

Bowdoin Student Government

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Meeting of the **Bowdoin Student Government**

6 Feb. 2008

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:35 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Dan Levis, Ben LeHay, Jess Song, and Amir Abdullah are absent. We welcome new members Sarah Hurley (representing Helmreich, Mac, and Baxter) and Dan Hetherman (representing Ladd, Burnett, and Howell). The third representative is Ta, who is not present.
- III. **President's Welcome:** Dustin says that this was clearly a big week for us. It wasn't necessarily entirely successful. We'll talk about it later. We do have our J-Board discussions tonight to give us an update on the member selection process.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Approval passes unanimously
- V. **Public Comment Time:** there is no comment from the public
- VI. **Executive Session** from 8:39 p.m. to 8:52 p.m.
- VII. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Credit/D/Fail:** Dustin asks that we take a few minutes to talk about what happened around the faculty meeting.
 - Sam says that we started last Thursday by sending 182 letters to faculty members. That made for some fun folding. There was also a petition in the Union that bled onto the wall. (Isa inserts that the marker was washed off.) There were also posters for the rally. There were 50 people by the time 4 o'clock came around. Barry estimated 70 people total at one point or another. A lot of the faculty appreciated it. Some said something, some just walked by. Bill Barker got a slip. The numbers were 66 against us, 16 for us, and 1 abstention. The vote was by secret ballot. This means that starting with the class of 2012, students won't be able to use Credit/D/Fail for requirements. There are other C/D/F issues to be resolved, like removing the D. Another issue is that professors can see who is taking a class Credit/D/Fail. There is a committee that will come together soon to address these issues.
 - Dustin says that this says a lot in terms of the relationship between students and faculty. This is the biggest student activism since 1993 to surround a student-policy issue (the action in 1993 was regarding pay for support staff). It is significant that students gathered to show interest in an issue.
 - Sam says that this also legitimizes BSG's role in the faculty's eyes. There was a motion to remove the banner, which failed. Dustin says that his concern was

that the numbers were so hugely disparate. This indicates a distinct separation. Students have not moved for anything in 15 years, and such an overwhelming defeat is troubling. Also troubling is that they debated the issue for no more than ten minutes, because they came against their 5 o'clock rule. They decided to just rush the vote through in the end. Dustin is convinced that we had more supporters that we heard from, and he thinks that they could've given more weight to what we said. He was dissatisfied by the length of the discussion. We will have to work pointedly in dealing with the faculty. We will be back to full 26 members next week. Dustin asks for everyone to have lunch with a professor. He wants everyone to get a feel for how at least one professor feels regarding campus issues. Also share what your academic experience is like at Bowdoin. We are very dissatisfied with a number of issues, many regarding C/D/F. We could talk about Arabic, advising, and distribution requirements as well. This is complicated because all these issues are connected. Have lunch with a professor, and talk about these issues. Sam says that it would be nice if these are math or science professors. Will asks John to keep track of which professors are meeting so that they don't get booked for many lunch meetings.

- Sam K asks if professors get minutes from the faculty meeting. Yes, they do. We also get a copy of minutes in our mailbox after the meetings. We could start a collection.
- Lindsey asks how you bring a professor to Throne. They should have a ticket, or you can get one from Student Affairs.
- Kyle is in an Activism class, in which they had a discussion about the rally. His professor was less-than-impressed with what we were actually trying to do. It may have just paled in comparison to the 1960's rallies. This seems to a lot of professors to just be selfish.
- Dustin has gotten the same impression. The complicating factor is that it only takes affect in 2012. It's hard to find a defining moment at Bowdoin because groups don't make black-and-white decisions, especially publicly. We have missed chances like this in the past. It sucks that we had to come out in this one, but it was an opportunity that we took.
- Kata asks about Grade/C/D/F. It is still in the mix of issues.
- James says that it has certainly complicated the thought processes of many students.
- Nicole says that she had a few reactions from students that they supported the proposal. It's just a matter of keeping the choice open. Kyle says that in the Activism class, most of the other students supported the bill.
- Lyndsey responds that it does matter whether it's a choice or not. She says that she took a sub-100 science class that was awful because everyone took it C/D/F.
- Justin says that he was disappointed by his roommates because they didn't think it affected them. We should clarify why we are struggling for these things: that it's about student voice.

- Will thinks that the issue is that it's hard to explain something quickly. It was important for us to fight for this because it's tied into many different issues, which is a complicated thing to convey.
- Sam D says that the fact that we voted on this and were unanimous last week says something about the general sentiment, because we are representatives. Talk to people (constituents).
- Alison says that we are voting for what the people that we represent want, and to keep that in mind if we can.
- Dustin says that we are in an interesting place. If we don't stand up, no one will. As a general rule, bodies like this are opposed to regression. This is a starting point. There are a lot of different views, and it was good for us to stand somewhere.

VIII. New Business

- a. Bus to Bill Clinton's Speech: James says that there is an interesting situation tomorrow. We have President Clinton speaking in Portland and we are looking to make an opportunity to provide transportation. Rob Parish introduces himself as part of the Bowdoin Democrats and the Bowdoin Students for Hillary. He got numerous requests from people asking about transportation to this event. He started this search to get funds to get vans. He has drivers that are certified. He doesn't know what the cost is. Nicole does: .229 or .225 per mile. It is about \$20 per van. He would like to get at least 4 vans. His goal is to use as many private cars as possible. If he doesn't end up needing all the vans, he certainly won't get them all. They heard about this 2 ½ hours ago. Someone suggests a buffer allocation of \$100. Sam D says that it comes out to about \$12 per van.
- Dustin reads the bill...actually, why doesn't John: ok, uh, ok the facts of a case: 2 ½ hours ago... This is an allocation of funds. BSG hereby provides as much money as may be need up to and including \$60 for the acquisition and driving of vans to Portland for the Bill Clinton rally tomorrow.
 - Sophia asks when the speech is. 7:30-10:30. The vans would leave within 30 minutes of each other. Do they have to pay for parking? The rally is at the Expo Center. Rob knows of \$5 parking near there, but there is also parking on the street.
 - Bryce asks about getting in. Free.
 - Sam K moves to vote tonight. Seems pertinent. Seeing 2/3 to vote tonight.
 - Bryce asks why the Bowdoin Dems can't pay for this. Rob has put in calls. They already have vans for Sunday. He thinks that there are a lot more steps that they would have to go through.
 - Will's concern is getting vans tomorrow. Jojo will be pissed. Rob recognizes that there are variables.
 - Kyle asks about the weather. He has heard of an expected 2-4 inches of snow. Rob says it'll be earlier in the day.

- John's concern is that not all students would be served by this allocation. To do this right now to one campaign makes him uncomfortable.
- Bryce echoes what John said.
- Kyle says that we are just providing a form for engagement, not advocating.
- Rutledge says that he [Bill Clinton, not Rutledge] is the former President of the United States. The snacks issue flares again.
- Justin asks if this is officially part of Hillary's campaign.
- Kata kind of agrees with John, but thinks that the other campaigns haven't come for funds. This isn't necessarily an endorsement.
- Alison says that the other groups could then see us providing funding and view us as a resource. Many people see this as the problem
- Bryce is also concerned that it's for so little money. People could pitch in and pay for it because the cost is low.
- John suggests contacting Americans for Informed Democracy. Kyle says that they don't support political candidates at all.
- Rutledge says that we aren't driving anyone to the polls. This is just a speech.
- Isa says that it's \$50 out of 7 grand. Will responds that symbolic actions speak louder than dollars.
- Alison says that it's not like everyone who gets in the vans will ask where the money comes from.
- Bryce changed his position. If it was a world class musician and they were scrambling, we would do it. [I don't know if I see how this addresses the issue under debate.]
- Nicole says that the Democrats have around \$50 in their account. She emailed the SOOC to have an emergency consideration. Rob has also already emailed Clark. John exits to call Clark.
- Dustin does share John's concern in a sense. He would be much more excited about this if there were a provision that we would do the same for other campaigns.
- Nicole wants to put a stipulation on the bill to set a max on campaign allocations.
- Sam proposed the amendment to provide similar funding to other campaigns. Sophia says that it should be specified that the situation would have to be the same: rushed.
- Sam K asks if this is for all other groups, or just political ones. The general sentiment is that this should specify its purpose to serve political groups.
- Those in favor of amendment: unanimous.
- Those in favor of bill: unanimous.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. BSG Affairs: John says that they started looking over the constitution to re-acclimate themselves. They also looked at IHC's as well, in hopes of helping them with their amendment process. They hope to reinstitute the Buddy System. They also looked at the Recording Committee Petitions to make them more user-friendly.

- b. Student Activities Funding Committee: Nicole says that no one has talked to her about the budget. Her feelings are not hurt. She adds later that they okayed Tara's Crossing, and that BSG's contribution is \$250.
- c. Student Organizations Oversight Committee: Will says that Aerobics is chartered. They worked on Constitution stuff. They went over club templates. He also contacted Jojo about van certification. Classes were only offered during the weekdays, which was difficult for students. Also, the camera came in.
- d. Academic Affairs: Sam says that C/D/F didn't go so well, but the rally was awesome. Thanks to everyone. The LMC is getting two sets of Arabic tapes. They are all about it. Carmen Greenlee is having a great time. They will be talking about advising and the proposed involvement of ResLife as academic peer advisors. Distribution requirements will be addressed in a forum. We will invite professors. This is next Friday during the Common Hour slot. There will be some discussion prompts.
- e. Facilities: Dooley says that they ran into a roadblock with the Watson hours. The problem is that there are staffing issues. Jeff (in charge of housekeeping) said this. Dustin says that we may need to use some money to make that happen for the starting semester. The TV station survey is hopefully going out this weekend. He will talk to Mitch Davis with this information. Feb 14 is Love your Mother Earth Day in dining. There is pressure from other schools to go tray-less to save money on water from washing trays. There are a lot of complaints about this. Dining staff is doing it to test it out. Liza was confused for a moment and thought that dining was going to carry our trays for us. No, that is not part of the plans. Over break, a member of dining made a video of the crowds at Moulton. Barry flipped out and Moulton will be renovated by 2010. That's a huge deal. There are consultants looking at it now. Fun fact: Moulton makes 1000 sandwiches a day in the Express lunch. The reverse vending thing may work out because Maine's bottle-returning laws are more intense than those in Massachusetts.

X. Member Reports

- a. Class Officers
 - i. 2008: Liza says that they have called Sea Dogs and should have a pub night on the 15th. Fried wants it to be karaoke. March 1 will be an event for the countdown to graduation.
 - ii. 2009: Sophia says that they are having a pub night next Thursday. There will be a dance party and a DJ. There may be a drink special for those of age. They are giving out koozies and string backpacks. Sophia would talk to a statue (this is Dustin's claim, not hers).
 - iii. 2010: Rutledge says that they are having a committee look into the faculty vote. Bryce says that there isn't too much else to report.

- iv. 2011: Justin says that they finalized a t-shirt order and are planning a formal.
- b. IHC Reps:
 - i. Sara says that Mac gave \$25 to an alternative spring break and the same toward a Spring Gala. They will be sponsoring poetry reading and a professor lecture series. Baxter has a Valentines party, a Guitar Hero tournament, and affiliate dinners. They are planning to get involved with Relay for Life and a H4H trip.
 - ii. Dan doesn't know what's going on with Howell. Dance Party. Ladd is working on new stuff. Burnett is hosting a Ben Kweller after-party.
- c. CSC: Alison says that people can sign up to be service pre-o leaders or the Common Good Day Fellow. Rutledge could look into that. Rutledge has enough Chex Mix, thanks. Upward Bound and Green Corp application are coming up.
- d. ResLife: Sam K says that ResLife loves us. Also, they use a phrase on staff: "ambassadors of truth." Information is intended to quell rumors. There were some stressful things floating around last week on campus. No one was held at gunpoint. There were some non-students that were escorted off campus from the tower area. Alison asks if the people had arms. There were no weapons.
- e. A-Board: James says that they are having the show at 7 in Pickard: Ben Kweller. How are ticket sales going? Well. Rutledge was thinking about going until he saw the posters. They are also looking forward to Casino night and Bob Marley

XI. President's Report: Dustin asks how we feel about not having tables. Generally, people like tables. This was a good week for us. Monday was more than BSG has done visibly in a long time...maybe since it was created. Special thanks to Sam, who worked a lot on this issue. Also to Will, Hannah, and Isa, without whom the rally would not have happened. We need to do this again. Maybe even bigger. Earlier. We will also combine with one-on-one initiatives. Bring information from professor lunches. Plan on an hour and a half next week to think about big steps with C/D/F.

John says that they are interviewing for at-large reps. Tell your friends and neighbors.

Dustin adds that Monday proved that student voice does matter. We were heard and considered. This engagement is important. We tried nicely and then rallied, which is a good strategy.

XII. Adjournment at 9:49 p.m.