I. **Call to order** at 8:34 pm
II. **Roll Call:** Lyne, Tessa, and Danny are absent
III. **President's Welcome:** John welcomes everyone and informs the BSG that this meeting will be fairly short, with one proposal to hopefully pass this week and one to be passed next week.

IV. **Public Comment Time**
   - Brandon is in the “audience.” He gives a shout out to Isa, and says that everyone loves Isa so the BSG should love him too (and we do, Brandon!). On a serious note, he’s been talking with a lot of people about the editor’s letter in the *Orient* on the break schedule. He says that the general consensus was that the *Orient*’s idea was pretty good, and they hope it’s a legitimate solution. So Brandon suggests that something be done. He also criticized the survey that was sent out. He didn’t want to offend anyone, but he, personally, didn’t feel like it provided enough information and wasn’t relevant enough to come up with a solution or way to fix the problem.
   - John tells Brandon to pull up a chair because that’s one of the things on the agenda.
   - Brandon trusts us, so he bids us adieu and wishes us good luck.
   - John thanks Brandon for coming.

V. **Guests**

VI. **Old Business**

VII. **New Business**
   a. **Fall Break Scheduling**
      - Jordan begins to fill everyone in on the solution that his committee came up with. He said that a couple weeks ago, his committee was given the responsibility of coming up with a solution for an alternative calendar regarding breaks. He and his committee have gotten some numbers and opinions over the last couple of weeks. They’ve talked to ResLife (Mary Pat, Mary Farrell, etc), Ellen DeLong, Counseling, and a number of Proctors. According to him, Mary Pat (MP) supported their endeavor, but helped them redirect their conversation to Thanksgiving break. Jordan informs us that MP says she loves fall break and that it’s a great reprieve for distress about that time, and Ellen agreed. Counseling agreed that eliminating Fall Break wouldn’t be good, but they did say that there may be an opportunity to make Thanksgiving break longer. Of the 5 proctors interviewed, four thought that Fall break was a great break to have, and the final proctor said it wasn’t enough time for people to go home in that it was geographically discriminatory (and this proctor, for the record, is from New England so he could go home if he so chose). Therefore, after gathering this information, Jordan and his committee decided that they might be able to manipulate the calendar to add days to Thanksgiving break and not totally get rid of fall break. Their first inclination would be to make fall break just three days long instead of four days (which would mean instead of Thursday and Friday off, it’d just be Friday off). But then, would three days off really be a break or just a long weekend? So the committee decided to keep the length of fall break constant, and then Jordan and his committee tried to figure out other ways to lengthen Thanksgiving break. The committee decided adding two days to the calendar year would be “obnoxious” and probably non-doable, so...
they came up with another solution. First, Jordan takes the time to explain how our Thanksgiving break actually works. He says that technically, it’s a two-day weekend. He informs the BSG that about a decade ago, the BSG talked the administration into making the Wednesday before Thanksgiving a “reschedule day,” meaning that there are no classes that day, but any professor with a class on that day has the ability to reschedule their class to another day during reading week. Most of the times professors don’t, but it’s always an option. So, back to the proposed plan. Jordan again reiterates that starting the school year two days earlier would be difficult to institute (especially when talking about ResLife training and pre-o trips. Therefore, they’ve discussed how reasonable a one-day shift in the calendar would be. So the proposal is to push the school year “back” one day and shift everything a day earlier. Then, they would request an additional “reschedule day” to be placed on Tuesday. They would move the current reschedule day to Monday (since Monday and Wednesday classes are paired) and then place the new one on Tuesday, and put the day that we gained from starting the school year a day earlier on Wednesday. This would change a five-day break into a nine-day break (by including weekends). He said that the other “reschedule day” is necessary because if we just add a day, we will have “a Monday” and then a break which wouldn’t really make sense. Jordan then proceeds to tell us the pros of the new proposal. He says that a one-day shift is more reasonable to ask for than a two day shift. He also says that move-in day is currently on a Tuesday for pre-os and on a Saturday for those who are not. He says that it’s a positive thing to move it to Monday and Friday because they are both days of the week that are in close proximity to the weekend. He says that ¾ of the student body and their parents already come up on Tuesday, and that it’s easier for people to take time off if the day is closer to the weekend (like a Monday or Friday) as opposed to in the middle of the week, like a Tuesday – and most of the parents take off work anyway. Aside from that, with regards to the break itself, the faculty seems to be in favor of the longer break, because they need a break too. Additionally, the current system proves geographically discriminatory, with fall break being rather short and Thanksgiving break being barely longer; with a longer break, it would be more realistic for students to go home (especially for International and Mid-west / West Coast students). One of the anticipated criticisms for this plan would be that after break we’d go back to school for 2 weeks, then have finals, then go back home for a month-long break – would we really need that break? Some of the pros for such a break would be more study time for finals, or even just time to relax and decompress before finals period. Additionally, Jordan admits it may be sort of a stretch, but this long break might help with possible sustainability. Many students currently travel over both fall and Thanksgiving breaks. Now, with a longer Thanksgiving break, some students might not travel over fall break anymore. Finally, in comparing Bowdoin’s calendar to that of peer schools, a week-long Thanksgiving break would bring us in line with Amherst, Bates, Hamilton, and Yale. Jordan says that based on the support for fall break in the survey, he feels that keeping fall break is necessary.

John asks if everyone is clear on what’s being proposed. He gives a recap of the basic idea: Thanksgiving break is currently from Wednesday to Sunday, with Wednesday being a reschedule day. The proposal is to move the school year up one day (so we start on Wednesday), move the reschedule day to Monday,
request another reschedule day for Tuesday, and add the day we gain to Wednesday, so now Thanksgiving break will be from Sunday to Sunday.

- Sam brings up the point that professors usually don’t utilize the reschedule day, so we are essentially just taking a day out of the school year. In his opinion, since we only go to school 27 out of 52 weeks of the year, we should try to conserve our school days.

- Rebecca says that since right now there’s only one reschedule day, the professors don’t use it, but with the addition of another one, now they might. She asks Jordan if they’ve gotten any faculty feedback for this plan.

- Jordan says no.

- Georgia reports that her professor worked with BSG the last time to get the reschedule day and that he has used this reschedule day to place a class during reading period. She also points out that teachers get frustrated by people leaving anyway, even though there are classes, and, this way, teachers may be happier.

- Emma does some quick math and said that since our last day of exams are the 20th, we have 3 more class days than Amherst and 8 more than Bates.

- John reports that, by his calculations, we have 8 more days of classes than Amherst because of their 13-day fall break. He says we also have 9 more days than Middlebury (but they have a J-term), 7 more days than Williams, 7 more days than Colby, and 13 more days than Bates (but they have a summer term). The schools with the most similar schedules to us, Yale and Brown, only have two more days of classes as compared to us.

- Isa is a little confused as to where we are getting the extra days off from to add to our breaks.

- Jordan rewords and says that we are planning on starting a day earlier and going to ask for another reschedule day.

- Sam wonders if we might mandate professors to reschedule.

- John said that professors rarely agree to plans that tell them what they have to do.

- Sam is still concerned with the fact that, since most professors probably wouldn’t reschedule, it’d just be taking days out of the calendar.

- Matt asks, in regards to having parents come up to help new students unpack, why not just have them come up on the weekend?

- Jordan says pushing the school year back even further is even more of a stretch than the one day proposed.

- Leah adds that the pre-o system is designed to span the stretch from Tuesday to Saturday. This comment is followed by some mumbling and banter that the poor secretary cannot make out.

- Anirudh reaffirms that the major reason for doing this is to eliminate geographic and economic discrimination, but he reports that he’s not fully convinced that if we add this entire week that more students would be able to go home due to financial constraints. He says that it costs him about 1000 dollars for a round trip ticket to get home, which means that even if he gets a week, it doesn’t mean that he would be willing to go home. Anirudh voices that he would like to see a poll targeted on asking those who wouldn’t be able to go home during Thanksgiving break and see if the extended break would allow them to go home.
• Jordan informs us that in the original survey there was an “other/comments” box for most of the questions. He says that many people wrote that if Thanksgiving break were longer, they’d be able to go home.
• Georgia also notes that flights that are not on Thanksgiving Tuesday are ridiculously cheaper – so people could be flying out on Friday versus Tuesday or Wednesday.
• Jordan thanks Georgia for bringing up one of his biggest points. He points out that since flights are cheaper, changing the break is helping people both financially and geographically.
• Georgia also points out that if classes start on Wednesday each year, the acclamation to classes can commence that first week and then classes can come to full force on Monday of the next week.
• John adds that with this new plan, the M-W and T-Th classes have complete parody across the schedule. He then asks if anyone else has any questions.
• Jen has a question about athletics and dining during this extended period. She knows that during fall break athletes need to be here, and she knows that many winter teams get Thanksgiving off but then they have to be back Friday, so how will this extended break affect them?
• John says that one of the good things about this is the “two-week” rule – we could present this week, and then everyone here can go out and talk to teachers, friends, proctors, coaches, and dining. He reports that that he and Jordan have a meeting with Dean Hazlet, who oversees the calendar. He says that next week we will talk and get data, and that we have this opportunity before we talk about passing the proposal to the administration.
• Becca asks how realistic it would be to have this in place by next year.
• John says that it most definitely could not be in place next year, and most likely not even the year after that (he comments that Bowdoin’s Administration likes to plan things pretty far in advance). He points out that that doesn’t mean that this BSG shouldn’t fight it. He wants a gauge on how people feel about this.
• Georgia says she’s all gung-ho (being international and all)! She thinks that everyone would be really into it.
• Becca says that she’s from Boston, and she’d be into it! *Laughter*
• Sam chimes in and agrees – as long as it doesn’t take away from his schedule.
• John asks people to please talk about this with others on campus and moves the meeting onto the next topic.

b. Harry Potter Bus Proposal
• John says it’s more fun! He turns the meeting over to Isa.
• Isa reports that there has been discussion about organizing a bus subsidy to transport people from campus to the midnight showing of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*. If the BSG passes this, there will be a sign-up sheet at the desk. People will pay 7 dollars for movie tickets and 2 dollars for bus transportation, so the total will be 9 dollars. He says that other students can drive themselves and only pay 7 dollars if they have access to a car. In response to the survey, he says that 96% of students are in favor of it. He says that Allen DeLong’s office is helping, so the BSG only has to contribute 248 dollars of the possible 640 fee.
• Gillian wants to know how many people responded to the survey.
Jonathan reports that 200 people were counted, but more actually responded. He says that since he used SurveyMonkey at the free version, they only get to see 200 responses.

John announces that the BSG has a SurveyMonkey if anyone wants to use it.

Isa also says that we only bought 96 seats in the theater, and we cannot ship the whole campus. He thinks it will be a fun ChemFree event.

John asks how these tickets will be distributed. He asks if we will give them to people at the Info Desk or hold the ticket until the night of the movie.

Isa is under the impression that if students pay 9 dollars for the ticket, they won’t lose it, but we should have their names and a few extra just in case.

Emma is concerned that the theater might sell out.

Leah said that they were also concerned about that, and that she called Regal and they didn’t think they were going to sell out. She says that the manager said they were allowed to open a second theater if it did, so it shouldn’t be a problem.

John instructs Leah and Isa to call again tomorrow and tell Regal that we will be bringing 96 people.

Emma makes a motion to vote tonight.

John moves the meeting into voting procedure. For the first time this semester, there is a unanimous vote to pass the proposal!

VIII. Committee Reports

a. BSG Affairs Committee: Anirudh said that the Affairs Committee’s meeting was canceled this week, but there was “many” fun to be had. They are continuing to work with Colby’s website (as per last meeting) and plan to be working on the semester newsletter in weeks to come. He will be back to us with more info on that.

b. SAFC: Kyle reports that this was a laid-back week, allocating only 6000 dollars to various clubs and organizations (Q Magazine being one of them).

c. Student Affairs Committee: Chanwoong says that his committee sent out a survey for orientation schedules and that they are in the process of getting feedback. He notes that the pool of responders was limited to house members and first-years. Additionally, the BSG and SAC will be soon holding a discussion series about the website “College ACB.” He asks BSG members to poll their friends and tell them to come to this healthy discussion. Chanwoong also says that the SAC will discuss the First-Year Book this Sunday at 10 pm at this weekly meeting, so if anyone has an opinion he welcomes them to stop by. When Hongbei asks if they will also be discussing the orientation schedule, he says no, but if anyone has ideas about that they should email him.

d. Student Organizations Committee: Amanda tells that there was no SOC meeting this week, but each member is planning a workshop of some sort. Andrew chimes in and apologizes for his double-email survey. He says that he is working with the CPC for a tentative resume workshop to take students through the Optimal Resume program to help people start or polish their resumes. He says the workshop will most likely begin with a 20 minute discussion on the resume basics and the remaining 40 minutes will be more interactive and tailored to each individual’s needs. He said it would be mainly for the leaders on campus (i.e. how to make the IHC sound impressive on a resume), but it would be open to all students that could get in via RSPV.

e. Academic Affairs Committee: Jordan laughs and says that what was reported was what the AAC has been discussing.
f. Facilities Committee: Isa reports that the Harry Potter night will now be on a roll, and that there will be 200 movie tickets at the Info Desk Thursday. He says that the changes in newspapers will be seen on Monday. Leah adds that there will be a meeting of the Dining Advisory board on Monday.

IX. Member Reports

a. Class Representatives

- 2011 representatives report that sweatshirts will be coming in next week and will be distributed on Wednesday and Thursday for 5 dollars. Andrew also says there will be a senior night in Portland not this, but next Saturday; they will be also giving out gifts like the ones at Ivies last year for those people who were away.
- 2012 reps report that there is nothing new to date, except that they continue to meet with the class of 2011 council to discuss Junior/Senior ball
- For the class of 2013, they held a successful Candy Land soiree (discounting when the piñata struck Leah on the head and made her bleed, that is). And now the council is looking ahead to purchasing class gifts.
- The first-year council tells that their first “Dorm-Side Chat” will take place tomorrow, and that they are talking about holding a winter ball in February. Jonathan asks what happened to the rest of the pumpkins, and Abigail states that dining absconded the vast majority of the pumpkins overnight.

b. IHC Representatives: Georgia announces that Reed house will be holding E603 in space (yes, that is what the alien thing all around campus is, Isa :P). Next weekend Mac House will have a band and Baxter will have a graffiti party. The weekend after ASAP will be housing a mixer in Baxter, and the IHC will be planning major events for next semester soon.

c. E-Board Representative: Jonathan reports that Racer X will be performing from 9:00 until 11:30 on Friday and that they are in the process of organizing Ivies and the Wish concert. He says that the E-board wants to advertise itself a little more and wishes to put a link on B Curia. John says that that is a privately run site, but he will give Jonathan the names of people to contact. Jonathan wants to make campaigning more efficient, and that also means putting advertisements and commercials on the Smith Union TVs and such. He is told that Gillian is the one to talk to about that. She says that the BCN is happy to have ads.

d. Athletics Representative: Jen reports that both Men’s soccer and Women’s Field Hockey are hosting NCAA finals this weekend (field-hockey on Saturday and soccer on Sunday). Also, the football team will be playing their final game at home this weekend.

X. President’s Report: John says since everyone didn’t like his short report last week, he’ll rattle off all the meetings he had this week: meetings with ASAP, Officer team, Student Web Design, some meeting about the syllabus, a meeting with Allen DeLong, another with Tim Foster, and also one with the Alcohol Team. He has two other things worthy of noting. This weekend he is going to Colby on Sunday. He welcomes anyone who wants to get in touch if they want to go. The meeting is at 7, so he’ll have dinner first here and then he’ll leave at 5 and be back around 9 or 10. He said space is no issue, if he needs to he can rent a Bowdoin van. His final note is that pretty soon, the BSG will have to appoint a representative to the J-Board for the selection process. If anyone’s interested, just contact John. Anirudh has been this representative for a few years, so he filled everyone in onto the duties of this position. He says that basically you are the student representative in the room during the interviews and selection process (you are well-treated, don’t worry *laughter*). He does point out that
it is a rather large commitment spanning 2 to 3 weeks. Anirudh says that each day that you don’t have class is packed with interviews (which you must be in formal attire for) or reading through applications. If there is any interest, he offers to meet with people after the meeting and shoot John an email.

XI. Adjournment at 9:18 pm