

## Meeting of the General Assembly

9 November 2016

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

a. Missing:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Public Comment Time

- a. Ben: What should BSG do now [post-election]? Haleigh Collins: Did BSG plan the [post-election] talk today? Harriet: Yes Haleigh: I liked it, but it was too short. Smith is a good place for this, a lot of people came out. Harriet: How should we go about recreating this? Haleigh: Do it soon. Harriet: 4-5PM was a communal free time. Haleigh thinks it was a good time
- b. Emily: Recognize the need to reach out to people who you might not have talked to before. A space like that allowed us to close the differences amongst each other. No one spoke up who support Trump. Hold regular town hall meetings where all this diversity can be used to have discussions.
- c. James: Would like to see the BSG make a statement about the election to the student body, similar to past events (bias incidents). We should not normalize the views that have been expressed in the Trump campaign by talking about this issue and express how these ideas should not be accepted by our community.
- d. Interaction between faculty and staff – BSG should provide some guidance to the staff about how to talk about this. Irfan: Will meet with President Rose and

executive team to talk to professors about speaking up on this. Some classes acknowledge the issues but some did not. Will work to engage in discussion.

Harriet: Inclusive Community Committee with Evelyn – a lot of faculty members have been asking for a protocol to approach events that happen in the country and how to approach that. Email Harriet for ideas on how staff should approach this.

- e. Joe Lace: If you're going to send an email, normalize something other than being sad and depressed about this. He has received a lot of emails about safe spaces. Political action is hardly ever mobilized by depression and sadness. If you send an email, express that it's okay to be angry. Polls essentially said that Hillary would win, and people got complacent as a result of this. Spark civic duty. Just don't make this action every 4 year, but rather normalize political action. The best reaction isn't inaction.
- f. Victoria: I am frustrated and I agree that Smith Union was helpful and a statement would be good, we should also reach out Trump supporters. If we send out a statement and that if we reach out to Trump, it's kind of contradictory. How would Trump supporters feel comfortable coming to these spaces if the language of the emails we send inherently express disapproval of those political thoughts. We should encourage a space where we can have open conversations on Trump and the election.
  - i. Harriet: What language can we use to encourage this? Emily: Smith Union is a great space for this, it has a lot of traffic. The different levels of Smith would reflect interest in engaging on this talk – if you want space, you could be in the third floor. Struck by something that President Rose said:

Trump is our president-elect whether we like it or not, and that we have to go forward with this. Why are we complicit to this?

ii. Tessa: This election exemplifies the need for change – but this looks different to different people. Mobilization is needed, but the amount of love and solidarity present on campus has been really powerful and we can mobilize to bridge the divides that we have. The idea of change is pretty universal now.

g. Reed: Something BSG and Executive team are thinking of is that town hall meetings serve as great spaces, but are not productive if it's one sided. If we are trying to get Trump supporters in, how do we solve the issue that they might not feel ostracized or in the minority?

i. Reeder: If we publicizing a space, you can't phrase it as the election result being a negative thing. For Trump supporters, it was not a negative outcome. Annie: love and unity regardless of political identity.

h. Haleigh: All this sounds great, but something important to point out that 150 Bowdoin students supported Trump. We aren't representative of the outside world, including Trump supporters. We have to move outside Bowdoin for these discussions, look outside of this community and think about where other people fit.

i. Erin: The people who came out to vote for Trump, they saw this as a need of change. Now we have to work and listen to them to figure out how to move forward. Millions of people did vote in favor of him – that is indicative of the need for change or saw something in what he spoke.

- i. Quincy: Don't mourn but organize, what would this look like? Emily: Doesn't necessarily have to be a town hall meeting. We can approach this a brains storming on how to move forward.
- j. Harriet: Does it make sense to have another town hall with a facilitator? We are looking for opposing voices, how should we elicit this conversation? Harriet is happy to send an email to the faculty on how to approach this?
- k. Quincy: A survey type thing where we ask people to express their view.
- l. Tessa: had positive experience in classes, felt like spaces of solidarity. Opened the floor for people to express how they were feeling. Some professors cancelled assignments. Bowdoin has demonstrated care for student health exemplified by the library closing early. Some professors haven't
- m. Victoria: this national phenomenon is an academic experience, maybe extending deadlines can work.
- n. Ural: Had a graded performance in acting class, the problem they had was that the emotional responses were physical manifestations. Professor sat students down for the first 20 minutes and spoke about how the feelings that are being felt are valid. Faculty to acknowledge, regardless of department or political affiliation, the feelings that students are having.
- o. Leah: Thought on Trump supporters, and how she felt comfortable talking to her friends. Instead of town hall format, it might be too intimidating and a good idea would be to have smaller groups to have these discussions.

- p. Harriet: We can have a TV where people can submit what they are feeling and show this on the TV, but anonymously. Irfan: Anonymous format might be dangerous, but we would moderate – not censor.
- q. Erin: Formalize time to have these meetings.
- r. Joe: In regards to putting pressure on professors to move assignments is unfair because if it was on the flipside, it would not be the same issue. In terms of town hall meeting, that dies down after a while. The Orient can be a good medium to express disparate views on the election (ex. Why I would never vote for Trump v why I would never vote for Hillary). Evelyn: doesn't every student have a right to submit an article to the Orient? Joe: in the email sent out, you should mention that you should express your opinion, ex. through the Orient. Just open the door.  
Harriet: it is foolish that not changing the way that we seek new voices will bring out new voices, but how would we facilitate this? Perhaps having different groups facilitate these conversations.
- s. Julian: The Bowdoin Republicans could be good liaisons to reach out to Trump supporters. Tessa: When the group facilitates events, bipartisanship is important.
- t. Harriet: (to Joe) understands that you can't dictate what faculty does and reacts to this, but just bring awareness on to what students are feeling.
- u. Having empathy towards our professors is important.
- v. Jack: It is important for students to get in contact with faculty, though it may be an awkward conversation. BSG might be able to provide an email template on how to ask for extensions, or expressing their feelings.

- w. Kate: One professor reaffirmed that we are students, and that we are looking for guidance. Professors are passionate about their fields. Students are looking for guidance, not just extensions.
- x. Quincy: Asking campus for their opinions through individual paragraphs. Maybe use these paragraphs as the centerpiece for dialogues (maybe in the town hall meeting).
- y. Ural: A lot of people have said that they would just want an extra day, but would not want to come off as slacking off.
- z. Kelsey: we could provide a template, but acknowledge that the professor is the one who decides whether people would get the extensions and space. Emphasize the professor's say on this.
  - i. Harriet: would we really need a template? Ben: If I were a professor and I received the same email over and over, I would be suspicious.
  - ii. Jack: Agrees, but if you're a freshman or are in a large class and don't know how to approach professors. Maybe instead of a template, provide tips and advice on how to approach this.
  - iii. Victoria: I think it's important, because as a international student, she didn't know the concept of extensions, and guidance on this would be tremendously helpful for those who don't know to approach this.
  - iv. Quincy: As Bowdoin students, we should know how to manage our time and getting work done. If we have a campus wide request for extensions, it seems odd. Normalizing that has issues.

- v. Paloma: we are expected to act as adults; we are expected to meet deadlines despite stress of life. Instead of template, we should focus more on creating dialogues and the paragraph idea over templates.
- aa. Emily: Would be interested in panel of different professors talking about populism for example, or a lecture series. This is a global trend.
- bb. Harriet: We should use the Common Hour. Paloma: using that would be productive, we can see people do want to have conversations, maybe repeating the same event is not helpful. Having smaller discussions might be more productive.
- cc. Harriet: In terms of turning our attention to academics; how can BSG or students ask something from our academic, it was interesting to see the demographics of who voted for who; broaden our understanding of perspectives that aren't popular on this campus and turn that into an academic opportunity. Victoria: Included on reports of inclusivity; and encourages students to email the inclusivity committee.
- dd. Evelyn: her committee has been talking to different deans and faculty. Create a survey talking about how satisfied students are with classes.
- ee. Harriet: write a BSG proposal or have a student referendum and Clayton is open to hear that.

V. Introduction of Guests

VI. Old Business

VII. Reports of Committees

- a. Student Affairs—*Benjamin Painter '19*
- b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Kelsey Scarlett '17*
- c. Academic Affairs—*Evelyn Sanches Gonzalez '17*

- d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Caroline Rutan '19*
- e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*Irfan Alam '18*
  - i. Guideline changes: Irfan – the SAFC has noted an increase in programing, we need to protect the student budget, the guideline just clarifies vague language.

**1. SAFCC guideline changes approved.**

- f. Executive Committee—*Harriet Fisher '17 / Reed Fernandez '17*

VIII. Reports of Members

- a. Class Councils
- b. Multicultural Coalition
- c. Inter-House Council
- d. Entertainment Board
- e. Athletic Council
- f. McKeen Center
- g. At-Large Representatives

IX. Report of the President

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment