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## Agenda for KSU Spring General Meeting

The King's Students' Union 2022-2023

Thursday October 27th, 2022, 6pm ADT

In the HMCS King's Wardroom

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### **Members of the Executive:**

President - Victoria Gibbs

Communications Vice President - Aidan Rawding

External Vice President - Natalia Tola

Student Life Vice President - Kaitlyn MacNeill

Financial Vice President - Kerri Lawrence

### **Non-voting members present:**

Chair - Raesa Alibhai

Scribe - Ellie Anderson

*Called to order at 6:31 PM ADT.*

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

## **1. Adoption of Agenda**

*Victoria Gibbs motioned to strike Action Item 4.5 BIRT the letter "u" in Union be capitalized in section 3.4.i, "Duties of the Student Life Vice-President", 4.6 BIRT the letter "u" in Union be capitalized in section 21.e.i, "Strikes and Disqualification", and 4.8 BIRT in sections 3.3.r., 3.4.q., 3.5.s., 3.6.j. and 3.7.n., a digit in parentheses be added following the written number of office hours each executive member must hold" from the agenda.*

Victoria offered motivation, saying that these action items regarded grammatical errors in the bylaws, which is a matter that can be resolved without a vote from the KSU.

*Motion passed.*

*David Shuman motioned to strike Action Item 4.3 BIRT the comma after "one" in sentence "The King's Students' Union is one, democratic body" be omitted in the first sentence of the Founding Provisions" from the agenda.*

David offered motivation, saying it should be struck due to a grammatical reason.

Victoria clarified that it is a technicality.

David agreed.

*Motion passed.*

Someone asked if anyone in attendance can introduce new Action Items.

Raeesa Alibhai said that yes, they can.

A representative from the CKDU spoke about how Dalhousie is planning on increasing student fees, so many students will not be able to cover expenses. They had already spoken to Victoria Gibbs about it. They asked if a motion could be introduced at the AGM to address this and to ultimately move the process of passing the motion along faster.

Victoria said that student fees can only be moved upon during elections and then a referendum would need to be introduced. This would need to happen during the spring elections and the referendum would happen in February 2023, so it would apply to next year's budget, not this year's.

Kerri Lawrence said that if they have any further questions, they are welcome to speak to him after the meeting.

*Agenda was adopted.*

## **2. Approval of Minutes from March 30th, 2022.**

*Minutes were approved.*

## **3. State of the Union**

*Presented by KSU President Victoria Gibbs.*

Victoria Gibbs said that this speech will quickly cover the activities of the union and then they will give the floor to Natalia Tola to talk about topics outside of Victoria's report, as there were recent developments earlier that day. She spoke about how this was the first in-person General Meeting in the Wardroom since October 2019 and that this was the set up of her first GM, so she is happy to return to this format. It has been hard to engage new members during the pandemic and it has been hard to do what unions do, so she is glad to see the turn out at this GM. Orientation week was fully in-person for the first time in over 2 years. Move in day went very well and many parents complimented the leaders and the event. There was a lot to be done in organizing during O-Week, so they cannot praise the leaders enough. Victoria thanked the King's Food Security Initiative and its co-lead David Shuman for helping students get food and power during and after Hurricane Fiona. Other KSU activities included having fully in-person office hours for the first time in 2 years, this year's Thanksgiving Dinner, and attending the Canadian Federation of Nova Scotia Students dinner. In regards to the CUPE 3912 strike, the KSU partnered with the Galley to give food and snacks to those on the picket line. In terms of community engagement, it is great to see campus back in action again and to see students

take part in the community. The KSU wants to further this engagement by getting students into common spaces and student-run businesses like the Wardy. She encouraged all attendees to come to the KSU office hours and say hi and ask questions during KSU tabling shifts and around campus. The union is made up of students, and their voices need to be heard, as the KSU wants to know what the students are thinking, wanting, and how they want it to run. Students should be a part of elections, committees, meetings, and decision making bodies. Lastly, Victoria thanked everyone for being at the meeting and hopes that it is a positive experience for everyone. She then gave the floor to Natalia Tola.

Natalia Tola spoke about the CUPE strike. CUPE 3912 is the biggest union in Nova Scotia for academic workers. The Dal members are striking because Dal does not pay its TAs and PTAs what they should, but they gave the president a 13% raise. Many of the TAs are students and they need student support, even from King's students, most of whom have classes at Dal. Many are also international students who do not know they are being taken advantage of. Earlier that day, it was decided that there would be a Halloween costume themed Solidarity Strike on Monday, October 31. Everyone at this meeting should join and stand for worker's rights.

#### **4. Action Items**

4.1. BIRT if quorum is lost, any action items not disposed of at this general meeting be referred to council for final decision.

*Moved by Sam Sharp*

*Seconded by Terra Carter*

Sam Sharp offered motivation. Much of what is being covered during the GM is routine and bureaucratic, like the budget. But the KSU still needs to operate as a union if quorum is lost and this is assured by this motion.

*Motion passed.*

4.2. BIRT the 2022-2023 budget (attached) be adopted.

*Moved by Kerri Lawrence*

*Seconded by Aidan Rawding*

Victoria Gibbs stood to offer motivation for Kerri Lawrence, who stepped out for a moment. But Kerri returned to offer her own motivation.

Kerri Lawrence's motivation involved a breakdown of the budget. While there are more King's students than last year, there are 26 more part-time students this year. Because part-time students pay less, there is a slight decrease in funding than had been anticipated in the spring. This is not a significant issue and it is exciting to see enrollment increase overall. Kerri moved into detailing this year's changes to the health plan. There is an increase in the cost of the plan, but it totals less than 1%. There is a 10% reduction in co-pay if a student goes through Pocket Pills to get their medication. Ink-blot therapy is

now covered and there is also an increase in the amount of coverage for therapy, psychiatric care, and psychological services. Dental remains the same. In terms of external levies, this has not changed much since last year. The King's Food Security Initiative is charging \$3 per student and this will increase with inflation. The Canadian Federation of Students and CFS NS costs remain the same, as do those for South House. As for internal levies, students pay \$10 each for O-Week, which goes into the O-Week budget for the following year. Levies for societies can be accessed by any ratified societies for funding for food. What goes in goes out, so the internal levies revenue is \$0. The operating budget is funded by full time student fees, which is \$190.55 and part-time student fees which is \$95.27. There is an increase in income, but it is reduced from what was anticipated in the spring, but they intentionally overestimate in the spring. The contract is being renegotiated with the ATM. There were Health and Dental Plan savings during the pandemic. These savings are being held onto because of inflation, and the hope is to use it to offset costs for next year or coming years for healthcare. It needs to be more accessible. These savings total \$5,547. Kerri then broke down where the total revenue goes to. Due to COVID-19 there was a surplus in the revenue from unused funds. \$13,000 was allocated to a Wardroom and Galley Assistance Grant. The KSU is giving money back to services and work given to the students. These businesses took a massive hit during the pandemic, so the KSU wants to help keep these businesses open. Revenue is also being allocated to honorariums. There is a slight change in management and operations. The KSU saved \$5,000 and hired a new Staff Coordinator. Everything else in this section stays the same. Legal and financial costs remain the same. Banking fees decreased a little. They are anticipating a slight increase in insurance costs, but there is no solid answer yet. Kerri then spoke about how the union is allocating this revenue in their direct work. There is an increase in funding for sexual and menstrual health products. Students requested these products the most and the KSU is happy to provide them. These numbers represent the attempt to find a middle ground between students being on and off campus and how much money should therefore be spent on them. The KSU is hoping to do Winterfest this year, as COVID shut it down last year. This will probably happen in February. This will be a big event with most King's societies participating.

Victoria Gibby included that they are hoping to have it in February, but are not fully sure yet as they need permissions from the school. There is currently a mailing list about the event with all of the societies, but if anyone else would like to be put on this list, they should talk to her after the GM.

Kerri spoke about how graduation has not been held for a few years due to the pandemic, so there were no costs for it. This year, 3 years worth of graduations were held, so he was not entirely sure how much to estimate for this year. The numbers will decrease for next fall, as it should have only one year graduating. There is a student fund increase. Some money is being put toward traveling conferences, including the one Victoria Gibbs and Natalia Tola are going on next weekend. They will go to Ottawa for the CFS convention that will host unions from across the country and will foster national student advocacy and partnerships. There is an increase in money allotted to campaigns. This is in part a response to the CUPE strike. There is an increase to the community fund. This money

goes to groups off campus that are not associated with the union. Requests for donations were submitted and approved, so donations have been given to Abortion Services and Supports Atlantic, People's Park (prior to the eviction of its residents), Ukraine, and Yemen. The contingency or emergency fund is also up from last year, but down from what was predicted. Kerri then came back to the student fund. During the last GM, it was proposed that the surplus be used to try to start a student financial aid fund. It is unclear exactly what this will look like. The KSU has been in conversations with other student unions and associations. King's is a small place and has the smallest student union in the country. The Wardy and Galley are still recovering from COVID and inflation. The student aid fund is being worked on as a current contingency. There is no structure yet, but hopefully there is one by the next GM. This will support students in whatever way they need. The rest of the money will be put into the Wardy and Galley fund. There has been a loan taken out and the union is in great shape to repay it. There will be a fair bit of money left over which will go directly back into the student fund when the loan is repaid. Changes in the Galley and Wardy include increases due to inflation, a minimum \$15 per hour wage, and the Wardy is now open 4 nights a week. The KSU is also in discussions with the university about the Chartwells contract and working towards a minimum wage of \$15 per hour. There will be consultations with students over the next semester in order to see what students need and what form they would like the fund to take, as well as how much would be good to allocate to it next year. In summary, the KSU wants to use the Health and Dental Plan surplus, which is \$5,547 and is the only surplus they have, to reduce healthcare plans.

David Shuman asked for clarification about the Galley Operations Grant.

Kerri Lawrence said that \$13,800 comes from a society funding surplus (the money students paid into society levies) from COVID.

David asked if the grant will continue next year, as it might discourage societies from accessing that money.

Kerri said that she is working with societies on this issue. Internal society levies have remained the same and untouched. It is understandable that they might feel discouraged. The KSU wants the loans paid off by the end of 2023, but hopefully before. The fund will likely not continue past this budget year.

David asked how much the loans are.

Kerri said that the Canadian government offered small business loans to businesses not operating during COVID. One was taken out for the Galley and one for the Wardy. They were \$60,000 each. \$20,000 from each loan acts as a grant, so each loan is really \$40,000. 75% has been paid off.

Victoria Gibby added that one loan has \$16,000 left.

Kerri said that half of what was pledged last year to the Galley has been paid out. There is enough money for one loan to be paid by the end of this year and one by the end of 2023, or both can be split evenly.

David asked about interest.

Kerri said that there will be no interest as long as the loans are paid off by the end of 2023, which they will be.

*Motion passed.*

4.4 BIRT a definition be added for the term “by-election” in the Important Terms of the KSU Bylaws.

*Moved by Aidan Rawding*

*Seconded by Natalia Tola*

Aidan Rawding offered motivation. She helped out with the bylaw review committee and its amendments. She went over the definition of what the bylaws are. Bylaws are brought up during every GM to get student input. In this motion, she would like to add a definition for “by-election,” as the term can be seen throughout the bylaws but there is no definition. This is for clarity. The proposed definition would read “A by-election is a special election held between election terms; not when official elections take place but when a need arises for a transfer of power between the set election periods. A by-election can take place when an executive member is no longer able to complete their duties to” absence, inability, or refusal.”

David Shuman said that he had a bit of concern about the proposed wording of “absence, inability, or refusal.” This implies that if an executive does any of these while still in position, there can be a by-election.

Victoria Gibbs asked if he wanted there to be a phrase to clarify that when an executive member is absent, this occurs.

David said that this could be cleared up by adding language of impeachment.

Aidan Rawding asked where he would like to see this wording.

David suggested that the wording says “A by-election can take place when an executive member is impeached,” because the words in the proposed statement are covered under the umbrella of “impeachment.”

Victoria said that the language would then need to say “impeached” or “resigned” because both are in the by-laws.

Aidan asked if this motion would then need to be voted down or reintroduced in council.

David said that these concerns regard the language of the motion itself, which would then impact how it is addressed.

Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ asked if it would be possible to now make an amendment regarding how to amend the motion.

Victoria said that the motion can be said out loud with these modifications and they will be in effect after the motion passes.

Aidan clarified that the motion would then say “A by-election can take place when an executive member is impeached or resigns their position.” She again read the motion outloud.

*Motion passed.*

4.7 BIRT the initialism “SCC” in section 3.5.i, “Duties of Financial Vice-President” be replaced with its full name, Services and Campaigns Coordinator.

*Moved by Aidan Rawding*

*Seconded by Natalia Tola*

Aidan Rawding offered motivation. This motion is to provide clarity. “SCC” refers to the Services and Campaign Coordinator, who is Cam currently. In the by-laws, this is never clarified. The full title should be added so this is clear.

Sara MacCallum said that she is pretty sure that later in the by-laws the SCC is referred to as the full title. She suggested putting the full title in brackets next to the mentions of “SCC” to provide more transparency and so the readers of the by-laws know that it refers to that.

Aidan agreed.

*Motion passed.*

4.9 BIRT in section 3.7.a. of “Duties of Communications Vice-President”, the day that the CVP sends out “This Week at King’s” be changed from Sunday to Monday.

*Moved by Aidan Rawding*

*Seconded by David Shuman*

Aidan Rawding offered motivation. Currently in the by-laws, it says that TWAK is sent out on Sundays. Aidan makes it on Sunday and sends it out on Mondays at 8:30am. The former CVP Sam Sharp also sent TWAK out on Mondays. This motion is to clarify this.

Victoria Gibbs asked Aidan to clarify what TWAK is and how people can sign up for it.

Aidan said that TWAK stands for This Week At King's, which is a weekly e-newsletter to the King's community. It includes polls and information about what is going on at King's. There is a link to subscribe or unsubscribe on the newsletter or people can come to her to get signed up.

*Motion passed.*

4.10 BIRT the duties listed in section 3.7.b of "Duties of Communications Vice-President" be assigned to both the Communications Vice-President and the Services and Campaigns Coordinator.

*Moved by Aidan Rawding*

*Seconded by Natalia Tola*

Aidan Rawding offered motivation. Cam the SCC has been helping her to maintain and update the KSU website and bulletin boards. The by-laws used to say that the CVP did this on their own. She wanted to be transparent about the fact they collaborated on this.

Aideen Reynolds said that the contract signed by the SCC is a legally binding contract, so changing these duties in the by-laws is not legally binding.

Victoria Gibbs said that she could not respond until she read through the SCC's contract.

Aideen said that the nature of a contract is that when you sign it, nothing else can change anything about their job.

Kerri Lawrence asked for clarification.

Aideen said the SCC's duties should not be in the by-laws, as it would be confusing and weird for the readers. And people at the GM should not be led to think that they control the SCC's job when they do not.

Victoria looked at the contract for a bit. The by-laws are not legally binding and do not define Cam's duties. So to keep it out of the by-laws, it would need to be voted against at this meeting.

Aideen said that it is a confusing motion and asked that the by-law review committee look into striking those duties from the proposed changes.

Daniel \_\_\_\_ asked if this is being put into the by-laws for full-transparency or to add an obligation to the contract, which would technically be a violation.

Aidan said that this would be for transparency, so people would know that she has been leaning on Cam. She asked Cam and he said that he was cool with it, so she proposed these changes. She can double check and would be fine to vote against it.



David Shuman said that the wording of the motion and the wording of the change are different. The motion assigns duties and the wording of the motion offers transparency.

Victoria asked for people to vote against it so the by-law committee could have more conversations about it. It should be ready to go by the next GM.

David said that he did not think that the wording of this put any duties onto the SCC. It comes across as explaining that this already happened.

Kerri said that this is a miscellaneous category in the contract. The goal is to clarify on the CVP, not the SCC end. This does not change the duties of the role, but gives flexibility in responding to the needs of the executive. The SCC has done this before.

Sara MacCallum asked if it was possible to change the wording so that the wording of the motion reflected the intended goal.

Raeesa Alibhai said that the wording cannot be amended right now.

Daniel said that this conversation was getting into the weeds and this should just go to the by-law committee.

*Motion did not pass.*

4.11 BIRT the page numbers in the Table of Contents be revised to ensure they correspond with the proper sections throughout the bylaws.

*Moved by Aidan Rawding*

*Seconded by Victoria Gibbs*

Aidan Rawding offered motivation. She wants to make sure that people can look up what they need when going to consult the bylaws.

*Motion passed.*

4.12 BIRT Sam Sharp and Thunder \_\_\_ be elected to the Wardroom Advisory Committee.

*Moved by Victoria Gibbs*

*Seconded by Natalia Tola*

Victoria Gibbs offered motivation. This is a new committee and is a little different than the Galley Board of Directors. It is made up of members of the administration, alumni, the Hospitality Coordinator, Victoria Gibbs, and Kerri Lawrence. They focus on hiring policies and finance practices. This is a good opportunity for anyone who wants to get behind the scenes and take part in what happens in the Wardroom. At the moment, there is nothing stopping Wardy or Galley staff from sitting on this board.

Raeesa Alibhai explained how the process works. Anyone can self nominate by raising their hand. She then asked if anyone would like to do so.

Victoria Gibbs had a nomination form from Sam Sharp to bring forward. Sam had stepped out of the room and therefore could not motivate in-person. Victoria motivated on their behalf. Sam is very involved on campus. They were a First Year Representative and CVP, they work in the Wardy, and are part of the Board of Governors, KFSI, and are the Co-President of the King's Dance Collective.

Raeesa asked if anyone else would like to nominate themselves.

Thunder \_\_\_\_ self nominated. He is a first year student who is in FYP, is the Treasurer of the KDC, and is in the Wardy a lot, so he would like to contribute to it in some way.

*Motion passed.*

4.13 BIRT Alice \_\_\_\_ be elected to Dining Services Committee.

*Moved by Kaitlyn MacNeill*

*Seconded by David Shuman*

Kaitlyn MacNeill offered motivation. She said that the committee is not a very big commitment. The committee meets every once in a while to discuss ideas for Prince Hall and address opinions and complaints. It's an interesting committee for anyone who is interested in learning more about how dining services work.

The floor was opened to nominations.

Alice \_\_\_\_\_ nominated herself and offered motivation. She is a second year student. She lives in residence and eats in the dining hall, and though she has no ideas at the moment, she would like to get involved,

*Motion passed.*

4.14 BIRT \_\_\_\_\_ be elected to Standing Committee on Residence Life.

*Moved by Kaitlyn MacNeill*

*Seconded by David Shuman*

Kaitlyn MacNeill offered motivation. The committee was a great experience overall. It meets to discuss new ideas about residence. She would love for someone living in residence to come forward and join it.

Victoria Gibbs also offered motivation. She spoke with Tim Ross, who runs the logistical housing side of things. This committee has been meeting, but is currently being revamped. Tim is fully committed to improving residence life and would like to

communicate with and get insight from students. For example, the committee will talk about the state of kitchen complaints.

The floor was opened to nominations, but no one self nominated.

Victoria Gibbs said that if there were no further nominations, she would suggest tabling this motion to the council meeting after Reading Week.

No nominations.

*Victoria Gibbs motioned to table Action Item 4.14 BIRT \_\_\_\_\_ be elected to Standing Committee on Residence Life until the council after Reading Week.  
Seconded by David Shuman*

*Motion passed.*

4.15 BIRT Emily \_\_\_\_\_, Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ and Dove Begleiter be elected to Finance Committee.

*Moved by Kerri Lawrence*

*Seconded by Natalia Tola*

Kerri Lawrence offered motivation. The Finance Committee is not a heavy commitment. It's about 15-30 minutes every 2 weeks. They address student requests for society funding that are sent over to Kerri. These are brought to the committee and a Member At Large. These are then brought to the KSU who then deny, adjust, or approve the request.

Emily \_\_\_\_\_ nominated herself and offered motivation. She was on the Finance Committee last year and said that it was fun. She then asked if a Member At Large could vote.

Victoria Gibbs said no.

Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ self nominated and offered motivation. They are on campus a lot and they have experience as an auditor, and with payroll and spreadsheets.

Dove Begleiter nominated herself. She offered motivation, saying that she is a Computer Science student with a background in math.

*Raesa Alibhai read this motion with their names inserted into it. 4.15 BIRT Emily \_\_\_\_\_, Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ and Dove Begleiter be elected to Finance Committee.*

*Motion passed.*

4.16 BIRT \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ be elected to Elections Committee.

*Moved by Aidan Rawding  
Seconded by David Shuman*

Aidan Rawding offered motivation. The Elections Committee helps to oversee the fall and winter elections. The committee is helping to run fall elections right now. Those on the committee help with the election process and with selecting a Deputy Returning Officer.

Victoria Gibbs said that there are 10 spots on the committee, but 4 spots are already filled. Those on the Elections Committee should not nominate themselves again. This committee has a low time commitment. Those who join can help out with the tail end of these current elections and all of February's elections. The committee does not meet during the rest of the year.

There were no nominations.

*Victoria Gibbs moved to table Action Item 4.16 BIRT \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ be elected to Elections Committee until the council after Reading Week.  
Seconded by David Shuman.*

Someone asked if it is possible to do this.

Victoria said yes.

*Motion is tabled.*

## **5. Reports of the Executive Committee (Attached)**

5.1 Report of the President  
*Reported by Victoria Gibbs*

Victoria Gibbs encouraged people to take the paper with the KSU letterhead that is available at the meeting and use it to write letters to Dalhousie to support CUPE 3912. The student solidarity strike for CUPE will be happening on Monday since two days later, Dal will come back to negotiations with the union. Everyone should join. Also, nomination forms are available for the current elections. If anyone has questions about what the KSU President does, she is happy to answer now and during office hours.

Natalia Tola asked if Victoria could talk about the connection between the KSU and the Galley.

Victoria agreed that not a lot of first year students know that the Galley and Wardy are run through the union. A Hospitality Coordinator was hired. There is a yearly Galley and Wardy levy that goes through the union. The KSU also signs agreements with the university to allow the union to have this space. Students organized in 2013/2014 to

create the Galley. They also fought against a bad food service that existed there at the time.

#### 5.2 Report of the Student Life Vice President

*Reported by Kaitlyn MacNeill*

Kaitlyn MacNeill helped to hire new Dons during the summer. There were 2 society training events this year, which went well. Anyone can feel free to talk to her about society ratification. There is an upcoming Puppy Hour event in Alex Hall from 1-2pm on November 4th.

#### 5.3 Report of the Financial Vice President

*Reported by Kerri Lawrence*

Kerri Lawrence asked those who are interested in writing a letter in support of CUPE to write it to the Dal President and the heads of their departments. Kerri helped with O-Week and archiving information about the KSU over the summer. Some of this information included how in 2014 when King's tried to fire 3 professors to save money, students organized, partly by letter writing. These professors are still here and one is now the Vice President. He has also been working on payroll and insurance.

#### 5.4 Report of the External Vice President

*Reported by Natalia Tola*

Natalia Tola has taken on an activism role as the EVP. She has 3 priorities. The first is working with racialized and international students. The fees they pay do not amount to the support they receive. She has worked to organize meetups and Thanksgiving events, including a Racialized Students Collective Dance Party. The second is working on improving King's consent culture. King's policy regarding sexual assault was revised last year. She has been working with Jordan Roberts and South House to create events and safe spaces. She wants to make sure students feel safe. The third is being an advocate for external causes. Recently this has meant providing meals and supports for CUPE picketers.

*Quorum was lost.*

#### 5.5 Report of the Communications Vice President

*Reported by Aidan Rawding*

Aidan Rawding gave her report to those remaining at the meeting. She has been working on TWAK, social media posts, and hiring the KSU Scribe and the Chief Returning

Officer. If anyone would like the KSU to post about their events or resources, please DM her the information and she will do so.

*Meeting adjourned due to the loss of quorum at 7:16pm.*