



# BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## **Meeting of the General Assembly**

Wednesday, 2 March 2016, 8:30pm

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

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# Agenda

## **Meeting of the General Assembly**

2 March 2016

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Public Comment Time

V. Introduction of Guests

VI. Old Business

VII. Reports of Committees

a. Student Affairs—*Luke Von Maur '16*

b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Emily Serwer '16*

c. Academic Affairs—*Andrew Millar '16*

i. **Proposal to Vote:** Academic Calendar Change—*Andrew Millar '16*

d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Kevin Hernandez '18*

i. **Proposal to Vote:** Caucus Shuttles—*Kevin Hernandez '18*

e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*David Levine '16*

f. Executive Committee—*Daniel Mejia-Cruz '16 / Michelle Kruk '16*

VIII. Reports of Members

a. Class Councils

b. Inter-House Council

c. Entertainment Board

d. Athletic Council

e. McKeen Center

f. Multicultural Coalition

g. At-Large Representatives

IX. Report of the President—*Daniel Mejia-Cruz '16*

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment

# *Proposal to Vote*

## **Proposal 141532**

Proposed by: Academic Affairs

Date: 24 February 2016

### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR CHANGE**

*Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly*

**WHEREAS**, The faculty of the College plans to vote on a proposal to the change of the start date of the fall semester from its current day, a Thursday, to a Wednesday;

**WHEREAS**, This vote presents an excellent opportunity to consider the broader implications of the fall semester academic calendar on Bowdoin students;

**WHEREAS**, Students have noted that the weekday start of the fall semester has been detrimental to students, particularly students for whom travel costs are burdensome, students who live far away from the College, and students whose families do not have weekday workplace flexibility that allows them to assist in the move-in process;

**WHEREAS**, Students have also reported that the current Thanksgiving break schedule causes travel inconveniences and burdensome costs;

**WHEREAS**, Survey data indicate that classes on the Monday and Tuesday preceding Thanksgiving are both inconsistently held (on the part of faculty) and inconsistently attended (on the part of students);

**WHEREAS**, Among our peer institutions, Amherst, Bates, and Hamilton, have moved to a week-long Thanksgiving break, giving Bowdoin an opportunity to lead among its peers;

**WHEREAS**, Bowdoin should seek to meet the needs of a geographically diverse student body;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**R****ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. Support the faculty proposal, to the end that it allows students to sample all classes in their schedule in their first week.

2. But are in favor of amendments to the proposal that would include further changes to the Fall semester start date, Thanksgiving break, and/or exam period;
3. And support a fall semester academic calendar which begins on a Tuesday (allowing for weekend arrival of students) and, as compensation for these added days, eliminates classes on the two days falling either
  - a. On the Monday and Tuesday preceding Thanksgiving or,
  - b. The last two days of the semester.

**BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

# Appendix A

## **BSG Survey Data from the 2014-2015 Academic Year**

Students were asked to answer several questions pertaining to Thanksgiving break and the academic calendar. Over six hundred responses were recorded.

### **1) Class attendance**

Students were asked to report how many of their classes were cancelled and how many of their classes they skipped on the Monday and Tuesday preceding Thanksgiving:

#### *Cancellations*

- Average number of classes cancelled on Monday:  
1.12 per student
- Average number of classes cancelled on Tuesday:  
1.37 per student

#### *Skips*

- Average number of classes skipped on Monday:  
1.22 per student
- Average number of classes skipped on Tuesday:  
1.46 per student

### **2.) Travel plans**

Percentage of students traveling home for Thanksgiving break given the current calendar:  
78%

Percentage of students who said they would travel home for Thanksgiving break in the event of a weeklong break:  
92%

# Appendix B

## BSG Survey Data from February 2016

Students were asked to describe how certain elements of the fall semester academic calendar have impacted them. Seventy-nine responses were recorded. Below are some anecdotes that represent common students concerns.

### 1) **The weekday start date:**

-“Tuesday move-in has proven to be difficult for me, as I live in Maine but cannot get a ride from my parents because they are working.

Thursday start for classes has often felt like a waste of a week to me, since I've only once in eight semesters had Friday class.” –*Abby Roy '16*

- “The point raised by faculty about the prolonging of being able to try out all classes in the first week rings true with me, I think. While I moved in early because I live off campus, in the past I think that getting rides from family to the airport would be easier with move in on the weekend and class starting on a Tuesday (or I guess Wednesday is what's being voted on).” – *Emily Talbot '16*

- “Moving in such a short time before the start of classes has made the move-in process extremely stressful...I have also been highly dissatisfied by the inability to attend Wednesday courses during the first week of [classes]...Last semester, one of my courses that met on Mondays and Wednesdays met once during reading period due to the shortage of normal meeting days. Stopgap policies like this undermine the entire purpose of reading period, and adding another day to the first week is a much more logical solution”. – *Rayne Sampson '18*

### 2) **Thanksgiving break:**

- “The short length of Thanksgiving break meant that I didn't go home for it. While American students who celebrate Thanksgiving might be willing to make the effort to fly home for such a short break, students like myself who do not celebrate the holiday can't justify flying home for what is really only three days - Wednesday and Sunday are spent traveling, so Thursday, Friday, and Saturday are the only full days spent at home. If the break included Monday and Tuesday, however, I would travel home. This would allow for seven days at home and two days of traveling. In addition to allowing students to justify spending the money required to fly home, incorporating Monday and Tuesday into break would get rid of the, frankly, pointless classes on those days. Professors are weary of covering too much material when they know many students are going to be skipping those days to get home earlier.” – *Sean McParland '19*

- “...It is often very expensive for students to buy tickets to travel home for only 4 or 5 days...therefore, many people decide not to go home for Thanksgiving. This is unfortunate because we work very hard at Bowdoin - the academics are rigorous and often stressful. Many students could use more time to unwind and extending Thanksgiving break could provide that mental health break needed! But more so, starting break on the day before the holiday is ridiculous...it just cuts things too close. For example, when a snowstorm hits on Tuesday night or Wednesday, and flights are delayed or canceled, students

risk not being able to get home at all. I would rather us start a few days earlier in the fall (in August or September) so we can get the full week off for Thanksgiving, as many other colleges do.” – *Alex Logan ‘18*

- “This has been one of the worst breaks because travel is absurdly expensive for such a short period of time. Having the full week would not only allow students to afford going home (myself included), but it would also make the break feel like it's actually rejuvenating.” – *Class of 2017 Member*

### 3) **The end date of final exams:**

- “Finals end TOO LATE! I've had the issue before of a winter storm making it hard for me to get home. When finals end on December 21st, I may not be able to leave until the 22nd. If there's a storm, I'm always worried that I won't get home for Christmas (not a fun feeling).” – *Class of 2017 Member*

- “I had a Monday final and it was the worst because I could not see my family while everyone else was returning home. It really dampened my spirits and during this time I considered strongly transferring from Bowdoin. In hindsight, I like Bowdoin, it was just the awful schedule that made me question my choice to go here.” – *Class of 2019 Member*

- “It was a real pain to get flights out of Boston back home, and more expensive. Flights are much cheaper the week before (even toward the end of the week).” – *John Sledge ‘18*

# *Proposal to Vote*

## **Proposal 141533**

Proposed by: Facilities and Sustainability

Date: 2 March 2016

### **CAUCUS SHUTTLES**

*Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly*

**WHEREAS**, Part of the mission of the Bowdoin Student Government is to provide services to the student body;

**WHEREAS**, the BSG promotes civic engagement;

**WHEREAS**, the Maine Republican Caucus will be held on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> and the Maine Democratic Caucus will be held on Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Many students would like to participate in the state Caucuses and the Presidential Primary election;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

***R*ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. The Committee on Facilities & Sustainability and the Executive Committee is authorized to spend up to \$250.00 to provide transportation to both the Maine Republican and Maine Democrat Caucuses.

**BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT**



# *Articles of Impeachment*

*Introduced by:*

Representative At-Large, Ms. Lucia Gibbard  
Vice President for Facilities and Sustainability, Mr. Kevin Hernandez  
Inter-House Council Representative, Mr. Jacob Russell

And on behalf of their constituencies

*Against:*

Representative At-Large, Mr. Duncan Cannon

On: 2 March 2016

## ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

*Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly, acknowledges the following Articles of Impeachment:*

**WHEREAS**, members of the General Assembly unanimously voted to adopt the following definition of cultural appropriation on 28 October 2015: cultural appropriation refers to a power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group, perpetuates racist stereotypes, and/or misrepresents people's culture;

**WHEREAS**, members of the General Assembly unanimously voted to condemn acts of cultural appropriation and acts of racial or ethnic bias on 28 October 2015;

**WHEREAS**, members of the General Assembly should be held accountable to the Nondiscrimination Policy of the Constitution of Bowdoin Student Government;

**WHEREAS**, the position held by Mr. Duncan Cannon holds him accountable to his votes, the Nondiscrimination Policy of the Constitution, and his constituency, the Student Body At-Large;

**WHEREAS**, actions recently taken by Mr. Cannon have been in violation of the aforementioned policies which were unanimously adopted;

**WHEREAS**, actions recently taken by Mr. Cannon have been injurious to members of the student body and members of the General Assembly;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Cannon, by introduction of these articles, is now held under articles of impeachment for:

**1. Violation of the spirit of the Statement of Solidarity issued on 28 October 2015 and violation of their pledge by vote to Proposal 141522, authorizing release of said Statement.**

**2. Violation of the Nondiscrimination Policy of the Constitution of Bowdoin Student Government.**

**3. Injurious actions towards other members of the General Assembly.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**R****ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. Impeaches Mr. Duncan Cannon.
2. Impeachment proceedings and vote for removal from office will be conducted Saturday, 5 March 2016 at 1:00 pm.
3. All members of the General Assembly will be present at impeachment proceedings unless granted an excuse of absence by the President of Bowdoin Student Government.

**BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

# *Articles of Impeachment*

*Introduced by:*

Representative At-Large, Ms. Lucia Gibbard  
Vice President for Facilities and Sustainability, Mr. Kevin Hernandez  
Inter-House Council Representative, Mr. Jacob Russell

And on behalf of their constituencies

*Against:*

Representative of the Class of 2018, Ms. Clare McInerney

On: 2 March 2016

## ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

*Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly, acknowledges the following Articles of Impeachment:*

**WHEREAS**, members of the General Assembly unanimously voted to adopt the following definition of cultural appropriation on 28 October 2015: cultural appropriation refers to a power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group, perpetuates racist stereotypes, and/or misrepresents people's culture;

**WHEREAS**, members of the General Assembly unanimously voted to condemn acts of cultural appropriation and acts of racial or ethnic bias on 28 October 2015;

**WHEREAS**, members of the General Assembly should be held accountable to the Nondiscrimination Policy of the Constitution of Bowdoin Student Government;

**WHEREAS**, the position held by Ms. Clare McInerney holds her accountable to her votes, to the Nondiscrimination Policy of the Constitution, and her constituency, the Class of 2018;

**WHEREAS**, actions recently taken by Ms. McInerney have been in violation of the aforementioned policies which were unanimously adopted;

**WHEREAS**, actions recently taken by Ms. McInerney have been injurious to members of the student body and members of the General Assembly;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. McInerney, by introduction of these articles, is now held under articles of impeachment for:

**1. Violation of the spirit of the Statement of Solidarity issued on 28 October 2015 and violation of their pledge by vote to Proposal 141522, authorizing release of said Statement.**

**2. Violation of the Nondiscrimination Policy of the Constitution of Bowdoin Student Government.**

**3. Injurious actions towards other members of the General Assembly.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**R****ESOLVED**, That the members of Bowdoin Student Government, convened in General Assembly—

1. Impeaches Ms. Clare McInerney.
2. Impeachment proceedings and vote for removal from office will be conducted Saturday, 5 March 2016 at 1:00 pm.
3. All members of the General Assembly will be present at impeachment proceedings unless granted an excuse of absence by the President of Bowdoin Student Government.

**BY ORDER OF BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT**