



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
Arts Representative - Cece Leckie
Residence Representative – Mckenzy Flowers

Non-voting members present:

Chair - Raesa Alibhai
Scribe - Ellie Anderson

Voting Members Absent:

Science 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

Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of Minutes from Council December 3rd, 2022
Minutes were approved.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Tessa Hill had nothing to report. They said that break was nice and wished everyone a happy 2023.

Sam Sharp also had nothing to report for the Board of Governors as there has been no meeting for it. They also said happy new year.

Victor Grandy said that the Day Student Society got new pool cues for the Wardy and that they will be putting on a sex toy bingo for Winterfest.

Sara MacCallum said that her first office hour for the term was last Monday. She can't attend her office hours next week, so she asked those who would like to talk to her to send her an email.

Cece Leckie introduced herself as a second-year student and the Arts Representative. She had nothing else to report.

Mckenzy Flowers introduced themselves as a first-year student and the Residence Representative. They had nothing else to report.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee (attached)

4.1 Report of the President

Presented by Victoria Gibbs

Victoria Gibbs introduced herself to the new members of the council. They reported that she had a series of meetings prior to winter break. She attended the Management Committee about international tuition after the last council meeting. The committee focused less on international tuition and they mainly discussed the projective enrollment for the next year. Dal is predicting enrollment will decrease, so they are more likely to raise tuition for students and cut funding from departments and other areas. This could lead to more strikes. Victoria gave a brief overview on the tuition issue that was discussed at the last council. There are questions about if this model is transparent or a smoke screen and if the model makes sense for King's, as its population is much smaller. We should be having discussions and focus groups with current and international students, as well as current high school students, about how it would affect them. Victoria also focused on how the planning of Winterfest is underway. They have been working with

Kaitlyn MacNeill. They have been in touch with the societies and have a thumbs up from everyone except two societies. They must respond before Wednesday or the events will be axed. Right now, there is a lot of advertising happening on the KSU side and within society meetings. Her last focus was on the hiring of the new Hospitality Coordinator. Over winter break, the Hiring Committee hired Lindsay Monroe, whose first day was on Thursday, which included training with Violet, the outgoing Hospitality Coordinator. Lindsay has King's connections as they were once a student here. Those connections on campus, school, and with alumni are a bonus because it will be great to have someone advertise the Wardroom and Galley to alumni.

Natalia Tola added that there is a meeting on January 19th or 21st for international students. She said that it is important for new council members to be a part of discussions about supporting international students. She also asked if the KSU will be introduced to the new Hospitality Coordinator.

Victoria said that there will be a formal introduction. This will happen at the next meeting when Cam will give his report on the ongoings of the KSU from his end of things. This report is a requirement of full time KSU staff. During the report, they will have Lindsay introduce herself. She will also be introduced around campus.

4.2 Report of the Student Life Vice-President

Presented by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Kaitlyn reported that she has been working on Winterfest and communicating with societies about it. The events are all good to go, she is just waiting to hear back about room bookings. Before break, she helped the Help Coordinator and the King's Food Security Initiative put together and give out soup kits. Many people took them and were happy with the soups, so there are discussions about doing it again. This coming Thursday or Friday, she will pass out Bath and Body Works products that were gifted to the KSU. She also attended the Enrollment Management Committee with Victoria. The events she has been working on are Winterfest and miscellaneous meetings.

Natalia stepped away for a moment and Kerri Lawrence was not yet in attendance. Therefore, Aidan Rawding gave her report and the Action Items were passed. Then Natalia gave her report and Kerri gave his after.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice-President

Presented by Kerri Lawrence

Kerri said that over break, she sat on the Hiring Committee with Victoria and student advocates of the Wardroom. They hired someone, which is exciting. There is a report to follow about it. Kerri also attended the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting. Fees are spiking much more drastically than expected, as things like the cost of energy have increased. They are trying to make sure the costs don't fall down on the students.

4.4 Report of the External Vice-President

Presented by Natalia Tola

Natalia welcomed everyone who was on the council for the first time. She reminisced on how the KSU changed how she saw her voice and differences. Everyone is really nice and they all had the opportunity to make a major difference at school. She would love to hear questions and ideas. She then focused on the last month, which has been quiet but slightly eventful. Divest Dal approached her, as they want to do more campaigns and activism. They have prepared all year long for a meeting where they are given a small speaking position. Divest wants to work with King's and Dal and wants to explore the possibility of including the issue of the international student differential in their activism. They have a long history of being smart advocates. She then said that since October, she has wanted to organize events with South House about consent and power structures. But the event organizer was on leave from November to January. Now she has the opportunity to do it, which is exciting. Natalia has also been having conversations with the King's Equity Officer regarding creating a safe space in her office and hosting spaces for students to be able to speak on their experiences about being in white majority classrooms. They are also pushing for the Journalism curriculum to be more accessible and equitable for people whose first language is not English. The JSchool was being dismissive, but this is an issue of accessibility and language. There need to be reconsiderations about the JSchool and what it assumes students know about English and Canadian history. She is also on a committee with the Racialized Student Collective and is looking forward to organizing more events to remind the student body that this is here. She and Victoria have also been going to events.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice-President

Presented by Aidan Rawding

Aidan reported that her responsibilities died down closer to exam season. She did TWAK, hung up posters for December events and Winterfest, and made winter care packages with Victoria.

5. Action Items

5.1 BIRT the King's Film Society be fully ratified and recognized as a Tier I society of the KSU

Moved by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Seconded by Aidan Rawding

Kaitlyn offered motivation. A student approached her last semester about wanting to start a film society. This is exciting, as many King's students are interested in film. There will be film screenings every 2 weeks and other events held by this society.

Motion passed.

5.2 BIRT the Contemporary Studies Society be fully ratified and recognized as a Tier II society of the KSU

Moved by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Seconded by Aidan Rawding

Kaitlyn offered motivation. This society is being ratified pretty late because of issues scheduling their training. The training happened at the end of last semester. It is a great society and has been around forever.

Motion passed.

6. New Business

6.1 KSU Fees for 2023-24

Kerri Lawrence said that there is an increase in fees this year that is not unprecedented, but is not routine. This is due to a couple of things. The King's Food Security Initiative is a levy society, as the majority of King's students voted to pay \$3 per year per student. There is an increase of 7.8% in fees in general because the bylaws state that it must increase in line with the Consumer Price Index. Looking ahead, there will likely be high

inflation. There will probably be a referendum from the CKEU to ask students if they would increase their fees by \$3 (\$2 to pay full time staff and \$1 to pay part time staff). There will also likely be an increased levy for the Galley that is temporary or permanent. This is the second year in a row of somewhat steep fee increases for students. It can't be avoided without cutting down services. Kerri wanted to get opinions and insights on reducing the amount the KSU fees increase. Maybe by covering \$1 or \$2 per each student's fees this year.

6.2 Uses of student fund/request for student fund payment

Kerri Lawrence said that this is still somewhat unstructured, so she wanted the thoughts of those on council and in the executive. There was a student who approached Kerri to ask if the KSU could provide financial aid for them to travel for a conference. The KSU has traditionally not been able to provide aid at all, so he is looking for input from the council on how people think these funds should be used. These funds have helped students with fees they were unable to pay. So where does travel for academic, or otherwise, conferences fall? Where do rising fees fall?

Cece Leckie asked for a brief explanation about the student fund

Kerri said that there has been a funding surplus over the last couple of years, which has mainly come from excess society funding, as not a lot of events occurred during Covid. This year's budget passed with this student funding in it. Its use was left unspecified so that the union could provide direct financial aid to students. The structure is being worked on. Maybe bursaries? Maybe small grants?

Victoria Gibbs said that we will survey students before the spring proposed budget. The process of figuring out the structure will be easier once they look at the budget survey. The survey can have questions such as "Do you want the KSU to pay \$2 of your fees and that would correspond to cutting this by this much next year?" The fees are going to increase, but we all want to cut down on how much they increase. The KSU has the highest fees in the Maritimes because it is the smallest student union. Regarding the student fund, they offered added context to Cece's question. Prior to having the fund, students came in asking for aid for food or tuition or Dal cards. The KSU recommended community and university services because they didn't have enough money to directly help. Some people who worked in the union would pay themselves for students to buy groceries or Dal cards. That's where the student fund came from. In regards to the conference, Victoria said she did not know specifics about the conference and what it is for. They thought that if it is a course requirement and the student couldn't pay, they would look at that as a tuition cost and would support paying it. But if it is an

extracurricular activity, it is not likely a necessity like not affording education or food. She does not want to set a precedent of paying for it when the KSU doesn't have the budget to subsidize people who aren't able to go to extracurriculars currently.

Natalia Tola said that if the student provides an explanation about why they have to go to this conference, it is worth thinking about. But if it's an extracurricular, that's not the KSU's job to pay for it.

Kerri said that he is trying to figure out how to give context without identifying details. What about if the conference is related to a semi-professional program King's offers, and has ties to businesses on campus?

Aidan Rawding agreed with Natalia, that if the student can make an argument of why they need to go, they can revisit this. But the fund was started with the intention to be for emergency use like tuition, food, rent, etc.

Kerri said that this is the present reality and it is good to have this boundary for allocation of funds set for the future.

Victoria said that she sees this as pretty clear cut and asked anyone who disagrees to speak up. If the conference is a course requirement and the student will fail the course if they can't meet the requirement, and the class is required to graduate, the KSU could help. But this is pre-drop date, so if it is not a requirement for their degree and they are choosing to take it, they can drop the course without losing money.

Kerri said that that is definitely fair.

Aidan echoed what Victoria said.

Kerri asked the union members about what they want to see in the fund.

Sara said that what Victoria said sounds right and reasonable. It makes her uncomfortable to pay for a conference with student fees. The fund should benefit all students without being too specific and individual.

Cece asked about how to advertise the student fund. It's a weird line to walk. We don't want to shout about it so it gets overused. But people who know the KSU can seek it out, but people who aren't close to the KSU might not know about it and still need it. We don't want to over advertise, but we want to make sure people know that it is available.

Kaitlyn MacNeill said that the fund is only benefiting a small number of students.

Kerri said that it is unsure what the structure will look like, so there's not much advertising or public knowledge. It is reserved for when students come to KSU with requests. There will be preparation for surveying and student opinion polling. Everyone should reach out to the people around them about it.

Motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Natalia Tola.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:03 AM ADT.