



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
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VUSAC MEETING MINUTES

January 12th, 2018 at 3PM in the Goldring Student Center

In Attendance

Judiciary

PRESIDENT: Zahavah Kay
VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Nickolas Shyshkin
VP INTERNAL: Artimes Ghahremani
VP EXTERNAL: Katie Cohen

Assessor Members

CHAIR: Sayeh Yousefi
SECRETARY: Emma Lailey
COMMUNICATIONS: Jade Koh
FINANCE: Graham Allison
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Stephanie Xu

Commissioners

SCARLET AND GOLD: Stephanie Spagnuolo
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Zoe Ritchie
SUSTAINABILITY: Jared Connoy
ARTS AND CULTURE: Blanaid McNally
COMMUTER: Gabriel C

Councillors

James Hannay
Alexa Ballis
Ally Johnston
Haleema Khan
Devon Wilton (late)
Cynthia Wong
Vibhuti Kacholia

Guests

UTSU VICTORIA COLLEGE DIRECTOR: Jayde Jones
ASSISTANT DEAN, STUDENT LIFE: Scott Johnston

VOCA CO-CHAIR: Emilia De Fabritiis

THE CAT'S EYE: Berenice Alvarez

Regrets

COUNCILLOR: Cameron Davies (proxy is James Hannay)

EQUITY: Shailee Koranne (proxy is Artimes)

Land Recognition: Stephanie (1 minute)

I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the minutes from the VUSAC Meeting on January 12th, 2018 as it stands. Jared seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Additions to the Agenda (maximum 3 minutes per addition)

- Katie to add (3 minutes) update on merch
- Graham to add (3 minutes) update on levy auditing
- Zahavah to add (3 minutes) update on student projects

Motion: Vibhuti moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Stephanie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Pressing Items:

- Logistics items - Sayeh (2 minutes)

[Summary] Does this time still work for everyone? (3-5PM on Fridays) Would 5-7 work for most people? We talked about moving to a larger room in Old Vic, what was the room suggested?

Katie: There are classrooms in Old Vic that are available.

Jared: I'm not sure if we need to move locations if we could just add chairs.

Zahavah: We should have the door to the office open, technically.

Jayde: My concern is that the accessibility of the space decreases with a bunch of extra chairs.

Jared: We could add chairs in (that) corner, in the interest of accessibility.

Motion: Nick moves to ratify the honoraria for Student Projects and The Strand. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Motion: Nick moves to ratify Vic Life Drawing Club. Jared seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

- YouDecide Campaign Update (5 minutes) - Jayde

[Summary] Hi, welcome back! One thing I should have been more diligent about making people aware of is that the YouDecide petition is in the top drawer of the front desk and has been since mid-November. As you can see, posters are also now up in the VUSAC office inviting people to sign the petition and directing them to a VUSAC member for more details. Don't panic, I created FAQ brief and it is in the folder with the petition in the desk drawer – it covers virtually every question I've been asked while campaigning in the last two years and so should help you field questions in a neutral way. Zahavah and Katie have digital copies should you need them and, of course, I do as well.

I understand that VUSAC is still deliberating on how you want to be involved with YouDecide but, unrelated to VUSAC, we need volunteers collect signatures for the referendum. We would love to have more students involved. We have thirty-five class talks scheduled in the next few weeks and we need people to give them! If you have a prof you're tight with, let me know, and either you can arrange a class talk with them or I can contact the prof on YouDecide's behalf. If the class is over 50 people, that is. We're going for maximum outreach at the moment.

- Betty and Dash bikes update (5 minutes) – Zahavah

[Summary] So, as some of you may know, there used to be a club at vic called "Betty and Dash" which was bike repair. The U of T equivalent is called Bike Chain. Betty and Dash is not longer working, and people don't want to run it, and those who would mostly already work with Bike Chain because they have more resources. We are not salty about it. But we have a ton of old rusty bikes that are taking up a lot of room. As we discussed before, it is not the best use for the room. We would love it for the room to be a second club storage room. The first step would be to get rid of the bikes. Bike Chain is not in need of more bikes, however. Chris Knipe (a former Vic student) is in contact with another former Vic student named Jonah who works at the BrickWorks, there is a bike share system there. The project is called "Bike Works."

Their biggest thing to overcome is finding tools and bikes.

Katie: VUSAC can't make charitable donations with student fees. That could be an issue. They weren't purchased with VUSAC money but it is in our constitution not to make donations from our fees. I don't personally see it as an issue, but it is definitely something to consider. They are rusty, and need to be taken apart. They can not be ridden away on.

Motion: Jared moves to extend discussion on Betty and Dash bikes Update for two minutes. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None

- Opposed: None

Jared: I've run this idea with my commission a few times, and no one including myself is able to come up with ideas on how to deal with the bikes. We believe that BikeWorks is the best idea.

Zahavah: This is not something to vote on, but if you have an idea let me know. If you support this idea, we also want to hear that.

EX-OFFICIO UPDATES

- UTSU Director Updates (10 minutes) – Jayde

[Summary] [Summary] Since we last met (Dec. 1st) Hambo resigned from his position as a UTSU director. We were lucky to have him. I hope that you all support him in his decision. A few people have asked if the position was going to be filled. Likely not. Don't worry, I will do what I can. Let me know if that is a concern for you.

On January 8th my bi-monthly update for November and December was published online and you are all invited to check that out if you're interested in what I've been doing! The video version will follow shortly.

On another note, you may remember that I nominated myself to sit on the Campaigns and Advocacy, Services, and Outreach Committees for the UTSU this semester. Luckily, I snagged a spot on each and committees are meeting this week. Outreach Committee met on Monday, Services Committee is meeting tonight, and the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee last night, where I was elected chair. So if you're interested in any campaign work this semester, I can most definitely help you out!

With respect to Disability Justice Week, the project is very much in motion. We're in the consultation phase right now – that is, we're in contact with SBA (Students for Barrier Free Access) and some contacts in the Disability Studies department that Shailee connected us to and we're working on a comprehensive strategy to genuinely centre disabled leadership in the planning and execution of the event. Essentially, because the design of Disability Justice Week mirrors that of SGDO's Queer Orientation, wherein different student groups provide their own programming, we have no way of ensuring individual groups will center disabled student leadership effectively. There are a bunch of brilliant minds in this room, so if you have any ideas on strategy please let me know!

In other news, the food drive box will be back soon. Posters are up in residence, Goldring and Caffiends.

As some of you may already know, Stuart resigned from his position as Vice President, Campus Life on December 12th. We came to a hiring decision and appointed his replacement, Ammar Wasim, on December 29th – I sat on that hiring committee. Stu is a little, big piece of Vic and I hope you all join me in congratulating him for all the wonderful work he did and in supporting him for doing what is best for him.

Moreover, I launched my Facebook infographic campaign this week advertising different benefits of a UTSU membership: discounts on Mondays, financial supports on Tuesdays, services on Wednesdays, ways to get involved on Thursdays, and active campaigns on Fridays. Please check it out and share if you feel inclined!

Not directly pertinent to Vic but I am currently are looking into doing a promotional week with the Gardiner Museum where admission would be free for all U of T students, as it currently is for all Vic students.

Also I've invited everyone in this room who I have on Facebook to the Facebook event for attending UTSU board meetings for the rest of the semester. If you're not my friend, add me!

On Jan 25th, the UTSU will be VOCA Pancakes' special guest. We hope to promote resources, like learning about our dental plan, while giving face time with the execs on that day. My office hours are 11-12, Wednesday in the Cat's Eye this semester. I'm lonely. No one visits me – you should!

Winterfest! U of T has a club night tonight and Vic has our pub night tonight, so I hope you're coming to one of those...but next week is the UTSU's Frost Week! On Monday, there will be donut decorating. On Tuesday, we'll have free LinkedIn headshots. On Wednesday, an event called "Choir Choir Choir." On Thursday, free pancakes and Young M.A. will be performing at the Velvet Underground so be sure to grab your tickets. And on Friday, we will do a free vegan breakfast.

Zahavah: May I ask what "Choir, Choir Choir" is?

Jayde: I believe it is an event where various choirs perform?

Katie: It is a Toronto initiative started at the Clinton. They just put the poll up. You get to vote for Blank Space or We Found Love. It is a big collaboration of various artists and local singing groups.

Jayde: That is way cooler than I thought it would be. I might go now.

- Dean's Office Update (3 minutes) - Scott Johnston
 - Women in Tech

[Summary] Quick notes: Krista is our new CLC starting on the 22nd. Vic is also co-organizing the Women in Tech Conference. The conference is devoted to showcasing opportunities for women in technology and employs a networking session. The conference is one hour. Eight companies have signed up, all of which are hiring. Shopify will be there, for example. The conference is not exclusive to women, but the idea behind it is there are sometimes some barriers for women interested in the tech world. But the women that enter into tech are successful.

Also, don applications are now out, for commuter and residence dons. Commuter donship is now open to non-full time students and students currently in first year. I would encourage you to apply.

Alexa: Women in Tech, does that include theatre tech?

Scott: You don't have to be a computer science student. There is no specific tech theatre company there, but it would still be worthwhile.

Sayeh: A lot of companies like Shopify also have non-tech jobs available.

Scott: What we perceive to be working in a office is going to change. Think about that and the future.

STAFF MEMBER UPDATES

Chief Returning Officer - Stephanie X

- [No update]

Communications Director - Jade K

- Update (2 minutes)

[Summary] Thank you and Emila for helping out with the Sid smith board. It looks really good. If you want to post something just leave posters you want put up into my mailbox.

Finance Chair - Graham A

- [No update]

COMMISSION UPDATES

Academic & Professional Development - Zoe R

- Updates - (12 minutes)
 - Changing the format of the Networking Dinner

[Summary] Happy New Year everyone! First thing, I've decided not to do a formal dinner. We're thinking of going for a lighter dinner. Which, if you've been to the dinner before, is a sit down dinner, like an awards night. We felt it wasn't achieving its aim to network. With a lighter dinner we can invite almost double the alumni. If you have concerns or questions, let me know. I think this will be very effect. We will just need more promotion with more seats to fill.

- Study Hubs

[Summary] In the backroom, there are formal study sessions from 2-4 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are looking for promotional opportunities. Please take a moment to share the information, or post it. The attendance is probably going to pick up because, you know, New Year, New Me.

- VUSAC sponsoring an award for Research Day

[Summary] I've been asked if VUSAC would be interested in sponsoring an award for the Research Fair. All the awards are for undergrad student research. There are different divisions of sponsor awards, and I'm thinking \$50. I could take it from my budget. What people would be interested in? We could do one on equity or sustainability. Or Health and Mental health.

Stephanie: I think it is meaningful for us to do something like it. Especially if it is for an undergrad students. I like the idea of doing something for mental health or sustainability.

Gabe: VUSAC could sponsor the awards we deem are important. If we establish the award we could do something that changes year to year that the council feels is important.

Devon: Are people presenting proposals for research to get an award or is it for work that they've done the research for and this is their award?

Zoe: It is like a best in show. If they see an award given to mental health, they might want to do research with a mental health focus. I could make a committee. . .

Jayde: One category VUSAC might want to consider is supporting research done by Indigenous students or research that stands to benefit Indigenous communities. Financially helping that kind of research is important.

Devon: We could also keep it general and dedicate the award to specific characteristics.

Katie: Do we decide who gets the award?

Zoe: Yes, we would go through list and then chose who wins. I would be chairing that.

Zahavah: Could we see a list of the awards available and see where there is a gap?

Zoe: Right now there are only two awards, one for primary sources and another for commuters.

Zahavah: So, lots of gaps.

Jayde: With respect to what was said about the potential for all of council to deliberate on applications at a regular meeting, I would suggest considering the implications. Meetings are open to public, but to avoid putting the researchers on blast during deliberations I would suggest the award decision be completed in camera, and having such an inevitably large portion of a meeting held in camera would likely discourage non-VUSAC VCU members from attending. I like the idea of Zoe building a selection committee!

Zoe: Yes, that is a good point. We would have to go in camera.

I'm going to draw a short list and put it as a poll. Otherwise, you should all go to Women in Tech and encourage the women you know to come. It's really an amazing opportunity to interact with real companies who are hiring and want to talk to students.

Arts and Culture - Blanaid M

- Updates - (6 minutes)
 - General Arts and Culture Updates

[Summary] Our Make the Change event from December went very well. The quality of the speakers were really great. Thank you all for coming out to the event. Looking forward, on Monday I co-plan the Winterfest Open Mic night. I will be hosting another two open mics this semester. I want to collaborate more people with that. I am going to be reaching out to a few levies and groups. I know everyone is excited for the Gardiner Gala, and ticket sales starting on Monday. We will be selling tickets during office hours. People have been asking about non-Cic people coming, and the limit is one guest per Vic student. Tickets are 5\$ dollars, and will be available at the door as well. Tell people about it! We are in the process of advertising.

Artimes: Does everyone on VUSAC need to buy their own tickets?

Blanaid: Yes.

Zoe: For the open mics, is that to only Vic groups?

Blanaid: I hadn't really thought of that. I'd say yes!

Alexa: You should reach out to the theatre groups on campus!

Stephanie: Reach out to the Bob!

Commuter Commissioner - Gabriel C

- Updates
 - Home for the Holidays comment

[Summary] We weren't able to attend the last meeting in December because of Home for the Holidays. We want to say thank you to everyone.

- Update with Ned's

[Summary] I haven't booked a meeting with Burwash this semester, but from our last meeting they seemed really into the idea of marking the expiring food at 50% off. That is really good that they are pushing forward this initiative.

- Commuter Commission collabs with Shailee and Jared

[Summary] I wanted to do some collaborations with Shailee and Jared, because towards the end of semester one there were a lot of reports of the sexual assaults around the Church and Wellesley area. Hopefully, VOCA along with the equity commission and VicPride can collaborate on ways we can talk about commuter safety and precautions they can take when walking home. Downtown T.O. can be a scary area at nighttime. As well, we're interested in collabing with the sustainability commission on ways we can make the commute to school more sustainable. For example: travel mugs, tupperware containers, etc...

- Pancakes on Thursday!

[Summary] We have moved pancakes to now pancakes on Thursdays from 10-2pm. If you know any student groups looking to benefit off of VOCA's platform, let us know!

Gabe: We have already reached out for collaborations. Jayde will be joining us on the 21st. The equity committee will collaborate in February. Scott, we want to reach out to your office as well. And more administration, and President Robins.

- Sid Smith board update!

[Summary] We did update the commuter board during the exam period. And the key is in room 1006 at the register office.

As well, side note, VOCA is planning a big event: A free burrito dinner collaboration with the shadow dance club.

- Updates with U-Pass

[Summary] Gabe: I contacted Ann from UTSU and asked her to give me updates. The folks at the TTC are keen on going through with this. But their timeline for figuring out logistics is longer than expected. It seems like the referendum for it will be in the fall. I guess next year's council will have to do that. Unfortunately...unfortunately for me. In terms of price, it was going to be around 60-80\$ per month. Which is an amazing price, seeing as though it is 116\$ for student metro price. Very economical. Also, they are looking into working with GoTransit. Good for students coming from far away. It looks like it will be very exciting when the referendum gets around.

Motion: Zahavah moves to extend discussion on U-Pass Updates for 2 minutes. Haleema seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Jayde: The stuff with the TTC and Upass is exciting, and there is a lot of outreach even ongoing which is necessary before a referendum starts. If you need help getting involved, let me know, I can help!

Stephanie: As for the the burrito night...when I was in first year and I was running for council I wanted to do a “Wraps, Wraps, Wraps” night and if you need help and want to collaboration, the Scarlet and Gold committee will help!

Equity Commissioner - Shailee K

- N/A

Scarlet & Gold - Stephanie S

- Winterfest Update

[Summary] I want to thank Leora and Helen, the co-hairs. And I want to thank both Jayde and Jade and Alexa on graphics and social media. We are operating under budget--good news for highball--although we still have pub night tonight. We worked with a lot of collaborations. Thank you to Cat's Eye, Vic Pride, the Goose and Acta Victoriana (the coffee house), Caffiends, the Board Games club...Our pancake event was collaborated with the SGT and VOCA. We were better than the two days before us. But we need to be better pancakes than Monday next time!

For the pub night, it will be 2\$ at the door and with the wristband policy. I'd compensate the ticket price for any fellas looking to check bathrooms. To help our one lovely guy...Graham.

Jayde: Sustainability and VCAA thank you!

Alexa: Share the event on FB!

Stephanie: Especially for first year councillors and Befriend!

Sustainability Commissioner - Jared Connoy

- [No update]

JUDICIARY UPDATES

VPSO - Nickolas Shyshkin

- [No update]

VP Internal - Artimes G

- [no update]

VP External - Katie C

- [no update]

President - Zahavah K

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] Congrats all on first semester! We had an amazing first semester. We ran so smoothly. We have a lot to be proud of. I hope you rested and didn't do VUSAC things. For our next meeting, we have a very special guest: President Robins! He is bringing his “Presidential Priorities,” or his “game plan” in which he has outlined the plans, goals and values for the next three years. The document has been taken to the Board of Regents, etc, and now he is bringing it to the students.

I will be distributing the doc before the meeting, and come with questions. These are the guiding principles for the next three years of the school. Come with questions, come with ideas. There

is nothing you could ask that would be inappropriate. Well, I mean, there are inappropriate questions but, he knows everything about Vic is what I meant. He wants feedback.

Reminder about safety in the office: Please keep in mind safety in the office. Don't give your key away. Safety is all of our responsibilities. If you have people with you, you are responsible for their behaviour as well as your own.

Also: from the Board of Regents, residence fees are going up by CPI, as is expected. Meal plan fees are likewise going up. Vic dollar values are increasing as well, so buying power is increasing. On the board, we want to have a discussion about it. We review the fees, but now we need to discuss why we decide those fees. If any of you have questions or want to see the breakdown, let me know I want to discuss it with you. For example: why do these rooms cost so much more than these rooms? How do we price meal plans?

Additions:

- VP External - Katie C

[Summary] Merch is going forward! We are just finalizing the numbers from last semester, and the total is \$4,000 which is awesome! We will probably have two pop-up sessions next week. Gardiner Gala tickets. More selling days. We need to figure out what to do with the remaining merch and whether to buy more. Want to collab with U of T design club. Cool stickers. I want to thank Artimes and Nick for allowing me to keep the merch in the office.

As for the statement of our support for You Decide, Devon and Vibhuti helped me write we decided upon. We will send that around soon.

Last thing, we've been discussing the idea of a mass calendar for a while. Nick and I have a model and we sent out a beta copy. I can use it, so it is very simple. Nick and I will wait on feedback from the commissioners.

James: Calender software?

Nick: Teamup.

Artimes: For merch, could we set up a pop up shop for one of the days we serve pancakes?

Katie: Yay!

Artimes: It might be a cool idea to have people sign up for runner shifts, to walk by Goldring or Vic classrooms to promote merch.

Katie: Great idea!

- Auditing the Levies - Graham

[Summary] Hannah and I will be auditing the levies, going through bank statements and budgets. I wanted to open the floor to see if anyone has any ideas they want us to look at? Suggestions?

- Update - Zahavah

[Summary] Speaking of spending all the money that levies have: Student Projects has so much money and it needs to be spent. This can be commissioners, if you think it will really benefit the Vic community.

Apply to student projects! If you have an idea for a way to revamp the commuter lounge, if you need a new couch...Over \$100,000 of student fees is what we have. It should be used to bettering student

experience. Tell them to apply for student projects! We conduct bi-weekly meetings, and I've love to see some of you apply. It can be big-scale, or small-scale. There's my plug.

Motion: Stephanie moves to adjourn meeting. Artimes seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None