

Meeting Notes of the General Assembly

Wednesday, 2 March 2016

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Roll Call**

Absent: Michelle Kruk

III. **Approval of Minutes**

IV. **Public Comment Time**

- Daniel Mejia Cruz: We are acknowledging impeachment; the event will occur on Saturday. Final vote for removal will be held in private session
- Amir parker: I fall in the middle with this issue on campus. There's an overarching issue and debate of diversity, however ethnic diversity is not the only type of diversity that exists. (There's political diversity). Acknowledge that there are political minority, they will be ridiculed by their opinion
- Kiki: What are the opinions you're talking about?
- Amir: One side is saying you're racist, the other is you're being insensitive.
- Kiki: Racism is prejudice plus power. That is exactly what took place that night.
- Dana: Sad students of color feel unwelcome on campus however targeting the individual characters is not productive. I know Claire, she is nice and thoughtful and have talked with her for many hours regarding the tequila party. Lack of awareness/attending the party is indicative of her privilege. She has tried to understand, and made a conscious effort. Victimizing Claire will not be helpful. Without a discussion from both sides, nothing will get done. Claire is an asset to the BSG and impeaching her will only rise the issues of race on campus.
- Gordon: I didn't have a concrete idea of what is cultural appropriation. Wanted to figure out exactly what it is. Definition- when one culture makes use of one of aspects of another culture. The term cultural appropriation is a broad term. Cultural misappropriation gives a better context; it is cultural appropriation turned harmful. We need to define what cultural appropriation is. It is harmful when it involves power dynamic, censorship, legal cultural theft, exclusion of a minority group. We need to consider if the Tequila Party breeches any of these parameters. There is not much a basis for the students who attended the party. It is not right to assume that just because someone attends the party, the condone or support the messages are being perpetuated there.
- Jack: Emotions on this campus are high. In this process, you shouldn't let emotions guide you. BSG isn't acting as a policy maker. Remember what is at stake here.
- Victor: Pushing back on Dana's point. Will it increase racial tensions? Is it right settling for something because we don't want a bigger issue? This the third event that has occurred within the past two years. When you associate mustaches, ponchos to a certain ethnicity, it belittles someone's identity. Trump calls Mexicans rapists and criminals. I don't see how settling for someone to avoid an outrage will be helpful. Maybe an outrage is needed.
- Violet: Conversations concerning freedom of speech, however it is not given equally to everyone. We are shooting for something bigger than what the US is able to accomplish right now. Minority students saying that they don't like this is exercising how they feel,

just like you are exercising wearing what you want. White students don't attend these events that have been created to educate on the issue of cultural stereotyping. There were plenty opportunities to learn. Having a privilege voice comes from being white. Having it being taken away is scary. Hoping people are more open to have these discussions. This pressure is not new to minority students and we won't stop

- Bill: I have been attacked for making this place more inclusive for students on campus. on Oct 28, 2015 BSG voted to define what cultural appropriation was. To condemn those actions. To hold each other accountable. I have been going to these talks in 30 college and saw and heard how students are affected. [Tequila Party] Violated and tainted the experience of college students. First year students, felt trapped to be in this place because they would lose financial aid. It sucks students feel like they don't belong here.
- Joe Lace: Claire's proctor. She's not the same person. This is really affecting her. Her actions affected people, but we can use this as a teaching moment. Learning process is one of reconciliation. Student Body seeking removal, sounds punitive. The offending party is creating the divide. Where is the learning process in punishing someone.
- Daniel Mejia Cruz: The impeachment was brought up my individuals. NOT BSG
- Maya: Someone said you shouldn't let emotions guide you. What I hope for the school, I hope you let your emotions guide you. What this school needs it's to increase its empathy, let the empathy for students that have been affected guide you. People learn from experiences and consequences. These actions are not what we expect from each other. This institution wasn't created for them [students of color]. When students contribute to the environment of feeling unwanted there should be consequences.
- Student: Went to the meetings in 30 College and heard about how people felt. Sorry that people are hurt this way. Eye opening for me. Worried for the impeachment and confused about impeachment process. This should be a learning process. Actions like impeaching Claire and Duncan can lead to further divide. Not going to lead to anything or a learning environment. There's a fundamental misunderstanding of what cultural appropriation is. Don't let emotions guide us.
- Dash: People are talking about being deflated. People of color have been deflated since the moment we got here. We have been silenced and not given the opportunity to speak up. There have been so many teaching moments. There have moments for discussions. It is not responsibilities to students of color and allies to make people go to the event. The conversations have already happened. We need to punish people. We can spend time to educate people, or take action. This has been hard for us since the moment that we got to college.
- Liam: VP of 2018. Not speaking for the class of 2018. There are people on every side of the spectrum. We have striven to stand out in the crowded. People have felt alienated. Whoever wrote the barstool article, it was very offensive. Moving forward, to impeach someone is counterproductive. Best way to learn is to have a conversation. We need to see the other side.
- Carlos: Friends locked up because they were found with weed. They had to pay the proper for what they did. [Therefore, so should the BSG members of the BSG that are up for impeachment.]

- Cracks giving happening for 4 years, and we've been trying to solve the issue. You are saying that punitive measures aren't helpful, but neither have the conversations. Any other suggestions on helping people learn?
- Claire and Duncan have received their punishments. BSG is representing student body, is supposed to educate, we have people already doing the punishing. Leave the job to them.
- I am not saying you're a bad person. People elected you, upset them. No one is calling anyone a racist. If someone says, I'm offended, I don't understand why you can't respect them. I worked just as hard to be here. Also, do not go on an anonymous app and talk shit about people you do not know.
- It's taken a lot to get people in this room. Bowdoin can be improved. Things take effort.

**V. Introduction of Guests**

**VI. Old business**

- SAFC guidelines.
- Added \$5 per person for meal.
- Move to approve guideline proposal; - guideline approved

**VII. Reports of Committees**

- a. Student Affairs- Luke Von Maur '16  
Approve new academic calendar.
- b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee - Emily Server '16
- c. Academic Affairs - Andrew Millar '16
- d. Facilities and Sustainability – Kevin Hernandez '18
- e. Student Activities Funding Committee- David Levine '16
- f. Executive Committee- Daniel Mejia-Cruz'16/ Michelle Kruk '16
  - Jacob: Clarifies that they brought this up because other people said that they would lose faith in the BSG. We didn't do this to punish anyone.
  - We need to take a stand. Not here for punitive standards. Here because we stand for the students on campus. We need to uphold assembly standards. This is not a personal attack, a lot of systemic issues. Need to start addressing them.
  - BSG empowers students. People came to us to tell us that they didn't like this behavior, we are addressing it. This is not a punitive measure.
  - Duncan- Wants to apologize for attending the party and misrepresenting someone's culture. It was not his intention to offend anyone. It was ignorant of me and should have known better.
  - Claire: Wants to apologize, inexcusable that wasn't able to connect sombreros. There are people who feel discomfort and are marginalized. I should have known better. Hope that this doesn't judge my character. I have the responsibility to educate myself. Hope conversation will help prevent this from happening again.

**VIII. Reports of Members**

- a. Class Councils
  - 2019-
  - 2018-
  - 2017-
  - 2016-
- b. Inter- House council
- c. Entertainment Board
- d. Athletic Council
- e. McKeen Center:

- g. Multicultural Coalition
- f. At-Large Representatives

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

**X.     Announcements**

**XI.    Adjournment**