



King's Students' Union 2012-2013  
General Meeting 1  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
HMCS King's Wardroom

## **1.1 Call to Order**

Called to order at 7:12pm.

### **1.1.1 Ms. Stefanie Bliss acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on MicMaw territory**

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved.

## **1.2 Presentations**

### **1.3.1. Presentation from PowerShift**

Robin Tress: Conference called Powershift. There's a lot we can do about climate change and we need to confront it. The conference is has awareness workshops for real action on climate change. Climate change is massive flooding, people losing their homes, gender inequality - climate change makes it all worse. We need to address all these situations before we make climate change worse. People talk about simple solutions, but that's not good enough. Canada funds climate change for oil drilling and things like that, when that money could go towards university. There is a huge opportunity to end fossil fuels by 2015 but we need everyone to take part and how to make change collectively. People fight hard around common goals, and they can succeed. The funding from the KSU is extremely important because it'll help strengthen the community at King's as well as help PowerShift get where we want it to go.

Kate Toth: The reason it's important is we're already all about collective actions and opening up our thoughts to one another, and that's what is going to change the world. PowerShift is all about collective action, and this is a place where the King's community can get involved and help with global poverty, climate change, etc. by sending King's to PowerShift they will reach out to other communities and other organizations, they will not be going alone, they will come back with more knowledge to share with Halifax. It will show how serious our problems are, we will have this profound feeling of how this type of action can really accomplish big changes if we follow the news especially around Oct. 26-28<sup>th</sup>. Why do we need to be there? We can help the movement, it will helpful for PowerShift to have us there. We share

our concerns with each other and we could really enrich this gathering at a national level. It will open the king's community onto the wider climate change movement throughout the world.

Questions:

Yona Sienna: Wanted to ask if they had previously looked into other scholarships or bursaries...

Dave Etherington: When is the conference? How much, and when do people need to know

Robin Tress: Oct 26-29<sup>th</sup>, buses will be leaving Thursday and coming back Tuesday.

Nate Windsor: Is this a bunch of students getting together or how it affects the students or the province?

Robin Tress: They want to engage people who are living on the frontlines, like near coalmines. We will discuss what the future will look like and solid plan making and concrete action.

Drew Harrison: What are the actual subsidies and why

Kalee McGreggor Bales: 20 plus subsidies, reduction in taxes, it makes investments in equipment and the money goes to that equipment, it goes to buying really big machinery to rip apart the forest in Alberta, its going to reduce your taxes, to build bridges to these projects.

Drew Harrison: do we know the economic reproductions of eliminating these subsidies?

Kaylee McGreggor Bales: The liquidation of the subsidies would result in a 7 percent decrease. The actual impact on jobs like social justice and

Drew: How will that affect our gas prices?

Kate Toth: we import our gas, and gas we do make is sent to other places to be refined. It wouldn't have an insane affect.

Robin Tress: To directly attribute the gas prices to the subsidiaries

Zack Carbone: Is this conference purely education or is something going to happen?

Robin Tress: It starts on a Friday evening with keynote speakers, then sat and sun are largely workshop based where you will learn and Monday will be when you make plans and meet and talk with many business people.

Kate Toth: the weekend will attract media, and youth get it, why don't leaders?

Zack Carbone: is it purely education or will action be taken place?

Robin Tress: Nationwide movement to end national subsidies.

Grace Kennedy: Aside from the possible difference in outcome with subsidies, what can benefits can king's students get from it?

Robin Tress: communication with other people – so they can share their skills about the workshops they were in.

Alex Bryant: Where does funding come from before the conference?

Robin Tress: Sponsorship with organizing partners, conandion federation of students, the EAC, etc. We have some funds coming from places I am totally blanking on. We want ethical sources for our money.

[www.wearepowershift.ca](http://www.wearepowershift.ca)

Eric Balant: Where will students will be able to learn?

Robin: We don't have a lot of access to people across the country, or people in the north who are losing their homes, there are diff impacts all across the country. People who go to Ottawa can have first hand experience with it. Canada is so sparsely populated and its cool to get everyone together and discuss everyone's perspectives

Katherine Fleming: Are the students who attend PowerShift as well as pass on their info when they get here?

Kate Toth: I'm trying to get the administration to look at our infrastructure and being sustainable with environment NS, I hope that whoever goes to PowerShift will be invested in helping when we get back.

Robin: the idea is that everyone together at PS will help pass the bill in march 2013. We need to make it politically feasible. We want this to continue until we reach our goal.

Daniel Boltinsky: Are there other types of skills we can learn?

Robin: Communication and Media, communicating with the media, how we'll apply pressure, where do we go into the future, what we need to think

about to do that. How do we know there are 1.4 billion dollars in subsidies? How do we reach out to people in their respective communities? Those types of skills. People with skills and experience will be running the workshops. Emory Ackman: All of Canada was going to hear about this, how will this happen?

Robin Tress: the media, and there are speeches like this one.

Alex Mercer: Is there any movements are there anyways that people are looking at this in different ways?

Kaylee McGreggor Bales: the root cause of the climate change is the root cause of gender inequality and other issues like this, we want to see real solutions to this and other issues that address the same solution, and others that are working to build solutions to their problems that relate to this. To get rid of the subsidies we are fostering a more just society, we want to end the cozy relationship with the fossil fuels and the government.

Abigail Bryant: Youth Action Gathering, what's going to happen (the action side of it) is creating allies, and meeting people across Canada that you can come back and want to start new things in NS, and then spread that you want to start this out there. If that's just in NS, imagine across Canada

Daniel Feil: How strong is the involvement of PowerShift community in Dal and King's?

Robin Tress: 50 dedicated people.

*David Etherington motions to end the discussion.  
Braedon Jones seconded this.*

*Motion passes.*

### 1.3.2. Presentation from the Financial Vice President

Quinn Harrington: The total revenue that we take in before the health plan goes towards CKDU, the Galley, the Dal's Woman Center, WUSC, etc. we are left after these costs with the 115000 (?). This goes towards Union Hired Positions, and other positions. These were all voted for and will be voted on again. These costs we don't have wiggle room, and then we have soft costs for committees, and having pizza at meetings! Union operations - campaigns, events, sustainability, travel bursaries, etc. We hope to spend this money on these things but there is no set plan for this money. Non-relevant funding: CUBE, campus safety, awards.

We would not use money from these things. Relevant funding for this action: Sustainability (900), campaigns (1000), travel bursaries (1500) travel and conference (2500). We also have a surplus of 13000 dollars. This has been suggested to go into savings but we haven't further discussed it.

Questions:

Omri Haiven: I did number crunching for the last ten years of the union, so we know what kind of stability we have. Surplus category, contingency in case of a rainy day, investments (operations improvement). Operations Improvement was for things like funding for galley. ...

Quinn Harrington: there was a Guaranteed Investments C and we built it up so we can spend it on things like the galley. A Levy is something that has a specific source; we get the cheque and give it to another organization. Dues are what we are discussing right now.

Stefanie Bliss: A levy can be increased by a request prior to a council meeting.

*Yona Sienna moves to have a 2 minute speaking limit.  
Seconded by Sam Gleave.*

Katie Toth: how much did you give for people that wanted to go to other conferences?

Quinn Harrington: Usually about 100 dollars per person.

Zack Carbone: what is a typical amount of money?

Quinn Harrington: It's different for every society, and it's about 340 dollars per society.

Melissa Shaw: Were there any other ideas for the surplus?

*Challenge of the chair: David challenged to ruled the question above out of order.*

David Etherington: discussing points against the funding for PS, its not about what we could but not what we have spent the money.

Stefanie Bliss: I agree that it was problematic; it was related to the surplus money.

Stefanie's ruling stands.

Quinn Harrington: Discussions putting some in savings, spending parts on projects, ranging from putting it in savings, to let's get a hot tub! There have been suggestions to pursue different projects.

Yona Sienna: What kinds of projects?

Quinn Harrington: On campus events not seen as savings or investments.

Grace Kennedy: Money that has been labeled relevant, where has it traditionally gone?

Quinn Harrington: Budget line that goes to the Day of Action, and other student movements. Travel bursaries are hard and fast about giving people money to travel and bring useful things back to king's.

Braden Hellinger: how much is put away as an emergency?

Quinn Harrington: We have 2000 contingency fund and no savings beyond that. We have a 13000 surplus.

Zack Carbone: could you dip into the surplus as well?

Quinn Harrington: yes

*Jake Eiding motions to end the discussion  
Duly seconded*

*Motion passes.*

## **1.4 Action Items**

### 1.4.1 BIRT PowerShift receive \$2500 dollars in funding for the PowerShift 2012 conference.

*Moved by Mr. Omri Haiven  
Seconded by Mr. Noah White*

Omri Haiven: we talked about the financial implications but I want to talk about the other parts other than funding. We should talk about what we are investing into students who make up the union, who will graduate and go on as leaders as well. What can we do as a union to affect change as big as that? The galley canteen cost us 78000 and its very important, so king's can play a leading role, but we can also improve our democratic structure of our union.

Braeden Jones: did this go through the finance committee yet?

Stefanie Bliss: Finance has yet to be struck, but council decided that we are at a small number of people and we could not represent your voices well. There are time constraints, so we thought it would be most pertinent to bring it right to you. The financial VP reviews the applicants for the finance committee and then presents to council.

Braeden Jones: was there any recommendation or did it just come directly to council?

Omri Haiven: informally discussed without a figure attached. Highest decision-making body is binding, unless exec challenges it. The work was put in to get people to come here, if it weren't for this motion, but what we need to do is to get king's students involved and make sure the work done in Ottawa and here is applied to their community, Halifax, and ns. People will be able to vote, and people who will go to this conference will not discount their vote, it's a democratic conference and people decide what comes out of it. With 2500 dollars we can allow 12 people to go to the conference, to decide what students go to the conference, ask them to write a report, we could send 24 for half funding, and 50 for a quarter funding.

*Nick stark moves for a 26 minute moderate debate (2 minutes per person) with no amendments so we can talk about amendments but save them until the end.  
Seconded by Eyo Ewara*

*Motion passes.*

POO: we can't prevent you from amending this.

POI: Stefanie explains what an amendment is. I move to amend this to read this, and what not. The intention of the debate was to get the discussion going.

26 minute debate:

*David Etherington: proposes an amendment to motion BIRT the KSU supports the aims and goals of powershift. BIFERT the KSU supports giving up to \$2500 to send students t powershift. BIFERT the question of amount, distribution, and location of the funding be sent to finance committee, for a recommendation to be given to council for final decision.  
Seconded by Braedon Jones.*

*The amendment passes.*

Discussion:

David Etherington: to clear questions came up, do we support PS and support giving money? I think we need to give them a bigger contribution, like having a live feed or something. The discussion needs to be done in a more fair and equal manor. We can make a better-informed decision through finance committee, then it will go through councilors. The final thing I would say would be that this will go back to council and review it like we do with societies.

Yona Sienna: do we have speaking rights at the council meetings?

Jesse Laufer: Do we have voting rights?

Stefanie: No

Robin Tress: she thinks we should discuss now, because we have a live feed already, and we are here to answer all questions.

Braeden Jones: at this point we should make a decision now, but to Dave's amendment that is true and the finance committee should be able to make their decision first. Usually this should be brought to the FC first, and this was inappropriate.

Abigail Bryant: Isn't it partly our money and shouldn't we have a vote?

Stefanie Bliss: this is money you've spent as a king's students.

Zack Carbone: This is our money and this is why we should put towards it to that committee who are experienced.

Noah White: Why did we decide that this was a matter to be discussed now?

Stefanie Bliss: No I won't.

Mike Murphy: Question for Robin, why was it necessary to discuss it so fast? What was the urgency?

Robin Tress: It takes planning to go to Ottawa, they want to know sooner so that people can prepare themselves to go.

*Gabriel Goodman moves to two more questions and then vote on Dave's amendment.  
Seconded by Robert Darling*



*Motion passes.*

Grace Kennedy: proposed timeline for how long it will take to go through finance committee to confirm this?

Quinn Harrington: it would take in one council meeting.

Grace Kennedy: when will finance committee be decided?

Quinn Harrington: Formally appointed on Sunday.

Braeden Jones: 2500 dollars was apart of what would be for conference and travel, is this all about what we already have this money set aside for?

Quinn Harrington: no that money is for 3 reps to 2 cfs meetings.

*Dave votes for an extension on the speakers list to eight more people  
Seconded by Asher Goldstein*

*Motion defeated.*

*The amendment passes.*

*Omri Haiven: moves that it BIRT the money be allocated from the surplus of the KSU budget for the 2012-2013.*

Mike Murphy says Out of Order

*Mike Murphy motions BIFRT the question of amount and distribution and the source be a separate budget line.  
seconded Jesse Laufner*

Mike Murphy: recommends that it be rejected, technical questions can be answered by finance committee.

Quinn Harrington: What is the nature of the amendment? It is to give money to students to travel to the conference. There may be other conferences that we might want to save money for, because it is early in the year.

Asher Goldstein: motivates against this amendment, the language of surplus is misleading, the buffer no longer exists and we had a very large GIC if something went terribly wrong, but now we have locked up a lot of our money. The nature of our past funding, and this funding, is misleading because it is very different

from last years. We have very little money now. As a union, it should be at the discretion of cutting other sources of funding.

*Michaela Sam extends the discussion period by 10 minutes.  
Duly seconded*

*Motion passes.*

David Etherington calls to question: wishes to end the discussion on the amendment here.

Question has been called.

*Amendment: BIFRT the source be a separate budget line in the budget, out of the surplus.  
Amendment defeated.*

Gabriel Goodman: Are there other avenues of funding outside of the KSU?

Robin Tress: by the KSU giving 2500 enabled the students to go and also throws the KSU's name in the mix which is good. It would take a significant chunk out of the time.

Zack Carbone: It only costs 210 dollars for reg. and travel?

Robin Tress: Yes

*Zack: motions to amend that it says BIRT PowerShift receive \$420 dollars in funding for the PowerShift 2012 conference.  
Seconded by Emory Ackman*

Zack Carbone: this can have similar result by sending two, and to spend so much money on a early event is hasty.

Omri Haiven: We have a surplus, we can use it. Over the past ten years we have examples of contingency funding. By funding powershift we aren't taking any money away from any other societies or anything.

Erin Millan: government subsidies ending – taking money from the whole population and going to a key point, and that is what we are doing right now.  
Alex Bryant: should we give them 2500, will there be enough people to justify this sum of money? I like 420 dollars because it will be used.

Quinn Harrington: accomplishes the goals of what we want to do for powershift, and also saves our surplus money.

Time of discussion has ended.

*Asher Goldstein motions to extend the time to 7.5 minutes more.*

*Seconded by Noah White.*

*Motion defeated.*

*Ammendment: BIRT PowerShift receive \$420 dollars in funding for the PowerShift 2012 conference.*

*Ammendment approved.*

*BIRT the KSU supports the aims and goals of powershift. BIFRT the KSU supports givingup to \$420 to send students to PowerShift. BIFRT the question of amount, distribution, and location of the funding be sent to finance committee, for a recommendation to be given to council for final decision.*

*Motion passes.*

1.6 Discussion Item added: Resigning of the Sodexo contract

*David Etherington motions to refer to the next general meeting that is held*

*Seconded by Michaela Sam*

*Referred.*

## **1.7 Adjournment**

*Quinn Harrington motions to adjourn*

*Seconded by Danial Fiel*

*Adjourned*