

Meeting Notes of the General Assembly  
Wednesday, 6 April 2015

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call:**

**Absent: Harriet, Khealsea, Michelle J, Chase S**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**IV. Public Comment Time**

- Justin Pearson: It should be BSG's priority to create a campaign/ election process that is fair
- Robo: Wants to speak out against the good standing clause/ revision. As a former BSG member, doesn't think that the executive team is equipped for that process.
- People can be removed from good standing for any type of reason.
- If this clause passes, it will affect class council and many don't know about this new amendment. The good standing clause should be circulated to class council as well.

**V. Introduction of Guests**

**VI. Old business**

**VII. Reports of Committees**

a. Student Affairs- Luke Von Maur '16

- Professor Yarbrough will be having a Common Hour – She will be speaking about lack of diversity of thought and give a voice to the “other side”.
- Good ideas fund has spent \$4100 there are \$900 left
- One of the ideas is a musical act, thanks to Ben. The concert will be in Ladd

b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee - Emily Server '16

- In the process of re-chartering groups. (applications for clubs with operating budgets were due today.)
- Re-charting forms are due next week for other organizations
- There is an estimate of about 120 clubs

c. Academic Affairs - Andrew Millar '16

- Jack and Harriet are organizing “Get a meal with a professor week”
- One more food for thought before the end of semester

d. Facilities and Sustainability – Kevin Hernandez '18

- Partnering with security for video about Ivies
- The design firm is coming to campus next week Thursday- it's all about sustainability and energy efficiency

e. Student Activities Funding Committee- David Levine '16

- SAFC has 4 more meetings. Coming to the last bit of our money.
- There are a couple groups who overspent and are asking for more money
- Sending out an email to clubs letting them know that session is coming to an end and they should submit their budgets
- Funded the BOC through spring break, and funded half of what they asked for
- There are about 10 clubs on an operating budget.

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

- Elections are happening soon – want to make sure everyone knows about positions.
- There's elections for at large presidents
- Camille and Rory's reports will be coming soon (race and inclusivity) when it comes out we should all read it.
- Would like BSG to invite student body for discussion about the Report, (not sure how long the report will be).

Proposal: Legal Protection of the BSG

- No one said that they were going to sue us. Adults in the school said that it was a possibility that we were at risk for a law suit

- People in student activities have been sued, and Bowdoin has represented them, we want to mimic that for the BSG, so that Bowdoin covers us as an employer.
- Being able to sue is an important restraint, if people can't afford it.
- Do any other colleges have system?
- Student Government President from Middlebury and Harvard are looking into similar things
- How can someone determine the difference between someone who sues you or sues me as a BSG member?
- Executive team has been looking into making BSG members as employees of the college – Focusing on the Executive Team getting paid first.
- There are some people who want to run for an Executive position but choose not to because they do not have the time to commit since they are working an x amount of jobs.
- Spoke to Nate Hintze – could be a stipend, or we could long-in hours.
- We should be cautious of not turning BSG into an extension of college administration
- Proposal: Legal Protection of the BSG - *Passes*
- Will this Proposal affect other clubs? - Maybe
- In terms of changing election rules; funding has caused tensions. We helping students print posters. It is hard to track down how/who spends what for the campaign.
- Proposal: Good Standing Clause
- If a student is unable to approach executive committee, they should reach out to dean to connect issue of sensitivity of their situation to the president
- Can't imagine an exec committee that demands every last detail of someone's personal situation that caused bad standing.
- The way we have it now preserves our independence
- Other schools have a similar clause in place; to run for a position you have to be in good standing in the college
- Automatic removal = social/ academic probation. Probation might happen to student for various reasons. Example: If someone gets caught with alcohol- put on social probation.
- We need to hold ourselves to higher standards. We are elected representatives and need to hold ourselves to standards of social and honor code that binds all students
- This process is fair; someone can always claim defamation. When linked to impeachment it opens up to defamation. Good standing clause operates the less of two evils.
- Gives us ability to do things quietly. No names to the orient. It is a closed process without publicity and noise that comes with impeachment.
- There isn't a procedure that the executive team would move by, (good standing clause) could be antithetical to the student government.
- For elections: Appeal process would be done if you're in a ballot if you are not in good standing, appeal to the ballot so you can still run.
- What bad standing would merit someone removed? It's up to the exec committee, and majority vote. A lot of things and scenarios come to mind.
- Do we feel comfortable that the exec would have that power?
- If someone plagiarizes, having someone who did that on BSG is questionable.
- That is a lot of discretion for executive committee
- We can work to outline a procedure to a T. There's a reason people are elected to position; there isn't much power to be gained after that. It's a reasonable responsibility for exec committee.
- We just have to be consciences – we have to trust ourselves.
- If u think about politicians, they usually step down themselves (when they do something bad). It is a big deal because they are meant to be leaders. It's not unreasonable to have that expectation for each other.
- We could have done nothing for Gangta and Tequila Party and be quiet but we were part of the conversation.

- For other organizations on campus, you can't run for a position while you are on probation
- There are many concerns of privacy and connection with administration in regards to the "good standing clause"
- If removal is automatic, it takes away from "punitive measure". If this is a rule on the bylaws, its not up to the decision of the student.
- This clause was approved by dean foster
- Edit made on 4a.
- The vote will be held in secret ballot, via email.

### **VIII. Reports of Members**

#### a. Class Councils

- 2019- Organizing Dodgeball Tournament. Prospee's next week
- 2018- Ordered water bottles for ivies and planning gala
- 2017- Ordered cool ivies long sleeves. Movie night Thursday- playing 21 Jump Street
- 2016- Planning senior week. Found new venues for senior night. Class gear coming along, soon.

#### b. Inter- House council

- New College house decisions are coming out tomorrow

#### c. Entertainment Board

- Will let us know about ivies soon
- DJ contest is up. Vote for opening for Saturday act
- The student DJ is **NOT** the opening act.

#### d. Athletic Council *absent*

#### e. McKeen Center

- Opportunity to host 9<sup>th</sup> graders and show them around campus

#### f. Multicultural Coalition

- Maine Wabanoki Reconciliation on April 11 3-4

#### g. At-Large Representatives

- Instead of printing out all of the agendas we can use our computers
- At- Larges can be doing more (in the past there has been ambiguity as to what people in the position do)

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

#### **X. Announcements**

- Sign up for spring service day April 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are two 2 hour shifts

#### **XI. Adjournment**