



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Structural Review Committee

Thursday November 10th, 2016 4:00 PM VU 567

Members: *Present: Bryce Hammer (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Mary Moeller (ASVP for Business and Operations), Griffin Crisp (Student at Large), Bill Martin (Student at Large), Lisa Rosenburg, and Emma J Opsal (AS Assessment Coordinator).*

Absent: Hannah Van Amen (Student at Large), Casey Hayden (Program Advisor), Eric Alexander (Facilitator), and Aleyda Cervantes (ASVP for Diversity).

Advisor:

Secretary: Cora Cole

Guests:

Motions:

SRC-16-F-6 Approval of minutes from November 3rd *Passed*

Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:24 PM on November 11th.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUETS

MOTION: SRC-16-F-6 by Moeller

Approval of the minutes from November 3rd with amendment to Unrepresented/underrepresented

Second: Opsal Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passes

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **Updates on Senate Selection:** Brief review of last week's conversation, who would have seats and a senate size, which had generally agreed to be 18-25 senators. Emma mentioned concern about predominately white cis men making up the senate and having safe seats for larger colleges caters to the disproportionately white majors. Bryce agreed and said that having protected seats for colleges could guard against that concern. Bill and Bryce discussed the need to have the larger colleges have somewhat larger representing, particularly if the senate is engaging with the Legislative Agenda at all. Bryce offered the option that each college have a minimum of two and a maximum of four senators. The committee then looked at the percentage make up of colleges and found that the college of humanities and social sciences had 45% of students and Fairhaven had 3%. Bryce said that perhaps the committee should expand

the maximum to five senators, keeping two as the baseline. Griffin proposed adding a senator to the baseline for every 2,250 above 2,250 students in the major, Mary and Bryce both requested that we decide on the line, so that it can change as the makeup changes and we can put it in the charge and charter. The committee then went to the drawing board.

Minimum of 2 senators, and with each 5% above 5% of students adds a senator, capping it off at five senators per college. For uneven percentages one would round to the nearest 5%.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences- 45%-5

College of Business and Economics-17%- 4

College of Science and Engineering-15% -4

Woodring College of Education- 9% 3

College of Fine and Performing Arts- 6%- 2

Huxley College of the Environment 6% -2

Fairhaven- 3% -2

Graduate Students- 5%- 2

Undeclared- Percentage wasn't readily available. This group would be where the First year senators would come from. - 2

General Studies- Folks who make their own major, the committee came to no decision about how they would be represented.

An advantage of this allotment would be that if the two biggest groups got together they still wouldn't be able to block vote. Lisa said that having the res halls as the place that they reach out to undeclared majors. Mary voiced concern about selecting undeclared students through res hall votes because students who live off campus would be largely disconnected from the representation. That is particularly concerning because first year students who live off campus/at home are already a pretty disconnected population. Bryce agreed and they discussed the possibility that they could push for the Senator elections wide scale in the same way that we do for the AS elections. Emma raised the question of when the elections would happen, the committee then briefly discussed the possibility of having former first years run during AS elections or having the elections held during the first quarter. Bryce offered that senators could appoint the first year senators. The committee responded warmly. Bill mentioned that the res hall VPs could pick the first year senators. Griffin responded that communication and collaboration with the RHA can be difficult and having the AS do the selection through the senate might make more effective outreach. AS has more student leadership and the RHA typically has more push from advisors, which makes that more difficult to be open selection. Emma said that she had a concern about the availability of senators when they have no office except their dorms, Bill responded that senate selection might make the first years less legitimate in the eyes of the rest of the government. Griffin said that the election process is draining and would be very hard for first year students. He said that the election might cater particularly to already empowered high school graduates, and the senate appointment might

help with that. The committee all agreed that that set up might be problematic and Bryce said that having the senate interview candidates would create opportunity to see what the actual dedication to diversity is. The question also came up of how first year students would be able to engage with committees. Bill asked if there was some way we could poll the first year students to see what their interest level would be. Cora offered that contacting Wayne Rocque to get a feel for first year students and undeclared majors, because that is part of his job as VP for Student Tife. Mary asked for Bill's experience with RHA, he is a current member and he has experienced very low voter turnout. Additionally, the res hall interests are much more different and vary hall by hall. Griffin offered that, we could elect two second year students, just coming out of their first year, have them be a part of the RHA and Hall Councils as their committee load so that they can represent those interests. That would also be a method to draw in RHA and bridge communications. Emma said that the terms could be spring quarter to the end of the next winter quarter. Bryce said that election would be very difficult to organize. Mary said that she was glad for that progress and everyone applauded Griffin. In total there are 26 senators so far. Tisa said that we should start talking to NHA and RHA to get them on board and excited. Griffin asked how many university academic committees there are and who the committee coordinator would be. That position would see a lot of restructure, and either would do more for other areas of the AS and possibly get support, or would be paid less to do less. Bryce offered that they could have a 10hrs per week coordinator and then that person could get assistance in the fall. Bryce added that at some point, the committee needs to talk about the REP.

- b. **AS Board:** Griffin pulled up the document so that the committee could look at the AS Board's role in the proposal from last year. The things that the Board currently does that people would like to retain include Fee increases, Legislative Agenda, Changes to AS rules, and Budget approval. Bryce said the New AS Board could craft legislation and then the Senate could approve the Referendum and put it on the bylaws. Currently, the AS Board just crafts and passes and it doesn't really require other eyes, if students come to them with items they can make it a referendum. Initiatives don't require Board approval but do require a bunch of signatures to get put on the ballot. The proposal from last year poses a very broad definition of roles for the Board that have evolved in the last quarter's discussion. Griffin said that the roles proposed, look very much like LAC, so potentially, we could keep the ASVP of Governmental Affairs and REP and then have the rest of the AS do student outreach. Bryce said that her main problem was that, while it is key for the VP of Governmental Affairs to know what they want to do with the Legislative Agenda, its formation is less relevant to other members of the Board. The committee then went on to discuss who would be a member of the AS Board. The proposal from last year lists the AS President, the Senate President, the VP for Governmental Affairs, the VP for Diversity, and VP for Student Services. Those people should all be a part of the LAC, particularly if its role is

“advocacy” for students. If the agenda is crafted by individual VPs it is easier for students to find and discuss the items with the people who crafted it. Griffin said that maybe the Board could become the REP, which will be part of a lengthy conversation next quarter. Mary suggested that Student Fees could probably be handled through the Senate. Bryce said that academic fees could go through senate and SAF and similar fees could go to the Board. The VU Board would deal mostly with internal management of funds, which wouldn’t engage with new fees. As a general rule the fees will follow the committees that they are a part of.

This committee will meet next week, they will not meet on the 24th and they will meet quiet week. The will not meet on finals week.

Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.