I. Call to order at 8:31 pm  
II. Roll Call: Grace, Abbie, Michael, Sam Vittello, David, Chris Lord are absent.  
III. President’s Welcome: Derek welcomes everyone back. He hopes we all have had a restful break and are ready for another semester. He warns that this one will be shorter than the first, and that it will go by quickly. Derek also welcomes a new member, Martin Bouroncle, who will be serving on the Student Affairs Committee as the new 2014 BSG representative. Additionally, Derek extends his welcome to old members who are back from abroad – Peggy Zhao and Leah Greenberg – who are once again the BSG representatives for the class of 2013. Both will be serving on the SOOC. Additionally, Leah and John Izzo are on the new Library Search Committee to search for new librarians. Next, Derek tells us a little about what he hopes to accomplish this semester. Some things include: the reorganization of the class council system, potentially BSG taking over Spring Gala, the Yellow Bike Club and its future (essentially how it relates to SAFC and BSG), students coming back from medical leave who have to sign up late for classes and not participate in the housing lottery, etc. He hopes we can get our gears in motion and do good things for the campus!  
IV. Public Comment Time  
V. Guests  
VI. Old Business  
   a. Polar Bear T-shirts  
      • Kaitlin reminds everyone that last meeting the women’s ice hockey wanted to buy t-shirts for their Pink the Rink fundraiser. They’ve decided to forgo the idea and instead use some of the Polar Bear Nation T-shirts to distribute at their fundraiser.  
      • Derek tells everyone that, since this was put forward last meeting, we can technically vote on this tonight.  
      • Allen asks if the shirts are already made.  
      • Kaitlin responds that the Athletic department bought a few for the games over the break (like the basketball games), but they’re counting on the BSG to do the rest.  
      • Brain also points out the BSG has a line item in their budget for this purpose, and that the funding for this would not come out of the discretionary fund.  
      • There is a motion to vote to give $1000 to fund the Polar Bear Nation t-shirts.  
         o All are in favor, none opposed and none abstaining – it passes!  
VII. Committee Reports  
   a. BSG Affairs Committee:  
      i. Discussion Item: Set-up of the Class Council System  
         • Anirudh explains that this document set forth is not a proposal, but a discussion. There has been some concern about how members are elected to the class councils. Last semester, Anirudh and his committee looked into two different constructions on the voting process of the councils. These changes set before the assembly would change the election process and also how the class council is set up. Anirudh explains further that some people are upset with the fact that there often are amazing candidates vying for President and not the other positions. Option A attempts to deal with this by having everyone run for “class
council” and then the top 5 people who received the most votes would be on the council. The person with the most votes would be the “chair” of the council. This would also help with the problem of candidates being more interested in running for the secondary commitments of their position (i.e. EBoard, SAFC, BSG, etc.) instead of focusing their energy on the class council, because only after being elected would the council members delegate amongst themselves who would be taking which secondary responsibility. Option B would only change the First-Year voting style. In this option, a representative would be chosen from each brick by that brick, and then all the representatives would meet to become the class council. This would give input from the different bricks and also increase the size of the class council. Anirudh concludes by saying that his committee didn’t achieve a consensus; some didn’t feel they should be pursuing this at all. Again, this is not a proposal, just a discussion item. Would either option be worth pursuing?

- Jordan is concerned, for Option A, if the person who gets the most votes doesn’t want to be the chair. Some people don’t want to be president, and this doesn’t take that into account.
- Anirudh proposes the suggestion that the original chair could decline, and then the position would be passed to the person who received the second-most number of votes. He concedes that there are holes that would have to be addressed. He also confesses that his committee wasn’t very passionate about this issue – there was contention regarding the idea in general.
- Dani says for B, there is the huge “pro” of the opportunity to hold elections earlier for the First-Years. If first-year elections could start earlier, BSG and all its committees could begin earlier as well. As it stands now, we wait well over a month for the freshmen to get a chance to know each other. If we restrict the voting to within your own brick, we could have them voting after two weeks.
- Anirudh points to the last sheet of today’s packet. He explains that a change like this would be dramatic. Everything that’s written there would have to be rewritten. Electing earlier hasn’t been possible until now – it would be a dramatic overhaul.
- John warns that he may be biased, but he thinks the tradition of having a “Class President” is very nice (he’s president of the class of 2015 currently). For B, his main concern is that there will be too many people on the council which will result in unproductivity. Moreover, he wonders if one person from every brick will want to serve on the council.
- Anirudh agrees in that it’s usually one or two bricks that end up comprising the whole council.
- Tommy is opposed to both. For B, what if no one wants to run? And for A, what if no one wants to be treasurer, for example? He thinks it would be a huge mess.
- Chris Breen disagrees with Tommy. He feels that for Option B, more people will want to run because it’s not running in front of the whole freshman class, but just in front of the brick. He suggests that common room
discussions for the election would add something to the mix. Instead of having to campaign through all the dorms and meet so many people to be on council, he thinks that if students are representing their dorm, they’ll want to run for the position.

- Allen had a chat with Dean Lohmann. She made the going point that the reason people keep getting reelected to council year after year is the name recognition from having held the office the previous year. Even if the person doesn’t contribute to the council, they’ll get reelected because that is who people associate with the position. Dean Lohmann thinks that it may be fairer since everyone knows the people in their own bricks.

- Anirudh calls for the people who feel passionately about this issue to voice their opinions.

- Brain vocalizes his favor of construction B. He thinks that through this method the BSG will be much more represented to the people. If you ask the freshman, no one knows who their BSG reps are (no offense). But if there’s someone in your brick who everyone knows to go to, it’ll make the BSG more accessible. He says that in terms of “no one wants to be on SAFC,” we have that problem anyway – it’s an issue with the current system too, leading to low candidate turnouts. He thinks that this is a better alternative.

- Leah says that she ran for council freshman year, no one knew anyone. She feels she was elected on pure luck. (She thinks it may have to do with the fact that her name was second on the list...). Overall, she agrees with Dean Lohmann – on her council, things seemed good, so all five people were reelected. She agrees that eight people is a lot though, but there are other councils working with more than 5 members through COOs. She thinks if everyone is on equal footing, some people taking the back seat wouldn’t be hurting the council.

- John thinks that for B, anarchy would result if no one steps up to lead. He says that if you want to be the president or VP and you go out of your way to visit all the dorms and meet people, you obviously want this position and are invested in what you’re doing. In the dorm, he argues, it’s easier and people could end up doing things on a whim instead of being seriously committed.

- Megan is very much in favor of option A. She says that it was run at her home high school and it worked wonderfully. She feels, after being on council her first year, sometimes people definitely are more interested in their secondary positions than in helping the council foster class spirit. She thinks that Option A would be an elegant solution to the problem.

- Dani says her high school ran like Option A as well, and that it worked well there too. As for the excess of people that would result from Option B, she knows the sophomore class council has about 1000 COOS, and she wonders if anyone could comment as to how that’s working.

- Chris wonders if we could combine the two options.

- Anirudh says that could be on the table as well.

- Jordan presents a proctor’s perspective. He points out that all of orientation, the proctors are trying to create a community within the
brick. An election could make someone feel bad if they’re not elected by the peers they’re living with. It’s a little bit different when the whole student body is electing you versus the 40-50 people you’re living with. He’s worried that Option B would counteract the fragile new community.

- Hannah agrees with what Jordan said. She believes Option B undermines what the change in the council system was trying to accomplish in the first place. The only way she can see it working for both A and B is if there are two separate elections – one to be elected, then one to delegate jobs for the council.

- Anirudh sees that interesting point, but he explains that he and his committee thought it would work as thus: after being elected, the council would meet and delegate responsibilities amongst themselves.

- Derek calls an end to the discussion, but he’ll take a few, finite number of more comments.

- Tessa feels that people ought to know who they’re electing to what position – like for E-Board or SAFC, you might want to elect someone who’s into music or money respectively.

- Brian points out that when he was elected, he had no idea what the treasurer did. He just walked onto SAFC. Also, he notes that most people, especially freshman, don’t know that the VP sits on the EBoard, for example.

- Anirudh would like a vote to see whether they should keep going forward with this.
  - Keep the same: 9
  - A: 4
  - B: 7

- Jack wonders if the “keep the same option” means they can still make smaller tweaks in the council system.

- Anirudh responds that he’s very open to smaller tweaks. He reminds everyone, though, that small changes inevitably end up becoming larger. After all, we have to have a 4/5 assembly vote in favor of the change and then would need a 2/3 majority vote from the school to change the bylaws. Even if we all feel passionately about it, the student body may not. He’ll get back to us with what this straw vote means.

b. Academic Affairs Committee
- Jordan and his committee were working on something concerning printing allocations. They meet Sunday evenings at about 8:00ish.

c. Student Organizations Oversight Committee
- Dani and her committee have yet to figure out meeting times for this semester. They put together a successful Activities Fair (shout out to Silvia Serban) and have been working on the Orbit. They will soon be integrating student organizations into the Orbit system – i.e. students will be able to post as their organization instead of themselves. She advises everyone to read the Orient article concerning the Orbit and throw any comments, questions, or concerns her way.

d. Student Activities Funding Committee
- Brian reports that the SAFC had an eventful and exciting week. They’re doing pretty okay with their budget as long as there are no “dire” emergencies. The SAFC is
planning a second addition to the SAFC guidelines, including an official clause for 
operating budgets. These are revenue accounts that organizations like A Capella, 
the Orient, BSG, and WBOR get. No one really knows what they are or how they’re 
allowed to use them, so this will be to clear things up.

e. Student Affairs Committee
• Allen has been meeting and talking with people to figure out how to implement a 
talk series with Bowdoin professors in the Common Hour time slots on the Fridays 
where there’s no Common Hour. He’s also been working with redoing the BSG 
website so it can be used. He’s met with Dean Amaez to hear how the Diversity 
Week was received and will soon be soliciting student input.

f. Facilities Committee
• Chase’s committee hit the ground running thanks to Bernie, who organized 
transportation to the Barstool concert (99 people came out of the available 100 
seats). That didn’t cost the BSG anything. Also, Tessa got the CFL light bulbs 
distributed – they were cleared out in two hours flat.

VIII. Member Reports
a. Class Representatives
• 2012: Tommy reports that the seniors have had successful senior nights and now 
the council will be working on Senior Week. There will be another event I the Mai 
Tai lounge – be there if you’re over 21. Additionally, senior sweaters are in the 
works.
• 2013: Peggy says that the council is working on class gifts and a Valentine’s Day 
event. They’re also humoring a Welcome Back party for the juniors who were 
abroad – it will probably be something food related; perhaps make-your-own- 
smoothies, but they still have to figure out the blender situation. Dani suggests 
talking to the houses.
• 2014: Martin reports that the Mr. Polar Bear Pageant will be occurring in Kresge 
tomorrow. Last week, the council passed out half-zips.
• 2015: Hannah’s council is planning a dance and possibly also a game of assassins.

b. IHC Representatives
• Max announces that there will be no more group interviews for the college house 
applications – instead people will be interviewed in their own blocks. It will be a 
logistical nightmare, but the IHC hopes it will work out better in selecting good 
people for the house system.

c. E-Board Representative
• Chris isn’t here. Shocking.

d. Athletics Representative
• Kaitlin says that the Athletic Council hasn’t met since they got back from break. 
Winter sports are winding down and spring sports are starting up!

IX. President’s Report: Derek announces that there will be an executive session about the EBoard 
coming up, consisting of people listing questions to pose to the ever-absent Chris. Derek 
gives a huge thank you to Bernie, who came through over break. He says it was a great 
example of citizen participation – Sarah Nelson contacted Bernie and Derek about the 
Barstool concert. Since Derek wasn’t in the country, Bernie got it going and organized the 
transportation to the Barstool event in Portland. There was a lot of Bowdoin presence, and it 
was a great, safe way to get people down there. It was a good service that didn’t cost us 
money at all. Next, Derek informs the assembly that we’ll be having special guests this
semester. The BSG will also have a say in the J-Board elections this year – we’ll be receiving a list of names, and everyone is responsible for making sure that this list is full of acceptable people. That executive session will take place on the 29th. He says that the activities fair went well. He’s stealing Dani’s thunder, but Derek tells us that that there will be a lot of edits to the bylaws for student orgs. They’re looking into changing charter statuses to accommodate the Orbit and everything else in the future. Anirudh asks when elections for officers are. Derek says that they are right after spring break. Everyone on campus can run for any position except for President. To be President, you have to have served on BSG before (i.e. anyone here can run). He encourages everyone to get the word out to keep this body “legitimate.”

X. **Adjournment** at 9:10 pm