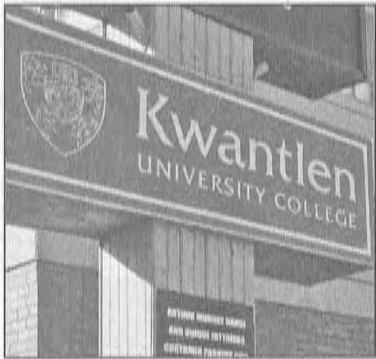


Kwantlen • Chronicle

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The fight for liquor on campus



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Joseph Ng/ Kwantlen Chronicle

Aaron Takhar offers free hotdogs for student appreciation. The push for a liquor license will bring more events.

The new KSA student government is looking to obtain a liquor license for the Surrey campus for upcoming events

By Jason Rako
Kwantlen Chronicle

The Kwantlen Student Association is again pushing for a liquor license for the Surrey campus.

KSA president Danish Butt and vice president of events Bickram Gill are hoping that obtaining the license will lead to more events around the campus to promote a more communal environment for Kwantlen students.

"Since I was a first-year student, I remember the old body trying to push for the liquor license but it never went through because they got into disputes with the administration and the relations weren't that good," says Butt. "An advantage we have over everyone is that we have a really good relationship with the administration."

Butt has been approached by students about a pub at the Surrey campus and considers this one of the biggest goals for the current KSA board.

"Some people criticize us and say that we are a little soft and that we are puppets for them [the admin-

istration] but we feel that's not the case," says Butt. "Hopefully what we can do is work something out on a temporary basis, maybe three times a week. Hopefully if things go well from there, we can push forward and get a full-time pub."

Gill believes that a liquor license will bring up Kwantlen's standing compared to larger universities. These are the "bigger guns," as Gill puts it.

"Kwantlen hasn't done any great events in the past because the liquor license was one of the main things that it needed," says Gill. "If we get the liquor license, we will be able to throw much better events and get other schools involved."

Butt thinks that having a liquor license will keep students at Kwantlen longer.

"Students come for their two years and transfer out to SFU and UBC," says Butt. "We just need a place where people can get away and sit in the fishbowl café and just relax . . . basically get away from school. It's not all about books . . . you have to have some sort of social life, some sort of safe common ground where

you can just sit and relax with some people."

While Butt would like to open a pub at Kwantlen, Gill is more reserved.

"We're not really looking at a pub at Kwantlen but we just throw a pub night where students can hang out and have a good time," says Gill. "Security will be there so it will be a safe environment."

Butt also has personal conflicts with drinking.

"My own views conflict with opening a pub but it's a student demand," says Butt. "Being a Muslim myself, I don't drink."

Butt thinks that the biggest problem with having a liquor license at Kwantlen is that students would go to class drunk but this would be avoided by only serving alcohol late in the evening.

Both agree that a liquor license for Kwantlen will bring positive results.

"It will create a huge source of revenue for the fishbowl which is something that hasn't been done in the past," says Butt. "We are just trying to push ourselves up a bit and

provide more student services."

Getting the students to talk about it is an important step.

For the first two years, the KSA only sees the pub nights and other liquor events being held at the Surrey campus but it will slowly branch out to other campuses.

Butt says this initiative starts with baby steps.

If the liquor license is approved, the ground work will be set for one of the KSA's massive projects.

"I know our VP of events Bick Gill wants to throw like an Arts-County-Fair atmosphere in the courtyard where he gets a three-day liquor license and some live bands," says Butt.

"Me and Joey Atwal were talking about it and sitting there and we're like 'OK, let's do something different for Kwantlen so it will be attractive to students,'" says Gill. "We thought about a Kwantlen County Fair."

The "Kwantlen County Fair" will feature live bands or even multicultural shows. The KSA hopes to do it in partnership with other universities.

"We want to do it in a couple of months," says Gill. "This is a big project no one has ever done at Kwantlen and it takes a lot of time to prepare for it."