

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

05 Dec. 2007

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:09 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Tony Thrower, Nicole Willey, Liza Cohen, Ben Leahy, Rutledge Long, Jess Song, Kristen Gunther, Dan Levis, and James Harris are absent.
- III. **President's Welcome:** Dustin indicates that BSG will say goodbye to 5 members at the end of this semester. Dustin reviews the business agenda for the night. Sam wants to put the bus before the hazing stuff. Approved. Dustin thinks that the faculty meeting went quite well. Because a small group of professors showed up, the conversation was intimate and personal.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Approval passes unanimously.
- V. **Public Comment Time:** Ian Yaffe has a couple things to bring to the group's attention. The calendar was wrong and says that the meeting was in 30 College St. today. He figured it out, though.

Ian wonders if there are status updates from the Elections Reform Committee. Dustin responds that the Hales Commission Report is due in February. A survey is going out soon concerning related topics. BSG members are staying away from it because of a clear conflict of interests. Ian is concerned that he won't be able to be involved because he is going abroad. Dustin mentions that he could contact Will Hales with any ideas.

Ian also wants to respond to the Orient articles concerning the sanctions of the College Republicans. He thinks that they made an honest mistake and that the decision to downgrade their status serves to eliminate political discourse in an election year. He thinks that it seemed harsh. Another issue is how email was used in the process. Organizations shouldn't assume that when they don't receive an email, one wasn't meant to have been sent. If they followed up, the situation could've been avoided. Ian asks how could the BSG encourage a reversal of that decision? Dustin says that the SOOC is a committee of the BSG, but that the SAFC is autonomous. The BSG could decide that they want to intervene as the most public group. He adds that as a student government, they place confidence in club leaders. There is elaborate training and a lot of information online about how processes work. Nothing regarding this issue changed. Just as the SOOC could have followed up, so could have the people asking for and taking the money. The decision was based on the trust that they have in the club leaders. Guessing what the SAFC would have decided is dangerous...to say that they "would've gotten the funding". They money that they took was far more than the organization would've received for the event. Ian says that trusting students is important, but he feels that there were errors

made on both sides, and only one side is being punished. It eliminates their ability to run events on campus, and now they can't organize for elections events. Dustin says that the republicans can still utilize other resources and to co-sponsor events. There is an extra step involved. Dustin agrees that something wrong happened. Dustin indicates that this is an area where there is a symbiotic relationship between the administration and the students. Things that went wrong in the office are not under BSG's purview. Will understands the concerns about the email, but there is one process. The SAFC distributes funds, and there is always an email sent concerning the allocation. They were told that they could set up a follow-up meeting. The allocation email is the key in this process...getting it means that the allocation comes through. It is that straightforward.

Ben wants to clarify the process. Will says that Jon Ragins, the SAFC contact, sent an email to ask for the list of members coming. A response was never received...they didn't follow through on their end. A month later they came in and took funds as if they had gotten an allocation.

Sam K wonders if this was an SOOC or an SAFC decision. Dustin says that SOOC decisions are in regard to chartering. Will says that they necessarily got the opinion from the SAFC in the decision and got a recommendation from them. Dustin clarifies that our relationship to the SOOC is different from ours with the SAFC. Sam K asks if there are alternative forms of punishment besides downgrading charters. In the case of a misunderstanding, what could be done? Will says that this was the most charitable response that could've been given. They could've asked for the money to be paid back, but this brings up other concerns. As far as funding goes, there is basically an On/Off switch.

Ben asks about what happened with Bowdoin Students for Peace last year. Will can't comment because he wasn't involved last year. Dustin says that the problem there was clerical: again, it was something that happened in offices. It didn't affect our funding, however. Ian asks where the number \$375 came from. Also, the Republicans alleged to have sent a reply. Dustin says that we certainly didn't receive a reply. The discrepancy in the number makes the situation more curious: the SAFC did not indicate that that number was available. Ian wonders if there is interest in taking a vote on this. Will says that the discussion isn't dead. They are meeting with John Cunningham on Friday. This could be resolved in another way. Currently, our decision stands as it is.

VI. New Business

- a. Bus to Colby: Sam D says that there is a bus ready if we want it on Friday night. There are 55 seats on the bus. There are also exactly 55 tickets for whoever is on the bus. There are more than that somewhere else. 49 people have signed up. Motion to vote: 2/3 approval.
- Christian wonders if we could get another bus. We would need more tickets and Sam would have to call the guy. We could fund another bus and try to get it.

- Sam S asks if we want to double that number, then. Motion to change number to \$900.
- Dooley asks how confident Dustin is that he can get more tickets. Christian is confused as to what these tickets are for. Amir asks what our budget is. We got \$5000 extra. Kata says that we have \$8000 to play with, especially because we haven't paid our webmaster.
- Unanimous approval of bus funding.

VII. Old Business

- a. Club Membership Activities Policy: Dustin introduces the bill that is split in half. There are changes in terms of focusing the scope: this applies to the clubs under our mandate. It doesn't apply to athletic teams. It applies to the clubs themselves, not individuals. It also only applies to activities related to club membership. There is also a clause that says that this could be reformed once the college makes their statements on hazing.
 - Sam K asks if the acceptable activities are those things that are okay to say members must do. Dustin says that these things are acceptable, but that clubs cannot be exclusive already. Will says that that's already explicit. The exclusivity clause is already a rule.
 - Sam D says that the fine line is that these are acceptable practices, not required. They are reasonable to expect. There is also the opt-out clause. Dustin says that it provides acceptable practices that are okay for team bonding.
 - Sam K agrees with what Will says, but it's not in this bill. Will still thinks that it would be covered under the pre-existing SAFC rule. He gets that we have a quality idea, but from someone looking from outside, it could be interpreted dangerously. Dustin asks how it could be interpreted. Sam K says that he would see that these activities are okay to base membership on. Dustin says that that's why the opt-out clause is there. Dustin gives an example of making Sam D play Clue to be in BSG. Alison says that this is an attempt that accounts for clubs hazing regardless of what we say. This says that there are parts of what some call "hazing" that are actually not harmful.
 - Ben F asks what the opt-out clause is. Dustin says that it's the second bullet under "Rules of Conduct". Sam K wants to put it with the acceptable practices. Dustin would be fine with doing that. Sam motions to move that forward. Alison wants to know if it would be removed from Rules of Conduct or just repeated. Bryce seconds the motion. Sam D wants to clarify how it would read. Dustin reads an example of how the wording would work. Christian asks about pulling it out and making it its own thing. It's silly to have it in both sections.
 - Dennis thinks that it's a rule, so should be under Rules of Conduct. Will doesn't see how it could not be interpreted and understood already. He's thinking about the process of working through this...you would already come across it.

- Bryce thinks that it is so important to the overall policy that it should be upfront. He thinks that it's great to have it in two places. Alison says that if that's what it takes to pass it, there's no harm in saying it twice.
- There is much confusion regarding what each vote means.
- Vote on the motion to move the clause to one spot. It would take the opt-out clause and make it a separate point. Those in favor: none
- Original Amendment. John reads the change. Those in favor: unanimous except for Will, who is opposed. ***Amendment Passes***
- Vote on the Bill. Those in favor: unanimous. ***Bill Passes***

b. Reponse to Concerns of CMAP violation: Dustin introduces the response clause. It is mostly the same.

- Ben F asks about the first sentence. John says that this is completely new, but that everyone should've seen it in committee. He also says that Jess Song brought something up: the switch in the order of the 3rd section. Dooley says that Jess wants to move the issuing public warning first so that the punishments are listed least to most severe. Dennis thinks that it's fine. We should scare clubs.
- Sam D disagrees. We are the same students that make up most of these clubs.
- Amir asks Dustin what the reasoning behind the SOOC voting and just making a recommendation is. Dooley says that it is a checks-and-balances system, to make sure power is not too isolated. Dooley calls for people to calm down.
- Vote to flip-flop the order of the punishments. Those in favor: Sam D, Sam K, Kata, Alison, Justin, Darren, Dooley, Hannah, Christian, Amir, Ben, Sam S; Opposed: Dennis, Will ***Amendment to flip punishment order passes.***
- Bryce will say something once. He doesn't like the nature of the bill at all. He doesn't see the need for it. The J-Board would punish people individually, which would effectively end the club.
- Hannah thinks that we have hammered home the fact that the J-Board doesn't deal with stuff like that. It isn't a problem until some newspaper makes it a problem. It's a way to cover our backs.
- Amir says that if we don't pass this, our first bill will be useless. There will be no written consequences.
- Christian thinks that as the organizations that charter and fund these clubs, we need to be responsible.
- Sam D says that as much as he despises the hazing speaker, she was right that these are institutional practices. Punishing the clubs therefore is a more direct reaction.
- Will says that right now, with the rules passed, there would be no process or check if the SOOC has to deal with an issue. It is a leash of sorts on the judgment that the SOOC would have to make.
- Sam S wonders how revoking the club's charter would work. Will says that you could revoke a charter, which just sends the message that the club needs to restart. You could revoke a charter for a time period, like the

remainder of the year. There is sway with how this could be used. It would need to be in extreme cases. 5 minute limit reached.

- Sam K asks if a club can reapply for a charter at any point in the year. Will says that there is potential for recourse. Sam K wants to make that clear...that clubs can reapply. Somebody from the outside might not understand it. This is a strong statement. Dustin says that they only don't accept new charters at the end of the year.
- Alison says that she doesn't know what adding that would do. This rule is for the SOOC to know how to function.
- Darren says that in the event that a charter is revoked, the SOOC could say at that point that the group could reapply. Clubs will be made aware of that if appropriate.
- Bryce asks if this is meant for clubs to see. The first section is meant for clubs. Will says that this will be public and will be part of the information session.
- Kata says that this isn't part of club policy. It is a guideline for the SOOC in addressing violations. It's not instructional for clubs.
- John says that the first part lays down the rules. The second part is for the SOOC to ask: what can we do?
- Dustin thinks that the possibility to apply for a new charter is always there. Sam wonders if you could lay a restriction on a charter status. Will says that everyone has the chance to appeal. It would be inappropriate otherwise. Laying down rules for SOOC functioning is a bigger issue. Sam was just unclear as to if these decisions would be definite.
- 5 limit time reached. Those in favor: Dennis, Sam D, Sam K, Kata, Justin, Darren, Hannah, Bryce, Will, Christian, Amir, Ben, Sam S, Alison

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Student Organizations Oversight Committee: Will says that they wrapped up the year and had their awesome lunch/dinner.
- b. Academic Affairs Committee: Sam D says they are saying goodbye to two members. The credit/d/fail discussion was postponed.
- c. Facilities: Dooley says to look for an email from him.

IX. Members Reports

- a. Class of 2010: Bryce says that they have worked out the sweatpants fiasco to an extent. They will hopefully sell the tiny ones because they're great for little kids or wall decorations. The production company is giving a 30% discount.

Sam K makes an announcement for James. The top two were Third-Eye Blind and Guster. The Third-Eye Blind price jumped significantly. Guster is recording. They are therefore exploring the next options. There were about 6 that were close after the plateau from the first two.

- X. **President's Report:** Dustin says that we are losing 5 members. Kristen, Darren (replaced by Kyle Ritter), Clark, Ben F, and Christian. Each departing member will receive sunglasses, a cozy, and tiny sweatpants.
- XI. **Adjournment** at 9:09 pm.