



Voting members present:

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

Non-voting members present:

Chair – Chris Pearse
Scribe – Michael Greenlaw
The Watch – David Shuman
The Watch – Dylan Taylor

Voting members absent:

First Year Representative – Kaitlyn MacNeil

Meeting was called to order at 17:04 AST

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 22nd, 2020.

Levi Clarkson moved to amended that on page 1, "Isabella MacKay said they are there is no reason" be reworded to say, "Isabella MacKay said that there is no reason..." to make grammatical sense.

Seconded by Aideen Reynolds

Amendment was adopted by unanimous consent.

Levi Clarkson moved to amended that on page 3, "Kailen Crosson responded that [...] access" be reworded to "Kailen Crosson responded that [...] excess"

Seconded by Rylan Pembroke

Levi Clarkson moved to amended to strike the sentence on page 4, "If you are reading this sentence, please ask to have this sentence removed from the minutes during the approval of the



minutes at the December 6th council meeting- also, thank you for reading the minutes, I put a lot of time and effort into them 😊, enjoy the rest.”
Seconded by Isabella MacKay

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Aideen Reynolds reported that she and Rylan Pembroke have started drafting the response to the president EDI report. She is currently in Calgary and has had the opportunity to shout swear words at anti-maskers from a car.

Rylan Pembroke reported that they are also drafting the response. Their goal is to release the response in the week after the upcoming BOG meeting (which is on December 10th). Rylan attended a meeting with Stephen Wentzell and Bill Lahey seeking updates on specific parts of the EDI report. The meeting was informative and formulated the way Aideen and Rylan will approach the upcoming BOG meeting.

Ridge Sieb reported that has attempted to reach out to the science society to get in on one of their meetings. Ridge now has their email to contact them.

Nathan Ferguson reported that he has been negotiating finals. He has reached out to Meredith Bullock, copresident of the DSC, looking to meet about a couple different things. Nathan spoke with a professor who is on the hiring committee but forgot to ask them if the information is confidential and is unsure about if he can disclose information. Nathan attended the Academic Committee meeting today which was productive. Nathan has looked at the “protection for renters”, which came out on November 27th – which is a retroactive legislation about rent increase from last year’s rent cycle to this year’s rent cycle—which applies to the lease he is on right now. He thinks that is was really good to have some guidance about how to handle that and bring it up with his landlord to save money this year. Nathan thinks that a lot of students could save a lot of money if they were able to take advantage of that protection and would be willing to share his information and experience talking to the tenancy board with whoever would put that message out. But that would be something that students could definitely benefit from if it applies to them.

Victoria Gibbs reported that she has started looking into interactive things to do online that have been successful in other schools so that she can organise an event in the Winter semester to connect first year students with upper year students.

Stephen Wentzell reported that he and Rylan Pembroke met with Bill Lahey earlier this week regarding Bill Lahey’s call this summer in response to advocacy from students and the Student’s Union to make meaningful change in regard to equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus. Bill had written a report about this subject; their meeting was about any updates on the subject. Stephen took some notes during the meeting; Bill let Stephen know that his report was endorsed by the board and that they will be keeping it as a board document; they are making a new recommendation for a FYP appointment; they are going through a new hiring process with the journalism faculty right now to hire a new staff member, and; they have created the Sylvia Hamilton Award which is a scholarship for African-Nova Scotians looking to come to Kings. Bill



talked about building better awareness among African-Nova Scotians student and parents and with the scholarships associated with the school; he also talked about building awareness campaigns for scholarships, especially at Halifax West High School—which is the most diverse high school East of Montreal. As far as diversity hiring, the board has provisionally admitted two more hires which means there are going to be four diversity hires at Kings, but Bill has said that we need more than four diversity hires to make meaningful change. Kings is hosting a conference next October on the subject of universities studying enslavement. Bill also talked about the renaming of the Halliburton Room. Stephen also got in touch with Julie Green from the Bursar's Office to chat about streamlining the bursary process for journalism students. The Bursar's Office is compiling a list from the last five years of journalism students who've received bursaries to try and increase that number. Stephen was in touch with Kheira, the Editor and Chief of The Watch, to gage what kind of needs they have going forward. He wanted to advocate for The Watch as a journalism student. Kheira is going to chat with her executive and figure out what their needs are going to be, how they can work more with the KSU, and to see if they can help those folks as they transition to an online-only platform. Finally, Stephen is planning to meet with Tim Curry, the Director of the Journalism School, about adding to the curriculum material safety and security for journalists regarding the large amount of violence and attacks on press freedom this year.

Michael Greenlaw asked about the Sylvia Hamilton award.

Stephen Wentzell responded that Sylvia Hamilton was a professor at Kings and was a fabulous documentary film maker.

Rylan Pembroke added that from the meeting with Bill Lahey, something that was talked about near the end was that he, and the administration, are interested, on the EDI front and in general, in more student engagement. Rylan thanked Stephen for his advocacy regarding the conversations that started in the summer. Rylan reiterated that if any councillors wanted to meet with board officials, him and Aideen Reynolds can help with setting that up.

Emma Oliver reported that the DSS is progressing through their financial change over, which is progress! She said that their Fall GM is coming up and Emma can write up a budget. The GM will be on Thursday Dec 10th, at 6pm Halifax Time; the Zoom link will be coming up this week via email to all of the day students. The DSS has some constitutional amendments to make, also, they have some extra money and will be discussing what to do with that. Stay tuned for the Zoom link.

Kailen Crosson reported that residence is staying open for Winter break so she has had multiple meetings with Tim, the Assistant Dean of Students. She had a meeting about a mandatory meal plan at the price point of \$490 for students who are staying over the break. There has been a lot of student concern over what happened during quarantine where some students got sick from the meals, vegetarians received meat, some have missed meals entirely, and the price point was changed halfway through quarantine. She has been having discussions about how to make sure that does not happen again.

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

Kailen Crosson added that Prince Hall is also closed for dine-in but is available for take-out only.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice President

Presented by Nick Harris

4.4 Report of the External Vice President

Presented by Hope Moon

Nathan Ferguson asked if Hope Moon has access to the Divest Dal Google Drive.

Hope Moon responded that she is in the Facebook group, and has quite a few friends involved in the organizing a few years ago and reached out to them last year when she was on the sub-committee.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice President

Presented by Isabella MacKay

5. Action Items

5.1 BIRT the Scribe be paid \$300 for their work this semester

Moved by Levi Clarkson

Seconded by Nick Harris

Levi Clarkson said that the KSU loves to pay the Union Hired Position people and especially people who are doing hard work. They said that Michael Greenlaw has been doing great work as Scribe and wants to pay Michael for the first semester as there will be \$300 to follow at the end of next semester.

Stephen Wentzell asked how the honoraria compares to the past year or two.

Levi Clarkson responded that they are same and have been for the past while

Motion passed.

The Chair ceded his position to Nick Harris owing to a conflict of interest on the following motion.

5.2 BIRT the Chair be paid \$425 for their work this semester.

Moved by Levi Clarkson

Seconded by Mason Carter

Levi Clarkson said that we love Chris Pearse and all the work he has been doing as Chair, especially with the added responsibilities this semester; Chairing the Special Committee. Levi



said that we love paying folks for the work that they do and would love to pay Chris the first half of his honorarium.

Motion passed.

Nick Harris ceded the Chair position to Chris Pearse.

5.3 BIRT Day Students Society be ratified as a Tier II society for the 2020/2021 academic year.

Moved by Mason Carter

Seconded by Rylan Pembroke

Mason Carter said that the DSS has been going for quite some time, though no one seems to know precisely how long! Countless generations of execs have been working to provide support, services, and programming to off-campus King's students for many years, and—though things are VERY different—they are still working hard to make as many Kings students as possible feel as supported as possible. Of course, that looks different for everyone, so if you have any support needs/programming ideas/etc. that you think they could help you with, don't hesitate to reach out to them!

Emma Oliver added that the reason for the lateness in submitting the package is because they wanted to wait for the DSS election and byelection to have all the exec's names on the ratification package.

David Shuman added that they are super nice. That is all, just such nice people.

Mason Carter questioned if Emma Oliver can vote for this motion.

The Chair responded that, yes, Emma Oliver can vote because she serves as the representative for the Day Student Society. The only time a conflict of interest occurs is when there is someone voting on an action item who would benefit financially. For example, Chris Pearse ceded the position of Chair because it involved paying the position. Another example is if someone is being paid because of a society action item.

David Shuman asked if the DSS president gets paid.

Emma Oliver responded that the entire DSS executive gets paid in honorariums from their own funds. They have a budget and receive a levy that is separate from KSU finances.

The Chair added that it would not be a concern in this vote because the vote is not to pay the DSS executive, it is to ratify the society. It would only be a conflict of interest if there was a vote to pay Emma Oliver. These matters operate internal to the DSS, so it is not a concern for this vote.

Motion passed.

6. New business



Michael Greenlaw said that the SRI's are available and due in the upcoming week. Given the nature of this semester, he urged councillors to fill them out as the feedback is very valuable for professors and upper level folks. He urged councillors to reach out to their constituents to get students to fill them out.

David Shuman asked if there was something with the Dal senate where professors don't get their SRIs.

Isabella MacKay responded that this year, SRIs go straight to professors and will not be used for hiring purposes by higher level administration. This decision was made by the Dalhousie senate do not unduly penalise professors for the extremely difficult position they have been put into this year.

*David Shumen moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Nick Harris*

Meeting adjourned at 18:05 AST.