I. Call to order at 8:32 pm
II. Roll Call: Brian, Jack, Michael, Tessa, David, Chris, and Kaitlin are absent.
III. President's Welcome: Derek just noticed don’t have approval of minutes, so he asks for a motion to approve the minutes. There is a motion, and everyone votes to unanimously approve the minutes. Now for his welcome. Derek informs everyone that we’re going to be videotaped for BCN (i.e. it is not going onto the internet). Tommy asks if the whole thing is going to be taped, but Anirudh says that it’s just for the discussion surrounding the proposal for student protests. Derek assures everyone that they all look great on camera. He announces that he’ll be going to the NESCAC conference on March 30-31. He’ll be able to send four people, and he’s looking for people from the body to come with him. He would like it if there were at least two people not on the exec team going. He says that it is really important, and it’ll be at Conn College. Of course transportation, housing, and food will be provided. The conference will discuss things from alcohol to student life etc. Derek believes it’ll be a great opportunity to meet and connect with other NESCAC student governments. He asks people to email him if they want to go.
IV. Public Comment Time
V. Guests
VI. Old Business
   a. Change of Freshman Class Councils
      • Anirudh warns that we need 15 votes in order for this to pass so it can be voted on by the student body after spring break…and we only need to pass this once.
      • Derek opens the topic for discussion. He invites Allen Delong to give his opinion.
      • Allen Delong opens by saying that this is his seventh year at Bowdoin. Derek and he talked earlier about his opinion. He likes the idea of spreading the leadership out over the bricks. The one part of the proposal that he’d like to spend time talking about is the lack of hierarchy of leadership. John talked last time about how helpful it is to have one person as president, especially since that will be the council model for the next three years. Allen encourages us to think about how to build something like that in – more traditional roles if you will. He says that it’s okay for the council to select from within, but he does agree with the point that leadership is half of getting peers to vote for you and meeting people.
      • Derek also wants to update everyone. Next year, he says, the administration will begin a pilot program where incoming first years will be mandated to participate in a pre-orientation program of some sort. This includes looking at a change in schedule(s). Freshmen will be on campus earlier, therefore this moves schedules up. We may be able to do first-year voting earlier, at the same time as the junior class.
      • Allen Wong, in response to Allen Delong, he feels that the internal council election would be like speaker of the house, and then the chair of the class council would assign other people to their roles. Additionally, he met with Dean Lohmann and talked over the potential changes to the council. She supports the change that’s in the packet now. She agrees that she thinks a lot of first-years don’t know what BSG does. Dean Lohmann feels that having a council representative in the council
provides an avenue to connect that will be really helpful for the first years. She feels this system gives people less pressure when they run. The fact is, when first-years come to campus, they really don’t know the other 1699 students on campus; people are scared and nervous and have a lot of new people to meet. On the other hand, first-years really bond with their floor and with their building during the first week of orientation. Thinks plan, she thinks, lets people vote for students they know instead of an obscure person on the ballot.

- Anirudh is not opposed to this proposal. He doesn’t like the idea of creating a separate way that freshmen function from the rest of the other classes. He also isn’t sure if this proposal addresses the key features it was designed to address. There are still going to be really awesome people from one dorm who can’t all be a dorm representative. While there might be other opportunities for them, things like eco rep are basically invisible. Anirudh has been a proctor for two years, and he can’t tell you any eco reps.

- Leah agrees with Allen and Anirudh’s concerns. Something that Jordan brought up last time she’d like everyone else to reconsider. Freshmen are just starting to meet people back on campus; and then we’re going to make them compete against their new friends. That being said, she thinks that this is still a good idea. Just looking back on her freshman year council, the dorms weren’t that representative – and the council was constrained to the dorms and friend groups of the members. In summary, for the most part she feels that the spread is beneficial to the council system, but the fact that dorms are immediately pitted against themselves is concerning.

- Dani puts this in a larger scale. She remembers everyone who’s won and lost, but she’s never interacted with these people. Dani feels that now people won’t be remembered for something that they didn’t get, but rather as the people they are since the people voting for them live I their dorm. Furthermore, to Anirudh’s point, there are a lot of people who apply and don’t get in – so people know what it’s like to put themselves out there. Additionally, in terms of no one knowing who’s an eco-rep, Dani argues that the in-dorm election will draw everyone’s attention to it right away.

- Anirudh wants to quickly mention that we keep saying this is really going to get outreach to all dorms, but he feels like that’s already one of the goals the council should be working on.

- In response to Anirudh, Allen says that the fact that BSG would have a rep in each dorm would help people “brand” themselves. We are currently in the process of rebranding BSG in the Bowdoin community. There may be something on their door to indicate they’re a student leader on campus. And if there are other people in the dorm who are also qualified, there are other leadership opportunities. It’s not like if someone wants to get involved at Bowdoin that they’re just going to give up if they don’t get onto council. In responds to Leah’s points, Dean Lohmann believes that if students want to take on that extra responsibility, we should let them and not worry about destroying bonding (which we won’t).

- John understands where this is going and what this wants to do, but he argues there’s a problem in freshman year where you don’t know anyone in the dorm unless you’re in a club or on a team. He feels this closes the freshmen in even more – it gets them stuck in their own “dorm” bubble. John doesn’t like that. But
if you do it the traditional way, you get to go out and meet a lot of people. Through my own efforts, I’ve seen and talked to a large percentage of people in this class. If I hadn’t run, I wouldn’t have met them.

- Chris Breen understands what he means by the fact that members will only be known by their houses, but he says that, at the same time, currently there are four people from Winthrop on the freshman class council. He feels that eight bubbles are better than the two bubbles the freshman council has now. He also feels that we can worry about people’s feelings if they don’t get elected. This isn’t a war; it’s an election — if people are afraid of losing they shouldn’t run. He does have a question, however: he asks if this means that we’ll have four more people on BSG?

- Derek answers that the council will choose two people from among the eight to be on the BSG.

- John points out that in the freshmen council elections this year, they had three uncontested positions — the BSG Representatives and the Treasurer. Somehow he connects this to the following question: “if they don’t have any ambition, do you really want these people on the council at all?!” He feels if the elections are confined to the dorm, people are more likely to run on a whim. He feels the class-wide aspect of the elections gets people who are committed to run, regardless of how many people sign up. Additionally, he feels that it’d be easier to figure out who voted for you when confined to a dorm — it would tear a dorm apart.

- Grace believes that 8 people on a council are too many. She claims that the 7 people on the senior class council don’t always end up doing something for any senior council event. She feels people can slack off and claim the credit.

- Dani claims those free-riders will exist at any point no matter how many people are on the council. She says that the benefits outweigh the detriments — if people have complaints, they’re able to direct them at someone with connections to BSG in their dorm. This way, BSG can get more projects that the student body wants to see. As a response to John’s point, she thinks his logic equates leadership with outgoing-ness. She claims that leaders can be logistical and introverted, that they can have other leadership qualities they could bring to council that doesn’t include outgoingness. On another note, Dani feels that the bylaws are not explicit enough. Perhaps they could put how elections are being run in the bylaws.

- Chris Breen asks if the BSG could vote on the people.

- Anirudh wants to keep the changes to the constitution vague enough so we could work out the details in the bylaws. They could have something like speaker of the house and have the freshman council vote internally.

- Derek throws an idea out there: perhaps the members who have been elected to council could campaign school-wide to run for president.

- Anirudh thinks this would be a long campaigning process for the poor first-years.

- John doesn’t think people will vote twice, it was hard enough getting people to vote once!

- Dani doesn’t know of any person who actually cares about infrastructure — they just care about the end product. If a person’s good with logistics, it’d be totally fine if that person’s internally elected chair, since only the members of the council would really know everyone’s strength.

- Anirudh also thinks that a second election would be a weird hazing ritual for the first-years. He is in favor of voting internally, however the difference between this
and speaker of the house is that the house members know who is running, these kids only have a couple of weeks at Bowdoin under their belt.

- Allen argues that the idea of a council chair is someone who delegates, not someone who micromanages. He says that a secretary should be organized, treasurers good with numbers, and when people are voting campus-wide, no one really knows who’d be good for each position. When people on the council are voting, everyone knows everyone else’s strengths.
- John thinks there’ll be strife if they vote internally, if everyone wants to be chair and has the “go big or go home” mentality. Then you have the creation of dead weight.
- Bernie doesn’t think that many people will chair if they’re chair or not.
- There is a motion to vote: 5 in favor, 11 opposed, and 2 abstaining. Leah is abstaining because she wants more discussion on the matter, and Sam is because he has no opinion on the matter.

b. Support for Open Letter for Student Protests

- Anirudh introduces the follow-up discussion on this letter. The letter is again attached to the packet. Derek sent out some sources and videos via email. He reiterates how important it is to be informed before we take a stance on a national issue.
- Derek opens the floor to discussion.
- Chase thinks we should consider what Allen recommended last time – drafting our own thoughts on this issue to add as an addendum. He thinks this says a lot about a very political issue (the Occupy movement). He doesn’t think we should attach our name to something this politically motivated.
- Tommy would like to see the names of the schools that have rejected this letter, because he’s noticed that this has been sent a lot more schools than those who have signed.
- Dani also doesn’t think that we should take a stance on this. She doesn’t see herself as elected to this position because of her political views, but because she knew what’s going on at Bowdoin.
- Daniel agrees with Dani. He has a quick question, though. He read through the article and watched the videos, and then he read the letter. The letter denounces the administration, but after reading the article, he’s unsure of the administration’s exact involvement in the matter – did they give the orders to clear everyone out? What’s the link between the administration and the police?
- Derek provides somewhat of an answer. The administration ruled that the students had to take the campsites down. The administration told the police to enforce that. Another part of it was that the Chancellor of UC Davis didn’t resign after the incident.
- Daniel asks if the administration gave specific orders.
- Derek responds that the administration was a bit more general – they asked the police to simply enforce the rules.
- Sam agrees with Chase. He thinks that this letter is too strongly worded. He does disagree with Dani’s opinion, however. He thinks that there’s precedent for the BSG on taking stances – he thinks this’s okay for us to do if we want.
- Anirudh believes that just because we’ve done something in the past doesn’t mean we should do it in the future. In response to Tommy’s question in the beginning of
the discussion, he says that this letter was sent to multiple schools including the collegiate government collaborative. Only if we respond will our name be signed. If the school wasn’t interested, they didn’t respond – so there’s no running list of schools that “rejected” the letter.

- Allen also disagrees with Dani in part. As a higher education institution, he believes we have a right to stand and say that free speech and civil disobedience are values we should uphold, and that people who express free speech shouldn’t be punished. That having been said, if we take a stance on this letter, we have to be particularly careful about this letter. There are particular sections (such as the one on the supposed “police brutality”) that we have to make clear our stance on. He advocates caution.

- Derek also says that the BSG could draft an official response to this letter that would include provisions this body wants to include.

- Chris Breen doesn’t see the point of a secondary document. We want to come out and say we support free speech – cool. What are they going to do with that? Attach the letter and say “OH Bowdoin supports free speech.” This is a statement against pepper spray and stuff; he doesn’t believe it’s important for us to say that we like free speech.

- Anirudh says that if we do pass to sign this, we will talk to them about a signing statement. It would be a provision – the only way we’d sign is if we can provide our own sort of thing. He wouldn’t be surprised if they respond, “Thanks, but no thanks.” Let’s assume that, it this passes, the only way we’ll sign is if we draft our own addendum – that can be a friendly amendment.

- Derek said that the signing statement could say they agreed with a lot of these points, but could clarify our reasoning and state that we are truly unclear about how students interacted with the police. We could advocate for a more peaceful resolution to have occurred.

- Sam would like to say “things cannot be boiled down that far.”

- Chris Breen, “I mean, how many people would go out and say that police should go out in a way that hurts people?” He wonders why we need a letter that says that.

- John wonders what piece of the letter people have a problem with. He wants to know the major points of conflict.

- Allen responds that he has a problem with the statement “police violence is unconstitutional.” He says that people get hurt during arrests, and the police have justification for doing that.

- Chris has a problem with the idea behind the letter, not the lines themselves. This paper is trying to say that the students were 100% right and the police 100% wrong. He doesn’t think this is a good idea.

- For Chase, the opening line does it: “Students were brutally suppressed [by police men wielding] riot shields and batons.” If you look at the video, the students were not acting in a very civil way – this paints the police in a holy light that they don’t deserve.

- To address Chris, John doesn’t think pepper spray should have been used. He doesn’t see any difference between this and the peaceful protests in the civil rights movement. He thinks that people will look back at this and see people being oppressed. People can step over others blocking the way – there was no need to pepper spray.
Brian apologizes for being late. He asks if we’ve already made the distinction between Berkeley and Davis. He doesn’t know if anyone’s seen the Berkeley one. Davis is the one that used a lot of pepper spray; he’s less informed about the Berkeley one. There’s a video from a second story of a building. Basically, there are students lined up, and there’s a moment where the police are literally jabbing the students to the ground. It was bad. That’s what they’re probably referring to – that’s what was more brutal.

Derek couldn’t find a good video of the UC Berkeley one. He proposes to release a signing statement that students have a right to speak and to “disobey,” but Bowdoin is not condoning the occupy movement by signing this.

John wonders if “Occupy” is anywhere in this letter. Since it’s never mentioned, it could render a signing statement unnecessary. In his opinion, if the police were not looking for a fight, why would they show up in full riot gear? They’re walking out of headquarters expecting something to go down – it sets the stage for what was going to happen. Not to say that the students didn’t do things wrong, but the police were ready for aggression.

Anirudh tries to address John’s concerns. A lot of us here in this room agree with the intention of the letter, but the writers of this letter take a black and white approach to a complex issue. That’s what draws him away from supporting something like this. It deals with two schools they’re treating as the same situation, which isn’t necessarily the case. This draws back to a point on our role to weigh in on national issues. Personally, Anirudh is a neuro major and a chem minor. And while he’s proud of that, it makes him uncomfortable to talk about political/national issues (he’d rather talk about Bowdoin issues). He doesn’t want to throw his weight towards something he’s learning now.

Chris Breen thinks that the riot gear was justified – he claims it was precautionary stuff. The ratio of students to police officers was very high. They were severely outnumbered; they can’t send police officers in without protecting them from getting hurt. I don’t think they went in with the motive of beating up college kids.

Chris Lord thinks that there are other reasons to support this. He’s visited other colleges, and the relationships between police and students were not good. He understands why the students were angry with the police. He’s sure the two groups have had negative encounters. Sure, they may have been entitled college students, but in using force, Chris believes that the police invaded the constitutional rights of students.

To add to what Chris was saying, John reports that the students were literally rammed in the chest with batons. He believes that constitutes as brutally repressing. The police, he says, are there to protect you, not to hurt you.

Chris Breen argues that the police are there to enforce the law, too!

John reminds him that the students were standing on the grass – they pay to go to the school!

Brain feels it’s a little testy to discuss the legality of the matter – who was called for what reason. We can speculate a lot on motives. Brain thinks that it’s a difficult reason to make any resolution on this letter. From what we know, we cannot say who was in the right and who was in the wrong.

Derek notes how we do have a good relationship with the Brunswick PD. It’s hard to have college students in town. Sure, there have been troubles, but not every
place has that same relationship. We also have Security, while others have a police department that covers campus.

- Chris Lord says some nasty commentary about BPD.
- While he acknowledges that Chris’s opinions are valid, Anirudh feels that this proposal in no way reflects Bowdoin’s relationship with BPD. That is a separate conversation we have later.
- Dani notes how heated this debate has been – people have been breaking rules by having back and forth debate. Because of this, she suggests to table this until BSG members talk more to the people who elected them. Ask them if they agree with you, and if they feel comfortable having you speak for them and for Bowdoin.
- Leah motions to table this until next week. She hopes that in that week, people will get a better assessment on their role, because it doesn’t seem like, in the past week, people have gotten their constituents’ opinions.
- After Anirudh seconds the motion, there are only 6 opposed to tabling. This conversation will continue next week.

c. Allocation for the Spring Gala Ad-Hoc Committee

- Allen Wong says this is to allocate money to the Spring Gala ad-hoc committee.
- Dani recommends, instead of having to make a second vote on another proposal, to make this a larger number. In case they need more money, now we can give the SAFC more money to give to allocate to them just in case. She claims that $18,000 is conservative. She asks to increase this number to $22,000, and then leave the ultimate decision to the SAFC.
- Allen accepts this change as a friendly amendment.
- The proposal passes unanimously.

d. Allocation for the Yellow Bike Club

- Chase doesn’t have much to say on this. This is just to make the YBC more stable and part of BSG.
- Brain has a friendly amendment to change the monetary allocation to $2,207.
- The amendment is accepted and the vote is unanimous!

VII. Committee Reports

a. Student Affairs Committee: Proposal – Funding for Uncommon Hour

- Allen hopes everyone has already heard about Uncommon Hour – it’s been published in The Orient. They’ve been tabling, and as of now, there have been about 700-800 individual votes, with over 1500 nominations. Everyone’s excited to get going on March 2. They expect a 30-50 person attendance, and they’ll be spending up to $150 on food, but he doesn’t intend of spending more than $100 on this first event. Allen notes that this is a line item budget for this in our budget.
- Anirudh congratulates Allen on making a BSG event so relevant. He hasn’t heard so many people talk about a BSG event in a long time.
- Allen thanks Bernie and John also.
- There is a vote to suspend the two-week rule. It is unanimously passed.
- There is a vote to pass the proposal – it is also passed unanimously.
- Allen says thanks to all the tablers who have tabled so far, and we still have Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to go. He reminds people who signed up to be there. Bernie, John, Martin, or I will bring the materials – ballot boxes, posters, etc.

b. BSG Affairs Committee
- Anirudh has no new news, but he asks everyone to keep to 10 chairs per stack, since he’s been getting angry notes from Facilities.

c. **Academic Affairs Committee**
- Jordan’s committee forewent their meeting this week. They’ll be meeting with Dell Wilson and Rebecca Sandlin from Finance this week.

d. **Student Activities Funding Committee**
- Brian has decided not to pursue restrictions concerning the election of the SAFC chair. His main concern was that there are only eight eligible people, and only one is going to be here for the whole year. He’s just going to have stringent training of the next chair to make sure that the SAFC chair will be in good shape. In terms of money, there will be no big surplus like last year to renovate certain rooms on campus. He sees it as a trade-off between one large capital investment and sustained club life. Other changes are coming!

e. **Student Organizations Oversight Committee**
- Dani has some small projects, including advisor reconnection, revamping mailboxes that no one knows exist, getting elections for new leaders going, redoing the re-chartering process, and getting all the current leaders to write down everything for the new club leaders.

f. **Facilities Committee**
- Chase and his committee are working on installing curtains in the Union, something doing something with mail package notifications, extending café hours, putting lights in different places, and furnishing the new room we have. Also, he passed the printing things they were working on to Jordan.
- Tessa has some updates of her own. She met with the Library Advisory Committee (she promises it’s more fun than it sounds). They’ve been discussing an idea to begin laptop storage in libraries this way people can leave their laptop for a while and then go pick it up when they get back. They liked the idea, and they’re almost definitely going to give this a trial run. Perhaps they’ll even provide charging stations.
- Anirudh asks where the laptops would be housed/charged.
- Tessa says that, for now, it’ll be behind the circulation desk. If it gets bigger, it’ll be moved to the basement where there’s more empty space.

VIII. **Member Reports**

a. **Athletics Representative**
- No one here :(

b. **Class Representatives**
- 2012: Tommy announces that the senior council is working on another senior night, a pub night, and several senior events. Also sweatshirt had been ordered, and they’re planning senior week!
- 2013: Leah and the juniors, this week, made Bowdoin’s largest ice cream sundae in a kiddie pool. Dining did everything, but it was kind of disgusting – there were still a few gallons when I left. It was cool and nice. They’ve also been working on class gifts and things of that sort.
- 2014: Martin and the sophomores will be declaring their majors March 8. They are thinking they might have a celebration.
• 2015: Daniel and his council had an assassins meeting. About 40-50 people showed up. The game is in progress! He was killed about 2 hours ago – he didn’t even make it 24-hours! Oh and they’re planning a freshman ball/dance.

c. IHC Representatives
• Max announces that the college house apps are in, and there are 40 less than last year. Group interviews will be occurring this week. This Saturday is Ladd’s “Inappropriate Party.”

d. E-Board Representative
• Chris Lord says that the E-Board will not be paying the Dean’s List as much as they think we are, seeing as the concert went short AND they didn’t have a drummer. We are not pleased, though it was still fun for everyone. We’ll probably end up paying them ¾ of what they want us to pay. E-Board has finalized what we’re getting for Ivies. The line-up will go in the Orient next Friday. AANNDD E-Board is working with BMC to bring a Battle of the Bands to campus
• Tessa has a shameless plug too. Soon the Polar Bear Run will be happening. Run and be entered to win an iPad for “Best Costume (i.e. the most risqué outfit / how bad do you want the iPad)” and for “The Biggest Team.” Be there, it’ll be fun. Watson Arena at 3:00. It’ll be a little less than a mile. We get to run through Druck. It’ll be awesome!

IX. President’s Report: Derek says that next meeting, J-Board Chair RJ Shea and Dean Laura Lee will be coming into the meeting to present a list of J-Board candidates. He tells us that it’s our responsibility of us to make it known, in a discrete way, who might not be suitable for this position. Oh and Brian is our representative. Brian chimes in. He says it’s grueling so far. The individual interviews are almost done, and he’ll begin group interviews next week. Derek reiterates that no public will be allowed in the meeting when they come to present the list. Also, email him if you want to go to the NESCAC conference. Other than that, Derek urges everyone to do more research and talk about the open letter. We may send out an email if appropriate.

X. Adjournment at 9:42pm