



KSU Council Meeting

The King's Students' Union 2022-2023
Sunday, January 29, 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
Member at Large - Sara MacCallum
Day Student Representative - Victor Grandy
Residence Representative – Mckenzy Flowers

Non-voting members present:

Chair - Raeesa Alibhai
Scribe - Ellie Anderson

Voting Members Absent:

Board of Governors Representative - Tessa Hill
Board of Governors Representative - Sam Sharp
Arts Representative - Cece Leckie
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

Aidan Rawding moved to amend the agenda to include the Chief Returning Officer's report and the Hospitality Coordinator's introduction to the end of 4. Reports of the Executive Committee.

Kerri Lawrence moved to add 6.5 Community Political Outreach to the agenda.

Victoria Gibbs suggested that the Services and Campaign Coordinator (SCC) and the HC reports be moved up to after 3. Oral Reports of the Councilors so that they could go about their days earlier.

Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of Minutes from Council January 15th, 2022

Kerri Lawrence said that the section about financial information was a bit unclear. He asked Ellie Anderson to clarify that the union dues increase in accordance with the Consumer Price Index, which increased by 7.1 last year. Union fees will increase from 3-8% this year in addition to increases from levied societies.

Minutes were approved.

3. Oral reports of the councilors

Lindsay introduced herself as the new Hospitality Coordinator. She graduated from King's in 2022 with a degree in psychology and business. She used to work as a concierge. She loves King's and the job has been amazing so far. She's 2 weeks in, so she doesn't need to give a formal report yet. But she is looking forward to coming to KSU meetings to get a feel for how the meetings and union are run. She can be reached at HC@KSU.ca.

Cam, the SCC, gave his report. The former SCC, Rebecca, worked for 3-4 years. She had a lot of institutional knowledge. Cam is starting to get there. He studied political science and business at Saint Mary's University and was in McGill's management program. He has worked on political elections and in a group home for kids with disabilities. He is getting familiar with being on campus every day. In terms of his work at King's, there are sexual health products that are always free outside of KSU. Students can let the union know if they need more of something they don't carry. Currently, the union provides lube, internal condoms, and latex-free condoms (but the stock is low on those because they are hard to get. But there will be more on their way soon.) There are menstrual health products including tampons, pads, and liners, all of which have a solid supply. Cam administers the Health and Dental plan and that is one of his main responsibilities. There can sometimes be confusion about how to log into Green Shield (which partners with the

KSU on this plan) and people need help logging in. He is working on making the instructions clearer for next year. He will be posterizing about this and international student identity cards. No one has asked about these cards, but they offer discounts around the world. Cam holds office hours, meets with union position candidates, keeps back-office bookings (private meetings), and works in office administration, and COVID-19 safety. This is the first year since 2019 that we are all fully in-person, but people can reach out anytime to schedule phone or zoom meetings. There is still masking on campus, and people come to the KSU office for a single-use mask. They don't typically have COVID tests, but if students do need them, they have some in the office and they can get some from the public library. People should consider the risk to immunocompromised folks, everyone should mask. He has done work with election support and worked with the union on that. Nomination speeches will take place on February 1st. There will be voting for the speaker at the last FYP lecture. The exec helps Cam table in front of Prince Hall and answer questions. The first round of voting includes write-ins and the second round turns into multiple-choice voting. This starts next week. He is there to support the exec and councilors so they can reach out to him about any projects they are working on or think they should start. He also works within union operations, securing flowers, and the valedictorian vote.

Natalia said that it was great he brought up international student cards. There is talk about it in the Canadian Federation of Students. International students have access to them, but the cards are not well known. They offer important services like connections to family doctors. Appointments can be \$70 if a student is not from Canada. She will be happy to help get the word out.

Cam agreed that we should do more to make sure folks know the card exists. They used to be physical cards, but they're now virtual. Knowledge of it fell to the wayside during COVID, but we will work to revamp it to make sure people know it exists.

Natalia agreed that it is not advertised at all, not even in NSCFS. The cards have partnerships with local businesses, which is a great way for international students to get to know the city.

Mckenzy Flowers gave their report. In their first two office hours, they learned about an issue with the dryers that were then fixed.

Sara MacCallum reported that she had an office hour this week. She asked a question about her position: If a councilor decided to run in an executive election, do they have to resign?

Victoria Gibbs said that the bylaws technically state that you are supposed to resign at council prior to assuming the position, but no one has done that in 4 years. Usually, a council member accepts the new position and their old one becomes vacant. You could bring a motion to resign, but no one will try to impeach you if you don't. She asked Aidan to make a note for the Bylaw Review Committee to see if it'll be imposed or repealed.

Natalia Tola asked if this applies to executive members too.

Victoria Gibbs said that it's the same for councilor and executive positions. When your term is up, it's up.

Kerri said that she is not on the Bylaw Committee, but it is an important thing to have recognised in minutes.

Clarification was requested about if this applies if someone is running or if someone is elected.

Victoria said that it applies to someone who is elected.

Victor Grandy reported that the Day Students Society is giving out tickets for Maritime Night. There will be a pool tournament for day students. And they met with Katie Merwin.

4. Reports of the Executive Committee (attached)

4.1 Report of the President

Presented by Victoria Gibbs

Victoria Gibbs said that she does not have a written report, as her thesis report took precedence. She will submit a written report for these past two weeks for the next council meeting. She has been working on Winterfest, which is Friday, February 3rd. They have been in contact with some societies on that and planning. There is a small announcement: there was a minor scheduling conflict, so the Wardroom will not have bar service that evening. We will make sure there are fun sober drinks and snacks, so the Wardy staff don't have to be there. She has had a few meetings in the last few weeks, some with the university administration. The most important one was the Budget Advisory Committee on international tuition. She is waiting for an email to hear about the tuition model. We will then get student feedback on it including surveys for incoming students. She didn't

know about focus groups for current students. Can student union people be in space, not just admin? The admin didn't seem to want to organize a space for it. So there should be a survey and then focus groups. She is waiting to hear back from Julie Green in the Registrar's Office. She will have a document where it explains unbiasedly what the current and proposed models are and who it affects. We will give this to students before the surveys. Victoria has had one-on-one meetings with Katie Merwin and Bill Lahey about end-of-term actions such as turnover. They didn't discuss anything serious or logistical. She is working with Sophie the Chief Returning Officer to have executive elections for this year. She will be finished her term right before she has to submit her thesis.

Natalia wanted to push for the document about tuition increases to be accessible. It is easy for universities to phrase things in academic or governmental ways. This is an issue for minors who have never been to university and those for whom English isn't their first language. And if there are going to be focus groups, we need to push for student representation. There should be someone in between admin and minors to discuss tuition amounts and to make sure students are cared for in this space.

Terra, who was the CRO before Sophie, was curious as to why she was speaking to Victoria. In the bylaws it states that the CRO can only speak with the Chair and not the executive. This is a very hard line that doesn't seem to be followed.

Victoria said that they were not talking purely about the executive. Sophie had questions about when the election dates were going to be and about if the KSU office has old nomination packages, as the Google Drive does not have documents from old elections. She said that we can discuss a harder line.

Raesa Alibhai said that the CRO did email her for the ruling about the nomination deadline.

Kerri said that in the discussion about surveying students, we need to emphasize representation at focus groups. Student advocates are therefore students and should be involved. Kerri also asked if the computer which hosted the Zoom she was on could be hooked up to the Boardroom system, as it was hard to hear what anyone is saying unless really close to the computer.

Victoria said that it worked in the past, but has had trouble working.

Kaitlyn MacNeill said that we can try it.

Aidan Rawding worked to hook it up to the Boardroom system.

Kerri said that he can hear only the first five people on the side of the table that the computer is on.

4.2 Report of the Student Life Vice-President

Presented by Kaitlyn MacNeill

Kaitlyn MacNeill said that she has been working on Winterfest. All of the rooms that they needed are booked. There will be no Wardy bar service, but can still use the space. She worked with the Health Coordinator to give away items from The Body Shop. Everyone was happy about free shampoo and similar items because it's expensive. On Thursday the 2nd, she will be giving free smoothies for students. She will find a space to make them. She has been working with Ashley Nixon to bring back FYP Sundays. On Sunday February 5th, upper years will help first-year students with their essays and snacks and drinks will be provided from Chartwells. There will be a link to sign up in the KSU Instagram bio soon.

Natalia said that that is a great idea and that FYP Sundays are helpful for people in her year.

Kerri said that this is a wonderful idea. We should check about food safety and have caution surrounding that. King's and the KSU are liable for what happens. Maybe we could partner with Galley.

Kaitlyn said the food will be simple, like chips and pop. We can look into talking more about food safety.

4.3 Report of the Financial Vice-President

Presented by Kerri Lawrence

Kerri Lawrence said that the union finally got Quickbooks, which is an accounting system. She has access to the union's accounts and books and is working on getting them up to date since they are 4-5 years behind. He also has access to the CRA account and the deadline to finish work on that is the end of February. Then he can file taxes. She will get much of this work done over the summer because it would be impossible to catch up on 5

years of bookkeeping during the school year. Kerri was on the BAC and will wait to talk about it until 6. *New Business*. In terms of funding for alcohol for Winterfest, every event got approval except the HOST Divination event, as it would be unsanitary due to the dissecting of sleep livers.

4.4 Report of the External Vice-President

Presented by Natalia Tola

Natalia didn't submit a written report either, so this report was oral. Divest Dal will be holding a rally against fossil fuels. They are trying to get into a meeting with fossil fuels and the Dal administration. They will hold a rally even if they can't get into the meeting. They reached out to her for help. She put up posters and could be a marshal or bring snacks. We should promote it around King's. On Wednesday, there is a meeting to organize. She wants to meet with them after and talk about how we can work together. She is working with Rhema Ferguson to create a care space. This would be for conversations about being the only person of color in white-majority spaces and would be an opportunity to discuss with international students and collaborate with them. It is also going to be Black History Month next week. She was thinking of events and things to do like having a writer or poet come in and speak with students. She is working with the CFS Local 69 Deputy Chair in organizing an international student forum, which would be a good network opportunity for students. This would include aspects of what it means to be an activist, what your rights are, and what locals are doing. This CFS meeting will be in Halifax in May.

Victoria said that the CFS conference in November ended chaotically during the elections forum. She acknowledged Natalia's patience in waiting to hear that she got elected.

Natalia said thank you and that it was a hard year for the CFS and the elections forum.

4.5 Report of the Communications Vice-President

Presented by Aidan Rawding

Aidan said that she updated the KSU Instagram and postered about events. She does not have access to the chalkboard yet, as the dining hall has something up. Once they can remove it, she will put information about the KSU on it. She is advertising for Winterfest and is working on a poster with a QR code that you can scan to see its schedule.

5. Action Items

6. New Business

6.1 Upcoming Executive Election

Aidan said that 6.1 Upcoming Executive Election was sent in by Kerri Lawrence.

Kerri Lawrence asked why voting for the upcoming election will be taking place online. We are offering classes in-person and voting online means having a lack of in-person tabling. Tabling is a massive way to bring attention. And there are security concerns about what it looks like to vote online. She wanted clarification, as the current Chief Returning Officer was not present. There were also three councilor seats vacant after the last election.

Raessa Alibhai said that Sophie the CRO is not present, and these questions are mostly about her position and the work she completes. She can forward the meeting minutes to her and then she can provide clarification for these questions.

Kerri said that he wants to chat with the council for a brief outline and wants to hear other people's thoughts and perceptions on the matter.

Terra offered their perspective as the former CRO. They said that last year, students voted online for councilor and executive elections because classes were online for a bit. They had planned to have in-person voting, but the first two weeks in January were online. So it was decided that voting would take place online because it was unclear what would happen. The security concerns are fair. The CRO is the only one to have a voting list and a list with B00 numbers from the Registrar's Office. The work is tiring and burn out inducing. The CRO can see a list of people who did not vote and their B00 numbers, so they could fabricate the votes. Tara thinks we should never do online voting again because of this.

Aidan Rawding said that one concern is getting more people to vote. Online voting is more accessible, but security concerns are important. If voting is all online, we need to increase the amount of tabling we do and we need to get to the day students who aren't on campus.

Sara MacCallum said that she was also going to bring up accessibility. If it is possible to resolve the security concerns, we could hold online and in-person voting. This is a good idea to reach day students who take all of their classes at Dalhousie, as it is unlikely that we could get them to vote in person at King's. If it is possible to explore both options, then it is a good idea to do so. She got an email from the CRO yesterday, which went out to everyone who submitted a nomination form. Will the extended nomination period impact the timeline of the election?

Raessa said that she got a message from Sophie about the extension. She is creating a ruling that will go on social media. After the ruling is finalized, those running will be contacted about the election timeline.

Sara said that we should consider having a longer nomination period. She is not sure if there is an issue in bylaws, but it seems that the nomination period needs to be extended every election.

Kerri asked if anyone knows if councilor positions are open for nominations this time.

Aidan said she doesn't know but we should ask Sophie.

Kerri confirmed that no one here at council knows the answer.

Raessa said that she will ask Sophie.

Kerri said that it is concerning that this was not flagged sooner. The people involved with the union and council were unaware of it. Our advertising and lack thereof impact the student body.

6.2 Galley Levies

Kerri said that this can be put off, as Victoria Gibbs has left the room. If they return, this can be brought up, but for now we can move to 6.3 Tuition Increases.

6.3 Tuition Increases

Kerri said that there will be an increase in tuition for domestic students across the board. For international students, there will be a 10% increase in tuition differential. This is not finalized yet. It will be finalized in the July Board of Governors meeting. Kerri wants to

talk about advocating for it. Will King's follow Dal's model? We might go our own way but it is unlikely because King's doesn't like to rock the boat with Dal tuition. We should take actions like protesting.

Natalia Tola said that the Dal Student Union and the Canadian Federation of Students have highlighted this and have held workshops about it. We should focus on this back at King's and pair with activists and organizations who can speak to this experience. We can also work on organizing one-on-one sessions with students. She would love to help.

Ellie Anderson asked for clarification on the exact tuition increases.

Kerri said that tuition for Arts and Science students will increase by 3%. Journalism tuition might increase by 3%. Kerri has argued to keep these increases at 2.5% or less. It will be 3% for all MFA programs, which will be on top of a 7% increase in mentorship fees, which go to mentors themselves. It looks like it will be a 3% tuition increase across the board for domestic students. There will be a 10% increase in the international differential, plus a 3% increase in tuition for current students. For incoming students, there is a proposed 25% increase. It might look like an increase of 6.25% per year over 4-5 years.

Natalia said that her tuition is now \$15,000 and started at \$12,000.

Kerri said that with a 10% increase, \$16,000 will increase to \$18,500.

6.4 Memorandum of Understanding Negotiations

Kerri is waiting for the Budget Advisory Committee meeting. There are upcoming renegotiations about tuition caps that will be written into law. There is no cap on international student differentials. This is where the province caps domestic student tuition increases at 3% a year. But for domestic outside of Nova Scotia, the 3% cap does not need to apply to them. They can increase it, and they say it's a courtesy. We are entering the negotiations about this with concern. This is something to bring up with the CFS or NSCFS so King's students can take action with other universities, associations, and unions. The new cap will take effect for the next 5 years, and will especially impact international students.

Natalia said that we should think about action plans for the upcoming negotiations. We are waiting to see the results of the poll and what will happen with focus groups. What's delaying us is waiting to see if King's will adopt Dal's plan. Then we can act. There is a

belief that only international students are affected. People will help but not come into a space that isn't their own. But we need to show solidarity to drive the movement forward. We are being delayed, but once we know King's plan, we can organize polls, etc. We need to think of creative ways to involve students.

When King's asks for her perspective, it's always framed as "You're not from Canada, what do you need from us?" It is an open-ended and difficult question to put onto someone. We should ask students easier questions, especially since many are minors and do not need to solve the world's problems. She is happy to talk about it during her office hours. She was also aware that it was 11:15AM and was wary of everyone's time.

Raeesa asked if Kerri had any more input.

Kerri said he wanted to bring this up in council because then the discussion is not just behind closed doors in the executive. She wanted to reach out to the entire council as a representation of the student body. Kerri asked Cam what it would look like to coordinate student groups to talk. This would not necessarily be problem solving, it would just be a space for students.

Cam said that this is a good idea, as is some kind of letter writing campaign. This is not super creative. We received good responses from a survey that asked students what they thought of the CUPE 3912 strike. Maybe we could ask something like "Would this proposed hike impact your finances or education at King's? Would this be positive or negative? Would King's education and culture outweigh bankrupting international students?"

Natalia suggested hosting a brainstorming session and was happy to hear about the responses to the CUPE strike survey. We might not want to do an in-person event for feedback. If students are asked for input, it is often in a tokenizing way, so we should think about how to speak to students in a way that's not institutionalized and is meaningful. There can be a smaller meeting with her, Cam, Kerri, and anyone else who wants to join next week.

6.5 Community Political Outreach

Kerri talked about community involvement in international policies. We should look at letters to politicians as well as community fund petitions, and parliamentary petitions to the Canadian government. There is a parliamentary petition going around and if it gets a certain number of signatures, it must be brought to the floor of Parliament in Ottawa. The

petition is in support of a bill that would expand legislation to protect gender refugees who had to leave their homes due to anti-trans legislation or culture. In addition, Kerri wondered what the council's thoughts were on creating a public statement and writing letters to public representatives. The United States' no fly list was leaked. 3 year olds were on it. Canada has one too, with 6 year olds on it, which is not good. It is also islamophobic, which perpetuates and acts on discriminatory ideas. Also, the union made a public statement following the murder of George Floyd. Recently in the U.S. Tyre Nichols was murdered by police officers. On December 23rd, Nicous D'Andre Spring was unlawfully detained in Montreal and murdered at the hands of police. Kerri wanted to issue a statement against police brutality and violence, especially against Black and Indigenous peoples. These statements would be brought to the council. She wants thoughts on all of this.

Aidan agreed that these are all important things that need to be discussed. It is important that we as a council address them and then bring this to the seven person meeting set for later this week.

Kerri said that it is important to discuss this together as the council and executive, not just the executive. This statement will need to be approved by the council, so he wanted to ask before it is officially brought to a council meeting.

Raeesa Alibhai asked councilors or executive members who have input to speak.

Natalia likes the idea of a statement of solidarity. The KSU stands against these legislations and is aware of what's happening and knows that being an ally means consistently taking action. A statement of solidarity would go a long way. She has been in touch with first years and this is very present in their minds. We should support communities outside of performative activities. This should continue to be developed in the upcoming seven person meeting, but it is good to talk to the councilors about their thoughts and what is happening outside of KSU.

Sara said that it all sounds like a good idea. The community fund is there, and we should use it for things that matter. The executive takes the lead, but she would appreciate getting the statement before the council meeting that it will be introduced in.

Kerri agreed that it would be written up beforehand and then brought to the council.

Sara said that writing direct letters to Parliament is also a good idea. This should not be something we do for every individual issue because it is intensive, but we should organize letter or email writing campaigns to get the student body involved.

Cam asked for clarification on the bill.

Kerri said that it is a private members' bill. It is bill 4268 and is being supported by the Green Party. A public petition was brought to the council, and if it gets 10,000 signatures, it must be brought to the floor to discuss at Parliament. She is bringing this up again because she is looking for councilor input. Kerri would not feel comfortable taking action on it without councilor input. If councilors don't offer their input, he isn't going to drop it, but everyone is here to make things happen, so they should participate.

Mckenzy Flowers agreed with what was being said about councilors having input because these actions and issues will affect everyone. We should be active on campus to show that we are trying to take action this way.

Kerri said that Kaitlyn will be the best person to help organize what that will look like. He wanted to chat with Aidan about publicizing it. Kerri asked if there were any other thoughts or questions from any councilors about statements or donations.

Kerri Lawrence motioned to adjourn.

Motion seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29 AM ADT.