

VUSAC CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**Prepared by:
Zahavah Kay, President**

*Note: Amendments in italics were prepared and submitted by
Stephen Warner, former Vice President External, and submitted to council
April 8, 2016.*

FIRST PAGE:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #1

Original:

Mission Statement
General
Membership
Financial Responsibility
Meetings
The Council
The Executive
The Commissioners
Councillors
Staff Members
Levy Receivers
Elections
Amendments

Amended:

Chapter I: Mission Statement
Chapter II: General
Chapter III: Membership
Chapter IV: Financial Responsibility
Chapter V: Meetings
Chapter VI: The Council
Chapter VII: The Executive
Chapter VIII: The Commissioners
Chapter IX: Councillors
Chapter X: Staff Members
Chapter XI: Levy Receivers
Chapter XII: Elections
Chapter XIII: Amendments

Reasoning:

Easier to reference specific sections. Roman numerals used as the Articles use Arabic numerals, the sections use S followed by an Arabic numeral, and the subsections use letters. Using different numerology allows for a more clear distinction between sections.

ARTICLE #5 : MEETINGS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #2

Original:

Article 5: Meetings

S1) Regular Meetings:

- a) Regular Council meetings shall be held every two weeks, excluding statutory holidays. Meetings shall be held on week nights only. The dates of meetings are to be determined by the Executive in the summer.
- b) The Chair shall call and prepare an agenda for all regular Council meetings, with the advice and approval of the Council.
- c) Attendance and voting by proxy shall be permitted at regular Council meetings provided that the proxy be a student of the VCU.
- d) Quorum shall consist of two thirds of the voting members of the Council.
- e) Minutes taken from each meeting must be posted within one (1) week of said meeting's adjournment.
- f) Motions passed at regular Council meetings are considered in effect on the fourteenth (14th) day from which they are passed, unless an open meeting to challenge the motion is requested by petition as described in Article 6 of this Constitution.
- g) Email voting can occur for the Council if necessary, as outlined in Chapter 4, Section 5 of the VUSAC Council Policies.
- h) An emergency Council meeting can be called if necessary, as outlined in Chapter 4, Section 3 of the VUSAC Council Policies.
- i) In the case that the Chair is unable to attend a meeting, another staff member shall act as the Chair.
- j) Meetings can be held in-camera as necessary, per the procedure outlined in Chapter 4, Section 4 of the VUSAC Council Policies.
- k) Meetings shall have a three (3) hour limit from the call to order, less the time of any recess.
- i. Any motions to extend meetings beyond the three (3) hour limit must be approved by a . majority of Council.

Amended:

Article 5: Meetings

S1) Regular Meetings:

- a) Regular Council meetings shall be held every two weeks, excluding statutory holidays. Meetings shall be held on week nights only. The dates of meetings are to be determined by ~~the Executive in the summer.~~ the Chair at the beginning of the year.
- b) The Chair shall call and prepare an agenda for all regular Council meetings, with the advice and approval of the Council.

- c) Attendance and voting by proxy shall be permitted at regular Council meetings provided that the proxy be a voting member of council.
- d) Quorum shall consist of two thirds of the voting members of the Council.
- e) Minutes taken from each meeting must be posted within one (1) week of said meeting's adjournment.
- f) Motions passed at regular Council meetings are considered in effect on the fourteenth (14th) day from which they are passed, unless an open meeting to challenge the motion is requested by petition as described in Article 6 of this Constitution.
- g) Email voting can occur for the Council if necessary, as outlined in Chapter 4, Section 5 of the VUSAC Council Policies.
- h) An emergency Council meeting can be called if necessary, as outlined in Chapter 4, Section 3 of the VUSAC Council Policies.
- i) In the case that the Chair is unable to attend a meeting, another staff member shall act as the Chair.
- ~~j) Meetings can be held in camera as necessary, per the procedure outlined in Chapter 4, Section 4 of the VUSAC Council Policies.~~
- k) Meetings shall have a three (3) hour limit from the call to order, less the time of any recess.
 - i. Any motions to extend meetings beyond the three (3) hour limit must be approved by a . majority of Council.

Reasoning:

Members are elected by the VCU to vote on their behalf, and that responsibility and privilege should remain with those individuals the VCU has selected. In addition, this is what happens essentially every time someone proxies anyways.

Section J was removed as a more extensive policy on in camera meetings has been added below.

ARTICLE #5 : MEETINGS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #3

Addition of New Section:

S2) In-Camera Meetings:

- a) Meetings can be held in-camera for the following reasons;
 - i. The matter being discussed is of a confidential nature
 - ii. A member of council feels that speaking openly on a topic might put them or someone else at risk physically or emotionally
 - iii. A member of council feels that an emergency measure must be taken
 - iv. Confidentially must be ensured for a reason not stated above, at the discretion of council on a case-by-case basis

Reasoning:

In-camera meetings are difficult to outline because the reasoning can vary greatly. These are meant to outline specific reasons a meeting might go in-camera, but allow other situations to be approved by council as they occur.

ARTICLE #6 : THE COUNCIL, S2 B

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #4

Original:

b) The following elected positions, the holders of which shall serve as voting Commissioners:

- Academic & Professional Development Commissioner
- Arts & Culture Commissioner
- Commuter Commissioner
- Equity Commissioner
- Scarlet & Gold Commissioner
- Sustainability Commissioner

Amended:

b) The following elected positions, the holders of which shall serve as voting Commissioners:

- Academic Commissioner
- Arts & Culture Commissioner
- Commuter Commissioner
- Equity Commissioner
- Scarlet & Gold Commissioner
- Sustainability Commissioner

Reasoning:

This is an unnecessarily long title for a position and is not in keeping with the rest of the position titles on VUSAC.

Voting to ratify this amendment would also result in the name being changed each time it shows up throughout the Constitution, Council Policies document, and in all other locations.

ARTICLE #6 : THE COUNCIL, S2 C

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #5

Original:

- c) The following elected positions, the holders of which shall serve as voting members:
Eight (8) Councillors

Amended:

- c) The following elected positions, the holders of which shall serve as voting members:
Three (3) First Year Councillors
Five (5) Upper Year Councillors

ARTICLE #7 : TERM OF OFFICE, S4

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #6

Original:

S4) No person may hold more than one position on the Council per term, inclusive of voting, non-voting, and ex-officio members.

Amended:

S4) No person may be elected or hired for more than one position on the Council per term, inclusive of voting, non-voting, and ex-officio members.

a) In the event that there is a vacancy on the executive following spring elections, the other members of the executive may assume the duties of said position over the summer until the fall elections.

Reasoning:

Clarity, and to reflect situations of vacant positions.

ARTICLE #8 : RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, S3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #7

Original:

S3) To fulfill their VUSAC responsibilities, members should:

- a) Fulfill their specific roles on the Council.
- b) Participate actively and fully in the activities of the Council, including but not limited to attending VUSAC events, completing equity training, and completing office hours as assigned by the Vice-President Internal, and
- c) Keep informed as to the business and affairs of the Council, including but not limited to attending Council meetings and regularly reviewing meeting minutes.

Amended:

S3) To fulfill their VUSAC responsibilities, members must:

- a) Fulfill their specific roles on the Council.
- b) Participate actively and fully in the activities of the Council, including but not limited to attending VUSAC events, completing equity training, and completing office hours as assigned by the Vice-President Internal, and
- c) Keep informed as to the business and affairs of the Council, including but not limited to attending Council meetings and regularly reviewing meeting minutes.
- d) Attend a minimum of three events hosted by VUSAC Commissions, Levies, and/or Clubs per semester.
- e) Submit a detailed transition report to the VPI before May 15.

Reasoning:

Make expectations more explicit, as well as add an expectation regarding council participation in VCU events. In addition, it has been a significant problem in past years of council members not receiving a transition report, or of receiving one that is either incomplete or quite late. By mandating the submission of the transition report to the VPI this can be avoided in the future.

ARTICLE #10 : ACCOUNTABILITY, S1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #8

Original:

All concerns regarding the performance of the President shall be directed to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students shall take appropriate action regarding all 10 complaints in an effort to inform the President of the concerns in a private and unattributed manner and shall receive, from the President, written notice as to how the concerns shall be addressed and/or rectified

Amended:

All concerns regarding the performance of the President shall be directed to the Dean of Students or the Vice President Internal, who shall take appropriate action regarding all complaints in an effort to inform the President of the concerns in a private and unattributed manner and shall receive, from the President, written notice as to how the concerns shall be addressed and/or rectified

Reasoning:

More reflective of what actually happens.

ARTICLE #9 : CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, S3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #9

Original:

S3) Members should not be in receipt of financial rewards (other than nominal) and/or gifts as a result of their position as a Council member. Any “gifts” in excess of a total of \$25.00 should be declared to the Executive within seven (7) days of receiving such a gift. The list of gifts will be made available to members upon written request.

Amended:

S3) Members should not be in receipt of financial rewards (other than nominal, and honoraria provided by VUSAC) and/or gifts as a result of their position as a Council member. Any “gifts” in excess of a total of \$25.00 should be declared to the Executive within seven (7) days of receiving such a gift. The list of gifts will be made available to members upon written request.

ARTICLE # 14 : ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, S1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #10

Original:

S1) The President:

- a) Shall act as the official spokesperson of the Council.
- b) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- c) Shall serve as a signing authority alongside the Finance Chair.
- d) Shall liaise with other student societies on campus.
- e) Shall sit on the Board of Regents for a one-year term during their presidency.
- f) Shall serve as the voting Chair of the Standing Committee on Development and Student Space.
- g) Shall be a voting member of the Internal Review Committee.
- h) Shall be a voting member of the Victoria College Orientation executive team.
- i) Shall be hired by the Council as the Summer Office Manager.
- j) Shall, with the Vice-President Internal, be responsible for the upkeep of the Council's internal memory system.

S2) The Vice-President External:

- a) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- b) Shall represent the Council and act as the principal point of contact to entities external to Council but internal to Victoria College. The Vice-President External shall maintain relations with these external bodies in the areas of negotiation and coordination of efforts with the Council.
- c) Shall be empowered to represent the Council in its interaction with the Office of the Dean of Students, and in those interactions be empowered to negotiate on behalf of the Council.
- d) Shall coordinate between the Council and other student organizations in the areas of sharing best practices and improving campus life.
- e) Shall liaise with the student representatives of the VCC, VUS, and BoR.
- f) Shall communicate regularly with the Victoria College UTSU representatives.
- g) Shall hold a minimum of two (2) caucus meetings per term of office.
- h) Shall maintain open communication with Victoria University's various building presidents.

S3) The Vice-President Internal:

- a) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- b) Shall be responsible for the organization and administration of VUSAC services.
- c) Shall serve as the voting Chair of the Internal Review Committee.
- d) Shall serve as the Chair of the Orientation Chair Selection Committee and the Orientation Executive Selection Committee.
- e) Shall be responsible for assigning Councillors their initiatives in coordination with the Commissioners and the Executive.
- f) Shall be responsible for the maintenance of internal policy of the Council, as

well as familiarizing other Council members with the aforementioned internal policy.

- g) Shall, with the President, be responsible for the upkeep of the Council's internal memory system.
- h) Shall be responsible for the management of the Council's internal communications and the upkeep of acceptable internal relations in the Council.
- i) Shall be responsible for ensuring the fulfillment of fiduciary duties and the maintenance of the standard of care on the Council.

S4) The Vice-President Student Organizations:

- a) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- b) Shall be an official working liaison between the Council and its levy receivers.
- c) Shall be an official working liaison with all Victoria College clubs.
- d) Shall be a voting member of the Budget Steering Committee.
- e) Shall be the Chair of the Cat's Eye Advisory Board, as per the Cat's Eye Operating Policy.
- f) Shall organize at least two meetings a year (one per term) with the clubs executive.
- g) Shall organize and chair a minimum of one meeting for all club heads per academic year.

Amended:

S1) The President:

- a) Shall be a returning student at Victoria College.
- b) Shall act as the official spokesperson of the Council.
- c) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- d) Shall serve as a signing authority alongside the Finance Chair.
- e) Shall liaise with other student societies on campus.
- f) Shall sit on the Board of Regents for a one-year term during their presidency.
- g) Shall serve as the voting Chair of the Standing Committee on Development and Student Space.
- h) Shall be a voting member of the Internal Review Committee.
- i) Shall be a voting member of the Victoria College Orientation executive team.
- j) Shall serve as a student representative on the Victoria College Council
- k) Shall serve as a student representative on the Victoria University Senate
- l) Shall represent Victoria College at meetings of the St George Round Table
- m) Shall represent Victoria College at meetings of student and administrative groups across campus
- n) Shall have regular meetings with the President and Dean of Students of Victoria College
- o) Shall be hired by the Council as the Summer Office Manager.
- p) Shall, with the Vice-President Internal, be responsible for the upkeep of the Council's internal memory system.

S2) The Vice-President External:

- a) Shall be a returning student at Victoria College.
- b) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- c) Shall represent the Council and act as the principal point of contact to entities external to Council but internal to Victoria College. The Vice-President External shall maintain relations with these external bodies in the areas of negotiation and coordination of efforts with the Council.
- d) Shall be empowered to represent the Council in its interaction with the Office of the Dean of Students, and in those interactions be empowered to negotiate on behalf of the Council.
- e) Shall coordinate between the Council and other student organizations in the areas of sharing best practices and improving campus life.
- f) Shall liaise with the student representatives of the VCC, VUS, and BoR.
- g) Shall communicate regularly with the Victoria College UTSU representatives.
- h) Shall hold a minimum of two (2) caucus meetings per term of office.
- i) Shall maintain open communication with Victoria University's various building presidents.

S3) The Vice-President Internal:

- a) Shall be a returning student at Victoria College.
- b) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- c) Shall be responsible for the organization and administration of VUSAC services.
- d) Shall serve as the voting Chair of the Internal Review Committee.
- e) ~~Shall serve as the Chair of the Orientation Chair Selection Committee and the Orientation Executive Selection Committee.~~
- e) Shall be responsible for assigning Councillors their initiatives in coordination with the Commissioners and the Executive.
- f) Shall be responsible for the maintenance of internal policy of the Council, as well as familiarizing other Council members with the aforementioned internal policy.
- g) Shall, with the President, be responsible for the upkeep of the Council's internal memory system.
- h) Shall be responsible for the management of the Council's internal communications and the upkeep of acceptable internal relations in the Council.
- i) Shall be responsible for ensuring the fulfillment of fiduciary duties and the maintenance of the standard of care on the Council.

S4) The Vice-President Student Organizations:

- a) Shall be a returning student at Victoria College.
- b) Shall serve as a voting member of the Executive.
- c) Shall be an official working liaison between the Council and its levy receivers.
- d) Shall be an official working liaison with all Victoria College clubs.
- e) Shall, in the summer, facilitate the process of club (re)-application and ratification.
- f) Shall be a voting member of the Budget Steering Committee.

- g) Shall be the Chair of the Cat's Eye Advisory Board, as per the Cat's Eye Operating Policy.
- h) Shall organize at least two meetings a year (one per term) with the clubs executive.
- i) Shall organize and chair a minimum of one meeting for all club heads per academic year.

Reasoning: Better reflects the roles served (especially for those considering their candidacy who look to the constitution to understand the role). As well, the 'returning student' stipulation re-affirms what is already implied by the election process: that the positions, regardless of which elections see them filled, are to be occupied by a VCU member in their second or higher year of study.

ARTICLE #15 : THE COMMISSIONERS, S6

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #11

Original:

S6) The Sustainability Commissioner:

- a) Shall represent Victoria College student concerns regarding, but not limited to, climate change initiatives, behavioural modification, energy consumption, sustainable water and food practices, community gardens, and building codes. This includes listening, responding to, and interacting with the voices of the Victoria College community.*
- b) Shall chair the Sustainability Committee as per Chapter 8, Section 10 of the VUSAC Council Policies.*
- c) Shall be co-chair of the Victoria Working Group on Sustainability with the Director of Physical Plant Services.*
- d) Shall be responsible for the annual review of VUSAC's sustainability policy.*
- e) Shall collaborate with other student clubs and organizations on campus and offcampus to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.*
- f) Shall promote sustainable behaviours and practices within the Victoria College community.*

Amended:

S6) The Sustainability Commissioner:

- a) Shall represent Victoria College student concerns regarding, but not limited to, climate change initiatives, behavioural modification, energy consumption, sustainable water and food practices, community gardens, and building codes. This includes listening, responding to, and interacting with the voices of the Victoria College community.*
- b) Shall chair the Sustainability Committee as per Chapter 8, Section 10 of the VUSAC Council Policies.*
- ~~*c) Shall be co-chair of the Victoria Working Group on Sustainability with the Director of Physical Plant Services.*~~
- ~~*d) Shall be responsible for the annual review of VUSAC's sustainability policy.*~~
- e) Shall collaborate with other student clubs and organizations on campus and offcampus to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.*
- f) Shall promote sustainable behaviours and practices within the Victoria College community.*

ARTICLE #16 : ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, S2

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #12

Original:

S2) The Arts & Culture Commissioner:

- a) Shall be responsible for all theatrical productions, such as the Bob Revue, financed by the VUSAC.
- b) Shall organize and promote group trips that enable Vic students to access artistic and cultural events.
- c) Shall be responsible for keeping the Council informed about Victoria University productions.
- d) Shall be a co-chair of the Bob Director Selection Committee, along with the outgoing Arts & Culture Commissioner. Both shall have voting status.
- e) Shall be responsible for the production of open mic and talent shows at Victoria College, with a minimum of four (4) shows per year, with two (2) per semester recommended.
- f) Shall assist the Campus Life Coordinator in the planning of the Gardiner Gala and attempt to promote the relationship between the Gardiner Museum and the VCU.

Amended:

S2) The Arts & Culture Commissioner:

- a) Shall be responsible for producing the Bob Revue and selecting its directors.
- b) Shall organize and promote programming that enables Vic students to access artistic and cultural events.
- c) Shall be responsible for keeping the Council informed about Victoria University productions.
- d) Shall be a co-chair of the Bob Director Selection Committee, along with the outgoing Arts & Culture Commissioner. Both shall have voting status.
- e) Shall be responsible for the production of open mic and talent shows at Victoria College, with a minimum of four (4) shows per year, with two (2) per semester recommended.
- f) Shall, with the assistance of the Scarlet and Gold Commissioner, be responsible for the planning of the Gardiner Gala
- g) Shall attempt to promote the relationship between the Gardiner Museum and the VCU.

Reasoning:

More accurate representation of the role.

ARTICLE #16 : ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, S5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #13

Original:

S5) The Scarlet & Gold Commissioner:

- a) Shall be responsible for establishing a program of social events for all Victoria College students financed by the VUSAC.
- b) Shall be the chair of the Winterfest Chair Selection Committee.
- c) Shall be the chair of the Victoria Highball Committee.
- d) Shall be responsible for regular social programming in conjunction with Victoria student clubs, levies, residence councils, and/or external groups to Victoria College.
- e) Shall be responsible for planning and hosting a semi-formal event for all Victoria students to take place in first semester.

Amended:

S5) The Scarlet & Gold Commissioner:

- a) Shall be responsible for establishing a program of social events for all Victoria College students financed by the VUSAC.
- b) Shall be the chair of the Winterfest Chair Selection Committee.
- c) Shall be responsible for regular social programming in conjunction with Victoria student clubs, levies, residence councils, and/or external groups to Victoria College.
- d) Shall be responsible for hosting a social event in the first 3 weeks of classes to welcome students back to school.
- e) Shall be responsible for planning and hosting a semi-formal event for all VCU students to take place in first semester.
- f) Shall be responsible for planning and hosting Highball for all VCU students to take place in second semester
- g) Shall be the chair of the Highball Committee and responsible for the selection of its members
- h) Shall provide assistance and advice when requested to other Victoria groups hosting social events

Reasoning:

More accurate representation of the role.

ARTICLE # 21 : Elections, S4

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #14

Original:

S4) In the Fall, before the fourth Friday in the academic year, the following members shall be elected:

- a) Eight (8) Councillors (at least two of whom must be in the first year at Victoria College)
- b) All vacant offices of the VUSAC, if any
- c) The remaining student representatives of the VCC, if any
- d) The remaining student representatives of the VUS, if any
- e) The remaining student representatives of the BoR, if any

Amended:

S4) In the Fall, before the fourth Friday in the academic year, the following members shall be elected:

- a) Three (3) First Year Councillors (must be in their first year of study)
- b) Five (5) Upper Year Councillors (must be returning students)
- c) All vacant offices of the VUSAC, if any
- d) The remaining student representatives of the VCC, if any
- e) The remaining student representatives of the VUS, if any
- f) The remaining student representatives of the BoR, if any

ARTICLE # 21 : Elections, S5

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #15

Original:

S5) Nominations:

- a) All nominations shall be made on the form of nomination supplied by the CRO.
- b) Nominations shall be signed by the nominee and by a minimum of ten (10) nominators who are members of the VCU.
- c) Nominations for fall elections are to open in the first week of classes and close at the end of the second week, with elections held prior to the fourth Friday in the academic year.
- d) Nominations for spring elections are to open in the last week of February and close at the end of the first week in March, with elections held prior to the third Friday in March.

Amended:

S5) Nominations:

- a) All nominations shall be made on the form of nomination supplied by the CRO.
- b) Nominations shall be signed by the nominee and by a minimum of ten (10) nominators who are members of the VCU.
- c) Nominations for fall elections are to open in the first week of classes and close at the end of the second week, with elections held prior to the fourth Friday in the academic year.
- d) Elections are to be completed by the end March.

Reasoning:

The strictness of this outline is not possible every year, as long as elections are done before the end of the year it is fine.

CHAPTER XIII: AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #16

Original:

Amendments

Amended:

Amendments and Suspensions

CHAPTER XIII: AMENDMENTS, S6 (Addition)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #17

Addition of Following Section:

S6) Suspension of Council Policies:

a) Individual clauses or sections of the Council Policies may be suspended by a 2/3 majority of Council.

b) Policy suspensions must be made proactively, before a breach of policy has occurred.

c) Suspended policies from the previous term must be reviewed annually at the first meeting after the Joint Council Meeting, at which point a vote must occur to remove the policy from the manual. If the policy remains in effect, it may not be suspended for the duration of the term.

d) Clauses or sections of the Constitution may not be suspended.