A Bill

COVENANT FOR THE GOVERNING BODIES OF BATES COLLEGE
The contents of the Covenant are adapted from the Covenant that exists at Connecticut College (New London, Connecticut, USA).

We, the students of Bates College, represented by the governing body of the Bates College Student Government (BCSG), believe in the principles of shared governance. Shared governance is the idea and belief that the governing bodies of separate constituencies are all represented fairly and have a voice on concerns, policies, and issues that affect the constituents of all the individual governing institutions. Execution of the ideals and practices of shared governance allows all participants to be both informed and involved.

The principles of shared governance have always been prevalent at Bates College. Interaction among the three representatives of governing bodies, i.e. the Bates College Student Government, the members of the faculty, and the members of the administration, has existed always at Bates College. However, we the students of Bates College, represented by our governing body (the Bates College Student Government), feel that the bonds of shared governance need to be strengthened.

A covenant is a formal agreement among two or more parties to do or not to do something specified. We, the students of Bates College, represented by our governing body, believe that the following points of agreement will improve upon the existing ideals of shared governance and will continue, throughout the years to strengthen communication, consultation, and the relationships between the existing governing bodies at Bates College.

1. The BCSG shall hold an all-campus event at the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters. At this event the Student Body President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty will be asked to deliver a "State of the College" address.

2. The President of the College, along with any relevant members of the administration, shall be invited to attend at least two Representative Assembly meetings each semester so that students have the opportunity to question, express concerns, and hear comments from the President of the College and any relevant members of the administration.

3. The Executive Council of the BCSG shall be invited to send up to three of its members to at least two President's Council meetings each semester so that the members of the administration will have the opportunity to question, express concerns, and hear comments from the Executive Council of the BCSG.

4. The Executive Council, according to the changes to the Bates College Student Government Constitution and its Bylaws, shall arrange at least one and no more than two meetings a semester between the BCSG's Committee on Committees and the faculty's Committee on Committees and Governance. However, both the Executive Council and the Committee on Committees and Governance may call more meetings depending on situations that the faculty and students deem necessary.

5. At least one member of the Committee on Committees and Governance shall be invited to attend at least two Representative Assembly meetings a semester to answer student questions and hear student concerns. These meetings should be used also by the Committee on Committees and Governance to present any relevant developments or concerns to the students in academic relevant areas.

6. The Office of the Dean of Students shall be the main informational center for the BCSG with regard to administrative information and inquiries. At least one member of the Office of the Dean of Students will be invited also to two Representative Assembly meetings each semester to hear and answer student concerns and present any administrative developments.
7. Any questions or concerns that the BCSG has with the members of the administration shall be brought first to the Assistant Dean of Students/Coordinator of Student Activities and the Dean of Students and thereby relayed to the appropriate members of the administration. The Executive Council shall set up and attend regular monthly meetings with both the Assistant Dean of Students/Coordinator of Student Activities and the Dean of Students to express the state of student affairs on the campus.

8. The three governing bodies shall operate with confidence that the BCSG, whose members are elected by the students, is the representative body of the students. The BCSG is the appropriate venue with which the members of the faculty and the members of the administration shall consult to communicate with the entire student body. The BCSG realizes that certain concerns, questions, and issues can and shall be communicated with other organizations on campus. As elected officials, the members of BCSG are responsible for bringing these concerns, questions, and issues to the attention of the student body.

9. The BCSG and members of the administration will recognize the Office of the Dean of Students as the office with which to consult in order to determine what is confidential information and what is not. Any questions about what is confidential information and what is not shall be brought to the Office of the Dean of Students.

10. In order to assure that the ideals and beliefs of both the Covenant and of shared governance are maintained at Bates College, a commission shall be established. The Commission on Shared Governance shall meet at least once each semester to evaluate the points of the Covenant, to examine the process that this Covenant and shared governance has established, and to examine the relationships among the three governing bodies. The membership of the Commission on Shared Governance shall be as follows:
   a. the Executive Council's Faculty Advisory Committee representative
   b. one member of the administration other than the President of the College
   c. one member from the Office of the Dean of Students other than the Dean of Students
   d. one member of the faculty the Committee on Committees and Governance appoints
   e. two members of the student body the Executive Council appoints

The Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee shall be responsible for presiding over the meetings of the Commission on Shared Governance. The Secretary of the Representative Assembly shall serve as Vice Chair and Secretary of the Commission on Shared Governance.

11. Amendments to this Covenant, between the student body, the members of the administration, and the members of the faculty, shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of each the President's Council, the members of the faculty, and the Executive Council.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill K. Jack ‘08
President

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Monday, October 1, 2007:
Originally proposed; first reading; withdrawn.