

Bowdoin Student Government

28 October 2009

- I. **Call to Order** at 8:34 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Addison, Isa, Greg, Tommy, and Aaron are absent.
- III. **President's Welcome:** This meeting will be short. There are two proposals on the table, but according to the two-week rule, we won't vote on them tonight. These are elections reforms, which will entail major changes.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes is seconded. Minutes pass unanimously.
- V. **Public Comment Time:** The Orient reporter is caught off guard when asked if she has anything to contribute.
- VI. **New Business**
 - a. **Election Rule Amendments Regarding Petitions:** Anirudh explains that there need to be two votes to approve changes in the by-laws. There was some ambiguity about the elections rules in this past elections, so we are proposing these two changes coming out of that confusion. The first is in regard to petitions. We are changing "must secure" to "must personally obtain." These changes are for class councils, at-large reps, and council members. Dooley clarifies that if you run for anything on campus, you will be affected by this.
 - Jack makes a friendly amendment that "abroad" is spelled wrong more than once.
 - Hannah asks to elaborate on the problems. Anirudh says that a candidate had help from a friend in obtaining signatures, even though that person was on campus. Based on the current rules, the elections committee said that it was technically okay.
 - Branden rethinks his comment...he says that there was a lot of discussion around these simple words and how each person could read it differently. That's why it's important to make sure that it's clear now. Anirudh adds that we are not trying to make this more complex; we are trying to make it less ambiguous.
 - Rutledge says that this is minor, it is just improving the readability of the statement. He moves to vote tonight. Kyle seconds. Vote to vote tonight; Bryce is opposed to voting tonight. Anirudh abstains, because he thinks that these are major rules and that we should take time to read and understand. Derek also abstains; he thinks that there is a function to having one meeting to have things on the table for a week before voting.
 - Isaac wonders if we are voting on both propositions or just one. We are voting on the first one only, right now. There are two changes in the first bill, Dooley explains, but they affect the same issue.
 - Kyle asks if anyone doesn't understand what this means. Anirudh thinks that we could give this time, to see if people react. We will vote again next week,

because this would be a change to the bylaws. Isaac wonders if there will be a third vote. Anirudh says that they would have to re-propose it.

- Those in favor of proposal: Chris, Jack, Kata, Jordan, Lynn, Leah, Branden, Peggy, Rachel, Isaac, Ricardo, Hannah, Emma, Rutledge, Rebecca, Kyle; Those Opposed: None; Abstaining: Derek, Anirudh, Bryce, Clare
 - Clare agrees that she doesn't know how any of her friends would feel about this. Bryce feels the same way, as do Derek and Anirudh.
- b. Election Rule Amendments Regarding Resources: 0809043.** Anirudh says that this deals with resources. Due to some issues in the past election, we want to make the rules more explicit. There is confusion as to what college funds and college-funded media outlets are. We tried to explain it more in this amendment. This isn't limiting anything more, it is just giving specifics.
- Chris wants to clarify the part about printers.
 - Jack suggest adding "includes but is not limited to" before the list with BCN, WBOR, and The Orient.
 - Jack wonders if you can or can't buy add space. Dooley says that you can. Hannah wonders if they should just say "candidates *can* use college-funded media outlets." Rutledge says that it becomes a double negative—you should just change it to the affirmative.
 - Isaac's intuition is that he is opposed to this change. He feels that the digest and the free printing are good media outlets and are very powerful. Taking that away makes elections less egalitarian. Dooley says that college printing, like in the library, is an absolute no. This has always been prohibited for sustainability purposes. The digest issue is a little more open. Anirudh says that you've never been able to use college printers—that's already a rule, we are just spelling it out. Isaac says that his qualm is more about the digest, then. Dooley responds that the digest goes to everyone on campus, regardless of whether or not you know him or her. You also can't email people you don't know or use email lists—the digest goes to an email list. Is it a media outlet? That's open for debate. Anirudh adds that the digest will be clawed next election if we allow it. Rutledge suggests adding restrictions to the number of posts.
 - Branden says that there aren't many opportunities to promote, so things like the digest and class lists are over-used already. Adding 15 people in several elections cycles would be difficult for the student body to deal with. Branden thinks that if we allow the digest, the issue gets a little grey, and people might start using the class lists. Isaac thinks that they are different. The digest is a message board more than an email. It's like an advertisement you would put up. He likes it because he thinks that it is egalitarian. He also thinks that it could counter advantages that people who are willing to blow money have.
 - Motion to extend debate seconded. Those in favor: more than 1/5.
 - Bryce agrees "to" Isaac. He doesn't think that we would have to extend to allowing email lists. He's on the fence as to whether it's good or not. He thinks that that media is overused.
 - Rutledge hears the logic behind disallowing the digest: we don't want people to advertise to others that they don't know. Posters and the Orient are presented to

people that you don't know. He hears Bryce saying that people stop looking at the digest. He doesn't know if that's true—he's not a big follower. It's a good outlet and will be used in the future. This is an important discussion for us to have. There was someone disqualified or something because of a digest post. There might be some way to prevent Anirudh's fear about clogging the system. Maybe we could allow candidates one or two posts throughout the week or something—allow them to use their creativity. Dooley says that yes, this goes to people you don't know. The larger issue is the use of an email list, which is prohibited.

- Isaac thinks that there is an important parallel to draw: digest as front doors of the Union. We are limiting the posters people will plaster, so Rutledge's idea is on the right track—give a set number of digest posts.
- Kata is inclined to agree with Isaac. Who are we to limit the use of the digest, which is essentially a way for students to advertise. Too many posts deter people from reading the digest, but thousands of posters deter people from paying attention to this outlet as well.
- Branden wonders who will watch for how many times people post. Kata says that Anirudh will.
- Jack's concern, unless we limit posts to one, is that between April and May, the entire digest will be undermined for a month. It would just be a campaign board, and no one would read it.
- Tessa doesn't think that she likes the idea of allowing digest posts. The only argument with validity is about the paid ads in the Orient. She doesn't think that someone posting on the digest shows that they are putting more effort. Because people can't just reach out to the whole campus in an email, it encourages them to actually go out and talk to people and be creative. Sending an email doesn't show dedication.
- Derek understands the arguments, but he thinks that it would be impossible to regulate. Are we going to spend the time to count? It creates more problems that it would solve.
- Motion to extend, motion seconded. Discussion extended.
- Emma doesn't know how she feels, but as someone who has run in elections, there are already so many outlets. It's overwhelming to get your facebook group, posters, and emails to people you know. She doesn't think that it would be that helpful to also be trying to think of a catchy digest post.
- Branden says that elections are in late April, early May. There is already a crazy amount of things going on. Every weekend, there is something big that is happening. To think that the digest could be used for elections for a month...he doesn't see that happening.
- Anirudh says that if we want to change this, we would have to submit an amendment. Dooley says that we aren't voting on this tonight. If you want to change it, email Anirudh or come to his meeting.
- Rutledge asks the President if the BSG posts on the digest giving the link to vote. Anirudh says yes. Dooley says that we post on the digest asking people to run.
- Isaac says that it seems that people worry that the campaign would defunk the digest. Has that ever happened? He has never seen this happen. There are a lot

of interests, clubs, houses, etc. who want attention. The digest is a community space, and he hasn't seen it spammed to the point of being unusable.

- Bryce says that it wouldn't crash the system, there would just be 100 posts or something. He would never go beyond 15, maybe. He can't imagine...he thinks it would reduce usability. He also wants to see candidates focus their advertising toward people they want to vote for them. In terms of candidates being swamped, that is a candidate decision. The voters should make the decisions, rather than us.

VII. Committee Reports

- BSG Affairs Committee:** Anirudh says that other than the proposals in front of the group tonight, they are starting a fundraising event to raise money for polar bears. With the success of the dodgeball tournament, they are planning to do some dodgeball. If you have any comments, direct them to Kata, Ricardo, or Rutledge. Branden understands where Rutledge is coming from, but then he started thinking about the community, and he has an issue raising money for polar bears and not things in Brunswick. Dooley thinks that this discussion should happen outside this meeting. Approach someone from BSG Affairs.
- Student Activities Funding Committee:** Kyle says that they allocated lots of money. Maybe 10 groups came. On Sunday SAFC is revising the guideline books, so you can see them in the coming weeks.
- Student Affairs Committee:** Hannah says that they discussed subcommittees—meeting with the library, athletics, etc.
- Student Organizations Committee:** Branden says that they had a long meeting because they thought they could start new things. They realized that there are ways to improve things, like the website. This Friday we have leadership development planning and maybe a fitness club.
- Academic Affairs Committee:** Bryce says that they had a Campus Conversation. There was a good core group. Next time, November 20, we are talking about sustainability. We need to reach out to more professors as well as friends.
- Facilities Committee:** Isaac says that they are losing Fuel TV, TVLand, HGTV, and Verses. They are gaining a few channels. Isa will be meeting about new printers in residence halls. IT and dining committees are meeting tomorrow. On Tuesday they handed out light bulbs. Rutledge says that they are using old bike racks that already existed to solve the deficit problem. They are going into Farley, Moulton, and Thorne.

VIII. Member Reports

a. Class Representatives

- 2013: They had a lot of people apply for the COO position. They created a subcommittee of people to help them because they were all such great candidates. They also started planning a semi-formal.
- 2012: They decided to have a black-and-white party, and they went through the details of that.
- 2011: They got some sponsorships for the Junior/Senior Ball: Gelato Fiasco and Papa John's. They will provide food, and have their names

on a banner. There might have been more, he can't remember. He thinks it is early December.

- 2010: Rachel says that the seniors had a pub night. They talked about fundraising and t-shirts.

- b. **IHC Representatives:** They are having a house crawl on November 6.
- c. **E-Board Representative:** They are getting ready for the event tomorrow in Thorne. There is a panel of speakers including the head chef of Fore St. and some other residents. He hopes everyone can make it. They are also planning the winter concert.
- d. **Athletics Representative:** Something happened with handing out the t-shirts. They are trying to make it fair. People are handing out candy.

IX. President's Report: Isa isn't here to mention this, but Dooley wants people to know that the new bookstore is opening on Main St. Bring your parents to that. There is a town council meeting next week. We decided we would hold off until we attend a meeting. He will send an email out—if you want to go, get in touch with him. Clear your schedule for Monday at 7. You won't be alone; he will be going. Next week or the following, we will have a discussion about using our resources to benefit the entire Bowdoin community. Start thinking about that, because it will be a serious conversation. Bowling last week was really fun, so hopefully we will do something next semester.

X. Adjournment at 9:18 p.m.