



## **VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** 5:30 PM, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Land Acknowledgement:** Sooyeon Lee

Soo: We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

**Official Regrets:** Aya Ragheai, Jenny Zhang

**Approval of minutes:** *Motion by Max to approve the minutes, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.*

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

**Additions to the agenda:** 3-minute Board of Regents Update

**Approval of the agenda:** *Motion by Alexandra to approve the agenda, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.*

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

## **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

**Dean's Office:** 10 minutes

*Motion by Tran to give the Dean's Office Speaking Rights, seconded by Vedika. Motion passes.*

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

Shainiya: The Commuter Dons are launching Vic at Home programming and they're going to be offering various online events throughout the semester. The majority of our students are off campus and we wanted to highlight that we have those four weekly programs for them as well as our on-campus students. The Com Dons also launching Fit-Tober, which is meant to encourage offline engagement and is a good way to get involved without being online all the time. I wanted to bring these up because you're also students and we want you to feel engaged too. These are tailored to both upper year and first year students. I also wanted to encourage you to talk to your friends about these programs. The Com Dons are expanding their programming and we want to get your thoughts about what we can do to encourage you to get involved!

Alexandra: The online programming is great, but I think a lot of us feel drained since we sit on a screen for the majority of our day. I also find that interacting through Zoom is more socially draining. I think what the Com Dons are doing to shift their programming offline is really important!

Mehr: I feel like the excitement of Zoom has worn out and it's so emotionally taxing. Apart from that, I think that it helps when there is an incentive for doing activities and might encourage more student participation.

Shainiya: The feedback is really helpful! If you guys don't know about Fit-Tober, please go check it out! We also appreciate your patience in the changing situation with the Goldring Student Centre and we are working towards figuring out how to access this space. The current process to get in has been difficult and we are working to make it more streamlined and secure. If you need to enter the building, please wear a mask and socially distance. We can put a plan together, but they are all contingent and subject to change based on new guidelines.

**President of Victoria University:  
Board of Regents: 3 minutes**

Aminah: We haven't had a general meeting since the last update we gave, but Aloysius and I met with Dorian from Mental Health Commission so we can better understand the mental wellness concerns at Vic. Board of Regents student reps aren't associated with VUSAC but we sit on the board that keeps Vic's admin accountable.

**Victoria College Council: 5 minutes**

Mehr: The first general meeting was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. The VCC consists of the President, the registrar, the head librarian, other Vic admin, and the elected student officials. The president's update focused on developing anti-racism resources at Vic. They are also working with Emmanuel to rework their anti-racism guidelines. They're currently talking to the onsite mental health counsellor to better develop mental health resources at Vic and they're still in the process of hiring their BIPOC counsellors. Right now, they are also talking about having a BIPOC student mentor and starting anti-racist training for Vic dons and other student leaders on campus. Their next meeting is on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October if you have any questions for me before that!

**Victoria University Senate:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

*Motion by Jay Muoio to ratify Korol Pikulik as the VicPride! President for the 2020-21 school year (2 minutes), seconded by Maggie. Motion passes*

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

Jay: I was CRO for VicPride elections this year because last year's exec wasn't able to get it organized in time. Only the past exec team and club members were allowed to vote so we're trying to widen the voting pool a little bit in the future elections. Korol is a fantastic candidate and they need to be ratified because they are an official levy head.

*Motion by Leila Tjiang to approve the addition of VUSAC's signature on the Divestment and Beyond Petition, seconded by Michelle Zhao (5 minutes). Motion passes*

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

Leila: Last meeting we voted to add our signature to Divest Canada Coalition's petition. That petition is very similar to the Divestment and Beyond petition which is a Uof T group comprised of faculty, staff, undergrad and grad students. The petition currently has around 1200 signatures, the majority of which are undergrads. It's calling for divestment and for U of T to declare a climate emergency. It's very well-researched and well-written. Unlike the last petition we signed, we are not releasing a statement saying that we signed it since it might appear to be redundant, but we're going to do a social media campaign to get other students to sign it.

*Tabled Motions*

- Women's Circle budget

*Motion by Jay to un-table the tabled motion, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.*

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

*Motion by Jay to approve the Women's Circle Budget, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.*

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

Jay: Because the Women's Circle requested over \$1000 of funding, they needed to be at the last budget meeting to get their budget approved. Since they weren't in attendance we couldn't vote on it and we have to do it now instead.

Mozyah: This budget is actually missing part of our submission

Jay: We motioned to add those missing items to the budget last week so they're something that we have considered.

Joy: Are the books going to be physical copies sent to the group members?

Mozyah: Yes, they are and we're putting in a bulk order right now because we can get a reduced price.

Joy: Have you considered eBooks? I'm just thinking that shipping physical copies might be difficult right now.

Mozynah: We haven't because we wanted to offer a physical book to our members as an incentive to join the club.

Fiza: Also, because Women's Circle is focused on fostering community-building on campus, we wanted to have physical books because we feel that it creates a closer community.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Amendments to Council Policies, Chapter 11: Policies on Clubs, put forth by Jay Muoio (15 minutes) [Appendix A]*

Jay: A lot of club policies were out of date, so these changes are trying to bring the policies up to date. When clubs apply for status recognition, we want to make sure it's as clear as possible so that's all we're trying to do with these amendments. The first section is the club recognition section and I just went through and moved things around. The only change in the second section is on exec hiring and approval since very few clubs have exec elections. This change makes it a little more lenient and allows clubs to hire execs easier. The section change on club funding is just on how we handle club revenue. Club revenue comes back to VUSAC and then we send it out to the clubs just so that we can monitor all the money that is coming in and out of VUSAC's clubs. The section on equipment is just grammatical changes. Clubs privileges and club membership fees have also been altered.

Mehr: Jay did a really great job at modifying the policy. Now it specifically outlines policies which makes it a lot easier for clubs to navigate what they are and aren't allowed to do within these guidelines.

Vibhuti: In the club section, I noticed that there isn't any clarification on the permission of personal bank accounts, and I was wondering if we should be making that clearer.

Jay: I think we should bring this up with council before making any amendments to the policy.

*Mental Wellness Co-Chair, put forth by Dorian DiTommaso (15 minutes) [Appendix B]*

Dorian: The Mental Wellness Co-Chair amendments are something that I have been working on since April. I wrote a preliminary version back in May and between then and now I went through a few rounds of consultations with past commissioners. In its current form, I would consider it done. Essentially, anything you find highlighted in yellow is an amendment that I have added. In the constitution, it simply says that we shall hire a Mental Wellness Co-Chair. A lot of the amendments that I created are based off of past policy changes. In the council policies amendments, I updated the role of the commissioner too in chapter 6 section 12 and the addition of that is to provide guidance on what the Mental Wellness commissioner actually does. It doesn't explain to future commissioners what they are actually supposed to do. There's also the addition of section 14 which is the addition of the Mental Wellness Co-Chair and the wording is very similar

to the commissioner role. Essentially the reason why it's similar is that they can chose a portfolio to focus on specifically which will hopefully allow for greater delegation of tasks. The additions to the Mental Wellness Commissioner section are about bringing into line the constitution and the council policies to make it clearer to future commissioners what their role is. The Mental Wellness Commission has grown a lot over the summer within the commission and in the community. A Co-Chair is needed to make sure that I can delegate tasks to our team easier. The Mental Wellness commission advocates for topics that can be draining on people and so in our current position, we don't have anything that could prevent the commissioner from becoming burned out or isn't elected in the spring. The Mental Wellness Commissioner is a position that attracts people who are passionate about mental health and take on a task that is similar to the Equity Commission since we do a lot of advocacy work around campus. I just think generally that this would be a fail-safe and would allow us to do the kind of work that we need to be doing in our commission.

Nerija: It seems like you want to hire the Co-Chair as soon as possible and I was wondering, from personal experience, how would you make it less awkward for the incoming Co-Chair joining council halfway through the year.

Dorian: It would be my goal to hire them by January and I won't be allowing members of my exec to run for the position. Hopefully, since we're all online this year, I don't think it will be too awkward for them. To be honest, I didn't really think about it.

*Motion by Mehr to extend the discussion for 15 minutes, seconded by Alexandra. Motion passes.*

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

Tran: The eight execs were just added this year and I was wanting to know why it's difficult to delegate tasks to them?

Dorian: The difficulty is in the way that they are formatted into portfolios. The way I structured it was two programming execs, two communications execs, a special projects exec and equity exec. The burden of the commission to cover two broad-spectrum ideas, between programming and advocacy, makes it difficult to focus on one or the other without two people at the head.

Mehr: Firstly, I'm definitely a fan of creating more spaces on campus for Vic students to get involved. However, I'm wondering whether the full potential of the executive team has been explored yet and whether or not the co-chair is really needed. I'm thinking that maybe the addition of a co-chair might even make it more difficult to delegate tasks.

Vibhuti: I'm sort of on the same page as Mehr. I think that a co-chair would be a great addition but maybe the exec hasn't been used to their full potential yet. Would you be assigning the co-chair one portfolio while you work on the other? I'm also wondering why you wouldn't allow your current execs to apply to the position since they might be the best option right now.

Dorian: The idea of not allowing the exec members to apply is actually Tran's recommendation. If I hired someone from my exec team, then I'm worried that the group dynamic might be made less comfortable.

Vibhuti: I don't know your exec, but I think you might be making some assumptions about the people on your team. I think if you laid it out that it was a learning experience — not so much a change in the power dynamic — it wouldn't be as toxic.

Dorian: Right now, I'm involved in every project that we're hosting. Ideally, if the commissioner is doing one task, the co-chair could take on varying tasks. I would still want the commissioner to be knowing everything that's going on.

Leila: In my experience, to have a co-chair is to have another point person on council. As much as your exec is important, it's nice to have someone on council who you can rely on.

Tran: I think that it is possible to give your exec more responsibility so that you're able to delegate tasks. I still do support the co-chair position though.

Dorian: The exec team was created in lieu of a co-chair. I created the team because I couldn't hire a co-chair and it was formatted in a way that could get me to here. I don't think that an exec team will ever meet their full potential since there are always things that could go wrong. I can't delegate all the tasks because it's very confusing and melded together.

*Motion by Tran to recess 7 minutes, seconded by Joy. Motion passes.*

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

*VUSAC Survey Prize Winners, put forth by Mehr Mukhtar (10 minutes)*

Mehr: Occasionally, when VUSAC administers surveys we often give away prizes but a lot of the time VUSAC members actually win the prize. I don't think there needs to be a hard and fast rule that prohibits VUSAC members from getting the prize, but I think we might want to reconsider what it looks like if we consistently give VUSAC members raffle/survey giveaways. I think maybe commissions should redraw if they draw a VUSAC member.

Fatima: I think that it's a great idea to have a redraw or maybe we could allocate something in the budget that allow for the VUSAC member to get the prize but also another one for a different VCU member.

Max: I think that if a VUSAC member wins, we should just give out extra prizes. I personally don't mind if a VUSAC member wins the prize because they also filled out the survey. I think the fact that VUSAC members usually win just means that we need to engage with the VCU more.

Dorian: If you're on VUSAC and you're filling out surveys then I don't think you should be getting a prize. I don't think that there should need to be an incentive for VUSAC members to fill these things out

Maggie: If a VUSAC member weren't allowed to win then I think that it defeats the purpose of entering. If VUSAC members are entering I think they should be allowed to get something.

Leila: I just wanted to second what Dorian says. I think it's part of our responsibility on council to fill out surveys. You should be filling out these surveys regardless of whether or not you want to win something

Mehr: I was thinking about this more in the automatic draw situation. I also agree with Leila and Dorian. I think we should encourage some kind of guideline for VUSAC members regarding prizes.

#### ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS:

**Vic UTSU Directors (Ava & Radhika):**

**Orientation Co-Chairs:**

**Victoria College Dons:**

Constituent Organizations:

**Acta Victoriana:** no report

**Caffiends:** no report

**Cat's Eye:** no report

**Student Projects:** no report

**The Strand:** no report

**VicXposure:** no report

**VicPride!:** no report

**VISA:** no report

**VCAA:** no report

**VCDS:** no report

**WUSC:** no report

#### STAFF REPORTS:

**Chief Returning Officer (Vibhuti):**

**Communications (Veronica):** 5 minutes

Veronica: Fall Caucus is coming up next month and all members of council must compile a report that I can put into the semi-annual report. The deadline for submitting this will be Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Depending on your position, you'll have a dedicated word-limit. I'll be sending everyone an email after this if you missed anything. New council: if you need to promote anything on VUSAC's social media, I am using a Google Form for all requests if you need it. I'll also be starting a mini-project with Nathan and we are going to be doing a meet-the-council project on the VUSAC social media pages.

Mehr: Thank you so much for being excited for caucus! Caucus is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November and you are all expected to be there!

**Finance (Ralph):**

**Office Manager (Holly):**

**Chair (Zoe):**

COMMISSION REPORTS:

**Academic (Nerija & Cathy):** 3 minutes

Nerija: We had our event on Wednesday with the Mental Wellness Commission. Drop-In Study Sessions are also in full swing so please come! It's very productive. We also created a new academic resource card and they are updated to include more info that is relevant to our online format. Part of the weeklong-Academic Commission extravaganza will feature Coffee Chats to get a clearer picture of the academic needs of the VCU and there are going to be other little giveaways and contests throughout the week. After the Coffee Chats, I will be writing letters to Vic admin and governing bodies about the VCU's academic needs. I've been in contact with Emily Greenleaf and Tran to discuss how to best go about this. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, we have an event with Vic's learning strategist and another one on November 17<sup>th</sup> with the Vic librarian. Stay tuned for most social media content; we have a great infographic run coming up soon!

**Arts & Culture (Jenny):**

**Commuter (Rheannon & Aya):**

**Equity (Lulu & Sooyeon):** 4 minutes

Sooyeon: Lulu and I had our first meeting last week and we spent that talking about our goals for the upcoming year. We're currently working on getting together with our execs to get on the same page this year. We also sent out an equity survey on the Facebook page asking students about their experience with equity at Vic College. One of the big things we want to focus on this year is advocacy, so we need students' responses for that. We've only had around 20 replies so far so please fill out the survey and enter the raffle. All answers will be anonymous and will help us advocate for the needs of students. We are going to be getting in touch with the other commissions to hopefully get some events going too!

**Mental Wellness (Dorian):**

**Scarlet & Gold (Fatima):** 5 minutes

Fatima: Falling for Vic/Arcade Night is happening! In the past, we've had Falling for Vic at a pub but we're going to be doing an online event this year. I think we're going to be pairing everyone up so that we can do breakout rooms on Zoom, but more information will be going out later on the VUSAC exec page. It's on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 so please mark that in your calendars!

Tran: In order for an event to be successful, we need the help of the whole team. If you need to book it off, please let us know in advance though!

**Sustainability (Leila & Jerico):**



CAMPUS LIFE:

**Campus Life Coordinator (Alero):** 10 minutes

*Was not present for report*

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

**VP External (Mehr):** 5 minutes

Mehr: We had a DSC meeting with the Dean's Office last week to advocate for students' needs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. I also had a meeting with the SVPC, and the point is to address how Vic can mitigate sexual violence on campus. The intention is to roll out a campus-wide campaign with recommendations from Silence and Violence which is a grassroots group working on how to improve sexual violence responses on campus. Another thing that I'm working on is data collection at Vic. I want to reach out to other grassroots organizations to ask them how to roll out these surveys and make sure that they are as equitable as possible. The awesome thing about data collection is that it is student-based and community-driven. I also reached out to Emmanuel because I think we need to develop a closer relationship with them since they are our sister college. Also, The Dean's Office has agreed to cover shipping fees for the Crescams this year so we're making sure that the winners are going to be receiving those as soon as possible.

**VP Internal (Tran):** 5 minutes

Tran: Retreat is on Saturday and Sunday! It's going to start at 9:30am and there are going to be plenty of breaks throughout the day. I wanted to thank you for taking time out of your week to be there! Online office hours are starting next week and all of you should check my email about time slots and respond. It's part of your job as a VUSAC member to have a drop-in time slot. We'll go over expectations with Holly at retreat.

**VP Student Organizations (Jay):**

**President (Michelle):** 10 minutes

Michelle: Yesterday I had a meeting with PUSAG, which meant that I got to meet with the Vice Provost. The Provost provided some information on the initiative they have been working on over the last couple months. They highlighted the use of Navi which is essentially a chat bot to help students find mental health resources on and off campus. The other student group I am involved with is the SGRT and we are still looking for both a chair and a clerk so if you know anyone who is interested in applying, please let us know! We are also looking to set up a meeting with the Office of the Vice Provost which is typical for the SGRT so hopefully more information will be coming on that in the future. In terms of CCR recognition, I am working on getting us registered with the CLNx as soon as possible so you can all get recognition for your time on VUSAC. There are going to be some additional requirements you will need to complete including some reflective pieces from you throughout the year to get recognition but hopefully it shouldn't be too difficult. Fall Campus week is coming up and I am going to be sitting on a panel with some student reps: Vibhuti and Michael. Ralph will also be sending out the budget soon and once that is distributed, you can start submitting your cheque requisition requests since that will be the final budget for the year. I met with Veronique who provided a lot of answers about the mailing room and how we can

use this service, I'll be sending out an email about this later. Starting on Monday, I will be having office hours every Monday from 3-5pm! Please come!

*Motion by Tran to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.*

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.