



Agenda for KSU Council Meeting
The King's Students' Union 2022-2023
Saturday, October 16 2022 at 10am ADT
In-person and via Zoom

Voting members present:

President - Victoria Gibbs
Communications Vice President - Aidan Rawding
External Vice President - Natalia Tola
Student Life Vice President - Kaitlyn MacNeill
Board of Governors Representative - Tessa Hill
Board of Governors Representative - Sam Sharp
Member at Large - Sara MacCallum
Day Student Representative - Victor Grandy

Non-voting members present:

Chair - Raeesa Alibhai
Scribe - Ellie Anderson

Voting Members Absent:

Financial Vice President - Kerri Lawrence
Arts Representative - Emy Dunleavy-Lachmann
Science Representative – Elli
Residence Representative – *Vacant*
Journalism Representative - *Vacant*

Meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM ADT.

Recognition of unceded Mi'kmaq territory.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Victoria Gibbs moved to add Action Items 5.2 "BIRT 298 dollars be allotted to the King's Literary Society," 5.3 "BIRT 70 dollars be allotted to the TableTop Role-Playing Game Society," and 5.4 "BIRT 72.35 dollars be allotted to the King's Jewish Cultural Society," to the agenda.

Victoria Gibbs said that she moved to add these Action Items to the agenda because Kerri Lawrence, who was going to do so, was not able to join the meeting. These three motions

were recommended by the Finance Committee.

Kaitlyn MacNeill moved to add Action Item 5.5 “BIRT South House and Vocal Ensemble be ratified following their completion of the recent society training session.”

Amendments were adopted with unanimous consent.

Agenda was adopted with unanimous consent.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of Minutes from Emergency Council Oct 1, 2022.

Minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Tessa Hill spoke about the recent Board of Governors meeting and the Internalization Plan the Board is working on putting together. It is a 3-5 year plan that would offer multiple facets of outreach and support to international students. While the documents were comprehensive and well put together, when asked what the priorities in this support would be in the first couple of years, they did not really answer. The tone was that they worked with international students, but there were no administrators who were recently international students and there were no international students present. She was looking for a commitment that immediate supports would be prioritized and they believe that it is important to continue to push them on that commitment.

Natalia Tola asked if the plan would be focused more on US students or students from all over the world. She pointed out that King’s has an environment where US students both are and are not treated as international students.

Looking at the plan, Tessa Hill said that the plan was more about money and the potential markets of students, and the US and India were huge parts of that. The plan breaks down multiple parts of the school that need to be shifted and changed in order to support internationalization. These include changes to the bursary office and the Foundation Year Program course, and how it addresses domestic and international levels and different proficiencies in english

Natalia said that she likes the attention to language differences. She said that King’s is a left-wing hyper-intellectual school and many students come from backgrounds different from this. At King’s, there is no help unless you ask for it and there are also tuition differences. She asked what the student involvement in this is. Does only the exec carry it out, will it continue to lack student perspectives.

Tessa Hill said that they are unsure if there will be committees.

Victoria Gibbs said that they were also unsure and then asked how international students

will be consulted previous to the plan.

Natalia Tola responded that the fee hike continued through the pandemic, so there were Facebook groups created and there were weekly meetings between the King's administration and executive and former KSU President Nick Harris. They did research and found that King's had 51 international students at the time and they needed an international plan. She wants more opportunities now for student consultation, as it can make the world of a difference.

Victoria Gibbs said that one of the administrators who is not on the BOG was an international student when they were here. However, she is pushing for actual international students sitting on committees.

Tessa Hill said that the draft was good, but they did not handle answering the questions they were asked super well. This often happens with BOG. Their support is internal, and they have meetings, but can't answer the questions about the proposed plans well. Tessa read off some key recommendations from the plan. A lot of it is about examining the relationship between Dalhousie and King's and the capacity that Dalhousie has to support international students. This relationship needs to be made better in a lot of ways including with recruitment, and investing in foreign student support in tandem with growing international student enrollment, and creating and expanding on campus English and academic support programs. There is an advantage of having an international recruitment and admission specialist at King's who will research and develop international strategy and internationalization. Internationalization of the college will build over time, so it will be necessary to develop gradual King's specific supports. Short term, this may be having a peer support and peer international support student positions. On a longer term, that may require an international students support worker to oversee the experiences and well being of the King's international student population. They would also help support King's staff and faculty in their efforts to internationalize. it'd be ideal if this individual was also a certified immigration officer or for the institution to hire a Certified Financial Officer. Many things similar to this are in this draft of the plan. In terms of going forward, the KSU and King's students have to push them on holding these recommendations to account. Tessa then asked Sam Sharp if they had anything to add.

Sam Sharp said that they had nothing to add and agreed with Tessa that the BOG did not answer questions well.

Natalia Tola added that when you ask questions at King's, such as how to turn in papers, you are told to go to Dal. It's very frustrating to pay for an education at King's and be told to go to Dal. She likes the idea of having more international student presentations and committees and having them be permanent positions. The admin does not get enough of these perspectives. From personal experience, she knows that many administrators did not consider certain ideas or difficulties as English speakers. Natalia talked about how these conversations and committees can be really good in sharing ideas and getting the perspectives of international students.

Victor Grandy said that the Day Students Society did a mixer recently that went well. The DSS will also be giving free tickets out for the upcoming formal dinner. Upcoming DSS

events include a trip to Noggins Farm and a movie night on Wednesday, October 19. Sara MacCallum reported that she was at the Finance Committee meeting on Friday. She said that it was a good meeting and she was glad to get back on track for the year.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee

4.1 Report of the President

Presented by Victoria Gibbs.

Victoria Gibbs reminded the KSU members that they should only be sharing their top three things as everything is in the executive reports they sent in.

First, she focused on the Accessibility Officer Hiring Committee. King's has been trying to hire an AO for a month, but it's hard to get a committee together with the right amount of admin and students. The interviews have finished and there have been two follow up meetings. Right now the committee is negotiating terms with a candidate who will be hired. There is also a backup candidate. The hope is to have the AO starting by November 1st, although it depends on the candidate's employment status currently and whether or not they can accept the job. They think that both candidates said they only needed 2-3 weeks for the transition, so hopefully the November 1st start date is still in effect. It's very exciting. In order to make sure that the AO has an accessible office space, the Watch agreed to switch spaces and move into a conference room that is right across from the Wardroom. There are some accessibility issues since the door is heavy to open and it does not have a button to open manually or automatically. She talked to Sara MacCallum who put in a request about the door and it will soon be made accessible.

Tessa Hill and Victoria Gibbs spoke about the location of the Watch's new room. Tessa asked if it was accessible by elevator, and Victoria gave directions and said yes. She said that if you walk up the stairs to the Wardoom, the Douglasville Boardroom is to the right in a hallway. The elevator will go to that floor, so it will be accessible.

Natalia Tola said that she was told that there would be a Disabled Student Collective and asked about it.

Victoria Gibbs said that the DSC is currently not in action. Mary Bullock is still technically the President and founder of the committee, but she doesn't have any constituents currently. She is looking for new student members potentially looking to be engaged, as she will be graduating this year and wants someone else to take on the role.

Tessa Hill asked if the KSU can repost the information. They said it might require more outreach.

Victoria Gibby said that there has been nothing official put out yet. She can talk to Mary about doing so, which will hopefully get the society off the ground.

Aidan Rawding asked about the job description of the Accessibility Officer.

Victoria Gibby said that it is very long and comprehensive, but anyone can look up the description online or she can send it to anyone who wants it afterwards. While a bigger university would have a team, King's will have one person in this position. Their main focus will be on implementation. King's already has an Accessibility Plan, as they know about a lot of the existing issues on campus with accessibility. The job of the Accessibility Officer is going to be very focused on implementing the things that we need to change to make things accessible by 2030, which is what has been mandated by the provincial government. But the Accessibility Officer is also more than that in the sense that when it comes to any policy and development activities, or a more provincial university level, they're going to sit on those committees to give advice. They're also going to be responsible for helping keep students directly on campus and also helping them navigate the Accessibility Officer or the accessibility office over at Dal. They're also going to be responsible for helping organize any necessary training for students or staff on accessibility needs. And they're going to be there to help educate any staff that may give students slack for accessibility needs and may not understand why they're necessary. There's also more than that; the description is several pages long. It's a very comprehensive role. The AO will not have the capacity to do everything, but the goal is that it should not be like the positions of Jordan or Rhema or Isa, where despite that being the only person kind of in their forte, they can you know pull on each other and pull off other resources at Kings and Dal to, deliver successful program and deliver successful changes deliver successful aid to students.

Next, they met with Isa Wright a week and a half before the meeting. Dal currently does monthly mental health forums and King's wants to start that. Students applying for residence this year were asked what were some things King's could do, such as reaching out to them to set things up in advance. There was some sort of disclosure on the admissions into residency this year, and while she does not remember the exact number, if 246 plus students living in residence somewhere in the high hundreds disclose that yes, they would, this supports what we already know about a mental health crisis that's happening across the country, but we also know what's happening a case. And now Lisa, and Katie Merwin are working on developing their own mental health forum. What they realize right off the bat, which Victoria loves, is that you can't provide mental health support and mental health reform for students without first getting direct student input. So the very first step in this process, they met with Victoria and they said "We want students involved in this", and they all sat down and planned. There will be a student brainstorming session on November 2nd, sometime in the afternoon. No admin will be present, which will hopefully make students feel more comfortable and able to speak up in this space. The formatting still needs to be discussed, but there will be an option for students to fill out a form with some basic questions and that will be completely anonymous. Those forms can be used to bring up conversation topics that students may

not be comfortable raising. There is a poster being made which will be promoted soon. This is going to be the first step in developing more mental health boards and better mental programming for students at the school.

Natalia Tola suggested that Peer Support should be roped in since they are more constantly in touch with students and see things that execs don't really get to see.

Victoria Gibbs said that Isa Wright works very closely with Peer Support. She doesn't know how involved they're going to be with it. Peer Support has really intense training because they can deal with really intense topics. Victoria doesn't know how much those students and workers would be willing to reach out beyond what they already do. It can be intense at times, but she does know that they are aware of it and they can talk to them a little bit more about how much they are going to be involved.

Tessa Hill asked if there has been thought being put into a virtual element. It takes a lot to bring people to a physical space, and especially around mental health conversations. Because it's really scary and it's just so much easier now to just not go. A virtual option could include some kind of form so students can still participate in the forum.

Victoria Gibbs said that the forum is just a brainstorming session. That's happening on the second. The forum itself is going to be a different thing that hasn't been developed yet because they need student inputs first. They did talk a little bit about, making something for students to give input. That might be put out later, after there's more input, just directly from students on maybe what we need to know more about, and then the form of come after and be part of the development phase.

Tessa Hill asked what exactly the forum would look like.

Victoria Gibbs said that there is no solid idea of exactly what the forum is right now. It's going to depend on what's partially on what student feedback gets to it. It could look like invited speakers and it could look like one thing that is happening. There's going to be a safe talk session soon, which is like a half version. Instead of a two day intensive training, it's more like focused on your own mental health. There's so many different levels of VSS training and she does not remember exactly what the talk is, they confused it. They think it is a half day session that's going to be available to all students. So the forum is going to be more so focused on things like the actual training that can be offered, and focus groups that can happen, but that can be alternatively developed through student input.

Victoria Gibbs moved on to their last update, touching base on upcoming dates. Fall elections are officially opening on Monday, October 17. It took so long to happen because they needed elections to be held over five consecutive school days. There have not been a lot of five consecutive school days this year. That's why they were not open this week. There were also delays in terms of hiring the CRO.. It just led to backup and now elections are going to be happening. The Fall GM is Thursday, October 27 in the

Wardroom. There will be food, possibly including pizza. They have to confer with Chartwells to see if the KSU can bring their own food. The KSU execs have also started setting up tables in the A&A to give students a little more exposure to who the execs are and what the union does. They bring a lot of materials about the KSU's different services that are offered. Students can come grab free buttons and pens and agenda planners. We're using it to promote the GM and the hope is that there is really good attendance like the previous year, which was 60 people.

4.2 Report of the Student Life Vice President *Presented by Kaitlyn MacNeill.*

Kaitlyn MacNeill reported that the society training event got rescheduled by Fiona, but there was pretty big turnout this time. She and Natalia Tola met with Marion Simmons who last year held field trips for first years to help them explore the city better and get to know their different resources. She and Victoria Gibby met with city councilor Wayne Mason about the new proposed bylaw that would force businesses like Triple A and Jubilee Junction to close after 11pm. She noted that the bylaws seemed to be directly targeted at these businesses.

Aidan Rawding asked how the meeting went.

Kaitlyn MacNeill said that he talked about how there are other stores that would still sell pizzas. Overall, he was not convinced to change his mind.

Natalia Tola asked if they highlighted the fact that both businesses are owned by immigrants.

Kaitlyn MacNeill said that they did mention it, but he did not seem like he was going to budge.

Victoria Gibbs said that he didn't talk a lot about the legal reasons why what they're doing is not allowed, despite the fact that theoretically it hasn't been allowed for the past 10 years and nobody raised the issue with them before. They think it's the primary issue here. If we're looking at it from a legal standpoint, technically, they're not allowed, but they let them do it for a decade. Why is the council trying to stop them now? The bylaw was proposed without consultation with the businesses. The council postponed the motion until December, voting on it officially. And as if it were to pass, it would go into effect within two weeks. So it'd be a very quick turnaround. But right now the owners of AAA and Jubilee and Wayne Mason, and somebody who is a part of something along the lines of like the commission or council of convenience store owners, are involved in those conversations and are trying to find some sort of compromise. A lot of the conversation focused on HOCO. It seemed very obvious that the vitriol that people seem to have

towards businesses and students right now, is coming from this school and HOCO party culture. HOCO is one night and while the parties are crazy and loud, Triple A is often quiet in the middle of night and the middle of winter.

Natalia Tola said that it's also so important to have that aid for allow students to sober up. Also it's a place for people who study really late who go there to eat. It's also a grocery store. So if you've run out of toilet paper in the middle of the night, you can get some. And to mention the police brutality at HOCO. If we're going to have this conversation about HOCO then why don't we talk about harm reduction training with policemen, which is something that the government should also be a part of.

Aidan Rawding asked if there are any updates on the petition.

Victoria Gibbs said that the petitions are still at the businesses and available to sign.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice President

Presented by Kerri Lawrence.

This report was sent in via email.

4.4 Report of the External Vice President

Presented by Natalia Tola

Natalia Tola spoke about how she ran into the DSU President the other day and they spoke of the strike. The DSU will have CUPE 3912 at its AGM and the DSU is interested in collaborating with the KSU. She will likely hold a meeting about it. There have been talks in the KSU exec about how to manage the strike and what that means for students and TAs at King's. While the TAs at Dal and King's are not in the same union, new TAs at King's were asking what was going on and how they could get involved. Natalia thinks that solidarity is a good step, as TAs are also students. She also spoke about meeting Marion with Kaitlyn. She gave some context, talking about how Halifax is a really cultural city. The grocery stores that are local are really wonderful, and so much more affordable. Part of integrating students to Kings, also really needs to be showing them around like what a fully multicultural city this is. So they really want to do this tour where we take them to Quinpool Rd to see the Asian grocery stores and restaurants. They were thinking they could provide coffee because the KSU can afford coffee for students. That would be fun. She also talked about creating more consent based events on campus in November and working with South House. These events could talk about things like power dynamics and how to understand healthy boundaries. University is a really complicated time where you meet a lot of people. She thinks if students learn how to navigate those boundaries, we'd really be adding to their student experience and it very much goes in line with the plan to improve the consent policies that were reviewed last year. So that's important. South House is very excited to be roped in. She has also been

working on the AGM that's going to be happening for CFS, and NSCAD is very much going to be a part of this. She has been speaking a little more with NSCAD about how we want to interact with them. Like possible ways of just doing more outreach between them out there.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice President *Presented by Aidan Rawding.*

Aidan Rawding reported that the first meeting to review the bylaws of the KSU would be the next day, on Monday, October 17. She updated the current bylaws to reflect the changes that were proposed at the spring KSU General Meeting. This is on the King's website. Next, the new Chief Returning Officer has been hired and she has been working on getting everything up and running so fall elections can start. Finally, she has been working on TWAK and various social media posts.

5. Action Items

5.1 "BIRT that Paige Chaisson, Terra Carter and Neyve Egger be paid for their work as O-Week Coordinators."
Motivated by Victoria Gibbs.

Victoria Gibbs offered motivation. They said that now that the O-Week Coordinators have finished their reports and put them into a Google Drive for the people who do it next year, they can officially be paid. She said that many stressful situations arose, but the leaders were amazing with dealing with them and she could sing their praises for a long time.

Action Item passed with unanimous consent.

5.2 "BIRT 298 dollars be allotted to the King's Literary Society."

Motioned by Victoria Gibbs.

Seconded by Tessa Hill.

Victoria Gibbs motivated Kerri Lawrence, who was unable to attend. She said that Sara MacCallum would know more than them, as she is with Kerri on the Finance Committee. She knows that this is in part for their AG and she is unsure what the other part will be allotted for.

Sara MacCallum said that she believed it was for an upcoming meeting. It is a larger amount because they had a couple different funding requests rolled into one, as there was a backup last year with having Council and the Finance Committee meetings. She does not

remember the specific details, but the requests were missed at no fault of their own.

Victoria Gibbs said that she thinks their funding was usually for wine and cheese.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.3 “BIRT 70 dollars be allotted to the TableTop Role-Playing Game Society.”

Moved by Victoria Gibby.

Seconded by Natalia Tola.

Victoria Gibby offered motivation. She was pretty sure that request was submitted in advance of council and got messed up. It was submitted for an event that has already happened that was submitted prior to the event. They did an event this past week. I see an email that the funding is for that today plus bank fees that were related to their bank account.

Tessa Hill said that she thought it was mostly for food for their event.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.4 “BIRT 72.35 dollars be allotted to the King’s Jewish Cultural Society.”

Moved by Victoria Gibby.

Seconded by Tessa Hill.

Victoria Gibby offered motivation. This money is allocated to food and other things for their AGM.

Motion passed unanimously.

5.5 “BIRT South House and the Vocal Ensemble be fully ratified as societies of the University of King’s College.

Moved by Kaitlyn MacNeill.

Seconded by Victoria Gibbs.

Kaitlyn MacNeill offered motivation. These are the societies that attended and completed the latest society training.

5.6 “BIRT the KSU issue a statement by Wednesday, October 19 in support of the CUPE 3912”

Moved by Victoria Gibbs.

Seconded by Tessa Hill.

Motion passes unanimously.

6. New Business

Victoria Gibbs spoke about how the KSU and King's will support the possible upcoming CUPE 3912 strike. While there could be a possibility of the strike not going ahead, they have been hearing from many professors that they think it is more likely to go ahead than not. This is also clear from the promotion of the strike action on Instagram. The KSU is looking for how people want to support the strike. She acknowledged that students often end up as collateral damage in these situations, so it can be a complicated thing for them. They want to bring a motion to council that says they are going to write a statement in support of the strike because the KSU wants to have a wider consideration of the strike first. However, the KSU does want to support it in some way. It will just be a way that students are comfortable with. She said she was open to any thoughts or opinions.

Natalia Tola said that she thought it would be interesting to consider combining their efforts in support with the Dalhousie Student Union. She also thought that it would be interesting to talk to them about how to support the efforts, which she has asked them about directly multiple times. Their suggestions included passing around sign up sheets in case someone wants to be a picketer. She suggested that the KSU could repost the CUPE 3912 Instagram stories and posts in order to inform and update students. The KSU could also put sign up sheets and explanations about what the strike is and why it is happening around King's. She thinks the KSU should support the strike. It concerns students and TAs and their reasons for striking are completely reasonable. First of all, they are underpaid compared to other Canadian universities. Second of all, on average, they have 400 students per class and tutorials. It's very unreasonable. Dalhousie has been dismissive of these complaints. The KSU should stand with and support them and it would be great to collaborate with them.

Sara MacCallum also thought that it would be good for the KSU to support the strike. Her classes will not be affected by the strike, so she wants to hear other people's thoughts. She thinks that because students will have complicated feelings about it, the KSU should make a point of having a lot of resources available to students to explain why the strike is happening, why they should support it, and how it will be better for everyone in the long run. She said that she thinks it is important, especially as she has not heard anyone be unsupportive of the strike once they understood the reasoning behind it.

Natalia Tola said that she also has not heard anyone be against the strike and that most students have a general understanding of how a strike works. She said it was shocking to hear the amount of money the Dalhousie president is being paid, and how Haligonians are paying for his golf subscription. The numbers CUPE 3912 has brought to the table help explain the importance of their demands and why they have been trying for so long to fix this. But they got no response from Dalhousie. This has been going on since maybe March or February.

Victoria Gibbs said that they like the idea of doing clear posts on the KSU social media and that the KSU should ask the CUPE 3912 via Instagram if they could take the facts or the posts and print them and put them up around school. These would be basic posts such as the fact that they have not received a raise since 2019 and the Dal university president got a \$66,000 Raise which is more than the median income of Nova Scotians. And some other basic information could go up in posters around the school, and maybe the KSU can then write a statement in support similar to what the DSU did, and make it clear within the statement that if anybody has any questions about the strike, they can come to the KSU executive. Also in the statement, perhaps including a note that the KSU understands that this has adverse impacts on students, however, TAs and PTAs getting paid more will give them better capacity to help students which therefore better support you. While the strike should happen as quickly as possible, hopefully it will end as quickly as possible in an outcome that benefits TAs and PTAs.

Victoria Gibbs moved to add motion 5.6 “BIRT the KSU issue a statement by Wednesday, October 19 in support of the CUPE 3912” to the Action Items.

Sara MacCallum said that she thought that after posting the statement it might be a good idea to add reminders for students about mental health and academic advising support in order to help students deal with the real impacts they might face.

Victoria Gibbs said that it can be included in the body of the statement. And at the bottom there can be a list of academic support resources and another list of mental health supports at King’s.

Sara MacCallum said that she thought it was a great idea.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 5.6 was then voted on and passed unanimously.

Raeesa Alibhai motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Natalia.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:13 AM ADT.