

Minutes for KSU Council of Students

King's Students' Union 2015-2016
Saturday, November 28, 2015, 10:00am
Boardroom, 2nd floor A&A Building

Voting Members

Zoe Brimacombe
Liam Compton
Joy Shand
Alex Bryant
Kristen Thompson
Ryan Kavanagh
Aidan McNally
Taylor Saracuse
Melina Zaccaria
Sofia Zaman
Alex McVittie
Brennan McCracken
Nate Winsor

Non-Voting Members

Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould
Charlotte Sullivan
Kaleigh Shields
Emma Morris
Fiona Fox

Call to order

Recognition of unceded traditional Mi'kmaq territory

1. Adoption of Agenda

Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould asks if there are changes to the agenda. Aidan McNally asks to change item 5.9 to show Sodales as the King's/Dal debate society rather than just the King's debate society. The agenda is amended, then adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 15th, 2015

3. Oral Reports and Goals of Councillors

Zoe Brimacombe says hello to all the new faces in the room. She went to province house for the delivery of the 1500+ postcards about consent culture on campus, which was a great experience. There's a board meeting this coming Thursday, so Taylor Saracuse, Alex Bryant, and herself are going to strategize and do a three-pronged approach. Zoe Brimacombe will talk there about the exciting things the KSU is doing right now.

Joy Shand also greets the new faces. The DSS has been up to a couple of things. Joy Shand sat on the subcommittee for non-resident spaces and did a wrap-up on the final presentation in her report, which there are copies of. She doesn't want to discuss the report extensively. There are many recommendations for how the university should prioritize space on campus according to what students want. At the same meeting, we went through the list of priorities that remained from the consultation process that was done in 2008 and will recommend to the CPC that the Wardy, Alex Hall, and all the Bays are made more accessible. Accessibility is intimately tied with Alex Hall. The Wardroom is well under way in terms of capital funding as well. The hope is to have the actual renovating process happening in summer 2016. They also had their GM on November 18th and Joy Shand gives a shoutout to Taylor Saracuse and Sofia Zaman for staying for the whole thing. They approved their expense budget and elected many people to positions they weren't able to hold elections for earlier this fall, so she also welcomes Liam Compton as the second day student society representative.

Liam Compton introduces himself. He's a second year day student and since it's his first meeting, he's a bit new to this. The DSS is planning their Christmas soiree soon as well as a Wardroom decorating party with drinks and trees. Their first year rep, Cedric, is getting into contact with Daniel Brandes and Mark Burke to establish a snack session for first-year day students.

Brennan McCracken has continued to meet with Alex McVittie to go over the minutes from executive society. He mentions that he loves Finance Committee and that they were very productive. They discussed the travel bursary policy, which is a tricky discussion. He also met with Kristen Thompson to talk about how to communicate with graduate journalism students. Kristen Thompson will work with Chris Parsons to develop an information package about our health plan with those students as well.

Nate Winsor introduces himself. He had the flu last week, so he wasn't very productive. Two weeks ago he talked about retention rates and enjoyed talking in a constructive and educated manner. He went to his first Dal Science Society meeting, and tomorrow is the last meeting of the semester for that. He is still unclear as to what his role actually is on that committee. He's read the Constitution and apparently the KSU must outline his role on the Committee. This is somewhat troubling since they're having their own retention issues, but societies have been talking about putting students in charge of increasing study snacks and other things. This is a weird position to be putting students in. Study snacks is scheduled for December 14th. Some upper years want to give some free tutoring. He is looking into ways to communicate and set up multidisciplinary science committee meetings.

Melina Zaccaria says that she's been pretty busy these last few weeks. She went to an Academic Committee meeting with Nate Winsor and said it was nice to hear from a range of students about programs. She also wanted to clarify something about divestment at Dalhousie. A vote was passed through and she wants to clarify that they voted to approve the executive of DASS, which is a decision that was made by the Board of Governors.

Ryan Kavanagh missed the Academic Committee meeting due to workload, but he's been spending the majority of his time helping plan a large first-year event, which people can ask him about outside of the minutes. Alex Bryant says it's fine to mention the Dante party. Ryan Kavanagh says things went very smoothly there. He also put up some posters for the King's talk, which is January 7th. He is trying to get into contact with Benn van Ryn about Roommate Appreciation Day. Aidan McNally is wondering how this day is going to include day students as well, or people with single rooms. Ryan Kavanagh says this is something they will have to consider further. Zoe Brimacombe asks what King's Talk is. Ryan Kavanagh

says it's a Ted Talk style conference where students can put forth any large ideas they have and share their knowledge.

Taylor Saracuse says it's the last Council of the 2015 year. This has been one of the most amazing KSU councils and execs he has seen in years, and everyone is doing excellent work and has been over the last semester. He feels like he could do more to work on the goals that he's set. In regards to the BOG meeting, he'll be writing briefly on student morale following the board's decision to use the motion implemented by the Tuition Committee and letting the Board know that we are very upset and there's low trust for the Board within the student population right now. This is the lowest Taylor Saracuse has ever seen it, which he's included in the writeup. He also attended Dr. Daniel Paul's speech earlier this Wednesday about the aboriginal community and Mi'Kmaq issues. Ryan Kavanagh asks if there is one goal specifically that Taylor Saracuse is excited about fulfilling. Taylor Saracuse mentions doing a Board Information talk, skills workshops of some kind, and introducing people to how the Board operates in relation to the province. He's been working on a survey, which covers a multitude of things. He mentions the Board keeping their promises and keeping students satisfied. He also wants to look into more progressive board structure. Zoe Brimacombe mentions an event on December 2nd about indigenous rights and land, which Hannah Kaya created. It will be in the Pit at 4pm and will involve a blanket exercise. It's all outlined in Hannah Kaya's report.

Kristen Thompson introduces herself. She had a meeting with Brennan McCracken about graduate students in Journalism. On December 3rd, they'll be having a study snacks day for first-year journalism students and invites people come talk about balancing FYP and journalism. She also heard a rumor that the Gazette will be paying for stories next semester. They're also talking about the J-school social next semester because she thinks there's a big communication gap between the different years of students in the Journalism school. Alex Bryant asks if the Watch will be paying people, and Kristen Thompson says that the Watch has already been paying.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee (attached)

4.1 Report of the President

Taylor Saracuse mentions that he's seen three floor plans for the Wardroom over the past few years and they've all been ugly. Alex Bryant replies that they're going to circulate these files to people over the Winter Break. Kristen Thompson asks if these renovations will affect the wet-dry license. Alex says that it will affect their operations but not the license. The Galley will probably also be closed if the Wardy closes. If they can't open in September, it's going to be a major problem. Melina Zaccaria asks why we are renovating. Alex Bryant says we can go over this later, but there's a long list. Taylor Saracuse mentions that one of the best resources is the KSU going directly to the Wardroom staff, who've always had a ton of suggestions, on issues like this. Alex says we don't have agency to change plans that have been submitted. Joy Shand says there are also some good things about the plans, and there are reasons to be hopeful. A lot of things in the plan will make the Wardroom a better space. It's not all going to be bad. 80% of the funding for this is going to go towards infrastructure updates. Most of the planning, architecture, and engineering has to do with that kind of thing. The aesthetics won't be too affected.

4.2 Report of the Vice-President (Student Life)

There are no questions.

4.3 Report of the Vice-President (Financial)

There are no questions.

4.5 Report of the Vice-President (External)

Aidan McNally reads Hannah Kaya's report in her place.

4.5 Report of the Vice-President (Communications)

There are no questions.

5. Action Item

5.1 BIRT the Janus Cooperative be ratified for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Moved by Alex McVittie

Alex McVittie says that the Janus Cooperative is to help students attend any events they want to attend or plan any events they want to plan. It's a good learning cooperative and more of a drop-in society, so the nature of the society is pretty great in this sense. The society is open-ended and interesting to explore. All of these ideas will be looked over by Fiona Fox before they go through. Nate Winsor asks what the parallel is between room bookings/not being able to control possible events that don't represent the Union in the best light. How do room bookings work in terms of working with the KSU to do that? Alex McVittie says she doesn't think there is a policy for this. Ryan Kavanagh asks about funding and the possibility of a society applying for funding AND the Janus Society applying for funding if they are cooperating on an event. Fiona Fox says they would just have to discuss things and communicate with each other. Ryan just wants to make sure that nothing can be taken advantage of in the sense that if a society is applying, there is no overlap for funding. Fiona Fox says that for the most part, the events they would apply for funding for would be their own events.

Joy Shand addresses the concern that societies might get double funding, saying that this is something they would just have to recognize and not approve at Finance Committee. Alex McVittie says it would be an internal Finance Committee question. Aidan McNally asks Fiona Fox if she wants to detail this further and how it relates to other societies. Fiona Fox says the Janus Cooperative doesn't have a particular focus, and they're here to help. It's also inclusive to first-years and a good opportunity for students who want to plan events without religiously attending another society. It's also for people who have ideas but don't want to put them through themselves. It depends on the individual applying and is a good place for education: having speakers come in to talk to individuals in the King's community, for example. It's just a general place to plan and attend events.

Zoe Brimacombe asks Aidan McNally how this society would interact with the budget line that was laid for students planning events outside societies. Aidan McNally says they have had this discussion when the budget was passed in the fall. She acknowledges that there was a lack of funding for this kind of thing in the past, but no one has really come to them yet with that kind of request. She's not sure if that line would negate the need for such a society, but at least this will help those students. Alex Bryant says Fiona Fox has done a good job explaining this, but he says that the Janus Cooperative might be a little redundant. Societies should just put through a full funding request. Societies are able to book a room themselves. Fiona Fox clarifies that it's also a good place for people to cooperate on ideas and allows for more people to meet and communally plan things. Alex Bryant says that there has been an Events Committee in the past, but the types of things she describes are things that don't require society ratification. If a group of people wants to help other societies plan events, they don't need ratification. Alex McVittie is tasked with doing this kind of thing, and she could be approached. It doesn't make sense to Alex Bryant to create a society and leave aside all of the points of having a society when you could do this outside a society. This would just create more paperwork in the society structure. This is a fantastic idea that can be pursued outside the society ratification process.

Kaleigh Shields asks if Fiona Fox sees the Cooperative as a liaison between first-years and upper years as well. Fiona Fox says that's definitely a part of it. She feels that going to the KSU as an individual is harder, whereas a society is more accessible for people. She thinks it's good to have a support system through a society rather than just individually find people who have an interest. Ryan Kavanagh says that having a Facebook page is a great idea and even if the society doesn't get ratified, the Facebook page should still exist. It might work to have a Cooperative without it being formally ratified, just as a student group. Joy Shand says that Ryan Kavanagh's point was great. She also says that this whole barriers for first-years thing is interesting, so asks Fiona Fox to address this. Fiona Fox says that people don't feel very involved and able to communicate in a place where people already have their own ideas and aren't as open to hearing new ones. Brennan McCracken also emphasizes that this is a great idea. Nate Winsor says that we have so many speakers coming in, plus an increasing conversation about events, and he also mentions that many societies try hard to include first-years. He thinks that there might just be a lack of engagement for first-years. It's not like by making a cooperative makes it easier necessarily- the process will still be the same.

Aidan McNally says that from an FVP perspective, they often just look at the purpose of the society. While it's great to have something so open ended and flexible, society structure as it stands should be for students to put on events about something they care about anyway. The cooperative doesn't really fit a society model. Taylor Saracuse thanks Fiona Fox for coming. He also wonders if anyone remembers a non-society group on campus being super successful. Alex Bryant mentions anything happening in the Chapel, Humans of King's, and KMHC. Alex McVittie's only concern about this is that the way our societies are structured is to suit people who have oen specific interest. It's hard to work with societies otherwise. Other than that, she thinks this is a great society. Fiona Fox asks if you could make the same funding from being individual and not a society applying. Aidan McNally says that they have another budget line for that, so it would be slightly different. It could still be a good amount coming to them. Alex Bryant says that Fiona Fox has very usefully noted some issues to do with the perspective of first-years on societies and their relationship to the KSU. We can treat those issues without ratifying all societies. We have also dramatically decreased the money they allocate for events. He speaks against this motion, but also acknowledges that we need to bear this in mind and fix these problems.

Zoe Brimacombe calls the question, which indicates that someone feels that the debate has run its course. Ryan Kavanagh is the only person who wants to keep this debate alive. He asks, for his sake, how one would go about planning an event if not through a society. He asks if it's a harder process to book a room as an individual. Alex Bryant says he can work through a description of that process or if they can have that discussion outside of debate. Taylor Saracuse says that insofar as all of the comments that Alex has made, Fiona Fox should be involved with fixing these problems. Fiona Fox asks if it's more difficult then to access the funds individually. Alex Bryant says it's more paperwork doing it through societies. We move to a vote. The motion does not pass.

5.2 BIRT the King's/Dal Spanish Society be ratified for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Moved by Alex McVittie

Alex says that this ratification package was super enjoyable to read. It was very well done and can also be dually ratified. Their events include workshops, bake sales, and tutoring for elementary school students. She has zero concerns about this and they've said that their funding would primarily go to their annual event that celebrates Spanish and Latin American food, language, and culture. We move to a vote. The motion passes.

5.3. BIRT the King's Smash Bros Society be ratified for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Moved by Alex McVittie

This was a request submitted by Ryan Kavanagh. Alex McVittie is not familiar with this video game. The aims are to have fun and bring the love of Smash to campus. This is just to host a tournament. They also want to book Alumni Hall to play games on the screen. There will also be meetings at any given upper year's house. That allows people to meet upper years. It's also something that we don't have yet. Taylor Saracuse asks if people want to play other video games. Ryan says it's just for people to get together if they want to play video games. Aidan McNally has a couple of concerns. The first one is the name Smash Bros. Having a more generalized name like the video game collective might be more inclusive than just having Smash and Bros in the name. Zoe Brimacombe says we should look into the legal aspects of having events happening at other students' houses and how accountable we are for events we're funding that do not happen in our space.

Alex Bryant has many questions. He wants to know what kind of funding they'd want. Ryan Kavanagh says it's pretty much to book Alumni Hall and for some snacks. In the event of booking a tournament, they would want to pay the TRO. Kristen Thompson comments on the name Smash Bros and the copyright of that so they don't get sued by Nintendo or anything. Alex Bryant also says that a Smash Bros specific society depends on the structure of games not owned by a society right now, which might have the society only exist and function contingent upon property owned by members of the society instead of the society itself. Ryan Kavanagh says you can technically play this game for free if you just download it. Alex Bryant wants to see this society be less specific on Super Smash Bros even if they focus more on it, so it's more open to sticking around and gives it more longevity. Aidan McNally is also concerned about holding meetings at upper years houses under King's name. Societies generally meet on campus and holding things in private residences might scare away people who don't want to enter strangers' homes. Ryan Kavanagh says that the reason they've applied to have this society is because he knows that for a few people, they miss playing video games. There's a specific love for this video game. He understands the problem of relying on current rather than future members but vouches for the game's popularity to keep growing. Having a more generalized society might harm the goal of this society. Alex McVittie says she thinks making it generalized makes more things that could potentially go wrong. You might need different video game consoles, for examples. She would feel comfortable changing the name later on if people wanted to play other video games. Aidan McNally speaks against this motion so we can take it up in January with further clarity and addressing some of the questions that have come up. We move to a vote. Ryan Kavanagh abstains. We come to a split vote. Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould may vote to break this tie. Melina Zaccaria has offered to change her vote in favor. We could let the motion fail and recall, or let it fail and bring it back in January. Alex Bryant says it would be wise to let this go for a few weeks. We decide to let the motion be defeated.

5.4 BIRT Students Advocating for Representative Curricula Society (SNARC) receive \$279.03 in contingent funding for SNARCon 2016 taking place from January 15th to the 16th 2016.

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee recommends approval

Aidan McNally sends this motivation to the SNARC representatives here. The conference is actually January 15th and 16th. We amend the motion to reflect this. Emma Morris says they want food for the conference as well as thank you gifts for faculty panelists. They're also looking for breakfast funds. They've generated a ton of interest as well as submissions from Mount Allison, so it's good for people to present papers about people who are not represented in upper year programs at King's. Aidan McNally speaks to the detail of the funding request- the nicest she's seen all year. There are six different tables that detail the funding requests. We move to the vote. The motion passes. Melina Zaccaria abstains.

5.5 BIRT the King's Poetry Society receive \$43.52 in contingent funding for their meeting on November 30th.

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee recommends approval

The society wants pizza and snacks to munch on while reading poetry at their last meeting of the year. They encourage some new members to come and are going through Sodexo for the pizza. We move to a vote. The motion passes.

5.6 BIRT King's Wordsmith Society receive \$50.00 in contingent funding for a "Classical Fanfiction Contest" reception, taking place on January 25th, 2016.

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee has no recommendation

Aidan McNally says they didn't have sufficient information to make a recommendation at the time. Submissions will be judged by one person from each group. There will be food and prizes. The goal is to bring together writers from different backgrounds and promote inter-society interactions. Many students in Classics and English are interested, so Aidan McNally is into this. Alex Bryant trusts her judgment but also thinks the request was pretty inadequate and it seems that she's been in touch with them. However, they may need a follow-up about specificity. It makes him wonder if they attended society training. Melina Zaccaria says that this also has been advertised through DASS and TWAK. We move to the vote. The motion passes.

5.7 BIRT the King's Art Abstract receive \$66.07 in contingent funding for camera film and developing costs for "Shots on a String".

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee recommends approval

Aidan McNally says that this is the Wardroom camera project. This is not a new installation. It is ongoing and could go on indefinitely. The project is a huge success. Nate Winsor asks about the dark room. Aidan McNally says that is a different topic. We move on to the vote. The motion passes.

5.8 BIRT the King's Foreign Film Society receive \$45.00 in contingent funding for their first meeting of the new year.

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee recommends approval

Melina Zaccaria leaves at 12:18.

This request is for video rental, cheese and bread. This event is set to happen the first Tuesday back so there are some concerns about attendance. Taylor Saracuse imagines that attendance will be a little bit lower, but in the past, per meeting, requests for \$40 in previous years happened. The extra few dollars also helps with cheese variety. Aidan McNally wonders if it might make more sense to wait to have that first meeting. Taylor Saracuse replies that the more opportunity to show a film they have, the better. She asks if we can do a poll to increase turnout. Taylor Saracuse is more than happy to oblige. Zoe Brimacombe quickly asks if we should amend the motion to read for their first meeting without the date in case the society changes the date. The amendment passes. We move to a vote. The motion passes and Taylor Saracuse abstains.

5.9 BIRT Adrian Pecotic receive \$200 to travel to Greece to represent Sodales at the Dalhousie/King's College Debate tournament on December 27th, 2015.

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee recommends approval

This request is from a King's student who is an active member of Sodales. This tournament will happen in Thessaloniki, Greece. This is a very expensive trip. Flights are about \$1200. This student is looking for bursaries. Sodales will subsidize the registration fee for the tournament. When costs are over \$600, the amount of money that Finance Committee can give will be over

\$100. Nate Winsor asks if he can leave or if that will break quorum. He leaves (12:25). The motion passes.

5.10 BIRT Grace Kennedy receive \$100 to travel to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on December 3rd to do research on the state of Nova Scotian bats.

Moved by Aidan McNally

Finance Committee recommends approval

This funding request is for Grace Kennedy to do a research for an article about the white nose syndrome in bats. In going to Prince Edward Island, she can watch researchers do a necropsy on a bat since almost all of the bats are dead. The spirit behind this motion is that a student is travelling to enrich their academic experience as they would not be able to do in Nova Scotia. Finance Committee tried to parallel this to an academic conference. This travel benefits a class. Taylor Saracuse quickly suggests looking into rideshares for this student. We move to a vote. The motion passes.

6. New Business

Aidan McNally talks about the KSU travel bursary policy. It is outlined very directly in a report. KSU members who have not yet applied should know this is for academic, sports, society related travel. If you're doing a summer course, for example, you shouldn't seek travel bursaries. Bursaries are considered on cost of travel, not accommodations. Travel bursaries should not be retroactively sought. Aidan McNally is curious as to why. She hopes that we can consult with the membership about how they see travel bursaries impacting them and if they think this is a valuable resource for the membership. Nate Winsor says that this draft is good for the short term, but they did discuss a need for a broader conversation. \$100 isn't really enough money for a lot of people to do that kind of travel. There is still a huge accessibility barrier. Joy Shand says that people seeking bursaries are people who consider travelling in the first place. People with low income might just reject this idea altogether. Zoe Brimacombe wonders if this will go through Bylaw Review Committee. Aidan McNally says that a huge amount of time is spent at Finance Committee going over these travel bursaries, so this question of necessity and how they impact students needs to be examined over the next couple of months. Aidan McNally talked to Chris Parsons about this and how these issues existed when he was a student as well. There were more conferences back then because the Internet wasn't a thing as we know it. Zoe Brimacombe asks if we can adopt this as an interim policy until the bylaw can be changed. Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould also mentions referring it to Finance Committee. Aidan McNally mentions that she just wanted to explain that this conversation has been happening for a long time and there is no real policy yet. No vote needed on this.

Adjournment

Alex Bryant motions to adjourn. Zoe seconds.

Next meeting: Sunday January 10th, 2015 (Boardroom)