Wesleyan Council on Student Affairs

**Standing Committee on Administrative Policy**

Tuesday, 9 September, 2014

Members in attendance: Mr. McCord, Mr. Fleischer, Ms. Groseclose, Ms. Green, Mr. Lherisson, Mr. Raees

Executive Summary

The Committee discussed, at some length and breadth, issues surrounding the structure of WCSA, its legislative, and its executive. Additionally, it discussed the appointment of committees and the nature of elections. No decisions were reached and no divisions were held, though principles were tentatively agreed to. Such matters will be placed to a vote at a later date.

The Chair (Mr. McCord) will be presenting CP-1 to the legislative Council at its next sitting for open discussion. If its adoption does not obtain two-thirds support, the Committee will consider its direction on CP-1.

Committee met at 12:10.

Introductions

The CHAIR (Mr. McCord) welcomed members and read the Executive Summary from the previous sitting’s Transcript.

Secretarial note: As discussions were of a nature which did not mandate a business structure for the day, discussions are grouped by idea and are not chronological.

Election of President

Members discussed the election of the chief executive, as continued from the previous week, and reiterated the statements before made. No additional comments were submitted nor decisions taken.

Separation of Offices

Members discussed the participation of the chief executive and deputy chief executive in the Legislative. There was no decision reached on this subject.

Timeline of Elections

Members discussed diminishing electoral turnout across the present system of three-tiered elections and agreed, in principle, that diminishing electoral turnouts were not desirable. The Committee will thus endeavor to consolidate elections for office where appropriate.

Nature of Class Representatives

Members discussed the arguments for and against designated class representatives. Members further discussed membership quotas per class as integrated into the at-large system. Members further discussed the technical barrier to continuing with class-limited elections through our online voting system, namely: that class standing is presently defined in the Active Directory system by academic credit, not by intended graduation year, which may, in turn, misappropriate class years to individuals on a significant scale, disenfranchising some students.

Nature of Geographical Representatives

Members discussed the nature of the four groups of geographical representative: off-campus, fraternity housing, SLU housing, and residence hall. It was proposed to make these fully proportional, to which objections were raised surrounding fraternity housing – that due to the already-present ex-officio representation on WCSA’s legislative Council, as well as the representation of fraternities by association. An additional system was proposed which would elect representatives by open list with quotas, to be discussed at the next sitting.

Off-Campus Elections

Ms. Groseclose noted that the voting system forbids off-campus, but otherwise fully-qualified students, from voting for representatives. This would be forwarded to Integrated Development.

Chairpersons of Committees

Two options were proposed under the currently-adopted principles: that committees be commissioned by preference amalgamation, and that such appointed committees elect their Chair and other officers; and that members elect their committee chairs, who shall then commission committees in the usual manner. Members noted that, although committees electing their own chairs would ensure majority rule and more harmonious functioning within the committees, as well as “fair play,” the limitations of this stricture, that this may result in underrepresentation of cohorts on certain committees and lopsided appropriation of more natural committee leaders to committees. As such, discussion was postponed until a further date.

Committee adjourned at 13:04.