I. Call to order at 8:36 pm

II. Roll Call: Kyle, Greg, Peggy, Abigail, Young, Allen are absent (thanks for calling Jeff, the Orient reporter by name, Anirudh!)

III. President’s Welcome: John admits that it’s been a little while since our last meeting. He hopes that all of the BSG members have used Thanksgiving break to think about Thanksgiving break! We’ll talk about that later. Right now there are guests with us affiliated with the Yellow Ribbon Program with a proposal for the BSG to urge Bowdoin to recruit veterans to become Bowdoin students.

IV. Public Comment Time

V. Guests

- Nick Daniels introduces himself and begins his spiel. He says that Bowdoin has had a long commitment to recruiting the best students from throughout the country to bring them to Bowdoin for higher education learning. He feels that this should extend beyond just finding students of color and poor socioeconomic background, and believes nontraditional students should be able to find a way to Bowdoin College. He reports that three colleges have already begun recruiting veterans to be students on their campuses. Nick tells us that this all began with Dartmouth’s president James Wright, who had been a Marine. In the summer of 2006 and 2007, he began to visit hospitals and speak with veterans. There he realized that these men and women were rather intelligent. Mr. Wright then proceeded to discover that there are a hug number of young veterans seeking undergraduate degrees. Statistically, there are 500 thousand veterans currently obtaining undergraduate degrees (mostly in online schools), and about 200 thousand current service members are currently enrolled in undergraduate programs. Wright extended an invitation to those qualified veterans to come and “check out” Dartmouth. While other colleges were tentative, Wright realized that while most people who had gone to Iraq and Afghanistan were not at the top of their classes at age 18, he also realizes that they haven’t had the advantages that others have had, and that they have gained much experience and insight overseas. Since the program’s inception, Wright has gotten more and more veterans to enroll in Dartmouth and now there is a stream of them coming in. Nick thinks that Bowdoin should join Dartmouth’s ranks. He believes that veterans introduce more vitality to the campus. He invites the BSG to imagine being in a Middle East politics class with a man (or woman – thanks John!) that has fought there. This has been the case at Dartmouth. Many are surprised with how knowledgeable they are on various topics of their experiences. Therefore, these non-traditional and older students bring a great deal to the table. Additionally, Nick points out, these are students who we want to have with Bowdoin degrees. Most likely, he states, people who rise in government are the people who have been in the military. He explains that he wants these potential future leaders to have instilled in them Bowdoin’s emphasis on the Common Good. Additionally, this would be helping out people who otherwise wouldn’t have access to such a prestigious academic institution. Nick then goes on to
explain what the Yellow Ribbon Program is. Established in 2008, it is a financial program that makes it affordable for veterans to enroll in private colleges. Before this program, admissions offices would look at the financial situation of these kids as if they were the sole payee, and therefore they couldn’t afford to attend private colleges. The Yellow Ribbon Program changes the playing field. Now, the Veterans Association (VA) will provide 10 thousand for housing, match the admission for the state university (in the case of Bowdoin, they would match the admission for the University of Maine), and then the VA would also match dollar for dollar any grant money that Bowdoin gives to the veteran. To date, the average financial aid package a Bowdoin student receives is along the lines of 35 to 36 thousand dollars. This mean that the VA would also pay Bowdoin this amount, allowing the veterans to pay a minimal amount for a high-quality education. In this way, Nick says, Bowdoin would be getting more economically challenge students and still be abl to divert further funds to supporting students with finical aid. Nick inquires as to why this hasn’t happened yet. He says that historically, veterans are not really interested in applying to elite colleges. Part of it, he states, is that no one has told them that they can, and the other part is that schools haven’t gone after them. Many people will say that the veterans are “not interested,” but, as Nick points out, 20 years ago, Bowdoin didn’t have nearly as many low-income or racially diverse students interested in it. What changed was that Admissions made including diversity a priority. Nick would like to see our admissions office make it a priority to get these veteran students to be recruited to be here. He says it consists of going to community colleges to find the outstanding veterans and get them here and have them succeed. He says that he, George, and Amanda are here to support that these veterans can be financed and will fit in.

- George adds that he thinks it’s important to bring different perspectives into the classroom. He says that veterans bring a totally different view of things than any person who has gone straight from high school into college in that they are able to look at life beyond these four years at this academic institution. He feels they would be an invaluable asset to the College.

- Amanda report that she had written an article for the Orient on a lack of diversity on campus. In researching and talking with the deans, they had reported that about 10 years ago, Bowdoin College was a white “prep”-school. In her personal experience, her freshman floor consisted of students from different countries and socioeconomic backgrounds. She said that from her home LA town, this afforded her a huge growth. She feels that veterans would do the same to the campus.

- John now will open the floor to discussion and questions. Due to the two-week rule, he explains, we cannot vote on this proposal until next week. He also states that while Nick will be coming back next week, George and Amanda will not be, so this would be an opportunie time to ask questions.

- Anirudh asks Nick, who has spent time with trustee committees and in his other roles on campus talked with admissions, if he can gauge how the administration feels about this.

- Nick replies that he met with Scott Michaels earlier this year to ask him what he thought of this idea. He reports that Scott’s concerns currently are that he and his staff are under a lot of pressure that all of the “niches” at the college are filled (oboe players, hockey goalies, future Trueman awardees, etc), so he has to take
care of business there. To him, for Nick to come and say “here, take a couple of more students,” there has to be a large support from the community, otherwise it will be very difficult to do. Scott told Nick to go out and see who else you can get to endorse you. Since then, Nick reports that he has been in touch with people all across the country, people from the American Council for Education, and the presidents of other colleges. He has also been trying to get Bowdoin alumni involved, especially those alum currently serving in the armed forces to make this a reality, but he expresses the notion that he cannot do this all by himself. He also states that he doesn’t think that any one person should personally make this a reality. He says that this is the role of Admissions, but the question is – do students support this? Nick wonders if we can make the admissions office act on this desire. He tells BSG how Dean of Student Affairs, Tim Foster, thinks that this is a great idea, but he is concerned that Bowdoin might not be able to be everything we ever want. Tim raised the question, can we be a college that really is incredibly inclusive, or do we have to set boundaries here? Tim’s recommendation was for Nick to talk to students, so “here I am!”

- Gillian admits that this may be way ahead of ourselves, but she questions that if this were to happen for the class of 2016 (as the proposal states), logistically would these men and women be treated as first years (i.e. living in freshmen bricks and participating in orientation even if they are married and have children).
- Nick reports that most of these men and women are single, and that it would be rather difficult for veterans to attend Bowdoin College and have a family. He does tell how Dartmouth does make accommodations, so while they might not be required to live in freshman housing, their social experience should remain the same. The veterans should indeed be included in orientation. Nick states that we have the tendency to make the difference pronounced, but although these men and woman are different in that they have served in the armed forces, currently on the Bowdoin campus we already have some people who have served and now do incredible things for our community. While accommodations will have to be made (for example, one student went to Afghanistan and came back and needed to alter the heating system for his room because he had been so used to 110 degree weather he was freezing upon his return), and counseling may have to make sure that these veterans will have their needs met, the expenses are trivial when compared to how much money is coming in from the government.
- Gillian rephrases and says that she’s not as worried about the financial situation, but the social one. She wonders if these men and women will be thought of as part of that “class” if they are missing from the bricks and/or parties.
- Nick says that he’s met ton of people in his sophomore and junior years that he’d never seen before. He doesn’t think it’s an integral part that they didn’t know each other in the freshman bricks.
- Isa asks Nick how he foresees the recruiting process happening. He notes how those already on our campus who have served, Will and Alex, are relatively young. Isa asks if there will be an age cap on this – since a 35 year-old living in a freshman brink might have some backlash from the other freshmen’s families.
- Nick says that ideally, admissions will be going after students in their first year of community college who are excelling and are around the ages of 22 or 23 (i.e. not much older than the hockey players on campus *laughter*). He envisions
admissions looking into the community college honor rolls to find the best students in the country. Another effective way that has been employed by Dartmouth and other schools engaging in this veteran-recruiting process is to have professor contacts at 5 or 6 of the best and/or largest community colleges in New England aware of what Bowdoin’s striving to do who can nominate their best students to the Bowdoin’s admissions office. In this way, we wouldn’t just be “casting a net,” but actually targeting the best students.

- Sam supplements Nick’s point about the ages of incoming students in that Bowdoin already has a program now where students who come in may be “significantly” older than the average student. He reports that one of his freshman roommates was 22, and though this is rare, it is not unheard of.

- Nick would also like to add that this is a fairly new phenomenon, that colleges are filled with 18 and 19 year-old freshmen students. He says that colleges used to have a wider spectrum of ages, filled with veterans and older students. He reports that it’s only been within the past 20 to 30 years that college admissions processes have ramped up in competitiveness and that the process of applying to colleges has had structural changes in how it works. This resulted in fewer and fewer older students applying to schools like Bowdoin. He says that if it’s anyone’s concern that “this is the way it is and the way it’s always been,” that that is not true.

- Matt asks Nick if he knows how the veterans have performed at schools such as Dartmouth and William and Mary.

- Nick reminds BSG that admissions will not admit someone who is not qualified to do work. He reports that Dartmouth graduated its first two veterans this year, and the rest of them are on track to graduate – and they have no drop outs. He does report that some have struggled, mainly due to PTSD, but that’s not a majority. He says that Stanford has a different situation due to California’s top-notch college system that tell their excelling student to apply to Stanford. He says that yes, they are graduating and doing well, and if the veterans weren’t doing so, their program wouldn’t continue.

- Becca asks if Scott (the dean of admission at Dartmouth) has alluded to how much manpower is required to carry out such a program. She wonders if Bowdoin’s admissions has the manpower to do it.

- Nick says that in some ways it’s like the challenge to recruit international students - it was a challenge initially, but admissions made it work. He says that as more and more colleges become interested in this program, they will begin to work together. He says as more colleges get involved, the same professors will be in contact with these universities. He reports that he’s been in touch with a community college in Boston and has been talking for a representative who works with veterans for that college and recommends them to Amherst and Mouth Holyoke (he reminds us that while these schools don’t have a program, veterans can apply from the community colleges). He agrees that it’s not as easy as “flipping a switch,” but he also acknowledges that we are not talking about a large number of people, only about 3 or 4 kids, so it shouldn’t be that difficult.

- Chanwoong agrees with Nick’s previous point. He wants to revive what Nick reported that Tim Foster said. He wants reasons why, specifically, the veteran
groups need to be included as opposed to other groups that could also bring experiences to the classroom.

- Nick is somewhat confused by the question and responds by saying that all other groups are currently being accounted for.
- Chanwoong rephrases his question and asks why we don’t get some businessmen or other people who have also had outside experiences. He believes there has to be another reason.
- Nick says that, first of all, in our country, historically veterans are underserved. He says that we (most of us) support our troops and America, but that support doesn’t always show. He’s been in contact with a professor at Boston University who had graduated from Bowdoin, fought in Vietnam, and then returned to go to law school. Nick says that the professor reported that after the Vietnam war, 2/3 of all homeless in Boston (at that time) were veterans. This just shows that veterans have given a ton to serve America but haven’t received much back. As to the question of “why not other groups,” Nick says that even though “you” might not support the wars (like him), it doesn’t change the fact that these people have rendered tremendous service to the US and that they very well may be future leaders. He reveals that it goes both ways – we want to take advantage of these people out there, and it’s also the “right” thing to do.
- Matt wonders if being grateful for what they’ve done is worth “giving up” acceptances that could be given to other high school students. He wonders if it merits taking away more slots for other students that are more so or just as deserving to go to Bowdoin if they’ve already chosen to serve instead of going to college.
- Nick points out that if someone’s talented to get into Bowdoin, technically he/she’s taking the slot away from someone else. He thinks that 3 or 4 non-traditional students that have something different to offer than 3 18-year olds is more than plausible, but the “taking away of spots” happens when you diversify.
- Amanda clarifies that we’re not proposing to recruit people who are under-qualified, but rather this program would target those who are qualified, but because they have served they didn’t have the chance to apply and don’t have as much structure revolving around college admissions.
- Anirudh wants to revive a point touched upon earlier. He wonders that, Bowdoin being smaller than Dartmouth and Stanford (having graduate programs), how many more resources we’d have to invest in (i.e. academic advising, PTSD resources, etc).
- Nick says that he’s investigated this, but when he’s been talking to other schools with this program who have said that the extra costs just are there.
- Anirudh replies that he can understand that those costs would have already been covered by their graduate budgets, but he still wonders at a smaller school like Bowdoin, how much of OUR resources we’d have to expand.
- Nick notes that the size of the community also has to do with the available resources. He tells how Brunswick is twice the size of Hanover, and they would be active in the increase of resources. He also says that it all boils down to per-student endowment. He says that Bowdoin has about 450 dollars per student, and Dartmouth, being a wealthier institution, has about 650. He does note though, that compared to other colleges, Bowdoin is “rolling” in buckets of
money. In his opinion, if other schools such as state universities can support them, then why can’t we?

- John instructs Nick to talk to Bernie Hurshberger (sp?) in the counseling department and talk to him before next week to get more specific answers to these funding questions.
- Dani points out that in recruiting any new group, a change of resources is needed, and that’s no reason not to recruit them. She says that for international students, they have their own advisor, dean, and club that takes them to Boston during Thanksgiving. The costs are worth it, even though they’re a smaller percentage, because they add so much to the community. She is of the opinion that the requirement of new resources shouldn’t be the reason that we don’t bring the veterans here. She says that it’s up to admissions on how they want to do it and do it well.
- Anirudh still argues that we should understand the full implications of what we’re proposing / endorsing – we don’t want to send Bowdoin into debt!
- Nick says that one of the implications would be a lot more money coming in from the government! He has met with Barry, and it’s his concern (and has always been his concern) that Bowdoin offer as much aid as possible to students. Nick says that this program would be a logical extension of what Bowdoin’s done to this point; this group of students has fallen by the wayside.
- Jonathan wonders if the Yellow Ribbon Program will ever “go away” spontaneously.
- Nick informs us that the Yellow Ribbon Program is just the name of the system, and all the money is coming from the VA department that takes care of the needs of all United States veterans, so as long as the Pentagon is paying for the VA, the money will be there.
- John closes the floor after seeing there are no other comments and questions. He thanks Nick, George, and Amanda for coming and re-states that Nick will be coming in next week. He instructs the BSG members to talk with their friends and constituents and run this idea by them. He asks if anyone has a class with Shelly Dean. A few raise their hands, and he asks them to ask her. He says thanks!

*Applause*

VI. Old Business
   a. Fall Break Scheduling
      - John says that he will have meetings this week with Tim Foster and Margaret Hazlet in the Dean’s Office and that he has already talked with Barry. However, he hasn’t talked with the Academic Affairs Committee to reincorporate some of the proposed changes, so he suggests we table this until next week. (Motion passed, no opposed)

VII. New Business
   a. BSG Coupon for Newsletter
      - Anirudh kicks us off on the most exciting part of the year (there was sarcasm to note)! He says that usually the BSG will publish a newsletter mid-way through the year (i.e. around this time – like next Monday). Inside this newsletter is placed a coupon for 50% off a BP-free Nalgeen water bottle. He explains that this was begun 2 years ago, and BSG budget covers 30% of the cost and the bookstore plays the remaining 20%. As for actual pricing, the water bottles go for $12.99 or
$11.99, so we end up paying about $3.90 per bottle. He said two years ago, 84 were sold and $327 was spent, and last year approximately 80 were sold and $317 was spent. The proposal is to reinstate the same thing – with BSG paying 30% and the bookstore covering 20%. He’s already talked to the bookstore and they are good to go! He’s even finalized the scheme for this coupon. Anirudh suggests that we allocate no more than $1,000 for this proposal, which we most definitely won’t go over, as per the trends of the past two years. Additionally, there is a limit of two per customer and each student needs to bring a coupon with him/her to the bookstore when he/she wants to buy the water bottle.

- John said that this program began two years ago to both promote sustainability and to make people not throw away the newsletter right away *sparse laughter*.
- There is a motion to vote tonight and a second with none opposed and then another motion to move into voting procedure.
- Anirudh offers one final answer to Isa’s question that these newsletters will be arriving in our SU mailboxes on Monday of next week.
- John re-reads the proposal, all in favor of allocating up to 1000 dollars to this coupon: all except Dani, who is opposed. The proposal passes.

VIII. Committee Reports
a. BSG Affairs Committee: Anirudh says that BSG Affairs has been working on the upcoming newsletter which should be finished (this last) Thursday.
b. SAFC: Megan reports that there was no SAFC meeting this week.
c. Student Affairs Committee: Chanwoong informs the BSG that SAC recently finished their discussion series related to the “college ACB” site and are in the process of getting more information on the First Year book.
d. Student Organizations Committee: Ben says that although there was no miting last week, there was one proposal from the week before last where the SOC granted a charter to a Food Co-op group. He also said that the resume workshop with Sherry Mason that occurred just earlier tonight was an apparent success.
e. Academic Affairs Committee: Jordan says that Academic Affairs didn’t meet this week, but he has met with Dean Hazlet to discuss alternative perspectives on dining.
f. Facilities Committee: Isa reports that the Harry Potter bus transportation and ticket sales went well, saying that 144 students (about 8% of campus) participated. Also, he says that Thanksgiving feast went equally as well, with 221 students, or 13% of campus, remained for the dinner. Facilities also awarded some Visa gift certificates for using Ride Board (Hitch) and is planning to begin the break shuttle to the airport on the Friday of reading period.

IX. Member Reports
a. Class Representatives
   - 2011 – Ben tells of how the seniors hosted a night in Portland before Thanksgiving that went smoothly – only one person had to take a taxi back. He says that his council and the junior council have met to finalize the junior/senior ball taking place this weekend. Additionally, senior sweatshirts will be coming soon – they had some issues dealing with the distributor, but he is meeting with Grant tonight to make sure all is well.
   - 2012 – Tommy also talks of how their council and the seniors have been planning the junior/senior ball. Becca chimes in and tells us that they have also been talking about class gift ideas.
• 2013 – Leah says that the sophomore council is organizing a fire “thing” outside by the polar bear statue on Wednesday the 8th from 7-8 at night so people can make s’mores. She gives a shout-out to ResLife and the Deans for helping them out. They have also been talking about class gift.

• 2014 – Hongbei tells that the freshmen have [finally] selected their Community Outreach Officer (COO), Sara Newton, and have a meeting on Friday to discuss their plans to make a SunSplash both for the freshmen and others to make snowflakes and picture frames. They have also been discussing the freshman semiformal that will take place on February 19th.

b. IHC Representative: Georgia informs us that Date Week, beginning Friday, is cosponsored by the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention. Additionally there will be a Safety Dance to be held at Baxter (cosponsored by BMASV and VDay) to promote safe environments in social houses. She invites everyone to come. Additionally, the IHC will begin programming for next semester at next week’s meeting. Finally she reports that Friday is the last day that the IHC will have events, so there are to be a bunch of holiday parties.

c. E-Board Representative: Jonathan encourages everyone to take the survey for the E-Board because they would like community input. John whispers something about State Radio and Jonathan replies that he can’t say that any one band can come for sure… Hubbub ensues.

d. Athletics Representative: Gen reports that the Men’s soccer team left today for their games at 2:30 on Friday and at 2:00 on Saturday that will (hopefully) be available to watch live on the website. Gillain adds that BCN will be trying to make it on TV as well. Gen also says that Hockey season has officially begun and that there was a double-header basketball game on Tuesday. She says that next weekend there will be a double-header Colby-Bowdoin hockey game that people will need tickets for.

e. Jonathan didn’t know about the google calendar, and John will inform him.

X. President’s Report: John congratulates the women’s field hockey team on their 3rd-time national championship. Since last meeting, he has met with Barry Mills, Tim Foster, and Allen DeLong, and attended a town council meeting and a student web advisory meeting. Anirudh asks John what he actually has DONE at these meetings. John replies with, “Lots of things!” He says that he has been working on his own personal project – putting the government syllabi online, which worked out well. He adds another tidbit and offers anyone who wants to be a representative on the J-Board for the selection process of new J-Board members to email him, he’ll be picking that person soon. Some final notes from our president: John instructs the BSG members to talk with their constituents about the Yellow Ribbon Proposal and also to keep talking to people about how they’ve used their Thanksgiving break (was it long enough, not so, or what).

XI. Adjournment at 9:29 pm