



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
Science Representative – Ridge Sieb
Residence Representative – Kailen Crosson
Day Student Representative – Emma Oliver
First Year Representative – Kaitlyn MacNeil

Non-voting members present:

Chair – Chris Pearse
Scribe – Michael Greenlaw
The Watch – David Shuman
General Member – Simon Hansen
General Member – McKenna Blucher-Bunting
General Member – Timmy Mann
General Member – Luke Baumgart
General Member – Christian Laroche
General Member – Maryn Matheson
General Member – Jessica Casey
General Member – Joanna Daley
General Member – Gabe Smith
General Member – Josh Godden
General Member – Emma Harvey
General Member – Elliot Boutilier-Anderson
General Member – Helena Lewis

Regrets:

Arts Representative – Nathan Ferguson

Meeting was called to order at 17:02 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 December 6th, 2020.

*Levi Clarkson moved to amended that on page 3, “Kira” be spelt “Kheira”.
Amendment passed with unanimous consent.*



The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Victoria Gibbs reported that she is going to be talking with Mason Carter to talk about ideas connecting upper year students and first year students. Victoria said that she cannot guarantee that there will be a live blog because for the today's meeting because there seems to be a glitch on the website. She will do her best, but there might be some sections missing.

Emma Oliver reported that the DSS had their Fall General Meeting shortly after the last council meeting. Despite the fact they had to hustle to meet their quorum for 25 minutes, it ended up being a super cute meeting. They managed to approve their budget and also agreed to donate \$1500 of their levy to local charities/organisations. In order to do that, Emma posted a link in the Zoom chat for people to submit suggestions for the recipient(s) of the \$1500.

David Shuman asked if he can I share the link.

Emma Oliver responded yes, for sure.

Kailen Crosson reported that she has been receiving complaints from students regarding the meal plan during winter break and how it was handled by the university. Kailen is organising a meeting with Levi Clarkson, Dean of Students Katie Merwin and Assistant Dean of Students Tim Lade to talk about the circumstances of the winter break.

Levi Clarkson thanked Kailen Crosson for taking the initiative to organize a meeting Time Lade, Katie Merwin, themselves, and Mason Carter and also for fielding the questions and concerns. Levi said that Kailen is doing a great job!

Kaitlyn MacNeil reported that she is thinking about coming up with an activity for first year students during the February break. Kaitlyn is looking for suggestions from other first year students if there is anything they are hoping to see.

Aideen Reynolds reported that she and Rylan Pembroke were just at a Galley staff meeting, which has some exciting stuff coming. Aideen and Ry recently finished their response to University President Bill Lahey's EDI report. Aideen said that there were a lot of good things in the report, and a lot of fun holes, so they were excited and had a really good time writing their report. Aideen said that the report will be made accessible to councillors in New Business

Levi Clarkson thanked Aideen Reynolds and Rylan Pembroke for writing this response to the EDI report. Levi explained that University President Bill Lahey was tasked at the Board of Governors Meeting to submit a review into Equity Diversity and Inclusion initiatives in the college to make them composed into one document. Bill then asked for different constituencies at the college to respond to his report, so the BOG representatives were tasked to write this review. Levi asked if everyone had access to the documents as the EDI report will be brought up in new business for feedback.



Isabella MacKay asked if people would like the link to view the response in chat now or later.

David Shuman responded now.

Isabella MacKay said that the document will be shared now and later during New Business as a view-only document.

Ridge Sieb reported that he has not heard back from Dalhousie Science Society yet and has sent them another email. Ridge also attended the anti-oppression workshop with the other councillors. Ridge stayed in residence over the break and was approached with concerns and reported them to Kailen Crosson.

Stephen Wentzell reported that he attended the anti-oppression workshop with the other councillors, and it was fabulous, something we can all benefit from regularly. Stephen is hoping to hear back from The Watch executives shortly to discuss how the KSU can support them more as this calendar year ends and the next approaches. Stephen is meeting with Tim Currie about safety and security for journalists which is very important after events from this week. Stephen is also waiting to hear back from the Registrar's Office for bursary statistics for J-school students.

The Chair read Nathan Ferguson's report as he was unable to attend this meeting: Nathan said that over the break, he has spoken with two students who wanted to express their dissatisfaction with not being able to turn their video off for certain classes. Their main issue was with having to see themselves on screen, which was very difficult for their social anxiety. Nathan directed them both to the Dal IT team as he knows there is a way on some video-conferencing sites (Zoom is one) to keep your camera on while hiding your video feed on your own screen. Maybe the KSU could share this technique for hiding one's own video over the Instagram account as he is sure this appearance anxiety is fairly widespread. Otherwise, Nathan has just been in touch with the presidents of the Kings department societies as they plan their journals and conferences. They haven't yet scheduled a meeting for January, but they will meet in the next two weeks. Nathan also has not heard back from Meredith Bullock on the DSC yet, so he may reach out to her again this week. Finally, Nathan has been in touch with the Directors of CSP and HOST about meeting this month to catch up and have a preliminary conversation about curriculum changes but has not scheduled anything yet. Nathan would be happy to collaborate with any other councillors or exec members at these meetings, so anyone can send Nathan an email if they're interested at

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

Mason Carter added that they are disclosing to council, for transparency reasons, that they have moved into residence for financial and mental health reasons and in their conversations with Assistant Dean of Students Tim Lade, he mentioned to Mason, in relation to their financial issues, that the position of Junior Don is available. If appointed, Mason would receive a free room, and free food which would be very helpful for them right now. Mason is



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

currently undergoing an application process, but an interview has not been set, yet, but it may be coming up this week. Mason noted that there are conflicts between the position of Student Life Vice President and Jr. Don, and the KSU executive have been talking about how Mason both not endanger their position as a potential employee of the university, and also still uphold their position as an elected representative on the KSU which would mean that if there were conversations if things in residence were not going as well, Mason would not be present for those meetings. Those details would be fully fleshed out if Mason gets this job. Mason invites any questions or concerns to be expressed at council or through email as Mason wants to make this as easy-going and understandable for everyone as possible.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice President

Presented by Nick Harris

4.4 Report of the External Vice President

Presented by Hope Moon

Christian Laroche asked that if at the Student-Government Health Update meeting if the self-isolation off campus requirements for \$1500 at the Weston Hotel was included in the words "self-isolation off campus" or if that was repealed.

Levi Clarkson responded that students on the table were asking government about these unfair asks for international students to have to isolate at hotels and shoulder the costs for that. Some universities were telling students that the government was instructing them to implement these protocols. The government responded that that was not what they were instructing universities to do, rather, international students *can* self-isolate in their own homes, but the universities have to commit a higher level of monitoring them. In meetings with Dean of Students Katie Merwin and Assistant Dean of Students Tim Lade, the KSU has been asking about what kind of financial assistance is going to be available for international students and were told that the university would be shouldering half of the cost and the other half the student could apply to have a bursary cover the cost. It is their understanding that international students at Kings can indeed have the full cost of that covered through emergency financial assistance. This is a bigger issue at larger universities that have more of an international student population and are not having that conveyed to their international students that bursary funding could be available.

Victoria Gibbs asked how international students at universities were they notified of this; emails through the schools privately? Victoria said that she got the impression that they were being forced to quarantine in hotels and even if they had their own place off campus, they were strongly discouraged from isolating there.

Levi Clarkson responded that it is their understanding that international students have been primarily individually contacted by their institutions, and their institutions have been providing them protocols that they are saying has been instructed by the government to fulfil, for example, quarantining in a hotel. Although, the government is saying, "no, that's not the only option." Levi said that it is the case at King's where international students were asked to quarantine in hotels, as was the case at Dalhousie. Levi believes that both Dalhousie and



Kings are shouldering half of the cost through the International Student Center. Levi is unsure of other financial assistance offered through other universities.

Luke Baumgart said that he was under the impression that the government allowed university to screw students over with this hotel business. Luke asked if this is a fair way to put it.

Levi Clarkson responded yes.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice President

Presented by Isabella MacKay

5. Action Items

No action items

6. New business

- 6.1 BIRT this body contacts all union members affected and instructs them to withhold payment from the University, while this body Demands that University administration absolve this payment.

Moved by Luke Baumgart

Seconded by David Shuman

Luke Baumgart said he wants to discuss an organisation of boycott to recover the \$490 that was so unscrupulously extracted from union members by Chartwells via the University during the Christmas break. Luke said that in December, those staying in residence were made aware that they were going to be settled with a surprise holiday cost of \$490 via the mandatory meal plan. Luke said that it has been made clear that Assistant Dean of Students Tim Lade is not going to do anything as he has been saying it is out of his hands. Therefore, they believe it is time to take more drastic action of contacting affected students and instructing them to withhold payment. In addition, demanding that the University absolve this unfairly incurred cost.

Simon Hansen said he speaks in favor of this motion.

Kailen Crosson added some context for this motion. She said that the issue that she is meeting with Dean of Students Katie Merwin and Assistant Dean of Students Tim Lade about is that students were notified around the middle of November that the students in residence were going to have to figure out their own meals and that there would be no meal plan provided during the winter break. Then, around early December, students were notified that there would be a meal plan without cost, and then later, they were notified that that cost would be about \$500, three weeks before the meal plan would be instituted. Furthermore, that meal plan would be mandatory.

Aideen Reynolds asked that if someone involved could answer her questions. Aideen asked if the boycott was limited exclusively to the withholding of costs. Aideen asked if they knew why the cost was incurred. Aideen said that the origin of the Galley was stated after all of the students boycotted Sodexo for months. Aideen was wondering if it would be beneficial to ask students who were not charged to boycott in solidarity.



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

Luke Baumgart responded that they had discussed involving other students, but their most immediate matter is the deadline for payments is coming up soon. He said that this couple thousand-dollar payment is a very good point of leverage that they can use. Luke said that they could definitely escalate the boycott as they have multiple grievances, outside of the problem that the fees were foisted upon them once travel decisions had been made. As they saw during their quarantine period, they were given horrible food at an exorbitant price which turned out to be \$35/day. For two meals a day, they could get exemplary for that cost. This price was placed upon them because Chartwells has a contract with the school and were essentially saying, "until we find some way through to revisit this contract, we want the University to incur this cost." Luke said that it was not incurred fairly upon them and they are the intermediary, that the responsibility falls upon them. Luke said that they demand that the most vulnerable people with the least capital ask the university to incur this cost at this time.

Victoria Gibbs asked if they are asking that all residence students withhold the payment of the meal plan for second semester from the University until they have agreed to pay back or resolve the situation of forcing students to pay for the meal plan over the winter break.

Luke Baumgart responded that they were talking about withholding the \$490 for the 20-30 students who were there but that is a wonderful idea. Luke said that they can't believe they didn't think of that. He said that they can definitely do that if the KSU votes to take action.

Levi Clarkson said that they are excited that folks are organising around this, despite it coming from a rather unfortunate circumstance. Levi apologized to all the folks in residence who have had to incur this cost a deal with these things. Levi thanked Kailen Crosson and Ridge Sieb for bringing these things to the KSU's attention as well as all the general members present for bringing these concerns forward. Levi said that there is a KSU history of boycotting Sodexo, which was previously the meal provider on campus. The end result of the Sodexo boycott was that the KSU and students started their own business as their own café on campus. Levi said that there is already this legacy of this kind of organizing and that it is exciting to be able to continue this together. Levi spoke about the language of this motion because technically the KSU cannot instruct members to do anything, but they can inform members that they are creating a boycott-like campaign that members can participate in without instructing them to withhold funds.

Levi Clarkson moved to amend that the motion reads: "BIRT that the Union contacts all students in residence affected by the unexpected charges implemented over the winter break and informs them of the movement to boycott all payments to the University until the University absolves this payment."

Seconded by Ridge Sieb

Hope Moon asked if they would like to contact exclusively residence students or all union members.

Victoria Gibbs responded and said while it is the most important to contact members of residence, because it is them that will be withholding the meal plan cost, it could be



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

beneficial to contact all members of the union. All students should be equally aware of what's happening so that day students can offer their support to the residence students.

Isabella MacKay said that she agrees with contacting all union members. She is wondering if the motion's wording should say 'contact students in residence as well as promote the campaign to the rest of the general students via social media,' or to add a clause that says, "we will be reaching out directly to students- apart from whom would be potentially withholding those fees- to join the campaign via their usual channels," which could be a good intermediary between the options being discussed.

Emma Oliver added that she speaks in favor of contacting all of the union members rather than just students in residence. Personally, Emma had no idea that this was going on. She said that it must be super crappy for those residence students who were on campus for the break. She thinks that everyone should be informed.

Levi Clarkson said that it seems that the general will of the room is that they are in favour of the original motion, but the wording needs to be finessed around. They are thinking that the wording currently does not necessarily mandate the KSU to strike a campaign and that is the key. Levi said that a campaign would be for the membership of the union to engage with. Levi suggested that meeting members workshop what they want the motion to read and then vote down the original motion in order to bring forward another motion that reflects the striking of a campaign as well as all of the things being discussed. They said that it seems that the consensus is to have a boycott, but the wording of the motion could be confusing to understand because of Robert's Rules of Order. Levi suggested taking a couple minutes to workshop what the motion should read.

The Chair said that he would be willing to facilitate that discussion as that could save a lot of voting and bureaucracy.

Hope Moon said that she is visualising what the motion could be on a Google Doc. She said that this could be one of those things that could have a couple clauses to the motion. Hope recommended that she share her screen with a Google Document of the motion and then they could work it through by the Chair directing speakers while Hope types what people are saying. She said that because she thinks that this motion mandates many words, with multiple clauses, Hope thinks that this method might be easier for folks.

Rylan Pembroke said that they want to make sure that the folks that brought this original motion forward are okay with the direction that council is moving in. Ry said that they don't want this conversation to be veered off from the original track from the folks who actually experienced the stuff with Chartwells. Ry said that he would love to hear other people's comments.

Luke Baumgart responded that they are fine as long as they get their money back and the university pays for it. Luke said that they have put forward this motion because they believe that this will get their money back. Luke said that there has been a pattern of abuse as a first year student living in residence, there have been multiple moments where they have been



quite upset and they want to make it clear that they want their money back and that they are not asking; they are demanding.

Simon Hansen said that by doing some rudimentary math with this whole situation, is that they have a little over \$8,000 almost \$9,000 in payments that they have not yet given to the university. If people have already payed, of course it would be less. Simon said that this is a high amount to withhold that they immediately have this leverage over them. He said that extending this as a sympathetic strike to not just the students on residence is a phenomenal idea.

Aideen Reynolds said that she wanted to express their personal solidarity with them. They also wanted to communicate the legacy of student organization that has happened on Kings campus. Aideen thanked them for continuing that legacy. They let them know that council will do their best to help them meet their demands and that if they communicate with the whole student body, then they know personally that there will be a lot of solidarity. Upper year students will organize with them and will help them to the best of their ability.

Christian Laroche asked Luke Baumgart or any other residence student- because Christian was living on residence last semester as a Junior Don and he knows that the meal plan was a large grievance, as well as the Junior Don of the Angels Roost reported that students living in the residence building that were not Alex Hall were told to move to Alex Hall for the duration of the holiday break, which was scheduled for the middle of the examination period where there was no opportunity to contest, students were told that they had to pack their bags and move- if this is also something that can be addressed now, or if it is a separate issue. Christian said that he knows some students were expecting some sort of compensation for having to move from their usual home to Alex Hall for two weeks.

Luke Baumgart responded that this is a different issue because they are specifically asking, through the boycott to refund the meal plan. He said that he can't talk on the issue of being moved to Alex Hall as he already lives there. Luke said that he thinks that this is a separate grievance.

Kailen Crosson said that there is a number of issues alongside the cost of the meal plan that should probably be addressed in the boycott; including the Angels Roost because it was sent by the university at a very similar time and had much the same issue of having no student representation in the decision, very little notice, and absolutely no reception to feedback. Kailen said that these all fall under a very similar issue where there was very little consideration for the actual impact on students in the process of what happened.

Simon Hansen said that as far as he is concerned, there have been numerous abuses that have happened on campus this year that the council might not be aware of including the forcible relocation of students into Alex Hall, the winter break meal plan, and the quarantine meal plan. Simon said not to say anything about the Covid guidelines that are very explicit for the university, and are not congruent with the wider community, there have been a lot of things that have come down the pipeline, particularly on residence- not to say any of these issues are important- he said he thinks that the winter break meal plan is a very specific, tangible goal that they can achieve within a very short period of time if they withhold their payments, but



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

this is a wider systemic issue as well. This boycott is something very specific for people to hone-in and focus on as a clear example of the more overarching examples that have been happening on campus.

Levi Clarkson said that they want to make folks aware of the fact that there is a possibility that the university does not bend to their demands, students would then be in a position, if they withheld fees, to be paying late fees; which could be a reality. They said that this should not stop the boycott from happening, but to keep this reality in the back of their minds as this is a tangible financial implication for students. On the of a lot of residence issues going on, in Levi's view, it makes the most sense focus this boycott on the tangible demand of reimbursing students for the winter meal plan expenses and then one of their other demands could be to have Dean of Students Katie Merwin, Assistant Dean of Students Tim Lade, and University President Bill Lahey meet with residence students who stayed over the winter break to talk about all the different concerns that are happening in residence- a townhall of sorts- to ask questions, and make demands in order to have a forum to voice their concerns.

David Shuman was wondering if there was anything that the union could call on the university to do to mitigate that. David said that at the start of the pandemic, the university got rid of late fees for a number of months. David asked if this is something that the union could call on the university to do.

Levi Clarkson asked for clarification if David Shuman asked in general, or for the boycott.

David Shuman responded he meant for the boycott.

Hope Moon responded that her and Nick Harris are in the process of transcribing these ideas to create a motion that reflects that. Hope said that they have made an optional clause that the campaign that the union would begin on behalf of the first years would have to address this potential for incurring late fees regardless of the results of the campaign. Hope said that they can put that into the campaign that they put forward.

Victoria Gibbs responded to David Shuman and said that she is not sure what the university's official policy is regarding late fees. She does know several people that paid their student tuition late at different points in the past year and a half and they have all told Victoria that it was a few weeks that went by after the due date when they received an email from the university that warned them that if they do not pay within a few days, then x amount of late fees will be charged. She said if that is the university's policy then she is letting the residence students know that they would have to have a buffer window from what she understands there may be a few weeks to a month before there are late fees. She is not sure if that was the university being lenient or if that was the official policy.

Luke Baumgart asked if there was a way to perhaps set up a fund to mitigate some of the late fee penalty as an assurance to students that if the boycott fails, there would be some kind of backup.

Nick Harris responded that in the Budget Advisory Committee this coming Tuesday, he could try and leverage parts of this conversation in regard to these late fees and this \$400 fee. He said he can tie it to the emergency Covid relief funding which is a point of discussion during



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

the meeting. If it is welcome by students, Nick said that he would be more than happy to advocate that a significant portion of their Covid relief funding should be going to these students given the exasperating circumstances that everyone has experienced here. He said that this is a legitimate grievance, that this needs to be dealt with, and if this is the way to get it done, he is more than happy to try.

Maryn Matheson said that as a residence student, she thinks that it is important that this be communicated to all students, especially now because of Covid, the day students that wouldn't be on campus anyway, the student body is disjointed. As it was mentioned earlier, some people were not aware of the issues that are so pressing to people on residence, in particular the people who had to stay over the winter break. Maryn said that she has the luxury of living in Nova Scotia, so despite a lot of disjointed communication in terms of what was going to happen with the meal plan, the move to Alex Hall, Maryn had the luxury of being able to drive home at the end of the day and stay at her parents' house for two weeks whereas a lot of students did not both the inability to quickly book a plane ticket, whether it was money-related or Covid-related. She said that the same thing that happened with the quarantine and the hiking of this, students didn't really have an option and weren't given a timeline in order to present an option for themselves. Maryn said that she thinks that it is important that this be communicated to the entire student body as much as it is important that the individuals that are most affected with having to pay the fees are given direct explanation as to what this means and what it could result if they held back fees. Maryn said that the issue itself should be introduced and shown to the entire student body in a clear manner that people have access to.

Kailen Crosson said that she is also commenting on behalf of Emma Harvey because her microphone is not working. Kailen said that there is a group of people on residence that deserve extra compensation because physically could not eat the meals that they were provided because of allergies. A couple of students were provided with meals that they had allergens or intolerances to despite this being communicated about, they were still given meals that they could not eat. Kailen read Emma's statement that, "when they were acknowledged to have been wrong, it was not corrected, and I was told that the original instructions would be honored rather than modified to reflect my actual dietary restrictions." Kailen said that it is important to recognise that even within the people who were staying over winter break, there should be people who should be compensated even more so because they were given food that they could not eat and could have potentially endangered them which was not acknowledged.

Luke Baumgart added that also, they did not want to eat the food because it was nasty. Apart from people who could not physically eat the food- it was not food that you would choose to eat- Luke said that he did opt to cook his own food.

Simon Hansen said that it was brought to his attention that the idea for this particular boycott would be to ask residence students who were on campus during the holiday meal plan who make have taken photos of their meals to send that along to be used by this campaign because the meals were *that bad*. Particularly near the beginning, they were uneatable.



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

The Chair said that before they move on, when talking about language for the motion, it does not have to be credibly specific about what the campaign is going to look like. They can include the boycott details, but when they are discussing a motion, it can be just on starting the campaign with a view of the campaign. A lot of the things being discussed can be implemented as part of the campaign but does not need to be implemented in the language of the motion. There is always room to include more in the campaign- just so the motion is not a page long.

Gabe Smith said that there were multiple times when the food was unsustainable. For some of their vegetable options, there was just corn and a small amount of salad. Gabe said that the human body does not digest corn, the only reason we eat it is for taste- and there wasn't even any taste.

Christian Laroche said that he wrote down everything that has happen while it was happening between November and January which can be useful for providing a timeline.

Maryn Matheson said that speaking on behalf of friends who that she knows who were stuck on campus and had to eat the food, in addition to the meals that were being offered by Chartwells- which were uneatable- they were also paying for food in addition to paying for the meal plan because they could not eat the food they were being given. So, on top of the \$490, students were typically spending \$150-\$200 of their own money to order food that they could eat that was sustainable, or they just were not eating. Maryn said that they have a friend that they did not eat for a day or two because they were not being given food that was actually eatable or nutritious.

Aideen Reynolds said that earlier on, people were talking about various demands that they could make. If the Union were to release a statement, especially if it addresses the university, it would probably include all of the concerns, which would make sense. Aideen said that regarding the specifics of the food quality, they lived in residence last year under very different conditions, but the nutrition of the food has been a problem for a really long time. Not to diminish the horrible tests they were put through, but to validate that Chartwells, as a for-profit company, stands to benefit from treating students poorly. The act of endangerment in terms of the allergy problem is especially relevant and can be used by publishing that type of thing and make it a centerpiece because there would be legal liability there. Aideen said that Hope Moon is a specialist in terms of organising and getting people motivated to do things so for this action and in future actions, if students were to run in to more problems, Hope is a good person to talk to.

Emma Harvey said that no ingredients were given, and we were not made aware of what our food was. This creates various issues with a lack of transparency and is quite frankly ableist in that many students need access to nutritional info. Chartwells generally has nutritional info accessible through their website, and disregarding this over break showed clear apathy towards the mental and physical wellness of the afflicted students.

Levi Clarkson said they are thinking about how this conversation is not going to end at council and that hopefully those present will be involved in the campaign. Levi wanted to



make sure that before people left the meeting that they would put add their emails for further contact.

Hope Moon said that she and Nick Harris have been working on a preliminary draft motion on what they could vote on. She said that it would be good to stay in contact with folks to have more meetings like these as council meetings can be a difficult space to explain everything that has happened and there must be much more than what has already been said. This would be valuable to define the demands of the campaign and how to move forward. Hope shared her screen to share the draft motion. The motion on her screen read:

“Whereas students in residence who remained in Residence over Winter 20/21 break were forced to buy into a mandatory meal plan at the cost \$490; and

“Whereas these students who remained were only informed of this mandatory meal plan after travel decisions for the break had been made, without any consultation measures; and

“Whereas students in residence who remained in residence were forcibly relocated to a different residence in the midst of exam week, exacerbating stress amidst a student mental health crisis; and

“Whereas these meals were not to standards of quality or quantity and not respectful of dietary or allergy concerns, even after continued complaint; and

“Whereas due to the quality of the meals, students were forced to incur additional costs if they decided to source food from elsewhere; therefore

“BIRT the Union establish a campaign to boycott paying University and Residence fees until the University absorbs the fees currently being incurred by students in residence who stayed in Residence over Winter Break; and

“BIFRT this campaign addresses the potential ramifications of university late fees by specifically demanding that regardless of the results of the campaign, students will not be charged late fees.

“BIFRT the Union promote this campaign to the greater Union (in consultation with the residence community) via social media, and other channels, in order to make the wider campus community aware of the injustices experienced by members in residence; and

“BIFRT the Union organizes a virtual town hall meeting with the Dean of Students, the Assistant Dean of Residence, Vice-President and President to address the demands of residence students.”

Point of Information - Aideen Reynolds said that the motion should say “students in residence” and not “first years in residence” because it is not just first years who live in residence.



Point of Information – Michael Greenlaw asked if the current debate is still about the motion to amend, or if it has moved onto something different.

The Chair responded that this current discussion is under the debate to amend the original motion.

Point of Information – David Shuman asked if council could have an informal vote on the optional piece including all attending?

The Chair responded that not officially. What council would need to do is that someone from council would have to call to question, council would have to reject the amendment on the condition that everyone agrees with the new language. He said that it is hard to call a vote for something when not everyone present can officially vote on something. He said that this would be the kind of thing that would be easier if it was not taking place in a council meeting, but unfortunately, it is. The Chair reminded councillors that if someone were to call to question, they would still have to have a majority vote agree to call to question.

Maryn Matheson asked if the council have an additional meeting next Sunday at 17:00, or whatever works, as this issue is revolving around January 15th as that is when fees are due for students, that way they could see any result that comes from the boycott and to discuss matters further with council as a whole. Maryn is unsure if that needs to come up as an additional motion.

The Chair responded that when the motion says that there is going to be a campaign, that campaign can take any sort of structure. So, a meeting could be involved within the campaign without it being a new motion.

Levi Clarkson said that it does not have to be a formal council meeting. Right now, council is looking to vote on a motion around the boycott, if that motion passes, they could have organising meetings about the campaign where all councillors can be invited and all of the members currently present can come to have an informal meeting that doesn't have to be a council meeting; because they will not be voting on anything, it would just be a discussion about what the campaign would look like. Levi said that they presumed that this timeline would have to go by quite quickly and the executives would have to be working on this and having preliminary social media strategies ready for students to review in the next couple of days. A couple of meeting before the 15th look likely, if they want to advertise the boycott in advance to when fees are due.

Rylan Pembroke said that they have a general concern about the structures that are involved in this boycott. Ry said that he worked at Chartwell's about a year and a half ago, which was a great time. Ry said that they want to make sure that they understand where this campaign is going and that the orientation of this campaign is directed to the institutional level of Chartwells and at the institutional level of the University. A concern that Ry brought up was that when Chartwells were not meeting dietary restriction requests, not serving adequate food, that a lot of the times, those conversations could veer in the direction of blaming the staff members. The way that Chartwells works, as a for-profit company, is that there are very few people who are in that room-if anyone- that make the decisions about what goes on to the



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

plate as they are all made in the head office, probably in the U.K. In terms of management internally, there are the staff and management on the ground level, but they have very little ability to make decisions. They are more likely than not, not to be the people who charged students for their meals, that would be the higher-ups. Ry said that it is important to make sure that orientation of this boycott does not directly affect the workers because they have very little decision-making abilities. Moreover, their jobs should not be at risk in any way because of this valid and important conversation.

Victoria Gibbs responded to Hope Moon and Nick Harris's draft. First, Victoria thanked Rylan Pembroke and spoke in favour of their points. Victoria said that she worked at Chartwells last year and is shocked and appalled by the fact that they are saying that allergies were not addressed because the people who work there full-time, in her experience, were very concerned in addressing those needs. Victoria said that the fact that those needs are not being met this year is horrible. Victoria asked if the wording in the document "BIRT the Union establish a campaign to boycott paying University and Residence fees until the University absorbs the fees currently being incurred by students in residence who stayed in Residence over Winter Break" establishes covering all fees, so that presumably, other students could withhold their fees in solidarity even if they are not a residence student.

The Chair responded yes.

Michael Greenlaw recommended that the students affected should reach out to Dal Legal Aid.

Simon Hansen said that everyone who has been working behind the scenes for this campaign are standing in solidarity with the workers and not in contrary to the workers. Simon said that this is an extremely important not to hit on with this campaign moving forward.

Levi Clarkson said that they think the next steps are to vote on the original amendment that Levi proposed. Once council moves to vote, Levi said that the ideas seems to be to vote against the amendment to then return to the main motion to vote it down, to then bring forward another motion. Levi reminded general members that they do not have a vote, but councillors want to know what they are thinking.

Timmy Mann said that they are having a conversation surrounding legal implications with the DAL/Kings minister of appeals later tonight and if anyone is looking for information that they find out is more that welcome to contact him.

Luke Baumgart said that there needs to be a follow-up meeting tomorrow because some students are going to be paying before January 15th. They need to get as many students as possible on board who have not yet payed student fees.

*Nick Harris called to question.
Seconded by Kailen Crosson*

Question was called



Amendment failed.

Kailen Crosson called to question.

Point of Information – Nick Harris said that his understanding was not that they were going to vote down the original motion, but that they were going to amend the motion with what he and Hope Moon wrote out so that the original sentiments of the motion stands.

Point of Information – Isabella MacKay said that what they are aiming to do was to go with the wording that Nick Harris and Hope Moon have been working on by proposing a new amendment on the original motion. Their aim should not be to vote on the original motion yet until it has been amended. Isabella asked if they can vote down the call to question.

The Chair responded that because there has been a call to question, he is going to allow Points of Information, because those are allowed to interrupt and that they are not officially on the speakers list. He said that he is going to proceed, but there has not been a seconder for the call to question, and he will ask for one following the Point of Information.

Point of Information – Levi Clarkson asked if the amendment can add whereas clauses.

The Chair responded that he doesn't know. He said that it might look cleaner if the original motion was voted down to present a brand new motion, instead of amending all the wording to be completely different.

Point of Information – Aideen Reynolds asked that if council does not vote down the original motion, in order to get out of the call to question, would it be that no one seconds it.

The Chair responded that yes, this is an option. If no one seconds a motion, it cannot be brought to a vote.

Point of Personal Privilege – Luke Baumgart said that this stops the moment council says it does. He said that it does not have to be this complicated. He said that he is sorry that it does not have to be this way.

Point of Information - Kailen Crosson asked if the two options are to vote down the original motion in order to propose a new one which would achieve the same thing but is simpler in the agenda, or not vote down the motion and then amend it which is a longer process but will achieve the same thing.

The Chair responded yes; these are the two options.

Call to question failed.

Nick Harris moved to amend that the motion read: "Whereas students in residence who remained in Residence over Winter 20/21 break were forced to buy into a mandatory meal plan at the cost \$490; and



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

“Whereas these students who remained were only informed of this mandatory meal plan after travel decisions for the break had been made, without any consultation measures; and

“Whereas students in residence who remained in residence were forcibly relocated to a different residence in the midst of exam week, exacerbating stress amidst a student mental health crisis; and

“Whereas these meals were not to standards of quality or quantity and not respectful of dietary or allergy concerns, even after continued complaint; and

“Whereas due to the quality of the meals, students were forced to incur additional costs if they decided to source food from elsewhere; therefore

“BIRT the Union establish a campaign to boycott paying University and Residence fees until the University absorbs the fees currently being incurred by students in residence who stayed in Residence over Winter Break; and

“BIFRT this campaign addresses the potential ramifications of university late fees by specifically demanding that regardless of the results of the campaign, students will not be charged late fees.

“BIFRT the Union promote this campaign to the greater Union (in consultation with the residence community) via social media, and other channels, in order to make the wider campus community aware of the injustices experienced by members in residence; and

“BIFRT the Union organizes a virtual town hall meeting with the Dean of Students, the Assistant Dean of Residence, Vice-President and President to address the demands of residence students. Seconded by Levi Clarkson

Amendment passed.

Point of Information - Emma Harvey asked if the sentence “...after travel decisions for the break had been made...” if it is possible to change that to indicate that they had been required to disclose their expected residence plans prior to this. However, the absolute implies that every student had, at that point, decided, which is not strictly the case.

Hope Moon responded that this will be going into the minutes as well as Emma’s comment. With the background information in the Whereas clauses, is for members of council to understand what the motion is bringing forward. The concern in making sure that the information is correct and fully robust, in terms of the campaign, that will definitely happen. They will have a meeting tomorrow where that piece of information will be sorted through and will be included in the grand campaign.

Point of Information - Kailen Crosson said that because of the university guidelines, students were supposed to provide their travel plans to the university so that they could make Covid planning and that the meal plan was put in place after students were supposed to notify the university that they were staying in residence.



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

Hope Moon said that she has made a document that people can access to add their names and emails, personal accounts, and she wants people to get their money back. Hope confirmed that there will be a meeting tomorrow.

Motion passed.

6.2 BIRT all future subsequent Council Meetings operate instead utilizing the rules, regulations, and structure of the General Meeting as it is outlined in the King's Student's Union bylaws – Moved via Special Resolution

Moved by Simon Hansen

The Chair asked in what way would Council Meetings operate as the General Meetings.

Simon Hansen responded that it would allow members of the Student's Union who are in attendance of these meeting to vote on the motions brought forward.

The Chair said that he cannot allow this motion to be voted upon because it involves a change to the bylaws. Currently, under the bylaws, the only people who are allowed to vote on things at council meetings are councillors. Any change to the bylaws has to be voted upon at a General Meeting. He said that Simon Hansen is welcome to call a General Meeting- and there is a method to that within the bylaws- but we cannot vote on any bylaw changes at Council Meetings.

Isabella MacKay added that running a Council Meetings according to the General Meeting procedure would entail running a General Meeting to happen every two weeks. Isabella said that there is a General Meeting coming up in late February. There, the general membership can discuss conversations around opening up council meetings.

Levi Clarkson added that if there is something that members want to do, for example calling a general meeting, they can contact Chair Chris Pearse as he can answer those kinds of questions if you want to do something and know how to do it.

The Chair said that holding anything under the General Meeting rules would require 5% of the student population to be present, which would be +45 members at every meeting. He said he was happy to respond to emails and questions detailing what that would look like. Email chair@ksu.ca if you have more questions.

Simon Hansen asked what a special resolution means in the bylaws. He said that he could have been misreading the bylaws, but from what he understands, the council has the ability to alter the bylaws through a 2/3rds majority, or a 2/3rds special resolution majority in general meetings.

The Chair said that the bylaws do not say anywhere that council has the ability to change the bylaws. There are a couple of things that council can have special resolutions for, but none of them include changing the bylaws. The Chair said that a large part of his job is checking to make sure the KSU is operating in accordance to the bylaws. He said that is this ends up being an issue, they can talk about it.



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting

King's Students' Union 2020-2021

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.

Online via Zoom

Luke Baumgart said that the bylaws, in 2.2.d., it says that, “any member may propose a Special Resolution to amend these Bylaws”

The Chair said that you can introduce a special resolution, which is true, but any bylaw changes cannot be changed at a council meeting; they have to be vote upon by the general membership and not by only councillors. Part of this reasoning is to allow the general members to be the people who change the bylaws, because if it were just council, there would be more of a democratic issue. He said that you could introduce a special resolution at a general meeting to amend the bylaws, but it cannot be voted upon by councillors. Council is a smaller voting body, so the intention is to have a more democratic process by having the bylaws to be changed by the general membership at a general meeting- so any member can propose a special resolution to amend the bylaws, but only at general meetings.

Point of Information - David Shuman asked if this point of information was brought up now, would it be tabled for the next general meeting.

The Chair asked for clarification.

David Shuman asked if Simon Hansen's special resolution was brought up here, since it cannot be enacted by council, would it be tabled to a general meeting.

The Chair responded that it would not be tabled because the motion is not allowed under the rules of council. It would have to be presented as a special resolution. The other thing that could happen is that Simon Hansen is welcome to get in touch with someone on the Bylaw Review Committee, which includes himself and Isabella MacKay as the two KSU representatives on the committee, and Rylan Pembroke is also on the committee, so they can bring it forward as a change. The Bylaw Review Committee are obligated to bring forward every change that is recommended to them unless it is in direct contradiction to the founding provisions.

6.3 Discussion on the Board of Governors Representatives' response to University of Kings College President Bill Lahey's EDI Report

Moved by Rylan Pembroke

Rylan Pembroke said that over the summer, University of Kings College President Bill Lahey was working on a report for the Board of Governors regarding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and part of the presentation the BOG in November was that he wanted to see different bodies of the institution to respond; so this is the formal response to his report from the KSU.

Levi Clarkson said that the KSU is going to send this out to everyone in the coming days.

Michael Greenlaw said that the response looked great but should include in the header the date and the title of the document.



Minutes for KSU Council Meeting
King's Students' Union 2020-2021
Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 17:00 AST.
Online via Zoom

David Shuman motioned to adjourn
Seconded by Kailen Crosson

Meeting adjourned at 19:36 AST