



BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Meeting of the General Assembly

Wednesday, 28 October 2015, 8:30pm

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

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Agenda

Meeting of the General Assembly

21 October 2015

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Public Comment Time
- V. Introduction of Guests
 - a. Ashley Bombaka – President of the African American Society
 - b. Courtney Koos, Julia Rew, and Matthew Lyons – Captains of the Sailing Team
- VI. Old Business
- VII. Reports of Committees
 - a. Student Affairs—*Luke Von Maur '16*
 - i. **Proposal to Vote:** No Hate November—*Luke Von Maur '16 et al.*
 - b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Emily Serwer '16*
 - c. Academic Affairs—*Andrew Millar '16*
 - d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Kevin Hernandez '18*
 - i. **Proposal to Vote:** Brunswick Apartment Composting—*Kevin Hernandez '18*
 - ii. **Proposal to Vote:** Residential Life Cinema—*Kevin Hernandez '18*
 - e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*David Levine '16*
 - f. Executive Committee—*Daniel Mejia-Cruz '16 / Michelle Kruk '16*
 - i. **Proposal to Vote:** Statement of Solidarity—*Daniel Mejia-Cruz '16*
- VIII. Reports of Members
 - a. Class Councils
 - b. Inter-House Council
 - c. Entertainment Board
 - d. Athletic Council
 - e. McKeen Center
 - f. At-Large Representatives
- IX. Report of the President—*Daniel Mejia-Cruz '16*
- X. Announcements
- XI. Adjournment

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 141518

Proposed by: Student Affairs Committee

Date: 21 October 2015

NO HATE NOVEMBER

Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly

WHEREAS, we wish to maintain the tradition of responding to the bias incidents of Fall 2013;

WHEREAS, our community was and continues to be deeply impacted by the bias incidents that followed, and especially the bias incidents of Summer 2015;

WHEREAS, our nation and our Bowdoin community continue to struggle to address issues of difference, and especially issues of race, gender, and sexual orientation and expression;

WHEREAS, we as Bowdoin Student government exist to empower all students, while being a relentless advocate for student needs and desires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

R**ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. The executive Committee is approved to spend \$330.00 for the purpose of organizing No Hate November events.

2. The Executive Committee is approved to execute any and all documents for the purposes of this event and all programming to its effect.

BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 141520

Proposed by: Committee of Facilities and Sustainability

Date: 28 October 2015

BRUNSWICK APARTMENT COMPOSTING

Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly

WHEREAS, Bowdoin has made a significant effort to decrease its food waste and increase composting options for students;

WHEREAS, Available composting sites have been a commonly requested service by Bowdoin College students;

WHEREAS, Brunswick Apartments houses 255 students in 95 apartments, many of whom cook in their living spaces;

WHEREAS, We Compost It! (a campus partner) offers an efficient system for students to dispose of their food waste without sending it to a landfill;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

R**ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. The Executive Committee is authorized to spend \$90.00 to provide a composting bin to Brunswick Apartments for the fall semester of 2015.

BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 141521

Proposed by: Committee of Facilities and Sustainability

Date: 28 October 2015

RESIDENTIAL LIFE CINEMA

Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly

WHEREAS, part of the mission of the Bowdoin Student Government is to provide services to the student body;

WHEREAS, BSG provides students a service to stream new movies online, where the list changes monthly;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee will decide each month's movie listings;

WHEREAS, our operating budget includes a line-item for this service;

WHEREAS, BSG lawfully acquires the rights to stream these movies to the Bowdoin community from Residence Life Cinema, a corporate division of Swank Motion Pictures Inc.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

R**ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. The Committee on Facilities & Sustainability and the Executive Committee is retroactively authorized to spend \$12,000 to acquire the year's streaming rights to movies.
2. The Executive Committee is retroactively authorized to execute any and all documents for the purpose of this service.
3. The Vice president for Student Government Affairs be authorized to perform all public affairs functions to deliver the service to Bowdoin Students, up to the authorized amount.

BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Proposal to Vote

Proposal 141522

Proposed by: Executive Committee

Date: 28 October 2015

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly

WHEREAS, cultural appropriation refers to a power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group, perpetuates racist stereotypes, and misrepresents people's culture;

WHEREAS, cultural appropriation is distinctly different from and not to be conflated with issues of political correctness or freedom of expression;

WHEREAS, on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 the Bowdoin sailing team organized a "gangster rap" party, during which members of the team appropriated aspects of black culture;

WHEREAS, this act of cultural appropriation is offensive for the previously stated reasons, is disrespectful, creates an environment where students of color, particularly black students, feel unsafe, and contradicts our goal to refine the education of students in an inclusive residential community;

WHEREAS, our nation and our Bowdoin community continue to struggle to address issues of difference, especially race;

WHEREAS, we promote and prioritize justice for systemically marginalized people;

WHEREAS, the Bowdoin African American Society, together with support from other student organizations, individual students, the Bowdoin Student Government, and the Bowdoin sailing team has resolved to address the aforementioned party for purposes of restorative justice and the education of our Bowdoin community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

***R*ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. The Executive Committee issues a Statement of Solidarity to the Student Body on behalf of the Bowdoin Student Government. This Statement will define cultural appropriation, demonstrate how it is unacceptable, indicate support and solidarity for students who feel marginalized by the sailing team's actions, promote honest conversations about issues of race and cultural appropriation, and urge the student body to think deeply about how their actions may infringe upon others' identity.

2. The Executive Committee is approved to execute any and all documents for the issuance of this Statement.

BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Appendix A



BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Office of the President of Bowdoin Student Government

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 October 2014

Contact:

Daniel Mejia-Cruz '16
dmejiacr@bowdoin.edu

BSG Assembly Condemns Incident of Cultural Appropriation, Stands in Solidarity With Students

At 9:30pm on Wednesday, 28 October 2015, the General Assembly of the Bowdoin Student Government voted on a resolution to take a definitive stand on an incident of cultural appropriation that took place on Bowdoin's campus on Thursday, 22 October 2015. The Assembly, representing the entire student body of Bowdoin, stands by all students who were injured and affected by the incident.

The resolution was referred to the Assembly for consideration by the Executive Committee in response to calls to action from the Bowdoin African American Society, various student organizations, and many individual students. The Assembly believes that it is its duty to respond to these calls to action, as it is constitutionally bound to refine the College's most important goal—the education of students in a residential community. The Assembly asserts that issuing a statement of solidarity is the right action that should be taken by student leaders in such a situation. Moreover, the Assembly acknowledges that this incident is not the first of its kind to occur on Bowdoin's campus. The Assembly is resolved to help educate all students on the inappropriateness of these acts and their inherently racist nature.

To that end, the General Assembly resolved to define cultural appropriation as a power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group, perpetuates racist stereotypes, and misrepresents a peoples culture.

In affirming this definition of cultural appropriation and the disrespectful nature of such action, the General Assembly affirms the College's commitment to maintaining an environment that fosters respect for the rights of all and for the differences among all members of the Bowdoin community.

The General Assembly furthermore asserts that such behavior as displayed on 22 October 2015 is conduct unbecoming of Bowdoin students. Such behavior will not and should not be tolerated by the Bowdoin community. The Assembly is resolved to use this situation as a teaching and learning moment for all students. It is the hope of the Assembly to move forward with a restorative vision and progress with the help of all parties.

A Resolution

WHEREAS, cultural appropriation refers to a power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group, perpetuates racist stereotypes, and misrepresents people's culture;

WHEREAS, cultural appropriation is distinctly different from and not to be conflated with issues of political correctness or freedom of expression (in that cultural appropriation perpetuates the exploitation of certain cultural aspects of marginalized groups in American society, allowing the identity of marginalized groups to be trivialized in the name of freedom of expression, when in reality individuals identifying with these groups are treated poorly due to said stereotypes);

WHEREAS, on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 the Bowdoin sailing team organized a "gangster rap" party, during which members of the team appropriated aspects of black culture;

WHEREAS, this act of cultural appropriation is offensive for the previously stated reasons, is disrespectful, creates an environment where students of color, particularly black students, feel unsafe, and contradicts our goal to refine the education of students in an inclusive residential community;

WHEREAS, our nation and our Bowdoin community continue to struggle to address issues of difference, especially race;

WHEREAS, we promote and prioritize justice for systemically marginalized people;

WHEREAS, the Bowdoin African American Society, together with support from other student organizations, individual students, the Bowdoin Student Government, and the Bowdoin sailing team has resolved to address the aforementioned party for purposes of restorative justice and the education of our Bowdoin community;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

Assert the above definition of cultural appropriation, demonstrate how it is unacceptable, indicate support and solidarity for students who feel marginalized by the Bowdoin sailing team's actions, promote honest conversations about issues of race and cultural appropriation, and urge the student body to think deeply about how their actions may infringe upon others' identity.

Be it further,

Resolved, that this Assembly authorize and order the President to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the College and the Dean of Student Affairs.

Adopted in General Assembly: 28 October 2015.

BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT