

Report of the President
February 12th, 2017
Aidan McNally

Panel on Race + Music

On February 8th, around 60 King's student gathered in the Wardroom for a panel discussion about race and music featuring Chike Jeffers, El Jones and Corey Bowles. I am pleased that so many King's students were in attendance, where the speakers brought a variety of experience and were all brilliant. Ultimately, I am pleased that what began with so much backlash resulted into an event that was engaging and thought provoking, which all King's students in attendance engaged in with respect. As was mentioned in the introduction, this panel was a first step in an important conversation about race, our student run space and racism on campus. As I said in my introduction to the panel:

“ We hope that tonight and in the discussions that follow this panel that members of this community work together to continue our education so that we can build a strong community that challenges and resists racism at King's. Because Racism and other forms of oppression and discrimination are very real issues at King's and there's a lot of work to be done, but we look forward to doing that work together”

While the logistics of the panel were a group effort, I want to recognize the contribution and vision of Julia-Simone Rutgers who saw this event through from start until finish with an unbelievable amount of patience. For those who were unable to attend, the panel was recorded and can be found on the Facebook event. I am also very excited about setting precedent for this type of event in our bar space, which opens the door to similar events in the future.

Wardroom

The Panel left me with many remaining thoughts and a desire to find out how we can apply some of the concepts discussed to our bar space, which I know the Wardroom staff are eager to discuss. We will be having a debrief session with the staff to continue this important discussion and brainstorm about ensuring the Wardroom is a safer space. What has already come up is that the Wardroom staff are interested in creating community guidelines for the space, which we will be discussing over the next couple weeks.

Vice Presidential Search Committee

On February 2nd, the Board of Governors held a phone conference meeting and voted to accept the recommendation from the Vice-Presidential Search Committee to appoint Peter O'Brien as the next Vice-President of the College. Dr. O'Brien will begin his term as VP as of July 1st and I look forward to meeting with Dr. O'Brien and discussing student issues.

Lobby Week

This past week, delegates from the Canadian Federation of Students met with over 150 Members of Parliament and Senators in Ottawa as part of the CFS's National Lobby week. I would encourage Councillors to read through the lobby doc, which provides specific Federal policy recommendations about post-secondary education to decision makers, including one of the key pillars, access for Indigenous learners which still remains an unfulfilled Liberal campaign promise. This is one of the examples of how campaigning happens on a local, provincial and federal level, and is worth checking out. The report titled "From Piecemeal Reform to Universal Education" can be found at: <http://main.cfs-fcee.ca/>

Dodgeball

I am proud to say that the KSU Council Dodgeball team WON at their first game as part of the Big League dodgeball tournament that is being run by residence staff. We encourage all councillors to come play on February 18th at 9:30pm in the King's gym for our next game.

Standing Committee on Residence Life

I attended a meeting of the Standing Committee on Residence Life on Tuesday, January 31. This committee serves to advise the President and the Dean of Students of the University on matters relating to residence and student life at King's—from health and safety to residence staffing. This was the first meeting of the committee since last spring, when it oversaw the hiring of the dons and junior dons for this year's residence staff. Dean of Students Nick Hatt is hoping to have the committee meet more regularly this semester to gain a better understanding of the issues facing residence life; this should be especially helpful when the committee begins the residence hiring process again later this spring.

One of the things that the committee discussed was the Assistant Dean of Students position. This position, which is currently held by Kristian Rafuse, was created two years ago to offer administrative and logistical support to the Dean of Students. Currently the Assistant Dean works for 20 hours per week, which Dean Hatt maintains is simply not enough time to do the kind of support work that the position necessitates. Increasing the scope of the position would reduce the amount of on-call work that the Dean currently performs and would allow both the Dean and the Assistant Dean to take on larger projects in residence life. With this in mind, the committee voted to recommend that the Assistant Dean of Students become a full-time position in the 2017/2018 academic year. If approved the committee will then be tasked with drafting a new job description to encompass the job's additional duties.

The committee also discussed and recommended that the University adopt a framework for addressing high-risk alcohol use and harm reduction on university campuses that was put together by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. If this framework is to be adopted on this campus, there will certainly be a lot of work to do between students, Wardroom staff and residence staff to make sure the framework is adapted to our campus's specific situation. Furthermore, I think it's necessary to recognize that issues of alcohol harm reduction cannot be isolated from discussions about skyrocketing tuition fees or the dire need for better mental health services on campus.

KSU Button Maker

Remember when we were out of button making materials? The dog days are over! We have seen the light in the form of 500 circular mylar sheets! This means we can buttons once again! I encourage councillors or society executives to drop by the office if this is a service that they are interested in.

Report of the Financial Vice President

February 12th 2017

Zoë Brimacombe

Services

Menstrual Health Products

I have reached out to South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre about the potential for them to offer free menstrual health products on King's campus. Rebecca Stuckey, the Outreach Coordinator, was excited by this idea and has brought it to the SoHo board. I will be setting up a meeting with her this week to discuss logistics, and will report back as I get more details. South House has been looking for more ways to be involved with King's students, and I believe this would be a really excellent way for us to benefit from our relationship with this levied group.

Levied Groups

Winter Levy Delivery

Since last council I have delivered almost all cheques to our levied groups for the winter portions of their respective levies.

Watch Board of Publishers

I attended a meeting of the Watch BOP on Wednesday, February 8th, where we voted to release the winter levy and discussed some potential future plans for the magazine. The publisher reported that the executive wants to review current executive and staff positions to ensure that they are well-structured and fulfill the needs of the magazine. The board also discussed conducting a review of contributor and executive honoraria, which will likely begin after the next general meeting.

University Communication

Budget Advisory Committee

The BAC met on Thursday, February 2nd, to discuss budget allocations for increasing enrolment. We received reports from the registrar's office, advancement office, and school of journalism. There were no decisions made at this meeting, but the proposals and information presented will be helpful as we go forward.

The committee is planning on bringing the finalized budget to the June board meeting, but I raised concerns about students not being available after the end of term. I will continue to discuss this issue with Bonnie Sands, Kings' bursar.

I have also been in contact with Bonnie about student consultation on fees. I have recommended to her that there be discussion with students before these are finalized, particularly around residence room rates and increases to fees.

Report of the External Vice-President (11.02.2017)

Dalhousie Student Wellness Meeting

Last Monday, January 31st, I sat on the Dalhousie Student Wellness Group Meeting as a representative for King's students. This was the first time a King's student has attended a meeting, so it was mostly a meeting of learning for myself. It's really exciting to have a King's student representative on this committee because each King's student pays approximately \$70 a year to the Health & Wellness Fee that is shared with Dalhousie students. We mostly talked about the plans to improve mental health services and supports on campus (both at King's and at Dalhousie), and the new alcohol harm reduction guidelines.

National Lobby Week

I've been in Ottawa all week! It was a lot of fun! Myself and about 20 other students from across Canada met in Ottawa with the Canadian Federation of Students to lobby the government for free and accessible post-secondary education for all.

Our three overarching recommendations were:

1. Eliminate tuition fees for all students and restore core federal funding for post-secondary education
2. Honour Canada's treaty commitments on post-secondary education for Indigenous peoples
3. Increase funding for post-secondary research and scholarships

Over the week, I met with MPs from across Nova Scotia to talk about our recommendations. I learned so much and have never had as much faith in the possibility of free education than I do now. I am so energized to continue this work in Provincial Lobby Week here in Nova Scotia this week! ♥

Elections

Good luck to everyone running in the KSU Spring Elections!!

Special shout out to the four awesome people running for EVP—you are all so great and will always be EVPs in my heart no matter who the outcome ☺ LOTS OF LOVE

Report of the Communications Vice-President
Julia-Simone Rutgers
February 12th, 2017

Appreciation or Appropriation? Intersections of Race and Music

This past Wednesday, the Union held a panel titled *Appreciation or Appropriation? Intersections of Race and Music* in the Wardroom to begin to address some of the issues raised after the cancellation of WuTang night this past October. Much of my efforts in the past couple weeks have gone into the planning of this event. I'm happy to say that the panel was thought-provoking, entertaining, and very well-attended. Our speakers El, Chike, and Cory were all incredible and I am so grateful to the three of them for sharing their experiences with us. Tess from the Loaded Ladle did a fantastic job moderating, and we were so happy to have her join our panel. I want to say that I am so grateful to Aidan, Micheala, Jenn, and the Wardroom staff for all of the work they put into helping put this together.

An audio recording of the panel is available on our facebook page for anyone who was not able to attend.

This panel will hopefully be one of the first steps for the union in working to make our campus as safe and equitable as possible, particularly for marginalized groups. It was fantastic to see the impact and interest an event like this can have on our campus, and I am excited for future opportunities to use our bar space for these types of events in the future.

Speeches

Candidate speeches for the winter elections are happening this Monday in the Wardroom at 6:30pm! Come out to hear from all of the candidates running for spots in this election! There will be short speeches followed by a Q&A session for each position.