**VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

November 25 at 5 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

**In Attendance**

**VUSAC**

Judiciary

PRESIDENTS: Stuart Norton and Rahul Christoffersen

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Hannah Brennen

VP EXTERNAL: Stephen Warner

VP INTERNAL: Golda Greenspoon

Assessor Members

CHAIR: Saambavi Mano

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Taylor Cenac

SECRETARY: Artimes Ghahremani

COMMUNICATIONS: Shailee Koranne

Commissioners & Councillors

SUSTAINABILITY : Jamil Fiorino-Habib

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT : Nina Christianson

COMMUTER: Commissionner Isaac Khouzam

EQUITY : Commissionner Yasmine Hassan

COUNCILLORS

Alexa Breininger

Milliene Xu

Melinda Hector

Hamboluhle Moyo

Sharon Tan

Jayde Jones

Peter Huycke

LEVIES

GUESTS

CLC Emily Gilbert

Thomas Lynch, Caffiends

Hana Nikcevic, Caffiends

Olivier Smith, Caffiends

Victoria Yang

REGRETS

FINANCE: Nicole Gumapac

SCARLET AND GOLD: Zahavah Kay

ARTS AND CULTURE : Olivia Klasios

ABSENT

Tyler Biswurm

Co-Chair Karen Indraatmadja

Co-Chair Zoe Kwan

Land Recognition: Jayde

Motion: Nina moves to approve the minutes from last meeting. Isaac seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Motion: Alexa moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Jamil seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: All
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

*\* Emily adds 2 minutes for Dean’s Office Updates*

*\* Nina’s update moved up*

**PRESSING ITEMS**

*Caffiends Co-Manager Ratification*

Caroline introduces herself as the Caffiends co-manager. As Hana will be leaving, they are ratifying the next manager. Olivier is given a crown.

Motion: Hannah moves to ratify Olivier Smith as the new Caffiends Co-Manager. Stephen seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

*Tabling Ratifications*

Nicole has asked for someone to table the ACTA VICTORIANA, Vic Pride!, Trivia Club, and Academic and Professional Development budget ratifications.

Rahul asks why this is, Saambavi says because they are not here. Rahul asks what will be done instead, as this is the last meeting.

Nina says she will need a budget for an event in January. Hannah suggests to table to an email vote. Saambavi says yes, until they see fit.

Motion: Jayde moves to table the Acta Victoriana, Vic Pride, Trivia Club, and APD budgets to an email vote. Golda seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*CLC- Emily*

Orientation co-chair applications are now due Monday the 28th. The final coping skills workshop will be held November 30th from 12-1:30 in Wymilwood Lounge. One December 1st, there will be an exam prep session with Andrea. On Friday the 2nd there will be free hot chocolate at the Gardiner, and everybody is invited. They will be meeting in the Cat’s Eye at 2 pm. December 6th is the national day of Remembrance and Action on Viokence Against Women Memorial.

*Academic and Professional Development - Nina*

On January 18th, they are organizing an alumni networking event. There will be more info to come, she asks that they keep the date free.

\*Nina leaves

*Constitutional Review Committee*

Saambavi says a that this will be a discussion on a review committee they are looking at starting. There are problems with the constitution, and they are making sure that’s not used as an excuse to fiddle with the way we do things. They are streamlining and fixing errors, as well as working on the election section. There are disciplinary aspects and recall procedures that would fit better elsewhere. She wanted to see if anyone had change recommendations.

Steve expresses interest, and recalls some work that was done last year, which didn’t go very far. He wonders if there is work from last year to look at. Saambavi says she has it, and that we can draw from that.

Emily says in under Orientation Co-Chair, it says two student chairs. Saambavi says they will be looking at that. Saambavi looks for interest in this. Jayde, Jamil, Peter, and Yasmine raise their hands.

Jamil says that though there has been some difficulty getting people to run for the existing positions, it would be nice to see a position similar to the co-chair for equity, but doubled for the sustainability commission. He says that there is a lot to be done, and it rests on one person’s shoulders. He suggests two slots during the election period, so long as we get enough people to run. Saambavi clarifies that he is looking for a sustainability co-chair position. Jamil yes. Saambavi says they would have a vote, and they can look at creating an elected position for commuter and equity chairs.

Saambavi says she will be sending out an email to those interested. If there are other ideas, email chair@vusac.ca

*Student Projects Constitutional Amendments*

Hannah says this will be a discussion with her and Apurva.

Hannah says that to by the end, she wants to approve the amendments in a motion. She asks that everyone consider this. Apurva starts that the operating policy currently is not well structured, and outdated. She went through and made it look more like a constitution. She has changed the structure so it makes more sense, and is easier to reference, and find things. She asks someone to move in camera for 3-4 minutes.

Motion: Hannah moves to go in camera. Rahul seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: All others
* Abstained: Stephen
* Opposed:

**RETURN TO GENERAL MEETING**

Apurva says the main change is the structure. Before, it was numbered from 1-80, with no way to reference previous sections. She referenced VUSAC and Cat’s Eye policy to structure it more clearly.

The preamble was in the existing policy, but it has been reworded to make it look more professional.

She has added a section that discusses the Student Projects (SP) levy, exactly the same as it was. In the new structure, the VPSO will chair meetings, so someone who is well versed in how clubs and levies run chairs, and that would let the SP chair have a vote. The last thing is the addition of a vote to a representative from the DO, historically the associate dean. This makes it more in line with other levy operating policies, and is an accountability measure.

The next section is the same. At this point, they still have 6 VUSAC appointed students on the advisory board, a DO rep, and the SP chair, with the VPSO as a non-voting chair. This brings feedback from someone entrenched in VUSAC, so the changes will be in line with the rest of the judiciary.

C7 changes quorum, which is still 2/3.

Section E is the SP committee, which vote twice a month on projects. They will be adding a vote to the DO representative, to reduce the risks associated with $30 000 being in the hands of 8 students. This adds accountability, as the applicants are more aware of the sources of revenue at Vic. If the DO has a vote, they are at the meeting for sure and can relay that information.

E5 is discussing what happens when there is a conflict of interest. In the past, there was no steady policy on this. The committee will vote to fund those that qualify. Should a COI arise, that member should abstain from voting. This is an unfair advantage, if they are to answer more questions in discussion.

1. When a club or levy rep, required to leave during discussion, vote proxied to another member
2. If a project submitted by VUSAC, all committee members have to abstain. Doesn’t affect quorum, no proxy
3. If committee member applies, have to leave the room for discussion

Another concern is people not showing up, because this deals with money. They added that if they miss two meetings without informing the chair, they will be removed and replaced by the advisory board. They only meet 6-7 times a year, and people do self-select.

E8 says that successful projects will be assigned committee members to liaise with them. This gives members some responsibility.

E9 is the minutes. The chair would take minutes, which would have to be a basic idea of what the pros and cons are. They will serve as a record of discussion of meeting for appeals.

Section E reiterates operating cost.

Section F says VUSAC levies can’t get more than $1000, adds another clause that if there’s one that exceeds, committee can decide to fund that. They do not have to abide by this.

F6B is that a project has until the end of September to apply. This formalizes the extension process.

G8 is the release of funding required for majority, changed because of added DO vote.

Once projects are presented to VUSAC, that will be reflected within 24 hours.

Peter asks if VUSAC has to ratify within 24 hours. Apurva says the way meetings are arranged, SP meets Wednesday, and the information gets sent to VUSAC for ratification on Friday. Applicants will know by Saturday.

Motion: Rahul moves to extend this time by 5 minutes. Isaac seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:
	+ Hannah out

H3 is for appeals. If VUSAC doesn’t ratify, the applicant has a set amount of time to appeal. If the board approves it again, it still comes through VUSAC. If another set of eyes thinks yes, it is formalized.

Section I is about review guidelines for this operating policy, which will happen twice a year. Once at the beginning of the year, which is strategic, on the route of SP. The second is at the end of year – which makes it easier on next round of people.

I4 increases number of votes to match quorum.

Operating policy changes that modify voting structure, adding representation have to go through VUSAC. As VUSAC represents vic students, should have a say on who gets to vote.

Point B says co-presidents are invited to review meetings.

I5 says any policy changes to operating do not have to go through VUSAC.

Motion: Hannah moves to approve the changes to the Student Projects Operating Policy. Melinda seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Stuart says with the addition of a DO rep to the committee, one of the things they are concerned with is that there are power dynamics at play. If they are voting by show of hand, it can be intimidating to vote. They will be implementing vote by secret ballot by request of a member to the chair. Apurva says she didn’t get to add this before this meeting, but the idea is that if anyone feels uncomfortable, they can request it privately, and voting will be done on sheets of paper.

*Poll Clerk Reform*

Taylor says for fall elections and by elections, a common complaint was poll clerking. People had trouble finding them to commit to 2 hours, and couldn’t run because of this. This was discussed by Auni at caucus, and she spoke to various people. She says it would be best to get rid of the mandatory requirements. Her biggest concern is getting rid of a physical voting space. While she would like to have a station in the VUSAC office remain, she is worried about getting a physical vote, and people might not know about election without voting stations.

Taylor says that online presence can be worked on, but is very limited. She opens the table for suggestions.

Hambo wonders if it would be better to switch to one clerk for an hour at a time. This would shorten time and dedication. Taylor says it was considered, might open up a bit, but the biggest worry is that candidates will be discouraged because they will not be able to find them in time, and it is still a deterrent.

 Jayde says that though it is important that poll clerks get people walking through campus, securing them should not be mandatory for candidates running. She suggests they shift responsibility to VUSAC. Members are connected and involved, among council, we would find people willing and able to clerk.

Hannah agrees, she says it is difficult because there isn’t much in it for the clerks. Usually they are friends, with similar connections, and people who don’t want to be there. If there is a way to motivate the clerks themselves, either by food or a discounted ticket for an upcoming event, or incentive to VOTE in general. This would be good to look into.

Rahul says in the past, in addition to clerks, people volunteered to give out flyers for the election. They picked one or the other. This served the purpose of getting out the vote. Another thing was a raffle, if you vote, you’d get put in raffle for a free highball ticket. This could be implemented in office, and online, as an incentive to vote.

Auni says it is ironic that they don’t allow VUSAC to run polling. If they are expecting unbiased clerks, having volunteer poll clerks encourages higher risk of bias. He suggests stations in the office, and at pancakes. Other places pay their poll clerks. One other thing is to add their friends to the elections forum, perhaps a minimum requirement to add 20 people to the elections forum on Facebook.

Hambo replies that the goal is to reduce the candidates priority to find clerks. He adds for suggestions to people who aren’t regular students, people associated with VUSAC or clubs, even just reducing to an hour or a raffle, would get students more interested.

Milliene says since there isn’t foot traffic, some stations have less turonout than others. She wonders if there is statistical data on the poll stations. Saambavi has this. She says the best attended ones were Burwash and Goldring near the DO. Goldring West and Pratt did not see many people.

Stephen says he likes the idea of incentivising, as an issue is that we have is that we don’t like remunerating people for what they do. People deserve more than just a chance at a ticket. It would be good to give them something concrete. His issue is more the disqualification of candidates. It seems silly to hit people hard for this, when the result is that they can’t run at all. The bonus of getting more people to run, is that the election is more competitive with better results.

Motion: Rahul moves to extend by 5 minutes. Peter seconds.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:
	+ Alexa out

Rahul asks how many hours total the stations are open. Taylor says fall 10-4 (6), and for by 12-4 (4). He says it actually would cost only a few hundred dollars to pay people for this, if they paid $11 an hour. This way it is not a requirement for candidates. VUSAC can afford to pay people.

Sharon asks if they are only allowed to have stations at vic. Saambavi says people had one at Sid Smith in the past, and no one went. They took it out and asked never to open it again. The reason people vote here is because it’s Vic. Sharon asks to do one at Robarts. Taylor tried to have volunteers off campus, at Robarts, Sid Smith, and Bahen. They said it wasn’t as successful.

Auni wants to look at more mobilized options, like a polling truck.

Rahul says there is a precedent for that. He advises against mobile elections. When someone is requiring you to vote, you are inclined to vote for them under stress.

Hannah says we could do a thing where anyone who votes enters the ticket raffle, or gets to go to a $10 vusac event for half price.

Motion: Rahul moves to add 5 minutes. Melinda seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Hambo asks if they want only 2 popular stations, or to improve others. Taylor says right now, if they go forward with implementing suggestions, it wouldn’t change. She doesn’t know yet.

Rahul says VicXposure had a photo contest, and used hashtags. If you take a picture of the ‘thanks for voting’ and hash tagged or @cro, they would enter a raffle, but also create publicity.

Hannah admires the idea, but suggests the screenshot be sent directly to the CRO.

Milliene says if it’s just a hashtag, they can easily screenshot. Sending directly is better.

Stuart says in the interest of time moving, he would like to strike an ad-hoc committee to investigate poll clerk reform and advertising.

Motion: Stuart moves to strike the ad-hoc committee. Jamil seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

*Proposal for New Kind of Club*

Auni wanted to put up a new idea, on the topic of discussion about a lack of marginalized communities. There are relatively few cubs on marginal equity. The only levy was the largely inactive Vic pride. He noticed a chicken and egg problem. There is a lack of Muslim and Black students, who don’t want to be involved in Vic because it is very White, so they don’t come to start clubs.

He brings in the idea of chapters, in which existing groups can apply for Vic chapter status, so long as a vic student agrees to be the head, and they would receive access to booking spaces. He is looking into reaching out for a trial next semester.

Hambo asks if if these chapters would have the same power as Vic run clubs. Auni says the way it’s written, they would be eligible to apply for funding, but at VUSAC’s discretion. It is mainly supposed to be for booking and collaborations.

Hannah says this is something she was trying to do this year, so she is behind it. This will be good for clubs who are at U life and the UTSU, but want to have vic space. She has been encouraging group members of other organizations to become VUSAC groups. If they are recognized with larger organizations, the majority of their funding must come from that.

Rahul agrees with the sentiment, but also thinks that if we reach out, and expect them to come, it’s hard to expect that when we haven’t reached out on their terms first. It is hard to ask them to establish MSA (Muslim Students Alliance) to come when we have done nothing to support them.

Yasmine says in her event with the MSA, people she talked to would be interested. In order to do more events, it would be a good start to have these chapters. Equity can only do so many events without being overbearing.

Stephen asks Auni if this has been done elsewhere, at other colleges. Auni can’t remember any that have. We are federated, so space booking is different.

Rahul responds that he agrees, and doesn’t mean to undermines Yasmine. VUSAC has a tendency to isolate itself from other groups. When they provide more diverse and equitable events, while we explore this, we also need a cultural shift on council.

Jayde asks what a trial period would look like. Auni would ask to move to have the constitution amendment to sit for a semester, and be reviewed at end of the year.

Peter says in regards to vic reaching out to other clubs, it is more of an issue internally. Clubs lack space, and vic has space. It’s a great idea.

Hannah has applications for clubs that are constituents of other organizations. In the website, they could indicate if they are a vic club or another, and fill out separate forms.

Auni says this is about building communities, and they aim to entrench this.

Rahul asks Hannah how being a chapter works for WUSC and Amnesty. Hannah says they operate differenly. They are groups that are at U of T and want to be at vic too, not a chapter of an independent organization. WUSC gets launch funding, but not actual funding. It would be similar in that if you are holding an event at vic, you can get funding.

Stuart clarifies that WUSC is a unique example. Their fees go to the stuents, vic university pays the rest of the cost. That is something to note.

Auni says that he wants to do a straw poll, and also asks for opinions on a requirement for them to hold an event per year at vic.

Peter says he doesn’t see the point of having a chapter without an event. If they are applying for status yearly, it seems like a good requirement.

Stephen says what comes to mind is that it would require some sort of vic leadership in addition to existing leadership. He is not sure if that is what they are intending to do, but it seems an onerous requirement to get them to come here. If not, a different name might be in order. The name chapter implies there is a second set of leadership at vic. Auni responds it would reduce bureaucracy, and he doesn’t intend for a second exec. But, this is a fair possibility. Stephen replies both are valid considerations, and it is worth dealing with them separately.

Hannah says as of now there are no associate clubs. We can change the name of chapters to associate clubs.

Straw Poll Results: everyone is in favour.

**JUDICIARY REPORTS**

*VP Student Organization – Clubs Ratifications*

Rahul asks why ASSU, Hannah says they wanted to do this club space. Looking into other spaces for events.

Stuart says he doesn’t know if they can recognize ASSU as a club, though they are down to collaborate.

Auni asks who the club head is for the ASSU. Hannah says their name. Auni says he is a Trin student. Hannah says on the website, and in the handbook, part of your exec must be vic students. For this meeting, they will be taking ASSU off the table.

Motion: Hannah moves to ratify the Vic Arts and Crafts, Spanish Student Association, Organization of Latin American Students as Vic clubs for the remainder of the 2016/2017 school year. Alexa seconds.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

*Golda*

Wanted Saambavi to relay that things are going well, and she is looking forward to policy making with Peter in the new year, and is excited to meet with people to talk about the break. She wishes everyone a good new year.

*Everyone claps.*

*VP External – CFS National General Meeting Report*

Stephen says he wanted to let everyone know the CFS national general meeting was last weekend, and he attended with 10 other U of T students. It was not fun. The UTSU local 98 brought forward about 15 motions with the intention of trying to reform the CFS to be more amendable. Eg; lowering thresholds of signatures, etc. These were motioned by U of T, and supported with similar student unions. At the meeting, motions get referred to committees, and are discussed by representative’s from different constituencies. Stephen was on this committee, representing students with disabilities. Unfortunatly, result was they only got through 7, the other 7 or so sent on without recommendation. Then, at closing, they only got to vote on 3. The net results were that they approved the changes to lower decertification threshold – 15 % rather than 20%, still 5% higher than 10% needed to join. A motion was struck down to disallow campaigners from other student unions to campaign during referendum. Other than that, the only other interesting motion was to make policies and bylaws gender neutral. All other 11 or so motions tabled to a June meeting.

Auni asks what the reasoning was for the strike. Stephen says the response was free speech. The argument was that because other locals are affected by one groups decision to leave, they have the right to free speech.

*Co-Presidents – Update and Reflection on the Semester*

Rahul says the racialized students’ collective meeting went well, he asked for suggestions and those are being viewed. Overall, people seemed happy, and he had the opportunity to meet new people. He will be looking into events for next semester.

The SGRT mental health subcommittee met two weeks ago, and established a plan for the rest of the year. Alexa and Jayde were in attendance.

Stuart says a month ago, they had a discussion about alcohol procedures. He talked to Bill and Kelly 3-4 weeks ago to follow up. He didn’t hear back, but they are hoping to meet next week.

Other than that, a lot has been going on around campus. He did relay to the SGSA the lack of conclusions from the past meeting, and let them know VUSAC was not interested in mobilizing that effort.

He and Rahul met with Louise, the new director of alumni affairs and advancement. She had insight on her experience and what she can do for current students, it terms of mentorship program streamlining. Right now, the DO and registrar are running mentorship. This can be confusing, but they will be working on streamlining this.

He says it has been a busy semester, but is excited about the direction we are going in.

Next semester, they will be pursing the Indigenous studies course requirement. Given the nature of the semester getting busy, and not hearing back from groups, it got pushed back. Moving forward, this will be something to sink their teeth into again. They are now making contact with Indigenous Studies Student Union.

Motion: Isaac moves to adjourn the meeting. Milliene seconds. Motion passes.

Meeting is adjourned.

* Favour: All
* Abstained:
* Opposed:
	+ Absent: