

2013 – 2014

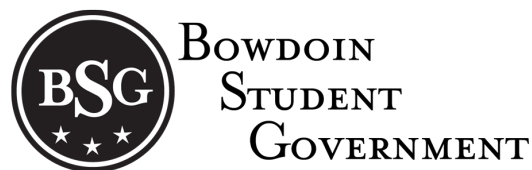
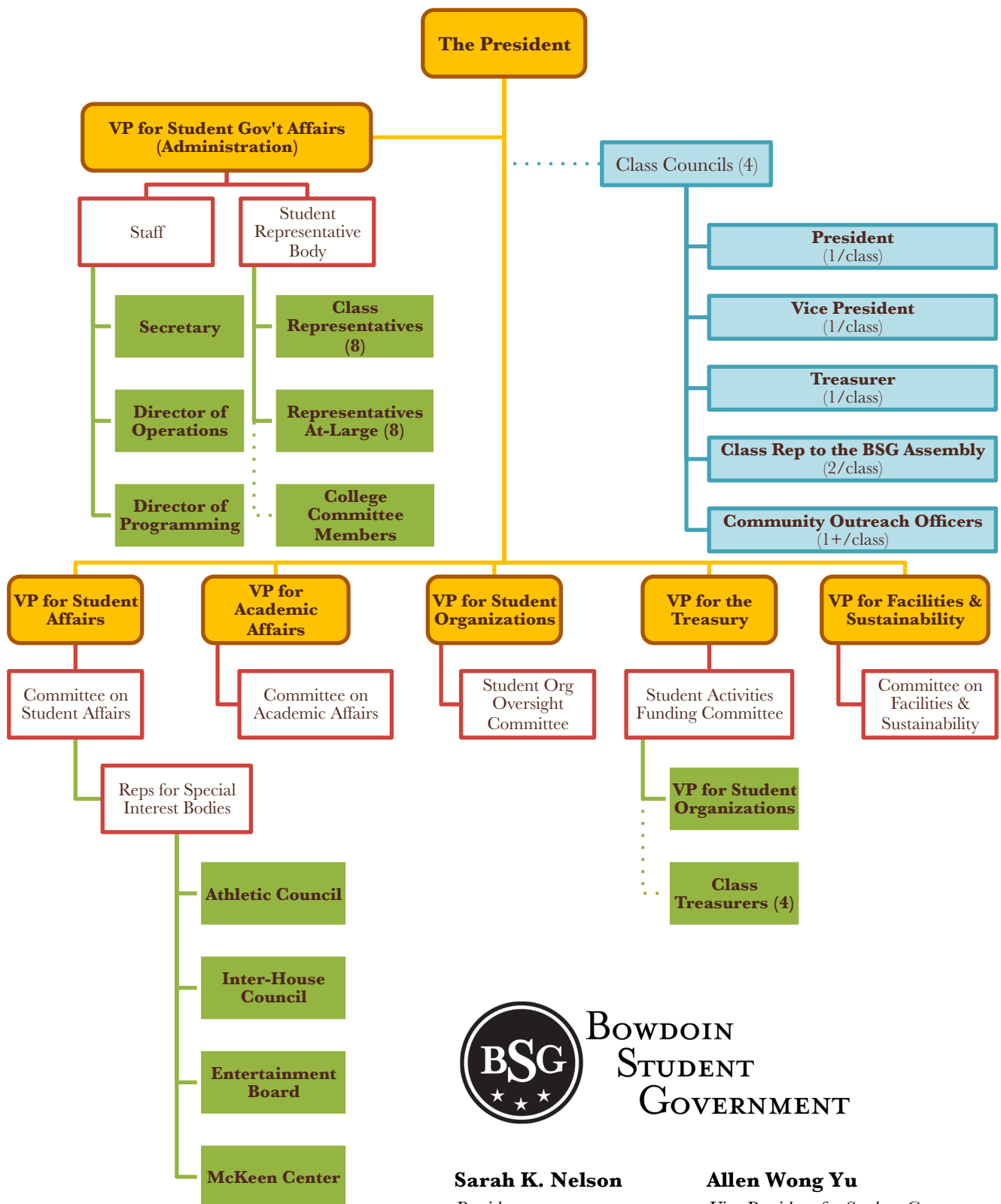


Joining Bowdoin Student Government

Bowdoin College

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BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

BRUNSWICK, MAINE

BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT (BSG) consists of a **General Assembly** and four **Class Councils**.

- The **General Assembly** is the democratically-elected, autonomous body of students that advocate for the entire student body through issue engagement, programming, and services. Its powers and responsibilities are granted to the Assembly by our student-ratified *Constitution* and *By-laws*.
- The **Class Councils** organize programming to promote the social unity of each class.

The General Assembly of Bowdoin Student Government

The General Assembly meets every Wednesday at 8:30pm for approximately 90 minutes while the College is in session. The Assembly recesses during the summer.

Members

- Members of the Executive Committee: *Officers of the Student Body, in order of succession to the Presidency*
 - President
 - Vice President for Student Government Affairs (Administration)
 - Vice President for Student Affairs
 - Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Vice President for Student Organizations
 - Vice President for the Treasury
 - Vice President for Facilities & Sustainability
- 8 Class Representatives to the General Assembly (2/class)
- 8 Representatives At-Large (2 elected, 6 appointed)
- Representatives for Special Interest Bodies
 - Athletic Council
 - Inter-House Council
 - Entertainment Board
 - McKeen Center
- Staff¹
 - Secretary
 - Director of Operations
 - Director of Programming

¹ Members of the staff are non-voting, *ex officio* members of the Assembly.

Committees

The General Assembly has seven (7) standing committees, each chaired by a member of the Executive Committee. Members of the Assembly will serve on one or more of these committees in addition to serving on the Assembly.

- **The Executive Committee:** Chaired by the President, this is the advisory body of the President, and includes the President and all Vice Presidents. The body provides counsel to the President, approves all appointments of students to leadership positions, and exercises executive decision-making powers. (Closed for appointments)
- **The Committee on Student Affairs:** Chaired by the Vice President for Student Affairs, this committee works closely with a number of groups on campus to improve student life at Bowdoin. The committee will meet with administrators in the Health Center, Athletics Department, Residential Life, Counseling, and the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs as well as the student body to understand the ways BSG can enhance the Bowdoin experience. After establishing a number of concrete issues that the committee would like to address, members will propose legislation that pertains specifically to student life at the College.
- **Committee on Academic Affairs:** Chaired by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, this committee mirrors the College's Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs, dealing with all issues related to the academic program, student/faculty interaction, and academic spaces at Bowdoin. This committee primarily addresses issues relating to academic policies such as Credit/D/Fail, major/minor requirements, distribution requirements, and advising, among others. Campus museums, libraries, academic support programs, and off-campus study all fall under this committee's jurisdiction as well.
- **Student Organizations Oversight Committee (SOOC):** Chaired by the Vice President for Student Organizations, it oversees all student organizations on campus, providing them with planning support and logistical guidance throughout the year. Working closely with the Student Activities Office, the SOOC is there to ensure that club leaders are taking advantage of Bowdoin's resources and serving the campus community to the best of their ability. Members of this committee also manage the chartering process for new clubs, and are tasked with maintaining continuity in club life from year to year to ensure a persistently vibrant student experience.
- **Student Activities Funding Committee (SAFC):** Chaired by the Vice President for the Treasury, the SAFC is responsible for allocating the College's Student Activity Fund (nearly \$700,000) to chartered clubs on campus. The SAFC works closely with the Student Activities Office and the Director of Student Life in an effort to promote a vibrant club life on campus that can benefit all members of the Bowdoin student community. It seeks to promote fairness, consistency, and transparency in its decisions and to spend its budget responsibly. The Committee is comprised of eight students. N.B.: Besides the VP for the Treasury and VP for Student Organizations, members of this committee do not serve on the BSG Assembly.
- **Committee on Facilities & Sustainability:** Chaired by the Vice President for Facilities & Sustainability, this committee handles all physical resources on Bowdoin's campus, which include all shuttle services, newspapers, discounted movie tickets, dining services, on-campus buildings, Information Technology services, among others. Moreover, the committee serves as the voice for green initiatives and general sustainability awareness on the Assembly, working with Bowdoin's Facilities Department, Sustainable Bowdoin, the Student Information Desk, and several off-campus organizations.
- **Committee on Appeals:** Chaired by the President and composed of the Vice President for Student Government Affairs, one elected representative from each class, the representative for the Inter-House Council, and one additional member of the Assembly of the appellant's choosing, this committee hears all student complaints related to the process of the Assembly or any of its committees, excluding elections. It assembles only by formal order of the President or the Vice President for Student Government Affairs. (Closed for appointments)

The **President** and the **Vice President for Student Government Affairs** are members *ex officio* of all standing committees.

The **Vice President for Student Government Affairs** may order the creation of a number of *ad-hoc* committees, of which he serves as chair.

The **Representatives for Special Interest Bodies** are members *ex officio* of the Committee on Student Affairs.

The Class Councils

Class Councils organize programming to help promote the social and structural unity of each class. There are at least six (6) members of each Class Council, five (5) of whom are elected.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Class Representative to the General Assembly (2)
- Community Outreach Officer (1+)

While the entire student body elects the General Assembly to advocate on its behalf, each class elects its own Class Council, to serve their class, plan events, and promote class unity. In addition to serving on the class council, several positions are *ex officio* members on other committees on campus.

- The Presidents sit on the Leadership Council, chaired by the President of Bowdoin Student Government.
- The Vice President sits as a member of the Entertainment Board.
- The Treasurers serve as members of the Student Activities Funding Committee.
- The Class Representatives to the General Assembly sit on both their Class Council and the General Assembly.

Each Class Council directs its own projects, manages its own budget, and selects its own meeting times with the help of an advisor from the Student Activities Office.

Joining Bowdoin Student Government²

Spring Election Cycle

Held prior to Final Exams of each spring semester, the spring elections are for the following positions:

- **Members of the Executive Committee** (GA)
 - President
 - Vice President for Student Government Affairs (Administration)
 - Vice President for Student Affairs
 - Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Vice President for Student Organizations
 - Vice President for the Treasury
 - Vice President for Facilities & Sustainability
- **Representatives At-Large** (GA), 2 *elected*
- **Representatives for Special Interest Bodies** (GA)³
 - Athletic Council
 - Inter-House Council
 - Entertainment Board
- **Sophomore Class Council** (CC)
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Class Representative to the General Assembly (2)
- **Junior Class Council** (CC)
 - President
 - Vice President – Fall
 - Vice President – Spring
 - Treasurer
 - Class Representative to the General Assembly (2) – Fall
 - Class Representative to the General Assembly (2) – Spring

Spring Election Criteria

Positions	Class Eligibility	Previous BSG experience needed?	Attend Info Session	Petition	Application	Interview
President of BSG (GA)	All students	✓ On Assembly	✓	✓	✗	✗
Vice President of BSG (GA)	All students	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Rep At-Large (GA)	All students	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Rep for Special Interest Bodies (GA)	All students	✗	Contact each specific Special Interest group			
Sophomore Class Council (CC)	<i>Rising Soph</i>	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Junior Class Council (CC)	<i>Rising Jr</i>	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗

² GA: The General Assembly of Bowdoin Student Government

CC: Class Council

³ Elections for Special Interest Bodies are held within their respective organizations, not through an all-campus election.

Spring 2014 Election Timeline

Information Sessions (for both BSG General Assembly *and* Class Council Elections)

- Monday, 24 March at 8pm in Massachusetts Hall, Faculty Room (3rd floor)
- Thursday, 27 March at 8pm in Hubbard Conference Room West
- *All candidates for election and appointments must attend one of these information sessions. If these times do not work for you, please email awong@bowdoin.edu to schedule a makeup session.*

BSG General Assembly

- **Petitions & Signed Election Rules Agreement Due**
 - Thursday, 3 April at 5pm
 - Smith Union Info Desk
- **Campaigning**
 - Begin: Monday, 7 April at 8am
 - End: Sunday, 13 April at 8pm
 - *Please remember to follow all campaign rules and regulations.*
- **Debate (open to public)**
 - Tuesday, 8 April at 8pm
 - The Pub
- **Candidacy Statements Due: 100-200 words**
 - Tuesday, 8 April at 8pm
 - Submitted via the BSG website (bsg.bowdoin.edu)
 - *Limit of 200 words, these statements will be published on our website, the election website, and The Orient.*
- **Elections**
 - Begin: Friday, 11 April at 8am
 - End: Sunday, 13 April at 8pm
 - Elections held online at **bowdoin.edu/vote**
 - *Candidates will be emailed the results shortly after the polls close. An hour after that email is sent, the results (including the exact vote counts) will be released to The Orient.)*

Class Council

- **Petitions & Signed Election Rules Agreement Due**
 - Thursday, 24 April at 5pm
 - Smith Union Info Desk
- **Campaigning**
 - Begin: Monday, 28 April at 8am
 - End: Sunday, 4 April at 8pm
 - *Please remember to follow all campaign rules and regulations.*
- **Candidacy Statements Due: 100-200 words**
 - Tuesday, 29 April at 8pm
 - Submitted via the BSG website (bsg.bowdoin.edu)
 - *Limit of 200 words, these statements will be published on our website, the election website, and The Orient.*
- **Elections**
 - Begin: Friday, 2 May at 8am
 - End: Sunday, 4 May at 8pm
 - Elections held online at **bowdoin.edu/vote**
 - *Candidates will be emailed the results shortly after the polls close. An hour after that email is sent, the results (including the exact vote counts) will be released to The Orient.)*

Fall Election Cycle

Held in September of each year, the fall elections are for the following positions:

- **First-year Class Council (CC)**
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Class Representative to the General Assembly (2)
- **Senior Class Council (CC)**
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Class Representative to the General Assembly (2)

Fall Appointments

The following positions are appointed:

- **Representative At-Large (GA)**, 6 positions, appointed by the Executive Committee
- **Representative for the McKeen Center (GA)**, 1 position, appointed by the Executive Committee
- **Community Outreach Officers (CC)**, first-year and senior classes, at least one per class, appointed by the newly-elected Class Councils
- **Bowdoin Student Government Staff (GA)**, appointed by the Executive Committee

Positions include but are not limited to

- Secretary (paid)
- Director of Operations (unpaid)
- Director of Programming (unpaid)

Fall Election & Appointments Criteria

Positions	Class Eligibility	Previous BSG experience needed?	Attend Info Session	Petition	Application	Interview
First-yr Class Council (CC)	First-yr	X	✓	✓	X	X
Senior Class Council (CC)	Senior	X	✓	✓	X	X
Community Outreach Officers (CC)	First-yr / Senior	X	X	X	Contact CC	Contact CC
Rep At-Large (GA)	All students	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rep for McKeen Ctr (GA)	Soph, Jr, Sr	X	X	X	✓	✓
BSG Staff (GA)	All students	X	X	X	✓	✓

Election Rules and Regulations

A. Definitions

- i. Campaign materials shall be defined as materials purchased and/or used by the candidate or his/her campaign, for the purpose of advancing said candidacy.
- ii. Campaigning shall be defined as any act used by the candidate, or his/her campaign, for the purpose of advancing said candidacy.
- iii. A constituency is the pool of eligible voters for each respective office.
- iv. Private shall be defined as that which is not in the general view, not widely known, and not facilitated by College.
- v. Public shall be defined as that which is not private. For the purposes of BSG elections all College forums or forums sponsored by College Organizations shall be considered public.
- vi. A campaign shall be defined as any person acting on a candidate's behalf.

B. Qualifications

- i. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office simultaneously.
- ii. Candidates must submit a petition to the election coordinator by the designated deadline to be eligible to run.
 - a. Class Councils: Candidates must secure at least fifty signatures from their respective constituency.
 - b. Bowdoin Student Government Officers and Elected At-Large Representatives: Candidates must secure at least fifty signatures from the entire student body.
- iii. Candidates for the Bowdoin Student Government President must have previously served as a member of the Bowdoin Student Government.
- iv. Candidates are required to attend an Information Session.
- v. Candidates must be enrolled in the College for the entire academic year for which they are running excepting the BSG Representatives and Vice President of the Junior Class.

C. Campaigning

- i. Candidates shall not use College funds or resources for campaign purposes. This does not include the use of college-funded media outlets.
- ii. Candidates shall not provide gifts or giveaways to constituents while campaigning.
- iii. Candidates shall not hold election campaign parties. Furthermore, organizations cannot hold such parties on behalf of the candidate.
- iv. Candidates shall not tamper with or electronically manipulate the voting process.
- v. Campaign materials must be removed when the election ends.
- vi. Campaign materials, especially posters, are not to be hung on glass doors.
- vii. Campaigning through mass e-mails is expressly prohibited. This includes the use of group aliases or mailing lists, including those belonging to dorms, houses, classes, and clubs.
- viii. Candidates are bound to the Social and Honor Codes.
- ix. Candidates will be provided with limited funding (\$10) at the College Copy Center for campaign materials.

D. Other

- i. Elections must last for at least twenty-four hours.
- ii. The Elections Commission shall be composed of all non-candidate members of the Executive Committee along with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Judicial Board. The Director of Student Activities shall sit as a non-voting member. In the event that the number of non-candidate Executive Committee members falls below three, all senior members of the BSG Assembly will join the Commission.
- iii. This body has the final authority related to these matters.
- iv. The Elections Commission may choose to publicly warn and/or disqualify a candidate who violates the Election Rules and/or they may cancel and reschedule an election in which a candidate has committed a violation.
- v. All candidates have a right to a hearing in the event that they are accused of violating an election rule.
- vi. Candidates may ask the Elections Commission to reconsider their ruling.

- NOTES -

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