

KSA money used for boat cruise P. 3

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Possible leadership co-op in the making

By Kimi Nomura
Kwantlen Chronicle

Leadership Now wants to approach Kwantlen administration to create a partnership.

The program has particularly targeted the Richmond community, hoping the program could possibly become a college credit.

"It would take students and organizations across the region to

Boat cruise serves as a meeting ground for KSA staff orientation

KSA members embarked on a three-day cruise to sharpen their social and political skills for office.

By Jason Rako
Kwantlen Chronicle

The Kwantlen Student Association executive spent between \$4,000 and \$5,000 this summer on a three-day orientation session, held during a three-day boat cruise on Shuswap Lake in the B.C. interior.

Slightly more than half of the 40-member KSA council took part in the cruise, along with invited guests who had ties to the KSA. Funding for the cruise came from the KSA's general operating budget.

"It comes out of the general operating budget just like how it was done for the past 20 years," says Aaron Takhar, director of finance and Reduce All Fees party leader. "The funds are allocated to a budget that we adopt before January."


"We involved KSA members with priorities and then, after that, we had four or five people other people who wanted to bring their friends because some people don't feel comfortable

when they don't know anyone at all and it's hard to get comfortable with people over two or three days," says Takhar. "We did bring an extra four or five people, primarily people that have been helping out with the KSA and have been volunteering so it wasn't random people."

The Kwantlen Student Association orientation took the new council members on a three-day secluded boat cruise.

Takhar defended the boat cruise as necessary to help the new members of the KSA board understand their roles in student government and to sharpen their social skills.

"We've done a lot of stuff in the summer but the only reason we did this is because a lot of people were complaining that they didn't get their initial orientation and they were frustrated because they didn't know what to do," Takhar said. "We figured that the boat trip can accommodate the most people for the cheapest [price] so we had a combi-


". . . this is because a lot of people were complaining that they didn't get their initial orientation and they were frustrated because they didn't know what to do . . ."

— Aaron Takhar

nation of up to 40 people go, even though there are 39 seats on our board."

He also said putting the board members together in a secluded setting helped them learn to work with each other.

"This was more secluded," he said, "and if you didn't like the per-

son, that was tough, you had to learn to get along with them and you had to learn to work with that person."

According to Takhar, previous KSA trips didn't provide this type of setting for their orientations.

The boat cruise was one of two orientation sessions paid for from the student association's budget this year.

According to Takhar, the outgoing board spent \$4,000 on a trip to Chilliwack in late April.

"They invited everyone to go up there so it wasn't just themselves but the fact that they wasted \$4,000 on what should have been spent on our orientation, that's why we decided to do something a little bit different," he said.

But not all the KSA members are happy with the cruise or the amount of money spent on it. Steve Lee, the Richmond campus director, claims the trip was not an orientation related as Takhar claims.

"The trip was designed as a get

together so we can all work together better," says Lee. "There was no orientation agenda developed for it, as there was in the past."

Lee also said there was an absence of KSA board members not affiliated with the RAF party.

"... I know that no independent candidates went, nor did any of the candidates that ran with me on the CSI slate that won and have positions," Lee said.

That was not the fault of the KSA board, Takhar said.

"We invited every member of the KSA to go on the trip, even the previous board members...so no one was excluded," he said.

Lee also defended the earlier orientation session held in Chilliwack that were booked for the initial KSA orientation.

"The election took a while to resolve and the place was not 'unbookable,'" Lee said in response. "When I found out staff were going, I was not happy."