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To: Natasa.Arezina@gov.bc.ca, Arezina, Natasa PSFS:EX
Subject: 10:10-10:30 | Meeting: w/Kwantlen Student Association
Sent: 03/10/2025 10:47:12
Attachments: Kwantlen Student Association.pdf

Added 03/10 – LL

CoS Eric Peters
MA Kaitlyn Gorman
EA Nolan Hennin

KSA Attendees:

Yashanpreet Guron - President & Vice President Student Life
Abhijeet Singh - Vice President University Affairs
Simranjot Sekhon - Vice President Finance & Operations
Paramvir Singh - Vice President External Affairs
Ishant Goyal - Associate President
Prabjot Deol - Executive Secretary
Timothii Ragavan - Executive Director
Diamond Obera - Policy & Political Affairs Coordinator

Material: Not required

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Dial in by phone

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For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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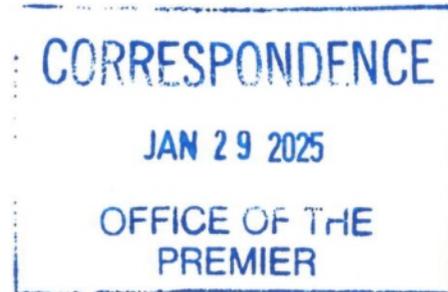
**KWANTLEN
STUDENT
ASSOCIATION**

12666 72nd Avenue
Surrey, BC V3W 2M8

Reception: 604.599.2126
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Website: www.kusa.ca

The Honourable David Eby, KC, MLA

Premier of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
premier@gov.bc.ca



Dear Premier Eby,

We hope this message finds you well. As the Executive Committee of the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA), representing over 20,000 students at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), we extend our sincere congratulations on your continued leadership as Premier of British Columbia. Your dedication to public service and your commitment to addressing the challenges facing our province are deeply appreciated.

Our Executive Committee comprises of dedicated student leaders, namely: the President & Vice-President Student Life, Associate President, Vice President University Affairs, Vice President External Affairs & Vice President Finance and Operations. Appointed by the KSA Council, we coordinate the day-to-day operations of the association, ensuring that student interests are effectively represented and supported. We meet weekly to discuss and implement initiatives that enhance the student experience at KPU.

KPU serves a diverse student body across multiple campuses in the Lower Mainland. Our mission is to advocate for student interests, provide essential services, and support the academic and personal growth of our members. From enhancing accessibility to fostering a sense of belonging for both domestic and international students, we strive to create a thriving post-secondary environment.

We recognize the importance of engaging with decision-makers to ensure that policies reflect the needs of those pursuing higher education. Students today face a range of challenges, including rising tuition, limited affordable housing, and gaps in mental health supports. These issues not only affect individuals but also the broader success of our education system and workforce.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share insights and collaborate on practical solutions that empower students and benefit the province as a whole.

Thank you for your dedication to public service and your commitment to the people of British Columbia. We are confident that, together, we can build a stronger, more equitable future for all.



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Sincerely,

Yashanpreet Guron,
President & Vice President, Student Life

Ishant Goyal,
Associate President

Simranjot Sekhon,
Vice President, Finance & Operations

Paramvir Singh,
Vice President, External Affairs

Abhijeet Singh,
Vice President, University Affairs

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ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

Date: Feb. 20, 2025

Minister Responsible: Anne Kang

KPU Student Association Mismanagement

I. ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Student societies play an important role providing students with opportunities and support throughout their time at a post-secondary institution. They should always represent the interests of the general student body.
- Our Ministry is concerned about allegations made against the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) regarding governance and fiscal mismanagement of the society. We take this situation seriously.

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- While the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills does not have the authority to investigate allegations of mismanagement in a student society, we are closely monitoring the situation.

II. BACKGROUND:

KWANTLEN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

- The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) has faced allegations of governance and fiscal mismanagement, as reported in the Kwantlen student newspaper The Runner.
- In February 2025, media reporting indicated that the KSA was projecting a deficit of \$675,000.
- In October 2024, it was reported that KSA spent nearly \$20,000 of its funds on a council retreat to Kelowna, B.C. According to the KSA's accounting department, seventeen people went on the retreat and alleged that about five were KPU

students but not councillors and about eight were not associated with KPU or KSA whatsoever.

- Additionally, on October 25, 2024, the KSA withdrew its membership from the Alliance of BC Students (ABCS). Shortly before, the ABCS requested the resignation of Ishant Goyal, Associate President of the KSA from his position as ABCS Chairperson and planned to put the KSA in bad standing.
- The Alliance of BC Students (ABCS) is a coalition of student organizations throughout B.C. that advocates for accessible and affordable post-secondary education at the provincial level.
- Student societies are legally separate entities from institutions, with a separate governance structure. While institutions are required to collect fees on behalf of student societies and remit those funds to the society, they do not exercise any direct control over them.

STUDENT SOCIETIES IN BC:

- Student societies in British Columbia are governed by elected student representatives and operate independently from post-secondary institutions and government, as non-profit organizations under the *Societies Act*.
 - Defined under the *University Act* and *College and Institute Act*, "student society" means a society whose purpose is to represent the interests of the general undergraduate or graduate student body, or both, but does not include a provincial or national student organization.
 - Student societies are independent, self-governing legal entities with the authority to elect and remove their executive members and control their finances.
- Under B.C.'s *Societies Act*,
 - A society must have bylaws that contain provisions respecting the internal affairs of the society.
 - A society may invest its funds only
 - a) in accordance with its bylaws, or
 - b) in an investment in which a prudent investor might invest unless the bylaws prohibit that investment.
 - Directors are required to report on the financial statements that are to be presented to the members at an annual general meeting.

- Student societies provide a range of services for their student members, including health and dental plans, Universal Pass (U-PASS) programs, food banks and student clubs. They also engage in lobbying activities on issues of importance to their members.
- Currently there are 33 student societies affiliated with public post-secondary institutions in B.C.: 27 representing undergraduate students, four representing graduate students, and two provincial student associations.
- There are also numerous registered societies that serve a particular function or represent a specific student population (e.g. student newspaper and campus radio station, law student society and Indigenous student association).
- Student societies are funded through membership fees. The *University Act* and *College and Institute Act* require public post-secondary institutions to collect student society fees and remit those fees to the society only if:
 - the fees have been approved by member referendum, and
 - the society provides annual audited financial statements to the institution's Board of Governors.
- If a student society does not meet these requirements, an institution would not be obligated to collect or remit members fees to the society.
- Issues occasionally arise at post-secondary institutions where the actions taken by a student society may not be in the public interest, for example, reductions in transparency, changes to membership, financial management issues, or external interference in society governance.
- There are limited accountability mechanisms available to government or institutions to address issues with student societies.

MEDIA SCAN:

February 13, 2025 – The Runner – [KSA in \\$675,000 deficit, December 2024 draft budget shows](#)

January 25, 2025 – The Runner – [KSA's internal system and governance structure are broken](#)

October 25, 2024 – ABCS statement – [ABCS condemns alleged misconduct by KSA Council moves to put KSA in bad standing](#)

October 3, 2024 – The Runner – [KSA council spends almost \\$20,000 on 2-night retreat to Kelowna](#)

August 22, 2024 – BIV – [Opinion: B.C. student societies in urgent need of law reform](#)

Communications Contact:	Program Area Contact:	Last updated:
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