

11/19/24 Central Assembly
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Chris Schwartz calls the meeting to order at 6:05

II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

David Ferguson - Advisor to the Student Government

Chris Schwartz - Speaker of the Student Body - **Present**

Emi McCaffrey - Treasurer of the Student Government - **Present**

Samira Hussaini - Assistant Treasurer - **Present**

Blake Millwood - Archivist of the Student Government - **Present**

Nitya Goyal - Chair of the Student Life Committee - **Present**

Ela Bosworth-Tetikoglu - Chair of the Educational Policies Committee - **Present**

Gavin Hersey - Chair of the Fiscal Committee - **Present**

Emily Huang - Chair of the Socially Responsible Investment Committee - **Present**

Thalia Grandinetti - Chair of the Student Judiciary Board, Co-Chair of the Constit. Court - **Present**

Marisol(Mari) Thompson - Chair of the Peer Review Board, Co-Chair of the Constit. Court

III. ACTION ITEMS

Financial Transparency Forum Rescheduling

- The Financial Transparency Forum needs to be rescheduled due to Taun Toay's absence.

Handbook Forum

- The Central Assembly (CA) received several emails expressing concerns about changes to the student handbook.
- Recommended that questions be submitted in advance to address issues such as:
 - Reasons for the changes
 - Why changes were made in secret
 - Why the changes are broad and undefined
- Suggested that multiple individuals should be present to answer a wide range of questions.

- It was noted that these changes were supposed to go through the Bard Student Government (BSG), so it is important to ask why this route was taken.

Student Affairs Committee - Protection During Trump Presidency and Mass Deportations

- Botstein is considering declaring Bard a “safe haven.” Unsure what this entails.
- The Sanctuary Office, formerly the Undocumented Fund, should be reviewed to determine who was involved in its previous management.
- Questions regarding Bard’s legal team’s capacity to assist students were raised:
 - Are Bard lawyers authorized to help students?
 - Request for Bard’s legal team to hold office hours for students.
 - A legal information session and clarity on ICE protocol were suggested.
 - Organize speaker events and investigate the boundaries between the Chapel/religious centers and ICE.
 - A communication network (e.g., text alerts via security) and transportation to legal safe spaces were recommended.

Simon’s Rock Concerns

- Chris will contact Hannah Zipple regarding Simon’s Rock students.
- Concerns were raised about sexual assault allegations, drug use, and Bard’s resources for this population.
- Issues with harm reduction on campus, especially regarding underpaid or unpaid labor, were discussed.
- The overloading of classes and the lack of a crisis counselor were highlighted.
- It was questioned whether Simon’s Rock students are receiving the same resources as Bard students, despite not paying the student activities fee.
- A student forum for Simon’s Rock will be organized next semester to discuss concerns.
- Other questions included:
 - Do Simon’s Rock students pay the same tuition as Bard students?
 - Are Bard’s resources, such as psychiatric services and disability services, accessible to them?

Email from Jaime

- Jaime reported that some students are struggling with their senior projects due to a lack of faculty support.
- Senior project advisors are not contracted to guide students through these projects, leading to unpaid labor.
- There is concern about creating a meaningful senior project when students feel they are not

adequately taught.

- Some faculty members are paid hourly.
- The Educational Policies Committee (EPC) is working on creating an FAQ for faculty regarding disability services and policy issues.
- It was acknowledged that there may be discrepancies in how faculty and students view issues of labor and solidarity.
- Faculty members have voiced concerns about their treatment, and it was suggested that BSG might need to adopt a more radical stance in supporting faculty.

Refugee & Displaced Student Committee

- Concern that displaced students don't know they can come to BSG to advocate for each other.
 - This is a communication issue on the part of the BSG
- It was recommended to wait until next semester to form a committee and to use more inclusive/accessible language in emails.
- Displaced students face challenges related to isolation, funding, counseling, and food in Kline.
- Collaboration with the South Asian student club was suggested to address these issues.
- Overall BSG comes off as intimidating

Interim Multicultural Diversity Committee

- The current goal of the committee is to collect data for the new Multicultural Diversity Committee (MDC).
- A report and survey guide will be created in line with the constitution.
- A climate survey within BSG is planned for December.
- A meeting with Claudette Aldebot is scheduled.
- The MDC is also collaborating with the interfaith community dinner and CCE to combine efforts.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

SRIC

- In the past week, they started an unofficial engagement with Nestlé (they do not yet qualify for an official engagement through shareholder resolution). Nestlé has responded, and they are hoping to secure a meeting with their shareholder relations.

- They also had a meeting with SSEN, where they discussed more ways for outreach and received additional pointers on how SSEN chooses companies and engages with them.
- The Financial Transparency Forum has to be rescheduled because Taun will be in Berlin, and there is no later Friday available to postpone it to. The forum will be rescheduled for next semester.

EPC

- Tenure Reports are due next week
- The Trans Resource guide has been updated, they will be sending an email to the student body with the link soon.
- They are going to do a survey to gauge the student experience of moderation before and after the moderation process, to get an overview of the student experience and make some necessary changes from there.
- The forum is this Friday, they are doing tabling Wednesday and Thursday and have a drop box where people can write questions and comments in advance

SLC

- The order for thanksgiving food was put in for Friday 29th in MPR from Chipotle.
- They are working with Dining to help them with the dish return program and also dining focus groups which provide opportunities for students to come and talk about changes they would like to see in dining. While that is happening the regular dining committee meetings happen every Friday at 11:30am and are open to all students.
- For the student discount program they emailed all the local places, talked to BarDEATS and spent the last week calling all these places. We also made a proper business proposal poster to print out for when they start going to these places in person.
- They are also working on new survey questions for both housing and food feedback forms which we are planning to send out next semester.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.