

Report of the President
October 30th, 2016

Student-Government Round Table

On Tuesday, October 18th, myself and other students' union executives met with Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Kelly Regan for our quarterly "Student-government" roundtables. These tend not to be very productive as the Minister only stays for 15 minutes to take questions. During the meeting, I asked a question about increased government funding to adequately fund universities - citing how the King's Board of Governors acknowledged that raising tuition is not a sustainable form of revenue. The Minister's answer seemed to skirt the question and she instead decided to cite increased enrollment at other Universities as evidence that the tuition reset did not affect Nova Scotia students. In addition, the CFS-NS made a presentation on the state of Graduate Studies in Nova Scotia, which is dire given our deregulated graduate fees, and lack of funds and oversight in research and development.

Recently, Minister of Community Services Joanne Bernard announced an expansion of Career Seek Program to include one year of subsidized tuition and student fees, textbook costs, for individuals who are currently on Income assistance. The program has only helped 6 students since 2014, and is further evidence that the government is more interested in piecemeal approach to accessibility and spending money on ineffective programs.

Councillor Training

Part 2 of Councillor Training was held on Sunday, October 23rd which included an Anti-Oppression workshop given by Rebecca Stuckey from South House, an intro to the Canadian Federation of Students, a Rights and Responsibilities workshop by Anna Dubinski from CFS-NS, and a workshop on how to run events given by our very own CVP and SLVP. I believe that councillor training was quite comprehensive and I look forward to see and support the councillors' work.

Day of Action

The Day of Action has been the executive's top priority in the past few months. We've been attending planning meetings, helping with logistics for the day itself and supporting Gina, our EVP. I have been contacting students to work on a photo project, which I hope will go live on Monday. First year rep Riel, Residence rep Lucia and Science rep FG, Gina and I met on Thursday to discuss ways to increase first year turn out, which I am excited about.

Wardroom Updates

A Wardroom event on Monday was canceled upon discussions with the Wardroom staff and the KSU Executive in order to take pause to ensure that all events hosted in the Wardroom are planned in a way that makes all students feel included and safe in that space. Together, the Wardroom staff and KSU executive released a statement on the Wardroom Facebook page regarding the cancellation of the event (attached to this report). The issues raised about WuTang night highlight a larger issue on campus of systemic racism faced by racialized students in the King's community.

The KSU and the Wardroom are committed to challenging racism on campus. We are planning to take action in the following ways:

- We are committed to working with racialized students on campus to work together on solutions to combat racism and meet their needs
- The Wardroom staff will be participating in an anti-oppression training to help ensure that all events we host are planned in a way that ensures all of our members feel safe in the space
- We will be facilitating a community forum so that students have a place to go, learn and discuss issues of racism and cultural appropriation.

If anyone has questions, concerns or wants resources please direct them to president@ksu.ca.

Grad Week

This past week, FVP Zoe, Michaela and I met to discuss allocation of work for Grad week. The last recommendation from Grad Week is that no coordinators be hired this year, and that the SCC take the lead on logistics for this week. Zoe and I will be holding a consultation with the Graduating class to get ideas, begin the process of selecting honorary class members, the valedictorian, and the Grad class gift.

Vice-Presidential Search Committee

The first meeting of the Vice-Presidential search committee will be on November 3rd, 2016. The committee will be chaired by Mary Martin, a board member who was the chair of the Presidential search committee. I look forward to representing students on this committee and making sure to source student feedback.

Orientation Week

I am proud today to bring forward the Final Orientation Week Report is being brought forward to this council meeting. The three coordinators put a lot of time into making this a comprehensive report and I believe it accurately reflects the diligence and care they put into the week itself.

Alex Fountain Memorial Lecture

The 5th annual Alex Fountain memorial lecture will be given by Joseph Boyden on the 24th of November in Alumni Hall, titled "The Writer's life: Embracing the Voices". The memorial lecture was started by the Fountain family in honour of their son Alex Fountain who was a student of King's who took his own life in 2009 after a long struggle with mental health. The memorial lecture series is meant as a way to remember Alex, and is meant as an event for the students at King's. Nominations for lecturers are voted on by students, and I am looking forward to welcome such a prominent Canadian author to our campus in November.

KSU Office Closure

The KSU Office will be closed for November 2nd for the National Day of Action and November 7th-November 11th for Fall Reading week. The office will be closed for the Winter break starting December 12th and open again on January 9th, 2016.

Statement from the Wardroom

To members of the Wardroom,

We decided to cancel our event featuring music by the Wu-Tang Clan on Monday. As a space owned and operated by the King's Students' Union, we take the responsibility of creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive space for everybody on campus very seriously. To us, the creation of a safe space requires the constant challenging of aggressions and privilege. We cancelled this event because we felt that we had not planned it in a way that would ensure a safe space for all members during this event.

We support the amplification of the voices and stories of POC artists by playing their music in our bar, however acknowledge that white patrons echoing racial slurs is inappropriate and creates an oppressive space for students in our bar. This is not a question about folks listening to hip-hop, or the Wardroom playing hip-hop, but rather an acknowledgment of the context it is being played in - a historically white institution with a primarily white demographic - and of our collective responsibility to challenge the systems of racialized violence and oppression on our campus.

As part of an important conversation regarding institutionalized racism, we decided to pause Monday night to consider the importance of the language used in the music we play. Instead of the Wu-Tang Clan, members listened to instrumental music so that, as a community, we could all consider the importance of language in our music. We plan to continue this conversation through discussions with the racialized students on campus and through a public forum. In addition, we are committed to taking internal steps, such as anti-oppression training and education, to ensure that events of this nature can happen in a more inclusive way.

We are committed to being intentional about the space we are creating during future events.

We are committed to seek training on how to be better allies.

We are committed to facilitating conversations about racism on our campus.

We are committed to maintaining a safer space for our members.

We look forward to working with you all in developing a supportive and inclusive space.

If you have any questions, concerns or resources please contact president@ksu.ca

Sincerely,

The KSU Executive and Wardroom Staff

#AllOutNov2 #AllOutNov2 #AllOutNov2 #AllOutNov2 #AllOutNov2 #AllOutNov2

Member-at-Large changeover

This feels like an odd time to put anything about changeover in a report, but since our last council meeting our Member-at-Large, Jacob, and I met briefly to discuss my experience in the role of Member-at-Large and the ideas that he has for the role. Councillor changeover doesn't have to be extensive but it is still an important process. If other newly-elected councillors haven't yet been in touch with their predecessors, I'd strongly recommend that you do so. Having a relationship with the person that held your position before you can be extremely helpful as you begin to discover and navigate new things about your roles. If you need help getting in touch with your predecessor, ask our Services and Campaigns Coordinator Michaela during your office hours or get in touch with a member of the executive and we'd be happy to help you.

Councillor training

Last Sunday, October 23rd, we held part two of what seemed to be a successful and engaging councillor training. Thanks again to our guest presenters from South House and the Canadian Federation of Students! I was so happy to present a workshop with JS on how to plan, advertise and run events that are fun, accessible and successful. To reiterate what I said in the workshop: I want to run amazing events this year, and I want to work with councillors to do that work! Some councillors have already come to me with ideas for events and I'm eager to begin working on those in the near future. For at least the immediate future, however, my focus will be on...

#AllOutNov2!!!

The National Day of Action is happening this Wednesday, November 2nd! I feel like most of the work that I've been doing over the past two weeks has been support work as we approach this day that we've been anticipating for months. With each conversation that I have, each society that I invite and each planning meeting that I attend, I get more and more excited about the Day of Action. Gina has been doing incredible, tireless work to facilitate all Day of Action related events and materials here at King's and I wanted to thank her for that. Still, this day is ultimately about all of us. In the next few days, let's all be sure to talk to our friends and classmates about the Day of Action to make sure that King's goes all out on November 2nd.

Also: Gina and I will also be working on preparing a themed playlist that will both pump students up and dovetail with ideas about accessible, free education for our rally in the King's Quad. So far we have "Sorry" by Justin Bieber (it's not too late to say sorry!) and "The Best Things in Life Are Free" by Luther Vandross and Janet Jackson (this song is incredible and so on-theme, you are going to love it). If you have any song recommendations or requests, get in touch with myself or Gina! You could hear your request playing in the Quad on November 2nd!

Food Services Contract Committee

Finally, I have a few updates regarding student consultation that I'll be doing as a part of my work on the Food Services Contract Committee:

(a) Student, faculty, staff survey:

The Dean of Students, Nick Hatt, and I have finalized a survey that will be circulated to students, faculty and staff to determine what they would like to see in our on-campus food service. We met this week to update the survey and transfer it onto Survey Monkey. The survey will be circulated electronically this coming week using University's email servers, and I encourage everyone to take a few minutes when you receive it to respond and encourage your friends to do the same!

I will be doing work next week to get this survey to students in other ways beyond email. Recognizing that our campus will be overwhelmed (in a good way!) until the Day of Action, I plan on tabling outside of Prince Hall on either Thursday or Friday. If any councillors would like to help me with this tabling, let me know!

(b) CCUFSA consultation:

Three reviewers from the Canadian College and University Food Service Association will be on campus from November 2-4 to conduct a review of the current food service operation and meet with various campus groups to gather information about our priorities. One of the groups—and, in my mind, the most important group—that they will be consulting are students and I've been working to ensure this consultation is as representative and productive as it can possibly be. We've advertised this consultation using posters and on social media, and so far I have eight students (including a couple of councillors!) confirmed to be there—a mix of first year students, upper year students, students in residence, day students, students with dietary restrictions, students passionate about sustainability, etc. We still have room for a few more students, so if you know anyone who might be interested in this consultation, send them my way!

Report of the Financial Vice President

Council October 30th 2016

Zoë Brimacombe

Day of Action

Lead Up Actions

I have been working with Gina, a number of KSU executive and councillors, and our many volunteers on building momentum towards the Day of Action on November 2nd. Along with tabling and doing class talks, I helped organize and carry out our Noodles at Noon action, Reject the Reset Victory Bash, and the upcoming social media campaign we will be running in the days leading up to Nov. 2. I cannot wait to see all of you, and as many King's students as possible, at our local rally and at our city-wide march!

Planning Meetings

I have attended local and regional meetings over the past two weeks and it has been invigorating to hear about the work happening on our campus as well as among students all around Halifax and Dartmouth. I also attended marshall training, and will be one of the marshalls on the day-of.

Union Work

Councillor Training

Councillor training was held on Sunday, October 23rd. I co-led a session on the current state of the university with Aidan, and also gave a presentation on union finances. The great work of the individuals on council this year has already begun, and I am excited to continue and support it.

Grad Week

I met with Aidan and Michaela to discuss the task of planning grad week this year, as our budget does not allow for the usual hiring of two grad week coordinators. Based on our collective experience with grad week and the recommendations of last year's grad week coordinators, Bryson Morris and Charlotte Sullivan, we will be devising a plan for grad week and for how it will be shared amongst the President, FVP, and Services and Campaigns Coordinator.

Council October 18th

An additional council meeting was held last Tuesday, outside of our typical meeting schedule. I want to thank everyone who could make it and to give a brief explanation for its purpose. Three funding requests were received by our office by the deadline but were unfortunately placed in the incorrect mailbox. As such, I did not get them and did not bring them to finance committee or to council. When this error was discovered, the executive agreed that it was not fair to hold these requests until next council due to our own administrative error, so a short council meeting was called. Since then, Michaela and the executive have reviewed procedure for funding request forms and I do not foresee any further issues.

Canadian Federation of Students National General Meeting

Attendance

As I reported at last council, I will be attending the CFS NGM as our local delegate. The meeting is being held November 18th-21st in Gatineau, Quebec. As our next council meeting is

scheduled for that same weekend, I will be absent from council. I will make a plan over the coming weeks for the delivery of my report and moving funding requests.

Chronicle Herald Motion

The KSU, Local 11 of the CFS, has submitted the following motion to the GM for consideration. I will be meeting with Lianne, our journalism rep, for her input, and would be happy to hear feedback from any and all councillors and students about how best to present the motion.

The full text of the motion reads:

“Whereas Chronicle Herald Newsroom workers, members of the CWA-SCA Canada’s Halifax Typographical Union, have been on strike since January 23rd, 2016; and
Whereas the Chronicle Herald has heavily relied on scab labour in order to delay signing a collective agreement; and

Whereas the Chronicle Herald has targeted recently graduated journalism students in their recruitment drive for scab labour; and

Whereas 57 workers have now been on the picket line for over 10 months; and
Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students stands in solidarity with unionized workers; therefore

BIRT the Canadian Federation of Students condemns the use of scab labour by the Chronicle Herald; and

BIFRT the Canadian Federation of Students make a donation of \$500 to the Halifax Typographical Union’s strike fund.”

Report of the External Vice-President (10.30.2016)

This week has primarily been focused on the Day of Action, which is this Wednesday!

Here are some updates:

Outreach

We have been reaching so many people with outreach thanks to our amazing group of volunteers going #AllOut doing class talks, tabling, postering—you name it.

Reject the Reset Victory Bash

Last Friday (Oct. 21st), we held a celebration for students about the rejected \$1000 tuition fee increase. We gave out free fries for free education during Happy Hour in the Wardroom.

Regional Day of Action Meetings

There have been two Regional Planning Meetings over the last two weeks; one held at King's, and one held at Dalhousie. At these meetings, students from across the Halifax region met to plan actions and to hear what other student unions will be doing to prepare for the Day of Action and on the day itself.

Volunteer Appreciation/Material Making

The Canadian Federation of Students-Nova Scotia (CFS-NS) is hosting a volunteer appreciation and material making session at NSCAD today (Oct. 30th) from 1pm-4pm in the Student Lounge on the second floor of the Fountain Campus on Duke Street. You are all welcome!

Local Planning Meeting

We held the final King's Day of Action planning meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26th. Just like the last meeting, turnout was way better than anticipated. Our volunteers are absolutely amazing and be ready for some awesome things happening in lead up to November 2nd!

King's Material Making

On Tuesday, November 1st from 6-8pm in the Manning Room, we will be holding material making (with snacks) for the Day of Action! Please come make some personal signs, they are some of the most intriguing part of rallies and a great way to get our personal struggles as students across to the public (also art is fun & a great way to de-stress before the big day).

DAY OF ACTION

We need all of you to not only be leaders during the Day of Action but also beforehand by reaching out to everyone you know in Halifax. Here are the commitments that we are asking that you make:

1. Keep a list of people who have confirmed to you specifically that they're attending
2. Reach out (in person preferably, or over the phone) to confirm that you know 15 people are coming to the Day of Action
3. Ask them to reach out to 2 people
4. Say that you're attending the Nov. 2nd Halifax Facebook event
5. Invite everyone you know to that Facebook event

Report of the Communications Vice-President
Julia-Simone Rutgers
October 30th, 2016

Councillor Training

As you are all aware, councillor training was held on Sunday October 23rd. During training I helped Brennan host a workshop on running and advertising events, which went quite well! It was so exciting to hear from all the wonderful speakers, and I hope everyone gained a lot from the sessions. It was so great to all be together, and I am so excited to work with you all during your terms.

Handbooks

There are still an abundance of handbooks available in the KSU office! These handbooks are one of the many wonderful services we offer for free to our members, and with exams approaching now might be a great time to grab that membership benefit! I encourage everyone to tell their friends that this service is available and to drop by the KSU office any time to grab one!

Day of Action

Much of my work these past couple weeks has been dedicated to supporting Gina and many other organizers get everything in gear for the Day of Action happening on November 2nd. We have been tabling, speaking to friends, and attending organizing meetings at both a regional and local level. As an executive, we held a Reject the Reset Victory Bash in the Wardroom to celebrate the rejection of the \$1000 increase to FYP tuition. The event involved a photobooth and the provision of my favourite accessible snack: french fries. We also joined the DSU in putting on Noodles at Noon on both the King's and Dal campuses. We gave away free ramen bowls as a means of talking to folks about the Day of Action and highlighting food insecurity as one of many reasons why we need to go All Out.

As November 2nd approaches, I would like to encourage all of you to commit to attending and to bringing your friends and classmates. I am beyond excited to take the streets with all of you this week, and to challenge our government on both provincial and national levels to make post-secondary education accessible for everyone.