

Meeting of the General Assembly

7 December 2016

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Missing: Paloma Tisaire
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Public Comment Time - none
- V. Introduction of Guests
 - a. Dining – Michele Gailard
 - i. Thorne last renovated in 2000. Moulton last renovated 1997. 20,000 meals a week served. Last summer two students were hired – business manager, who updated the website and online comment cards.
 - ii. Dining Advisory Committee – over the last three years it's been handled well with help of BSG. Most recent meeting – ordering system that would allow you to order from your phone for Magee's grill, but the cost was too high for now. Will be revisited.
 - iii. Labeling – putting a lot more work in labeling allergens. No Gluten Ingredient labeling is a recent update. Dairy will be a new label – could take up to a year to fully get installed.
 - iv. Employment has been a big issue for dining. Low employment has been a state phenomenon for the restaurant business. Some wages for dining

employees have gone up to create more of an incentive. Line serving hasn't been happening because of understaffing.

- v. Reed: Why there haven't been grilled chicken breasts (a lot of burger options for lunch)? Michele: it's been hamburgers often, but it can be changed to chicken.
- vi. Evelyn: how does understaffing affect the current Bowdoin dining staff?
Michele: the menu has been trimmed down so the workload isn't overwhelming for the few dining staff member. It's a strain for people who are working; overtime is offered to the staff if they want it.
- vii. Jack: Food waste – what happens to the food that isn't consumed by the students? Michelle – years ago, food would be collected to the food shelter. Computer program that tells chefs how much to prepare for each meal, and they have to put in how much is left (this helps reduce food waste). There's also composting through a company called We Compost It. Some leftovers are used for supersnacks. Also, students should understand that students only take what they will eat. Using trays also lends itself to overtaking food that ultimately does not get eaten.
- viii. Leah: Have the dining halls hour been the same? Michele: Hours have changed, and have been added in the past 10 years. People are on 8 hours shift, so there aren't enough people to extend hours for lunch, dinner, etc. Staff also tries to manage home life, family and work.
- ix. Ben: Express breakfast – people would just want to grab a quick breakfast sandwich and go to class. Michele: breakfast runs from 7:15-lunch.

There's always a location for breakfast. There would be staffing issue if express breakfast happened.

- x. Joe: works in Moulton during the spring as a line cook. What incentive do students have to work in dining over library jobs? Michele: New student recruitment officer – dining pays higher wages, and usually students report having more fun. It's a break from studying and work. Dining has worked with career planning on how to sell those jobs and how to review students on linkedin to provide better job references for them. Any ideas to sell those jobs will be helpful. It's a good way to get skills, and you get to know the chefs better.
- xi. Irfan: Line serving - has there been a positive response to self-serve? Michele: it's a lot messier, but students seem to like it. The positive part is that if you want larger/smaller portions, you don't have to deal with the line server. But there's less of a personal experience. Irfan: is there a general training for line servers? Michele: we try to train as much as possible, but it's usually first years with little experience.
- xii. Quincy: With more students being accepted and taken in, does dining think of expanding? Michele: There are so many competing needs across campus (ex. improving residence halls), but Moulton would definitely need expanding.
- xiii. Beatrice: The juice bar closing down after this semester - will there be a relocation? Michele: The problem was location; the pub is dark and not

that much space. An alternative would be café, but there's also no space.

But the juice from the juice bar will be sold in the convenience store.

- xiv. Leah: the smoothies in the café don't have peanut butter, is there a way to get a blender there specifically for shakes with peanuts? Michele: It can be considered.

VI. Old Business

VII. Reports of Committees

a. Student Affairs—*Benjamin Painter '19*

- i. No Hate November went really well. Worked with McKeen center to get students to go out to vote. Gun control debate was well attended. Good Ideas Fund had an art installation for students with disabilities. Picnic Tables outside Moulton next semester.

b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Kelsey Scarlett '17*

- i. Club Leaders Training: Identity and Bystander Training; beneficial to have institutionalized this. A lot of new, interesting clubs were chartered.

c. Academic Affairs—*Evelyn Sanches Gonzalez '17*

- i. Food for Thought went great – suggestions for people go to Evelyn. A lot of meetings with Dean Scanlon. Has established great relationship with staff. All this will hopefully lead to a more diverse staff.

d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Caroline Rutan '19*

- i. Three new lamp posts on the quad – established great relationship with Randy and Bowdoin security. Bigger bowls. Picnic tables outside of Moulton next Spring.

- e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*Irfan Alam '18*
 - i. Creating a way to personalize events list.
- f. Executive Committee—*Harriet Fisher '17 / Reed Fernandez '17*
 - i. Reed: A lot of things have gotten done this semester; there has been a lot accomplished by the BSG team this semester.
 - ii. Harriet: More enthusiastic team, proud of how engaged the members have been. BSG has been more recognized this semester.
 - iii. Ian: Human library concept; promote dialogue and reduce prejudice and learn about different people (firefighter for example).
 - 1. Ural: this would be an event? Ian: yes, you pick from a selection of books and then you go to talk to the person for the book you chose.
 - 2. Leah: Would it be a recurring thing? Ian: It would be a 1-2 day event; it would be hard to do it multiple times.
 - 3. Spencer: Just Bowdoin students or community members? Ian: Community members mostly.
 - 4. Kelsey: The goal of this is to break down prejudice and starting a dialogue; there's a problem with someone represented by a book, because that then leads this one person to represent a whole identity. Harriet: A lot of schools have done this; it's more of a person who has written a description of themselves. It's a person who wants to talk about this part of their identity instead of speaking for what whole identity. Kelsey: if it's more specific on the individual, the book shouldn't be labeled as the whole identity.

5. Irfan: Community members or a mix? Ian: Mix, it's something that is intended to be open to the community.
6. Leah: Spring semester? Ian: Yes.
7. Reed: One-on-one conversation or a group? Ian: Could be both.
8. Irfan: Is it a conversation or does the volunteer just give a spiel?
Ian: Both, the volunteer prepares something to share, then students can ask questions. The book would have a small snippet of the person. It can also be just the title, and three questions.
9. Ben: At Williams, how many people did they get to volunteer? Ian: 30 the first year, then grew to 70 people.
10. Evelyn: Likes the idea of people sharing their story, but doesn't like the language. Objectifies the person as book or just a story, but the goal is to try to break down prejudice. Joe: given that people are volunteering themselves, they are subjecting themselves to it.
11. Joe: Is this is this a new thing? Ian: It's been going on for 16 years.
Joe: when's the last time someone has checked out a book? It erodes the function of an actual library and learning through reading books. Also, 20 minutes seems like too little time to get to know someone or that aspect of someone's life.
12. John: Instead of having this, why not just have people who are interested to get to know each other to grab a meal. Quincy: This is more focused and more of a contained environment.

13. Maggie: struggles with the language of checking out a human being; why is this called a “human library”? Likes the idea, because promoting dialogue is great but the language is a problem.
Jacob: It’s an extended metaphor, but maybe we should just promote it as a series of conversations.
14. Quincy: The Seven Strangers dinner has been declining, so this presents a great idea to meet strangers.
15. Kate: The library idea is cool to connect with older community members. Suggests idea to record some of the conversations/stories and save them.
16. Jack: When you get down to it, it’s an individualized event where you can sit down and talk to a single person, this is something that can help with empathy issue that’s been present here.
17. Tessa: You’re not trying to get to know a whole person in 20 minutes, but rather just an aspect of that person or a singular story of that person.
18. Irfan: Could you go with more than 5 people? Ian: Yea. Irfan: This seems more like a story telling thing, which can be appealing. I think promoting this as an opportunity for community members to share their stories is interesting and a good way to bridge relationships between Bowdoin and the community.
19. Jacob: Instead of human library, we could have a mixer with community members, maybe do a Moth event type thing.

20. Harriet: People who want to participate as an ad hoc to discuss
this: Carlie, Annie, Ural, Beatrice, Quincy, Kate, Spencer, Jack.

VIII. Reports of Members

a. Class Councils

- i. 2020: Freshman-Sophomore Ball
- ii. 2019: Sweatshirts delivered today and being handed out on Friday.
Freshman-Sophomore Ball
- iii. 2018: Chipotle and sweaters coming in tomorrow.
- iv. 2017: Planned a lot of events. This Saturday there's Zumba @4:30.

b. Multicultural Coalition

c. Inter-House Council

- i. The house have done more programming on identity and inclusivity more than they have before.

d. Entertainment Board

e. McKeen Center

- i. Election programming went pretty great. Environmental talk tomorrow @5 – discussion on election and how it relates to the environment.

f. At-Large Representatives

- i. Joe: The Mac house issue – GenderBender party. There was a critique on trivializing transgender issues. The original intent was to create discussion on gender binary. Carlie: How did you see this playing out, was it a costume thing? Henry: People didn't think it was an issue. Jacob: Before the event, the intention was to be respectful, to acknowledge the

heteronormative aspects of college house parties. Jack: There have been other parties like this, like a drag ball that brought forth the transgender community. Kate: how to increase attendance at parties and events like that, where queer students can feel more comfortable.

ii. Beatrice: giving out free lights to mount on bikes.

g. Athletic Council

i. Pink laces is something that's going to be instituted every year. Trying to reinstate 'Polar Bear Nation'

IX. Report of the President

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment