

BYLAWS OF THE BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**LAST AMENDED 2025
CONTAINING RULES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND
PROCEDURES.**

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TITLE I - Standing Committees

Chapter 1: Delegate Position Rules

No member of the student government may hold multiple delegate positions at the same time.

Being selected as a delegate does not confer Assembly voting privilege. However, if one is eligible to vote in the Assembly before being selected as a delegate, they maintain that privilege after selection.

Delegates must, if able, report the contents of their meetings to the chair who appointed them after each meeting.

Appointments to faculty committees must be communicated to Jeanne Bamforth of Academic Affairs before the last day of spring classes the year before the appointees are to take office.

Appointments from the student body must be made through a free and fair application process whose criteria must be published to applicants.

Committee chairs may appoint themselves to at most one student delegate position.

All appointments must be approved by the Student Government President and Student Government Vice President.

Chapter 2: Student Affairs Committee Charter

Section 1: General Responsibilities

The Student Affairs Committee focuses on problems unique to residential colleges, particularly those regarding on-campus living and social life. The committee may host its own events, sponsor other groups' events, advocate to relevant offices in the Office of Student Affairs, and assist in organizing student-run events like the Ivies weekend quad day.

Section 2: Lectures and Concerts Faculty Committee Delegates

The Chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall select among their eligible committee members and/or the student body and two delegates to the Lectures and Concerts Faculty Committee.

Section 3: At-Large Representatives

The Chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall select in coordination with the Office of Residential Life one Residential Life Special Representative.

The Chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall select in coordination with the Athletics Department one Athletics Special Representative.

The Chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall select in coordination with the McKeen Center one McKeen Center Special Representative.

Chapter 3: Facilities and Sustainability Committee Charter

Section 1: General Responsibilities

The Facilities and Sustainability Committee focuses on the physical and virtual infrastructure of the College. It shall advocate to the relevant offices to the

college in order to ensure equity and efficiency in printing, laundry, library, and dining services as well as improve Bowdoin's buildings and outdoors facilities.

Section 2: Library Faculty Committee Delegates

The Chair of the Facilities and Sustainability Committee shall select among their eligible committee members and/or the student body two student delegates to the Library Faculty Committee. Appointments must be communicated to Jeanne Bamforth of Academic Affairs before the last day of spring classes the year before the appointees take office.

Section 3: The Dining Advisory Commission

The Chair of the Facilities and Sustainability Committee shall select among their committee members one representative to be Chair of the Dining Advisory Commission. The Chair of the Dining Advisory Commission shall gather dining feedback and deliver said feedback at public semesterly meetings with Bowdoin Dining administrators.

Chapter 4: Diversity and Inclusion Committee Charter

Section 1: General Responsibilities

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee aims to further the College's pursuit of a diverse student body and inclusive culture. It may host its own events, sponsor other events, and advocate to relevant offices of the College.

Section 2: Accessibility Task Force Faculty Committee Delegates

The Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall select among their eligible committee and/or the student body two student delegates to the Accessibility Task Force.

Chapter 5: Academic Affairs Committee Charter

Section 1: General Responsibilities

The Academic Affairs Committee focuses on the College's academic policy. It may host events and advocate to the relevant administrators in the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Section 2: Curriculum and Educational Policy Faculty Committee (CEP), Curriculum Implementation Faculty Committee (CIC), Faculty Committee on Teaching and Classroom Practice, Museum of Art Advisory Council, and Recording Committee Delegates.

The Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee shall select among their eligible committee members and/or the student body two primary and one alternate delegates to the CEP, two primary and one alternate delegates to the CIC, two primary delegates to the Faculty Committee on Teaching and Classroom Practice, two primary delegates to the Museum of Art Advisory Council, and two primary and one alternate delegates to the Recording Committee.

TITLE II - Membership, Elections, and Applications

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Section 1: Good Standing Agreements

All candidates for elected office and applicants, including developmental representatives and delegates to the faculty committees, must sign an agreement stating that they are in good standing with the College and shall be automatically removed from this government should they fall out of good standing during their term. This agreement also authorizes the College to inform the Executive Board of the Bowdoin Student Government should they fall out of good standing. The General Assembly may choose to ignore a violation of the good standing agreement with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Section 2: Information Sessions

The Executive Board shall record and publish an informational video as well as host at least one public Q&A regarding the rules, regulations, positions, and schedule of every election it administers.

Chapter 2: Campaign and Application Rules and Regulations

Section 1: Executive Board Conduct of Elections and Applications

No person who is a candidate or applicant shall be eligible to conduct elections. Although the outgoing Executive Board only administers the election of the incoming Executive Board, the outgoing Board shall publish the election and application schedule for *all* spring elections/applications at least 6 weeks prior to the last day of spring classes for all elections and applications in the spring. The incoming Board shall publish the election and applications for all fall elections/applications within one week of the first day of fall classes for all elections and applications in the fall.

Elections will be conducted online with the assistance of Bowdoin's IT department and the Office of Student Activities.

Eligible voters, candidates, and applicants must be notified of the selection results within twenty-four hours of the closing of an election or application process.

The Executive Board may, with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote, disqualify a candidate for office or an applicant if it is found that the candidate or applicant violated any rule described in Title II, Chapter 2 of these bylaws. The accused must be present at their disqualification vote and be given adequate time to defend themselves. If necessary, the Board may reschedule an election affected by such disqualification.

Section 2: Candidate and Campaign Conduct Regulations

All candidates for elected office must submit a statement of candidacy before their campaigning period begins in accordance with the published Executive

Board schedule. This statement will be published to eligible voters.

Subsection A: Definitions for Subsections Below

Campaign materials shall be defined as materials purchased and/or used by the candidate or their campaign for the purpose of advancing their candidacy.

Campaigning shall be defined as any act used by the candidate or their campaign for the purpose of advancing their candidacy.

Private shall be defined as that which is not in the general view, not widely known, and not facilitated by the College

Public shall be defined as that which is not private. For the purposes of BSG elections, all college forums or forums sponsored by college organizations are considered public.

A campaign shall be defined as any person acting on a candidate's behalf.

Subsection B: Qualifications

No person shall be a candidate for more than one office nor be an applicant to more than one position simultaneously.

Candidates must abide by the Executive Board schedule to be eligible to run.

Candidates for class council must secure at least fifteen signatures from their eligible voters. Signatures may be collected online, but responses must be identifiable through either email or full name

Candidates for Student Government President, Student Government Vice President, and the chairs of the standing committees must secure at least thirty signatures from eligible voters. Signatures may be collected online, but responses must be identifiable through either email or full name

Subsection C: Campaigning

Candidates shall not use the College's funds or resources for campaign purposes. This does not include the use of college-funded media outlets or postering.

Candidates shall not provide gifts or giveaways to eligible voters while campaigning.

Candidates shall not hold election campaign parties. Furthermore, organizations shall not hold parties on behalf of any candidate.

Candidates shall not tamper with or electronically manipulate the voting process.

Campaign materials must be removed when an election ends.

Campaign materials shall not be hung on glass doors.

Campaigning through the use of email is expressly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, mass emails, individual messages, replies, forwards, mailing lists, listservs, and any use of email to promote, endorse, or solicit support for any candidate or campaign-related activity.

Candidates are bound to Bowdoin's Social and Honor Codes

Candidates will be given the choice of three packages for use at the College's Copy Center for campaign materials: 45 posters (11x18); 60 posters (size 8.5x11); or a combination of 30 Posters (11x18) and 40 posters (8.5x11).

Candidates may not use outside funds for campaigning. They may only use funds provided by this government for campaigning with posterage.

One candidate's name and likeness may only appear on a single allocation of posters.

Subsection D: Campaign and Voting Periods

All elections consist of a campaign period and a voting period.

No campaigning may occur before the campaigning period, and no voting may occur before the voting period. Campaigning may occur during the voting period. The periods must not overlap as to give time for candidates to have equal opportunity to attract voters.

Chapter 3: Election of Student Government President, Student Government Vice President, Student Government Treasurer, and Student Government Charterer (Election A)

Section 1: Election A Schedule

Election A is the simultaneous election of the Student Government President, Student Government Vice President, Student Government Treasurer, and Student Government Charterer. Election A consists of a campaigning period directly followed by a voting period. The final day of the voting period shall be at least four weeks before the last day of spring classes. The outgoing Executive Board administers Election A.

Section 2: Voting Eligibility

All enrolled Bowdoin students shall be eligible to vote in Election A.

Chapter 4: Election of Chairs of the Standing Committees and three of four Class Councils (Election B)

Section 1: Election B Schedule

Election B is the simultaneous election of the chairs of the standing committees and all class councils except first-year. Election B consists of a campaigning period directly followed by a voting period. The final day of the voting period shall be at least three weeks before the last day of spring classes and at least one week after the final day of the Election A voting period. The outgoing Executive Board administers Election B.

In order to accommodate students going abroad, rising junior candidates for their Class Council may run on a ticket with another junior candidate. The two-person ticket elects one member for the fall session and the other for the spring session. (It is not mandatory to run on a ticket with another candidate.)

Section 2: Voting Eligibility

All enrolled Bowdoin students shall be eligible to vote for standing committee chairs in Election B. Students may only vote for the class council candidates for their respective council.

Chapter 5: Election of First-Year Class Council (Election C)

Section 1: Election C Schedule

Election C is the election of the First-Year Class Council. Election C consists of a campaigning period directly followed by a voting period.

The final day of the voting period shall be at latest four weeks after the first day of fall classes.

Chapter 6: Selection of General Assembly Members

Section 1: General Provisions

In order to accommodate students going abroad, rising junior applicants to the general representative position may apply on a ticket with another junior candidate. The two-person application selects one member for the fall session and the other for the spring session. (It is not mandatory to apply with another candidate.)

Section 2: Spring Selection of 8 of the 16 General Representatives

The Executive Board shall select among applicants general representatives with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote. Selections must be complete by the last day of spring classes.

Section 3: Fall Selection of the remaining 8 of 16 General Representatives

The Executive Board shall select among applicants general representatives with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote. Selection must be complete at least 4 weeks after the first day of fall classes.

Section 4: Selection of Special Representatives

Special representatives selections must be approved by both the Student

Government President and Student Government Vice President. They must be complete by the last day of spring classes.

Chapter 7: Selection of At-Large Members of the Student Government Treasury

Section 1: Applications of At-Large Members of the TFC

The Student Government Treasurer, with approval from the Student Government President and Student Government Vice President, shall select among the student body at most 4 members of the student body to serve in the TFC through an application process.

Section 2: Applications of At-Large Members of the TCC

The Student Government Charterer, with approval from the Student Government President and Student Government Vice President, shall select among the student body at most 4 members of the student body to serve in the TCC through an application process.

Chapter 8: Developmental Representatives

Section 1: Selection of Developmental Representatives

The Executive Board may offer a position as developmental representative to any student they see fit with a ½ majority vote.

Section 2: Role of Developmental Representatives

Developmental representatives may not vote nor second in any capacity in the General Assembly. The only official action they may take is introducing a proposal. Otherwise, developmental representatives maintain the same rights and privileges as other members of the Assembly, including but not limited to: participating in debate, sitting on committees, eligibility for faculty committee delegate positions, and being present during executive session.

TITLE III - General Assembly Procedure

Chapter 1: Meeting Structure

The General Assembly must hold a meeting every week of classes except when a ½ majority of the Executive Board finds it unnecessary.

Meetings shall be respectful, welcoming, and run in accordance with the bylaws.

All meetings begin with a designated public comment time. It must be at least five minutes if any student non-members are present, and if no student non-members are present, the assembly may ignore this requirement. Any student wishing to express an opinion may do so in public comment time.

Any student wishing to bring a proposal before the General Assembly must have it introduced by one of the voting members of the body.

Meetings automatically adjourn at 10:00PM.

Chapter 2: The Presiding Officer

The presiding officer of the General Assembly is the Student Government President.

When the Student Government President is absent, the Student Government Vice President is the presiding officer. The presiding officer controls the floor of the assembly meetings.

If the presiding officer is obstructing proceedings that have support of the 2/3 majority of assembly members, a vote to change the presiding officer may be initiated by an assembly member. This change is approved with a 2/3 majority and is reverted at the adjournment of the meeting in which it took place. A vote to change the presiding officer may only occur once per meeting.

Chapter 3: Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1: General Rules

The General Assembly assumes very few defined rules upon the start of a meeting: respect one another, speak one at a time, and cede the floor to the presiding officer.

Section 3: Motions in Rules of Order

Any assembly member may make any motion explained below. All motions must be seconded.

Introducing a proposal: introduce a constitutionally permissible proposal. No vote is needed to introduce a proposal.

Amending a proposal: propose minor changes to the wording or substance of a proposal. A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority constitutes adoption.

Cloture: stop debate and force a final vote on the proposal. $\frac{2}{3}$ majority constitutes cloture.

Limit debate: limit debate to a specified time period. $\frac{2}{3}$ constitutes adoption.

Table a proposal: place the proposal on the “table,” where it may be introduced again at the next two meetings with priority over other proposals. While on the table, it may be modified by the author. A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority constitutes tabling. The same proposal may not be tabled twice.

Final vote: final approval/denial of the proposal. A 2/3 majority constitutes approval if not otherwise stated in bylaws or the constitution.

Chapter 4: Executive Session

Any member may motion to enter executive session to protect the privacy and confidentiality of debate. If seconded and approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, executive session is adopted. Executive session may be adjourned with $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, and no votes may be taken in executive session.

During executive session, all public observers and non-voting members of the General Assembly except developmental representatives must leave the room, however, student government staff and faculty advisors may be allowed to stay at the discretion of the presiding officer. Other members of the public may be admitted to executive session by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

No computers are to be used nor notes taken while in executive session.

No votes may be taken while in executive session.

TITLE IV - Employees

Chapter 1: Hiring Employees

At discretion of the General Assembly, the Bowdoin Student Government may hire paid employees to further the constitution's goals.

All employees shall be hired and paid through the Student Activities Office using the Bowdoin Student Government's budget.

All employees shall have a charter in these bylaws describing the purpose of employment and their pay level.

Chapter 2: Chartered Employees

Section 1: The Bowdoin Student Government Secretary

The Bowdoin Student Government hires a secretary to publish meeting agendas, take meeting minutes, and publish meeting summaries. They are paid at Level III. More information can be found in the shared drive detailing their employment agreement.

Section 2: The Bowdoin Student Government Visual Designer and Social Media Manager

The Bowdoin Student Government hires a visual designer and social media manager to share our achievements and gather student feedback. They are paid at Level III. More information can be found in the shared drive detailing their employment agreement.

Section 3: Bowdoin Course Reviews Employee

The Bowdoin Student Government hires a webmaster for the Bowdoin Course Reviews to maintain its code. They are paid at Level V. More information can be found in the shared drive detailing their employment agreement.

TITLE V - Referendum

Chapter 1: Petitioning Rules

Section 1: Initiative and Management

The Executive Board must provide the petition forms (virtually) within one week of the petitioner's request.

The petitioner must take initiative for publicizing the petition and gathering signatures.

The petitioning process is anonymous; only the Student Government President, Student Government Vice President, and the Office of Student Activities shall have access to the names of the students who have signed the petition and will manage the collection of signatures.

Section 2: Conduct and Accessibility

The student government expects self-enforced recusal in the case of a student on the Executive Board who has specific and biased interest.

Unlimited time is allowed to gather signatures.

Petitioners may use college-sponsored and personal media sources and may collaborate with other student organizations to promote their petition.

Petitioners must adhere to the College's Social Honor Code and are prohibited from bribing or throwing parties to influence signatures.

Section 3: Communication

The student government will not send an email publicizing a petition. The initiative to gather signatures is the sole responsibility of the initiating party.

Consistency between the language of the petition and the resolution must be maintained to ensure clarity and fairness.

Section 4: Petitioning Period

During the academic year, petitioning may occur. If an exorbitant amount of time passes before the petition reaches its required threshold of twenty percent, signatories may retract their signature. The twenty percent threshold is determined by the total number of students eligible for voting in the Campus Groups software.

Chapter 2: Referendum Rules

Section 1: Procedure and Oversight

Once a petition has been submitted and approved, the outgoing Executive Board must send out the resolution form to students within two days of the initiating group's request.

The resolution shall remain anonymous. Only the Student Government President, Student Government Vice President, and the Office of Student Activities shall have access to the names of voters and their voting preference.

Section 2: Communication and Restrictions

Only one listserv email may be sent during the petition and resolution processes, excluding an email for the resolution from the student government.

The outgoing Executive Board retains authority and control over all emails regarding the resolution (in the case that the assembly recesses while the petition and resolution are being initiated)

The petitioner may use college-sponsored and personal media sources and may collaborate with other student organizations to promote the resolution.

Section 3: Voting Rules and Duration

The resolution voting period will last for five days given that the resolution opens at least five days before the last day of classes. If the resolution opens with less than five days until the last day of classes, extensions will not be provided but the resolution may still occur.

The outgoing General Assembly will convene to respond to the resolution by the last day of allowable club activity.

Coercion by the petitioning party is prohibited. The petitioners must adhere to the College's Social Honor Code.

Section 4: Outcome and Communication:

The Assembly shall be informed that their response to the resolution is on procedural, not moral grounds.

Once the voting period has elapsed and if the Assembly does not find petitioner wrongdoing, the outgoing Executive Board must communicate resolution results to the student body.

TITLE VI - Vacancies and Succession

Chapter 1: Presidential Vacancy

The Student Government Vice President shall assume the position of President if the Office of the President is vacant.

Chapter 2: Student Government Treasury Vacancies and Eligibility

If the Chair of the Treasury position becomes vacant, eligibility to be the new Treasurer is extended to all members of the Treasury Funding Commission.

If the Student Government Charterer position becomes vacant, eligibility to be the new Charterer is extended to all members of the Treasury Chartering Commission.

Chapter 3: Filling Vacancies

All vacant positions other than the presidency shall be filled by the following appointment process.

The Executive Board, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ majority vote, shall nominate an eligible member of the student government or student body to the vacant position.

The General Assembly must approve the Executive Board's appointment with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote. If a student government member is successfully appointed, they must resign from their original position.

TITLE VII - Impeachment

Chapter 1: Confidentiality

All impeachment proceedings must be held with full confidentiality and while in executive session, except for the announcement of the final results of impeachment.

Chapter 2: Filing and Introducing Articles of Impeachment

Any member of the General Assembly may introduce articles of impeachment. An assembly member wishing to introduce articles of impeachment, henceforth referred to as the petitioner, shall inform any two members of the Executive Board of their intention to introduce articles of impeachment to the General Assembly before the

meeting in which the petitioner intends to introduce them.

The members of the Executive Board informed of the proposed articles must inform the member being impeached, henceforth referred to as the respondent, of the intention to introduce articles of impeachment against them at least twenty-four hours before planned introduction.

Chapter 3: Adopting Articles of Impeachment

Each article of impeachment must be considered by the Assembly executive session and may be adopted by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Assembly taken by secret ballot.

Once adopted, articles of impeachment shall not appear in any student government publications, including the agenda or meeting minutes.

If articles of impeachment fail adoption, they may not be introduced.

Chapter 4: Impeachment Proceedings

Section 1: Presiding Officer

Unless the Student Government President is unable to be presiding officer of impeachment proceedings due to impeachment being against them or due to recusal, the Student Government Vice President shall be the presiding officer.

Per Title III, Chapter 2, the Assembly may further change the presiding officer with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote – refer to the original text for more information.

Section 2: Respondent Rights and Privileges

The respondent maintains the right to resign until the appointed starting time for their impeachment proceedings, to remain at the entirety of their impeachment proceedings, and to be absent for part or all of their proceedings.

The respondent may also appoint a member of faculty, staff, or another student to be their representative during impeachment proceedings. This person shall be automatically allowed to remain while in executive session. The respondent's representative shall be allowed to remain as long as the respondent desires.

Section 3: Impeachment Procedure

Once in executive session, the presiding officer shall first provide an opening statement and read the articles of impeachment.

The petitioner shall explain their introduction of the articles of impeachment and the reasoning behind each complaint adopted.

The respondent or respondent's representative must be allowed to speak on their behalf.

Each member of the Assembly may make a statement, then the Assembly will enter into a question and answer session. The presiding officer will provide a closing statement.

Voting will be conducted by secret ballot for each complaint the petitioner has introduced. The presiding officer and one other member of the Executive Board, chosen by the presiding officer, shall count the

ballots and the presiding officer shall read the result of the vote on each complaint to the Assembly. If there are multiple respondents, the result of each vote shall be read after the proceedings for all respondents have been completed.

Both respondent and petitioner shall be entitled to vote on the merits of the Articles of Impeachment.

If any complaint is adopted by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the Assembly, the respondent shall be removed indefinitely from their position. The Assembly may further decide to make this removal permanent by another $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote. If the Assembly decides the removal shall be permanent, this government shall follow Title VII for how to replace them. The Assembly may also, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, adopt stated criteria that the respondent must fulfill before reinstatement is considered.

Unless the Assembly has voted to make removal permanent, the respondent may apply for reinstatement at any time after two full assembly meetings have occurred. Should the respondent choose not to apply for reinstatement after two full assembly meetings, they will be considered removed permanently and this government shall follow Title VII for how to replace them.

Section 4: Announcing the Results

Although all proceedings prior to the final vote are held confidentially, the final decision of impeachment proceedings must be announced publicly.