

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes regarding Senate Reform 2013-15

June 10, 2015

C. Student Senate Suspension

Kohout said there have been no changes to this document. Alcántar Soto asked this will be looked at the AS Structural review committee. Kohout said they will look at how they can *ASWWU Board of Directors* have more student input. Alcántar Soto said so if they take 3 years, will the student senate be suspended until then? Kohout said yes.

MOTION: ASB-15-S-43 by Kohout

Approve the suspension of the Student Senate until the AS Structural Review committee makes their recommendations.

Second: Alcántar Soto Vote 6-0-0 Action: Passed

June 3, 2015

D. Student Senate Suspension

Kohout said they are trying to restructure the AS. She originally wanted to work on this year but she didn't want to bring it back just to be looked at by the new structural review committee. They do need student representation but she is hoping they will figure that out by the new committee. She can take any questions. Smiley said have applications on the restructuring opened? Kohout said no. Smiley said a group of students are really interested in the development of the student senate. Kohout said they don't want to create it for the sake of having it. That is why they are relooking at this.

May 22, 2014

C. Student Senate (15 minutes) Doc. 5 Galloway

Roberts left this as an information item because she didn't feel that the timeline was specific enough. She reminded everyone that diversity of thought, opinions, and perspectives is something that makes them strong, so it is ok if they disagree about things. She said that the Board could vote it into action if they feel it necessary, this also applies to the next item.

Galloway feels that they have had plenty of conversations about this, she would like to respect the autonomy of next year's Board in making these decisions. Tyson & Ellison dittoed. Kohout doesn't think that it would be difficult to complete this as she continues her training. Galloway thinks that what she worked on during the summer was streamlining processes and institutionalizing things that are set now which will allow Kohout more time during the summer to work on this project. 3 dittoes. She feels this is realistic and Kohout has the background to move forward and collaborate with others. Roberts would like a clearly established timeline for the conceptual work before a decision is made. Roberts thinks the first step is to establish a need for the Student Senate. She doesn't feel that this document reflects the stumbling blocks that happened this year. Kohout said that she witnessed many of these stumbling blocks. She wants to take the summer to do thorough research and then make decisions. Galloway & Tyson dittoed. Ellison thinks that the problems weren't so much the calendar, but were communication issues.

MOTION ASB-14-S-39 by Galloway

See the Student Senate Proposal as an immediate action item.

Second: Ellison Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

Ellison would like to add presenting a timeline at the end of summer to the Board. Burke doesn't think that the Senate was a purposeful use of student dollars and based on the research

that was done this past year, they do need to go through this process and do deep research. More information is needed to optimize use of student fee dollars.

MOTION ASB-14-S-40 by Ellison

Suspend the operation of the Student Senate for the 2014-15 school year with the stipulation that a timeline be presented by the end of summer quarter to the AS Board of Directors.

Second: Galloway Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

May 15, 2014

D. Student Senate (15 minutes) Doc. 4 Galloway

Galloway and Kohout, VP for Gov Elect, collaborated on this proposal. Galloway said the Student Senate had a series of issues, which is why it went on hiatus. The results on May 2nd reflected a student vote of 72% to 38% in favor of keeping the student senate. This proposal is asking the Board to authorize another one year hiatus of the Student Senate, with the expectation that Kohout as the VP for Governmental Affairs for 2014-2015 will be working on this project. Galloway said that Kohout feels she can take on this project and make sure whatever comes out of this project would be best for the students. Ellison would like to include the hours for the Board Member who is the liaison to Senate in the personnel hours. Roberts said that she did not find anywhere in the Bylaws where rules were laid out to suspend the Bylaws. She does not know if the board has the authority to suspend the Bylaws and feels the Board should just suspend the Senate. Kohout said that it would not be a suspension but rather a hiatus. Galloway said that it was not her intention to have the board suspend the Bylaws, she thought that she was following the process. Roberts is also concerned about the wholesale suspension of the Senate for two years in a row. She feels that students voted to keep student senate in the Bylaws, they should at least have something in existence called the Student Senate. Roberts would like to see more structure and a timeline of the Senate. She feels that the Board owes it to students to give them a thorough process. Roberts suggested having an interim group which would have meet quarterly with all students who serve on committees to discuss items. She has already talked about this idea with the Representation & Engagement Programs Office and other people. Ellison suggested to have an interim for Senate be under the Academic Affairs position because she has at least two years' worth of legacy documents prepared. Kohout said that she could get a timeline for next week's meeting. She feels that it will be difficult to get a group of all the committee members together. Levy feels that it is a waste of time if they are just creating a group to call Student Senate. He said that even though the student voted on keeping the student senate, it was a low population of votes with only around 600 people voting. If they are appealing to those 600 students, he feels that they do not want a committee. Eckroth agrees with Kohout and Levy. He said that the Senate did not get the analysis that it deserved and it should be analyzed again. 1 ditto. There should be alternatives presented to the Board. There could be a possibility that the item be brought back to the AS board again during elections with more information presented to the students. Majkut is concerned about adding another task to the responsibilities of the VP for Governmental Affairs or the VP for Academic Affairs. He is not concerned about the project task, but he is concerned about the ongoing commitment of this. He suggests the Senate be put on hiatus until the end of fall quarter and to have a report be developed at the end of fall quarter, which would allow for a decision to be made about this. He said this would be a compromise, so they wouldn't have to take a full year because it seems like a long time to try and respond to student concerns without a check in. Roberts said for her to feel comfortable passing this second year suspension, she would like to see a timeline and a clear assessment plan established. She would offer her assistance in the development of this because she has a

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lot of information from last year when she was working on this project the first time around. Roberts cautioned against people are casually delegitimizing the election results. What they are discussing passed with a much wider margin than the majority of the incoming the Board members were elected on. She doesn't want to see the leaders causally dismiss election results. She doesn't think the number of students who voted for this should be a legitimate point of discussion. Kohout would want this to come down to a student vote because she wants students to have a say in this and be educated. Galloway feels it would be better to give this project due diligence. Galloway feels that they were not trying to delegitimize the election results, but she feels that students didn't understand what they were voting for because no explanation was given. Galloway suggested a one year maximum, but she doesn't want to limit it. She wants to leave it in the hands of someone who is an expert and she doesn't feel that they should rush this. Eckroth liked the idea of an assessment process happening in fall and the referenda in winter quarter. Galloway said that winter quarter is hard during legislative session. Roberts thinks that there are a lot of different ideas about this and she feels that they might need a second information week on this. Roberts would like to see this be successful and thorough. Eckroth is comfortable with seeing it as an action item next week.

April 3, 2014 Board Meeting

A. Student Senate Referendum (10 minutes) Doc. 5 Roberts

This language comes out of the Board Work Session and is very simple. She wanted to make sure that they are honoring their processes and honoring the guiding documents, while not closing off the possibility of a Student Senate in the future. The Board and Student Senate Reform student employee looked for ways to make the Student Senate viable within the organization and have found that there was not anything that would add value enough to warrant the expense to students. If there is a need for Student Senate in the future, it can be brought back. Roberts requested discussing some of the things that were talked about in the work sessions because there are not minutes. Galloway said that the Board, in analyzing the history of the Senate and doing a cost/benefit analysis concluded that the benefits do not outweigh the costs. At this point there is not an explicit function for the Senate. Therefore the most fiscally responsible thing to do is to move forward with its removal from the Bylaws. Last year the AS Board suspended the committee for a year to research ways that it might be more useful or cost effective. All Bylaw changes have to be approved by a vote of the student body. Galloway said that historically the Senate reviewed the Legislative Agenda after it was passed by the Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) in an effort to involve more students in the process. This year LAC had student proposal submission process which allowed for more outreach and input into the document than in previous years. She feels that they still had a lot of outreach to students and the Agenda was just as strong as it was in the past without having to take through a different body. Roberts clarified that if Senate had reviewed the document it would have shortened the process at LAC and they may have had a lower quality agenda. Typically the Senate doesn't add new items or expand on them. Galloway also notice that this year, while the Senate was suspended, more students have been engaging in university and AS committees, attending Board meetings and crafting proposals. She thinks that the student representation advocacy efforts this year show that students can be fully represented through other channels. Many dittoed. Ellison said that as the Academic representative she thinks that a student can get more out of serving on a committee with faculty and administrators because it is a firm structure with set processes and procedures. Eckroth thinks it is good to have more

students at-large able to serve on any committee instead of the spots that were reserved for

Senate members. Roberts thinks it is better to have students sitting on committees that are tailored towards their interest rather than a general committee. Burke said students at-large on committees have more resources and a direct voice. Roberts said that Senate, as it existed before, didn't have any authority to directly affect change. Guizar said that the Senate may work for some universities, but it doesn't work for Western. Roberts said the Senates in many other schools have authority over the budget and legislative areas. Western has committees specifically for these purposes (e.g. Budget Committee & LAC) which allows their representation to be tailored. In many other universities the President and Vice President run together and appoint a cabinet, instead of having each position run for election. The current AS structure works for Western Washington University. ASWWU has many student employees and many services that they offer, it is one of the most extensive in the nation. The Board has assessed the student government model and has found that the most sound model is the AS Board of Directors as it exists and the committee system as it exists. Unanimous dittoes. Galloway feels that the Senate was a little repetitive because many students serve on the other sub committees. She feels it would be more beneficial to have people focusing on one committee. Burke thinks it also provides more opportunities for students at-large because it will not require Senators to serve taking up spots that could be filled by more students. Galloway does value what the Student Senators have done historically for AS and what they have contributed. If there was a good reason to bring it back and a good alternative structure, she wouldn't have hesitated to revive it. They did look at many alternatives and this is the most reasonable option. Majkut said that the Student Senate over the years has been a number of different models as they have tried to find one that worked and responsibilities for the committee that made it viable. The advisor for the Senate has saved a few hours this year with the suspension of the Senate. Roberts feels that the additional student positions that have been added due to growth in other areas of the organization that are yielding specific measurable results have filled the time that was used for the Senate. At this point it would be hard to add it back in for the professional staff. Galloway's research was that collectively there was at least 16 hours of personnel hours allocated per week to the Senate from various staff.

MOTION ASB-14-S-6 by Guizar

Approve proposed language for the Student Senate Referendum "Shall the Student Senate be removed from the AS Bylaws (Article V Section 2d)?"

Second: Tyson Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

March 19, 2014 Board Meeting

D. Student Senate Referendum (10 minutes) Doc. 6 Roberts

Roberts stated that there are four options for the Senate: One, go back to the way it was before it was suspended last year. Two, run a referendum that eliminates the Student Senate from the bylaws. Three, run a late referendum that eliminated Student Senate but established something else. Fourth option is to re-suspend the Student Senate. Eckroth stated that he is in support of the second option. From what he understands, there isn't currently a need for the Student Senate. If that changes, students will call for a new Senate. Two dittoes. Roberts stated that they wanted to explore all options for due process. Guizar stated that she would not like to move on the fourth option because she feels that this Board should address this issue. Galloway is not in favor of option number three as a late referendum would put a lot of extra work on the AS Elections Coordinator. She would advocate for the second option at this point in time. If they feel that there is a need for something else, they should ensure the Board understand what the need is. Roberts stated that the second option will be pursued as most members of the Board are in support of it. Ellison asked what will happen if the referenda doesn't receive an

affirmative vote of the student body. Roberts stated that if that happened they will address it when it occurs.

April 18, 2013 Board Meeting

A. Senate Reform Job Description (10 minutes) Le Doc. 5

Le said this was reviewed by the Personnel Committee and approved. Celis thinks they should remove "by the Student Senate" from the bullet point about forums. Roberts wondered if the fourth bullet point was relevant because she feels that every student is affected by the topic. Stickney feels that there might be other areas on campus that could be involved so they should leave this. Celis doesn't see anything in the description that instructs the position what to do after they come up with a plan. He proposes adding "Create a proposal for the next steps for the Student Senate to be proposed to the AS Board of Directors by the end of position term." Celis feels this leaves it open but also makes it clear that a plan must be completed. Stickney dittoed. Majkut said that they might present options instead of one plan and it also needs to come to the Board by the 7th week of the quarter to follow Board timelines and have time for questions. Glemaker would like this to be a three quarter position to handle a referendum during Elections if that is necessary. Roberts doesn't feel that there is enough work to warrant having this position three quarters. Savinski and Stickney dittoed. Glemaker feels that it would be a very positive thing to have this person intern the new chair. Roberts said they don't know the outcome of the project and therefore doesn't think that they can determine an appropriate number of work hours required for spring. Savinski said that the REP Associate Director will be working closely with this position and there will be a legacy document to help with training and internship. Savinski thinks this could come back to the Board spring quarter if necessary. Celis doesn't think that they should plan on funding being available. Also the REP Associate Director would be doing two internships in the spring. Stickney thinks that this could go many different ways and these questions should go before the Board next year as needed. Glemaker said that it is possible that a student wouldn't be available for spring quarter, if not notified ahead of this requirement. Stickney feels that this proposal needs to be finished by winter quarter and this position may not be the best person to train a chair because they were not Senate Chair. Savinski dittoed. Savinski doesn't think they should allocate time and funding for a position they don't know will be necessary. Change all bullets to have "ing" endings.

MOTION ASB-13-S-13 by Celis

Approve the Student Senate Reform Job Description with the removal of "by the Student Senate" from the forum section and adding a final sub-bullet under the first position responsibility "presenting comprehensive options for future steps of the Student Senate to the AS Board of Directors by midwinter quarter".

Second: Stickney Vote: 5 - 1 - 0 Action: Passed

March 14, 2013 Board Meeting

C. Student Senate Reform Proposal (15 minutes) Stickney Doc. 3

Stickney changed nothing from the last meeting; he clarified that the job description will be going to Personnel Committee. Glemaker feels that including sending this as a referendum to the student body might lock the Board into something that might not be necessary. Roberts feels that they need to take some action and should include wording for this. Stickney clarified it still says action must happen by spring 2014. Hilliard would like this to be done through a referendum because there is a chance to increase awareness of the Senate. Celis said that in the motion drafting a reform recommendation is included. Glemaker is hoping for a lot of involvement from the student body in a variety of forms.

MOTION ASB-13-W-33 by Celis

Suspend the operation of the Student Senate for the 2013-2014 school year, and hire a Senate Reform Personnel who will lead and prepare all meetings regarding the drafting of a reform recommendation to the Board striking the language "bringing a referendum to the student body".

Second: Roberts Vote: 6 - 0 - 1 Action: Passed

March 7, 2013 Board Meeting

D. Student Senate Reform Proposal

Celis said that the Board has discussed this item in detail in work sessions. Roberts thinks that this is really well put together and she feels that this is exactly what needs to happen to create a healthy, effective and sustainable Senate for the next year. Celis said this is step 1 and then they will be creating the job description through the proper channels. Hilliard thinks that it will be successful in what it is attempting to do, but feels that the Senate would be a good group to handle this. Celis feels that they need to be able to set up the infrastructure and clear goals before they could bring it to a student vote. If they want to create student jobs for the Senators they need to figure out all of the details. Correa was concerned at first because he felt that by not putting it into practice, it would be hard to tell if it would be successful. However from the chair perspective, it is hard to run the Senate and also think about reform. Many Senators were for this reform and some were concerned. Campbell said that his personal concern is not having an end deadline. He feels that this risks the end of the Senate. He feels that something has to happen in the spring next year for elections, or they are potentially putting the Senate off for two years. They also risk saying the Senate isn't needed at all and then there are no Senators there to stand up for themselves. Campbell has a concern about having this vote when there is an initiative on the table as well. Duot thinks that they should come together and work on this reform of the Senate. Glemaker said that this doesn't eliminate the Senate; it puts a priority on reform by hiring someone to do research on Senate structures. Glemaker said that there have been open work sessions and this has been discussed for quite a while. Stickney said that this is a separate issue from the initiative. They have been working on it already and the Board just heard of the initiative two days ago. Stickney thinks that they should consider these separately. He feels that it is good to take time to work out the details for funding, locations, etc. Roberts said that the initiative is still uncertain, but this is something that requires action and she feels that they should not delay on this. Campbell is the chair of the Senate reform subcommittee. They have met three times and he feels that the initiative he is bringing came out of these meetings. Campbell said that there have been advertised work sessions, but he also finds it insulting that the Board did not tell the Senate sub-committee about these discussions. Majkut said that in the intent it talks about a referendum, he is not sure that this is required, but if it is the intention then it should be in the final motion. He also thinks that the hiring of a Senate Reform person really depends on if there is an initiative on the ballot. He thinks that if the initiative is passed the job might be different in terms of setting up for the process to happen in the next election. Stickney said that the intention behind not requiring a referendum was to not bind next year's Board on any type of action. He personally thinks they should do a referendum but doesn't want to lock them in; it is listed in the intent as a suggestion. Savinski said that it is a valid concern that there might not be a Senate for two years, she thought of it a few days ago. She feels that because there is a want to strengthen the Senate and because reform went into the Governmental Affairs job description that they can make deadlines so that they don't end up in a situation like that, if it is decided that the Senate is a valuable body. She feels that the Board is encouraging this process to occur because they don't want the Senate to disappear; they want to strengthen and empower the Senate. 5 dittoes. She thinks it is an important process to go through and

is far different than the initiative. Campbell said he doesn't think this is a bad idea, but he believes they are already at the point where decisions can be made about the Senate and the direction. He has thought of a compromise, and with the initiative he is trying to force conversation on this. He asks that this not be an Action Item next week. Glemaker said that there is urgency with this because hiring begins this weekend. He encourages discussions to happen around this. Glemaker said in terms of transparency, the Board has been vocal about Senate reform since the currently seated board members campaign last spring. They made some changes over the summer to the Senate in terms of representation. They also made it one of their priority goals which were submitted to the Board of Trustees as public documents and it has been a topic of discussion throughout the year. Celis as advisor has made sure that the Senate voices are heard. He invited the Senators to attend the next meeting.