



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
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### VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Monday, March. 17, 2014 at 6:25PM in the Goldring Student Center  
MINUTES

#### **In Attendance**

##### **VUSAC**

PRESIDENT	Jelena Savic
VP EXTERNAL	Zack Medow
FINANCE	Eli Bourassa
CHAIR	Gabriel Zoltan-Johan
SECRETARY	Enxhi Kondi
CLC	Bergita Petro

COMMUNICATIONS	Jade Huguenin
COMMUTER	Christine De La Cruz
SUSTAINABILITY	Kristina Dokoska
SCARLET & GOLD	Sebastien Hart
MAL	Robert Fan
	Alan McCallum
	Ashley Harripersaad
	Conor Tangney
	Anastasia Langiano
	Ally Scandolo
	Lucinda Qu

##### **LEVIES**

STUDENT PROJECTS	Angela Sun
CAT'S EYE	Karl Cadonic
BOARD OF REGENTS	David Kitai
GRAD BANQUET CHAIR	Sarah Berger

##### ***Official Regrets***

EDUCATION & EQUITY	Sienna DiGuiseppe
MAL	Kate Dotsikas

*Jade moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Lucinda seconds. Unanimously approved.  
Sebastien moves to approve agenda. Conor seconds. Unanimously approved.  
Jade is Sienna's proxy, Ally is Kate's proxy.*



## ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- *Grad Banquet Update* - Sarah
  - Tickets on sale until Wednesday, a few tickets left. Mostly hoping we have an even number of tables. We're ordering Grad gifts probably tomorrow. And I'm in the process of applying for an alcohol license, and we're starting on decorations now; last thing to do.
  
- *Cat's Eye* - Karl
  - We finally got signing power transferred last week. I got an account balance: \$7110.25. Since we tried not to spend too much money, we should have a sizable surplus going into next year. We'd like to request for release of Lucas's honorarium. We are additionally opening up Cat's Eye Co-manager applications.

Motion 95: Jelena moves to release Lucas's honorarium. Zack seconds. Unanimously passed.

- *Student Projects* - Angela
  - Four things:
    - I would like to clarify the rumour that any money we don't use from Student Projects this year will go to Dean's Office. That is untrue. The money left over from Student Projects will just be carried over to next year's Student Projects fund.
    - This Thursday is the deadline for this year's student projects. If you have a project for the summer or for early next year, get me the application by Thursday.
    - Chairperson applications are now open; application is on VUSAC website thanks to Jade. If you think you can be good for the job, please apply! It's due next Wednesday.
    - I looked through the Student Projects budget policy, and I can request an operating budget with a maximum of \$1000.00 from the Student Projects Fund as long as it's approved by VUSAC. The Student Projects Committee approved the budget at the meeting; it came to \$544.13, including the \$500 honorarium.

Motion 96: Zack moves to approve the Student Projects budget. Anastasia seconds. Unanimously approved.

- Two projects:
  - \$250 for Red Ink; they want to produce a zine that is primarily targeted toward Vic students and the purpose of their zine is promotional. They are afraid of the existence of their club next year, so they want a concrete production to encourage the continuation of the club, and to commemorate the work they've done thus far.
    - Sebastien: I just want to confirm, what is a zine?



- Angela: A zine is sort of a magazine, but showcases literature and creative writing, and it's a bit loose in terms of design and style.
- Jade: I want to give them props because they've taken the effort to advertise this in the listserv.

Motion 97: Jelena moves to pass the student project. Zack seconds. Unanimously passes.

- \$10,000 to bring in Severan Suzuki to do a talk at Vic during the Climate Change Symposium.
  - Kristina: We're looking at using the Bader for our location.
  - Angela: Can you explain how you plan to accommodate Vic students.
  - Kristina: We'll have tickets sold in the VUSAC office and we're selling tickets first to Vic students, and then the leftover tickets we'll open them up to other environmental groups on campus. \$5 per ticket.
  - Angela: Most of the Committee members said yes. Included comments were consider doing the event in a larger location, including a cost, and making sure Vic students get first dibs.
  - David: Random suggestion, look into the Vic Chapel.
  - Sarah: I feel like because of the money you're already spending on the speaker, it makes sense to have it at a much better location because it's really worth that money.
  - Jade: What's going to be the promotions approach because I haven't heard about it yet?
  - Kristina: We have everything ready, posters etc., but we just couldn't release anything until signing was done.
  - Bergita: If students are paying money to go to the event, where is the money going?
  - Kristina: Back to Student Projects.
  - Angela: From renting out the Bader, it becomes a matter of how much Bader will cost.
  - Jelena: So with the \$10,000 application, why are you charging for tickets if you can do it for free?
  - Kristina: Something that was brought up at the meeting was that since we're paying so much for the speaker, we should charge people.
  - Sebastien: Could we suggest that only if Bader and speaker cost exceed \$10,000 we would charge students?
  - Jelena: Yea, students already pay \$10 for Student Projects, it doesn't make sense to charge them again.
  - David: You could charge a fee to non-Vic students.
  - Angela: Kristina, are you okay with these project changes?
  - Kristina: Yes.



Motion 98: Sebastien moves to approve the project. Zack seconds. Passes with 2 abstaining.

- We are heading toward the end of Student Projects, so if there are any comments or questions about things?
  - Jelena: I think you did a great job this year, Angela! That being said, I think there's a problem with Student Projects surplus, which has been a consistent problem since the fund was implemented. I'm going to add something about this in my transition report, although I'm not sure what the solution would look like. Whether that would include putting a pause on the fund, or holding a referendum to decrease the fund amount, I'm not sure, but I don't think it works the way that it is currently set up.
  - Angela: I would be interested to see or scope out what it's like next year, and then make that decision.
  - Sarah: I know that something earlier this year was said that it was dumb to make Student Projects not really part of VUSAC.
  - Angela: I think it worked out this year. Honestly, VUSAC is still majorly linked to Student Projects, because almost half the Committee is made up of VUSAC members, plus the Judiciary chooses the Advisory Board members. I personally feel that it makes sense for us to be a full levy because we do collect a levy fee and our budget is sort of under the Dean's Office, so it makes more sense for us to be more independent. Also, back when Student Projects was a commission, I feel like the Commissioner felt that Student Projects didn't really do anything to pertain to council as a whole or do anything that was similar to the other Commissions. Plus, I feel like when it was under VUSAC, people had the perception that we gave preference to VUSAC projects and now that it is no longer under VUSAC, it may feel more accessible to people who are not a part of "the Vic bubble."
  - Sebastien: Just in terms of those final projects coming in, how long does it take people to get their funding?
  - Angela: Generally about two weeks. There have been delays because of transitions between workers in Dean's Office, but it should be at the most two weeks.

Conor leaves 7:14pm.

## JUDICIARY REPORTS

President – Jelena

Motion 99: Jelena motions to put the following 20min *in camera* to discuss internal matters. Zack seconds. Unanimous.

– *Constitutional Amendments*

Motion 100: Alan moves to amalgamate all his edits and pass them on edited constitution. Lucinda seconds. Unanimous.



- Alan: Now onto the voting turnout.
- Jade: Last year we discussed a lot of stuff about voting, so I would suggest looking over those minutes.
- Sarah: I think the writing here just needs to be clarified rather than removed.
- Zack: We would never have to deal with these problems if everything was just done by ranked balloting. And I've talked to someone from voting.utoronto and they said this change will be made very soon.
- Alan: Also, Jelena and I have been discussing changing the name of the MAL to Councilor or something like that.
- Leah: What is the dislike with the MAL name?
- Alan: One, it's hard to sell to get people to run for it. Two, in terms of its ability to voice opinions on council; making people feel more empowered to speak. And there's a few other reasons. Also, I think it'd be interesting to open up the position as a useful function for someone who may not have the time to be an executive, but want to get involved with decision making.
- Jelena: So, given that we're not voting on any of these, let's move on.
- Alan: Just let me do a straw poll. Alternate name vs MAL.

Straw poll: Keeping MAL name vs alternate name. 15 for alternate name.

- Budget Steering Committee
  - Jelena: We have to be able to justify how we're using our money. Plus the budget also affects clubs, which are run by students, so to have two students added on to increase transparency, it's important.
  - Jade: I have two issues; one, I am a Vic student and I would be institutionally marginalized from this process because I'm also a VUSAC student. The other issue I have to that is I would say the flip-side of students feeling this isn't transparent, one student just represents themselves so they may not necessarily represent all students.
  - Jelena: I just want to respond to the excluding VUSAC members thing; that's very intentional because every VUSAC commissioner has a budget, and a bias toward their budget and their own events, so there shouldn't be any commissioners on there.
  - Jade: But that would also exclude assessor members.
  - Jelena: But that also goes for other hiring committees on VUSAC, and the structure of the council in general. People can't hold multiple positions on VUSAC, and you want to be able to minimize the amount of power that any one student has. That's why you can't be a VUSAC member and an assessor member, for example.
  - Sarah: But that's also the case with most positions in VUSAC.
  - Alan: I think it's generally good democratic behavior to make sure that on this monetary committee, only people elected as VUSAC members in the council should be allowed to vote. Beyond that, I don't think adding non-VUSAC students makes it more transparent or accountable because if that was the only step taken, they'd be no more likely to



write a detailed public report. So I think MALs should be placed on the committee. And I admit it'd be slightly less biased, but I still think there are better ways to achieve that.

- Sebastien: We discussed a lot of this stuff previously and we came to some conclusions and I think people are forgetting. One, for MALs it works this year because of the way we ran MALs this year. Second of all, it's also accepting and approving budgets based on what Vic students want to do with their money and that's the purpose of the Vic students. And you can't have minutes done because it's too inconvenient.
- Sarah: Let's be real, even the VUSAC members on this committee are not biased to a specific commission, but they are biased toward VUSAC. The clubs budget steering policy makes it difficult for clubs to get large amounts of money, which makes sense for some clubs, but not for all. My best-case scenario is having a first-year come in who knows nothing about this and just have them question everything.
- Zack: I want to bring up what may be an unpopular solution, but hear me out. If we want an accountable budget steering process, I would change the committee entirely for it to be only judiciary as voting members. The other side of this is that decisions here are not made in isolation of other discussions. We should reformat our meeting structure where we allow other people to question us. But we shouldn't try to achieve all of this through the same way. So I would suggest making the budget steering committee extremely small, but make a very clear and open general meeting policy where any member of the VCU who shows up can make a motion to change something.
- Sebastien: But sometimes you can't really make changes, like after the budgets have already passed. Also, I don't see where the problems are with the original set-up.
- Sarah: I still stand with what I said before, but I want to add that it'd be a good idea to have an appeals process with the budget, so if someone disagrees with the ruling of the committee, they would bring the appeal to VUSAC itself, and you get the opinions of different people and a chance for a new vote.
- Alan: To be honest, as long as meetings are open. I think the appeals process is a good idea.

Motion 101: Jelena moves to approve Budget Steering Committee change. Zack seconds. Passes 10:2, with 1 abstaining.

- VUSAC President can't be orientation co-chair
  - Sarah: I'd also like that if you are VUSAC President, you shouldn't be allowed to be an Orientation Exec member.

Motion 102: Zack moves to approve. Ally seconds. Passes with 1 abstaining.

- Posting meeting agendas 7 days before meeting.





Motion 103: Anastasia moves to approve. Robert seconds. Motion fails with 3 abstaining, 2 opposing.

– *Student Summit*

- We had our last summit meeting on Friday. The profs went around the table and gave us a quick summary of what they'd be giving in a report to Governing Council. Basically, they'll be drafting a set of recommendations based on what the conversation has been to date, and will consult with the Graduate Students' Union and Association of Part Time Students before making these recommendations to Governing Council. They're going to draft some sort of policy change. So this turned out to be a pretty big deal, and we're viewing the summit as a success. Report will be written by mid-April. We can still email additional submissions, if we wanted to be crystal clear on what we thought of the summit process and the conversation to date.
- Zack: I would like to contextualize this. Before the leaving of the UTMSU, the tone was like us giving each other ideas and just casual convo. But since UTMSU left, they've done a 180 and they're going to make real changes. The only condition on which fees are collected, institutions have to run very democratically. But there's isn't really clarity on what openly, democratic means. So they want to define what this means. That covers a range of issues from CRO training, set-up of UTSU, and a number of other things. But the point is that I feel safe in saying we've won. Because we compelled the university to take action to standardize standards of democracy on campus. Between now and the next meeting I'm going to be talking with the judiciary of general meetings. Those are the kind of concessions that we've won and this is exactly what we've wanted.
- Jelena: Everyone should send a thank-you to the UTSU and UTMSU for leaving, because that decision really showed the entire group what we're dealing with.
- Sebastien: Is there an option for them to not withhold all fees but to have a slight punishment?
- Zack: I think university wants to resist impinging on UTSU autonomy as much as possible, so instead of applying random small tools, they'd rather apply larger disciplinary action.
- Jelena: Other points to mention: St. George doesn't have its own organization because the UTSU is technically a bi-campus organization. So, while the UTM students have the UTMSU, St. George students don't have their own central students' union. So that's something else they're considering. There's also no policy that talks about how student societies can evolve, like Architecture or second-entry programs like law and nursing. So it's a balancing act of making the number of societies manageable, but still representing the needs of distinct student groups on campus. They also recommend a CRO training program so every student society would submit a number of students into the program, then you'd pick one of those students



when elections time comes around to act as your CRO. Each of them would have received the same training, to standardize elections procedures across the University. The other thing they focused on was that the executives must be accountable to a separate, independent Board. So people running for Board need more autonomy and need to be able to hold the Executive accountable, and this can't happen if they're all on the same slate. This would basically mean that the Executive of any organization can run together on a slate, but they wouldn't be allowed to include on that slate the members of their Board, who are supposed to be the oversight mechanism. This is kind of an obvious point, and a huge issue with the way that the UTSU currently functions. For example, one of the Vic students who was elected to be the Vic rep on the Board ran alongside the Voice slate, which means that he is already biased in favor of what that slate's Executive do. Obviously a huge problem when it comes to accountability and oversight. Also, they wanted to use the University Affairs Board and create a new Student Societies' Committee; this is the same type of structure they have when you commit an academic offense. Instead of having to have this kind of summit discussion with the Provost involved every time we disagree about something, this Committee would consist of a group of retired judges, for example, who would go through different complaints about student societies based on this policy that we're developing. There would be a formalized complaints procedure, and the Committee charged with that procedure would be a part of the University Affairs Board. And basically a manual of best-practises is what they want to come up with, with respect to how we engage our members, etc.. Lastly. The Student Commons project funding is still being withheld by the Governing Council. The UTSU has argued that the Student Commons has nothing to do with the Summit, but Governing Council decided to withhold funding for the project until the issues with the Summit were resolved. Since they haven't been resolved – largely due to the lack of participation from the UTSU, there is no justification for Governing Council to give them funding for the project. So that's on hold until further notice, basically – until the problem gets resolved.

VPE – Zack

– *Levy Report – VCAA*

- Athletic banquet is Friday, March 21st from 6:45pm-9:45pm, in Burwash Dining Hall. We're busy planning that at the moment. Awards, plaques have all been ordered. They may be delivered to the VUSAC office in case no one is in the VCAA office to retrieve them. Please send me an email if you do receive a package. Thanks!
- There is also an after-party the same evening, after the athletic banquet.. Burgundy's Bar & Eatery, 10pm! All Vic students are welcomed! No cover! Free food will also be purchased for our students. All-ages with wrist-band policy in effect.





- Elections for executive positions will be held sometime next week! Also, depends on when New Leader Day is scheduled; we will be including something in the next list-serv as well as promoting via our Facebook page!
- *Levy Report – VCDS*
  - We're done all of our shows for this season - Much Ado About Nothing, although put together in less than a month, was a great success!
  - We have two more events to finish out the year, both will take place next Saturday March 22nd. The first is a workshop/reading of 1979 is Going, the student-written musical we intended to put on this year but were ultimately unable to, and the second is our annual gala, where we celebrate all those who have contributed to our season.

## FINANCE REPORT

- Eli: We're nearing the end of the year point where I need everyone to hand in their cheq reqs and receipts. I'm going to set the deadline for early April; last day of classes.

## COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Scarlet & Gold*
  - Highball update
    - Sebastien: Thursday March 27. We sold dance tickets and a lot of people on the waitlist were able to get these dance tickets. Those tickets are extra money we can put toward making the night better. Now we're just looking at the final touches; decorations, etc. We had one idea for a Student Projects because it's a bonus item and could be helpful for other events. It's a red carpet; people have been talking about that for orientation and stuff too. So I was wondering how we would go about that if we couldn't get the money from Student Projects in time to buy it, how could we do it through VUSAC and then have VUSAC reimbursed?
    - Eli: Have you looked into how much it costs?
    - Sebastien: I don't have a number on me, but I was just wondering if it's at all possible to do.
    - Jelena: Angela just said the applications are due Thursday, so by Friday you should know if they'll fund it.
    - Sebastien: One final thing is that I've posted on the event page; it's only fair that the people on the waitlist have dibs for dinner tickets that are refunded. So there were some people who sold their tickets



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unofficially to other people, so instead we're asking people to just refund their ticket to the office.

- Sarah: But what if you aren't even getting money for it, you literally just gave it to someone else because you didn't want to go?
- Sebastien: That's hard because I guess there's not really any benefit to you refunding it to the office, but it's just for fairness. Also, tickets are non-transferable based on the ticket information we have because we have people's names on our list linked to a particular ticket.
- Jade: So you're not going to let people in who mistakenly sold their tickets?
- Sebastien: Well that's the thing; we posted this on Facebook and I've been telling this to people in person. Everyone has been nice and accepting about it, but to everyone that's emailed me to switch their name, I asked them to come refund their ticket.
- Jade: The thing is, we don't have a policy in place stating this from the very start.
- Sebastien: Well I don't get that argument because when you write your information down specific to a ticket number, it means that this ticket is yours and that's pretty understandable.
- Lucinda: I think what Jade's trying to say is when you sell goods to someone, you can't include new information on these goods afterwards.
- Sebastien: Well you bought a ticket with your name on it, so if you come with a ticket that doesn't have your name on it, you're going to be turned away. I don't want to turn people away, so I don't know what to do.
- Jelena: Try finding all these people through Facebook and message them, also we can get the word out as a council.
- Sarah: I think what Jade said; Facebook can't reach everyone so if you're going to turn people away at the door, you have to email every person. Because if you get dressed up and show up, it's completely plausible that you just don't have Facebook and you have no idea that this was wrong.
- Sebastien: Ok, I'm going to email everybody on the list that I can.

– *Sustainability*

○ Fashion Show

Motion 104: Zack moves to approve amendment. Lucinda seconds. Unanimous.

Sebastien leaves at 9:05pm.

Meeting is adjourned based on quorum being lost.



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## MOTION SUMMARY

*Motion 95:* Jelena moves to release Lucas's Cat's Eye manager honorarium. Zack seconds. Unanimously passed.

*Motion 96:* Zack moves to approve the Student Projects budget. Anastasia seconds. Unanimously approved.

*Motion 97:* Jelena moves to pass the student project for Red Ink. Zack seconds. Unanimously passes.

*Motion 98:* Sebastien moves to approve the student project for Sustainability commission. Zack seconds. Passes with 2 abstaining.

*Motion 99:* Jelena motions to put the following 20min *in camera*. Zack seconds. Unanimous.

*Motion 100:* Alan moves to amalgamate all his edits and pass them on edited constitution. Lucinda seconds. Unanimous.

*Motion 101:* Jelena moves to approve Budget Steering Committee change. Zack seconds. Passes 10:2, with 1 abstaining.

*Motion 102:* Zack moves to approve. Ally seconds. Passes with 1 abstaining.

*Motion 103:* Anastasia moves to approve. Robert seconds. Motion fails with 3 abstaining, 2 opposing.

*Motion 104:* Zack moves to approve amendment. Lucinda seconds. Unanimous.