



Agenda for KSU Council Meeting
King's Students' Union 2022-2023
Thursday March 23, 2023 at 7:30pm ADT
Zoom

Voting members present:

Communications Vice President - Sara MacCallum
Financial Vice President - Kerri Lawrence
External Vice President - Terra Carter
Arts Representative - Cece Leckie
Residence Representative – Mckenzy Flowers

Non-voting members present:

President and Acting Chair - Natalia Tola

Voting Members Absent:

Student Life Vice President - Kaitlyn MacNeill
Day Student Representative - Victor Grandy
Board of Governors Representative - *Vacant*
Board of Governors Representative - *Vacant*
Member at Large - *Vacant*
Science Representative – *Vacant*
Journalism Representative - *Vacant*

Non-voting Members Absent:

Chair - Raesa Alibhai
Scribe - Ellie Anderson

Ellie Anderson was absent from the emergency council meeting, but she took the minutes based on the Zoom recording of the meeting.

Call to order.

Recognition of unceded Mi'kmaq territory.

Natalia spoke about how Land Acknowledgements are a work in progress, not just statements. She encouraged everyone to research Halifax and Indigenous history and culture here.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Kerri proposed to include motions 3.1 “BIRT that HostSoc King’s receive \$80 in contingent funding for their conference of the History of Science and Technology this March 25, 2023.” and 3.2 “BIRT that the Pride Society receive \$1,359.24 in contingent funding for their Queer Prom event held on April 1st.” in 3. New Business.

Natalia said that these would be recorded in the minutes.

Agenda was adopted.

2. Action Items

5.1 BIRT the CRO receive their Honorarium of \$525 for duties in the winter semester having been performed.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence.

Seconded by Terra Carter.

Kerri offered motivation, saying that he has not been quiet about concerns regarding the union’s elections. Executive members spoke with Sophie about the last two elections and her term as CRO. There are a lot more factors at play that weren’t the responsibility of the CRO, including changeover, training, and communication. This is traceable to internal procedural stuff in the union, which operates loosely. Sophie should receive the full honorarium she is owed for the work that she did in a significantly stressful time with very little guidance.

Motion passed.

5.2 BIRT the following referendum question appear on a ballot to be posed to the general members of the King’s Students’ Union:

“Whereas the King’s Galley received federal support loans during the COVID-19 pandemic to remain operational; and

Whereas the continual interruptions of the pandemic have drastically reduced the Galley’s profits, prohibiting its ability to pay back those loans by the due date of December 31st 2023; and

Whereas a levy of \$___ per full-time student and \$___ [the same amount] per part-time student for the 2023-2024 year would assist in paying these loans in order

to keep the Galley operational; and

Whereas this increase in levy would only apply for the 2023-2024 year, so that the Galley levy for 2024-2025 will increase with CPI according to the unaltered levy for 2023-2024, which is \$14.73; and

Whereas further information is provided at ksu.ca/save-our-galley/;

Do you support increasing the King's Galley levy for full-time and part-time students to \$___ [same amount] per semester?

Yes

No"

Moved by Kerri Lawrence.

Seconded by Terra Carter.

Natalia said that Kerri will explain what this means. She said that students pay a levy to the union so we can keep the Galley operational and we will increase that levy.

Kerri had a PowerPoint and worked with Sara, the host of the Zoom meeting, to share her screen.

Natalia said that this is Kerri being a mastermind and serious and this will work out for the Galley.

Kerri hoped that it would work out. Kerri said that these numbers aren't official, but they are pretty close to accurate and can be confirmed by the next council meeting and the General Meeting. For background, the shutdowns starting in 2020 and continuing for 2 years hit the Wardy and Galley, so they took out business loans from the government to stay afloat. The loans were \$60,000 each, so \$120,000 in total. If we repay them by December 31, 2023, the government will forgive the loan up to 33%. We would only have to pay back \$40,000 per business, so \$80,000 in total. If we don't pay it all in by then, we have to pay the full amount and 5% interest per year. It would have to be paid by April or August 2025, but she didn't pay attention to that part because if that's the situation, we don't have hope for the Wardy and the Galley. But we have hope for them now. Thank you to everyone for being here. This will be a long presentation with lots of numbers, so he'll do his best to keep it short. Please don't hesitate to ask questions, just unmute and ask. Here are the guaranteed numbers. We owe \$80,000. The Wardy has \$18,000 saved and the Galley has \$10,000 saved. In the budget line for 2022/2023, we approved \$17,610 as a grant to the Galley and Wardy. \$8,000 has been paid out already, but we owe \$9,160 still. This all subtracts from the total, so we have to worry about \$42,390. One of the most guaranteed ways we can do this is by increasing the levy for students temporarily, only for the 2023/2024 budget year. The Galley increases its levy according to inflation, or Consumer Price Index (CPI). For this year, the fee for the entire year was \$13.79 per student for full-time and part-time. This year's CPI is 6.8%. Regardless of whatever happens, this means that the minimum levy will be

\$14.73.

Kerri then clarified why the businesses are in debt, for reasons aside from the pandemic. We took out loans in the first round of shutdowns. No one anticipated that there would be intermittent shutdowns for 2 years. This is the first year that both businesses have been fully operational since COVID started. So they were hit massively. Also, as students run businesses that serve students, they don't make a big profit. The goal of the union and these businesses is to provide students with accessible and cheap food, drink, and entertainment. We don't prioritize profit-making. A regular institution makes 30% of the mark-up cost of goods and we make 6%. This is something we pride ourselves on. We provide for students at a rate that isn't offloading the cost onto students. But it's not a great strategy to save up money. We are trying to find a way to do this and not hike-up costs for students. At the best of times, the Galley doesn't make a big profit. The Wardy formed a long time ago. It's a long King's tradition, as it was a naval base in World War 2. The Galley was formed in 2014 out of a protest and boycott of the food company before Chartwells. It was truly built out of student initiatives and has always been. These are student spaces that are accessible.

In terms of levy options, the numbers he presented were calculated on the presumption of 970 students enrolling for the 2023/2024 year. The first option is to keep the levy at \$14.73 per student (both full and part-time) per year. This option either means the executive doesn't vote for having the referendum or the referendum fails. It means we would have to find \$28,101.90 before December. We have options of where to find the money, we'll talk about it at the end. The second option is the smallest increase that's pragmatic for the effort of the referendum: \$16 per student per year. That means we would have to find \$26,870, which is a decrease of about \$1,500 from the last option. Are there any questions?

Cece asked where all the money went if the businesses were shut down. This is a big question that students will have.

Kerri is hoping to provide a detailed breakdown in the next few days. She is sitting down to go over it with the Hospitality Coordinator. The overhead alone costs a lot. We pay rent on them to the university and the university owns some equipment. There is also maintenance and training for staff. We had to bring on a new body of staff because the business was shut down for so long. We usually don't have to train so much. This shouldn't be a pattern in the future because we're not returning from a hard shutdown. There were invoices and vendors had to be paid. There was an interim period where things were not quite locked down. You could go to the Wardy, but there were significant restrictions on who could be there, so they barely broke even. Kerri is glad they could be open to keep the culture alive and the loan was instrumental in providing that opportunity. Does that answer your question?

Cece said thank you, that seems to add up.

Kerri said that the third option for the levy increase is \$16.73 per student per year. This

is an additional \$2 for the levy for this budget year only. That would leave \$26,161.90 left to find and would be a drop of \$700 from the last option. The fourth option would be \$17, leaving \$25,900 left to find. This is a significant difference from not raising it at all, but it could be more significant. The fifth option, which would be in the ideal range is \$17.73. This would leave \$25,191 left to find. The sixth option is \$18, leaving \$24,930 left to find. This is not a significant decrease from the last option, but the difference is significant between \$17 and \$14.73. The last option is \$18.73. This is the highest option that should be entertained and would leave \$24,221.90 to find.

We were anticipating having to increase fees for CKDU and the Loaded Ladle at Dal, but they did not extend their petitions to increase these levies to King's.

In terms of King's student fees, there will be around a 6.8% (probably a 6.5%) increase. We are working to offset this the best we can because inflation is taking its toll on all of us. We are trying to keep student businesses and student culture alive and keep the union functional to serve students, but we need to have students to serve. We are very cognizant of that. At the most, the highest option would represent a \$4 increase in levies for 2023/2024 only. After that, the levies for the 2024/2025 year would be calculated by adding CPI to \$14.73. No matter what happens, this levy increase will not carry past this year. Kerri hopes to have this resolved after December 31, 2023, and doesn't know what will happen if it's not resolved then. Hopefully we don't have to come to that. This presentation will be made available for people to see. Any questions?

Natalia said that she knew that there are a lot of financially related words. She wasn't familiar with this originally. We are always available in the office, and happy to help clarify. To sum up, we are trying to save the Wardy and Galley. We work so closely with them, and it's an understatement to say that students love them.

Kerri said that to be clear, there were questions about the loans asked at the last General Meeting. She responded optimistically and thought the last thing we had to do was put forward student dues to offset this. But no one had the information we have now. The new Hospitality Coordinator has been digging very deeply to get an excellent business plan up and running. The increase in levies isn't the only action being taken to secure the funds to pay off the loans. It is a vital contingency option that we have. Worst case scenario, the referendum goes through. Actually, no, the worst case is if the referendum isn't approved or fails and the Galley goes under. The second worst case scenario, this referendum goes through and there's extra money or we overestimated what we need. We will put it in a contingency fund so this doesn't happen again. This is a crucial weakness of the union. We try to have a balanced budget every year, as is legally required, but we operate on tight margins and we don't have contingency funds for this kind of emergency. We should set one up so this doesn't happen again. Are there any questions?

Cece asked for clarification that the referendum refers to both the Wardy and Galley despite being framed as saving the Galley.

Kerri said that this is complicated because we don't know how we're breaking up the income we're getting here. The businesses are very linked, although they are technically separate businesses. If we can pay back one loan, it doesn't impact the other. It is framed as a Galley thing for this levy specifically because the Galley is an externally levied society at King's and the Wardy is not. There is also a Wardy operations grant. Kerri's understanding is that the money is going into a pool to aid both of them. If there are no other questions, we can move on this as a motion. We have to amend it to include a number in the blank spots, so we have to vote on what the number will be. You all don't have to follow this recommendation, but if we could do \$17.73 or \$18, that would be ideal. If people aren't comfortable with it, that's fine. This is just a vote for the referendum. We are voting to open it up to the student body for them to decide/confirm if they are fine with the number.

Natalia said that we can move on to voting. Everyone type your vote into the chat, we don't need to vote on the numbers.

Kerri said that we need the numbers.

Natalia thought that we were just voting on the referendum.

Kerri said that we need to vote on the numbers first.

Natalia said oh, okay. We are voting on the numbers. Raise your hand if you're comfortable with the numbers Kerri proposed.

Kerri said that it would be easier if everyone could put in the chat what number they would vote for.

Terra asked that either Natalia or Kerri turn their microphone off. They are in the same room so it is hard to understand what they're saying when they both have their mics on.

Natalia told Terra that she and Kerri could hear them.

Terra said it was hard to hear them both with both of their mics on and asked again if one of them could turn their mic off.

Kerri apologized and asked Terra if they would like to ask their question again.

Terra asked a clarifying question. \$17.73 is a \$3 increase from the current levy, correct?

Kerri said yes, what the levy is currently set at. For 2022/2023, the levy is \$13.79, and will increase to \$14.73 for the 2023/2024 school year due to the increase in CPI. This is a constitutional decree of the society. For 2024/2025, Kerri recommends calculating the CPI increase of \$14.73, regardless of if the referendum passes.

Terra said that as long as this is okay with everyone, they want to amend the motion to fill the space with \$17.73, knowing it is one of the two numbers recommended and is the lowest of the two. This would be following financial advice and we also do not want to burden students.

Natalia said that we need a seconder.

Kerri asked if she can second an amendment to his own motion.

Terra said no.

Kerri asked if there was any opposition to \$17.73 as the number before we vote.

Cece said it's good to do a \$3 increase. It's a simple, solid number and people will know what the increase is. It's helpful for students.

Kerri agreed.

Natalia agreed to \$17. To vote yes, please raise your hand or type "aye" into the chat.

Kerri said it was \$17.73.

Natalia said right \$17.73.

Voting commenced.

Terra told Natalia that she could not vote, as she was acting as Chair.

Natalia apologized and said that she's never chaired a meeting before.

Motion passed.

5.2 BIRT the following referendum question appear on a ballot to be posed to the general members of the King's Students' Union:

“Whereas the King’s Galley received federal support loans during the COVID-19 pandemic to remain operational; and

Whereas the continual interruptions of the pandemic have drastically reduced the Galley’s profits, prohibiting its ability to pay back those loans by the due date of December 31st 2023; and

Whereas a levy of \$17.73 per full-time student and \$17.73 [the same amount] per part-time student for the 2023-2024 year would assist in paying these loans in order

to keep the Galley operational; and

Whereas this increase in levy would only apply for the 2023-2024 year, so that the Galley levy for 2024-2025 will increase with CPI according to the unaltered levy for 2023-2024, which is \$14.73; and

Whereas further information is provided at ksu.ca/save-our-galley/;

Do you support increasing the King's Galley levy for full-time and part-time students to \$17.73 [same amount] per semester?

Yes

No”

Natalia asked everyone to vote.

Terra asked if we needed a seconder.

Natalia answered, but was on mute.

Terra told Natalia that she was muted.

Natalia said that Terra has seconded the original motion.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence.

Seconded by Terra Carter.

Motion passed.

3. New Business

Kerri asked Natalia if she would like to introduce the next motion and then realized that this was not written down. Kerri apologized to the Scribe and was very confused while trying to open Powerpoint.

Natalia thanked everyone for sticking through this and working with us. Everyone is trying their best, a lot going on.

Kerri agreed that it's a bit hectic. To be clear, the referendum will be happening soon. In 2 weeks, we will hold a public forum where someone will advocate for the motion and someone will argue against it. We have 5 days from that to host a vote. This will line up with the AGM. We will be opening up elections for Board of Governor representatives and Member At Large. Now let's talk about other possible numbers. We have a few

options of money we can reallocate. We have hope for the Galley. There are surplus options like a guaranteed investment certificate (GIC) that is worth \$9,000. It's just a bank account. There is a surplus of \$5,547 that was a surplus for health and dental services during COVID. It was initially set aside with the intention of offsetting inflation in student costs for accessing health and dental and insurance. Kerri would like to see that happen, but no actual plans or motions have been set in action, so the funds are not being side shuffled from something that they were hardcore committed to. Ideally we won't have to use this money to offset costs, and we can use it for health and dental.

3.1 BIRT that HostSoc King's receive \$80 in contingent funding for their conference of the History of Science and Technology this March 25, 2023.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence.

Seconded by Sara MacCallum.

Kerri said that HOSTSoc King's is the departmental society for the History of Science and Technology. He always wants to say "history of early modern," but that's not right. They are finally able to do the conference again. She doesn't believe they were able to last year. This is the first time one of the department societies could hold a fully in person conference since 2019 or 2020. This is very exciting and they are expecting a big turnout. On the screen is a breakdown of the request. They requested \$73.49 and Kerri suggested \$80 for contingency funding since we can't walk it back if they overspend. This acts as a buffer. Any questions?

Motion passed.

3.2 BIRT that the Pride Society receive \$1,359.24 in contingent funding for their Queer Prom event held on April 1st.

Moved by Kerri Lawrence.

Seconded by Terra Carter.

Kerri promised that this is the last motion and we will be out of here after. If anyone has any questions, Kerri can run and get the President or Co-President of the society so that they can answer. Sara no longer sits on the executive board of the Pride Society due to a conflict of interest, but she can hopefully answer questions too. The Pride Society used to be vibrant, but fizzled out during COVID. King's has a large queer population. Halifax has one designated queer space, which just opened up a few months ago. Queer prom is not a closed space, but everyone is welcome. Hopefully it'll be a big event, especially since there have not been a lot of events like this since COVID hit. Personally as Financial VP, Kerri would love to see students come together in a massive way and revitalize some community among us, especially in a place that doesn't have many queer spaces, and in a time where it is increasingly dangerous to be a queer person. As a note, this is a high number for a funding request. He hoped to

bring it through the Finance Committee for adjustments before council, but in the interest of time so they can purchase what they need before April 1st, she is doing it here at council instead. All of this to say, it's a high ask. We still have \$13,000 in society funding that's untouched as of now. Not only can we use that, but we have an obligation to. With that said, we don't have to approve the request as is. The floor is open to questions, comments, and suggestions. Kerri asked why he was hearing gospel music down the hall.

Natalia said that there is a choir that practices at King's every Thursday. They have a performance on April 1st if everyone would like to see some live music.

Kerri asked if it is UCVE.

Natalia said that it could be.

Kerri asked everyone to keep an eye out for these events coming up, as well as the KJCS' and KFSI's upcoming AGMs, and UCVE will have a show shortly.

Motion passed.

Kerri Lawrence motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Terra Carter.

Natalia said with that ladies and gentlemen, we are done.

Kerri thanked everyone for taking the time to be here. She hoped it would be quicker, so everyone's time and patience are really appreciated.

Terra said that we still have to vote to adjourn.

Kerri said fuck.

Natalia apologized and said that was her fault.

Meeting Adjourned