I. Call to order at 8:33 pm
II. Roll Call: NO ONE! is absent
III. President’s Welcome: John welcomes everyone and comments on our cramped quarters. He thinks that, even though we’re smushed, the closeness is nice, and he wonders if we should not arrange the meeting like this all the time. Andrew suggests that we ask those people who were jammed in the corners. *Laughter and mutterings* Anirudh says that people will have to swap out and share those responsibilities *more muttering* [personally, it was good for me so I could see all name tags and /sort of/ hear everyone better :D]. Anywho, John welcomes everyone back and hopes the BSG members had a good spring break. Just to clear the air, the resolution that John sent around on APRIL 1 was not real (it had resolved to have Bowdoin declare war on Colby) – he says that to make an action such as that would have required a vote from the BSG *John pauses for laughter, except there is none…just like the guy who opened for Bob Marley*. John says thanks *now there’s laughter*. After perusing the agenda, he sees that the only thing we’ll be voting on this week would be the proposal for movie tickets, and everything else will be held over until next week. He wants to get out early today.
IV. Approval of the Minutes
   • John: Any objection to the former minutes, no? Moving on…
V. Public Comment Time
VI. Guests
VII. Old Business
VIII. New Business
   a. Guest Meals in the Dining Hall
      • Tessa had this idea brought to her from people on campus and she has talked to students to get their opinions. Unanimously, students agreed that free guest meals every semester is a good idea. She says that the students would value the opportunity to take friends and family to the dining halls throughout the year without having to deplete their polar points. Really, she said, it would be up to dining how the passes could be used – either for ONLY friends and family, maybe even if a student forgets his/her card, whatever. She researched outstanding programs in Bowdoin’s 22 peer schools, and almost all have some number of free passes [Oberlin – 2-4; Pomona – none; Smith – 8; Swarthmore – double swiping for a meal; Trinity – 50-200 C. Dollars; Tufts – 10; Vassar – 25; Wellesley – 8; Wesleyan – 4; Wheaton – none; Williams – 0-10]. Tessa argues that having polar points pay for guests’ meals is a pretty heavy burden, especially when people have multiple guests and three meals a day – it adds up. She and her committee think it’s a good plan. She thinks it’d be cool if the passes were called “Polar Pals” *laughter* thought that hasn’t been decided upon. She also says that based on the data acquired, the BSG would suggest 5 guest meals for each student, though that too is up for discussion.
      • Grace asks if the number of Polar Pals given would change with the type of meal plan you got. For instance, what if you were signing up for the meal plan with zero meals and the maximum amount of polar points – would you still get the 5 passes?
• Tessa replies that that would be up to dining. However, she notes that in looking into our peer schools, it was mostly the primary meal plans that have guest meals, so that would equate to us to be our 19-meal and 14-meal plans. Dining could do their own thing though, with monetary costs and everything. She’s not completely sure.

• Dani wonders if, by adding these guest passes, Dining would change the cost of our meal plans.

• Tessa explains how this proposal is a way to require Dining to talk about this issue. She says she’s talked to them before, they’ve said they’d consider it, but they never do. An action by the BSG will require Dining to hold a discussion on this matter. Tessa knows that Admissions has free guest meals that some people go to get for their guests. She has made it clear though, the addition of these passes is NOT to increase the cost of the meal plan. But then again, it’s not up to her.

• Anirudh replies to the point specifically about the Admissions passes. He says that they have been asked to stop advertising the free meal passes on tours and are now only allowed to give them out if the guests specifically ask for them. He believes it’s because dining is trying to cut back on guests – considering how packed the dining halls get. Anirudh looks at John and remarks that he’d love to hear an opinion from Dining Services, and it would be awesome if someone could come to a BSG meeting. [If that’s not passive aggressive, IDK what is... :P]

• Tessa agrees with Anirudh and reminds the assembly that we do have a Dining Advisory Committee that we could bring into BSG next week. *There is a chorus of head nods and mumbled “yeah”’s.*

• John just adds a note on what Anirudh said about the Admissions passes – he believes that Admissions itself takes the monetary hit on that, and that’s why they have asked guides to stop advertising the tickets on tours.

• Kyle responds to Dani’s concern about the cost of the meal plan going up. He says that the dining halls throw out a TON of food every day. He claims that each hall could easily feed 50 more people without cooking extra food. From his viewpoint, Kyle doesn’t think that the meal plans would have to increase, seeing as the quantity of food prepared each day shouldn’t have to be altered.

• Derek wonders if perhaps Dining could realize that people miss meals all the time and don’t make them up, and therefore the passes wouldn’t be an extra burden. He also suggests that students be able to swipe twice if they have extra meals – once for a guest meal and once for the student’s meal. Either way, it’s using meals that aren’t used and this might mitigate the blow that Dining believes they’d feel.

• Tessa references Swarthmore saying that they may swipe twice for each meal. She says it’s a good idea, but the decision is still up in the air and ultimately up to Dining. Tessa again reiterates that this proposal is not to make a policy, but is merely a suggestion that Dining Services will be required to consider. Once BSG makes a proposal, the body at which it is targeted MUST have a conversation about it.

• Sam responds to the double-swiping idea. He says that he talked to Dining while working for the Orient about the one-swipe policy. He says it is due to their “formulas” for how much to cook every day.
• Derek replies that the main point wouldn’t be to swipe twice, but that there are already unused meals on meal plans and therefore using a guest pass would be like using an unused swipe.

• Leah notes that the problem that arose in past talks with dining was that Dining called the problem a “one-card issue.” She requests that someone look more into that to see if it’s really true. This is mainly with regard to the double-swipe idea – Dining says they can’t do it because of how the one-card is programmed. She restates the request to bring someone in from dining next week.

• John says we could also ask people in the one-card office: “Chris is my boy!” He says that we won’t vote on this until next week – he wants people to run it by dining and talk to friends. He expects unanimous support from the student body, but he wants BSG members to consider if this actually can be done and how do we do it.

b. First Year Book

• Chanwoong begins by giving us background on the First-Year Book project. He reports that this issue came up in Spring ’09, and overall the Student Affairs Committee feels that the current research into this program is not adequate. A new proposal was previously sent out to the faculty discussing the addition of outside speakers and a panel discussion during orientation to add to the First-Year Book program, but the proposal did not gain much support from faculty. Basically, it was decided by the summer group working on this project that the system in place was not adequate and since the new proposal didn’t have much support, and therefore the First-Year Book program was not implemented for the class of 2014. Chanwoong references other surveys conducted in ’03 and ’09. In the ’03 survey, 43% of first-years responded, and 60% of the body responded in ’09. He says that the responses to the ’09 survey were inconclusive, with 32% of respondents reporting that he First-Year Book program was not effective, 34% claiming they were indifferent / neutral to the program, and 33% reporting that it was effective. Next, there was a BSG survey released in ’11 in which 60% suggested improvements to the program, 41% enjoyed the reading, and 32% felt the discussion about the book was good (the rest felt it was awkward or a forced discussion). As for faculty members, Chanwoong’s committee contacted the department chairs to request that they send emails to their faculty members. In their responses, there were only a few positive comments from professors, the rest of responses were constructive criticisms on how to improve the system. Moving onto the proposal, Chanwoong explains that his committee isn’t convinced whether the surveys provide conclusive evidence as to whether the program is effective or not. Instead, they feel the First-Year Book program has its value in community building and presentation of new knowledge and therefore the proposal stipulates that the Student Affairs Committee has decided to keep the system and improve it. They propose that the Orientation Committee takes over the First-Year Book program from the GFA faculty member committee so as to coordinate scheduling better. Additionally, the SAC suggests that there be a BSG representative in the Orientation committee and that the book be ultimately presented to BSG so the assembly may discuss the title. Finally, they propose to have the BSG conduct a survey on the selected title(s) in order to gain as much opinion about the book as possible. During orientation, the SAC recommends that there be a panel or lecture lead by faculty members with interest about the book.
before breaking the students up into small discussion groups. Finally, the proposal suggests to break first-years up into small groups to discuss the book with upperclassmen leading the discussion.

- Sam wonders if there is the possibility for the presentation to be given not by faculty members, but by the author of the book in question.
- Chanwoong elaborates that doing so would require a lot of money and a lot of planning. To bring in the author, usually the Maine colleges’ deans meet to discuss an author’s tour through the colleges so their money is pooled. This is an elaborate process that can be avoided by having faculty members who are willing to participate give a presentation on the book.
- Sam wonders if the professor panel can be composed of any departments’ professors seeing as his faculty first-year book facilitator hadn’t read the book herself.
- Chanwoong reminds Sam that the faculty members won’t be leading discussions this time, but instead will be those who had volunteered to read and explore the book and then give a representation on it. He hopes that there will be various departmental representation in order to give students different perspectives on the book as well as to expose students to faculty members of different departments.
- Allen wonders if it worries the SAC that the majority of faculty members didn’t think the program was necessary according to one of the faculty surveys sent out.
- Chanwoong said that they took those criticisms offered by that same survey and addressed them in this new resolution.
- Anirudh informs the assembly that he and John were both at the faculty meeting where the First-Year Book was discussed. He points out that while there were some faculty members who were intent on keeping the program, there was an overwhelming majority of them who were not interested. That, coupled with the fact that only 16% of students are motivated to fill out the survey and of that small percentage only 1/3 are interested in keeping the program, even though he himself would love to keep this program, Anirudh doesn’t feel that right now there is a viable and sustainable way to keep the First-Year Book program alive. He feels that maybe the BSG could try again next year, but he doesn’t think that, right now, there’s a year-to-year option. He just doesn’t see the support from students or faculty.
- John adds to that that the faculty at the meeting weren’t super excited about the proposal that was before them, which included expanding the program, bringing in the authors, incorporating it into their classes, et. al.
- Anirudh argues that the proposal before them was at least sustainable.
- John moves the conversation onward.
- Matt tells of how he and Chase looked at the other NESCAC schools and their programs. All of them, with one exception and Bowdoin, have a First-Year Book program or something of the like. What does that say about Bowdoin?
- Chanwoong drives home his point that even through there is a lack of faculty interest, the values of an academic discussion and the possibility of the book to bring a class together over some common experience is important to orientation.
- Tessa asks for clarification of what this proposal is supposed to do – change the policy or suggest a change in policy.
• John says that it’s half-and-half. It is suggesting that the Orientation Committee pick up the burden, but that the BSG is also involved in the process.
• Jack has one logistical concern, and that is the lack of student interest. Chanwoong had suggested that the discussion groups be led by upper-class students – possibly positions obtained through an application process. He feels that since there is a lack of interest, Bowdoin will begin having to beg upperclassmen to participate.
• Georgia thinks that the Res-Lifers can do it. She doesn’t feel that it’s asking that much of them – it would not have to be added into their training, all they’d have to do is read a book. Additionally, the students are already more comfortable around their proctors and RAs during the orientation process, why not have them lead one more discussion?
• As someone who has gone through three orientations as a member of Res-Life, Kyle points out that a proctor’s schedule is hectic. Most proctors don’t see their friends or anything but are involved with their floors. He thinks that it is too much to ask. Additionally, Kyle points out that any person on Res-Life asked will request a shorter Orientation period – across the board – and therefore will probably be opposed to adding anything else to the mess.
• Chanwoong says that this issue came up in the SAC meetings, and that is why they thought of the idea of an application process. The prestige of that should help encourage upperclassmen to apply.
• John suggests to call it a fellowship – the First-Year Book Fellows. *Laughter*
• Amanda says to give them a T-shirt. [xD]
• Chanwoong also reminds everyone that there /are/ people who have an interest in helping on campus, and we’ll never know if it’s able to be done until we try.
• Matt offers, as an alternative idea, to have the people from the college house system lead the discussion, for during college house orientation, there is some down-time.
• Derek seconds Matt.
• Dani would be very concerned about attempting to get college house residents to do this job well. She feels that many people come to school with the mindset that college house orientation is a pre-school Ivies. She thinks they’re just as likely not to have read the book for the discussion they will be leading.
• Jack points out that they are less likely to even try. *Laughter*
• John places an end to this discussion until next week. He implores members to reach out to their constituents on this one. He wants to find out the value in this program, if people would apply for the (probably unpaid) First-Year Book Fellows [RESUME BUILDER! :D]. John really wants feedback!

c. Gender Neutral Housing
• Before he begins, Sam points out a type-o in the resolution: there should be a “not” inserted in the sentence containing “most schools with similar policies do have these restrictions.” Sam then picks up by bringing all of BSG up to speed on the issue of gender-neutral housing. He reports that, last year, Bowdoin moved from a non-gender neutral system to incorporating a gender-neutral housing policy that allowed for people that identify with different genders to apply to live in doubles. However, in implementing this policy, there is an extra form that students now have to fill out before they apply.
Isa clarifies that all students are asked to fill out this form, but for those intending on living in a gender-neutral living space, it is required.

Sam goes on to say that this policy implies that Bowdoin students, who are, mostly, legal adults, are not mature enough to decide on who they should live with. The Facilities committee feels that submitting decisions to the judgment of the college is not appropriate. Therefore, this proposal suggests a small administrative change to not require the form to be submitted in order for students to utilize the gender-neutral housing option.

Anirudh suggests an idea that, on the housing intent form, the option could still be available, but the form would not be required to be filled out even if one were considering evoking the gender-neutral housing option.

In regards to questions about the housing intent form, Georgia noticed a loophole that Bowdoin students utilized last year. In checking the box for gender-neutral housing, this didn’t include forced triples. Therefore, if you signed the intent form saying that you might invoke the right to gender-neutral living conditions and also register with a block that’s more than one gender, you are “guaranteed” to be in a regular triple as opposed to a forced triple, seeing as the system does not allow anyone to live in a forced triple with different genders (in case of room rearrangement etc.). Students were using this to bump them up in the lottery last year.

John makes note of the loophole that could be closing with this proposal.

Allen has a question similar to the one he asked to Chanwoong. Last time, when Dean Foster came, he said that he understands that students want this, but he personally thinks the College “isn’t ready.” Allen wonders if this “worries” the Facilities committee.

John cuts off Sam before he speaks and reminds him to mind his response because the Orient is in the room. Sam quietly states that he has to formulate an appropriate answer [:P].

Derek says that he, nor anyone else, is sure of what Tim Foster meant by that.

The reasoning that the Administration continues to utilize, Anirudh reminds everyone, is that they want people to be having this housing conversation before the lottery, and not making a decision on a whim.

Dani asks if anyone in BSG agrees with this rational. [No one says that they do].

When asked if he has informed the Administration of this proposal, Isa responds that the resolution has been forwarded to them. When John asks when the Administration was notified, Isa replies, “...earlier this evening.” *Laughter* Isa then humbly states, “We’re not /forcing/ them to do anything...”

Based on the environment in the room, John, although he disagrees, says that anyone is welcome to propose to vote, but he thinks that the way to alienate anyone is to demand a change without having talked to them about it first.

Isa laughs and argues that we’re not rallying outside their houses.

Kyle says that Res-Life members have had conversations about this with their committees and administrative members.

John says that there is a large difference between speaking with Res-Life and a proposal passed through BSG.

Dani feels that we had this discussion with them last year, and we didn’t expect this kind of twist. She says that the format they are proposing is the format that
was wont to be implemented last year – the BSG is only correcting the restriction because it is not what we asked for. She feels it is pertinent because there are many people forming blocks now for the lottery and this new policy should be pushed through.

- Jack asks what we’re doing for “the doubles part” seeing as they can already live in a triple as a gender-neutral.
- Georgia believes that the gender-neutral system will then allow different-gender-identified people to live in Stowe Inn or Stowe Hall quints.
- Jack thinks that the wording could then be changed in the proposal from “doubles” to “any room.”
- Chanwoong wants to know the reasoning behind what Tim Foster said before we pass this resolution – he doesn’t want to misinterpret the Administration’s rationale.
- Isa mumbles.
- Matt wonders about the timeline of this proposal as a gauge for whether or not this resolution should be passed now or next week. Does it matter if it’s passed today – will it go into effect this year if passed this week and next year if next week? What’s the point in rushing into voting for this if it’s just going into effect next year.
- John, because of all this talk of possibly passing the proposal tonight, goes into Nazi grammar mode – removing unnecessary punctuation and capitalization, crossing out pretentious language, correcting spelling, and removing superfluous line breaks.
- Anirudh sarcastically comments that /this/ is why we have the two-week rule.
- Georgia points out another previously stated correction to change “doubles” to “all rooms.”
- John asks for any other comments or questions.
- Allen states that his question never got answered – whether or not the administration will be on board with this.
- Dani again reiterates that they went through this last year and that this is just “completing the work we started.” She believes it’s just the conservative views of social norms that the Administration wants to uphold.
- John guesses that the administration might give the reason that they need to plan out well in advance how many people will be living in a gender-neutral environment.
- Again, Chanwoong says that even though he would love to see this passed now, we aren’t sure what their reasoning is, so we should wait one week.
- Kyle explicitly states that the only reason given was so that Res-Life made sure that students could “think about it” and “talk it over with their parents.”
- Dani motions to vote, there are many seconds.
- John wants to count this one – 11 people want to vote tonight, 9 do not, Alex abstains. This is not 2/3 majority and there will be no voting on the proposal tonight.
- Amanda says that next week she will want to see some communication between BSG Facilities Committee, the Res-Life office, and the other pertinent members of the Administration.
- John says he’ll bring it up with his weekly meeting with Dean Foster.
d. Movie Tickets
- Leah brings this standard proposal. They are looking for $750 for movie tickets to be sold at a discounted rate of $7.00 to the student body.
- Dani motions to vote, Matt seconds.
- The proposal passes unanimously.

e. Suggestions about the pub
- Dani says that she brought this up at the meeting before break. She, being the new manager at the pub, has gotten the Alcohol Team’s support about extending the liquor license of the pub and to possibly allow alcohol in the game room or at least have games in the pub in order to promote a social, casual, on-campus drinking environment. She asks for any other suggestions and ideas.
- Georgia brings up a gross point. Since alcohol is only allowed in the pub, she knows some students pee in cups and then discard them within the establishment when it is crowded because they are not allowed to leave the pub with alcohol. This could be used as a reason to let alcohol out of the room – sanitary reasons. [Really, Bowdoin? That’s just gross…]
- Leah adds that Colby has an awesome on-campus pub. Perhaps someone can look into how they run theirs.
- Matt suggests more late-night stuff. He says that it “sucks” that Bowdoin ends at 1 AM.
- John LOL’s at the fact that there is a late night on Friday, which also happens to be Relay for Life...
- Dani says thanks and for people to talk to / email her with anything else they think of because the pub is a really cool venue that’s not really being used.
- Isa, from the peanut gallery, says “Let them serve hard alcohol!”
- To this, Dani responds, “I’m not God.” *Laughter*

IX. Committee Reports

a. BSG Affairs Committee: Speaking of the pub, Anirudh announces that there will be a debate at the pub this Monday [YAY!]. Additionally, elections are under way, and he is very happy that he’s not running them this year. Running through the schedule, rising sophomore and junior elections information sessions will be held this Thursday through Sunday, and the E-Board Representative is also up for re-election – Chris, if you’re interested, run again! At-Large Representatives will also have their information sessions Thursday through Sunday. Isa asks who’s moderating the debates. Anirudh says it’s Seth Walder and a yet-to-be-determined-but-not-John-Connolly BSG moderator.

b. SAFC: Kyle announces that it’s April, and that means that every club wants money to have their biggest event of the year. This week, there were $15,000 in requests and $10,000 in allocated funds.

c. Student Affairs Committee: Chanwoong reports that his committee was working on the First-Year Book proposal.

d. Student Organizations Oversight Committee: Amanda tells of how SOOC is in re-chartering mode, which means meeting with groups to find out what they did this year and their future goals and leaders in order to help the clubs transition well from year to year. Dani adds that she’s done with a first draft of an online programming guide for club leaders that only needs a bit more work before it can go live this week or next week. There will be a link to it on the student activities page navigation bar.
e. Academic Affairs Committee: Jordan announces that the AAC will start acquiring syllabi on Friday. They have a couple, but now will be pushing for them.

f. Facilities Committee: Isa’s committee has been working on their proposals.

X. Member Reports

a. Class Representatives

- 2011: Andrew’s council has senior week coming up. There will be a set schedule within the next week or two. They had a great senior night last Friday in Brunswick and are planning to have another one, maybe in Portland, before the end of the semester.
- 2012: Jack announces the Junior’s late-night pub night this Friday, which they are sorting out due to Relay for Life. They also ordered a bunch of stuff to sell for Ivies as well as class gifts (sunglasses, water bottles, tank tops).
- 2013: Peggy’s sophomore council will be placing orders for their half-zips tonight for a class gift.
- 2014: Hongbei’s first-year council has been working on t-shirts and a possible community service kick-off event on the quad. Abigail adds that it might be a wiffle ball tournament. Megan [ME!] reports that there were 29 designs submitted for the t-shirts and a survey was sent out that will be analyzed tonight.

b. IHC Representatives: Georgia says that letters went out Monday to the 341 applicants for two-hundred forty-something college house spots. She says the decision was tough because there were a lot of great people applying. Their officer elections will be occurring next week. Dani asks Georgia why some blocks were broken up even though they hadn’t checked the box on the housing form. Georgia spoke with Chris Rossi, who is very sensitive at this moment, who discussed with her the situation of houses that were over-applied to. Rather than fill a house with “not-the-best” applicants, the best were fiddled around with and scattered to different houses. This could be why blocks were split up, but they couldn’t have disregarded what was or wasn’t checked on the form. Matt says that some people could have back-stabbed their block by checking “consider me independently” without consulting anyone.

c. E-Board Representative: Chris says that the Local Natives backed out of Ivies for personal reasons, so they got Dr. Dog. Battle of the Bands is occurring on Thursday – it should be really exciting. Right now, the chief entertainment officers are up for election.

d. Athletics Representative: Anna says that there is a slideshow of community service that each athletic team is doing that will be screened at the triathlon and Loose the Shoes event on May 7. The athletics website is also being revamped and that slide show will remain on that site forever and will be added to each year teams do new community activities. In regards to games, there’s still snow on the ground, so a lot of games, mainly softball and baseball, have been moved.

XI. President’s Report: John notes that you’ve seen BSG, the A Team, and the Athletics department around campus advertising for extended fitness center hours – an effort which has gotten fantastic responses. It will be piloted again this weekend. He’s talked to Jeff Ward, and in the past, BSG will cover half the cost this year and then next year they vote as to whether or not to include it into Athletics’ budget. Anirudh mentions how the support is overwhelming – there are 3 or 4 replies to every email about the extended hours asking what people have to do to keep the extended hours program in place. Additionally, John will soon bring the new Digest before the assembly to have it be critiqued [or made fun of :P].

XII. Adjournment at 9:29 pm