

## Meeting of the General Assembly

13 April 2016

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

I. **Missing:** Annie, Jacob, Octavio

II. **Introduction of Guests:** *Dean Leana Amaez*- her favorite Starburst color is orange and she has her phone on the table in front of her because her child is sick \*cue "aw"\*;

- *What She Does:* relatively new role – before that, she was to serve as the dean for several students of color and First Generation college students, meet with those students and help them navigate, and to help students affiliated with multicultural groups to program (prior to Student Center for Multicultural Life) but now co-supervises Student Center for Multicultural Life and works with colleagues regarding diversity initiatives in a consulting process, hodgepodge of things – she’s kinda everywhere, and is currently running IGD and fielding questions about the immigration policy of the Trump Administration; Kate Stern has been helping her and will be joining her in her role
- She thinks BSG should create a space where we can hear multiple viewpoints and our obligation is to the process that allows for everyone’s voice to be heard
- *Her thoughts on Tim Foster’s email & the merger:* “The merger of the two centers began as an idea between Kate and Melissa Quinby b/c they saw a lot of places they overlapped, and this idea reached fruition faster than we thought it would b/c we didn’t have a process where students could weigh in. Part of that is due to reorganization of student affairs, but the idea itself was generated by the people doing the actual work. From the students that we have heard from, I’ve heard consistently that the process didn’t feel good, and if I could, I would change that. I think we have a really unique and amazing moment in time in which thinking about how different identities need to create spaces to be heard, need to create messages that appeal to a larger group for solidarity, seems more relevant now than ever. I’m excited to work at a center where that may be natural. I am not a fan of consolidating all identities into one. That is not what is happening here. The things that students love are not going to go away, the idea is that those spaces need to be at the table together because sometimes they’re stepping on each other’s toes and that is counterproductive. We miss opportunities to advocate together. Those staff have been collaborating informally for a long time, and the idea that they will be one team will just strengthen that and formalize it.”
- *thoughts on Upward Bound:* Upward Bound has always been a part of Student Affairs. Brigit has offered insight into a first-gen student’s experience that has proved invaluable. We often hear from students that class doesn’t seem to have a ‘home’, but Upward Bound does a lot of thinking about class. There’s expertise that we haven’t acknowledged there yet. I’ve thought that UB has always been an integral part, and hopefully more students will see that and that they can help us to broaden our conversations about class.
- Victoria asked is Bowdoin opposed FDR’s executive order, but Leana didn’t know.
- Evelyn asked *why Bowdoin didn’t hire an immigration attorney to answer any questions students may have*, and Leana responded that she is not giving legal advice but instead connecting people to legal advice: “When we did bring two attorneys a few weeks ago, and we did reach out to students and offered them a consultation at no cost to the students. I recognize that there is a lot of vulnerability in exposing yourself, and obviously I am bound by confidentiality with FERPA, so I would discreetly help all students. What’s really challenging is we know the status of our students, but not the status of our students’ families. So what’s less clear is how we can help them. I would encourage folks if they have concerns to come see me.”

- Leana said that BSG could help her with getting the word out about the bias incident form – and welcomes feedback on it – and thinks that BSG should just keep supporting the centers and especially as the national rhetoric attacks safe spaces or reduces our centers to safe spaces.
- Beatrice asked if they have seen more entries in the bias incident form because it's anonymous, but Leana doesn't think people know it is anonymous.
- *describing IGD*: "It's a 7 week program to go deeply into conversation about race, and those students who finish IGD do a one day training on facilitating and then they go facilitate. The workshop used to be created every time, but that was a challenge for facilitators, and we've moved to a 90 minute workshop on talking about race in already established group spaces. This is our 5th IGD session, and it's a hard time not taking people. The interest is there just to talk about race, but the interest to facilitate is not always there, so I've moved away from requiring facilitations. So one way IGD has grown is just by offering the space for the conversation. I've also hired a few students to help come up with ways to continue the conversation in residential spaces. I think the bigger thing that I'm excited about is is this a model we can use for other topics, like class? The challenge: I hire two students to plan this curriculum of sorts. It's not as simple as saying now we're just gonna do this on class, but that would require a bit of funding, time, and some motivated students. We didn't make up IGD, a lot of other schools do it and they have adopted that model for a lot of other things, and I think we could do it."
- Believes there is a healthy relationship between Student Affairs and Admissions: "Bringing people here from diverse backgrounds doesn't mean they will make relationships across diversity. That's much more about the community we create here and how we as students/staff/community make sure that those connections have an opportunity to grow in a meaningful way. I'm not sure we have figured that out yet, but I'm not sure any college has yet."
- Credits Williams as being able to have almost 50% of color because they have more money and a different location, but challenges among our peer institutions are not the same.
- *on class*: "The challenge might be that we often present discussions about an issue with broad terms, we use this language disingenuously. If we're gonna talk about class, we need to talk about class across the spectrum. We don't often do a good job of presenting programs across that. This is why I want to do an IGD on class."
- Spencer and Allen discussed Posse - "a college access program where students sign on to a city, they build a group of students and then an institution can look at these students and they come to Bowdoin and program." Leana sees it as helping with the transition but creates a group who knows each other really well and excludes others.
- Leana: "My door is open and I would be glad to hear from you as an individual or as a body. It sometimes just takes a student perspective, and sometimes I just don't see it. I welcome healthy criticism and constructive feedback."
- Evelyn shouted goodnight as Leana left. It was cute and sweet.
- Ian *chased* Leana outside to ask her about Human Library. Hopefully he'll tell us about it later.

### III. Reports of Committees

- a. Student Affairs—*Benjamin Painter '19*
  - b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Kelsey Scarlett '17*
  - c. Academic Affairs—*Evelyn Sanchez Gonzalez '17*
- needed people to meet with Dean Scanlon to discuss BCQs: Ural, Kate, and Riley signed up
- d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Caroline Rutan '19*

- “We have been working on creating a student government conference for the other student governments at the NESAC schools. It’ll be a good way for” all of us to collaborate and see how we function and solve problems on our campuses. April 8th.

- Also has been thinking about gazebos for Dudley Coe

- Met w/ Laurel to discuss ideas for the Friday and Saturday nights of Ivies

e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*Irfan Alam '18*

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

- Harriet: “Facilities ordered 20 of the original baskets for the tampons! And they’ve also ordered the three picnic tables.”

- Harriet gave Jenna a shout out about Winter Weekend.

- Reed: At-Larges working on a survey about social life on campus

#### IV. Reports of Members

##### a. Class Councils

-2020: Beatrice: First-Year/Sophomore Semi-Formal was a hit, Valentine’s Day goodie bags were a hit *\*Carlie took a creeper photo of Beatrice and Nate tying\**

-2019: Andrew: Formal went great, we sent out a poll and one of the options was a class tailgate *\*Reeder and Andrew just exchanged a look because they can totally partner with Polar Bear Nation\**

-2018: Riley: We had a postcard sending night where a decent amount of people showed up. Tomorrow night we’re having a dinner with 6 strangers. Our treasurer ordered like 36 Bowdoin logs. We also ordered our sweatshirts for abroad folks.

-2017: Spencer: We had 100 days to graduation thing, and Nate wants to make it a thing for the future, so we’re gonna chat. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday we’re tabling about senior apparel.

##### b. Inter-House Council

-Tessa: House Application process is open, and that will continue on.

##### c. Entertainment Board

-Maggie: We’re announcing soon! And UCB will be after spring break.

##### d. Athletic Council

-Reeder: Just working on spring community outreach

##### e. McKeen Center

- Quincy: Affordable Housing talk on Monday at 7:30, Community Immersion Orientation Trips, apps due March 10

##### f. Multicultural Coalition

-Victoria: Tomorrow we have an event from Black History Month in the pub, and it would be great if we show up to support. On Friday, BCA will be arranging a protest in Portland. \*Ian awkwardly walks in and everybody looks, Victoria wants to talk about it, so we'll put it on the agenda for next week, because a lot of people — Victoria couldn't see Ian's face — a lot of multicultural leaders have expressed concerns about Ian's email, apparently there are 7 reasons that she could list and execution could be tweaked; Harriet collected names for an Ad Hoc Committee.

g. At-Large Representatives