



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Structural Review Committee

Thursday November 17th, 2016

4:00 PM YU 567

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

Absent: Griffin Crisp (Student at Large)

Advisor:

Secretary: Cora Cole

Guests:

Motions:

SRC-16-F-5 **Approval of minutes from November 10th-Passed**

Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM on November 17th.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUETS

MOTION: SRC-16-F-5 by Moeller

Approval of the minutes from November 10th

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

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **AS Board Duties** Bryce began by asking what people thought the AS Board should work on, their initial duty was advocacy and that hasn't changed much. Aleyda suggested that the VP for Academic Affairs would be a voting member of the AS Board and not the Senate. There was some confusion about whether the President of the Senate was the VP for Academic Affairs, the conclusion was that they are but there was disagreement about where they would vote. Bryce said that there had been discussion of the VP of Academics voting on the Board in special instances and asked if that would make sense to extend to the Board. Emma asked if those would be times where other non-traditional board members were voting, Bryce said that the committee hadn't covered that yet. Casey suggested that the Senate Chair would run the senate and then keep the Executive Board informed. Bryce agreed and mentioned that we also need to be careful about how much this person is working. Lisa asked what the Board

would do at meetings. Bryce said that it still makes sense to pass the legislative agenda through the Board, she would like to see senators on LAC to help draft, and then the Board could approve. That would enable the Board to engage more with the LAC, perhaps creating the ideas and then having the LAC write the actual proposals.

Lisa entered at 4:17 PM

Bryce explained the role of the LAC and how it turns into the legislative agenda as well as its role in advising the Board and our liaisons and its management of the Legislative Action Fund. The Action Fund, is used for dues for the WSA and USSA as well as financing lobbying efforts by Western students. She would like that role to expand to empower the Students at Western, particularly within the AS. Casey asked if she would like to see the Lobby Days stay separate or meld them a bit more. Bryce responded that she sees advantages to both, but that choice is up to the individual groups that have their own lobby days. There is also the benefit of having multiple days, stretching out Westerns presence and meaning that students have more opportunities to be active in lobbying. Lisa asked if the Board would approve would approve all of those agendas, Bryce said she thought that was appropriate because of their focus on advocacy. Aleyda asked about fees, the committee discussed the type of fees that the Board currently handles. Aleyda and Bryce agreed that the Academic Fees should be handled by the Senate. Lisa said that currently the fees are managed by individual Board members and then voted on as a group.

Casey briefly left from 4:34 to 4:40 PM

The committee looked online at the fees that currently exist. The Health Service Fee would follow the ASVP for Student Life, the Non-Academic Building Fee is paying off student bonds for the renovation of the VU, it's ongoing for the next ten years, when it ends it doesn't need any AS body to renew it, Recreation Center Fee is with the VP for Activities but the Board doesn't do anything but give advisory votes, the Technology Fee might follow the VP for Academics because it is required in order to do your job as a senate. Bill suggested that the Board be a part of that vote because the Senate is going to end up having a larger role then just academic interests. Bryce disagreed, explaining the way that she sees the Senate as specifically targeted to academic interests because of the way that they are voted in to office. She said that crossing the wires for the two could be a problem and for the fees to change substantially the students have to vote on it.

Eric Alexander entered at 4:40 PM

Casey Hayden left at 4:41 PM

Lisa explained that fees go to students initially when they are first instated, but the continuation of fees, for buildings that have already been built for example, is not put to student vote. Bryce said that the Board votes on these because they specialize in those areas, except the technology fee. Eric said that the Non-Academic Building Fee would probably be handled by the VU Board. Bryce asked if it made sense to keep all fees with one committee, or if it would be better to have an advisory vote from the Senate. Bill asked when fees are imposed by Board of Trustees and when they are a referendum. Bryce and Lisa

answered that the new fees or large increases are typically referendums and others are advisory votes by the AS Board. Hannah asked who dissatisfied students go to when they want to discuss fees. Aleyda said that it depends on the reasons, for example students without funds can go to the Financial Aid Office, but if they just don't like it there isn't much they can do. Bryce said that they would go to the AS Board traditionally, while Eric compared it to writing your congressperson about a tax you don't like.

Bryce asked if it still makes sense for the AS Board to maintain the power to put referendums on the ballot. Currently it takes either 700 signatures or the sponsorship of a Board member to put an issue on a ballot, Bryce asked if we should expand that power to senators. Lisa said that there wouldn't be as many Academic Referendums as other kinds of referendums, some of them get a little bit murky. Bryce said that initiatives could either have 5% signatures or a super majority of the senate. There was a discussion of what that super majority would be, Eric proposed a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority since there is only representation by colleges. There was then an elongated period of where the committee tried to figure out how many that would be; it is 18 senators. Mary mentioned a concern that people wouldn't show up enough, Bryce proposed that we have a wider window for voting. Aleyda said that she had gone to Oregon State University recently and that had been very interesting and she likes their set up for ROP and their separation from the AS. Bill asked how the initiative process works, Bryce answered that students have to get 5% of the vote and for a referendum the Board members don't have to because they already received an endorsement from the student population. In the New AS there would be three options for making something the formal position of the Student Body of Western: 1) you go to the Board and asked them to propose a referendum, 2) you go to the senate and get $\frac{3}{4}$ of them to vote for a proposed referendum, or 3) you get 500 signatures and the Board has to endorse it.

The election of people is based in the REP and AS elections Board the AS Board currently ratifies AS elections, the election board listens to Grievances during elections. Lisa asked if the election board would hear those in the new structure or if the senate would have a parallel board. For the Resolutions that the Board currently passes the election board could deal with those. The Board doesn't do very much of those currently and most of them are advocacy based. They declare the position of this and all future Boards but do not instate any policy, merely recommend a policy for other bodies.

Bill left at 5:17 PM.

Hannah asked about the history of the Riot Legislation and Emma and Lisa talked about the party that got out of hand and resulted in chaotic vandalism and police involvement. Aleyda suggested that the Senate write resolution and the Board should pass them. Bryce said that the Board could then be required to see and vote on them. Lisa said that was what the previous Senate had done and Eric asked if we wanted to talk to other schools that have senates. Mary said she thinks it is critical that the Senate have a political voice, Bryce responded that she doesn't want the power of a smaller college to control everyone else. The senate could also do joint resolutions with the Board. At the

point where Resolutions only are advisory, maybe having contradictory statements wouldn't be the end of the world. Aleyda added that the Cultural Service Resolution was part of how the Cultural Center Building happened, so the statement of the AS matters. Mary said that having the conflict could be important for finding a disconnect among students and their government. Bryce and Aleyda said that would extend the timeline of Resolutions too much. Hannah suggested that the Senate could take Resolutions that deal more with academic affairs. Bryce then agreed with Mary and Eric added that having joint resolutions could strengthen that. Eric asked about a possibility for Joint Session of the Board and Senate once a Quarter or year. Emma asked if it would be public forum and outreach, Mary voiced approval. Bryce agreed to talk about the voting for that at another point in time. Lisa said that any changes to structures, like new positions and personnel and assessment are here but that would be easier to decide on after we know more about structure,

- b. Committee appointments: Eric Alexander suggested that committees follow the Board member that directs them and the appointments are approved by the Senate or Board accordingly. Emma and Bryce talked about problems with committee applicants getting more flexibility and more time, they discussed having a waitlist option instead of approval or denial.

The Board looked at Octavia's list of who approves which committee applicants, anything that goes with ASVP for Academic Affairs goes to the Senate and the Bookstore committee might do so as well. Emma mentioned the possibility that the AS Disability Advocacy Council go to the Senate as well. Aleyda talked about what would happen with her position's committees, she thinks that the ESC should select the chair for Steering instead of her. The same is true of most of the ROP offices, she would like to advocate on their behalf but not be the person who runs or coordinates their issues. Eric and Lisa proposed that there be required positions for senators on committees. This would hopefully increase student's access to the government and opportunities in the school.

Next meeting: committees and offices and referendum.

Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 5:54 PM