



KSU Council Meeting

The King's Students' Union 2022-2023
Sunday, December 3, 2022 at 10am ADT
In the King's Boardroom

Voting members present:

President - Victoria Gibbs
Communications Vice President - Aidan Rawding
External Vice President - Natalia Tola
Financial Vice President - Kerri Lawrence
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 - Raesa Alibhai
Scribe - Ellie Anderson

Voting Members Absent:

Arts Representative - Emy Dunleavy-Lachmann
Science Representative – Elli
Residence Representative – *Vacant*
Journalism Representative - *Vacant*

Called to order at 10:04 AM ADT.

The Chair recognised that the meeting took place on unceded, traditional Mi'kmaq territory.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Kerri Lawrence moved to add a discussion regarding strategies to respond to Dalhousie's proposed plan of international student tuition increases to 6. New Business.

Victoria Gibbs asked Kerri if there were any more funding requests to include in the agenda. They thought there were more than this, such as the King's Pride Society funding

request from the previous week that was missed due to the cancellation of the council meeting.

Kerri responded that the Finance Committee operated independently to approve this request. He said that he will address this later in the meeting.

Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of Minutes from Council Oct 30, 2022

It was asked if those on Zoom should vote in the chat.

The answer was yes.

Natalia Tola asked Kerri Lawrence if it would be better to have a phone call later in the day to discuss international student tuitions.

Kerri said yes.

Minutes were approved.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Sam Sharp reported that the December Board of Governors meeting was canceled because there was nothing overly significant on the agenda other than approving people for teaching positions for the next school year. But they will just vote online for that.

Tessa Hill agreed that the motions on the agenda were just about hiring new people and approving revisions to the Green Book, which focuses on hiring committees and academic programs, and the Pink Book, which focuses on the School of Journalism.

Natalia Tola said that she has been talking to King's Equity Officer and asked Sam and Tessa if the Board of Governors has brought up the internationalization plan since they presented it last month.

Tessa said that it was brought up when presented at a meeting a couple of weeks ago, but that was the last time the Board of Governors met since the December meeting was canceled. It has not been brought up in any writing to them, as that is pretty typical. There

is no real way for it to come up until the Board of Governors meets next. This could be January, February, or March. She and Sam will have one more meeting before their term ends.

Sara MacCallum reported that the elections have finished. Although she never got an email with the final results, everyone running got their positions, as they had councillor training afterwards. She will continue to be the Member At Large. She also met with Kerri Lawrence and the Finance Committee on Friday and is looking forward to doing more things soon.

Victor Grandy reported that the Day Students Society had their trip to Noggins Farm, gave students formal meal tickets, elected two new members at their General Meeting, and is working with the Wardy Advisory Committee and Galley Advisory Committee.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee (attached)

4.1 Report of the President

Presented by Victoria Gibbs

Victoria Gibbs reminded the executives to focus on their top three points and ask if they have any questions about the exec written reports. She could not do a written report for this meeting as she was sick this week. She first spoke about how the development of Winterfest is underway. Victoria met with Kaitlyn MacNeill about this. The events will take place on February 3rd and a variety of external and internal societies will be participating. There will be events such as the Literary Society having a meeting about their readings, a divination demonstration, sex toy bingo, and a pool tournament hosted by the Day Students Society. She is working on a tentative schedule that will be solidified next month when more people have responded. Advertising for this event will start in January. They then spoke about working with Aidan Rawding to put together winter care packages on Friday. 107 students requested packages. This is 10% of the student body. Victoria then focused on logistics after the CUPE strike. King's will not do anything in terms of refunding courses affected by the strike unless Dalhousie does. Dal has said that they will not, so the Dalhousie Student Union started a petition to put pressure on the administration to offer refunds.

Natalia Tola commented on the post-strike relief funds. The DSU has met with Dal's Board of Governors and people in important positions at Dal could help them, but will not. Dal is punishing the student body for supporting the strike. Dal did not know about

the student rally before it happened. The DSU President has allies in the administration, but they have turned their backs on her. The administration is also making it harder on the TAs and is expecting them to complete huge workloads.

4.2 Report of the Student Life Vice-President

Presented by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Kaitlyn MacNeill came to the meeting late and reported after Kerri Lawrence.

She spoke about the KSU's travel accommodations survey. She is in communication with Driver Dave, the company that will be giving 60-70 students free rides to bus stops or the airport for winter break. She also met with the Enrollment Management Committee.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice-President

Presented by Kerri Lawrence

Kerri Lawrence presented before Kaitlyn MacNeill who was not present at the time.

Kerri Lawrence said that there has been headway on narrowing down how to use some union funds. The books are getting more up to date. The union will have to find a different book keeper, as the current one must step down. Kerri hoped to have up-to-date financials for the end of 2019 and wanted to have up-to-date monthly reports for 2022 by January. Money might be saved on payroll this year. He is also currently working on funding for Winterfest and forms for societies to request it. She met with the BAC Committee on International Tuition, where the group discussed Dal's tuition plan, which included how Dal wants to increase domestic tuition by as much as they can, which is 3% and how there are new positions for professors to get tenure and for new professors to apply to work at Dal. Lastly, she met with the Finance Committee. Currently, motions for funding are brought to the committee for review and then are either recommended or not recommended to council for approval. This is not a bad process, but in going through the committee's operations policy, he discovered that the committee can approve funding requests on their own, so they would not have to be taken to council. This policy was probably created in response to a council funding upset in 2015/2016. Kerri would like the Finance Committee to operate in this autonomous way. However, the policy states that requests of over \$100 must go to council for approval and all approved requests will be reported to council anyways.

Victoria Gibbs added that any discussion on this operations policy will be under Aidan's jurisdiction in the spring.

Kerri listed off other roles that the Finance Committee has, as stated in the operations policy. This includes reviewing society accounts and union finances in the beginning and end of the year to see if they are managing funds appropriately and working with the Hospitality Coordinator to get insight as to what is going on at the Galley and Wardroom. In addition, it says that the executive does the budget, which they will then take to the committee for reviewing and there will be time for a two week discussion before presenting it at the General Meeting. Kerri is going to sit down with the committee to discuss the operations policy and then with Aidan. For funding requests, the committee approved \$150 for the King's Pride Society and \$125 for the King's Jewish Cultural Society for their Hanukkah party this week

Kaitlyn MacNeill said that she thought the party would be tomorrow.

Kerri agreed and said that he is happy to answer any questions about the operations policy and anyone is welcome to attend the Finance Committee meetings.

4.4 Report of the External Vice-President

Presented by Natalia Tola

Natalia Tola said that she has been speaking with the Residence Team about organizing events for students who are not going home over break. She gave the story of how she had a partner who was also an international student. They were one of the only people staying at King's over winter break and because the university assumed everyone would go home, they almost shut off the heating and electricity. So she and the team are working to program a movie night and New Year related things because it is important that they know the KSU is aware that they are there and catering to their needs. Similar thinking went into the winter care packages. She also met with the King's Equity Officer. There are some things that she wants to do that are out of her jurisdiction, but are in Rhema's jurisdiction. She wants to focus on accessibility for ESL students and on the common concerns of the student body. This includes making spaces for students of color who are in mainly white spaces at King's. Rehema is setting up care spaces in her office and making it into a comfy and safe place. Natalia also spoke about Emily, the Residence Aunty. She said that Emily has a standing similar to that of an Indigenous leader. She will be at King's every Thursday. She spoke with Emily recently and wanted to send Aidan a

transcript of the conversation so that she can post it on social media. Lastly, she had another meeting with Wayne Mason, which she rated a 7/10. She appreciated that he came but when she and other student community leaders brought up community complaints, he said that he has been trying but has no jurisdiction. However in the case of food insecurity, he does have jurisdiction and is connecting with community leaders. He wanted to be more involved in harm reduction plans especially for Homecoming. Natalia and the other leaders asked him about Jubilee Junction and Triple A and spoke about the need for continuous support for people who need food or toilet paper at night. Wayne Mason wanted to meet with them more, as more residences are being built at schools and more university students will be in the city, they need to work to create solutions. She hoped that he will reach out again.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice-President

Presented by Aidan Rawding

Aidan Rawding said that she has been helping to advertise bigger initiatives and events that are or will be happening, such as the booking travel form, winter care packages, and Winterfest. She has been poster around campus and on social media. She and Victoria Gibbs put together care packages on Friday. She created the weekly TWAKs. She has been in contact with the Chief Returning Officer about election results. They have the first half of elected members and the election for the second half will be set aside until further notice because there are no takers for the other positions.

Kerri Lawrence said that the elections for the unfilled positions would not get done before the end of the semester and asked if the next set of councillor elections would be combined with the executive elections?

Victoria Gibbs said yes, that they would need to hold a by-election and have it at the same time. But she said that this is a small school and the positions have been advertised in various ways. Realistically not everyone wants to get involved in the KSU. There might be no interest in smaller demographics like science and journalism students. In the pandemic, people prioritize their other interests and many had no opportunities to foster an interest in politics in high school so they have different hobbies.

5. Action Items

5.1 BIRT the King's Jewish Cultural Society receive \$100 in contingent funding to

subsidize tickets for students to attend showings at the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Victor Grandy

Kerri Lawrence said that this motion can be stricken as they have already received the money.

Aidan Rawding agreed and said that she included it in the agenda so the allocation of funding is on record.

5.2 BIRT the Chair receive \$850 of their Honorarium, for duties in the fall semester having been performed in full.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Victoria Gibbs said that Raeesa Alibhai must temporarily give her the Chairship as this would be a conflict of interest.

Victoria took the Chair and read over the motion.

Kerri Lawrence offered motivation, saying that the Chair is doing a wonderful job and should be paid.

Motion passed.

Victoria gave the Chair back to Raeesa.

5.3 BIRT the Scribe receive \$400 of their Honorarium, for duties in the fall semester having been performed in full.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Victor Grandy

Kerri Lawrence offered motivation, saying that the Scribe is pretty neat and deserves to get paid for her work.

Motion passed.

5.4 BIRT the Chief Returning Officer receive \$525 of their Honorarium, for duties in the fall semester having been performed in full.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Victor Grandy

Kerri Lawrence offered motivation, saying that he does not know if the Honorarium can be released yet, as the bylaws might first require them to submit their report about the election.

Victoria Gibbs said that they will double check if a report has to be done in each semester or just the second semester. Then there should be a conversation about it. She would motivate the CRO to get paid without the report because the elections were delayed and they finished during exam season, so they had no time to give their report.

Kerri said she is sympathetic and wants them to get paid. With regards to the honoraria, in previous years, a number were released without reports, so he does not know if that's required for each election. Kerri asked what people thought about a change to the motion, so that the CRO would only need to submit a brief report about the results. This could be done orally or in one paragraph via email. The CRO could then say that they would follow up with a further report next semester.

Victoria Gibbs asked Kerri to clarify if she wanted the CRO to submit a form of a report this month before getting paid.

Kerri said yes, that it would just be asking for something short saying "this happened and it will be elaborated on in the next report," so that it is on file that they submitted the report. This process should make it as low-effort as possible.

Victoria said that they are hesitant about this, as it is December and the CRO is a full time student in their last year of study. She wondered if it can just be a joint report in the spring.

Kerri said that she would not want to release the honorarium without a brief report, even a short email would be fine.

Raeesa Alibhai said that this motion can't be passed and asked Kerri if he was suggesting that we vote on a new motion.

Kerri said yes.

Gibby proposed that there should be an amendment.

BIRT should a report be needed, the CRO submit an interim report before their Honorarium can be released.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

This agenda amendment passed.

BIRT should a report be needed, the CRO submit an interim report before their Honorarium can be released.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Victoria Gibbs

Kerri said that he or Aidan will reach out to the CRO as soon as possible and get them their money by the end of the week.

Motion passed.

5.5 Whereas the Contemporary Studies Society filled out their ratification form and attended society training;

BIRT the Contemporary Studies Society be ratified and recognized as a society of the King's Students Union

Moved by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Seconded by Natalia Tola

Kaitlyn MacNeill offered motivation, saying that the CSS did their society training later in the semester and was supposed to be ratified in the last meeting, but it was postponed. It is a great society, and she excited for them to receive funding

Kerri Lawrence asked if they submitted to ratify as a Tier 2 society.

Kaitlyn said yes.

Kerri asked if they submitted the necessary bank documents.

Kaitlyn said yes and that they were sent to her. She still needs to send it to Kerri.

Kerri said great and that she just wanted to check.

Motion passed.

5.6 BIRT ____, ____, and ____ be elected to the Hospitality Coordinator Hiring Committee

Moved by Victoria Gibbs

Seconded by Kerri Lawrence

Victoria Gibbs offered motivation, saying that Violet, who is the current Hospitality Coordinator, put in notice, and will no longer work full time, but will be working part time to train their replacement in January. Hiring people takes a lot of time and energy, so this will be one of Victoria's major tasks over the rest of her term. They said that they are happy to answer any questions about the job and hiring process. She had some nominations and anyone at council can nominate as well.

No one in council nominated themselves.

Victoria brought forward the nominations of Jimmy Gibson, a Wardy manager, and Francis Cook and Marian Simmons, who are Galley managers. She can motivate that they worked closely with Violet. They are the most valuable students on campus to have on this committee, especially when trying to hire someone during the holidays, with only a month to do so. It is good to have people who know the job and are invested in hiring the right person.

Kerri asked how many people have applied for the Hospitality Coordinator position so far.

Victoria said about two or three have at this point.

The motion was repeated with the names of the nominees inserted.

5.6 BIRT Jimmy Gibson, Francis Cook, and Marian Simmons be elected to the Hospitality Coordinator Hiring Committee

Motion passed.

6. New Business

Kerri Lawrence wanted to focus on strategies for opposing Dal's international student tuition plan. It will have an insane increase. He asked if Natalia Tola had the numbers.

Natalia did not have the exact numbers, but with the new plan, tuition will continue increasing exponentially, going up \$10,000 in the next few years. The Dal Board of Governors is made up of old white men and even student representatives vote against motions that would support international students. This money would not even go to the Dal International Center, which is mostly volunteer run, has a tiny office, and caters to 3000 students. It would make sense to support these students with that money, especially when they haven't received a raise in a long time, but it has never been discussed. She is very worried. She also said that when you advocate for lower international student tuition, people say you can't fix anything. But we have at King's. It has been raised in lower amounts with more consideration. We care and we know what's going on. We do not approve of it.

Kerri said that we can make a difference. Dal released their plan and it looks like this: There is an international student fee differential tacked onto accounts, which makes fees higher. This is to offset that these students don't pay Canadian taxes and this is a public university, which receives public funding. In addition, there is no cap on how much that it can increase per year. For domestic students, there is a 3% increase cap each year. Dal relies on international student fees as a major source of extra income. Their current plan is to increase international student tuition by about 25% over the next 5 years. Dal heard feedback from international students who said that they need stability in knowing how much their degree will cost because they don't have the luxury of the cap. They don't want to be exploited, so Dal is providing "security" by setting the increase to a fixed rate of 5% over the next five years. This would mean international students would be paying twice as much as domestic students. Kerri did not know if King's was obligated to do the same, but it might not have to.

Victoria Gibbs gave some context to the policy. Dal currently treats domestic students as Nova Scotian students, but they have the right to treat domestic students who are not Nova Scotian like all Canadians. Dal likes to remind students that they're doing them a

favor, so they shouldn't be mad at them for raising tuition. The 3% cap is only specific to Nova Scotia. If they want to, they can charge anyone the Canadian rate.

Natalia said that that sounds like an intimidation technique. She asked for clarity on the 5% yearly increase.

Kerri agreed that it is a confusing proposal. These are fixed increases in a 4-5 year period, which will help students estimate what their tuition will look like over the course of their degree. This is so that they can plan accordingly instead of one year being a 5% increase and the next being a 15% increase. This provides a bit of security. But this is still extortion.

Victoria asked how binding this will be and if Dal will have the ability to change the tuition increases any year. Can they make it a 20% increase in year 3 for example?

Kerri said he was not sure, as he first heard about this at a subcommittee meeting for international student tuition. She assumed it would be binding.

Natalia said that that clarification helps. She then talked about what we can do at King's. She said that when you bring up the tuition differential, Bill says he can't do anything about it and that King's has to do what Dal does. We can advocate for an internationalization plan. It is really important that this plan has student input. Last year, she and Nick Harris met with administrators about this. These are ideas they brought up, but they need more students to come to the discussion. We have to continue adding support and resources at school. She is happy to hear about the predictability of the proposed plan, but we need to make sure we support our students and work towards making sure the increases are not that high.

Victoria said that the executive talked very briefly about having a town hall next semester on January 12th. One of the major topics of discussion would be direct student feedback on the proposed tuition increases for international students. We can also do a survey and then take that information to come up with actionable items to do. Students have already reached out to the KSU's Instagram about organizing around this topic, so we can already see that people want to organize.

Kerri said that we should. There is a time crunch because tuition fees need to be released by mid January and Kings is contingent on Dal. The subcommittee met to discuss that the direct nature of King's autonomy is unclear. We don't know if King's has to go along with this as part of the mandate and understanding with Dal. He brings this up because it's not a year-by-year increase, it's a multi year plan. There are many members of faculty who

are vocally opposed to this because it's exploitative. The Bursar's office or Registrar's office is releasing a survey in the next week or so to get feedback. There is another subcommittee meeting on Dec 13. This committee is a few layers removed from King's Board of Governors. Kerri thinks King's should push extremely hard, but King's has not been in the best financial situation for the last 10 years, and their argument will likely be that they can't not increase tuition because the school needs the money. The questions that need to be answered at this meeting and at the subcommittee are "How will King's respond to this?", "How hard will King's push on this?", "How will the KSU put pressure on?", and "If we cannot stop this from happening, how do we help international students/where would this money go?" The KSU needs to figure out a rough sketch or at least have the room to think about this.

Natalia asked to meet another time so that this can be talked about in depth. She said that Dal is intimidating Kings with the Dalplex. Bill has said that they can take away students' access to it. She also said that King always says it's not really a choice about raising tuition. But then how do we support students? She asked people at the meeting to ask about the accessibility of their classes to international students and how profs are acknowledging their presence. This should be brought up in class.

Victoria addressed a few of Kerri's questions. Legally, King's is not obligated to do anything Dal does. If it is convenient for them to follow Dal's lead, they often play the "our hands are tied" card and if it is inconvenient for them to do so, they play the "we're an independent institution" card. There is precedent for King's differing from Dal, as student organizations pressured King's to freeze tuition for two years while Dal did not. Dal should not intimidate King's with the Dalplex because our students pay for it. We should wait to organize until we hear what students think. King's should not follow the plan because Dal has it, if they follow it, it should be due to its transparency to students.

Kerri said that it does not seem like it will be transparent. It's more likely to be a smoke screen that addresses the security students want, but not the increase itself. King's has fewer international students and different subject areas, and demographics differ, as most of our international students are from America. The question is if it is financially necessary for King's to go along with Dal and she does not think so. If we take this, this is a minimum 5 year commitment, but after these 5 years, they can pass another 4-5 year set of increases. Kerri is interested to hear what students have to say and is hopeful that student actions like letter writing and sit-ins will help to stop this tuition hike. Once final numbers are released for feedback from the student body, action should be coordinated.

Victoria said that while there feels like pressure to act immediately, the numbers released in January are not confirmed until June. So we have all of the second semester to

organize. Ultimately, the school will do what they want to do. The more pressure we can put on it, the better the possibility of changing their minds.

Kerri said that he was hoping to come up with an immediate answer for a line at the next meeting that says what the union's take on this situation is and that the KSU does not condone exploiting international students.

Natalia said that to respect everyone's time, she wanted to call Kerri later that day to discuss more organizing.

Victoria said that it was her, Natalia, and Kerri who were at the subcommittee meeting, and this discussion was mainly between the three of them. So it would probably be best to talk about this outside of the meeting.

Victoria Gibbs motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Victor Grandy.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:31 AM ADT.