

BOWDOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT / CONSTITUTION

1) Purpose

- a) The Constitution of the Student Body: The Constitution of the Student Body shall be the basis for student government and representation.
- b) Student Body: The Student Body shall be composed of all students currently enrolled at Bowdoin College.
- c) Student Government: The Student Government shall be empowered by the Student Body to be responsible for presenting student opinion to the administration, chartering organizations, the Judicial Board, filling Trustee, Faculty and General College committee student positions, and supervising class officer elections.
 - i) Student Government will act as a forum for ideas and represent their constituencies in legislative issues facing Bowdoin College.
 - ii) Student Government is also charged with ensuring that all of student government functions effectively through the management of elections, chartering and reviewing student organizations, overseeing the SAFC, and appointing and communicating with student representatives to trustee, faculty, and college committees.

2) The Student Government

- a) Composition
 - i) Student Government Composition
 - (1) The Student Government shall be composed of eight class representatives to be elected during class elections, the President of IHC, representatives from the College House System, a representative of the Community Service Council, a representative from Residential Life and the President, the Vice Presidents and the Treasurer, who shall concurrently be the Chair of SAFC.
 - (2) Each class will have two class representatives who must be elected by their class.
 - (a) The Election for Junior Class Representative positions will be divided into two separate elections: one for the fall semester and one for the spring semester. There will still be two class representatives for each semester. Both elections (for fall and spring positions) will take place in the spring of the previous academic year along with the other class officer elections. Any candidate who will be enrolled at the college for the fall semester will be able to run for a fall position. Likewise any candidate enrolled at the college for the spring semester will be able to run for a spring position. Candidates who intend to be enrolled at the college for the full academic year may run in both the fall and spring elections. The two candidates with the highest vote tallies in the fall election will be the class representatives for the fall semester. The two candidates with the highest vote tallies in the spring election will be the class representatives for the spring semester.
 - (3) There shall be four representatives on the Student Government who will be interviewed by the President and Vice Presidents for positions.
 - (4) The Inter-House Council will select two representatives to represent the overall house system and will also select one representative to represent chemical-free interests specifically.
 - (5) In the event that only one candidate runs for two open full-year class representative seats, that candidate will be guaranteed the seat and the election will be reopened for only one seat.
 - (6) If a suitable class representative cannot be found, the President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer will work with two delegates from the incoming class officer team to interview and appoint an eligible member. In the event of resignation or removal, the sitting class officer team would fulfill the role of the "incoming" class officer team.
 - (7) Appointment/Election of members shall take place in the spring, excluding the incoming

- first-year class, the rising senior class and the four appointed representatives.
- (8) Spring elections for class officers will take place at a later date than elections for Student Government officers allowing defeated candidates to run in the later election.
- ii) President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer
 - (1) The President, five Vice Presidents and Treasurer shall be elected at-large by the Student Body.
 - iii) Leadership Council
 - (1) The President will chair a Leadership Council made up of the President, all house presidents, all class presidents and the chair of the Inter House Council.
 - (2) This council will serve as a coordinating and consulting body and must meet monthly.
 - (3) Leadership Council reports will be delivered to the Student Government by the president.
- b) Election of the President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer
- i) Elections for President, the five Vice Presidents and the Treasurer are to be held in the spring.
 - ii) Elections shall be conducted as outlined by the Election Rules and Regulations.
 - (1) No person who is a candidate shall be eligible to conduct elections.
 - (2) All candidates must submit a statement of candidacy that shall be made available to the student body before elections.
 - (3) Elections and the counting of votes will be done on-line with the assistance of Information Technology. In the event of technical failure elections may be rescheduled or held by paper ballot.
 - (4) Candidates shall be notified of results within 24 hours of closing the election.
 - iii) When there is a vacancy in the Presidency or Vice Presidencies, the Student Government shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy.
 - iv) No person may fill more than one seat on the Student Government simultaneously.
- c) Officers of the Student Government
- i) Student Government Committee Responsibilities
 - (1) The Student Government members shall fill vacancies as needed on each committee of the College where student representatives are required. Additional vacancies will be filled through interviewed appointments by the Vice President for Student Government Affairs and such other person or persons as the Student Government may direct.
 - (2) The President will appoint members of the Student Government to fill remaining vacancies on college committees.
 - ii) Officers and Responsibilities
 - (1) President – The President will serve as the primary Student Government liaison to the administration and spokesperson to the student body. He will be a non-voting member of all Student Government committees, will serve on the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Trustees and will be involved in the Judicial Board selection process. The President will direct and coordinate the activities of the Vice Presidents and Treasurer and will set the weekly agenda of the Student Government. The President must have served previously as a member of the Student Government to be elected.
 - (2) Vice President for Student Government Affairs – The Vice President for Student Government Affairs will be responsible for maintaining elections, overseeing public relations, managing the website, preparing materials for Student Government meetings and other activities related to the general operation of the Student Government. He/she will chair the BSG Affairs Committee which will propose constitutional amendments, constitutional interpretation and bylaws to the Student Government body.
 - (3) Vice President for Student Affairs – The Vice President for Student Affairs will create programming related to the enrichment of student social life on campus and will be responsible for student issues pertaining to campus life. He/she will serve as chair of the Student Affairs Committee, which will provide support for all of the Vice President's duties.
 - (4) Vice President for Academic Affairs – The Vice President for Academic Affairs will manage the academic policies, activities and proposals of the Student Government. He/she will chair the Academic Affairs Committee, which will assist in his or her duties.
 - (5) Vice President for Student Organizations – The Vice President for Student Organizations will chair the Student Organizations Oversight Committee.
 - (6) Vice President for Facilities – The Vice President for Facilities will create programming

related to the physical plant and facilities of the College, direct all off-campus programming and advocate for the Student Government in the campus departments of Dining, Facilities Management and Security. He/she will chair the Facilities Committee which will provide support for all of his or her activities.

- iii) Staff
 - (1) The Student Government shall hire an independent secretary who shall keep the minutes for all Student Government meetings throughout the academic year.
- d) Procedure
 - i) The Student Government shall run meetings in a respectful and welcoming environment. At the first meeting of the year the President shall explain how s/he will run the meetings. This explanation shall include: discussion procedure, voting procedure, the process for establishing items for the agenda, and other discretionary items.
 - ii) Student Government Committees
 - (1) There shall be five standing committees of the Student Government which shall be chaired by the respective Vice Presidents.
 - (2) Members shall be appointed to Student Government Committees in such manner as the Student Government shall direct.
 - (3) The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
 - (4) The reports of the various committees shall be submitted to the Student Government for review and whatever action may be deemed necessary and proper.
 - iii) Meetings
 - (1) The Student Government shall hold a meeting at least every other week, with the ability to require meeting every week if found necessary by the President and Vice Presidents.
 - (2) Students who wish to express an opinion before the Student Government may do so during a designated Public Comment Time at the beginning of each meeting.
 - (3) Any non-member student that would like to propose a bill before the Student Government should do so by submitting it to the appropriate committee of the Student Government or by having it endorsed by one of his/her class representatives.
 - iv) Executive Session
 - (1) A two-thirds vote of the Student Government present may move the Student Government into Executive Session. All persons not on the Student Government must leave the room. The recording secretary shall not keep minutes during the meeting unless directed by the President and approved by a majority vote. Any minutes taken shall be private to the Student Government members.
 - (2) A two-thirds vote of the Student Government is required to move out of Executive Session.
 - (3) All discussion in Executive Session is confidential and should not be discussed outside the executive session.
 - v) Attendance
 - (1) All Student Government members are expected to attend all Student Government meetings unless excused by the President.
 - vi) Upkeep of the Constitution of the Student Body
 - (1) A revised edition or updated edition drafted by the Student Government should be kept in the Student Handbook.
- e) Removal Clause:
 - i) A member may be removed from the Student Government by a 2/3 vote of the student government.
 - ii) The Student Government will immediately begin the process by which the member was originally chosen to fill the empty seat. This clause will not apply to the President, Vice Presidents or Treasurer.
 - iii) The President, Vice President or Treasurer will be replaced by Section 2biii.
 - iv) If the removal takes place within three weeks before a regularly scheduled membership process, the seat will remain unfilled.
 - v) Any person able to serve until the next regularly scheduled membership process will be eligible. Class representatives must come from the class they are representing.
- f) Resignation Clause:

- i) A member may resign by notifying the President or the Vice President for Student Government Affairs. Upon receipt of a resignation, the Student Government will be informed at its next regular meeting.
- ii) The Student Government will immediately begin the process by which the member was originally chosen to fill the empty seat. This clause will not apply to the President, Vice Presidents or Treasurer.
- iii) The President, Vice President or Treasurer will be replaced by Section 2biii.
- iv) If the resignation takes place within three weeks before a regularly scheduled membership process, the seat will remain unfilled.
- v) Any person able to serve until the next regularly scheduled membership process will be eligible. Class representatives must come from the class they are representing.

3) Student Organizations and Clubs

- a) The Student Organizations Oversight Committee
 - i) Responsibilities
 - (1) The SOOC will charter and oversee all clubs on campus.
 - (2) The SOOC will construct such rules and procedures as may be necessary and present them to the Student Government for approval at the beginning of each academic year.
 - ii) Membership
 - (1) The SOOC shall be composed of several Student Government members that the Student Government will designate.
- b) The Student Activities Funding Committee
 - i) Responsibilities
 - (1) The SAFC will provide funding from the Student Activities Fee for club-sponsored events and activities.
 - (2) The SAFC will construct such rules and procedures as may be necessary and present them to the Student Government for approval at the beginning of each academic year.
 - ii) Membership
 - (1) The Treasurer of the BSG, two appointed members, and the four class treasurers will be the membership of the SAFC. The Director of Student Activities and the Vice President of Student Organizations will sit as non-voting members.
 - (2) The Treasurer will chair the SAFC.
 - iii) Rules
 - (1) The Treasurer is ineligible to hold the Presidency or a Vice Presidency of the Student Government.
 - (2) The funding allocated to an organization by the SAFC may not be used as a donation to any other off-campus organization or charity and must be for the benefit of the College community.

4) Student Representatives to Committees of the Faculty and Trustees

- a) Committees
 - i) A complete list and description of all committees shall be updated as necessary by the Vice President for Student Organizations, and shall be available on the web.
- b) Appointments
 - i) The President and the Vice President for Student Government Affairs shall sit with the Trustees and the Executive Committee of the Trustees.
- c) Selection Criteria
 - i) Any student who is currently enrolled at Bowdoin and who, to the best of his or her knowledge, will be enrolled for the entire term of his or her service is eligible for committee positions.
 - (1) Students who plan to study away for all or part of the term of the position that they are seeking should withdraw from the interviews.

- (2) It is the candidate's responsibility to truthfully inform the interviewing committee of any intention of studying away that may conflict with the term.
 - (3) In the event an appointed student will be absent for part of the term of office on the committee, it will be the student's responsibility to inform the Student Government immediately and assist in the selection of a replacement.
- ii) In selecting the candidates, the committee should consider previous commitments of the candidates, such as extracurricular activities, sports, and previous committee positions.
- d) Responsibilities of the Representatives
 - i) Students of the committees of the faculty and trustees shall serve one-year terms from May to May, with the following exceptions.
 - (1) The student representatives to the Budgetary Priorities and the Financial Planning Committee shall be appointed to two-year terms.
 - ii) Student representatives shall be required to submit individual reports for each committee on which they serve, covering the committee's activities and their attendance.
 - (1) Reports must be received at the discretion of the Vice President for Student Organizations.
 - (2) The Vice President for Student Government Affairs shall assemble the reports and one copy shall be sent to the office of the President of the College, and another shall be put on the web.
 - (3) The Vice President for Student Government Affairs shall be responsible for informing representatives of their obligation to file the reports and the deadlines for them.
 - (4) Committee members who fail to submit a written report shall be called before the Student Government for an explanation, and shall be subject to dismissal from all committees on which they are presently serving. Those failing to submit a written report will be ineligible to be nominated for any committee for the following two semesters.
 - (5) The Student Government may require any student representative to appear before the Student Government to give an oral report.

5) Class Officers

- a) Responsibilities of Class Offices
 - i) The class offices have been established to help promote the social and structural unity of the classes. The officers are empowered by the Student Government.
 - ii) The approved minutes of the Student Government shall be sent to each of the officers.
 - iii) The class officers for each respective class will meet on at least a bi-monthly basis.
 - iv) The class and assistant deans will serve as the advisor for the class officers.
 - v) The Student Government may dismiss any class officer from office for neglect of duties by a 4/5 majority of the entire Student Government membership, after holding a hearing at which the officer in question has a right to be present.
 - vi) Any member of the Student Government is eligible to also serve as a class officer.
- b) Class Officers
 - i) The class officers shall be made up of the following offices:
 - (1) President
 - (2) Vice President
 - (3) Treasurer
 - (4) Community Service Officer (CSO)
 - ii) The Senior Class President will serve as a member of the Young Alumni Leadership Program (YALP).
 - iii) The Vice-president of each class will serve as a class liaison to the Student Activities Board in order to promote the social aspects of the class officers.
 - iv) The Treasurer of each class as stated in 3bii1 will serve as a member of the Student Activities Fee Committee (SAFC). In this capacity the treasurer is responsible for coordinating the financial efforts of the SAFC and the social aspects of their respective class.
 - v) The CSO of each class will serve as a class liaison to the Bowdoin student organization which coordinates volunteer efforts (i.e. The Bowdoin Volunteer Program). In this capacity, the CSO

will promote interaction between the class and the community. They will also be the connection between the classes and Environmental organizations on campus.

vi) Election of Officers

- (1) Elections shall be held in the spring, except for the first-years whose election will be in the fall.
- (2) The terms of the class officers shall run from the time the elections results are announced until the results of the next election are announced.
- (3) All elections shall take place in accordance with normal election procedure as outlined in 2bii.
 - (a) The candidate with the most votes shall be designated the winner of the election.

vii) Resignation Clause:

- (1) A class officer may resign by notifying the President or the Vice President for Student Government Affairs or the Class President. Upon receipt of a resignation, the Student Government should be informed at its next regular meeting.
- (2) The Student Government will immediately begin the process by which the member was originally chosen to fill the empty seat.
- (3) If the resignation takes place within three weeks before a regularly scheduled membership process, the seat will remain unfilled.
- (4) Any person able to serve until the next regularly scheduled membership process will be eligible.

6) Referenda

a) Student Government Referenda

- i) A two-thirds vote of the Student Government or submission of signatures equal to fifteen percent of the student body on a student-initiated petition shall bring any issue to a student referendum, except the recall of the President and Vice Presidents, which is outlined in Article VII.
- ii) The entire Student Body shall be entitled to vote.
- iii) Twenty-five percent of the Student Body shall constitute a quorum.
- iv) A majority vote constitutes passage of a referendum.
- v) The referendum shall be run by the Student Affairs Committee.
- vi) Petitions shall be presented to the President and acted upon within seven days.
- vii) Referenda shall have the power of Student Government decisions.

7) Recall Elections

a) Recall of the President and Vice Presidents by the Student Body

- i) A petition calling for a recall of the President and Vice Presidents, bearing the names of at least fifty percent of the students enrolled at the Brunswick campus for that semester must be presented at a regular meeting of the Student Government.
- ii) A campus-wide vote on the issue must be held within seven days of the meeting at which the petition is presented.
- iii) At the meeting when the petition is submitted, Student Government shall appoint an Elections Committee to conduct the recall election and, if necessary, supervise the election of a new President and Vice Presidents by the Student Body
- iv) Following the meeting when the petition is submitted, no new business may be acted upon by the President and Vice Presidents until the vote has taken place and the President and Vice Presidents receive a vote of confidence.
- v) A majority of a twenty-five percent quorum is required to recall the President and Vice Presidents. In which case, they will be deemed to have resigned.

8) Constitutional Amendments

- a) Methods of Amending the Constitution
 - i) Student Government Action
 - (1) Constitutional amendments may be proposed by a four-fifths majority of the Student Government and ratified by a two-thirds majority of the Student Body voting in a referendum.
 - (2) The Student Government must take appropriate measures to inform and educate the Student Body about the changes proposed.
 - (3) Constitutional amendments may be proposed by a petition containing signatures representing twenty percent of the Student Body and ratified by a two-thirds majority of the Student Body voting in a referendum. The results of such a referendum, however, shall be invalid unless at least thirty percent of the Student Body shall have voted.
 - ii) Effective Date of Amendments
 - (1) Unless otherwise specified, Constitutional amendments shall take effect upon their ratification by the Student Body.

9) Judiciary

- a) Selection
 - i) The Judicial Board will announce the vacancies on the Student Judicial Board and the application procedure to the Bowdoin student body.
 - ii) All applicants will be interviewed by a committee composed of the continuing Student Judicial Board members and the President.
 - iii) The names of the nominees are submitted for approval by the Student Government. Approval of nominated members and alternates is by majority vote of the Student Government. The Current Judicial Board members will attend the meeting where the vote is to be taken. In the event any nominated members or alternates are not approved by the Student Government, the nominating committee will submit new nominations for approval.
- b) Dismissal
 - i) The Student Government may dismiss a member of the Student Judicial Board, for adequate cause, by a two-thirds vote of its entire membership. This may occur only after holding a hearing at which the member in question has the right to be present.