



October 4th, 2019 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Judiciary

President: Alexa Ballis

VPI: Katie Marsland

VPE: Vibhuti Kacholia

VPSO: Cameron Davies

Assessor Members

CHAIR: Gabrielle da Silva

OFFICE MANAGER: Rena Seeger

COMMUNICATIONS: Holly Johnstone

Commissioners and Councillors

COMMUTER: Michelle Zhao

ARTS AND CULTURE: Vivian Li

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Lucy Faria

EQUITY: Massoma Kisob

SCARLET AND GOLD: Tran Thai

MENTAL WELLNESS: Spandan Sengupta

Co-Chairs

COMMUTER CO-CHAIR: Rheannon Demeter

EQUITY CO-CHAIR: Hannah Ahamed

SUSTAINABILITY CO-CHAIR: Leila Tjiang

Guests

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR: Christina Alcena

Julia Thayer

Valentine Lynch

Lauren MacDonald

Aminah Attar

OFFICIAL REGRETS: Tyler

Call to order:

Land Recognition: Cameron



I apologize I haven't had much time to prepare this land acknowledgement. I have been thinking a lot this past week about indigenous issues. First is the climate strike that many of you came to last week, one of the people who spoke mentioned that for the climate crisis, what people are telling us now is what indigenous people have been telling us for many, many years. I've been reflecting on why it is that Greta Thunburg is someone we listen to rather than original inhabitants of the land. Another thing I've been thinking about is that I'm a settler on this land, my family has settled in Epekwitk known as PEI, on this land, from coast to coast has been stolen from indigenous peoples, there is huge history of oppression which continues to this day, poorest coastal place is Eskasoni (a Mi'kmaq reserve in Cape Breton Nova Scotia). I was thinking about also in Ontario, if you're accused of a crime in a northern fly-in community they ship you out of your community to Thunder Bay, and to get out on bail you need your parents to fly in, spend thousands of dollars to retrieve you even though you're completely innocent...and this kind of thing holds everywhere in Canada, in northern Canada, the government slaughtered sled dogs so they were easier to count, up to 70% of prison in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are indigenous people. When we talk about oppression it's not a thing of the past, it is happening to this day, especially in the context of the upcoming election, it is incumbent on us settlers to listen to indigenous peoples, since they tended to this land for thousands and thousands of years, as settlers we need to listen to them, and to have their backs for once.

Additions to the agenda:

- **Action to introduce interim spending procedure which will be in effect until ratification meeting on October 25th (3 minutes)**
- **Massoma to add equity commission update (3 minutes)**

Motion: Motion to approval of the agenda for October 4th, 2019. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Campus Life Coordinator (Christina): 3 minutes

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Cameron to introduce interim spending procedure which will be in effect until ratification meeting on October 25th

[Summary] This is much later than usual because the opt out date ended September 29th, only got numbers back this week; budget steering committee thought of interim-spending



procedure. Individuals can spend up to \$60 if they report info up to Cameron and Tyler; if you plan to spend more than this, this will be brought up to VUSAC exec and meeting, so we have a process in place until we have a solid budget, if you have any question or changes that you'd like to bring up please let me know.

Tran: If corn-coming is over \$60 how would that work?

Alexa: We look at budgets on a situational basis, corn-coming is something all colleges contribute to, we would take it to council to ratify that.

Cameron: To add to that, the point of this interim policy is to ensure that if there are commissioners/clubs spending money before October 25th, if someone is spending \$15 on snacks that doesn't have to come as a separate motion to council.

Vibhuti: Alexa, do you want to talk how much clubs and levies and commissioners have, what the number is for the contingency budget; if you're part of a club/levy, and you want to spend less than \$15 the only yeses they have to get are from Cameron and Tyler?

Motion: Katie motions to extend for 7 minutes. Michelle seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Alexa: You only have to notify them; as of pool of funding I don't have the notes at the top of my head.

Cameron: Maybe \$6000...

Alexa: I apologize for not having that number, I know Tyler would be able to answer that; a few thousand dollars, pretty sure it is close to \$6000 but we want to make sure we have enough funding.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Peer Mental Health Service: Julia (10 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone, thank you Vibhuti, I'm a second year Vic student here to talk about a peer mental wellness program I'm interested in introducing at Vic, I've been in conversation with Dean Castle on how we want to structure and implement this into the Vic community. I'll try to give you a brief what/where/why/how rundown and get some feedback on how to implement this. What I'm trying to implement is not a peer counseling program, what I want to create is an organization of Vic students that act as guiding lines to the student body at the



college, informing them of various mental health services offered on campus; the positions would be filled primarily by 3rd or 4th year students. Why I'd like to implement this is because I feel like at U of T we have a variety of mental wellness programs available, but if we were to ask someone not as engaged in the community, they might not know of those programs and it can be very lonely if you're not aware of the support that you have even if the university has an extensive amount of outreach programs. I feel like there are a lot of discussion led by faculty in an effort to destigmatize mental health, and I'm not criticizing the system right now, I just want to come up with more ideas. This group would create more exposure to mental health resources we have and be a marketing agent. How this will happen is the biggest step; I've been in conversation with Dean Castle on how to implement this, this is a student led initiative, it needs to come from a group of volunteers who are interested; I've been in touch with the chair of a similar mental health program at UTS and asked her a few questions under the 'how' department of how this group will come into practice; I would like to read the questions I asked her and the answers she gave me now. As far as how many students are involved, she told me there are 8-12 on each team and they have 5 teams that cover different aspects of mental wellness. For age, their students are 2nd year or higher, for our organization we'd like to do 3rd or higher, recruitment would be during February reading week, interviews in March/April and train them in May/June and into August. Training for students takes about 3 days – first day is content training, second is student affairs and services, third is the wellness peer-program training. We'll make sure to go over the logistics of their roles, expectations they have, it can get tricky in dangerous situations and want to make sure students aren't overstepping their boundaries. Dean Castle wants to make sure the program is working within a greater community of the university and not working against U of T. I asked the coordinator at UTS how she makes sure that opposition does not occur, and she says all students have a coordinator that meet with admin weekly to go over programming and goals and meet in turn with students to coordinate. She also gave me advice to make sure that there is an outlined extent of responsibilities outlined so there are no legal issues if a student advisor gives advice that they are not qualified to give, to make sure all students sign to that that they're not going to try and overstep their boundaries, and they are acting more as a guiding role rather than acting as a counselor.

Aminah: If a person is feeling down, or depressed, how would they access these people, how would that work?

Julia: There would be a team of students organized at an orientation that would have some sort of distinctive feature, T-shirts, or something, make their presence known at the beginning of the year at orientation. That's my biggest issue, besides making their presence known at the beginning, the onus is still on the student not feeling well to come to our peer wellness group



instead of us reaching out. The goal is to make ourselves apparent, have a big presence on campus, in hopes that because we are students, if we are feeling down they are more willing to come to us instead of admin; if you have ideas on how to make that more prevalent please let me know.

Aminah: Maybe you could have signs, someone sitting outside in the quad, a 'you can talk to me' sign engaging with people, maybe something that is accessible, no one has to text a number or call – something else, are you trying to involve commuters as well – I know some of them have never visited Vic or didn't go to orientation either.

Julia: I would love to reach out to them, I think many of the students who need the services are commuters because they feel isolated, I don't know if its common for commuters to not show up to orientation, which is why I want to make our presence noticeable at the beginning; if we can put it up in academic areas regardless of commuting or not could see those signs.

Katie: Two questions; first is, what do you see that application screen looking like, second you mentioned they have 5 groups at UTS – what are those groups?

Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend for 10 minutes. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Julia: As far as screening goes, I have been in conversation with Dean Castle about that, it would faculty or students be screening – even if it is student initiative we need some sort of admin there, someone from admin from existing mental wellness programs would be responsible for screening students, and would copy their model of how there is an initial application sent out, those applications that seem interesting to admin would have an in-person interview with the students, try to get sense of student academic and social responsibilities, last stage where they're going through training, if student no longer has enough time or other potential issues, that could be the final step for admin to say maybe you need to take a step back and volunteer at another time.

As for the 5 groups: I don't have information in this document, I'm supposed to have a phone conversation with the woman later on, pretty sure it's a mental wellness, physical, different parts of wholistic wellness spectrum that is divided up into 5.

Spandan: Assuming the best-case scenario you make a great impact at orientation, how would students contact the group if they needed you, are there drop in sessions, a number you can call, email?

Julia: The goal is to great a more one on one connection with students, I'm liking the idea about posters going up, and having a line of contact that students could call, text, email and create and



set up a time to meet one on one with the student, maybe additional drop in sessions that are once a week where students are welcome to come in and talk about what they're feeling about at that time; however students who are depressed aren't the ones who want to reach out for help – if you have ideas on how to make this accessible so people don't have to go out of their comfort zone to get help please let me know.

Spandan: Is this service supposed to be a crisis help in any way, how would that work out?

Julia: On a spectrum of one to ten, one crappy day, ten is crisis situation, we're not going to exclude any students or cater to a specific number, in that outline that the students have to sign, if there a student who is a 10 we get them to a professional right away, because students not equipped to deal with someone who is suicidal, if someone told me they were concerned with harming themselves I would bring them to a professional service.

Hannah: I like the idea of being put forward, but placing a burden on students to be that connection can be harmful, I think when you're in university you're already going through a lot of personal things, so being that mode of communication, dealing with people with mental health issues when you're already dealing with mental health issues... they're not the best people to be facilitating these conversations. I don't want to generalize students but many who deal with mental health are people who have been to school for many years, understanding that students are the people who can help put other students in touch, there are other groups trying to put students in touch with others.. instead of implementing a whole new task force, maybe working with other groups already mobilizing change could be better. It can be very life or death in mental wellness situations based on personal experience, when students are in crisis they would not reach out to someone in a group, not a real distinct mode of communication, also when it comes to marginalized groups on campus, it is difficult to go and ask for help because of certain barriers in the way, whether socioeconomic or biases in the community, having a group like this, what would you proactively do to make sure you know marginalized groups feel comfortable coming to you? U of T only covers so many sessions, after that it is up to you to afford those services, for many it's just not manageable, I speak from experience from myself and my friends, I don't know if giving people facilities that they already know exist but through a peer mode of communication will change anything, is a beautiful idea and I like that you're pushing for major change in mental wellness. Change is happening, and we should ban together instead of just creating a separate group for just Vic.

Julia: Thank you so much, that was very helpful. I just wanted to make note of the groups you mentioned that are already in effect on campus?

Hannah: U of Thrive, and the Mental Health Policy Committee.

Julia: How did you hear of these?



Hannah: U of Thrive came together by Saturday, it's led by two students, both leading a campaign trying to use student stories and stories people have experienced to enable students to go out and seek help; for the policy, more looking towards the U of T administration and how they're handling things – both groups are great to reach out to.

Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend for 5 minutes. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Vibhuti: Thank you for coming Julia, few questions, I echo what Hannah had to say; partnering with the Dean's office is interesting because they have so many resources already, on top of that, working with admin and students coming to other students who work for the Dean's office maybe problematic because there is a lot of admin mistrust, and students may not comfortable working for people in the Dean's office. There is also a confidentiality limit there as well if you're working for the Dean's office, and it is harder for these mentors to distribute outside resources because they will be liable for whatever students are speaking of – just a thing to think about is to partner with us as an institution and have subsection of our mental health commission, just under umbrella of VUSAC to help you with funding, it is a way for students to reach out with open mind of not having to deal with administration if that's not what they want to do. All the dons and TMs are trained to work with students like that, so if students want something different, its is important we can provide that for them. Also, I think a text service is innovative having students/admin on the other side to help students get connected to resources and be anonymous and not have to get up and see someone and explain your story, it may be much easier this way for students to reach out.

Alexa: I just wanted to thank you so much for coming in and speaking about this program initiative, and wanting to create a program to help.

- Constitution, Council Policies, and Elections and Referenda Code Review Committees:
Katie (5 minutes)

[Summary] So as you all know VUSAC is governed by two major documents. The Constitution and Council Policies outline how VUSAC is run, what our responsibilities are so we can be held accountable by Vic community, etc. Every few years we try to look at them because they become outdated, ever year we form a few committees, one for each of them, look at documents, what changes need to be made, looking at what language we should change, if you're interested in chairing any of these committees, if you're interested in policy work, I



just wanted to plug that quickly – if you're interested in getting involved in any of this, just send me an email!

Vibhuti: What does chairing a committee mean?

Katie: Basically, you will set up meeting times, call meetings, and facilitate discussions whichever way you think is most productive way to do that, how you think changes should be made, best way to keep track of those changes, making sure that any discussions brought forward, proposals brought forward are tracked in the document.

Michelle: Who is sitting on the committee?

Katie: Members of VUSAC who are interested in policy; interested to see how policies are created and how these documents are made and work for us.

Gabby: Are we doing all three policies this year?

Katie: Yes, we are hoping to, we will see what happens, ideally yes.

Aminah: I talked to you before, but in terms of changing the website for voting, so there are less technical difficulties, would that also come under that committee...

Katie: That is separate, this is focused on just how the elections are run, not the technical aspect, but we will be looking into that as a separate thing, what are the rules for campaigning...etc.

- Penalty for Over-Printing: Katie (7 minutes)

[Summary] As you all know, during office hours, one of our jobs is to maintain printing, there is a limit of 40 pages which I personally see a lot of students go over that limit, which is a problem because it holds up the printing line and it's harder to keep track of paper and things like that, which is not fair for other students. Recently the exec met and talked about potentially having some type of penalty for students who are printing over 40 minutes, like having a 1 dollar fine clearly advertised. That's just one option we looked at, and I want to hear what others have to say since this is tricky to navigate.

Aminah: As someone who is guilty of overprinting, it says the 40-page limit only at the bottom, something that might help instead of looking into a flat limit for printing may be asking people when they come in how many pages they want to print, which will address the problem more than a dollar fine since the focus is on verbal communication.

Rheannon: Other thing is what are the rules for printing over 40 pages – can I come back in 30 minutes and print another 40 pages?

Katie: When we say 40 pages, there's nothing that says you can't come back, usually just if you're printing more than 40 you should make an appointment with the office manager so it's easier to keep track of our own supplies so that if someone asks to come back they should email Rena.

Rheannon: Second thing, what if someone comes in but there's no one else there?



Katie: We should keep track of how many pages they want to print even then, some other people can come in too, we just don't know.

Massoma: Instead of flat overcharge making every page over 40 more expensive, instead of being 5 cents a page it could be more, because one dollar flat fee is not that significant if you're paying with your card you're already paying that one dollar anyway, that way if it's one page over forty that's understandable, but if it's a couple of pages its more of a preventative measure.

Vibhuti: I like that idea

Alexa: I was going to agree that sounds like a good idea it makes sense, how much would we start charging after 40?

Tian: We could start charging same as the libraries; if they're coming to us for cheaper prices than libraries we could charge more past 40 pages.

Leila: How is it advertised right now, how do you think people are aware of 5 cent printing; I had one person almost leave because they didn't think they had to pay.

Katie: Do you mean like metaphorically or actually?

Rena: Right now it's only on the paper signs, but something I can add is changing the desktop backgrounds so it's the first thing people see when they log on.

Tran: I know you talked about keeping track of paper and supplies, are we also keeping track of how many pages people are printing?

Katie: Yes 😊 going over this during retreat! We will have a really in depth discussion on what office hours are how to keep track of printing, all that jazz...

Alexa: We need to work on communications as a whole, getting posters out there, make sure you're engaging with people coming in; we are also interested in those not on VUSAC what their thoughts are on that matter.

Motion: Tran to extend for 3 minutes. Michelle seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Valentine: I did not know there was a 40 page limit, so this is news to me; speaking to point on how people even know about printing in general, would be useful to have more active advertising, I liked idea of the desktop image since you see that immediately.

Lauren: I like all these ideas, as long as its better promoted that there is a fee, and this is the amount of pages you can print; if everything is clear, there is a standard that this is an actual transaction you're making I think that should help resolve the problem.

Rena: What about organizations under VUSAC, like VCDS, I know they often have to come in to print scripts that are 200+ pages.



Katie: Generally, if you have to print a lot of pages, contact me, do it when the office is closed.

Cameron: It should be more of a communication thing, have to communicate to them, if you need to print 100 pages you should come in after hours, we need to have stronger lines of communication with clubs and levies.

Michelle: Because we also have tabloid printer, I've seen people coming in and printing on those papers as well...

Katie: Good point I think Rena and I can look into that, and can figure out the costs for letter vs legal.

Motion: Tran motions to extend for 3 minutes. Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Rheannon: There is a little issue on right computer, it couldn't actually access the internet, it kept asking for a VUSAC admin password to secure the domain but there wasn't a password anyone knew, don't know if that was resolved...

Alexa: Those computers are old, the password on the poster; we will get new computers to resolve that, they are coming in on the 11th and IT will help us to ensure internet is good to go.

Tran: If you just press cancel it will often work.

- Student Choice Initiative Rates: Alexa (5 minutes) [See Appendix B]

[Summary] Please look it over if you can; on Wednesday September 25th Josh Hass sent our opt-out rates which you can find there, overall opt-out average is 23.7% which is the average across all colleges and faculties, better than some of us expecting, hoping for similar numbers next term as well. Our winter opt-out period begins November 1st and will end January 20th; as you may think, this is a long time, earlier today students had a change to talk to Sandy, the vice-provost for students. They said that the reason for a lengthy opt-out period is because the university is so big; Scarborough's deadline for second semester is end of November, that's why our opt-out period needs to end early November; would have to make a lot of changes manually, brought up our concerns about how long it was and realize it's a problem and look into making it shorter for next year, we can't make changes to portal or length for this year... If you had any thoughts on the opt-out portal for last year on layout, hub for descriptions, we are looking for feedback from students to make this better for next year. Also we are looking to hopefully receive updates on rolling basis, we only found out our numbers a week after the opt out period ended; if we received numbers every 3 weeks we could have better idea, and could start programming earlier. Some universities, like Waterloo



were getting updates. Another thing is having one opt out period instead of two which would be great, since we're currently budgeting in 2 semesters, so by the time we get our funding for semester 1 the semester is halfway over so hopefully will change next year. I asked for a timeline for next year for when we need to get our descriptions, will let us know that timeline by January.

Massoma: When we submit our budgets they need to fit under one of the categories, how is that applied to how our budgets are revised?

Alexa: Tyler explained that each budget line should correlate with a fee category. We will then look at it as a whole to ensure the numbers add up for each. You can also suggest multiple fee categories for each budget line. All of this information should be outlined in the budgeting info guide and template Tyler sent out. I'm so sorry it's so difficult, this is definitely not ideal, this policy was not made considering how student societies operate, so I'm sorry, if you have questions let me, Tyler or Cameron know!

Motion: Katie motions for 5 minute recess. Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy

- Mental Health on Campus: Alexa (10 minutes)

[Summary] I'm just going to preface that the content of conversation may be difficult to deal with, you are totally allowed to check out mentally, leave, whatever you need to do. As many of you are aware, there was a tragic event that took place at Bahen; this is the 3rd event of that nature in that building in the past year, I find this subject difficult to talk about, we all need to be better – VUSAC, admin, the culture at U of T. While barriers will be put up at Bahen, changes will start now, I hope you have all been taking care of yourself, if you ever need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself and Katie, as well as Christina. In addition to that we are working with provost office to bring the mental health task force to Victoria college next week to give students an opportunity to talk about what changes they would like to see. Right now I want to open floor on any questions and suggestions about ways VUSAC can support the community during this time.

Cam: I know the incident was jarring for me, particularly as a math student, I spend a lot of time in that building, it is difficult to think about, I was wondering if we have plans to release a statement something like WSA or UTSU released, I want to bring it up to council first, I know it is valuable so I want to hear what everyone's thoughts are.



Spandan: Over the last week it's been a lot of emotions, and it started with me feeling really angry, but at this point I feel pretty hopeless because it seems like we aren't listened to by administration, it feel like we have been lied to and cheated and treated like a joke. When this happened in March and people stood out Simcoe Hall for 2 hours and people just 'heard us out' and we begged them to do the bare minimum, put a net or anything else, and they said that they were going to look into it, and, it took another life for them to do something that took a day and a half which cost a life... it just feels like nothing we ever is really going to make a difference.

Rena: I just wanted to say thank you Spandan for sharing that, I know it seems hopeless especially when it seems like the biggest problems aren't things we have control over – I know students in computer science and math classes who are told that in a class of 200, only 100 should expect to pass, which is absolutely ridiculous and I'm not sure if there's anything we can do to help comfort a student when they're told something like that.

Hannah: I think going off of what Rena said we have a toxic culture at U of T especially when it comes to professors, something that needs to be taken into account is pressuring professors that we are people and so are you, I know that even in social sciences professors pride themselves on the amount of people that fail and how many Cs the students get, it's messed up that professors pride themselves off of those things, and at the end of the day its affecting all disciplines. It's a mindset among academics that I've studied this for so many years, and therefore I'm going to make this difficult for you because it was difficult for me; this needs to be addressed – you shouldn't be speaking to someone like that especially if you're being paid to teach a person, you shouldn't be priding yourself off of making someone have a difficult time, I know many people feel similar.

Vibhuti: Something that I've been thinking about is working with the ASSU to create some sort of module like the sexual violence module that the professors have to partake in before school starts, this should be student-driven, videos of students, testimonials, concrete ways students want to be treated; professors need to be seeing these face on and how to engage with students, that is what I've been thinking about, as someone who is in charge of writing the letters that come out of VUSAC, I thought it was good of us to not put out a letter straight away because I think letters can be performative at times, just putting out a letter of our solidarity, but making it about us is something we should stay away from, and we should instead focus on how can VUSAC can tangibly change things.

Motion: Tran motion to extend for 10 minutes. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy



Katie: Going off of training, what ASSU does, there's currently no information on how to report a professor, working on creating a system on how students can report a bad experience they had with a professor, etc.

Michelle: It's important that students know where they can go, who they can talk to in case professors take advantage of their power; it's important for us to not just say we stand in solidarity but to take measures and take steps forward and showing that we do stand with our students and create a community focused on destigmatizing mental health and walking away from toxic culture on campus.

Cam: I agree with Vibhuti on the idea of developing a module; I did provide my students with mental health resources and support and let them know that they are valued, I think that that's the kind of thing that that should be centralized, central admin should be telling all profs and TAs that when something like that happens, they shouldn't have to take something like that happening, they should tell profs to check in with your students, it can be difference between someone having a positive experience and someone having a very negative one.

Spandan: I feel like competitiveness isn't a bad thing, I've been lucky to be in a competitive culture where we were pushed by our peers to do better, but something is clearly going wrong, I loved everything I heard here today, I want to encourage people not to lose this passion because stuff like this, I've seen it get forgotten in a week or a month, but we can't lose the fire we have right now until we see actual change happening so please keep this up.

Alexa: I just wanted to say thank you for sharing your ideas and opening up in this space, I will look into all of the suggestions made, if you have time to share your thoughts on the online consultation if you haven't had time already please do so, we've been told they will be reading this, it will be open until October 15th.

Katie: Where can they access the online consultation?

Alexa: <https://forms.provost.utoronto.ca/pptfsmh-online-consultation/>

Motion: Tran motions for 2 minute recess. Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: Spandan
- Abstained: Lucy

- Council Sweaters/Merch: Alexa (10 minutes)

[Summary] In past years VUSAC has gotten sweaters (black quarter zips), but since our budget is lower, that's not a priority, we just wanted to put this in your minds, think about it, we can talk about it as well, if we still want to get a T-shirt or a pen or something, let us know if you have ideas on what that might look like, if that's something people are willing to send their own money on, etc. we would be happy to hear them!



Cameron: Could you put out an anonymous poll if people are comfortable paying for their own to see if it is justifiable to get sweaters, since because of budget cuts, I don't think it's justifiable to send VUSAC money on sweaters.

Spandan: In the situation that we do have a poll and majority of people are willing to spend money on sweaters, what happens to those who don't.

Katie: This will be an all or nothing situation, if there are people who don't want to pay for them, we will find out how to subsidize it for them.

Vibhuti: Since we have money to put towards our team, if there is money left, and it is not enough for sweaters, could we use it towards more like an outing situation, we all just play some ball in the park, we can go get dinner for all of us, on VUSAC instead of sweaters.

Alexa: The good thing about having similar clothing for events is that we're easily identifiable, especially if it is a high risk event, people know who to come to ask a question; we don't want to spend student fees on it, and I also know not everyone is comfortable is spending that money.

Cameron: I think for identifiability, we can partially remediate by saying if you are coming to some event, wear a yellow/pink shirt, odds are people own a few colors might be able to have someone loan clothes...

Tran: I think we are going to stick to the lanyard idea, it makes it clear that we're members of VUSAC; the only high-risk events are semiformal and highball, so I think we will be keeping the lanyards for now.

Michelle: How do people feel about getting a nice VUSAC pin that people could pin onto their bag; if we do another trivia night, you could wear your pin.

Alexa: I like that idea, this is not the most important part but most of you don't get paid so it's nice to have a token of appreciation in that way, if we go towards the idea to not use student fees on it.

Katie: that's the end of the discussion, keep it in your minds, if something comes up, we can chat about it, for now, we'll talk about it later and put out an anonymous feedback poll and move forward from there.

- Academic Co-Chair Policy: Alexa (10 minutes) [See Appendix A]

[Summary] I've been in consultation with Lucy, there's been talk about introducing an academic co-chair into council, we have an outline of the role, not only supporting the academic portfolio but taking an advocacy role as well, please read through it, right now don't have place in council documents on what each co-chair does, so we will be introducing a chapter on that soon, just adding the one line into our consultation to get the ball rolling, Katie will be consulting co-chairs soon to get accurate descriptions out.



Katie: We wrote down the rationale of why we want to add this position, consultations posted in VUSAC, it is online for 14 days, and in two weeks for now we vote on whether we want it added to the consultation as well; it requires a 2/3 majority vote because it's a constitutional change.

Cameron: Isn't constitution $\frac{3}{4}$ (yes)

Alexa: I just wanted to open up questions on this new policy.

Tran: Would it be added this year?

Alexa: Yes, after the October 18th meeting the applications will be open for 14 days, takes 14 days for a constitutional amendment to take effect.

Vibhuti: Hiring of academic cochair is done by VUSAC exec, shouldn't you put in an equity rep on committee, do you believe every member of VUSAC exec should be on hiring committee, as well should you put prior academic commissioner on the hiring committee?

Katie: In the case that there is no academic commissioner elected, VUSAC exec takes care in sharing that – adding this in as a friendly amendment.

Vibhuti: In other co-chair language, is there a place where this is a timeline for this...

Katie: There is no other co-chair language, there's just a single line about hiring a co-chair under each commissioner's description so we will be putting that in so that each of the co-chairs can have their own spiel.

Alexa: The only co-chair is VOCA which has their own thing outlined already.

Katie: If you want to fix that let me know.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Arts & Culture (Vivian): 5 minutes

[Summary] First off, the Bob has been casted, rehearsals have been booked, I've been in contact with Julia about the Bader theater, the actual dates are November 20-23rd. For my second update, for the commission, I recently sent them email about a meeting time, we accepted 10 commission members, and we will be meeting will be week of October 14th. Third, we are planning a literary meet and greet event to get students involved in publications, I contacted around 10 journal publications, it will be October 24th 6-8:30 in Cats-eye (potentially), I booked the space two weeks ago, they never got back to me, I'm thinking of just going in and finding them next week. Fourth, something implemented last year was Friday night live tickets the Rom, I will be organizing that in the future, something which is new but putting it in the budget is looking to contact Art Starts about possible collaboration with their artists; Art Starts is a nonprofit organization on mentorship focused on connecting amateur and established writers, and finally I am going to be having a gardener gala meeting with Alexa and Katie soon.

Commuter (Michelle & Rheannon): 10 minutes



[Summary] Disney trivia night was a great success, thank you for everyone who came out; looking to do another one in November again, this one will be trivia based on TV shows, that's in the works at the moment. For pancakes everything has been good so far, looking to collect feedback after all our events at pancakes, at the actual event as well, if anyone was there, we put up the link so people could give feedback as we are looking for as much feedback as possible. For pancakes, if there's anyone here interested or available on Wednesday 9am-3pm please let Michelle know, we would love to have anyone help out as much as you can, our exec team is very busy, some people can't always make the shifts, so please just let Michelle know your availability. We were planning on running for this week and next two weeks a round of commuter assassins, but due to recent events we thought it would be highly inappropriate, and it will be postponed to next semester.

We are also in process of hiring first year executives, excited to have first years on board!

Michelle: I just wanted to clarify, with pancake brunch, if you want to take a weekly shift please let us know we would love to have you there!

Mental Wellness (Spandan): 5 minutes

[Summary] We sent out applications two weeks ago, and closed them last Sunday, hired 8 people for the mental wellness commission, all of the first years seemed super excited and passionate, also, we had our first event yesterday, in collaboration with Ali Kehl, it was a stress-kit event in Wymilwood, we got like somewhere between 20-25 people which I was really happy with, people seemed happy for the most part as well. Other than that, our next event is supposed to be sometime at the end of the month, a midterm de-stresser, I had an open canvas in mind, I'm still going to consult my commission when we have our first meeting hopefully next week as soon as I get everyone's availability, depending on that if someone has an amazing idea we will consider that as well.

Sustainability (Leila): 3 minutes

[Summary] First off, the climate strike, thank you to everyone who managed to come out, it was great and we're really hoping to ride the momentum of last month's climate strike events on the 20th and 27th to maintain interest and engage people in sustainability issues at Vic. As for events, we had our first doc and talk event, me, Holly, and someone from Caffiends, our doc and talk event last year had pretty low turnout as well. We closed exec apps, we had a good number of apps but I'm not going to make any decisions until the commissioner is elected. For upcoming events will host a speaker next Friday, speaker is Gideon Forman, a climate change policy analyst at the David Suzuki foundation, we want him to come in and talk about why voting in the upcoming federal election is important, talking about student voting issues and climate and as well as the intersection of those two things on October 11th at 3pm, and in line with that, for federal election, we have been planning a couple of larger federal election VUSAC-wide events, Massoma and I



thought of voting pop-up booths, a table with a fake ballot box, and a little voting privacy folder. The idea is to engage people passing by about talking about issues like housing, environment, economics, and getting them to think about the election, hoping if possible, if people could sign up for volunteering to run those pop ups, really flexible, anywhere from 10am-5pm, if you could do just an hour that would be great. They will be open for six different dates between the 10th and 18th, week before the election. Finally, I've been working with Aminah and Vibhuti on larger Vic0 – trying to incorporate some aspect of sustainability into strategic waste, we are focused on carbon neutrality and zero waste, working with at least 15 different groups and people across u of t to work out different proposals and plans. The project is in its beginning stages, if anyone has any concerns or ideas about any general sustainability issue, big ideas people have about sustainability, especially from diff perspectives, since we are mostly talking to environmentally focused groups, it would be nice to talk to other groups.

Hannah: I remember earlier in the year I was talking to someone about where Burwash's food waste goes and Ned's as well too – if you could take equity to discount that, could be a good idea so there could be less waste.

Leila: I don't know where the food goes, which shows how important transparency is. We will be setting up a series of meetings to learn about those sorts of things, handing off those things to different organizations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

VP External (Vibhuti): 5 minutes

[Summary] First off, I am working with Leila and Aminah, they have been superstars, absolutely fantastic; what I'm focusing on in my portfolio is Ned's composting for students who eat there which will be happening in next few weeks. Next, Renaming Ryerson is getting back on their feet and I'm excited about hearing councilors talking about that, we are still figuring out the direction we want to take project this next year, we will be doing that with a lot of well-informed decisions and consultations, so I'm excited for the project this upcoming year. I'm going to also give a Board of Regents update, we had our first meeting yesterday, I'm a member of the Board of Regents as student representative, Alexa is there, we had Sayeh and Ally who are also there, we chatted about lots of things, big focus of the meeting was Vic ready; Kelly and Yvette and Louise came and talked to the board on what Vic ready was, other things talked about were President Robins bought his new 2019-2020 presidential priorities, extension of his presidential priorities report. Since the appointment of his presidency is ending, the Board



is looking at the bid for reappointment for President Robins, as well as new chancellor being put up at Vic. People like Angela gave an update about the student makeup of our incoming class, more domestic students this year to off-balance small incoming class last year – 26% international students, 99.92% of resident beds are full, talking about pushing undergrad research opportunities for students, then we heard from different committees and their updates, afterwards went to a dinner to speak with board members, which was a very fulfilling experience. I'm excited to develop this relationship with the board, and board development day which we'll all be attending to hear about ways that Vic works, we'll be hearing from Strategic Planning people as well. For the next VUSAC meeting, we will make sure that students who sit on VCC and VSU, and Ally who is designated BoR person, can be present and give updates about what's going on those governing councils.

President (Alexa): 5 minutes

[Summary] Thank you, Vibhuti for the Board of Regents summary, and thank you all for sharing, you should be proud of yourselves. Corn coming – I am working with Tran and Michelle to plan the event, and due to recent events it has been postponed to October 11th in the UC quad from 3-6pm, so please help set up from 1pm if you are available. In terms of VUSAC's end will be doing pancakes with pumpkin spice, giant janga and some of the carnival games, and have the corn costume. Please follow the page on Facebook and insta, please share in your networks. There will be an event planning meeting in JCR at UC, everyone can go, I personally have class there until 12 then will be walking over right after. Secondly, VUSAC elections, they've been happening, shout-out to Vibhuti and Maria for getting it working, server just doesn't like Vic-

Vibhuti: the voting website works, has two IP addresses, and our elections were only working at one of the IP addresses, so some people could access voting through their laptop but not their tablet or their phone vice versa, but it kind of ended up working out – shout-out to Student Life.

Alexa: voting is going on until Saturday at noon, and so please tell your friends it's not too late to vote, you can do so at voting.utoronto.ca. Next, budget steering – want to make sure we weren't using up our pool of funding, and you have until October 7th to submit our budget to Tyler, shout-out to him for putting out that template, please let us know if you have any questions. In addition, the Budget Steering committee is composed of VPSO, an equity representative, levy head, club representative, the president, and finance chair.

Next, three new Vic courses are going to be offered, Vic-100 level called posters and propaganda, another screenwriting and another for the educational and society stream, all sound very cool and interesting, excited for them to be introduced to Vic.



Next, we are getting new computers, Scott Johnson and I were comparing monitors and computer towers to make sure we were getting the best one, and those will be coming in October 11th; the two other computers will be moved into the back so we will still be making use of them.

Motion: Alexa motions to extend 10 minutes. Michelle seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy

There is a new Vic website, check it out, it is really pretty, you can check it out at vic.utoronto.ca; going off of that, Leila talked about the federal elections, shout-out to Leila and Massoma for coming up with the pop-ups, in addition, starting tomorrow, you can vote at Hart House, if you are not available on voting day that is great opportunity as well.

Next up study space – VUSAC actually used to do this, like 4 years ago during exam period, which is cool. I'm probably going to introduce it on Thursday evenings, 8pm-11pm, so we don't need to ask for extra security, and I will be putting in a budget request for food and snacks – if you have a coffee machine you want to donate, please let us know.

Finally VIC Strategic Planning, there will be a townhall for students on October 9th, in VC115 from 12pm-2pm, as well, Robert has reached out to me to have a VUSAC specific session, I don't think place for that is a VUSAC meeting, want to make sure that's not taken up by student.

Tran: I will put down your name to volunteer for corn coming, so please let me know if you are available at all to help out!

Vibhuti: One – when will election results be out, two – are there going to be tables out in the atrium for the VUSAC study space or just in our VUSAC office space?

Alexa: results will be posted 48 hours after the end of voting period, so they will be announced Monday at noon. Also, can we have a rough straw if we want tables in Wendy Cecil atrium, just extending study space – is that what people want? (people raise hands) I can look into booking that space as well on Thursdays.

Spandan: I think board games runs every Thursday evening in the Wendy Cecil atrium.

Katie: What is VUSAC's financial contribution to corn coming?

Alexa: We are looking at around \$250, we will bring it to council as well, one council is spending \$1000 on it, but I didn't feel like it was the best use of our student fees – in the past we have given \$500, felt this was comfortable given the Student Choice Initiative.

Tran: Everything will be reused if it is left over will go back to VUSAC.

Massoma: For corn coming, what are the ads for it, I feel like wouldn't know about it unless I were in this room.



Tran: Starting this weekend there will be Facebook pages for colleges and we will be putting up posters, making posters soon myself.

Alexa: Thank you for bringing it up, we will get posters up and have them up around Vic.

Cam: What is reason for starting study space at 8pm?

Alexa: It's half hour after office will be closed so people can calm down, have a break, and it will be a little more quiet since it's not a place where people can chill and socialize.

Equity (Massoma): 3 minutes

[Summary] Just to add a bit to what Leila and Alexa were talking about regarding the voting pop-up sessions, ideally there will be two people there at a time, if you're signing up, please try to make sure other people are there since it's hard to run the table alone and should be a collaborative effort – Leila and I put a package of information we can send out relatively soon, so you have a better idea of what voting pop-ups look like it runs through how to respond to potentially difficult questions, which is something that is helpful if you haven't had experience with that type of engagement. In terms of upcoming equity events, will be putting up panel as a debrief and reflection on what the results were moving forward, in contact with organization out of U of T called Equal Voice. Additionally, we are looking to have woman in STEM coming in to have a study space/discussion, it can either be good study time, or a way for people to get to know other people in similar fields as them. Another upcoming event is the 15th year of LGTBout, October 11th 6-10pm karaoke, come out if you're available! Lastly, I will hand it over to Hannah but we are also running an equity training session with the Bob on Thursday at their rehearsal time, focused on inclusion in the writing room.

Motion: Motion by Massoma to extend for three minutes. Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy

Hannah: We are planning on having a literacy week sometime in semester, will be lit, hopefully each day will have a different form of literacy, like a slam poetry workshop, writing poetry to share with each other, we also talked about hosting a panel with academics at the university who are interested in literacy. The main focus is pointing a light towards authors who are authors of color, and are often overlooked in media industry especially in books, and only some stories shared. We are hoping that students at Vic can know that there are novels out there that represent them, and that they are closer to home than they think they are.



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For the other thing, we are hoping to enact an equity forum, hopefully have equity town halls where students can come in and voice their concerns on campus. It would be good to have an online equity forum with their info to send in a google form to Vic talking about equity grievances they might have and things they think should change in the future. We are hoping that the equity forum will be able to keep a data base of different issues at Vic, and it will be easier to enact change. If students want to keep this confidential, we will respect that – it is our goal to keep transparency regarding equity problems on campus, hoping this can be a pave-way for students to voice their equity concerns.

Motion: Motion by Katie to adjourn the meeting. Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy