



Spring 2014 General Meeting
King's Students' Union 2013/2014
March 31st, 2014, 7:00 pm
Alumni Hall (1st floor NAB)

Call to order 7 55pm

Mr. Jake Eidinger recognized that the meeting is taking place on unceded Mi'kmaq territory and welcomed everyone to the General Meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda and Documents

The agenda is adopted

2. Approval of Minutes from Fall General Meeting, September 26, 2013

The minutes are approved

Reports of the Executive Committee (approximately 45 minutes)

3. Reports of the Executive Committee (attached)

- 3.1 Report of the President
- 3.2 Report of the Vice-President (Student Life)
- 3.3 Report of the Vice-President (Financial)
- 3.4 Report of the Vice-President (External)
- 3.5 Report of the Vice-President (Communications)

Items concerning committees and documents (approximately 90 minutes)

4. Action Items

- 4.1 (Special Resolution) BIRT that the proposed 2014-2015 budget be adopted.

Moved by Emily Rendell-Watson

Finance Committee recommends approval.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that the first change in the budget is with the levies. Levies have been listed as internal and external in the budget. Separated to clarify what is staying at King's and what is completely separate. Expenses have also been listed under each levy, so we can see what comes out of the levy. Photocopying credit has also been added to Orientation Week, so that they are able to use the office photocopier, which is able to handle their needs this year. Societies printing has also been taken out of the societies' budget, instead of the printing budget. The Galley levy has also changed; it was meant to be a three year levy, so it was re-evaluated this year. The Galley no longer needs as high of a levy as it did before, so we're suggesting that it drop from 14\$ to 8\$.

Union Dues increased 18.80\$, which is reflected in union dues and levies. We've also just found out that we'll be receiving 2000\$ in revenue from the yearbook advertising.

Salaries for the Hospitality and Campaigns and Services Coordinator are still under negotiation, but what we have listed here is our best approximation to what it will be. This will include a

raise, and a bus pass for the Hospitality Manager. All of the UHP honoraria have stayed the same, though CUBE has been split into two separate positions (each will receive 250\$).

We are proposing a summer executive honoraria, 1500\$ for the president and 1000\$ to be split between one or two other signing authorities who stay. The finance committee and executive have discussed this at great length, and is what the union needs. The president supervises orientation week coordinators and staff people, and attends board of governors meeting. We also need two signing authorities in the city.

Executive honoraria – increased by just under 1400\$. Comes out to 550\$/month, which would cover most student's rent. It can't be a salary, or a per hour pay, because that will never be covered by the budget. Finance Committee has looked at this all year, researching, and it's important to note that this amount, although it is a significant raise is still nowhere near what other unions of comparable size pay their executive. Hope is that this amount will compensate for the full time job that executive is.

Committees – they have been separated in this budget by the executive who chairs them. These amounts were decided based on the size of the committee, how often they meet, and what kind of work is required. Events committee for example is very large, 12 or 13 people, and though it doesn't meet very frequently they need a bigger amount of money because their meetings could be 4-5 hours. Yearbook is a very small group of people who put in a lot of hours, often every week.

Mr. Evan McIntyre asked if this would just be for food and compensation.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said yes, they provide snacks for the membership, that kind of stuff.

Auditing – this number is from the accountant, shouldn't change too much. Many of the expenses have been stable for the next few years. Contingency fund has absorbed miscellaneous fees, so it's bumped up, which is great. Insurance has already been paid, so that is how much it will cost. Office supplies is based off of what we spent last year. Photocopying is lower because societies' printing has been taken out. Staff cellphones were taken out of telephone and internet, for clarity.

Union operations – sexual health products has been added, because the Campaigns and Services Coordinator has been purchasing sexual health products for the past few years, and has cost the union around a thousand dollars. The campus safety officer will still have a budget. Events has gone up to reflect the ideas that Alex Bryant has for next year. Outreach events is stuff like things for the Remembrance Day ceremony, or food for general meetings. The handbook should have advertising revenue – the cost is listed, but should also generate revenue as well. The legal fund has gone up because we'll be in contract negotiations and creating risk management policies, so we'll be using our lawyers more. Travel and conferences has increased to reflect the fact that we'd like to send an extra person to the CFS meeting in late May/early June. Travel bursaries has also been bumped up, so that there'll be a 1000\$ per semester, so people on exchanges or away will have equal access. First semester will roll over to the second, if there is anything left.

We'll be left with a surplus of just over 600\$.

Mr. Evan McIntyre said that although the printing cost was reduced through the societies change, it's still 3000\$.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that it's at 4000\$ for this year.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards said that the travel and conferences – that's 1000\$ for sending a single person to the CFS? Why send the extra person?

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that it's four people total, and it's open to everyone, not just executive. There has been a lot of interest; we pay a flat fee for everyone, and the CFS pays the travel, and the flat fee is subject to change. It's around 790\$/person. The full 1000\$ likely wouldn't be used, but we don't have an exact number.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked why it was separate from travel bursaries.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that general a member would apply for a bursary, this is something that we apply for in the union, and we send people on behalf of local 11. There are two spots in the spring and four in the winter – this is something we can plan for.

Mr. Connor asked if there was any information on specific expenditures from the budget.

Mr. Alex Bryant said that we're meant to release a year end statement at the fall GM, which will explain everything we did in the past year. The year before us didn't have the year end statements ready, so we couldn't present them at this fall GM, but we will be next year. We compare what we spent the previous year to what we want to spend the next year; we use these budgets for checking how much we have been spending when we make a new budget.

Ms. Eleanor Hornbeck asked about the contingency fund – are we adding to it?

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that it's higher because we added a line to it, but it's just money that's set aside for contingencies'.

Ms. Eleanor Hornbeck said that a few years ago we were going to take money out of the Galley contingency fund – what's in that.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that the Galley fund could be used for special projects; the union would have a plan for all these projects.

Ms. Anna asked why campus safety funding decreased.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that we added a sexual health products line; before we had been overspending on campus safety because they were spending on sexual health products. We've actually increased the safety line, just removed sexual health products spending from that line.

Ms. Anna asked what examples of special projects are.

Mr. Alex Bryant said last year it was the sound system in the wardroom; we spend it on things that come up year to year. It's for anyone, we were approached by the staff in the wardroom in that case. We made a call for anyone to approach us last year. We split the payments with the DSS for the speakers.

Mr. Ben asked about the yearbook line.

Mr. Alex Bryant said that we pay a flat fee for the yearbook whether we produce one or not – we're on a contract that we can't get out of, didn't produce one last year, but we're doing two this year. They're free, and we do advertising to offset costs. There's been a lot of talk about whether or not we want to have a yearbook in the future.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked how the 1000\$ for the conferences will better represent or benefit the union.

Ms. Michaela Sam said that the CFS GM is a meeting of all locals from across the country – we all come together in Ottawa and talk about all sorts of things. We vote on campaigns, go to different constituency meetings, which helps us organize across the year, gets us more information and lets us bring more back to the union. Some people want to go and help prepare the CFS budget, talk about the health plan, bulk purchasing, all those get discussed there. We're local 11. That's where we vote on all these things, it's a great opportunity, and we've all come back and have been better ready to work for the union, to lobby the government. Being able to send someone to Ottawa to do that is a cool thing. It makes our students way better to take on these issues. We get to know more people and resources in Nova Scotia and across the country. Open to any member of the union, any councillor, any executive, anyone's welcome to come and put their name forward.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked what the difference is between this and travel bursaries regarding who decides who gets it.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that travel bursaries go to finance committee first and then to council, where this just goes to council. People will put their names forward, will motivate, and then will be voted on.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked why this shouldn't be in finance committee to make it accountable to more people.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said this is stuff that we plan for, whereas we don't know how much of travel bursaries will be used, and we could use it all up for this meeting.

Ms. Anna asked about the rationale of sending one more person going to the CFS meeting when there are already people going when we could put that money to use on King's campus. Is it the best use of the Union's fees to send one more person vs trying to spread that knowledge in the general membership?

Ms. Anika Roberts-Stahlbrand said that CFS is one local one vote, but there are a bunch of different committees and discussion groups, so the more people go the more say you have. It's good to have a large voice, given that we're such a small school.

Ms. Katie Douglas moved to amend the motion by striking out 1500\$ from the campaigns line and inserting 2000\$.

Seconded by Alex Bryant

Ms. Katie Douglas said that next year will be a big year for campaigns; we haven't had very many big campaigns this year, and there are a few that have been ignored. There's talk of a day of action, which we haven't had for a year, and if we don't budget for it now it'll hit us when we're not expecting it.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked what the money was spent on this year.

Ms. Katie Douglas said that it was spent on consent week, take back campus, powershift, green week, stuff like that, various Action!King's events, a project on encouraging the provincial vote.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said yes, that would get rid of the surplus. Surpluses can be allocated to a budget line, and it makes sense for that to happen.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked if it was a struggle to get rid of the tickets for Powershift this year – doesn't that imply that the budget wasn't fully utilized?

Ms. Katie Douglas said that the tickets cost 35\$, which is a lot for students, and a lot of students said that they wanted to go and couldn't. It made sense to subsidize it, and people were feeling uncomfortable telling us that they did have financial difficulties, and giving the tickets away made it more accessible and comfortable for people.

Mr. Evan McIntyre said that raising the budget – not opposed to it, but he'd like people to see where it's going to. Don't understand what 500\$ more will go to. It would be great for people to see what 500\$ will equal – this seems vague, but there are a lot of great intentions. Hard to propose a budget and then add something on when it's vague.

Mr. Alex Bryant said that it wasn't bumped up in the first place because we were thinking that we didn't have concrete ideas, but we would like to run all four campaigns next year, they are CFS campaigns. We were going to have to draw this money out of contingency, but this would outline our commitment early on as we head into the year.

Mr. Evan McIntyre asked if it would be possible to table this motion until the next GM – you're not going to spend all 2000\$ before the next GM.

Ms. Anna Dubinski said that campaigns has been cut as money gets tighter and tighter, which is heartbreaking, and this is an amazing change and she is very excited.

Ms. Katie Douglas said that she has talked to past EVPs before proposing this – one of them had a budget line of 3000\$ and they ran a day of action. Don't want to take on that kind of responsibility with a half of the budget that her predecessor had to spend.

The amendment is adopted.

*Ms Anna moved to add a provision that the Galley levy be re-evaluated at the next Spring GM.
Seconded by Michaela Sam*

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar asked what the procedure for that would be.

Mr. Jake Eidinger said that the levy would only be collected this year, and would have to be voted on again next year if it is to be collected again.

The amendment is adopted.

*Ms. Anna moved to add 200\$ to the campus safety line, bringing it to 500\$.
Duly seconded.*

Ms. Anna said that there are a lot of safety issues, particularly sexual, on campus, and it would be nice for the Campus Safety Office to have 500\$ to address these issues, and mental health.

Mr. Anna asked what the current 300\$ will be going towards.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that it can pay for a variety of things – speakers, campaigns, materials. Campaigns things can also come out of the campaigns line. The number is 300\$ based on what the Campus Safety Officer felt they needed, this is the number that made the most sense. If it was upped by 200\$ we would be in a deficit of around 70\$.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked if the effective budget hasn't effectively increased by 300\$ this year, because sexual health products were removed?

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said yes. That was the number we were spending to begin with, we were overspending before.

Ms. Anna said that the issues that campus safety coordinator deals with are very important to all students, if you increase this budget hopefully more meaningful and impactful campaigns will be able to be run. 300\$ doesn't really allow for much as an annual budget in my experience.

Ms. Eleanor Hornbeck said that some of the things we're talking about could be done in harmony with people like the EVP, through their budgets.

Mr. Connor asked if the campus safety coordinator can use funds from the campaigns line.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that they could, if the EVP was willing.

Ms. Michaela Sam said that we're still in the hiring process; this may be a better one to re-evaluate in the fall once we have hired a new campus safety officer. They can always try and use some money from the campaigns budget line.

Ms. Katie Douglas said that if her line is raised she'll have more money available for things like campus safety; she has numbers from previous years to work from, and would like to sit down with the campus safety officer and get them to prepare a budget; increases can always be pulled from contingencies.

The amendment is defeated.

Mr. Zack asked why all the executive receive the same honoraria; do they all do an equal amount of work.

Mr. Alex Bryant said that originally, only the president was paid; as positions were added more people were paid, and salaries were eventually evened out. Summer honoraria would pay for time spent on campus working. The same basic honoraria is because we do try to work as a team, equally, and the additional summer honoraria because the president needs to stay over the summer. The president does do more work.

Ms. Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould asked why all Union Hired Positions, UHPs are paid the same amount.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that we discussed this a lot – UHPs are hired by the union for one of six positions. It's a discussion that needs to be continually had, can be potentially revisited, but will be discussed through the entire year. This can be talked about at the next GM, once we have enough data. We talked about whether we look at it based on the position, or how much work is put in, that's important to note. Many hard working people deserve more money.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards asked why the executive salary and not the UHP honoraria were raised.

Ms. Emily Rendell-Watson said that executive honoraria has been in discussion for the entire year, has been researched for the entire year, and we haven't been having that discussion about UHPs. Hope that we can revisit it, but if we were to change them now we wouldn't have done enough background work.

Ms. Karen Gross said that we talked on finance committee about how these are honoraria, not wages or salaries. More about a general thank-you for the work that these people do. Also a distinction between the kind of work that executives and UHPs do; executives often cannot take on jobs because they are executives.

Mr. Jake Clancey-Edwards said that the work done by the executive is greater than the work done by the UHP, but the honoraria for executive was already for greater than that for UHPs. Seems a little bit odd to increase one and not the other.

*Mr. Alex Bryant moved to amend the contingency line to read 5,123.59\$ instead of 5,000\$
Duly seconded*

Mr. Alex Bryant said that right now we have 123.59\$ on the bottom line, and it would be better to present a budget that has a zero bottom line, especially after we've asked membership to raise dues. We can reallocate this money in the fall.

*The amendment is adopted.
The motion is adopted as amended.*

4.2 (Special Resolution) BIRT that the revised Bylaws and Operations Policy be adopted.

Moved by Jacob Baker-Kretzmar

Constitutional Review Committee recommends approval.

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar said that he has handed out a list of all the by-laws that have changes; there are two copies of the full new by-laws. We're presenting the revised documents, which used to be the constitution and procedural handbook, now the bylaws and operations policy.

The review committee usually reviews and makes sure that bylaws are still legal; this time we went in depth because they need to be fixed. We don't write new policy, we recommend things to council, also don't make decisions. These new documents are recommended. Focused on typos, redundancies, and clarification.

Typos/grammar/words/numbering – we're allowed to fix typos without approval, but we did it as a part of this process anyways. We've added in things like 'the' in some places, small changes like that. There were a few references that were wrong because numbering has been changed, those have been fixed. Bylaws have also been renumbered, so they don't go to 90-something but instead have sections.

Redundancies – impeachment was listed twice, so it was taken out of operations policy and is now just in bylaws. Stuff like that has been cleaned up.

Ms. Karen Gross asked why we changed the name from Constitution to By-Laws.

Mr. Jake Eidinger said this has been a lengthy process; the KSU is incorporated under the societies' act of Nova Scotia, which says that bylaws must be called bylaws, legally.

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar said that some sections have been moved around, from operations to bylaws, like the operations policy, which could be amended by council though it mandates how council operates. Bylaw review committee was renamed and moved into bylaws.

The motion is adopted.

4.3 (Special Resolution) BIRT that section 9.13.b of the Bylaws be amended by striking out "September 1st - August 31st" and inserting "April 1st - March 31st".

Moved by Jacob Baker-Kretzmar

Constitutional Review Committee recommends approval.

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar said that this defines our fiscal year – it's completely wrong, don't know why, we're fixing it. It should be the same as the university's.

The motion is adopted.

4.4 BIRT that if quorum is lost, any pending items will be referred to Council for final decision.

Moved by Jacob Baker-Kretzmar

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar said that we need 5% of membership to vote; this motion lets us vote at council.

*Mr. Evan McIntyre moved to amend the motion by inserting “provided that those items are adopted by two thirds of council”
Duly seconded*

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar said that $\frac{3}{4}$ would be a bit high considering the size of council; maybe $\frac{2}{3}$ would be better.

Ms. Anna Dubinski said that she is with the spirit of the motion, but she doesn't think that it's a good idea because we don't expect a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority at these meetings, so why would we expect them at council?

Ms. Hannah asked what would happen if people left and we couldn't vote without this motion.

Ms. Anna asked why this is important to do, why we suggest this.

Mr. Alex Bryant said that last year we often took a very long time to get through the budget, not committee motions, and committees are usually quick to get through and often elected at council.

Ms. Michaela Sam said that we vote here to fill the blanks, and then pass the motions afterwards; this wouldn't affect the process too much in my experience.

The amendment is adopted.

Ms. Hannah said that she understands why this is necessary, but finds this kind of sketchy – so many ways that this could be abused. Oh, just for this meeting, nevermind.

Ms. Anna said that it might be a good idea to advertise the open committee positions – then the union would have less a chance of being accused of nepotism. The message I get is that we have to be friends with council members to be nominated.

Mr. Jacob Baker-Kretzmar said that all the posters had the positions listed, and all the positions have been advertised for a week, are on the website, and were in TWAK. Will try and spread that around even more.

*Ms. Haritha Popuri called the question.
Duly seconded.
The question is called.
The motion is adopted as amended.*

Mr. Alex Bryant asked for a quorum count.

Mr. Jake Eidinger said that we have 45 people; we can recess or adjourn.

Ms. Michaela Sam motions to adjourn.

Mr. Jake Eidinger said that quorum is 60.

Ms. Anna said that she would like to raise the criticism that there are a lot of students here, doesn't make sense to take a meeting for 40 people and transfer the decision making power to a meeting of 12 people and say that that's more legitimate.

Ms. Eleanor Hornbeck said that more people have voted to give councillors and exec voting power than are in this room. It's not negating the general body.

Ms. Karen Gross said that we already voted to pass power to council, if people were against it they would have voted to against it.

Mr. Jake Eidinger said that we can fix a time to adjourn to without quorum.

The meeting is adjourned, 9 30pm.

4.5 BIRT that _____, _____, and _____ be appointed to the Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved by Jacob Baker-Kretzmar

4.6 BIRT that _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____ be elected to the Elections Committee. BIFRT _____ and _____ be appointed as alternate members of the Committee.

Moved by Jacob Baker-Kretzmar

4.7 BIRT that _____, _____, _____, and _____ be elected to the Equity Affairs Committee.

Moved by Katie Douglas

4.8 BIRT that _____ and _____ be elected to the Environmental Affairs Committee.

Moved by Katie Douglas

4.9 BIRT that _____, _____, and _____ be appointed to the Galley Board of Directors.

Moved by Michaela Sam

4.10 BIRT that _____, _____, and _____ be appointed to the Watch Board of Publishers.

Moved by Michaela Sam

5. New Business

6. Adjournment