



KSU Council Meeting

The King's Students' Union 2022-2023
Sunday, February 15, 2023 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

Non-voting members present:

Chair - Raesa Alibhai
Scribe - Ellie Anderson
Residence Representative – Mckenzy Flowers
David Shuman
Aideen Reynolds

Voting Members Absent:

Science Representative – *Vacant*
Journalism Representative - *Vacant*

Called to order at 10:11 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 January 29th, 2023

Natalia Tola was over Zoom and did not hear the motion to adopt the agenda. She asked to add a discussion under 6. *New Business*. This discussion would be about donating \$100 to the Turkish Society of Nova Scotia, which would go to disaster relief for the earthquake in Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon.

Raesa Alibhai said that she cannot move this now, but it can be discussed at the end of New Business.

Natalia agreed.

Minutes were approved.

3. Oral reports of the councillors

Sam Sharp said that there has been no Board of Governors activity since the last council meeting. There have been no emails or other communications.

Tessa Hill had nothing to report.

Sara MacCallum said that she had her office hours and has been focusing on elections.

Victor Grandy said that the Day Student Society events at Winterfest went well. Sex toy bingo had lots of people attend and the pool tournament went well. Maritime Night also went well and Valentine's Day cards went out to day students.

Cece Leckie had nothing to report.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee (attached)

4.1 Report of the President

Presented by Victoria Gibbs

Raesa Alibhai said that all executive reports will be oral except for Kaitlyn MacNeill's.

Victoria said that her report will be oral because she is resigning early to focus on their academics. They have been working on a President changeover document. There has not

been a full document made in the past two years and for the past two changeovers, so she is finally doing that. She has been a part of meetings to develop a business plan for the Wardy so it can flourish. They are also touching base with university committees so they know she is exiting early, but is here to give them support over the next few weeks and that she is staying on board with the Wardy Committee.

4.2 Report of the Student Life Vice-President

Presented by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Kaitlyn said that she had a society training event with the Halifax Rotaract Club, which focuses on leadership and youth in Halifax. She forgot to add its ratification to the agenda for this meeting, but it will be ratified at the next council meeting. FYP Sunday went well and Winterfest went smoothly and had a good turnout.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice-President

Presented by Kerri Lawrence

Kerri said that he has been under the weather for the last few weeks, so her report will be oral. There was not a lot to report due to this. Kerri was unable to go to the Wardy Advisory Committee meeting and was unable to convene the Finance Committee. The Budget Advisory Committee meeting went as expected. She has also been focusing on election stuff.

4.4 Report of the External Vice-President

Presented by Natalia Tola

Natalia stepped away for a moment, so Aidan Rawding gave her report first.

Natalia said that the last two weeks have been relatively slow. She has been working to recap what has happened this year and how to further work with and advocate for international students and issues like international student tuition. She has been speaking with first-year councilors about what they think about issues like the dining hall and ADHD. It is important to focus on big issues, but we should also focus on issues like classes and tutorials. She has also been organizing with Divest Dal for their rally on

Monday. They are trying to garner extra support for the rally. There is a lobby week with the Canadian Federation of Students, where leaders meet with local politicians and talk with them about how to support students in their position and support student causes. She is organizing a care space with Rhema Ferguson. It will be on February 23 and will focus on student experiences of being the only person of color in an all-white classroom. They were able to decide on a date after organizing the event for a bit, and she will be posterizing for it. There will also be Valentine's Day related things at the KSU office.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice-President

Presented by Aidan Rawding

Aidan said that she has been posting on the KSU's social media, sending out TWAK, and promoting FYP Sundays and Winterfest. She wrote on the chalkboard and told people to vote. She will redo the chalkboard soon.

5. Action Items

5.1 BIRT the UKing's Literary Society receives \$88.90 in non-contingent funding for food for their event, hosted in tandem with the King's Jewish Cultural Society on 8th February, *People of the Book: Celebrating Jewish Authors*. Funding request submitted in advance of event; unable to convene finance committee to review.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Aidan Rawding

Kerri said that he has been feeling under the weather and unable to convene the Finance Committee. This request was for fruits, cheeses, crackers, and drinks. The event went well and everyone had a good time.

Motion passed.

5.2 BIRT the King's Film Society receive up to \$23.00 in contingent funding for a film showing on 9th February. Funding request submitted prior to event.; unable to convene finance committee to review.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence

Seconded by Victor Grandy

Kerri said that the KFS is relatively new as far as she is aware. It is a successor to a long series of film societies at King's. This was their second event; their other one was at the end of January. This request was for popcorn and cookies. There was a question at the Finance Committee about the general structure of ensuring filming/screening rights for film societies. This does not seem to be an issue for societies, but if anyone has an idea, let him know

Motion passed.

6. New Business

6.1 Presentation of and voting on a letter of resignation

Moved by Raeesa Alibhai

Seconded by Tessa Hill

Raeesa spoke about how in her time as President, Victoria sat on three hiring committees, one of them to hire an Accessibility Officer for the first time. They brought back the first in-person Orientation Week since 2019 and offer support to students during Hurricane Fiona and Thanksgiving. Raeesa then read off a section of this letter. "This is not a decision I made lightly, but with hours of conversation, thought, and reflection, I've ultimately decided I am resigning from my position on February 12th. It is not within my capacity, given the limited support I have, to continue in this position any longer. For 11 months I have taken on the physical, but most importantly the emotional labour, of far more than just one person. Every difficult phone call, meeting, question, criticism, and every mundane one as well."

Tessa thanked Victoria for all of their work. On behalf of Tessa, she hopes this time is good for them to rest and write their thesis.

Aidan said that Victoria is a hard worker and passionate about the union. She appreciated working with her for those reasons and that she is a great leader.

Those on Zoom could not hear well.

Aidan read the chat and asked Raeesa to repeat what she said.

Raeesa agreed to do so.

Aidan told those on Zoom that Raeesa will read it again.

Raesa repeated herself.

Terra asked Victoria about when they said they are staying on some committees despite resigning from the Presidency.

Victoria said that they will be there as institutional memory and support. The new president will be there. If there are things that come up like tuition, she can be there, but they don't see that happening since most of the people running for election are incumbents.

Raesa said that Victoria is an incredible leader to everyone in this room and hopes she takes that with her into the future.

Victoria said that there was one thing they needed to discuss first - payment. The breakdown was sent to her by Kerri. The month that the union paychecks go out got switched. Because of this, she is owed \$72.16, which is a separate issue. The last paycheck is \$842.86. She would love to get the full amount, as they have had to deal with more stress than previous presidents, they sat on three hiring committees, and had to work over Christmas, but she understands that this is not agreeable to everyone. With the early resignation, they are not working for 16 out of 211 (or 7.6%) paid days of work. So 7.6% will be taken out of their final paycheck. Council can do with it what they will, but she does have ideas about what it is put towards. Out of her total honorarium, which is \$5,900, she will be receiving \$5452.61, as \$447.49 (constituting 7.6%) will be taken out.

Kerri said that it is written in the bylaws that the president will receive the honoraria in 7 installments, once a month. This executive was paid in December, although this is usually not the case. They are usually paid in March. But the logic is that most students are not around for 2-3 weeks in December and in March there is changeover. Both months have 31 days, meaning that this change does not affect the paychecks.

Raesa asked for the numbers to be repeated.

Victoria said that there are 211 work days. This executive was paid in December. So instead of March, February would be the last of the paid days for this executive, missing out on 16 days of work before exec turnover. This is 7.6% of the working days, which results in \$447.49 of the total pay of \$5,900. They will only be paid \$5,452.61.

Tessa asked if it was time for the motion.

Victoria asked Raesa to clarify these numbers in the motion.

Raesa included this clarification accordingly.

David asked Victoria about the portion of their letter that stated they took on the labour of multiple people.

Victoria said that there will be a brief council meeting to get into specifics, but they don't want it publicized. King's is a journalism school and she does not want a story written about this. She needs the month to herself. The union does not have the engagement it needs to have or has had in the past. It needs to engage students. In the past, we looked at the administration as an enemy, which brought students together. But they are no longer the enemy; we can work with them. Advocating for reasonable tuition has to happen at a provincial and federal level, not a university level. That's where the real change will be made. There are fewer people involved with the union, which puts more work on her. Everything people do and don't do cycles back to them. They have received phone calls and texts during absurd hours and days that they specified they would be taking time away. That emotional burden is not something fun to deal with. The summer should have been less stressful and to focus on Orientation Week, but she received the worst phone call a union president can get. This set a horrible tone for them in terms of emotional capacity. They don't have enough people involved, so she always had to be the one physically there at events and showing up because they had a vehicle. If they were not there, no one else would be. This is a large part of why they are resigning.

David asked if Victoria thought wider changes are needed to avoid this in the future.

Victoria said that they would be completely comfortable with a full letter posted on the KSU website. The union needs systematic changes. The next executive cannot just do campaigns and events and ignore the need for change. One thing she could not do was restructure the union. We need a breakdown of operations policies and goals, what students need, what can make a difference in day to day lives, what makes the union beneficial, and what will make students want to engage in the union. There are things of the past (pre-pandemic) that benefitted some students, and they don't want to diminish that. But what our students need and what we think they need at the moment, don't necessarily align. We have to figure out where the structure is broken in order to even begin to make those changes to benefit students. For 8+ years, the structure of a certain number of executives, representatives, and full time staff has been in place. It doesn't work anymore, and it needs restructuring to work more effectively and benefit students. A month isn't long enough to do that, so they are resigning early.

Raesa double checked that the final number was \$5452.61.

*Raessa motioned to accept Victoria Gibb's letter of resignation.
Seconded by Tessa Hill*

Motion passed.

6.2 Extended voting deadline for 2023 spring election

Aidan included 6.2 to make sure it was on record. She will make a post about it, with a statement by the Chair, later today. We did not quorum on voting for spring elections either. So the deadline will be extended to reach more people and get the votes in. The new deadline will be the 14th at 7pm,

Raessa said she spoke with the Chief Returning Officer and they reduced quorum to 15% from 25%. This shouldn't hinder the results too much because everyone is running unopposed.

David asked if it was within the Chair's powers to reduce quorum.

Raessa said that it is all in the ruling that is going out later today. She did this in fall too because they were in the same position.

David asked her to cite specifically where in bylaws this is stated. This was not used before this year.

Raessa and Aidan looked at the bylaws.

Aidan said that in Section 5.2C, it says one of the Chair's duties is the Chair of the union's duties include but are not included to interpreting bylaws. They can do this if a union member brings it to the Chair, and it is a constitutional crisis. She then asked if the CRO is a member of the union.

Raessa said yes.

Kerri asked for clarification about the "constitutional crisis."

Raessa said that it is written as "constitutional concern."

David said that he would contest this as an overextension and misinterpretation of the bylaws.

Raesa said that the statement has not gotten out yet. This does not involve the rest of the council. They can email after. She asked David if that was ok with him.

David said yes.

Terra said that they were curious about reducing quorum to 15% preemptively. There has been barely any advertising about elections, including no in-person postering. Most of the campaigning came from people who were running for office. It feels preemptive with the CRO not doing her job of advertising.

Raesa said that they can talk after. She will edit the statement and clarify that the context behind the change is because of the number of votes for this election so far, and number from the fall. She will hold herself accountable.

Aideen Reynolds said that they are on the Elections Committee. They are the only person, which is slowing it down

Terra said that this is a steep decline in turnout from the executive election when they were CRO, where the turnout was 51%. This is a stark decrease that they are not entirely comfortable with.

Raesa said that the motion will go out later this afternoon, and that they can talk about it then. Are there any other thoughts moving forward?

David said thanks.

Aidan asked if she should touch base with the CRO about advertising.

Raesa said probably not. Sophie should talk with her and not the executive. She then asked Natalia to speak about her new business.

As those on Zoom had trouble hearing, Aidan repeated this for Natalia.

Natalia said that she would give motivation. There was a terrible earthquake in Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria. It was a 7.8 earthquake. It is a complete understatement to say that it has been impactful. So many kids are now without families. So many people lost their homes and work. Her roommates have lost family because they have been crushed in the

rubble. Survivors can't fly out of these areas. This should strike a chord of empathy. We have so much power with Canadian dollars, as they are worth a lot in these countries. For many, the only thing they can do is share social media posts. We have remote power to help people with things that are so big. Syria only got help two days ago. The disaster happened one week ago. She moved to donate \$130 instead of \$100. This amount is significant with the conversion rate; it goes a long way. This is not about what happened, this is about what we can do with our power and privilege. She hopes that we can increase the amount to \$130, and that people here can inform themselves about what's going on and how this is changing lives across the globe. We are privileged to be talking about it and not experiencing it.

David asked how much money is left on the budgetary line this will come from.

Kerri said that this will come from the Community Fund. Last year, it was \$500, but this year we have increased it to \$750. This is good news. Last year, we made donations to People's Park, Abortion Support Services Atlantic, Aid to Yemen, and Displaced Peoples in Canada. Each of these donations was \$100. He wanted to bring up other places to look at donating to. She didn't bring it up today, because he needed to do number crunching and research. But this fund definitely has a lot of room. This budget line is untouched right now. She will bring forward groups after Reading Week. This is a good place to start, and this is not an inappropriate amount to donate considering the scale of the event and the increase in budget.

David asked if this amount could be increased to \$200.

Kerri said that we could do that since we have it in the budget line. Any questions or concerns?

Tessa said that they thought we had used it, but we haven't yet. Is there a limited amount of time to use it?

Kerri said that there was not a limited amount of time per say. The donations from September were in last year's budget line because it was initiated last year. The budget year ends at the end of August.

Tessa said that she was just wondering.

Kerri said that was a fair question. We can definitely do \$200.

Sara said that she was confused. As of right now, do we have the full \$750?

Kerri said yes.

Raesa asked Natalia to clarify where the money would be donated specifically.

Natalia said it would go to the Turkish Society. It would either link us to their account directly or an account that goes directly into Turkey. She will send a follow-up email after the meeting. The Turkish Society will put money directly into disaster relief.

David asked if it is possible to have funds distributed to Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria.

Aidan asked for clarification. Would that mean splitting the donation into three parts?

Natalia said that she thought this is good, but it is hard to get funds into Syria. She was thinking of giving this donation to the TS because Turkey has the most internet access right now. She will look more into distributing it. She doesn't want to donate to the United Nations; she wants to donate right into the committee, and TS should distribute the donations.

Kerri said that if the donation will be distributed, some can be donated to Islamic Relief Canada. Relief appeals are donated across the country.

Raesa asked if the motion should specify the donation would go to the Turkish Society or another cause that will support these countries.

Natalia said that TS is good to look into, but there are many spaces injecting funds into all three countries. She has two contacts working with Lebanon right now. She will talk with Kerri and message everyone involved. She wants the money to be sent as soon as possible - today or tomorrow - and does not want to be delayed by bureaucracy.

Raesa said that before presenting the motion, she would read a draft. Raesa read, "BIRT that the KSU donate \$200 from the Community Fund to one or more foundations that will best support those in Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria."

Kerri clarified that the budget line was the Community Fund.

Raesa read, "BIRT that the KSU donate \$200 from the Community Fund to one or more foundations that will best support those in Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria."

Tessa understood the bureaucracy part, but they don't have transparency about where the money is going. Council should be aware of where the money is going, for the future for whoever is bringing these to the table. We should have an idea of what is happening so that when we vote, we know exactly what we are voting for.

Natalia agreed. Students give a lot of money to the KSU and we are here to work for students. She hoped to donate directly to the Turkish Society. It is unclear now because David brought up an important point. This changed the motion and what to vote on. If anyone wants more transparency, they are welcome to ask her. She only changed or added to where we will donate and an official report is needed. Thanks for holding her accountable.

Kerri said that it is important to bring a name, background information, descriptions of donation history, information about the group, and distribution intent to the council meeting. This should be codified.

Tessa said that the work should be done before so it's clear exactly what they're voting on.

David added that it should be brought up before council meetings if possible.

“BIRT that the KSU donate \$200 from the Community Fund to one or more foundations that will best support those in Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria.”

Moved by Natalia Tola

Motion Passed.

Terra said that they looked in the bylaws. When the president resigns, a by-election will be held. When will that be?

Raesa said that there will be an emergency council meeting held in one week to elect the next president in a by-election. She will talk to Cam about clarification and will communicate in the next 48 hours. The meeting will happen on Zoom before Friday.

David said that he could not hear.

Aidan asked if he heard what Raesa said.

David said that he was all good, he figured it out.

Raesa Alibhai motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Victor Grandy.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:14 AM ADT.