

Meeting of the General Assembly

29 March 2017

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Missing: Reed Fernandez, Jenna Scott
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Public Comment Time
- V. Introduction of Guests
- VI. Old Business
- VII. Reports of Committees
 - a. Student Affairs—*Benjamin Painter '19*
 - b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Kelsey Scarlett '17*
 - c. Academic Affairs—*Evelyn Sanches Gonzalez '17*
 - d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Caroline Rutan '19*
 - i. Carly: Campus planning and design approved new lamps for the quad, pickard and outside Studzinski.
 - e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*Irfan Alam '18*
 - f. Executive Committee—*Harriet Fisher '17 / Reed Fernandez '17*
 - i. Harriet: Meeting next week cancelled, but there will be tabling next week Monday Tuesday to get people interested in BSG positions.
 1. Executive Elections are one week before Ivies, and class elections a week after Ivies.

ii. Harriet: Rolled out the free tampons and pads. But we've had number of incidents where people are getting all the tampons in the men's room and putting it in the trash. Also someone pooped on the receptacle. Some people might be confused about tampons in male bathrooms.

1. Maggie: hearing great feedback from the female students. There is something reactive about having them in the male's bathroom; people just don't understand why. Harriet: Email or poster to inform? Maggie: Poster.

a. Reeder: People will get used to it; some friends thought it was a little strange at first.

b. Kelsey: Do you think a poster will make the person who's using the bathroom uncomfortable? Sophie: Having a big poster made in SU with Women's History poster.

Hopefully that would help. The bathroom incidents were funny, but also hateful. An email addressing this would be good.

i. Ben: This can be considered a bias incident and we always get emails for bias incidents.

ii. Henry: more division can happen with email; just have a poster.

iii. Kate: Normalize the idea that they're there, instead of addressing negative reactions to it. Adding extra information from sources that aren't BSG.

- iv. Leah: Whoever did it might have wanted the attention, and other people might get ideas.
- v. Ben: Has anyone reported it as a bias incident? If it was another bias incident, we wouldn't be debating strategies. It was either a person that did it as a joke, as if not understanding, or if that was a deliberate action against the inclusion of using tampons in men's bathroom.
- vi. Victoria: just having an educational explanation isn't enough, having educational system (ex. through res life).
- vii. Joe: Could it be considerable that an idiot just saw it and pooped on it thinking it was funny. Simple stupidity behind it.
 - 1. Victoria: in the past there have been bias incidents with the same topic, BSG didn't respond to it. But considering this is a BSG initiative, would responding to this show favoritism to certain groups/incidents, specifically those that are under BSG. But there should still be an educational system implemented.

- viii. Maggie: I'm more struck by swastika than poop, but you can't compare the consequence of these incidents. Evelyn: how can we determine consequences?
 - c. Harriet: Bias Incident Reports
 - d. Erin: I didn't know about this before [poop in tampon disposal bin]. If we're sending out something, it should just be about explaining why there are tampons in the men's bathroom. Sending an email about the poop incident will probably just be taken as a joke.
 - i. Harriet: reminding people to be respectful. Carly: I don't think we should mention this in the email.
Erin: if we make mention of it, people might think they can do more.
 - e. Harriet: send out email or change posters? Irfan: maybe just change posters, and if more incidents happen then send email. In the meantime, file a bias incident report. Harriet: Just changing poster.
2. Harriet: What do you guys think of the Bias Incident Report?
- a. Evelyn: make it more appealing to people. Riley: Most Bowdoin sites are old fashion.

- b. Quincy: Include a broad spectrum of the wording for the type of incident; right now it's very vague. Kate: Have more information about what this is for.
 - c. Irfan: the language is very dodging of the point. Carly: this doesn't make me want to share a personal story.
 - d. Ben: Williams Incident Report – look at peer institutions and mirror what they have; it's called Speak Up which is friendlier than ours.
 - e. Ural: Bates website defines what could constitute a bias incident; this could help. You might not know what a bias incident is.
- iii. Jack R: Housekeeping measure – it's kind of pretentious to go through the motions about votes to start, etc. But there are rules that govern these type of meetings; voting of the assembly is important. Having the rules around are good if people's voices haven't been heard. We'll have a normal meeting, and if we wanted to do something serious, someone can speak up and say motion to invoke the rules; it's to make it clear when the assembly has certain rights and Harriet has certain rights. There's a rule that only allows a 5/6 override a veto by Harriet but possibly changing it to 2/3 majority. Changing the default from formal setting to how the chair wants to run the meetings.
- 1. Jack A: How did it slip in? Harriet: It was during a hectic time and there were a lot of changes to the bylaws happening last year. Jack

R.: There were a lot of bylaws, and that one wasn't read aloud.

Jack A: How did that happen and we should address that? Carly:

Every bylaw should be read aloud. Ural: Has the veto been used?

Harriet: It hasn't. Jack R: The last president put it in place during a tense time, and had confidence in the next president. But we should still address that issue.

2. Ben: We should have people explain Robert's Rules to the assembly at the beginning of the year.
3. Harriet: Do we want to have a larger conversation about the 5/6 or 2/3 majority. Jack R: People either wanted to either make it a 2/3 majority or taking out the president's veto power. Jack R: It was made so that legislation wasn't submitted all the time, knowing it might be a bad idea from the start and not wasting time. We're not sure if we want the president to have that power.
4. Jack A: Still concerned how legitimate this was, because not a lot of people remember this amendment to the bylaws. Is there any other provision that know passed by like that? (general no). Jack R: Do you think this was submitted in bad faith? Jack A: submitting it wasn't, but not telling the assembly was.
5. Harriet: If people vote to eliminate it, would that be fine? Jack A: more inclined to vote to eliminate it.
6. Jack R: There are some advantages to having executive power. Having the President de-escalate situations before they go beyond

the college's control. If the President is being abusive, we can vote to override it. I don't think this is a common practice. Erin: if it was something very serious, people would act.

7. Harriet: Voting to introduce this bill to change bylaws. Jack will be restructuring.

a. Joe: Jack is proposing to eliminate this power altogether, so suspend two week rule for expediency.

i. **Two week rule suspended**

b. **Introduction of the Bill passed**

c. **Amendments of Bylaws passed**

i. Addition of a provision between B and C stating that the chair will have control over how the procedures of meeting. At any time, a member can invoke the rules of order.

ii. Irfan: if the rules of order are never invoked and voting happens, does the chair determine how voting happens? Jack R: You can't vote unless you do it as Robert's Rules say. You can have opt out rules.

iii. Joe: could we make it so the executive can't overturn this? Jack R: executive action doesn't apply to motions, just legislation.

- iv. Jack R: For voting, it's automatically suspended after voting. Riley: for voting, it just naturally goes into Robert's Rules, but as soon as voting ends, it goes back to default.
- v. Ben: if we add sense of automatic-ness, it can get to a gray area. Irfan: to get out of it, you have a motion with a 2/3 vote.

VIII. Reports of Members

a. Class Councils

- i. 2020: Not much
- ii. 2019: Trying to tailgate for a sport event. Visor for Ivies. There are three people who are really mad about the visors.
- iii. 2018: Some confusion on Spring Gala – the email might have confused some students. The colors are not mandatory.
- iv. 2017: Senior Week Planning

b. Multicultural Coalition

- i. Victoria: Thurs 4:15PM on black struggle (cancelled). 7PM Kresge – what it takes to be a scientist? Pan-African Fashion Show and Taichi lesson this Saturday.

c. Inter-House Council

d. Athletics Council

- i. Reeder: Working with the Special Olympics. Polar Bear Nation t-shirts.
 - 1. Beatrice: the long sleeve pink shirt is great.

- e. Entertainment Board
 - i. Maggie: Concert this weekend
- f. McKeen Center
 - i. Quincy: Next What Matters? on class with Professor Greene
 - ii. Quincy: Speaker who researched about class in university/college institutions has been invited.
- g. At-Large Representatives
 - i. Ural: Theo Greene giving uncommon hour talk about gay neighborhoods in Chicago. From the BMC- Cabaret of sexist music in Chase Barn.
 - ii. Kate: Event on rural students experience in higher education. Would people be interested in having a conversation about class in the context of Maine?
 - 1. Evelyn: event is on Monday at 4 in 30 College.
 - iii. Ural: doing panel on class, some people want to do students and some people want to do professors. Looking for a group to discuss lay out of event.
 - iv. Ian: people wanted female weight lifting bars. Irfan: athletics had previously told the people who wanted it that funds from student activities of SFCC can't provide money for athletic department space.
 - v. Harriet: Res Life wanted at large reps to be focus group, but anyone can be part of this committee – next Tuesday at 6pm.

IX. Report of the President

X. Announcements

- a. Carly: NESCAC student government conference will be hosted in Bowdoin this year. On Friday: Cram Alumni House – cocktail hour without cocktails.

XI. Adjournment