

## Meeting of the General Assembly

1 February 2017

Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Missing: Beatrice Cabrera, WirunwanVictoria Pitaktong
- 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*
    - i. Ben: Big project in the works, needs approval of Residential Life – will take place in a college house to hopefully bring people together.
  - b. Student Organizations Oversight Committee—*Kelsey Scarlett '17*
    - i. Kelsey: Club Fair today, more clubs than expected
  - c. Academic Affairs—*Evelyn Sanches Gonzalez '17*
    - i. Evelyn: Continue initiatives to diversify faculty, meeting with Dean Scanlon, and meet with new academics affair advisor. Also meet with Peer Health to work how this committee can work to help with mental health issues.
    - ii. Evelyn: submit food for thought ideas/speakers
    - iii. Committee planning to do an event with Professors at the pub

- d. Facilities & Sustainability—*Caroline Rutan '19*
  - i. Carly: working on the project with Student Affairs that Ben mentioned earlier. Committee working with improving laundry facilities
- e. Student Activities Funding Committee—*Irfan Alam '18*
- f. Executive Committee—*Harriet Fisher '17 / Reed Fernandez '17*
  - i. Harriet: tampons have been placed in the Smith Union second floor gender neutral bathroom. Annie: the tampons initiative turned out to be costly and the committee was only able to put tampons in that bathroom.
  - ii. Harriet: BSG is providing vans for students to go to protests happening in Maine. Katie: is BSG taking a political stance by providing this service?  
Harriet: BSG would provide services for any political events that students have interest in.
  - iii. Harriet: Working with McKeen center and other resources to make events to have discussions on class and race. Ural: this can't be a single program, because specific issues of class vary and has to be covered over several programs. Possibly doing a panel of professors talking about class, since it won't put pressure on current students to talk about their own socioeconomic status. NPR article that discusses the impact of class on concentration and student performance.
    - 1. Ben: what is everyone's opinion of what would be the goal of having a discussion on class? Riley: being conscious is an important part of it. It'll make class something that is more open to discussion. Jack A: There aren't that many clubs that have

conversations of class, but there is a new club called that came from/similar to Questbridge run by a sophomore, Gerlin. Class is not talked about much and through student discussions, people will go forward from there. Spencer: It's a great idea that it'll be professors because there is a stigma on class.

2. Reed: If during a program, we made people break up into smaller groups in order to discuss class, would that be effective? Henry: we should be mindful of how to phrase poster to get people to come – target audience being those who don't think of class or aren't worried about closing this class gap.
3. Katie: Maybe getting this as a program for first year orientation.
4. Ural took the idea of how much it costs to be a Bowdoin student to Professor Santoro, who came up with the idea to table in Smith. It would be interesting to survey students on external costs of college (non-tuition, like winter clothes, travel, etc.). Harriet: surveying students is interesting, but the goal is to not shame people for their class status. The goal is to increase literacy and understanding of class. "What's the price tag of a Bowdoin education?" Erin: location – Smith Union, to gather more people. Spencer asked about the anonymous question software. Evelyn agrees that it would be good to have the software for the first program since it is an uncomfortable topic.

5. Leah: first year orientation is a good place for starting these discussions.
6. Ural: Thinking about privilege talk at Bowdoin. Criticism received was the freshman felt uncomfortable doing this since they were new to the college environment, they weren't ready demonstrating their culmination of their background in such a public way.
7. Riley: doing privilege walk in college houses – they have their footing in the college.
8. Ben: Why have conversations on class? Ural: It's important to understand the struggles that certain students face in terms of class status, and by talking about it, people might feel more comfortable or less ashamed to talk about their issues.
  - a. Jack: We are all allotted some privilege just by being here; we meet a lot of different people from different backgrounds, but once we leave Bowdoin, many of us will go on to concentrated circles with people of similar class backgrounds.
  - b. Harriet: Goals include making sure as an institution that students are being helped with the additional costs of attending here, and be more sympathetic to struggles of certain students (regularize college house fee). It is true that a students of a certain level of class don't have to worry about how other people are navigating Bowdoin

financially. Making people more knowledgeable and literate about class.

- c. Joe: How would a program run? Ural: The professor panel will discuss about how they navigated college with the certain class they were in – the struggles that they face. Riley: maybe have some students who are comfortable discussing class to make it more relevant to Bowdoin students.
- d. Nathan agrees with Harriet about having the discussions based on the fees that students acquire outside of the direct fees of Bowdoin as this can directly benefit/impact the life of Bowdoin students (by changing certain aspects of the culture to help lower income students).
- e. Katie: The NY Times article mentioned Bowdoin students in comparison to the state of Maine and the Bowdoin students were much wealthier than Maine residents. Maybe have a program on the impact of wealthy students interacting with the community that might be made up of working-class families.
- f. Reed: if we make it targeted to a specific lens to discuss class, we can have more effective results.
- g. Harriet: ad hoc committee to talk about class programs: Ural, Nate, Quincy, Jack, Riley.

- iv. Jack: If we invite guests, we should have them weigh in on decisions BSG is making and student-relevant issues.

## VIII. Reports of Members

### a. Class Councils

- i. 2020: Formal on Saturday
- ii. 2019: Formal on Saturday
- iii. 2018: Meeting soon
- iv. 2017: A week from next Thursday, 99 days until graduation, event to celebrate - senior night at Moulton.

#### 1. Karaoke at the Pub

### b. Multicultural Coalition

### c. Inter-House Council

- i. Having a prom for all the college houses

### d. Entertainment Board

- i. Maggie: Ivies is great. Upright Citizens Brigade will be coming.

### e. Athletic Council

- i. Reeder: working hard to get Polar Bear Nation together: Get student attendance up at games, better fan environment.

### f. McKeen Center

- i. Quincy: Partisanship on Campus event on Friday.

### g. At-Large Representatives

- i. Ian: Why cannot I give out meals? Harriet: Dining set an established balance between meals and polar points, contact dining for questioning this. Dining has to run a profit, it's not feasible to give out meals.
- ii. Ian: I spend a lot of time looking at Bowdoin's cable; not a single person he knows that people use the cable. He researched IPTV: wireless television, wifi that doesn't take bandwidth, doesn't slow down internet, streams cable to your laptop. Carlie: IT looked into this, and renewed our cable; old cable tvs couldn't be used anymore.
- iii. Jack R: Talked to Lisa Rendall on off-campus living. An hour program to talk about legal rights and other issues surrounding living off campus.
- iv. Reed: Are there any problems, concerns, or ideas about things BSG can work on.
  1. Reeder: be mindful of Bowdoin being over-facilitated.
  2. Maggie: during times of the women's march, Bowdoin should be more engaging and inform students about protests. If it's something that's happening in the world, Bowdoin should keep students in the loop, since we are a politically active student body. Carlie: How involved should the administration be in these issues and events? Maggie: the administration should send emails of opportunities (like career center notifications)
  3. Quincy: parking is an issue on campus; perhaps extend parking hours on campus. Parking lots behind college houses are being unused – it's meant for professors, but they're hardly used.

4. Kelsey: will we be discussing the biased incident that happened on campus? (Swastika on the snow in Osher Quad). Ben: Perhaps send an email of condemnation towards this act.
  - a. Irfan: Talked to Bob Ives – students approached him. It hasn't been confirmed that it was a Bowdoin student. Maybe we should let the investigation finish before sending an email. Kelsey: Worried about our response being indicative of campus attitude. Ben: student interest should be a factor in determining BSG actions. Kelsey: we should keep consistent record of reacting to biased incidents – avoid creating a hierarchy.
  - b. Ural: The I-Club sent out an email to its members about the administration's low reaction to Trump's immigration ban and created an event to support international students. Paloma: sent out email, we just want to address issues that affect international students, as they are often overlooked; this is a serious issue that's affecting students; raise awareness and a lot of people don't know much about how this will impact them.

IX. Report of the President

X. Announcements

- a. Dean Scanlon will be coming next meeting to talk about BCQs. Dean Amaez will also be at a meeting this semester.

- b. Send Katie an email if you're interested in the program that works with high school students.

XI. Adjournment