



Western Washington University Associated Students

**AS Structural Review Committee**

Friday, April 21, 2017

9:00 AM YU 567

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

*Absent: Aleyda Cervantes (ASVP for Diversity)*

**Advisor:** Lisa Rosenberg (Assistant Director for Student Activities); Eric Alexander (Associate Dean of Students and director of the Viking Union); Casey Hayden (coordinator of Student Activities)

**Secretary:** Cora Cole (Board Assistant for Representation Committees)

**Guests:** Marquis King Mason (Candidate for YP for Diversity)

**Motions:**

**SRC-17-S-2**                      **Approval of minutes from April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.**

*Bryce Hammer called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.*

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

We need to make a statement of support for the ballot next week. Mary suggested including a statement about how the AS will be more transparent. Emma suggested increased accountability and Bill suggested accessibility. Julia said we should get people jazzed about the student senate. It is also hoped to spread workload more evenly and get better use of student dollars. Mary said we shouldn't lose any programs and that we should emphasize what would happen if it doesn't pass. It creates a more autonomous opportunities for student employees and a clear path for student with academic concerns. It was also suggested that the referendum was good because it allowed for more focus on issues like sustainability and diversity.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUETS**

**MOTION: SRC-17-S-2** by Hannah Approval of the minutes from April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Second: Bill                      Vote: 4-0-2    Action: Passes

At 9:14 am Marquis King Mason entered and Bryce explained very briefly, the new structure

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **Bylaws discussion:** The bylaws will make sure that the load is spread evenly and that all of the branches can work together, without being overwhelmed. The issue we left off with last time was order of succession, the committee—. The make-up of the committee for next year will be AS President, VP for Business and Operations, and VP for Diversity. Emma said she wants her successor to be here too, Eric agreed that would be a good idea. Mary asked why we need VP for Diversity and Bryce said that experience with ESC and ROP would be uniquely valuable for those conversations. Emma said that we should have the folks who come in next year should make the decision about order of succession and vacancies, Bryce said that we should have a recommendation. The current Chair for the meetings is the President or the VP for Business and Operations and if the President steps down, the VP has to take over. Some VPs have a line of succession and others are special elections. Eric Alexander explained that the Bus Opps is the emergency take over because they work here during the summer when the rest of the board wasn't. Bill suggested that having a special election for president would throw off board dynamic. Emma said that would have to be written in election code, Bryce mentioned that it is currently written into the job description. Eric asked if we want to keep that very strict hierarchy, Bryce and Mary discussed the way that 'ranking' the positions in the Board creates resentment and confusion. The idea of sharing duties of the president in their absence is one that Bryce would be comfortable with. Bill said the Board should vote on it every year, Bryce added that Aleyda had made that suggestion before as well as not having a chair for Board meetings because everyone on the Board knows what they are doing. Mary suggested that having the Board or President nominate a successor could create serious tension. Hannah added that you could have a situation where the Board decides for themselves as the first option, but if they can't come to consensus you have the Bylaws to guide that decision, or a special election. The senate could choose a successor, Bryce said that could lead to strife amongst the Board and the Senate. Bryce went on to discuss VP vacancies. Emma said that if we have a VP go out, we would need to have a special election. Julia asked what the special election would look like, Bryce and Mary explained the process. Emma said we would need to emphasize the validity of that special election. Bryce asked what the presidential duties are and Mary pulled out a couple documents outlining the president's work, largely being committee chairing and attendance. Mary and Bryce agreed that the VPs should split up presidential duties. They then had a long discussion on what those duties functionally are versus what they functionally end up being. Bryce said that under the new structure. Emma said a Board member had been suspended at one point, which happens when a Board in executive session holds a member accountable for not performing the position. Lisa explained that only the Board can initiate Personnel actions against the Board. Hannah asked if the same process would happen in the senate, Bryce and Eric agreed that would be beneficial and that we should look at how the old senate used to work.

*Bryce Hammer adjourned the meeting at 10:01 am.*

DRAFT