



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

Thursday November 3rd, 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), Griffin Crisp (Student at Large), Eric Alexander (Facilitator), Bill Martin (Student at Large), Hannah Van Amen (Student at Large), Casey Hayden (Program Advisor), and Emma J Opsal (AS Assessment Coordinator).*

*Absent: Lisa Rosenberg*

**Advisor:**

**Secretary:** CoraCole

**Guests:**

**Motions:**

**SRC-16-F-3**                      **Approval of minutes from October 27 Passed**

*Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM on November 6<sup>th</sup>.*

**I. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

- a. Eric Yanzon Brought a Charge and Charter for an Academic Advisory Committee before the AS Board yesterday and asked for the committee's feedback. Bryce's first comment was that calling the members Senators might be confusing and might be illegal. Eric Alexander and her decided that Representatives might be more accurate. Bryce mentioned that Eric was curious about what we wanted the make-up of the senate to be, we spent much of the rest of the meeting discussing that question. The phrasing "at-large senators is confusing". Emma said that she was confused by the decision to include a "senator to represent students in the 4<sup>th</sup> year" given that most 4<sup>th</sup> year students will be represented in the colleges. Bryce said that she would talk about Eric Yanzon about that and return to the issue next week. Phrasing the role as "discussing issues" sounds very passive. He suggested "discussing and advising the Board of Directors". Griffin asked about the what the "issue of the quarter," meant Eric clarified that the old senate had done that and the phrasing might be removed. Mary said that the Board had been receptive but she was curious to see what this committee thought. Bryce said she was hesitant to call this a Senate but she trusts Eric Yanzon's eye on the proceedings. Bill and Emma suggested that Eric Yanzon be a part of the committee next year to give perspective since he will be returning as a senior. Eric Alexander asked if this would be closer to a transition process for the Academic Affairs VP and the committees they serve on because the Advisory Committee would exist at the same time as the VP. Bryce added that Eric

Yanzon and Alex LaVallee are both anxious about being involved in the Structure Review process because it's their parts of the AS that are getting most altered. Casey added that he thought the AAC could be beneficial to get the Senate more clearly hammered out before we run an initiative. Bryce asked who would be the advisor, Mary suggested Casey or Lisa. Casey said that would be reasonable.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUETS

- a. Bill asked if we could fix the spelling of "minuets" to "minutes".

### ***MOTION: SRC-16-F-3 by Moeller***

Approval of the minutes from October 27<sup>th</sup> with change in spelling.

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

## III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **Senate discussion:** Casey said that the number of Senators for the Schools would be fine, and they proposed having an Undeclared Senator as well as an on and off campus housing senator. They thought that this might make people off campus feel more connected, even if their issues don't come up very often. They were all comfortable with a larger number of Senators, if they could get two from each college that would be okay. As far as stipends go, they thought there would be a baseline for senators as well as an addition for chairpersons. That is a bigger conversation that they didn't want to restrict to the committee. The number of senators would come out to 28 senators. There was some discussion of how the old charge and charter was written, as well as the way that this needs to be bigger but they don't want to pay so many people. Bryce added that she thinks there should be an at large student who is elected by everybody, that person might should be the vice chair. Bill added that we should add an athletics representative to tie that in. Casey said that there could be a representative from student employment. Mary said having someone from athletics would create competition with the AS as far as budgets go. Bryce mentioned that Alex LaVallee and the VP for Activities before him have mentioned that there is some tension there and getting increased communication between those areas might be more effective than increased representation while they are competing. Bill said that we want to pull the Athletics into the AS more. Bryce returned to the question of what the Senate should handle. If the committee handles mostly academic issues, then the representation should be mostly by academic groups. They also deal some with other student life issues, like dining and transportation, which under the new structure would remain under the Board. Senators and their interactions with. Mary said that the senate would be going out to committees to represent the senate and school there. Eric Alexander said that if the Senate is going to be the Legislative Branch then they might be charged with crafting policy which in turn shifts much of the AS power to the Senate. Regulatory policy that is

under Mary's position like the Cold Beverage Contract and Travel Policy should be handled by the Senate. Casey asked where we were going to put the Legislative Affairs Council, he would like it to be a subcommittee in the senate. Bryce said it would be too time consuming for the Senate-Vice Chair. Casey said that it was the most representative thing that the AS currently does and because the senate is the multiplicity of voices for the school, that would be the most appropriate place to be. Bryce explained the current structure of the LAC, as well as the Legislative Liaison and Local Liaison roles. Largely they rely on the Board's recommendations, and the approval for our lobbying agendas also depend on Board approval. She would like LAC to become more external, so having Senate members on the Committee would be effective to transfer student desires into policy recommendations, which would take some of the heavy lifting off of student shoulders. Eric Alexander said that he thinks the Board relies heavily on the LAC to bring policy. Last year's LAC Chair was really uncomfortable with the Boards recommendations to change the LAC agenda and the Board eventually deferred to him. He would like to see that representation shift more to the elected student input, as would Bryce. Emma voiced a concern that the ESC Lobby Day and Environmental Lobby Day would be cut. Bryce said that she would like to see LAC members go to Presidents Council to sit in on the process of creating ESC and Environmental Lobby agendas, then be available for support in writing instead of an approving body for those agendas. Bryce explained how LAC selection currently works.

***Bill Martin left at 4:51 PM***

Aleyda asked if Alex LaVallee could step in for her at 5:00 PM today. Committee agreed. Bryce continued that having the AS VP for Governmental Affairs chair the LAC would be helpful. Casey suggested that the Senators be the ones to approve the agenda rather than the Board of Directors. Bryce said that the Agenda is one of the most important things the Board does because those are the areas where they have the expertise and when they meet with admin the agenda is what they talk about. Eric Alexander raised the issue that senate could be where ideas come from and the Board could be where they get approved to create a check and balance process. Casey agreed and Bryce said that additionally the AS VP for Governmental Affairs works closely with the WS A and needs to be involved with this. Eric Alexander said that he had been looking at the list of student senates from other schools and how they chose their senators. Eric added that there was a model with something more like a house of representatives model or a UW model, where you can become a senator based on 15 signatures. That was agreed by the committee to be a bad model. Another model was that every seat in the senate was an at large seat, where the top 20 votes would be senators. Griffin mentioned that there could be senators selected by getting 15 signatures who were unpaid. Emma voiced a concern about the single senator for "unrepresented students" Bryce agreed. Eric shared the protected seat options including MECA, BSU, NASU, res halls, black student fraternities and sororities. Mary asked how big the senate was and Bryce said that around 20 senators show up to each meeting and around 90 are on the roster, only some of whom are paid.

***Casey left at 5:08 PM***

Bryce added that the election process tries people by fire for the aptitude of the office. Mary added that if you don't specify colleges, you get representing from political science or business and not much else (like now). Bryce added that she likes the idea of Senate Elections at the same time as AS Elections. Emma asked if we could have representation of the minors in a college. Bryce and Mary said that might be too much issue. Hannah added that you could lobby the minor's senator without voting for them. Griffin said that advisory votes would give voice to members of committees while still leaning on the expertise of more experienced members. Mary agreed that talking over advisory votes is difficult for a group to do, so having those within the senate could be effective. Bryce added that she would like to see a means to petition the Senate to create committees, the example of Food Justice creating a senate sub-committee. Eric asked where the senate's oversight would come from, possibly through creating subcommittees or checking the board,

- b. Timeline: Bryce asked when we need to know if we are running a referendum. Elections committee needs to know by mid-January. The filing period for referendums closing date isn't known yet, we will have that by the next meeting. Bryce would like the Board to see it by 3 weeks beforehand, if the date is February 15<sup>th</sup>, then we need to have the decision made by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Most of the committee will be at Western during the Thursday of finals week but we would like to have the decision made by the 1<sup>st</sup> and then have a referendum writing subcommittee to put the referendum together and check back to the large committee every week.

Bryce asked what questions we need to answer before the referendum decision feels good. The issues are Membership, Elections process, Accountability structures, the Charge and Charter, and Compensation. We will be looking at including a flexible year description on the Referendum.

On the Referendum, Emma would like a list of all the basic ways that the structure will change so Bryce would like to repeat the last two processes for the AS Board in the next couple meetings. Also last night the AS Board asked if the committees budget process proposal could come before them as an info item

***Eric Alexander left at 5:27 PM.***

Bryce and Mary discussed running a special election for initially instating senators. They decided to talk to the REP about how that would function.

***Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.***