

Report of the President
Sunday, December 4th

Board of Governor's Meeting

The Board of Governors met on Thursday, December 2nd, and it is worth noting there has been significant turnover at the Board resulting in a younger and more diverse board. In the KSU report, we reported on the Day of Action, the CFS General meeting, the Fall Reading Week, and mental health services at King's. We also discussed a number of society and KSU events run in November, featuring both typical "Kings-y" events and highlighting the incredible equity work and challenging conversations that students make space to have.

The meeting itself was very discussion based - the College is in a transition period with a new President who faces difficult challenges. Few decisions have been made at the past two board meetings, though I anticipate that will change soon. The College will need to decide how to resolve its financial situation, and the College has accepted that increasing enrolment alone will not cut it. So far, a lot of that work appears to be about internal restructuring and our relationship with Dal, with a focus on preserving the academic programs and the "student experience". That being said, with decreased government funding, I am concerned that King's will focus more on restructuring and finding external revenue. There have been no concrete proposals so far, and so receiving report backs from the University's Budget Advisory Committee will be more important than ever.

At the meeting, the President also circulated a draft "President's Mandate" in order to determine the priorities for his term. I have proposed to define student experience as academics, student life and students services. In addition, we brought up the need for increased reporting from meetings with the Government and CONSUP (the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents).

The minutes from the last meeting are now approved and should be on the website within the next 3 weeks.

Vice Presidential Search Committee

The Vice-Presidential Search Committee will be meeting next week to receive nominations for the position. The Vice-Presidential appointment is an internal appointment of faculty and the committee will be interview candidates in January. The turnover of Vice-Presidents will be in June 2017.

Vote to Increase Union dues

After much discussion and research, the Executive has decided to put forward a referendum question to increase dues in the New Year. All students pay dues to the Union, which make up our operating budget, allowing us to provide services, pay employees, fund society events, run an office etc. This decision comes after months of looking at the Union's finances and discussion amongst the executive. Union dues, and increases are set by referendum, a vote in which every King's student can participate. The increased number has yet to be decided, though we have been doing the leg work to be able to begin consultation in January. Our goal is to ensure everyone is informed to make a decision on this question.

Logistically, this question itself will be discussed and voted on at Council. We also plan on hosting a Town Hall. If the question were to pass at Council, the vote itself would take place at the same time as the Spring Executive and Board Rep elections.

Graduation Week

The Union will be hosting an event for Graduating students - Hot Chocolate for Grads - on Tuesday, December 6th from 1-4pm in the KSU office. This will give us a chance to give Grads information about dates while also collecting feedback as to what they would like to see in their Grad Week. We plan on hosting a Happy Hour info session on January 20th to provide more information on valedictorian voting, grad gifts and the honorary graduating class president.

Sexual Assault Policy

At this Board Meeting it was confirmed that the College will begin a process of creating a stand alone sexual assault policy. Vice-President Kim Kierans and I will be meeting before the end of the term to discuss the committee, which will begin meeting in January. After the Hunting Ground screening, those in attendance had a productive conversation about what Sexual Assault policy could look like at King's while acknowledging a number of King's specific circumstances that we will need to overcome. Students were very engaged in this conversation and there are many who have reached out seeking ways to get involved. External Vice-President Gina has created a mailing list for students interested in receiving updates and you can be placed on the mailing list by emailing evp@ksu.ca. I will be pushing for extensive student consultation throughout this process.

Events & Solidarity Work

The executive has been working hard to organize events this week such as the NS Teachers Rally on Monday and our Holiday Movie night on Wednesday.

Exam Season & Holiday Break

This is a difficult time for students and want to encourage you all to take study breaks, go outside and practice self care, though we understand that can be difficult during times of great academic stress and competing priorities such as part time jobs. Good luck on your final papers and exams, and I hope everyone has a restful break. I look forward to hitting the ground running come January.

Property, Grounds and Safety Committee

I attended a meeting of the Property, Grounds and Safety Committee this past Wednesday, November 30. The committee is a committee of the University that advises the Facilities Department and the Administration on annual and long-term maintenance planning. Most of these updates fall into routine and deferred maintenance, but there were a couple of updates that are especially pertinent to students. The University's Facilities Department has worked with Siemens Canada to produce a detailed feasibility study for a campus-wide energy retrofit. This study is a follow-up to an energy audit completed about five years ago that identified areas in which the University could save energy and be more sustainable. This study will guide the maintenance and updates that Facilities does in the coming years and will eventually include projects like more energy-efficient lighting across campus and better lighting in the Quad.

There was discussion at the meeting about the physical accessibility of our campus, which continues to be a priority that we advocate for in all Facilities-related work. Particularly exciting is a \$30 000 accessibility grant that the University will be receiving from the Rick Hansen Foundation as a part of the Foundation's national accessibility initiative with Canada 150. This money will likely be put towards small accessibility updates around campus, like repairing the New Academic Building doors and installing wheelchair access buttons on the Bursar and Registrar's office doors.

Alex Doyle—Director of Facilities and chair of the PGS Committee—also provided updates about the Wardroom space. Since opening at the end of September changes to the space have included updates to the lighting and the installation of a permanent sound system.

Academic Committee

I chaired this year's first meeting of the Union's Academic Committee last Sunday, November 27. The committee discussed news and updates from the academic departments at King's and the departmental societies (CSP, EMSP and HOST societies). The bulk of the meeting consisted of a wonderful discussion about ongoing work to diversify curricula and include more mis- and under-represented voices in our classrooms, as well as a discussion about how the Union can support students seeking academic accommodation and provide better education to students about our rights. We also chatted at the end of the meeting about what sorts of consultation folks would like to see as the University begins to draft a stand-alone sexual assault policy. I

Thanks to all of the committee members for an insightful, productive and thoughtful discussion! I'm looking forward to our next meeting in the new year, and I hope to hold one more meeting after that with the next Student Life Vice-President-elect. I will also be inviting the president of the King's Journalism Society to these future meetings.

Food Services Contract Committee

The University's Food Services Contract Committee continues to meet to draft a request for proposals (RFP) for the University's on-campus food service. We currently have a working draft of the RFP and I am working to ensure that it best reflects students' wants and needs from food service on campus.

CUBE

The final CUBE intramural event will be held this Tuesday, December 6—come out at 10:00 in the King's Gym to play some soccer and take a break from studying! I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Simon Gillies and Itai Kuwodza for their amazing work so far this year as CUBE coordinators—this semester has been fun and successful and I know that next semester will be even better.

Exam Care Packages

Folks from the Canadian Federation of Students - Nova Scotia were tabling on campus this past Monday, November 28 with mental health materials and exam care packages. I was happy to contribute a leaflet about upcoming CUBE events and other de-stressing events to these care packages, which proved to be very popular!

Holiday Event

As the end of the semester grows closer and students are entering finals season, the KSU will be hosting a relaxing holiday movie screening on the evening of Wednesday, December 7 in the Wardroom. As of the writing of this report voting was still open to choose the film, but by the time Council meets we will know which movie emerged victorious! I'm excited that we're able to provide a relaxing event for students during such a busy time of the year. I hope to see a bunch of you there so we can watch a movie and snack on some popcorn together! This event is BYOP&B (bring your own pillow and blanket).

Report of the Financial Vice President

Council December 4th, 2016

Zoë Brimacombe

CFS National General Meeting

Preamble

Two weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the Fall National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students on behalf of local 11, the King's Students' Union. I had an amazing experience connecting with students from across the country, hearing about all the amazing work of our national executive, and working to shape the direction of our national student movement. We are doing some great work!

Committees, Caucuses, and Constituencies

As well as representing our local in full-group plenary spaces, I also attended Maritimes Component (with all representatives from Nova Scotia, PEI, and New Brunswick), Small Universities Caucus (with other delegates from associations with less than 8 000 members), Budget Committee, Women's Constituency, and Queer Constituency.

#FightTheFees

As this GM was coming off the heels of our national day of action on November 2nd, we talked a lot about the Fight the Fees campaign and how we can keep mobilizing on our campuses. I'm happy to report that our local was something of a celebrity at this meeting, due to how widespread the news about our \$1000 win was across the country. I got to report back on that win, on the incredible work that students on this campus did, on our effective lead up actions, and on our awesome turnout in the streets on the day-of. I want to give a particular shout out to Gina, whose organizing work for this rally was fantastic and truly outstanding in a national context. I also told folks at the meeting about Riel and Lucia's amazing cocoa and cue cards event and our very impactful photo campaign, showing pictures of KSU members and why they were going #AllOutNov2, that many councillors and other students participated in. Great work to all.

Campaigns

A key pillar of the CFS' work is our campaigns focus. At this meeting, we voted to: reaffirm our support for free education, strengthen our relationship with the student movement in Quebec, develop a campaign to combat student homelessness, update our End The Blood Ban campaign, develop a campaign on access for health care for trans identified individuals, develop mental health skills workshops, lobby for the repeal of the fair elections act, support and co-organize the Reclaiming Our Bodies and Minds conference in Toronto, support Jermaine Carby's family, develop pro-choice materials and resources, continue to host a Racialized and Indigenous Student Summit biennially, support the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation legal expenses, support Standing Rock and #NoDAPL, to support the Sikh community and recognize state-organized violence against Sikhs in India, to stand in solidarity with land and water protectors at Muskrat Falls, support indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people affected by

sexual assault in Val d'Or, condemn Jordan Peterson's transphobic and racist hate speech at University of Toronto, and stand with Brittany Lennox in her decision to resign from the Memorial University Board of Regents. There were also two solidarity motions from Nova Scotia, which was very exciting. The first was our own: a motion to support the Halifax Typographical Union and striking workers at Chronicle Herald. The motion was very well received and passed unanimously. The Mount Saint Vincent University Student Union, local 34, also moved a motion for the CFS to support the boycott of Halifax Pride by the Halifax 2SLGBTQIA+ community, which also garnered a ton of support. It was especially great to be able to, alongside local 34, tell students across Canada about the issues going down in Halifax and to receive so much support.

Policy and Bylaw Updates

This meeting's agenda also included updates to the federation's taxation and elections policies and the creation of a cannabis policy. We also had a number of motions pertaining to bylaw amendments, such as updating all language in the bylaws to use gender-neutral pronouns, posting documents online, having a question period for the national executive at general meetings. Unfortunately, as this section of motions fell at the end of our agenda and was limited by time, we didn't get to address all of the motions and a number were tabled until the June 2017 meeting. While it's unfortunate that time constraints got to us, I think that coming back to these in the new year will give more time for full discussion.

Elections

Elections for the at-large positions on the CFS' National Executive were held at this meeting. Peyton Veitch was re-elected National Treasurer, our very own Charlotte Kiddell, current chairperson of CFS - Nova Scotia, was elected National Deputy Chairperson, and Coty Zachariah was elected National Chairperson, notably the first ever Indigenous chairperson of the CFS. I am so excited to see the ways these folks will shape our movement going forward.

Society Funding

Remaining Totals

To date, we have allocated \$6,762.90 of the total \$15,093.00 society funding budget, leaving \$8,330.10 for events societies will run in the new year.

Reimbursement

A number of societies have not yet submitted receipts for reimbursement for the events they have held so far. A reminder to all that those should be handed in within 30 days of the event in question. If there are folks with receipts to submit who would like to receive reimbursement before the winter break, please bring those in no later than Tuesday, December 6th.

Union Committees, Campaigns, and Operations

Sexual Assault Policy

I attended the KSU-hosted screening of *The Hunting Ground* last week, and was so excited to see so many students interested in learning more about sexual assault and consent culture on

campus. As the university has set a goal of having a sexual assault policy in place by the end of the school year, we should all get as informed as possible so we make sure that policy will listen to student voices and concerns.

Watch Board of Publishers

On Friday, December 2nd, I attended a meeting of the Watch Board of Publishers. We voted to approve the 2016/17 budget, and also elected two new people to the Board. David Swick was elected faculty representative and Adrian Lee was elected professional media representative. An additional motion was also proposed and adopted at the meeting that read:

BIRT the Watch editorial team will host a public post-mortem discussion of the November 2016 issue in January 2017 in the Wardroom.

BIFRT the Chair of the Watch Board of Publishers mediate and chair the meeting.

BIFRT there be an anti-harassment officer present at the meeting.

Wardroom Board of Management

The WBOM met last week to receive the report of the hospitalities coordinator and other updates, as well as to discuss the functioning of the wardroom in its first few months post-renovation.

Unaudited Financial Statements - 2015

I will be meeting with the union's representative at Rector Colavecchia Roche to receive and sign off on the completed financial statements from the 2014/2015 financial year this coming Friday. The receipt of this document brings us up to date with our auditing, which is something that has been a few years in the making. The statements will be discussed at finance committee and then moved for approval by the general membership at our next general meeting, along with the statements from the previous number of years that had been behind schedule.

University Committees

Budget Advisory

The first meeting of Budget Advisory Committee was held on November 29th. I was unfortunately in class and unable to attend, but I will be calling in to the next meeting on December 13th and attending meetings going forward in the new year. I will bring further updates to council as this committee really gets going.

Finance, Audit, and Risk

The next meeting of Finance, Audit, and Risk has been set for February 24th and will be an initial meeting with the university's auditing firm.

Vote to Increase Membership Fees

Background

Over the course of my term to date, we have had significant conversation about increasing the Union's financial sustainability. When I presented the fall budget in September I added that I would be working to figure out the root causes of the deficit in our budget and begin financial planning for the coming year. These conversations have been taking place since before the summer, and the executive has put in a lot of work to understand the Union's financial issues. In the New Year, we hope to present all members of the KSU with an opportunity to vote through referendum on whether or not to increase the union membership dues.

Current Work and Moving Forward

Much of my day-to-day work consists of preparing detailed and understandable financial documents so that all members can be well informed when we make this decision. I have been working with the executive to draft various scenarios and predict what that would mean to the operations and services of the Union. I will be prioritizing this project and I look forward to consulting council and general members throughout this process. I'm excited to speak with all of you about our vision for the KSU's future. Stay tuned for further discussion of this question in the New Year.

Report of the External Vice-President (11.04.16)

King's Day of Action Debrief

Tuesday, November 22th, marked our last Fight the Fees meeting of 2016. We reminisced about the Day of Action, and talked about our next steps in continuing the fight for free education here at King's.

Regional Day of Action Debrief

Students from across the Halifax region gathered at Dalhousie on Thursday, November 24th, to talk about the Day of Action and the fight for free education on a larger scale. We learned about some of the largest "game players" in the fight for free education in Nova Scotia, and also ate some pizza!

Exam Care Packages

The Canadian Federation of Students – Nova Scotia came to table on our campus with some of our volunteers on Monday, November 28th. We gave out exam care packages, mental health related materials, and information about events happening around King's in the near future.

The Hunting Ground Film Screening & Discussion

On Monday, November 28th, we hosted a film screening of The Hunting Ground and discussion facilitated by Rebecca Stuckey of South House. We had a great turnout, and started some great conversations that will continue into the new year as we work towards a survivor-centric sexual assault policy that is created by students.

King's Students4Teachers

Tomorrow, (Monday, December 5th) there will be a poster making event held in the Wardroom from 1-2:30pm. We will be making posters in support of Nova Scotia teachers that we will bring to the Rally4Teachers at Grand Parade. This is a drop-in event! At 2:30pm, we will walk over as a group to the rally that starts at 3pm. The rally should be done by 4pm, but you may leave at any time. Hope to see you all there!

Good luck on any finals you have, and have a restful Winter break! You all deserve it! ♥

Report of the Communications Vice-President

Julia-Simone Rutgers

December 4th, 2016

Thank you to everyone for coming to our last council meeting of the term! I wanted to start by wishing everyone a successful exam season and a lovely and restful break!

Wardroom Panel

Much of my efforts since our last council meeting have been invested in planning and organizing a panel on racism, music, and creating equitable spaces on our campus. We are conscious of the fact that this is a very busy time of year for most people, and in light of this we have decided to host this event in second semester, as it will allow more time for us to organize a successful event, and more time to gather a large audience for the talk. The talk will now be taking place the week of January 16th, with a firm date to be determined in coordination with our speakers.

There are three speakers confirmed for the event: El Jones, a former poet laureate, activist, and lecturer at Dalhousie; Chike Jeffers, a philosophy professor at Dal; and Cory Bowles, former MC of hip hop group 'Hip Club Groove', and actor on *Trailer Park Boys*.

Stay tuned for further information and details about this event!

The 9 Days of ISIC

In the month of December, the KSU office is holding a '9 Days of ISIC' promotion for our ISIC cards! We are making ISIC cards at any time the office is open from now until December 9th instead of our usual once a week. I have been promoting this through social media, and Gina and I have been making ISIC cards for our members when Michaela is not in the office. I would encourage you all to tell people you know about this promotion!

Hunting Ground Screening

This past Monday I attended a screening of *The Hunting Ground*, organized by Gina and followed by a discussion led by Rebecca Stuckey from South House, which allowed us to start a conversation surrounding sexual assault policy and resources on our campus. I was so honoured to hear from members about their thoughts on our existing guidelines and their hopes for a future policy. I am so excited to be starting this work with the executive so that we can move towards having survivor-centered policy that is crafted with student input at every stage of its development.

Upcoming Vigils

This Tuesday, December 6th, is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The King's Feminist Collective will be holding a short vigil tonight at 7:30pm in the Red Room. The vigil will include poetry, speakers, and a reading of the names of the 14 women murdered in the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre. There will also be a vigil held on December 6th in front of the Central Library at 6pm. This vigil will also be in honour of the women murdered in the Ecole Polytechnique massacre, and will be followed by food, performances, and speakers in Paul O'Regan hall.

