Bowdoin Student Government
Meeting Agenda

11/10/10 - Daggett Lounge
I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. President`s Welcome

IV. Public Comment Time

V. Guests

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business
a. Fall Break Scheduling
b. Harry Potter Bus Proposal

VIII. Committee Reports
a. BSG Affairs Committee
b. Student Activities Funding Committee
c. Student Affairs Committee
d. Student Organizations Oversight Committee
e. Academic Affairs Committee
f. Facilities Committee

IX. Member Reports
a. Class Representatives
b. IHC Representatives
c. E-Board Representative
d. Athletics Representative

X. President`s Report

XI. Adjournment
Bowdoin Student Government
Table of Contents

11/10/10 - Daggett Lounge

I. Meeting Agenda (p. 1)

II. Table of Contents (p. 2)

III. Proposals
a. Fall Break Scheduling (p. 3)
b. Harry Potter Bus Proposal (p. 4)

IV. Information Appendix
a. Fall Break Survey Data (p. 5)
Bowdoin Student Government
Proposal to Vote

Proposal 101106
Proposed by: Academic Affairs
Date: November 10, 2010

RESOLUTION REGARDING THANKSGIVING BREAK CALENDAR CHANGE

Opinion
Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break are two important periods of rest and family visitation for Bowdoin students during the fall semester. As the calendar currently stands, Fall Break is four days long and consists of a weekend and the subsequent Monday and Tuesday. Thanksgiving Break is currently five days long. The first day of Thanksgiving break is officially a class day, but the College mandates that courses on that Wednesday “will be rescheduled on a class-by-class basis by the course instructor.”

Many students, faculty, and staff feel that these breaks are “geographically discriminatory” and that neither break provides sufficient time for those who live or have relatives far away from Maine to travel for the holidays. The College should extend Thanksgiving Break by four more days to a total length of nine days, while keeping Fall Break at its current length of four days.

This goal would be accomplished through the following changes:

• Classes would begin one day earlier on a Wednesday (and thus all pre-semester activities, such as Pre-Orientation trips, the Bowdoin Science Experience, and Residential Life training will also be pushed back a day) in order to provide an actual vacation day on the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week.
• The “reschedule day” that is currently on Wednesday will be pushed forward to Monday of Thanksgiving week, and an additional “reschedule day” will be added for the Tuesday of that week.

These changes would result in an entire week class-free, with two “rescheduled days” and three actual vacation days. The weekends before and after that week would create a break nine days long, as opposed to the current five days, and would do so without eliminating a single class period.

This scheduling change should be enacted because:

• Students finding it impractical to travel home on a five day break will have more options if the break is extended to nine days.
• The day before Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year, causing steep ticket prices and hectic driving. The proposed change would allow students to book flights for earlier days, which could result in dramatic savings in time and money and make the journey home more feasible to a wider array of students regardless of their socioeconomic status.
• No days are being dropped from Fall Break, only one day is being added to the beginning of the academic year, and an additional Tuesday “reschedule” day brings parity to the current Monday “reschedule day” and avoids any lost class time.
• Bowdoin’s academic calendar would more closely reflect those of many peer institutions.
• Students would have time to study for finals or relax before finals-studying ensues.
• Professors would benefit from all of the above and could also use the added flexibility in their schedules to catch up on grading and prepare final exams.
• Move-in day becomes Monday for the vast majority of incoming first-year students going on Pre-Orientation trips, making it easier for parents to take the time off to help their students move in. For those students not going on Pre-Orientation trips, move-in day would change from Saturday to Friday, a day still close enough to the weekend for parent schedules.

Action Requested
The Bowdoin Student Government requests that the College Calendar for future academic years be modified so that classes begin one day earlier (on the Wednesday prior to Labor Day), the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week becomes a vacation day, and classes on Monday and Tuesday of that week “will be rescheduled on a class-by-class basis by the course instructor.”
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PROPOSAL

Opinion

It has been suggested that the BSG subsidize transportation for students to get from campus to the midnight showing of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* on Friday, November 19, 2010 at the Regal 10 Brunswick (19 Gurnett Road). Working with Jim Kelley from Facilities Management, we tentatively have reserved two 48-passenger buses provided by Bo-Mar Transportation. The buses cost $640. The Student Activities Office has agreed to co-sponsor the event by contributing $200.

Action Requested

With projected ticket sales at $192, it is the opinion of the Facilities Committee that BSG allocates $248 for the aforementioned bus ride.
## Bowdoin Student Government
### Fall Break Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Outcome</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Respondents:</td>
<td>487</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Distribution:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20.90%</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>18.90%</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013</strong></td>
<td><strong>30.60%</strong></td>
<td><strong>149</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>29.60%</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What Did You Do Over Break?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stayed at Bowdoin</th>
<th>39.80%</th>
<th>194</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Went Home</td>
<td>36.30%</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveled</td>
<td>30.80%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If you stayed, why?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too much work</th>
<th>43.20%</th>
<th>67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wasn't financially possible</td>
<td>49.00%</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Just wanted to relax here</strong></td>
<td><strong>51.60%</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In other box; LSATs, sports, and distance from home were cited as primary reasons.

**155 Answered this question**

**332 Skipped this question**
Bowdoin Student Government
Academic Calendars of Other Schools

Event: Classes Begin
August 23rd: Davidson
August 26th: Hamilton
August 30th: Swarthmore
August 31st: Haverford
September 1st: Brown and Yale
September 2nd: Bowdoin and Connecticut
September 6th: Wesleyan and Middlebury
September 7th: Trinity and Amherst
September 8th: Williams, Colby and Bates

Event: Fall Break (Days Off)
October 7th – 8th (two days): Connecticut
October 11th (one day): Brown
October 11th – 12th (two days): Bowdoin, Amherst, Davidson, Colby, Trinity, Williams
October 11th – 15th (entire week): Haverford and Swarthmore
October 13th – 15th (three days): Hamilton
October 18th – 19th (two days): Middlebury and Wesleyan
October 20th – 22nd (three days): Bates

Event: Thanksgiving Break (Days Off)
November 22nd – 26th (entire week): Amherst, Bates, Hamilton, and Yale
November 24th – 26th (three days): Brown, Colby, Connecticut, Davidson, Middlebury, Trinity, Wesleyan, and Williams
November 25th – 26th (two days): Bowdoin, Hamilton, Haverford, and Swarthmore

Event: Last Day of Exams
December 16th: Davidson
December 17th: Hamilton, Brown, and Haverford
December 18th: Wesleyan, Bates, Yale, and Swarthmore
December 19th: Bowdoin
December 20th: Williams
December 21st: Colby and Trintiy
December 22nd: Amherst
December 23rd: Connecticut