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Wednesday, January 19, 2005





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Please add any additional comments on ideas for restructuring AAUW NC.

- 1. The makeup of the AAUWNC Board should be the executive committee and Branch presidents only. Committee chairs can provide written reports but not necessarily be at the meetings. The Tar Heel News is a good way to publish committee reports. Committee chairs must connect with their Branch counterparts. It is important to streamline the size of the state board. There is too much reliance on technology for communication. While a wonderful tool, may Branch members do not have either the interest or technological skill to use a computer. We must rely on hard copy to adequately communicate with Branches and members statewide.
- 2. Since you said you had no surveys from Twin Rivers I don't think I had previously filled in a survey. If I have toss this one out.
- **3.** (just a personal note to me (Karla)
- 4. #6. I was not aware that the three people had job descriptions that put the responsibility on them and not on the President and Exec. Committee. #7. Who would chair the Administrative Committee? How would this dovetail with what the President does? #8. What would their major goal be? Programming? Convention planning? Strategic Plan? Cluster Programing? Planning and implementation of a 21st Century Project? Advocacy Day focus? #9. If Strategic Plan Committee was eliminated, some other group would have to be involved in the goal setting/long range planning. The President Elect could chair this committee. The Program VP would also need to be involved. The Nominating Committee would also need to be part of this group.
- 5. I'm disturbed at the lack of communication and leadership. Structure is important with aforementioned addressed. Officers need to be committed, responsible, accountable. Keep the branch presidents on the board, along with the Executive Committee, thereby strengthening the state-branch connection. This lack of communication is notable in one other aspect for me personally. I'm regional cluster chairman but have never been notified as to the status of my cluster, as follows: Was the Wilson branch dissolved? Was Pembroke reinstated? If so, is that branch to be reinstated in the Triangle Cluster or has it been reassigned? Has the membership in the cluster been reevaluated? Communication and leadership!
- **6.** NC Board appears to be too large to be a working board. Perhaps Branch Presidents or proxy need more authority and the NC Board other than the Elected Members need less. Cluster Meetings are more of a social gathering rather than work in progress.
- 7. You have raised many good points. Consolidation in many areas is clearly needed.
- 8. An "insufficiently informer" of "undecided" category would have been useful in this survey.
- 9. Add a speakers' bureau Have a state project each year
- 10. I think specific language must be written that indicate when/how a board member is removed from the board for NOT doing her job. I have served on many boards--and this one lacks a specific policy to deal with dead wood. This, in my opinion, is a weakness of this board.
- **11.** The current structure is an albatross to manage and fund. The more quickly changes can be made the better for the organization.

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- 12. Brief monthly updates from the president to branch presidents, and/or chairmen
- 13. Having only attended one state meeting I did not feel qualified to answer several of the questions. Sorry.
- 14. Look at the underlying reasons why attendance is lower than hoped for -- perhaps the structure is not the problem. From my experience with AAUW chapters in 2 other parts of the country, the NC chapter is not focused on the interests of the general members. Instead, there is way too much socio-political focus and too little focus on helping women obtain college and post-grad. education.
- 15. Continue to encourage Student Affiliate Memberships. They are our future. I would like to see AAUW allow non-members to participate in our Book-of-the-Month Clubs. Many enjoy reading and discussing books even if they do not have a college degree. I am not in favor of changing the AAUW Membership requirements, but we can learn by becoming better acquainted with others in our communities.
- **16.** Structural changes have been discussed for some time now, I think. It is time to make whatever changes the membership generally concurs would be helpful and move along.
- 17. I did not understand the suggestion about election and appointment of state officers. I think that the Nominating Committee election has become too cumbersome. That grew out of some "political maneuvering" in years past. It seems to me that it worked fine when the Nominating Committee members were elected from the floor at the Convention. The proposer was required to have permission of the nominee to make the nomination. Always there were more nominations from the floor than there were spaces. So we had a vote at the moment -- the nominees went out of the room, just as we did in elementary school. Shortly thereafter, the elected committee met to elect one of their number to be Chair. It seemed so open and democratic. Now we have all sorts of restrictions on the process. I understood the statement in the questionnaire to say that the officers would be appointed. I think the officers should be elected. I do not have an opinion on which should be in which years, but I do like the idea of two-year terms. Committee Chairs and other functionaires should be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. AAUW NC always has had and continues to have a good group of leaders who enthusiastically serve and they serve well. However, I continue to have a concern about the leaders, elected or appointed, who do not function. I think that sometimes they do not understand what they are supposed to do, they do not quite know how to get started on the chore, they are truly interested but let many other responsibilities supplant their AAUW time and energy, or they like the idea of being an officer but don't want to work. That is always a problem in any organization, but I would like to see us encourage active membership. After expressing all these opinions, I apoligize for not attending the January Board meeting. I have already arranged to go to Prague, Czech Republic, leaving on January 20. I will attend two international conferences there in January and February.
- **18.** I was going to copy this off to offer to those in our branch that do not have computers so they can pull up the survey for themselves. I will not copy off 8 pages!!! How can it be appropriately condensed in size?

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