

I. Call to Order

- **Daniel Mejia:** States the topic for today's meeting- BSG's message of Solidarity in light of the Sailing Teams "Gangster/Gangsta" party. Daniel Mejia says "Its appropriate and necessary for BSG to submit a message of solidarity...Tonight is about allowing us to hear about how [members of the Bowdoin Community] are processing the anger and frustrations of [recent racist incidents]... BSG is ready to listen"
- **Michelle Kruk:** Voices her opinion on how she is processing the aftermath of the Sailing Teams party. Michelle says: "I am numbed from the things that have been said in social media..."

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes [Minutes unanimously approved]

I.V Public Comment Time [The statements below are not verbatim, I tried to capture the statements of the students to my best ability]

- **Justin Pearson:** "Thanks Daniel and Michelle for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the recent events... BSG did not do this last year despite the fact that we had a similar incident last year... This incident exploits African Americans and their culture. As an African American, seeing the explicit biases is painful.... Dean Foster's email did not show as much frustrations as Cracksgiving... He has left the responsibility upon the students to handle... As a community, we must call the things that are wrong- wrong. Lets take action.
- **Esther Nunno:** "This is violent, and it frustrates me that people don't understand the disrespect... People have been bring up the "in real life" argument", but in "real life" if you touch my afro I will slap you... I will make someone cry because of how violent this is...I am so scared because I don't know who is writing this shit on Yik Yak... The way that you are raised does not have to affect the way that you should act... I was raised to think that all gay men are the devil... But if we all acted the way that we are raised, this would be archaic.
- **Briana Cardwell:** Proposes question for those who participated/ played a role in organizing the "Gangster Party". Briana says "Where did the idea for this arise/ come from?"
- **Courtney Koos:** President of the sailing team addresses Briana's question. Courtney says " This isn't the first time the party has happened. It started last year, but I am not sure why it happened... The intention of the party was not to hurt the members of our community. We [the sailing team] are appalled and disgusted about the things people are saying on Yik Yak... We are going to try our best to educate people on what is being said on Yik Yak" and try to people..."

- **Student:** “ I connected with a first year floor mate about our struggles with race... It is disheartening to see the person turn around and change everything that they said... My culture wasn't appropriated but it easily could have been”
- **Caroline:** “We are reproducing racism... Since my first year, every single Halloween I have felt like I constantly have to educate people. We excuse people and act like people who don't know any better are good intentioned, but there is racism in this campus. It is a problem it is here... Last Thursday I Went to a meeting at Af-Am on Thursday. People said how professors and security act in a racist way... It's frustrating that Tim Foster says “we should talk to people”. An email is not enough...Don't just educate people by creating informal discussions, properly train professors and security too...”
- **Simone:** “The email [Fosters email] is vague...I wonder, if this problem wasn't affecting Bowdoin's appearance, would administration still be so docile about the situation”
- **Student:** “When someone misquotes an author, they are told to leave campus for a whole semester. But when a whole race is misrepresented, no repercussions... The Deans office needs to do better...”
- **Keivonte:** “Art that essential to my life is being demonized...We need to understand the definition of cultural appropriation... We need to acknowledge white supremacy... If we don't address these issues, we just enforce [white supremacy]. We need to differentiate the difference between intention and impact because your intention might not represent your impact.”
- **Gibson:** “Conversations may be happening, but the conversations aren't reaching the entirety of campus...There needs to be a push and challenge to expand... Is this a personal challenge for us [the students] or for administration?”
- **Student:** You should take the responsibility to educate your self and look at the internal biases... I have white privilege and I want to help educate others understand...”
- **Adira:** I been told many things, I have been told that I should transfer, I have been told that it is not my responsibility to educate people... You tell me it's not my issue to educate others, but until Bowdoin starts educating my oppressors, it will continue to be my job...”
- **Diamond:** “Ignorance of a law does not excuse you from it. People who don't know about cultural appropriation should not be excused it either...”
- **Chaz:** Adira thanks for being the voice of black people on campus... People are criticizing her for being an educated black women ...”
- **Michelle:** “A statement is not enough”

V. Introduction of Guests

- **Ashley Bombaka – President of the African American Society:** “I was there the Thursday night that the event happened, it has been six days and still I have not heard many conversations about what happened... What type of party can I have if I cant appropriate culture? ... I am a Bowdoin student, but I do not feel like this is my place.”
- **Courtney Koos- President of the Sailing Team:** “We are deeply sorry that our actions has affected the community like this... I convey our sincere apologies...”

There has been a lot of ignorance from our peers on social media... We are trying to find a way to make this right and educate people and all of campus... . People of color feel a pressure to educate the people..." Courtney offers concerned students the opportunity with to meet with members of the Sailing Team to have discussions.

VI. Old Business

Proposal 141518- *No Hate November*, in response to the bias incidents that occurred in 2013. Motion to suspend two-week rule for *No Hate November* is passed. **Proposal 141518 passes.**

Proposal 141522- *Statement of Solidarity*, in response to the cultural appropriation incident wherein the sailing team appropriated aspects of black culture.

- **Michelle:** "BSG condemns incident of cultural appropriation and stands in solidarity
- *****Daniel Mejia** opens up discussion from assembly to edit Statement of Solidarity***
- **Michelle:** Does not agree with the wording of a definition... She is concerned that it seems like BSG created the definition.
-**Motion for edit is approved.**
 - **Nick:** "When someone says that they are hurt by someone, why are you going to go on Yik Yak... We should respect people as human being not just because of the community"
 - **Jack:** Proposes a change in the definition of cultural appropriation from "and" to "or" in the second to last paragraph. He contends "And" suggests all three entities must apply, while "Or" can be one or all three entities.
 - **David Levine:** discusses the definition of cultural appropriation. Proposes a change in the wording of the last paragraph. He is concerned with the disciplinary phrase in the last paragraph of the statement.
 - **Anna Bradley:** "Can we acknowledge the aftermath of the incident since there was a lot of pain inflicted through the Yik Yak app and social media?"
 - **Ashley Bombaka:** Proposes concern with a phrase in the Statement. She also states "even if an event like this doesn't happen again, it doesn't mean that the negative sentiments aren't there"
 - **Chase Savage:** Is there anything in Bowdoin's handbook [such as *The offer of the College*] that refers to any values that Bowdoin stands for that we can put in the Statement.
 - **Clare M:** Proposes a that a phrase from the offer of the college to be included, because people do not feel at home or comfortable.
 - **Shing-he:** Reads social code phrase about Bowdoin condemning the installment of fear through social media.

- **Michelle:** Proposes another edit
- **Ashley Bombaka:** Proposes the capitalization of the letter B in Black
- **Jack:** Can anyone in the sailing team contest whether this was a “*Gangster*” or “*Gangsta*” party?
- **Courtney Koos:** Not sure, both “gangster” and “gangsta” have been used.

Everyone approves the edits made on the document

- **Daniel Mejia:** Motions vote of proposal on the Statement of Solidarity.
Proposal 141522 passes unanimously

VII. Reports of Committees

Class councils – 2 new clubs were approved: “Kids Like Us”, and “Office Hours”, a new improve club.

Student Affairs- There will be an upcoming program for *No Hate November* on Nov. 16th. Committee is trying to reach out to as many groups, college houses, and faculty. Luke proposes the possibility of professors speaking during Common Hour.

Facilities and Sustainability-

- **Proposal to Vote: Brunswick Apartments Composting Bins.**
 - The program will cost \$90 dollars
 - Someone asked how will the success of the composting program be ensured?
 - Kevin** “Eco-Rep is going to try it for a week to see how effective the program is and if students are actually composting. The new bins are being advertised.”
 - Motion to suspend two-week rule is approved.
 - Brunswick Apartment Composting Proposal passed.
- **Proposal to Vote: Residential Life Cinema [Polar Flicks]**
 - Polar flicks, has been very successful.
 - The service has expanded, students can choose from over 100 movies each year and they can be streamed from any device.
 - Motion to suspend two- week rule is approved.
 - Polar flicks Proposal is approved.

Student Activities Funding Committee – In the process of appointing reps

Executive Committee- Pictures of students to be posted in Smith Union in favor of solidarity movement.

VIII. Reports of Members

- 2019 Rep: Class had a fall festival last weekend- it was a lot of fun.
- 2018 Rep: Open mic event in Ladd House. Plans on having an event once a month to show case talents of class of 2018.
- **2017 Rep:** S’mores event in Brunswick quad. Discusses plans in regards to the finalization of the Class of 2017 social in the Shannon Room.
- **2016 Rep:** Karaoke and pub night
- **Inter-House Council-** “Mac-a-ween” might be an issue, but Res-life has met with proctors and house officers in regards to Halloween weekend.
- **E-board-** Nothing happening
- **Athletic Council-**

Chase Savage: “ This is the 4th year in a row that an athletic team is involved in an incident like this. Incidents like these always happens and it is always a sports team... Each year we fail on how to treat the community with respect... We are trying to make an effort to get athletes and the department can be more inclusive...”

Riley: BSG was more effective in talking directly with captains last year.

Michelle: Captains may hold an influential role, but they are seniors and leaving. Are there any other ways to get this through the heads of captains and people who are going to be here for 2 to 3 years?

- **Michelle:** Discusses possibility of every student group leader to get a picture in the museum steps in solidarity.
- **Andrew:** Maybe there should be programming during orientation to get in the heads of students early on.

IX. Report of the President- Daniel Mejia- Cruz ‘16

X. Announcements

Danny ‘19: “It was nice to see a lot of first years at the event and meeting today. Many students from the first generation and multi cultural retreat, attended...”

Michelle: “I feel like most of my time at Bowdoin has been spent to bringing awareness ... It’s tiresome to feel like we have not been doing enough...”

Kevin: “It is sad that people have heard about this [sailing incident] today. We’ve been having this conversation since Thursday now. Its alarming people aren’t having conversations about things that are currently happening on campus...”

XI. Adjournment

Justin Weathers – Board Member of the African American Society: Points out the use of the words “ganster” or “gangsta” to describe the party in the Statement of Solidarity... He also notes that a large part of the anger from the [Af-Am Society] is how Dean foster used gangster in his email.