have assigned Committee members to the houses to ask for funding contributions. Is \$100-150 a lot to ask from each house? This is a campus-wide event that includes people from everywhere on campus, after all.

- Dan mentions making sure that there aren't other events that people will be attending and budgeting for that weekend—it should seem like the houses' own events that weekend (they should feel some ownership).
- Dennis says that they could ask for money from the houses *and* from the IHC. Tony says that lighting and drinks are the main costs.

c. BSG Affairs Committee

i. Communications Strategy: Kata says that there is a communications strategy on pgs 15 and 16 to look at. They aren't voting on this, merely presenting it for feedback. They laid out weekly tasks to make sure that they are updating the campus. They are making sure that documents are going online so that students can stay updated [I would like to mention that there are no minutes online as of now, while I write this (7 pm on Oct 8). It looks like I don't do anything.] The first BSG newsletter is coming soon—Will designed and arranged this. They are creating a BSG commercial (a la Houston Kraft) that will star Dooley and Rutledge. There are plans to visit dorms, polls to engage campus, and an Orient contact person. Overhaul on the website is in the works. They are talking about the C-Span plans. There is new media that Clark knows about, which would put the footage online. This would be more passive than making people watch it in the Union.

- Dan asks where the propaganda section is. It doesn't exist.
- Dennis wants to be involved in the commercial. Ok.

ii. Multicultural Affairs: Kata introduces the multicultural affairs advisory group. There was interest in this committee and a lot of angry voices that needed outlets. This group would be a voice for anyone interested. She and Tony would moderate. They would throw ideas around in a structured outlet. It could just be a place for people to complain and rant.

- Dooley asks what the point is if there are no substantial ideas. Kata would hope that substantial ideas come after abstract ones. This is an outlet for frustrated people. If nothing comes from it, oh well. What is the format for creating the group? Kata says that she has contacted everyone who was denied a spot on the multicultural affairs committee. There are already

7-8 people interested in doing this. It will be like the advisory group process.

- Nicole moves to vote on this tonight. Ben wants to table this because last year we had the Community Response Committee that was hastily pushed through and had a lot of issues. Sam thinks that we should vote on this tonight because there are already 7 advisory committees. A vast majority want to vote tonight.
- Kristen wants to talk about details about passing ideas to the greater committee. Kata says that they will be inviting people to the meetings to achieve this purpose. Tony says that they can work from the student affairs level as well.
- Justin asks if this is like a big grievance type of thing, or an incidence response thing. Kata sees it more as a place to engage students and figure out ways to absorb people into a community and make it less of a white elitist North-Eastern institute. Tony says that this is about making a solution rather than just getting caught up in the complaint. That's what Kata meant in her highly insulting interlude. Dooley went to public school and resents the perception that many seem to maintain of him as exactly this stereotypical white prep-school elitist.
- Kate asks if Will Smith knows about this. No, he does not...yet. They plan to talk with him after taking initiative in the group. There is discussion about whether or not he would resent the formation of this group that falls clearly within his affairs.

Those in favor: unanimous. ***Committee Created!***

- d. Student Organizations Committee: Will says that they chartered their first club of the year: Bowdoin Film Group. Film Society shows movies, BSN does television, and the Film Group is interested in reviving film production at the college. They were very prepared and have about 30-40 people involved. His committee is working on the new charter process and the liaison service with SAFC and SOOC contacts. There is still some training so that committee members can effectively serve in this role. There will be a nice plastic case around the bulletin board in the union. He has advertised for design people and has received some responses from closet poster-makers. People are sending submissions and this is looking like it is being solidified. He needs more web designers, because Seth is overload. The newsletter is coming out (``Transparent``) and should be in the mailboxes tomorrow or the next day. It's a clean, simple design. It highlights things that were left out of the Orient.
- e. Academic Affairs Committee: Sam says that they finished the course audit. They went through the 230 pages of course offerings. They didn't

- get data compiled for tonight, but it should happen next week. Dan and Justin are working with the library, Darren is working with classroom design. Christian is working with the Baldwin Center, and Alison is working on study space with Dooley. They should be meeting with Dean Cornish on advising. Dean Judd...there have been miscommunications.
- f. Facilities Committee: Dooley says that printing is terrible lately. They talked about this and are working on new solutions. The four new printers should be done by the time we get back. The first round of advisory meetings was this week. Turnout wasn't great, but it could've been worse. There was a good flow of information. He is getting ready for the trustee meeting—a presentation with the eco-reps. They talked about extending building access to 24 hr. This sounds like a possibility. The first round of shuttles leaves tomorrow afternoon. They are looking at a more sustainable way to operate this shuttle. It's terribly inefficient. They talked about contacting someone to write a program.

Dustin says to cross out a and b in New business and replace them with ``questions for visitors``.

## VIII. Old Business

- a. BSG Buddy System: Kata say that there are more details in the BSG Buddy System Proposal.
  - Sam wants to change ``Buddy`` to ``Laiason``. Rutledge suggests ``Resource System``. Dennis thinks that ``Buddy`` works for the transparency thing, and alliteration is awesome. Clark wants to change it to ``implement``. This suggestion is not received warmly, and Clark is quickly shot down. Kata likes ``Buddy`` because it seems informal, friendly, warm and fuzzy [People who know Kata raises their eyebrows]. Nicole suggests ``Team up with BSG!`` Rutledge says something about middle school. Dustin quickly asserts that he needs to raise his hand. Clark asks about other words for buddy. Darren offers pal, friend, or chum. Ben F suggests companion. Will suggests a vote on the principle of the document with the understanding that there is not agreement in regards to the name. Alison asks if the list on the back is final; no, it is just a sample. Nicole asks if this would just require a picture on our part. Ben says that it also involves sending an email. Dennis says that you could do a little glass thing over the pictures. Those in favor: unanimous. ***Buddy System Enacted!***

## IX. New Business

- a. Questions for Upcoming Visitors: Dustin reiterates that we have guests coming: Kim Pacelli and Steven Hall (reslife and off-campus study). Bring up issues to give these people a heads-up to have information on hand.
  - James suggests chem.-free housing.
  - Sam D suggests upperclassman housing.
  - Darren wants to know statistics regarding how many people in Howard were chem.-free in the past.
  - Rutledge wants to know how movements in advising could work into career planning. ???
  - Clark wants to know long-term plans in terms of expanding upperclass housing.
  - Dooley wants to talk about housing in general as it relates to the naval air station.
  - Dennis wants to talk about Cleaveland.
  - Sam wants to talk about 8 dorms, 8 social houses, and how this seems to be working.
  - Dennis mentions quiet houses, and how this pilot is going.
  - Kristen wants to hear about off-campus.
  - Ben wants to know plans for kids when they come back from abroad.
  - Dennis wants to talk about the language requirement possibility.
  - Kata mentions the issue of excluding programs from the general list, having to petition, etc.
  - Alison wonders why they invite programs that aren't approved to the Abroad Fair.
  - Kristen wants a break-down of who goes where.
  - Dan wants to talk about the accessibility of their office.
  - Sam wonders about studying off campus in the summer.
  - Sam K mentions our policies in relation to other schools.
  - Dennis wants to know about breaking down courses and transfer credits.
  - Kristen has issues with the middle-ground between getting approved and getting everything arranged.
  - Sam K mentions support for post-graduates.

**Addendum to the President's Report [sigh]:** Dustin went to the faculty meeting on Monday, which was the most disheartening experience of his Presidency so far. They work very differently from how we would imagine. The discussion surrounding the advising process was particularly difficult. They really walked back the issue in terms of the faculty role. They suggested a committee to talk about this, and there was silence. Not an exciting meeting, and comments regarding peer advising were troubling. There is a lot of work to

do. Sam K asks about minutes from this meeting. They are not accessible. Dustin was surprised by the vision, which was very different from what the Orient reported. When asked to clarify, Dustin says that they sentiments weren't concrete in anything but the negative. [He is characteristically secretive about the actual content of the meeting.] They are planning restructuring the governance committees. 15 students reps will be deleted out of the 35 that we have. The plan won't be passed until December, but it is out there. He will circulate a letter that he is drafting in response. The plan is available online. Committees being eliminated are like student affairs, off-campus, library. Some are being condensed, some eliminated. He mentions the new combo-committee, COGFA. Dan wonders what's stopping us from making a proposal about what we want in advising. Dustin says functionally, nothing. Strategically, we want to create change, not just irritate people.

Trustees are coming the weekend after we get back. They are here for normal business and to open the Art Museum. There has not been much advertising to students, but it is opening. There are various presentations. They come, light it up, they go inside, there's music. Saturday is campus-day, with lots of tours. Sunday is community-day, the Governor will be here, and there will be a band. Talk to people about the opening. Dennis asks if that is our responsibility. Dustin thinks that someone is getting to it.

## **X. Reports**

### a. Class Representatives

- i. 2008: Liza says that they are trying to have a pub night and figure our senior week stuff.
- ii. 2009: Christian says that they didn't meet since the last meeting.
- iii. 2010: Rutledge says that after 3 1/2 weeks of debate regarding the keychain choice, they decided not to get keychains, but mugs instead.
- iv. 2011: Justin says that they are developing programming. Hannah adds that they are coming up with a way for the freshman to get to know the officers: hosting mixers, maybe events around Christmas. Dustin mentions partnering in dorm visits.

- ### b. IHC Representatives: Kristen finished meeting with the House Presidents. They have specific visions. Homecoming is the most pressing issue: bonfire, pep rally, Racer X, and a cookout competition are in the works. Ladd and Baxter are throwing a large event. They are also looking toward Parent's Weekend. Barry Mills donated his old TV to the house system. Too bad, Reed. It's bigger than the one they just bought. Sam S. says that Howell is having a Vegas Party.

Dennis doesn't make Baxter meetings, but everything there seems to be going well. They have a Canada/Mexico event coming up with Ladd. Ladd has a successful Luau. The Ex-President of TBS is coming soon, so is a guy from Scrubs.

Dan plugs Quinby's event with two bands from Baltimore. It is a concert/Art Show/Interactive event. Professors will be there. It will be kind of artsy-fartsy.

Will complains that these events aren't on the calendar.

- c. CSC Representative: Alision says that Common Good Day was good, as were the snacks. Anyone interested in a Brunswick High mentoring program with their student government should contact her.
  
- d. A-Board Representative: James says that they talked about the Racer-X concert and basic budget issues.
- e. Res-Life Representative: Sam K says that programming was good. They had an official opening for Reed House. Plug for Campus wide assassins.

**XI. Announcements:** Next meeting in Smith Union with Kim Pacelli. Dinner tomorrow, 5:30, Thorne.

**XII. Adjournment** at 9:55 p.m.