

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Report of the President

Brennan McCracken

### **University Food Services Announcement**

On Thursday, March 30th, the University announced Chartwells as the successful proponent of its food services contract procurement process. The University is entering negotiations for a new food services contract with Chartwells this month.

As the University's contract with Sodexo, our current food service provider, expires on June 30th of this year, a Food Services Contract Renewal Committee has been meeting since July 7th, 2016 to solicit and evaluate bids from food service providers. I began sitting on this committee during my term as Student Life Vice-President and continued to sit as the student representative as I changed over into the position of President. The committee met a total of 29 times over nine months, during which time I compiled a comprehensive student, faculty and staff survey in collaboration with Dean of Students Nick Hatt and organized a student consultation as a part of an external review of our food service by the Canadian Colleges and Universities Food Services Association. I worked to ensure that the request for proposals (RFP) that the University posted publicly on January 13th, 2017 reflected students' interests and needs; that document made explicit the importance of sustainable, locally-sourced food to students and the independence of the Wardroom and the Galley from this food services contract. In collaboration with our Hospitalities Coordinator Jennifer Nowoselski, I pushed for an addendum that was issued on February 17th, 2017. This addendum clarified that the Wardroom holds first right of refusal for cash bar services on campus—a practice that is beneficial for a number of campus groups and is essential to protecting our liquor license.

I have worked diligently as the student representative on this committee to uphold the interests of students and protect the independence and sustainability of our two student-run businesses. By the time the committee had finished its work, however, I was left feeling dissatisfied with a procurement process that left little room for debate, discussion and reevaluation following the scoring of the proponents' bids and presentations. This process allowed Chartwells, an aggressive corporation that has shown interest in threatening the independence of the King's Galley, to be successful.

Throughout the tender process, Chartwells has demonstrated interest in partnering with the King's Galley, our students' union owned and operated business. While the University's RFP made explicit the Galley's independence from the University and its food service, student staff have reported seeing Chartwells executives in the Galley during the tender process. The Galley also currently exists without a space agreement with the University. The last agreement expired at the end of 2016, and the University has agreed to postpone negotiation of a new agreement until this summer. This means, however, that the Galley does not currently have any written legitimization of its independence or its existence in its current space.

In addition to concerns surrounding the relationship between this food services contract and the Galley, I also have concerns about the implications of this contract for the Wardroom and food service workers. Currently, the Wardroom is the first point of contact for any group seeking a cash bar service at their event on campus. This practice is not documented in the current

agreement between the Wardroom and the University but it is both beneficial to a number of campus groups and essential to ensuring our liquor license remains in good standing. We need to make sure that this practice of giving the Wardroom first right of refusal continues to happen under a new food services contract.

Additionally, in the student survey conducted last fall, an overwhelming number of students identified their close relationships with current food service staff as one of the things they value most about the food service in Prince Hall. There is not good precedent at King's for staff members being kept after a service contract is awarded to another company

In short: the University announced that it is entering negotiations with a corporation that has expressed interest in threatening the Galley's independence. In light of this decision, students have mobilized to ensure our voices are heard during the contract negotiation process.

Just minutes after the University released their official communication on March 30th, the KSU released a membership advisory outlining our concerns, posted a video announcement and other shareable media to our social media accounts, and began tabling in the Galley with copies of our advisory and a petition. The petition outlines our four demands for the University's administration as they enter negotiations with Chartwells. We're calling on the University to:

1. Negotiate a contract that maintains the Galley's independence.
2. Negotiate a contract that gives the Wardroom first right of refusal for bar services on campus.
3. Negotiate a contract that includes a comprehensive transition and staffing plan that upholds or increases the wages of current food service staff on campus.
4. Include the King's Students' Union President as a student representative in the contract negotiation process and commit to ongoing student representation on a University food services advisory committee.

We know that these four demands must be met to ensure that the University's new food services contract reflects the needs of students and ensures the continued success of the Wardroom and the Galley. Students have been united in our call: our video has been viewed over 5000 times and was shared by dozens of students, alumni and community organizations, and our petition is nearing 200 signatures after only two days of tabling.

### **Board of Governors**

I attended the March meeting of the University's Board of Governors on Thursday, March 23rd along with Aidan McNally, the outgoing KSU President, and our two new Board of Governors representatives, JS Rutgers and Daniel Whitten. We have compiled a separate report from that meeting that is attached to the end of this report.

## **KSU Spring General Meeting**

The KSU held our Spring General Meeting this past Thursday, March 30th. At this meeting we passed a draft budget for the upcoming year, approved a number of changes to the Union's Bylaws and Operations Policy as proposed by the Bylaw Review Committee, and elected students to a number of Union committees. In addition to presenting reports from each executive member, we also took time at this meeting to identify two collective goals for the year:

1. We hope to collaborate closely with the staff of our two student-run businesses, the Wardroom and the Galley, to organize more events in their space and educate students about the histories of these businesses.
2. We hope to put more pressure on the King's administration to publicly call on the provincial government to increase funding for post-secondary institutions.

I want to thank all students who came out to the meeting and engaged with the conversations we were having, and give special thanks and acknowledgement to Communications Vice-President Cassie Hayward and Financial Vice-President Zoë Brimacombe for their tireless work in the days leading up to the meeting. I look forward to our next General Meeting in the fall!

## **Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee**

The next meeting of the Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee is scheduled for this Monday, April 3rd. I will be bringing a report on student feedback regarding the March 1st Board of Governors community town hall to this meeting. While this town hall was organized in response to a demand for more openness and transparency from the Board, students were clear and unanimous in our response to this event: this town hall and other similar events or consultations are not adequate and do not replace open Board meetings. We will continue to advocate for open Board meetings throughout the upcoming year.

## **Orientation Week**

Following their hiring at our last council meeting, Gina Grattan and Hannah Sparwasser Soroka have started their work as the 2017 Orientation Week Coordinators! O-Week Leader applications are now open and will remain open until the end of day tomorrow, April 3rd. Interviews for leader positions will be held next weekend on April 8th and 9th. If you or anyone you know would love to welcome new students to campus, help run some rad events and dance the end of the summer away on the Library steps, please apply!

## **Report of the External Vice-President (04.02.17)**

Hey folks! I am excited to report on two extremely busy weeks!

## **Consent Coalition**

The Consent Coalition of the CFS-NS launched an open letter to Education Minister Kelly Regan calling for legislation on comprehensive sexual assault policies on all university

campuses. The letter is an address to the continuing failure to respond to student's requests, and to the issue of sexual violence that is faced in general. Tabling with materials and copies of the letter for students to sign happened this past week thanks to a number of amazing volunteers and the organising of the Consent Coalition team at King's. Tabling will continue for two more days this week as well - if you haven't signed a copy of the letter please do!

### **International Student Consultation**

On Monday March 27 there was an International Student Consultation held by CFS-NS here at King's. The consultation was directed towards International students to share their experiences and voice any concerns on education in Canada and in this province. A number of concerns were addressed at the consultation regarding access to resources and a lack of a sense of community among international students on campus. The discussion was extremely useful in providing some points of contact to start this discussion. Lianne and I will be looking into establishing some points of contact with the international student demographic, and explore options with them over the gathering of resources. A goal is to get some comprehensive resources into Orientation Week packages come the fall so that our new incoming students are a bit more supported in their arrival at King's. Any feedback is much sought after and appreciated, please get in touch with me at [evp@ksu.ca](mailto:evp@ksu.ca).

### **AGM**

The Executive has been planning for our Spring Annual General Meeting, which was held on Thursday March 30th at 7 pm. The meeting generated some important dialogue and engagement levels were high - a very successful AGM! Thank you to everyone who came out!

### **Food Services Announcement**

The Executive has been hard at work preparing for the announcement on University Food Services. This is an issue that is very close to students concerns, and we have been clear in our concerns and demands given a new food services provider on campus. Our student run business are the heart of our student life at King's and we are ready to take the necessary measures to protect the independence of these spaces. A Food Services staffing transition is a large concern of ours in light of the importance of the current staff to our community at King's. We are committed to advocating for an equitable and fair transition for the staff who have contributed to shaping the King's community for many years.

April 2, 2017

Report of the Student Life Vice-President  
Xiao

Lianne

### **Reporting on Sexual Assault: A Panel Discussion**

I'm happy to report that this panel discussion was a success! The speakers, Kayla Hounsell from CTV Atlantic News, Angela MacIvor from CBC Nova Scotia, and Frank Heimpel from the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, were eloquent and each one brought a level of expertise that was

invaluable. There was a good turnout from students and faculty and the event was received very well. Additionally, it was helpful and important for student journalists to interact with working journalists in the field. At the event, we set up a table with femifesto's Use the Right Words media guide, letters to Kelly Regan, Minister for Labour and Advanced Education, to pass competent legislation, and other materials. I'm also happy to report that all panelists collectively decided to donate their honoraria to Avalon Sexual Assault Centre. In the future, I would recommend partnering with the future journalism representative to hold another event like this.

K-Points /

### **Student and Society Appreciation Night / Awards**

I've been in the middle of setting up Student and Society Appreciation Night which will be taking place on April 6th. I've already received a number of K-point submissions, but I encourage everyone to spread the word about K-points to recognize student involvement and achievement. I also updated the K-point information sheet so that managers or supervisors of any student related business on campus receive 50 points and any students hired by those businesses receive 25 points to recognize the importance of these businesses and their close relationship with the Union. This information can be found outside the KSU office.

### **Racial Justice Symposium**

Yesterday, I attended a couple of workshops at the Racial Justice Symposium as well as the Keynote and panel that kicked off with Black Lives Matter Toronto on Friday. Panelists included Pascale Diverlus (BLMTO), Hashim Yussuf (BLMTO), Lynn Jones, El Jones, Isaac Saney and Jade Peek. On Saturday, I also attended the Indigenizing the Academy panel as well as the Student Union to BLM-TO: On Campus and Community Organizing Workshop. As a closed space to racialized students, these conversations were invaluable and furthered my understanding of the increased work that needs to be done within the Union.

### **CUBE Coordinator Search Committee**

After conversations with the CUBE Coordinator Search Committee, we've decided to re-open applications until April 3rd. This was due to a number of conversations surrounding wanting more applications and I am comfortable with our final decision.

### **Alex Fountain Memorial Lecture Committee**

The Alex Fountain Memorial Lecture was established in memory of Fred, Elizabeth, and Katharine Fountain's son and brother, Alex who entered King's in 2006, died in 2009, and graduated posthumously in 2010. With a gift that carries great respect for all youth, Alex's parents empowered the students at King's to annually select the speaker for the Alex Fountain April 2, 2017 Memorial Lecture. I will be sitting on the Alex Fountain Memorial Lecture Committee in the coming week to discuss potential upcoming speakers.

Council April 2nd

Zoë Brimacombe

## KSU Spring Budget

### *Consultation*

As I reported on at last council, I held events over the past two weeks to receive feedback and input on the KSU budget. After working with the executive and finance committee to create a preliminary draft, I presented that budget to council, and then at an information and feedback session on Monday, March 20th. I also made myself available in the Wardroom on March 22nd to answer questions and hear students' thoughts on the draft budget. The more formal feedback session was not well-attended, but I believe that holding it was still an important step in the budget process, and I recognize that this is a busy time for students. The afternoon in the wardroom did give me the opportunity to speak to more members, so for future years I will recommend doing even more tabling, and reaching out to members directly, one-on-one.

After these meetings, I incorporated feedback into a final draft, which I brought to Finance Committee for approval before posting it publicly one week before the general meeting.

### *General Meeting*

At the Spring General Meeting, I gave a presentation outlining this process, as well as introducing folks to the different sections of our budget and how they work. I then talked through the proposed budget line by line. After a few questions, and one amendment to move our \$0.88 surplus into the contingency line, the budget was adopted. I'm excited that this budget reverses many of the cuts that had to be made last year, and incorporates honoraria increases for executive and UHPs.

## Grad Week

### *Voting*

Nominations are now open for Valedictorian, Honorary Class President, and Grad Class Gift. The form to submit a nomination can be found on the Facebook page "King's Graduation Week 2017," and nominations close tonight, Sunday April 2nd, at midnight.

Valedictorian speeches will be tomorrow, Monday April 3rd, at 8pm in the Wardroom, and will be hosted by Nathalie Marsh and Josh Feldman! Voting will take place over the following week in the KSU office.

## University Committees

### *Budget Advisory Committee*

At the last BAC meeting, I raised concerns about the lack of advertising for the Community Consultation and the sense that concerns raised at that meeting would not be taken into serious consideration within the budget. We also discussed the scholarship and bursary budget. The

university continues to celebrate the scholarships and bursaries awarded each year without acknowledging that high cost/high aid systems are inefficient and the most effective way to increase access to post-secondary education is by reducing the upfront cost of tuition and fees. I also remain adamant on this committee that investing huge amounts of money into recruitment while continuing to increase tuition and leave current problems on campus unaddressed is irresponsible.

### *Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee*

While this committee was meant to have a phone meeting prior to the end of March, that has not happened. As far as I know, our next meeting will be in June, where the university's budget will be voted on prior to final approval from the board. Since I will not be in Halifax for June, I have coordinated with the committee to both call in *and* to have Brennan attend in-person. We will share only one vote between us, but I'm very glad that we will have multiple student voices in the room.

### Campaigns and Services

#### *Menstrual Health Products*

Marie and I worked together this week to finally get menstrual health products out and accessible to students! Pads, tampons, and reusable pads are all now available outside the KSU office, next to our menstrual health products. I'm so glad that this is a service we are not beginning to provide, and am so grateful to South House for providing all of these supplies.

#### *Food Service on Campus*

I want to say a huge thank you to all the students who have banded together in the past few days to sign our petition and share our video calling on our university to commit to workers' rights, student representation, and independence for the KSU's businesses in the contract they will be signing with Chartwells. We all know how important the Wardroom and the Galley are to our experiences on this campus, and it is exciting to see students immediately standing up for local, sustainable, student-run food.

### Report of the Communications Vice President (04.02.17)

#### **Day-to-day**

Over the past two weeks I have been working very hard to keep up with social media, emails, TWAKing and postering. The bulk of my work as CVP in the last two weeks have been concentrated on getting out as much as possible as soon as possible.

#### **General Meeting**

Over the past two weeks I have been advertising the General Meeting through social media and through postering. Through the past two weeks I have also been going over the bylaw amendments recommended by the bylaw committee. From these I made a condensed version which I read off of at the AGM. At the meeting I was able to move for this committee, with

Julia-Simone Rutgers, Hannah McDougall and For the general meeting I also made the agenda and picked up all the snacks.

### **TWAK Board**

I am excited to announce that I have gotten the TWAK board up over the last two weeks. I try to update this every Sunday to reflect the events going on within the week. What is put on the board is what I have gotten emails for, so if there is ever anything anyone wants added to the board please email me! I have heard a lot of positive feedback from students, which is very encouraging. I am hoping that throughout the summer and the beginning of next year I will be able to keep finding new ways to engage our membership through accessible information.

### **What's New in the KSU**

On the bulletin board closest to the Galley there is a section marked off, "What's new in the KSU". This section is hopefully going to expand over the summer, again with the goal to create accessible information for all students. This also allows for any society within the union to poster, creating an understandable, cohesive information center.

### **CRO Hiring**

The Chief Returning Officer Search Committee met this Saturday to interview our candidate. We came to the unanimous decision for a recommendation.