



Voting members present:

President – Levi Clarkson
Financial Vice President – Nick Harris
Student Life Vice President - Mason Carter
External Vice President – Hope Moon
Communications Vice President – Isabella MacKay
Board of Governors Representative – Aideen Reynolds
Board of Governors Representative – Rylan Pembroke
Member at Large – Victoria Gibbs
Arts Representative – Nathan Ferguson
Science Representative – Ridge Sieb
Residence Representative – Kailen Crosson

Non-voting members present:

Chair – Chris Pearse
Scribe – Michael Greenlaw
The Watch – Alexander Johnson

Regrets:

Day Student Representative – Emma Oliver
First Year Representative – *Vacant*

Voting members absent:

Journalism Representative – Stephen Wentzell

Meeting was called to order at 17:04 ADT

The Chair recognised that the meeting was taking place on unceded Mi'kmaq territory.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was adopted with unanimous consent.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 18th, 2020.

The minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Victoria Gibbs said that she attended councillor training and went to the online FASS forum.

Rylan Pembroke said that they had a group chat regarding bringing student testimony forward to Board of Governors meetings as an effective way to communicate the needs of students in the Zoom world we are in. This was an initiative which came from a goal setting workshop at councillor training.

Aideen Reynolds said that she attended councillor training and attended the food justice panel which was exceptional, and she learned a lot. Aideen said that she was grateful for now knowing



the statistics and that they are shocking and upsetting. Aideen is grateful to take this new information to the next BOG meeting.

Nathan Ferguson said that he attended councillor training which was really productive, and he is looking forward to continuing what was discussed at the goal setting workshop.

Ridge Sieb said that Kailen Crosson is planning on setting up a meeting with Tim and Katie which he will attend to have two people present and to collaborate on ideas. Ridge also said that he attended councillor training which was good.

Kailen Crosson said that she is trying to set up meeting with the Dean of Residents and the Assistant Dean of Residents to talk about the course of the year, especially regarding Covid and how to work together to make stuff happen. Kailen said that it is difficult to set up a meeting but they are working on it, Tim Lade, the Assistant Dean of Residence, is helping with that. Kailen said that she had attended councillor training. Also, she is personally signed up with the Chapel to cook meals for schools in the community. Kailen recommends, if students are looking for something to do, to go to the Chapel website because they are always looking for more people.

Nathan Ferguson asked if Kailen Crosson is doing this through the YouthNet program.

Kailen Crosson responded that she is 98% sure that yes, it is the YouthNet program.

Nathan Ferguson said that he worked at YouthNet this summer and can help out if anyone has any questions.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee (Attached)

4.1 Report of the President

Presented by Levi Clarkson

4.2 Report of the Student Life Vice President

Presented by Mason Carter

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice President

Presented by Nick Harris

4.4 Report of the External Vice President

Presented by Hope Moon

Hope Moon added that they are meeting with Roberta Barker, Assistant Dean Academic of the Dalhousie Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Nick Harris about FASS regarding their short-term and long-term actions about resources to help students with online learning.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice President

Presented by Isabella MacKay

Levi Clarkson added regarding councillors not receiving the login information for their councillor email account, they were under the impression that Rebecca had sent out the



information last week. Levi just messaged her, and councillors should receive access via their personal emails the following morning. Levi advised councillors to check their junk email folder.

The Chair said that up until now, council has been referring to the newly struck committee as an “ad-hoc” committee but it is actually a “special” committee struck by the membership and not by executives. Ad-hoc committees are ones struck by the executives.

5. Action Items

No Action Items.

6. New business

6.1 DFA Strike Discussion

Levi Clarkson said that if the strike had not been announced, there would have been an action item brought forward to council to talk about what the KSU's stance on the strike would be and how they would support students during such time. There had been a few students asking about it and Levi said that it would be talked about at council, so this is the time for that. The reason there was not a motion put forward is because no one is sure how far in the future this issue will come up again and it may not happen at all. There is now a media black-out so there will be no future updates. Levi said that they are not sure what more there would be to discuss regarding the DFA strike since it is not happening. If folks have questions, now is a good time to ask.

Nathan Ferguson said that every student he has spoken with has expressed disappointment as they were looking for a break. He says that students were let down by a lack of a break. Nathan said that we are in a bad state of affairs if students are looking for a strike to take a break from schooling.

Kailen Crosson asked if the strike was going to be by Dal faculty and what the strike was going to be about.

Isabella MacKay said that the Dal faculty had their salaries cut and they have been doing a lot more work than a typical year in doing more work they don't generally do, for example, video editing, learning new recording technology, and buying said technology. Isabella said that there is indeed a student mental health crisis as well as faculty mental health crisis.

Levi Clarkson said that the strike mandate was for pensions. The Dal administration proposed weird changes to their pensions that would go beyond this year, which is strange considering the Dal administration had been worried about dropping enrollment and that affecting funding. As it turns out, enrollment had not gone down, so they continued to push to have the pension changed which didn't make sense with the financial situation of the university. The Dal faculty voted around 90% in favour of striking over this specific topic. Dal admin knew that this was something the faculty would strike over. Regarding the effect for Kings faculty, we can't confirm officially until Kings University puts out a statement about what faculty would do. They would first have to have consultation with all the different King's faculty departments. Because EMSP CSP and HOST fall under the FASS at Dalhousie, it would be



very likely that they would also be striking. That would most likely happen in journalism except 4th year classes because Dal students can take all J-school courses except 4th year courses. The only courses that could go unaffected are FYP and the J-school 4th year course.

Aideen Reynolds wanted to think about students wanting a break. Aideen said that students in her classes who were against the strike were saying that they pay so much money for their education and there is no education happening. Faculty are not trained for what they are doing right now. Aideen said they are entitled to fair and just treatment.

Kailen Crosson want to talk more about the student mental health crisis. On residence specifically, online-burnout is a big thing. Kailen noticed that without the schedule of classes, and especially since people are living on their own for the first time, the habits people have formed are falling apart. In residence, time means nothing; there will be people asleep and awake at all hours. No one is on a strict schedule and a lot of people are not handling it well, students are waiting for the next bad thing to happen. Kailen said that there should be more focus on helping students get stuff back together, discuss empathy on behalf of the faculty, because no one is functioning at a good level. School is becoming an after-thought.

Levi Clarkson said that the conversation is shifting gears a little but it's still in the veins of the strike. They said that the exec had been talking about the student mental health crisis that has been clearly highlighted by the FASS open forum. The exec has been thinking in terms of short-term and long-term goals: short-term being about two weeks as reading week is concerning. There will be essentially no difference during reading week as Brightspace will not shut down, there will be an added isolating element, and for students whose only contact is with their professor, they will be alone with their thoughts which could be a problem if their thoughts are of negative things. The break could add stress, rather than taking the load off. A couple of the execs met with Jordan Roberts to discuss what they could be doing, for support. Jordan is here, is a resource, and has resources. Levi said that Hope Moon and Nick Harris are meeting with FASS to discuss student feedback from the forum and that some of them need to be addressed immediately. FASS had a meeting with faculty where most faculty attended where similar concerns arose. Levi said that this up-coming Monday there will be a Kings directors meeting. Levi said that they discussed this heavily in their meeting with Peter O'Brien and Katie, they were explicit in bringing up the dangers and concerns around the mental health crisis. Long-term goals which were discussed with Jordan include getting in touch with DSU to meet about returning the pass/ill option for courses. When the pandemic first happen, students could have pass/ill option for courses (for compassionate reasons). If a student's grade was lower than a certain percentage, they could take an "ill" grade instead of a failing grade which means they could also get a passing grade with no letter percentage. The university did not continue to offer this in the Summer and Fall semester, but students are wanting to see that return to acknowledge there is a student mental health crisis. What happens at Dal directly affects Kings students, but we have much more limited power to influence Dal administration. So, they are meeting with the DSU to collaborate and see what they can do together. This is at the top of their priority for the next couple weeks until the situation becomes barrable. Levi is happy to be having this conversation. Please reach out if anyone has any ideas.



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday November 1, 2020, 17:00 ADT,

Online via Zoom

Kailen Crosson asked what the best way was to survey students at large. She has been having individual discussions with students on residence, but it is hard to find a platform to talk to everybody. Kailen said that the biggest issue happening on residence is how to mitigate reasonable expectations with respect to social distancing. She said that social distancing and not breaking the Atlantic Bubble is super important, but the University should be receptive to students creating their own social bubbles. Kailen said that students are having trouble with social distancing because it is unrealistic to expect students to stay six feet apart from everyone and not have any human contact especially for students that are not going home for the breaks and will be here for eight months. Kailen is asking for advice from some more experienced people in how to present this because she does not want to undermine Covid-safety, but she also thinks that if we don't figure out a better way of doing this, we are going to have a massive student mental health crisis. She said that a lot of people are transitioning from living at home where during the pandemic they were with families, or they had bubbles with their friends to coming to Kings where the expectation placed upon them is to sit in separate chairs that are separated far apart which is sustainable for certain events but not for a living situation.

Levi Clarkson said that Kailen Crosson had already reached out to Katie and Tim to set up a meeting and they find it difficult to set up a meeting with Katie because Katie has a lot going on right now. Levi suggested that someone from the exec could contact Katie to express that this is an urgent meeting and to meet sooner. Levi said that Tim should have availability. Levi said that Ian Wagschal, the Director of Facilities, is great to work with regarding what can and cannot happen; Levi will send his email to Kailen. The quickest way to organise and get a meeting scheduled with those people is to have an agenda and email it to them. Levi suggested cc-ing someone on the exec so that they see it too.

Nathan Ferguson asked if Kings has a position or policy about residence students socializing off campus or if it only exists on campus.

Mason Carter said that in a meeting with Katie and Tim, they said that they don't have the ability to tell students what to do off campus. Their message is to be safe, be smart, and wear a mask. They understand that getting off campus is a necessity to student health.

Kailen Crosson said she has been told they don't encourage socializing off campus, but they can't stop it. Kailen said that winter is coming and that socializing indoors is not an option for gatherings. Residence students don't want to gather in groups to make others uncomfortable, but they also want to maintain their mental health.

Victoria Gibbs asked if residence students can have one person over, if it is on the basis of an honor system to remain socially distant. Victoria asked if residence students can play board games. Victoria said that a first-year Dal student she was speaking with who lives on campus, who's residence experience is different than the one that she had, is spending a lot of time off campus with her friends looking for parties and looking for places that are arguably less safe than staying in bubbles on campus.

Levi Clarkson said that this conversation is highlighting that if we have so much to say, residence students will have a lot to say, sending an email to Tim, Katie, and Ian with



students' concerns is urgent in order to set up a meeting. Levi said that these are urgent things that need to be discussed because winter is coming, reading week is coming so maybe there needs to be a conversation with residence students from their don about what do they need to see to make residence life bearable for them. Levi said that the question of having another survey would not be helpful because students are not going to want to fill that out. In residence there is a capacity to gather in common areas so dons can have that conversation with students to express the urgency of such a conversation that needs to happen. From the conversation had with Peter and Katie, Katie does seem to be aware of things that need to change. The FASS forum has brought up things that need to happen academically but there has not been a lot for what needs to happen on a residence level; there have been no open resident forums although the same concerns may exist for a resident student perspective. Levi thanked everyone for their comments and that it is great to talk with other folks, like the elected residence representative, and everyone else, because it is difficult to see people in person this year. Levi said that it is great to have conversations like these in such spaces.

Kailen Crosson answered Victoria Gibbs 's question that they are supposed to socially distance if they have someone else in their room.

6.2 South House Bursaries

Rylan Pembroke said that the South House Fall Bursaries are still happening (which range from \$50 to \$250 dollars) open to anyone in the community and that applications will close on Thursday, November 5th at 23:59. Their Facebook event is: <https://fb.me/e/3teA7H8xk>

Nick Harris moved to adjourn
Seconded by Kailen Crosson

Meeting adjourned at 18:08 ADT.