



Western Washington University Associated Students  
**Structural Review Committee**

Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

4:00 PM

YU567

**Members:** *Present: Bryce Hammer (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Mary Moeller (ASVP for Business and Operations), Aleyda Cervantes (ASVP for Diversity), Emma Ospal (AS Assessment Coordinator), Bill Martin (Student at Large), Hannah Van Amen (Student at Large), Griffin Crisp (Student at Large), Eric Alexander (Facilitator), Casey Hayden (Program Advisor), and Lisa Rosenberg.*

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Casey Hayden

**Secretary:** Cora Cole

**Guests:**

**Motions:**

**SRC-16-F-1**                    **Approval of minutes from September 29, 2016. Passed**

*Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM on October 10, 2016.*

**I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**II. Minutes Approval**

Emma Ospal requested a revision to the minutes so that her name would be included in the list of those present. The secretary promised the revision would be made.

**MOTION: SRC-16-F-1** by Moeller

Approval of the minutes from September 29th.

Second: Crisp Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Motion Passed, revised minutes approved.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Bylaws and Guiding Documents:** Bryce opened discussion by talking about the way our bylaws relate to the Board as a not-for-profit and the Associated Students as not-not-for-profit. She mentioned that she had included the documents mostly for a reference point because of the confusing nature of the bylaws. Eric mentioned that if the committee goes forward with the current proposed structure, we will need to make sure that the existing granted authorities map well onto the new structure. Bryce has similar observations about bylaws, specifically the role of the Student Senate, and commented that we might need to get approval from students in stages. There will be more looking into that as we examine the legal ramifications of structure change.
- B. Moving forward with current structure:** Bryce said that she and Eric had talked about ways to fill in details about the structure, including breaking the committee into three subgroups outside of the 2 hour long meetings, and having less frequent check-ins. Aleyda and Eric would be managing a VU Board subgroup, Lisa and Bryce would manage the AS Board, and Mary and Casey would manage the Student Senate. Aleyda then asked if this was the committee's final structure, Bryce answered that they

can change it but the three section of representation, advocacy, and programing are going to be key in the final structure, so these conversations are going to ultimately be very helpful. Griffin asked for more information about the structure so Bryce showed him the documents from last meeting which outlined that information. Aleyda voiced concerns about the power imbalance with the Executive branch, the S and A fee competition, and the possible continued strain on her position. Eric responded that we will be focused on the details this year, there is a divide in Aleyda's position between the advocacy/programing. Currently the responsibility in the AS is focused on the Board and no matter which structure we end up using, the Board and the AS are going to have to give up some of those responsibilities. Bryce wants to go forward talking about which responsibilities are going to be released, particularly Aleyda's office. Griffin asked if the solution could be two VPs for Diversity, Casey said he thought that one of the points of going with the Vu student board was that there would be a more distant relationship between elected students and programing. Eric responded that if we change the aesthetic of the AS, as they have in the past, or if they wanted to alter core structure, because that would have dynamic tension in letting go of structure. The question of who would be held accountable in the new structure, both legally and as student representatives. The current accountability system holds staff advisors responsible but when we separate governance and programing there will be much more sharing of accountability. Last year they never really got into what that means for the VP of Diversity. Casey suggested that before we break off into the three subgroups we name some of the questions we want to answer. Bryce listed the questions as people put them forward.

1. How are we going to ensure representation in the senate beyond academics? Where else will those people come from?
2. How is Activities Council going to fit in?
3. Is the Director of Business and Operations going to be hired or elected?
4. How does the not-for-profit fit in?
5. How does the creation of the senate affect the REP? How does it affect the LAC?
6. VP Diversity???
7. Who is ultimately accountable for the outcomes we've talked about?
8. How will the structure affect the committee system?
9. Do we want a check and balance system? How do we achieve that if we do? What are the benefits of the check and balance system?
10. What is currently not working inside the AS?
11. What is the time commitment we are asking for from senators and how are we paying them?
12. What are the budget implications?
13. How should we structure student funding?

On funding Bill mentioned that the motivation for students is more likely to be checking back the governmental power then for financial gain, Mary responded that paying senators would be under the employment policy, additionally the motivation might be to create change not to check back. Aleyda is concerned about unpaid labor happening particularly with more VP labor.
14. Are senators going to be considered AS Employees?
15. How long are senators going to work?
16. How is pay going to work for the AS Board?
17. What commissions do we want and how will they be supported?

18. Which bubbles do they belong in?
  - a. Permanent or ad hoc?
19. What kinds of decisions would the VU board be making?
  - a. Who would be the members?
20. How will the time commitment of the VU board impact the JDs of the people who serve on it?
  - a. Preparation

21. How will senators be elected? Who votes the colleges in? How do they get there?
22. What would the qualifications be to run?
23. Who will decide academic committees' membership without the VP for Academics?
24. How will AS Board positions change?
25. How are we going to include people whose jobs will change because of the new structure?

Casey offered that the Board is like the governor's office and the student senate is like the state senate. The senate has the potential for removing some responsibility of the Board, who could become more of figureheads and less of constantly responsible for everything all of the time.

26. What will the advising structure look like?

*Eric Alexander left at 4:56*

Bryce asked Casey to clarify his point about the separated powers will interact, Casey explained that Board members could take over too much leadership of subcommittees if they were on/chairing the senate committees. Bryce said that would be adjusted as time goes on but it is an important question.

27. What function of the ESC, RoP, and ESP fall under which branches?
28. How will ESC steering and President's council work?
29. Which committees should senators be required to be on?
  - a. Who will decide the appointments for those senators?
  - b. How will we handle the difference in work load based on committee?
30. How do we eliminate resource competition? S&A fee?

Casey mentioned a "tweak to the VU board bubble" wherein it would be the AS VU program council, which would serve the same purposes as the existing plan, but giving it the same name would eliminate the "false competition". Bryce voiced the concern that that wouldn't actually solve the issue because of the widely open range of purpose of the VU Board. And the current necessity of having members on so many committees doesn't necessarily go away. Casey agreed with her, adding that currently the board cannot oversee everything, that not going away wouldn't be the end of the world, and having more clear lines would be beneficial. Bryce said that her concerns are that, people in offices would not have multiple people to go to if they were experiencing trouble. Furthermore, the VU board would be able to have their power revoked at any point in time by the AS Board. Casey responded that no one can really be objective.

*Casey Hayden left at 5:11*

Mary asked to be emailed about questions later. Bryce agreed that would be suitable, or that Cora should send it out and we could discuss it at the next meeting. She then moved onto the question of the offices that Board members oversee and when we should address those. Griffin mentioned splitting the REP and LAC into two different offices, with LAC being more outside the University and the REP being more internal issues like elections. That would also be tied to the "Internal Structural" bubble.

31. Who's going to vote on which board?

Bryce promised to send out the list either next week or tomorrow. In addition, she will sort through them and divide them up into subcommittees.

- C. **Timeline/Outcomes:** Bryce asked when will people want to run the referendum and Mary asked for reasoning behind the referendum. Bryce pointed out the Bylaws and Charge and Charter contradict and if they changed the bylaws they would annul the Charge and Charter and that change should probably go to a vote. Lisa said that operationally there has been no divide between non-profit and AS but it is almost completely incomprehensible. She asked what the committees thoughts were, Bryce said she felt we are morally compelled to put it to vote when the change is substantial. Emma said we should let people know how things are changing. Bryce pointed out that the byelaws clarify specific councils. To run a referendum, they would have to have it ready for the board by January 12-19. There would be one referendum for the senate change and another about the change within the AS and VU. If any referendum exists, the absolute latest it could be brought to the board would be the 26<sup>th</sup>. Mary said she wanted to have the restructure known about and that a referendum would be a good way to get the word out. Bryce reminded her that getting a referendum done is a lot of work.

*Griffin left at 5:26*

Lisa said this is the most complicated referendum she's seen in a very long time. Aleyda brought up her experience with the Multicultural Center Referendum which was a taxing and complex process. Bryce said that we would want to know if we were running the referendum by Thanksgiving. Hannah asked if it would be easier to state in the referendum what we were planning on doing over the next couple years. Bryce responded that, we could also do an initial referendum and then later another one to check in with the process to approve the bylaw changes. Emma said that we should do it in phases to make it more palatable to students. Then clarified that proposing AS structural changes every year for more than two years might mean that student interest would be close to nonexistent. Bryce asked if we wanted to meet next week in small groups since most of the committee is going to be with the board of trustees and then meet again in a large group in two weeks' time. Then the subcommittees were created with students at large choosing their groups and looking at the following potential members.

Senate: Mary, Hannah, Casey (Erick?)

AS Board: Emma, Bryce, Lisa, (Stephanie, Sabrina?)

VU board: Bill, Aleyda, Eric (Alex? And Wayne?)

#### **IV. REPORTS**

##### **A.**

*Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 5:35.*