

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

30 Jan. 2008

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:09 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Perfect Attendance
- III. **President's Welcome:** Dustin welcomes everyone to the first real meeting of the semester. There are several important things on the agenda tonight. We will make a statement about the faculty's movement to remove Credit/D/Fail from distribution requirements. He and Sam wrote a letter today about their extreme distaste for the motion on the floor. We will be discussing our stand tonight. Sam will explain this more. We will also discuss a proposal to help fund "Tara's Crossing." Scratch the RIAA response...there are some errors in information.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Dustin suggests that everyone actually read the section "Election of V.P. for BSG Affairs". Motion to approve the minutes: approval passes unanimously.
- V. **Public Comment Time:** Travis and Anna are here from the Orient, and neither have anything to say. Sophia had someone from the public request that she say something. This is from Meredith Warner '09. She wants BSG to know that she is anti-outdoor-keys in Brunswick Apartments. Everyone puts their key with their card. If you lose one, you lose both. The apartment letter is stamped on the apartment that it opens, so someone who finds the key could, without much effort or ingenuity, get into the rooms. It also costs a lot to replace a key. Rutledge was told to make a comment from Sarah Broge '09. A lot of her friends are tired of the pub being too crowded. They think that the inside should be the bar and the outside would be the dance area. Tony doesn't think that it is feasible. They couldn't afford the staff to let this happen.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - a. BSG Camera: Will says that the camera costs \$231 plus shipping. Those in favor: unanimous. Funding for Camera approved.
- VII. **New Business**
 - a. Credit/D/Fail: Sam points to the motion on Credit/D/Fail, which the CEP spent most of last semester on. Last year, faculty said that they had to deal with C/D/F in terms of the requirements before addressing the policy on a whole. It is safe to say that the majority of the committee approved the sentiment and wanted it to go to the

faculty in some form. The meeting is on Monday. Sam wants to take a formal vote to say that this isn't something that BSG supports. A declaration of that kind would be meaningful. We would need to vote to vote tonight, and then vote for our proposal, which says "no" to the proposal that goes before the faculty.

- Nicole says that she, Will, and Dooley are organizing students to stand outside Thorne from 3:30-4:15 to show that it is important to students. She asks for names of people who would be involved.
 - Dustin says that everyone knows a faculty member pretty well, and this would be a chance to lobby them personally.
 - Kyle wants to know the argument for the motion to remove C/D/F from distribution requirements. Sam says that they are concerned with how it hurts class dynamics. They say that students don't put forth effort and that it affects the whole class.
 - Dan says that as a requirement, the objective is to gain a "mastery," which would be better achieved when working for a grade. Dan says that "C" indicates competency and understanding, so why would credit not indicate learning?
 - Alison thinks that this is an important opportunity to show that we care about the academic environment even though we won't personally be affected by the policies.
 - Kyle asks Sam what the position on C/D/F is in general. Sam says that there is no consensus. Some people love it, other hate it. Some think we shouldn't have grades at all. Generally, the faculty is hesitant to be completely supportive of C/D/F, but it would take a lot to eliminate it totally.
 - Rutledge thinks that this is a good time to check the college in terms of what they are advertising about requirements and academic liberation. They shouldn't focus on the negative side of Credit/D/Fail.
 - Sophia asks if we vote yes, if the list will go to the faculty. Dustin says that the faculty is a hard group to give something to, because we can't speak at their meetings. They will see these points, however. Sam says that a lot of them have seen these points already, and they are hoping to hand out brochures. Alison said that the letter that was sent spoke to all of these points.
 - Dooley motions to vote tonight. Unanimous favor to vote tonight.
 - Vote to pass proposal: unanimous.
 - Sam says to talk to your professors. It sounds sleazy, but they recognize and appreciate when students care. Ben L doesn't think that it's sleazy: it's just politics.
- b. Make your Life Better: Dooley brought up "Make your Life Better" last week. They have many small things going on in the committee for the coming weeks, like a survey about changing which TV Stations are offered. They are also looking for a website to figure out where to study based on when and in what environment you like

to study. There's a lot of work to do, so let him know if you want to be involved. This week the goal is to change the magazines that are offered in Watson. Nicole suggested putting stickers on them that indicated how BSG was involved. We also want to change the hours to eliminate the dead space in the late morning. Within the last semester, the shifts for housekeeping have changed, and he's trying to get someone to clean it before it opens in the morning. Dooley says that they are also looking into the Brunswick Locks to figure out a better solution. His dream would be a keycard system. Sam K says that there are complicated reasons why they can't add more key-access doors.

- c. Tara's Crossing: Dustin says that Justin and Isa's bill isn't actually in the packet. They will present it. Justin says that they want to bring this play, "Tara's Crossing," that reflects both immigration and gay/lesbian issues. Tara's Crossing is actually about a gay immigrant. The review of the play is in the packet. Some academic departments have already donated a total of over \$500. By supporting this, the BSG will show that we are aware of many of the issues on campus and in tune with different populations. Anywhere between \$300-\$500 would be appreciated. It will play April 10 and 11.
- Alison asks if we are helping to pay for the play to come here. Yes. The total cost is \$4000.
 - Kyle asks how they plan to cover the remaining expenses. They have approached 13 groups. Some have said yes, other no, and others are talking about it. Justin lists LASO, BQSA, the theatre department, the gender and women's studies department, and many others.
 - Sophia asks how much the average support from those groups is. It looks like \$100 from most, \$200 from some. John says that we have roughly \$7000 that we haven't yet spent.
 - Dooley asks what the timeline looks like. Isa says that they were supposed to book this on Monday. He has until the 4th to say yes or no. This would be in Kresge because Pickard is booked.
 - Amir asks how many times it would be performed. It is one night.
 - Sam moves to vote tonight. Unanimous.
 - Bryce is concerned about how small that area is. Alison says that it's better to have them in a small space than not at all.
 - She wants to define what the proposal is for, because we have mentioned a range. As it is, the bill would give \$500.
 - Will says that the SAFC is still part of BSG. He would be in favor of a variable rate so that they could wait and see how much support comes from other sources. Nicole says that a concern that the SAFC will have will be that this would be a group's major event for the semester. She wants to make sure that groups know this so that they aren't prevented from doing something in the future.

- Rutledge says to ask Poeting to cosponsor, because this sounds interesting.
- Dustin says that a problem on campus with events is that it's hard to do an event unless you are an established club. This is a place that BSG occasionally steps in. There is an unclear funding situation.
- Dan is unclear about what Nicole and Will said. Will the money be there when they need it? It will be ready, not immediately in their account, but there if the committee approves it.
- Kyle questions the timeline.
- Dustin brings up the amount: should we make it a variable rate? Will moves to amend it to a variable rate of up to \$500 to account for the difference. There is some explanation about how this will work in making decisions next week. Those in favor of amendment: unanimous, except for Nicole and Rutledge, who are opposed. Amendment passes.
- Justin asks if there is a donation bottom. No, because it is a partnership situation.
- Those in favor of bill: unanimous. Funding is approved.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Student Activities Funding Committee: Nicole passes around funding reports. The major numbers are on the right. The Operating Budget is on the back...what the former SAFC allocated last semester and what they have been working from this semester. They are fairly comfortable, but are still judging allocations as before. She will possibly make a session to be available to answer questions if people are confused about anything. This will be an hour or two next week where people can come with discrepancies.
 - Dooley asks about the weed allocation, which he mistakenly aligns with the Quill. It is really part of the ASA allocation for a sushi-making event.
 - This is a contextual organization, chronologically. Nicole explains that this is how they allocated funding.
- b. Student Activities: Student Activities is good.
- c. BSG Affairs: John says that there is a BSG suggestions box on the website. There are some interesting things that they will pass on to Dooley.
- d. Student Organizations Oversight Committee: Will says that they chartered 3 clubs: Arabic, Shooting, and Peucinian Society. Nicole adds that she will be meeting before BSG next week from 7-8.
- e. Academic Affairs: Sam says that most of their effort was on Credit/D/Fail. The letter took a long time and they focused on editing.

f. Facilities: Dooley says to send suggestions.

IX. Election of New V.P. of Student Affairs

The group goes quickly in and out of executive session, realizing that the election for the new V.P. of Student Affairs must take place. Tony's resignation takes place on the 6th. The nominee will take some time with Tony to get used to the process. Nominated people will have a chance to talk before we vote on this position. Secretly make nominations. Dustin collects and lists the nominees: not Bernie or Dustin; Amir, Sophia, Dan, Liza (no thanks, she drops out), Justin, Hannah, Ben L (no thanks), Nicole. Each candidate makes a statement about the position:

Amir thinks he's a good programmer. He could contribute something.

Sophia says that this is her 3rd year on BSG. She has mostly worked on SOOC. She cares a lot and really like BSG. She is willing to have opinions and argue when things need to happen.

Dan has been thinking about why he's on BSG. He thinks that it's frustrating that the BSG is so young that it doesn't have its voice yet. It is often a struggle. It's hard to get a voice in these broad campus debates. He thinks that this could be a policy position instead of a programming one. If we can really work with people and show that we speak for students and want productive policies, then we can expand other areas. He is excited about this.

Justin hopes everyone remembers his passionate speech from last year. This would be a good opportunity to show what BSG is made of and to get deeply involved as a first year. He wants BSG to become a force that is recognized and respected. He knows people and has a lot of ideas.

Hannah got excited when she heard that the position would open. She wants a louder representative voice that she has had as a class rep. She thinks that it's an advantage that she's young.

Vote now. Votes come in, and the next round is between Sophia, Dan, Justin, and Hannah. The next round of voting proceeds, and there is a 4-way tie. In the next round, members are asked to rank their top two candidates. These votes are tallied, and the next round is between Dan and Sophia.

There is a tie, so candidates are encouraged to talk again. This occurs, and I choose not to record the statements. They are very similar to the previous ones.

The winner is Dan Levis by a nose. We are now Ddown to zero IHC reps.

Move into Executive Session at 9:25.

Move out of Executive Session at 9:41.

X. Member Reports

a. Class Representatives

- i. 2008: Ben says that they had a successful pub night. It was a good time, and people came together. They are looking at events for senior week.
- ii. 2009: Sophia says that they have a pub night coming up. They also have cozies for people coming back from abroad as well as

a welcome note. They are talking to '08 about a junior/senior ball in the spring.

- iii. 2010: Bryce says that they are planning a formal for the class. They will start planning another pub night as well.
- iv. 2011: Hannah says that they have a formal coming up. They are getting a price quote for the class gift.

- b. IHC Representative: Lindsey says that they are holding elections this coming week, so there should be three new representatives. The big project for the spring is to look at the constitution, which needs amending. They are looking at college house week to attract applicants.
- c. CSC Representative: Alison says that there is nothing important to report.
- d. A-Board Representative: James says that Ben Kweller is coming up, as is Casino Night. Bob Marley the Comedian is coming in late February.
- e. ResLife Representative: Sam K understands the concerns about locks at Brunswick, but swipers aren't possible. ResLife still loves you.

Dooley says there is more BSG bonding in the basement of Baxter next week. Stay to make a credit/D/Fail Poster.

XI. Adjournment at 9:47 p.m.