

Report from the March 23rd Meeting of the Board of Governors

Presented by Brennan McCracken, Julia-Simone Rutgers, Daniel Whitten

Tenure Track Appointments

The Board of Governors approved a motion to convert five sessional positions into tenure track appointments. This is a victory for faculty and students who have long been calling for this kind of action from the University. An investment in our teaching staff is recognition of the importance of investing in a quality education. It's the same kind of investment we're calling on the University to make when we call on them to reduce tuition fees and advocate for increased public funding.

In the fall of 2014, students came together in support of sessional faculty members whose contracts were at risk of not being renewed. King's students, their parents, alumni, and even prospective students wrote hundreds of letters to the University President demanding that the University invest in the people that teach us. In the last few years, our students' union has stood with faculty as they challenged the issue of precarious employment, and we joined them to voice concerns through events and at University decision-making bodies where we represent students. When universities look to make budget cuts to balance their bottom line as government funding continues to decrease, we often see institutions resort to an over-reliance on precarious employment, cuts to the quality of our education, and fee increases to make up the difference. This victory demonstrates that when we are united, we can win.

We will continue to advocate for a quality and accessible education for all students. We hope you'll join us in congratulating faculty and students as we prove again that student action works.

Capital Budget / Energy Efficiency

The Board of Governors approved capital spending for the upcoming year. While the full budget does not come to the Board until June, capital spending for the year is approved in March so that work can begin as soon as students leave campus at the end of the semester. Two capital spending items were approved:

1. \$1 375 000 to finance the University's energy efficiency project.
2. \$660 000 to finance other, smaller capital projects including repointing of the east wall of Alex Hall, rebuilding the Radical and Middle Bay chimneys, and reconstructing the Chapel soffits, gutters and cupola.

The approval of funding for the energy efficiency project is particularly exciting for students: we have long been calling on the university to work towards making our campus more sustainable, and the changes outlined in this project (such as upgrades to heating and lighting) will create energy savings for the University that will ultimately lead to long-term cost savings, with the costs offset within 11 years.

Enhanced Voluntary Early Retirement

The Board of Governors approved up to \$500 000 in funding for an Enhanced Voluntary Early Retirement program. This program, if approved, would allow some of King's more senior faculty members to begin retiring early by getting paid a full salary and benefits while teaching at 50% capacity for the first year before transitioning to a post-retirement contract of teaching at 50% capacity while being paid 50% for a maximum of two years. The University has outlined that this program would increase faculty renewal and result in short-term cost savings, and that \$500 000 represents the highest possible cost.

We spoke in support of faculty renewal but continue to advocate for less reliance on sessional faculty members.

UKC Teacher's Association Collective Agreement

The University Labour Management Committee and the UKC Teachers' Association (currently representing five FYP Fellows) have reached an agreement on a new contract to take effect retroactively to July 1, 2016, and stand until June 30, 2019.

The new agreement included 5 language clarifications, two letters of intent, and three financial changes. Most importantly are the provisions to increase parental leave amounts to 34 (in line with Service Canada), allow members to join the Public Service pension plan (PSSP)(including purchasing prior service), and a 1.75% salary increase per year of the contract.

There was some discussion about the balance of FYP teaching duties between UKCTA members and other King's faculty, discussions which will continue under the provisions of the first new Letter of Intent included in the contract.

As a union and as a student representatives, we proudly continue to stand in solidarity with all staff and faculty at our school and elsewhere in their efforts to secure their employment on fair terms. The Board voted to approve the proposed agreement.

Registrar's Report — Enrolment

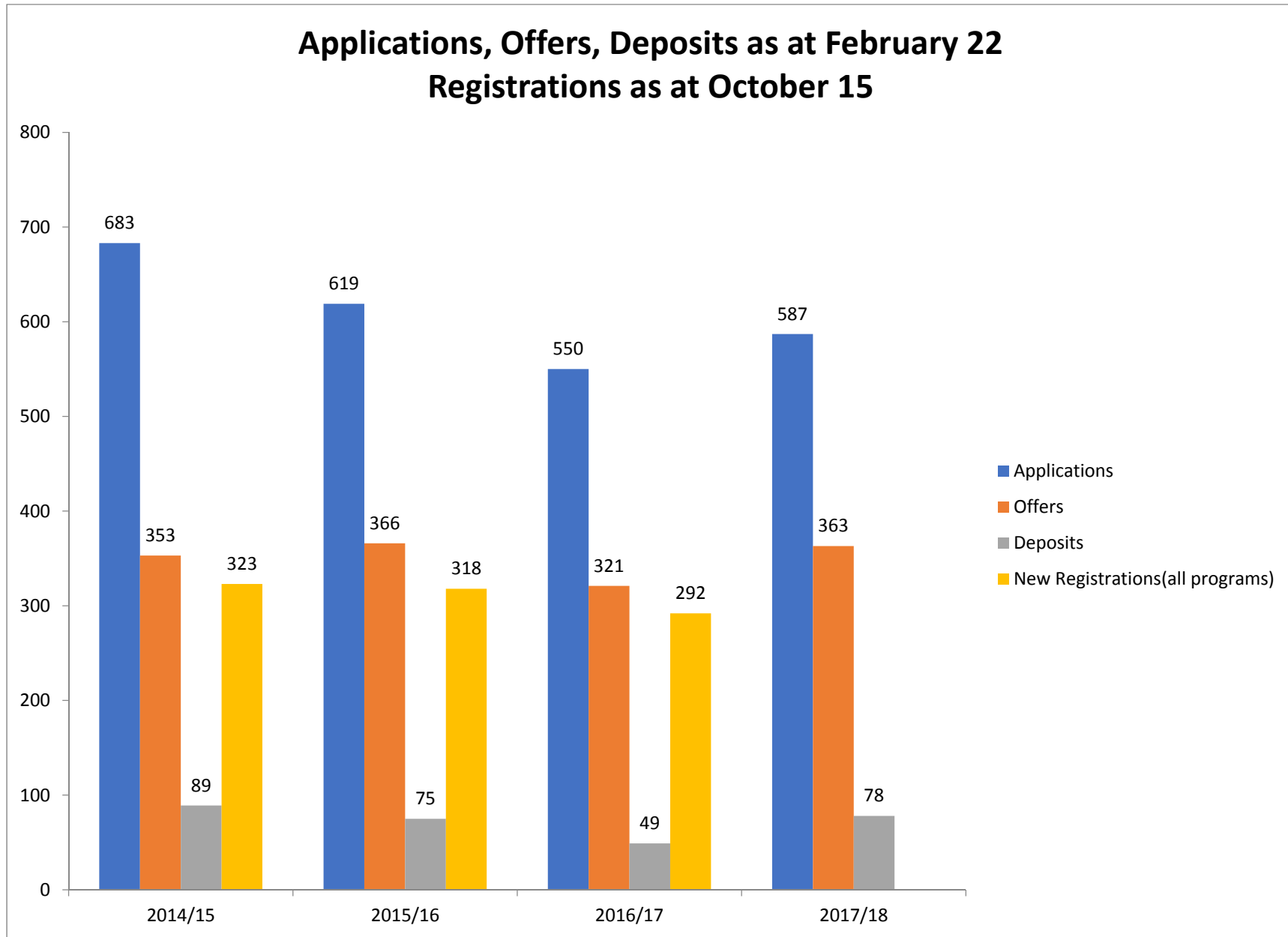
See appendix for related figures.

The Registrar presented the Board with updated numbers and projections on enrolment. There was good news, in that the number of both applications and offers are up so far in 2017-18 than at comparable times for 2016-17. As of February 22, 2017, King's has had 587 applications (421 FYP) and given out 363 (304) offers. This is compared to numbers at February 23, 2016 of 550 (379) and 321 (272), respectively. While still below the numbers for previous years, the Board was encouraged by the increase as a sign that new recruitment techniques are working. Students and others expressed cautious optimism, while still pushing for the administration to prioritize diversity and accessibility to education in recruitment efforts, including expanding the targeted recruitment efforts at traditional sources of King's applicants.

The registrar pointed us to an unexpected and notable shift in FYP enrolment numbers for 2017. While FYP applications have grown overall, FYP Arts applications actually continue to dwindle. What has buoyed the numbers for the upcoming year are unprecedented application levels for FYP Science and FYP Journalism. The Registrar confirmed that their office has been speaking more often with interested students about the benefits of an interdisciplinary approach to both science and journalism.

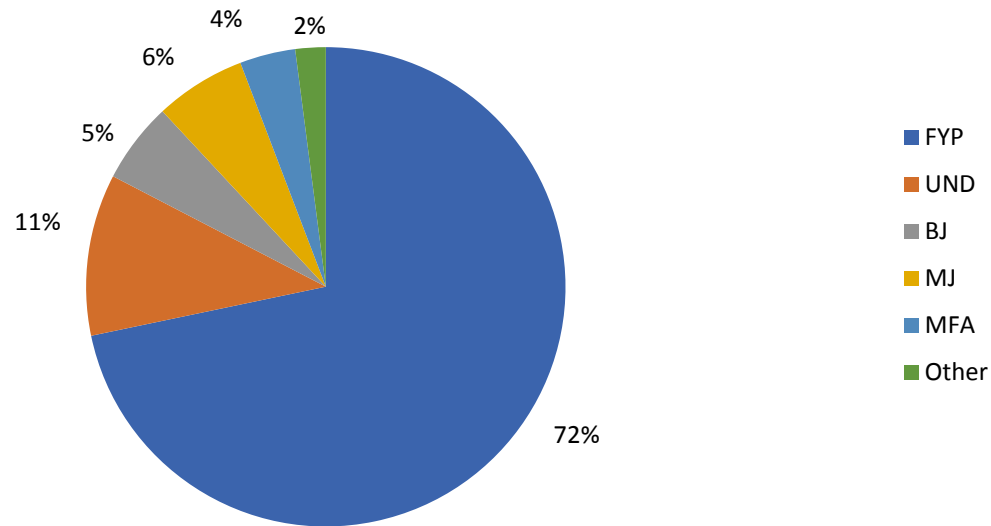
The Registrar also indicated that their office will be looking closely at retention numbers as the FYP 2016/17 class moves on, as this is the first year of a four-year retention plan. As with all registration issues, students continue to encourage the administration to focus on accessibility, especially with relation to affordability and mental health resources during these conversations.

The Registrar mentioned in their report that they are listening to student concerns about diversity in enrolment, and has indicated they are pursuing consultation with the student community. We will work to ensure that this consultation is comprehensive, meaningful and accessible to all students of colour who wish to participate. We will also continue to remind administrators that conversations about diversity at King's cannot stop at discussing the University's promotional materials; students know that high tuition fees are the number one barrier to accessing a post-secondary education, and this barrier disproportionately affects Black students, Indigenous students, and students of colour.



Applications					Offers				Deposits			
	24-Feb	23-Feb	22-Feb	21-Feb	24-Feb	23-Feb	22-Feb	21-Feb	24-Feb	23-Feb	22-Feb	21-Feb
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
FYP	495	454	379	421	287	319	272	304	83	63	45	68
UND	64	52	63	64	26	20	29	44	5	2	1	6
BJ	59	53	64	32	28	12	14	6	1	4	3	1
MJ	29	22	28	36	5	5	2	2	0	0	0	0
MFA	21	28	10	22	4	6	4	7	0	3	0	2
Other	15	10	6	12	3	4	0	0	0	3	0	1
Total	683	619	550	587	353	366	321	363	89	75	49	78

**Total Applications Received as at February 22
2017/18 Academic Year**



Registrar's Report: FYP Admissions Activity by Program 2014 to 2017

