

Reasons for a referendum

Campaigns, Services, and Accessibility

As enrolment has declined, the Union has had to make drastic cuts to the budget. Many of the lines in our budget are fixed costs, meaning that they simply cannot be cut (eg. insurance). As a result, the places where funding has taken the most significant hits have been in the areas of student life, resources, and campaigns. **This referendum would enable the Union to reinstate areas that were cut such as: two Union hired positions, funds for councillor initiatives/events, food for Union committee members, etc.**

Currently, KSU executives are paid an honorarium of \$4400 for the year. Increasing executive honoraria is a matter of accessibility—paying executive members more will mean students will need to rely less on other sources of income. **This proposed referendum would allow each exec member to receive \$700/month for each month, amounting to a total of \$4,900 for their term.**

Why \$22.38/term for full time students?

This increase per student would allow the KSU to run a balanced budget in a worst-case enrolment scenario next year. If a referendum does not pass and all campaigns work, all services, and all events were cut, the Union would still be unable to keep the office running and pay honoraria.

Your Guide to The Referendum

KSU Town Hall & Referendum Discussion

January 26, 2017

How did we get here?

The Referendum

The KSU executive is proposing an increase to Union dues of \$22.38/term for full-time students, and \$11.19/ term for part-time students.

Decreased enrolment & our students' union

Over the last three years, King's enrolment has dropped by over 200 students from 1138 students in 2014/15 to 933 students in 2016/17. The dues we collect from our members constitute the vast majority of our revenue so enrolment has a direct impact on our budget. Unfortunately, the Union has no long-term savings. While the Union has had savings in the past, members have voted to invest in a number of large projects including providing funding to help start the Bookstore in 2007 and investing \$80,000 in the opening of the Galley in 2012.

In the fall, KSU members approved a budget with a deficit of around \$1,500 **but the Union does not have the funds to run another deficit budget.** The added pressure of decreasing enrolment means that the KSU budget has seen significant cuts including its financial contingency line. The proposed referendum will allow for \$3000 to be budgeted for contingency.

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Full Time Hospitalities Coordinator

The Hospitality Coordinator (HC), one of the Union's two staff people, is tasked with overseeing the management of the KSU's two businesses: the Wardroom and the Galley. The position has been restructured over the years from simply hiring a student, to having one staff person manage both the KSU office and the businesses, to hiring someone on a part-time basis; we have found that none of these have worked. Currently, the HC is not a full-time position, therefore the hours are simply not enough to do the work laid out in the position. **In order to continue managing both businesses, the HC must become a full time position.**

Union Staff People

The KSU hires two full-time staff people (the Hospitalities Coordinator and the Services and Campaigns Coordinator, who works full-time in the KSU office) as well as students in a number of Union Hired Positions (eg. CUBE Coordinators, Council Scribe). However, we have consistently underpaid the people that we hire for the work that they do. **This referendum would allow the Union to raise the salaries for both of our staff people to a competitive wage of \$45 000 / year.** The ability to attract and retain staff people depends on whether we can pay them an adequate and competitive wage for their work. **This referendum would also allow us to increase the majority of UHP honoraria, which has not been done in recent memory.**