Bowdoin Student Government
Meeting Agenda

12/01/10 - Daggett Lounge
I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. President`s Welcome

IV. Public Comment Time

V. Guests

VI. Old Business
a. Fall Break Scheduling

VII. New Business
a. BSG Coupon for Newsletter

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

12/01/10 - Daggett Lounge

I. Meeting Agenda (p. 1)

II. Table of Contents (p. 2)

III. Proposals
    a. Fall Break Scheduling (p. 3-4)
    b. BSG Coupon for Newsletter (p. 5)
    c. Veterans Proposal (p. 6-7)

IV. Information Appendix
    a. Fall Break Survey Data (p. 8)
    b. Calendar Dates (p. 9)
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.”
PROPOSAL TO ALLOCATE MONEY FOR BSG NEWSLETTER COUPON

Opinion

In order to increase transparency and reach out to the public, BSG is publishing a semester newsletter about our progress this year. This newsletter will contain useful schedules and information for students to use as well as a coupon. We feel the addition of this coupon will stimulate not only interest in the newsletter, but interest on sustainability on campus.

Two years ago the coupon was 50% off BPA-free Nalgene Water Bottles. 20% was paid by the Bookstore and 30% paid by BSG. At $12.99 a bottle, BSG paid about $3.90 per bottle. Last year 84 bottles were sold, a total of $327.35. We plan to use the same model this year as well.

Action Required

The BSG Affairs Committee requests that the BSG allocate no more than $1000 towards this coupon, the final amount depending upon how many coupons are redeemed.
Bowdoin Student Government
Proposal to Vote

Proposal 101108
Proposed by: Anirudh Sreekrishnan on behalf of George Aumoithe ’11, Rory Brinkmann ’11, Sean Campos ’11, Nick Daniels ’12, Amanda Gartside ’12, and Steve Robinson ’11.
Date: December 1, 2010

VETERANS PROPOSAL FOR BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Opinion

Bowdoin Student Government requests that the Office of Admissions actively recruit academically qualified veterans beginning with the Class of 2016, with the aim of having a few such students in each matriculating class. The Office of Admissions is under pressure to meet the demands of many constituencies on campus; BSG recognizes this, and submits that it is nonetheless a priority to bring a few veterans to campus.

1.) Veterans have experiences, ideas, and perspectives that no other types of students do. They would contribute to the intellectual vitality and diversity of the College, enhancing the academic experience of students and faculty alike.

2.) There are among the men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan some of the future leaders of our country, and these are people whom we want to have Bowdoin degrees. The College’s own commitment to the Common Good makes us particularly aware of the sacrifices made by those who have served our country.

3.) The College’s commitment to recruiting the best students in America should not be restricted to 18-year-olds who are seniors in high school. We recognize that there is more than one path to Bowdoin, and that participation in the armed forces should not preclude talented students from being recruited and admitted.

4.) The Bowdoin community has long had a warm relationship with the armed forces. Many recent graduates have become officers, two recent high-profile alums attended Bowdoin after serving (Wil Smith ’00 and Alex Cornell de Houx ’06), and the Naval Air Station in Brunswick has made this community welcoming towards veterans.

5.) The new Yellow Ribbon Program makes bringing veterans to Bowdoin a financially-positive proposition. With the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) providing a housing stipend, a contribution based on the tuition at the University of Maine—Orono, and matching funds for Bowdoin grants, veterans can afford the College, and Bowdoin can afford them.
6.) This policy is not unprecedented; Stanford, Dartmouth and the College of William and Mary have recently been recruiting and admitting veterans as undergraduates. Students and faculty at these institutions have been very supportive of the veterans on their campuses. And while some veterans need additional support services, these expenses are easily covered by the financial support conferred by the Yellow Ribbon Program.

**Action Required**

Bowdoin Student Government requests that the Office of Admissions actively recruit academically qualified veterans beginning with the Class of 2016, with the aim of having a few such students in each matriculating class.
**Survey Outcome**

| Total Respondents: | 487 |

**Class Distribution:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Distribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20.90% 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>18.90% 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013</strong></td>
<td><strong>30.60% 149</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>29.60% 144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What Did You Do Over Break?**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What Did You Do Over Break?</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stayed at Bowdoin</td>
<td><strong>39.80% 194</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Went Home</td>
<td>36.30% 177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveled</td>
<td>30.80% 150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If you stayed, why?**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too much work</td>
<td>43.20% 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasn't financially possible</td>
<td>49.00% 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Just wanted to relax here</strong></td>
<td><strong>51.60% 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
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 Trinity
December 22nd: Amherst
December 23rd: Connecticut