



150 CHARLES ST WEST
 TORONTO, ON M5S 1K9
 CANADA
 T 416-585-4473
 F 416-585-4462
 WWW.VUSAC.CA

VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday January 15th 2016 at 6:10PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

CO-PRESIDENTS

Benjamin Atkins and Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

VP EXTERNAL

Alex Martinborough

VP INTERNAL

Rahul Christofferson

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Lucinda Qu

Assessor Members

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR

Bergita Petro

CHAIR

Emily Dyer

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Saambavi Mano

FINANCE

Shannon Brown

SECRETARY

Golda Greenspoon

UTSU DIRECTORS

Auni Ahsan

Stephen Warner

Commissioners & Councillors

ARTS & CULTURE

Sumeeta Farrukh

COMMUTER

Anna Pozdniakova

EQUITY

Claire Wilkins

SCARLET & GOLD

Stuart Norton

SUSTAINABILITY

Leila Atri

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL

Michelle Vacarciuc

DEVELOPMENT

COUNCILLORS

William Cuddy

Peter Huycke

George Wilson

Carl Abrahamsen

George Wilson

Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis-Hart

Hannah Brennen
Miranda Alksnis

Not In Attendance

OFFICIAL REGRETS COMMUNICATIONS COUNCILLOR

Alice Sluchenkov
Cricket Cheng (Vote proxied to Carl)

- Call to order – January 15, 2015, 6:10 pm
- *Land Recognition* - Chair
- Emily: I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for fifteen thousand 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 to peaceably share and care for the nations around the great lake. 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 meet in the community on this territory.
- Lucinda: As you would not do this during the national anthem, when we are reading the statement please don't be typing and very obviously be not paying attention.

Sumeeta moves to approve minutes from December 4th. George seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

Lucinda moves to add four minutes to the levy update section. William seconds. Motion passes, all in favour.

George moves to move the councillor update after the commission reports section. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes, all in favour.

Anna moves to approve the agenda. William seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- *UTSU directors* - General update, Stephen
 - Stephen: Despite winter break we were actually up to stuff. In December the UTSU Board of Directors moved to impeach the VP Campus Life. It was a 24 to 2 vote, we are now looking for a replacement. On top of not performing duties, abiding bylaws, having a safe space, accusations of sexual assault - we decided to impeach him, We have a board meeting coming up where we will appoint at VP Campus Life, Woodsworth director, Kinesiology director, along with committee appointments. Third general meeting, I have nothing to do

with it, there is a fun motion about the CFS from Vic students. My co-director Auni is at a CFS meeting right now. Apparently he is making progress on financial statements. He gave Alex a statement.

- Alex: “**”
- Gabriel: I was told that you guys are potentially waving the requirement for VP campus life to be part time?
- Stephen: In theory anything can happen.

- FINANCE REPORTS

- *Finance Chair* - Shannon
 - Revised Budgets
 - Shannon: I put together a revised budget, with a summary and a look at how much money has been spent so far. I'll Alice to publish it online. It's really interesting and slightly concerning - we haven't spent much money at all. When you have a chance look through it. It includes all changes to the budget.
 - Levy Augmentation for Caffiends
 - Shannon: Caffiends has asked for a levy augmentation as we changed their by laws to up their honorarium.
 - Claire: How much is the honorarium now?
 - Shannon: They actually hadn't budgeted for one
 - Carl: So this money isn't coming from us?
 - Shannon: No, it's from their profits.

Gabriel moves to approve the Caffiends levy augmentation by 2000 dollars for the co-manager honorarium. Hannah seconds. Motion passes, all in favour.

- Thomas: Just wondering where you got the numbers.
- Shannon: In the revised budget it's based on the cheques that I've written.
- Gabriel: I looked over the budget summary earlier today and I agree with Shannon that it's very concerning. I think there is a huge issue that can either be dealt with later on at this meeting or in the future in regards to commissioner spending. Money hasn't been spent and deadlines have passed. I've seen lines of like 1000 + here or there that just haven't been touched at all. This is students money, that can be put to other things. I would love to hear what you think. I know this is definitely true of the presidents budget too.
- Anna: I would like to explain the 7000 dollar difference with my budget.

- Gabriel: I wasn't talking about things that are upcoming, I'm speaking more towards things that were meant to be in the previous semester.
- Stuart moves to extend by ten minutes. George seconds.
- Alex: I see no harm in having an informal discussion on spending in general. It's something that should probably be discussed now.

Gabriel moves to table the discussion to the next meeting. Ten in favour, seven opposed. Motion passes.

- COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Scarlet and Gold* - Stuart

- Stuart: I had a risk assessment meeting about the Vic and Innis social, it will be two weeks from tonight. I am in the process of booking the bar and once I have confirmation we will look at advertising. U of T Winterfest and frost week has been happening this week, things have been going really well. I just wanted to give a shoutout to the committee and Gabe and Ingrid. I am also working on Harry Potter Pub Night, on February 4th. for Highball a venue has been chosen and a date tentatively set.

- *Commuter* - Anna

- Anna: Last semester was really good. Locker applications are now open and will be until the 22nd. I have hopefully fixed the assignment system. VOCA pancakes will continue this semester. This week we had a great event with frost week, nearly over 300 students come by this week. For the month of January we have a social planned for the last week.

- *Sustainability* - Leila

- Leila: Someone within the sustainability commission found that the food options for vegetarians and vegans are not as they could be, talking to him he said that to start this we should start some focus groups to see what students have to say. As of now he just wanted me to say that we want these options to be more accessible while reducing meat consumption. Most importantly, this break was about organizing a conference for the end of January. We are releasing the advertising today or tomorrow. It's about the Paris climate summit. We are kind of left to rely on the media for what happened. We are bringing together a panel of experts for this. It's a really great group of people. We are going to have bigger and smaller sessions. It will start at 1:30 until maybe 5. There will be some food, just snacks. Everyone on the commission has worked so much on this, which really means a lot to me. The world was ready for this conference, real things happened, it's relevant to everyone.

- *Academic and Professional* - Michelle

- Travelling conference funding update

- Michelle: We've been meeting to talk about the student projects app for the travelling conference fund. This is to allow Vic students to go anywhere in North America for a conference. It would mainly be for the end of the semester and the summer. Any questions or anything?
- Graduate student mixers with undergraduates
 - Michelle: We were considering doing grad lunches, however this didn't happen first semester. Today we debated whether or not it was feasible or important. A large issue with our resume workshop was turnout. Would you attend a lunch gathering with students?
 - Alex: I think that they would be particularly useful for people if they were in the first semester, for students graduating.
 - Michelle: There is an explore program in reading week where you can pick a U of T alum and discuss their career with them.
 - Leila: This seems really cool.
- *Equity* - Claire
 - Claire: Mic The Change is next week finally, it's from 8-10 pm. It will be really awesome. Pads and tampons survey is being set up. I was talking to Gabe about reallocating art budget surplus to getting free diva cups as raffle prizes. Focus groups are starting up again this semester, specifically mental health. Black history month - me and Gabe will be planning this weekend. The committee, I've restructured to make more efficient. The people from the committee are going to come to VUSAC meetings. I've spent the last week redoing the website completely, with equity resources. Equity training is going to be booked for the 20th and 29th. In the summer we needed applications to see who could come to the meetings but in terms of accessibility it might not be the best.
 - Gabriel: One of the other reasons for the application is to weed out trolls, but no one was rejected in any way.
- *Winterfest Update* - George
 - George: By Law two section i states that one councillor will act as the Winterfest chair. Winterfest was a success this year, and the results exceeded our expectations. The sugar shack was very well-attended, and we ran out of cookies and candy by the end, despite providing, quote: "sooo much food". The U of T-wide open mic was a resounding success, with the cat's eye being filled to over capacity. The talent and musicality of the performers energized the event, along with the popularity of the cotton candy machine. Thank you to VCAA for a cozy hot chocolate & skating event on Tuesday night. Pancakes were a success as always, and thank you to VOCA for collaborating with us and Lucinda for organizing the Clubs Fair. The movie night was sparsely but enthusiastically attended by a few people (read: our committee members plus one). Everyone else missed out on good pizza. The Aurora event was a great success, especially considering the circumstances. It was a good night of food and friends, and we received lots of positive feedback from attendees. Despite initial disagreements with the dean's office, it wouldn't have happened without their

cooperation. Tonight, "Winter Wings: An Open Mic" will be taking place in the Cat's Eye. Thank you to The Goose for collaborating with us on this event. In regards to the budget, our total expenditure came significantly under budget - over \$230 under as a matter of fact. Thanks to Student Projects for providing us with additional money for food. Lastly, we would like to state our profound disappointment regarding Ben and Gabe not being able to dress up as ice queens - Gabriel Calderon & Ingrid Llambi.

- Stuart: The extra money that wasn't spent will be reallocated.
- Bergita: The Aurora event is pretty pricey, for future frost weeks.

- ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- Constituent Organizations

- Student Projects – Projects (Anna for Enxhi)
 - Anna: They planned to have a meeting today but couldn't be held due to quorum.
 - Alex: So the applications were time sensitive, will they be over email vote?
 - Emily: We can do it by email vote but it depends on how time sensitive they are and if they are contentious and need discussion.
 - Leila: Have you guys ever done a Skype conference?

- JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *VP Student Organizations* - Lucinda
 - Lucinda: The Victoriad: More pages are done. Increasing interest in contributions from students! Particularly our academic section. Still looking for printing options. Promotional bookmarks for distribution to be tested out next week before printing in the VUSAC office. (Still waiting for a reply from Golda, for the email I sent.) We'll be having a full team meeting sometime next week (TBD tonight). Acta Victoriana is starting off the new year with a bang! We are open to submissions for our second issue of AV140, and will be launching the first volume in The Cat's Eye on January 26 (at 7pm). We are also working on the launch of our second annual Victoria College Poetry Contest, which will be announced shortly, and are hosting a winter social off-campus on February 11. Keep your eyes out for posters, listserv updates, and more in the next few weeks. The Strand: We are producing our first issue of 2016 this weekend with a tentative release date of Tuesday the 19th. It features articles on the Gardener gala cancellation, an interview with the star of Deepa Mehta's Beeba Boys, and much more. The weekend of the 9th, we attended the NASH conference, an annual conference put on by our union, the Canadian University Press. By arranging with the organizers to volunteer, we were able to send 13 people at a cost of \$50 each (to cover food) to the conference. This saved us a substantial amount of money and allowed many Strand volunteers to attend the conference when we normally would not have had the money to do so. As always, our pages and website are open to advertising from all clubs, student levies, and student unions. VCDS: God of Carnage: Opens next week in the Catseye (Thursday-Saturday), tickets for students are 5\$ and everything is going smoothly. Drama Festival Show: Rehearsals just started this week and are going well, should be in shape for the festival.

Rent: rehearsals also started this week and we hope to have a production meeting soon to ensure that we are more than ready for the show. WUSC, not sent in time, here is a quick update. WUSC is currently meeting with a few first-year students to add new members to our team. Four of our members will be traveling to Ottawa this weekend to attend our annual International Forum, bringing together members of committees Canada-wide. We will be hosting several events during International Week.

- Thomas: So with the cat's eye, some sub committee members had to drop out, and we hired two new people. We are planning on having quite a few events this semester, various events including couch talks. On February 6th we will have our first concert, on March 3rd a Throwback Thursday pub night, March 18th a games night, the 31st another pub night, on April 8th the next Cat's Eye concert.

- *VP External* - Alex

- Alex: The first thing is Crescams, which is translated roughly to "growing through service" Nomination forms will be going up feb 1st. There will be very clear guidelines on how you can submit things. If you have questions or comments about Crescams let me know, the date will be April 1st, so please don't plan anything else for that date, so that everybody can attend. Caucus list brings me to the third and final vic caucus, the first is feb 4th and march 4th. I would love to get your feedback on this.
- Stuart: March 4th is looking like the highball date.
- Alex: Gonna not go for that day then.
- Benjamin: I think Wednesday is fine.
- Alex: Wednesday at 6 or 9?
- Anna: I don't think it will hurt attendance to have it at 6.
- Alex: So think about gifts to give to Crescam winners and if you think of someone that really deserves recognition. For caucus I think we will have a similar format to the last one. I would highly recommend that we get a lot of people to come out to this. This is our opportunity to reach out and get feedback.

- *Co-Presidents* - Benjamin and Gabriel

- Welcome and update

- Benjamin: We hope your are all refreshed and ready to work. We want to make sure that everyone is working well and getting the support that they need. We are looking forward to finalizing initiatives. Gabe and I would really like to set up and finalize major initiatives.
- Gabriel: The last two are keeping up our community engagement with people beyond the vic bubble. We also want to have an internal upkeep and structuring of council that is consistent with what people want.
- Benjamin: My focus group report is out. We will be reviewing these during the discussion period. We have been working on the student travel fund.

- Gabriel: I worked on resolving the situation involving the Gardiner Gala, I understand there will be a greater discussion later on. We have a gala still occurring that is in the works, and had Aurora last night. We have Babe office hours to the request of many a VUSAC hours. In addition to our general office hours we will also be having office hours in our office for VUSAC hours to come and talk. we will be working on having these office hours separately and together. As well as that, people want to know what we're doing so we're going to get the whiteboard on our door to keep you updated on what we're working on.
- Benjamin: On Wednesday I met with the Vice Provost and we discussed the SGSU by law forming process. I was asked by the Vice Provost to share the reports of the focus groups with her team. Fees are increased based on the CPI plus 2%, reasoning being that the CPI is reflective on family environments rather than university. I was told that the deans office is working on a method for disciplining non residence vic students, thats the clc summary.
- Lucinda: In what types of circumstances would these be used?
- Ben: I actually wasn't at the meeting either.
- Bergita: I wasn't there. It's about people damaging property for example.
- Anna: There was no explicit reason for when it would be needed.
- Benjamin: The Property Committee met on Wednesday as well. The Marg Ad bathroom renovations are the biggest budget by far. There is a plan to refurbish the steps of E.J Pratt Library, there will be another cashier in Ned's.
- Saint George Student Union updates and progress
 - Benjamin: This is the SGSU by law drafting update. VUSAC members should know what I'm referring to. The SGSU is intended to represent full time students at St. George U of T. Gabe can give us background on this.
 - Gabriel: This was an initiative born from concern regarding the direction of the UTSU, in representing St. George students. The SGSU was incorporated into a not for profit organization, now we're working on making it a corporation within the university, so that's the step that we're at right now. The thing that makes this union very necessary is the level of uncertainty under the U of T governance structure. We are all aware of how things changed with the UTSU last year and the board structure change too. Because of this people are question the need for the SGSU. The question is whether you believe that this can continue. I don't believe that's the case, that these changes aren't reversible. What makes the SGSU so necessary is that it's counter balance to the idea that this union will stay with St. George.
 - Benjamin: The goal of the union isn't to replace the SGSU, it is to provide representation for St. George students. That's basically the rational, it is a multi year project. It needs to be incorporated under the corporations act. the drafts of the by laws and policies need to be finalized. Then the SGSU would hold an AGM and vote on the by laws. Then they would be able to hold elections. And there would be internal elections. After that perhaps next year, the SGSU would need to be recognized.

Possibly there will be a small levy. That is basically the background, I am going to ask for questions now.

- Stephen: In your description you equate it to the UTMSU. That union operates with a fee agreement with the UTSU, meaning UTM students pay UTSU fees and 85% goes back to the UTMSU. You guys compare the two but as I see it the SGSU would be a very different role. It would be a smaller and separate levy, that wouldn't be encroaching on UTSU territory. How exactly would it help? It seems that it is working against the UTSU. That devalues the motivation to start this.
- Gabriel: It is true that it's like less the UTMSU and more like the Scarborough students' union.
- Stephen: Scarborough campus students aren't a part of the UTSU.
- Gabriel: Yeah, I meant in regards to it's character.
- Stephen: That doesn't make sense.
- Gabriel: functionally it would be a separate levy, not contrasted to the UTSU. It is a little mis managed to say that you can't have a separate students union. I understand that the UTSU doesn't always advocate for St. George needs. the SGSU can functionally advocate for campus specific needs whereas the UTSU can lobby for greater things encompassing both campuses.
- Stephen: You didn't address the second part of my statement.
- Peter: I think one thing with comparison is that, I am wondering if the SGSU, you say it's supposed to lobby for SGSU students but I wonder about the feasibility of that. As long as the SGSU is a separate levy they don't bear much weight in a UTSU setting. It seems that they could say something but might not do anything
- Benjamin: Signing a contract with the UTSU isn't out of the question. Members of the UTSU exec have been a part of the SGSU process. I will basically summarize the progress made so far. The committee drafting this has a member of the UTSU exec, an associate vp and college/faculty heads. We've talked about positions, referenda, things like that. We plan on having two more meetings next week. We plan on having a draft by the end of next week. We want all of VUSAC to feel that they are educated on this topic. We will have the draft by laws hopefully by the 25th. There will hopefully be a large consultation during our next meeting. All other student government heads involved will do the same with their councils. It is really important to go over these by laws to make sure that they're sound. An AGM and if those by laws are approved, elections in the month of March. Please let either of us know if you'd like to help with drafting now.

- DISCUSSION ITEMS

- *Commuter assassins* - Anna
 - Anna: Last year VOCA organized a commuter assassins. I would like to hear from people here what they think of commuter assassins it is fun but also creates a stressful and

- sometimes scary environment. I wanna hear what you think about the idea of assassins and if it's a good thing or not.
- Leila: Do you think it would be enough to just tell people that it's stressful?
 - Anna: I think the issue is that a lot of the people who were around last year maybe wouldn't want to partake because of their experience. I don't want to perpetuate an environment of fear. It was also like a big fun thing too though. We are looking into how to do it better.
 - Miranda: Assassins seems to me that the purpose of the game is to have that environment of fear, I assume that it is opt in. It seems that you are eluding to specific examples.
 - Anna: The thing is that commuter students can simply chose not to come to campus. There are little issues here and there.
 - Alex: I saw on the master calendar word assassin's. I was looking up different versions of assassins. I think it's best to avoid the original form of assassins because all it takes is one person to bring it into complete chaos. I think something like word assassins would be a lot less fear instilling.
- *Gardiner Gala - Stuart*
 - Stuart: I think everyone is aware that the Gardiner gala was postponed. There's been a lot of discussion about it. We notified VUSAC members in the group. We've spoken about this a lot. It's been a big topic. There was an event funded by the dean's office last night, which was fantastic. The Gardiner gala will still be happening, it will still be okay. It was a learning experience. Moving forward we should think about this when planning events. The biggest thing coming out of this is figuring out how to tweak things. The information about how the gala was postponed is that because confirmation details for the Gardiner were left at the 11th hour they propositioned to make the gala go on but that they would have to pay a lump sum of 6000 dollars and there would be no input on what was covered. That's the reason why the decision was made to postpone, they didn't want to pay that amount. I allotted this time for questions, discussions, all that.
 - William: Do we have any preliminary things about when it will be scheduled in the future
 - Stuart: We're thinking around the first two weeks of February. We are looking at either a Wednesday or a Friday, and having it run from 6-10, in the interest of having it a bit more commuter friendly. We are trying to avoid other events that are happening. We were speaking about what we want to see happen with the gala. We talked about the role of faculty and staff. It was unfortunate how this happens but there is still a positive side of this.
 - Anna: For having it in the second week of February, in my first year the gala was held as a valentine's kind of thing.
 - Bergita: The third and 24th are available dates.
 - Anna: The third is three weeks from now, that would be a lot to figure out. On the other hand the 24th is right after reading week.
 - Michelle: I have the date of the 26th booked for an alumni dinner, just thinking about having two big events that week.

- William: I was wondering about the circumstances that led up to having the Gardiner postponed.
- Bergita: I want to focus on moving forward but as you probably know the dates of winter break were what effected this. March the 2nd is also an option.
- Michelle: I know a lot of people have class until 9, but if it ends at 10 I can't really go. Could we extend to 11?
- Stuart: Yeah I think so.
- William: We had the art gala yesterday so we're thinking about putting new things in the Gardiner gala. Have you approached other clubs that might want to exhibit something or do something.
- Michelle: I think Lucinda was talking about this poetry submissions of ACTA. Maybe you could showcase those.
- Stuart: I like that a lot. We would be looking at collaborating with as many vic students if it enhances the event. We will be reaching out to people as we have before
- Carl: I think it would be really good to have this topic as a discussion topic at the upcoming caucus as well. I think this would be good to have a good dialogue with the Victoria College community.
- Hannah: I think a very public discussion would be good. More of the VCU should be engaged.
- Benjamin: How would you recommend doing that?
- Hannah: I think we managed to get a large number of people to the AGM, so we can make an effort.
- Peter: That could be a discussion at caucus, maybe when we break out into the groups.
- Lucinda: Alex has been meaning to do out of office hours for awhile, I think we could talk to students about it then
- Bergita: What would the discussion be about when you'll all be working o other things?
- Carl: I think there's been certain issues raised regarding the communication surrounding it and the event. Which has sparked more discussions between the administration and the student body. I think the debate has become a little one sided, it would be nice to hear from the DO, just so there can be good discussion
- Alex: People are welcome to submit any items they wish to caucus, but think about what you want to have come out of it. Things could potentially be one-sided and you don't want anything overtly confrontational. Think about what discussions you want to come out of this. This is our best democratic mechanism that hasn't really been taken advantage of. I would love to have good discussion there.
- Hannah: I think one of the big things we talked about at the beginning of the year was transparency, so I think that's why we should talk about what happens. So that we're not pretending anything about what happened. We can be accountable for what happened. We should remember that.
- Alex: I think it's more a question of efficiency and usefulness. Discussing this in march won't achieve anything. We have had a frank discussion here, these minutes are

published, the Dean's Office is open, our office is open. We know exactly why the event has been postponed.

- Hannah: Did we have the discussion? Cuddy asked why it was 11th hour, that wasn't addressed.
- Lucinda: I don't think we should talk about this right now.
- Miranda: There was a lot of Facebook posting about it.

Auni enters at 7:41.

- *Student experience survey - Alex*

- Alex: An initiative that came up through judiciary meetings and councillors was having another student experience survey where we solicit input from as many Vic students as possible. This was done a few years ago. Our hope is to get a picture of what people think VUSAC can do, should do and has done. We want this to be broad reaching survey. If people are interested on working on it that would be great. I was really interested to see if there's any questions off your head that you would want in that survey.
- Benjamin: I think something that should be paired down were the unnecessary with questions like what is your home town. If we can cut back on unnecessary info that would be great.
- Anna: I would like to say that maybe giving out where you're from actually is important to.
- Auni: I don't know if you were planning to make a prize, but you could do that if it's more complex. Make sure there are good research methods behind it.
- Gabriel: I think a good way to frame the survey for people who may not interact with this stuff. Questions of why may be good.
- Alex: Something I know I'd be interested in finding out is what methods are most effective. Do you have an opinion on what you'd most like to know about?
- William: I like this question and think it will provide useful information. We don't know how effective each specific mode is.
- Peter: I think an interesting question would be does anyone have advertising ideas beyond social media. I think that might be really helpful
- Alex: Are you generally interested in services that VUSAC could provide or provides?
- Anna: We are always talking about how the office intimidates students, it would be interesting to see why people aren't coming into the office.

- *Possible constitutional amendments and changes to clubs application process - Lucinda*

- Lucinda: I wanted to discuss potential amendments and a change to the application process. The first amendment I am considering was maybe removing the Winterfest club fair. Every year it hasn't done a fantastic job of recruiting students. I was talking to a lot of clubs for the check ins in November and December and the feedback was interesting, some didn't know about the resources available. One thing i'd like to change maybe is all

club execs being non vic students. Some of these non vic members function in a pseudo leader way. sometimes that simply discourages worthy applicants from being heads. The UTSU requires that 75% of their execs be members. We were also talking about the possibility of levies having a review period. There should be something because we may grow out of one of these levies at some point. Change the club status application process, that would be a lot of paperwork. We talked about a hybrid system between ours and UTSU's. We thought we could maybe have quarterly application period. Maybe we don't need a members list, or a constitution. We thought we set aside 20% of the budget for future clubs. Those who apply by the hypothetical date of August 15th would get their funding. The clubs contracts would just need to be signed at the club heads meeting.

- Benjamin: I really love the idea of levy review. I would like to ask what happens if the levy hasn't been performing as they ought?
- Lucinda: We were thinking this review would happen every three years, and if it were less than great then we would look at having their status revoked
- Benjamin: It would be on a rolling basis?
- Lucinda: Could also be case by case basis. This could be part of a levy review process with complaints from students.

Lucinda moves to extend by five minutes. Peter seconds. Motion passes, one opposed.

- Carl: I think if we abolish the Winterfest clubs fair we should look into some kind of replacement. as first years sometimes can't figure out how to join a club during the year
 - Claire: I really like the idea of exploring having exec being non-Vic members.
 - Stephen: Regarding levy review period, this was something we considered having at the UTSU and the levies were saying that we were going to not fund them. Regarding clubs operating outside the guidelines, would you be able to estimate the people who aren't vic?
 - Lucinda: It's not a huge issue, I would estimate that there are more clubs who have members like this. My general policy is that we should bring policies to where we're actually at.
 - Stuart: I wanted to follow up with Winterfest club fair, this year there was a good turn out but i think it's an awkward time to recruit. But i think other options should be explored.
 - Alex: I think the clubs fair question is a really interesting one. I think for clubs it wasn't very useful. People pretty much showed up for the pancakes. However, there is potential there for certain groups. I also like the idea of a levy review, as the need for a group to be a levy rather than a club may change.
- *Expectation/ideas for the external portfolio - Alex*
 - Alex: Something that was talked about at the end of last semester was that we had an externally focused last semester. Inter-Collegial events are always a big elections topic, so let's get this conversation out of the way now! I would like to discuss what you'd like to see at Vic with the external portfolio.
 - Harry Jang: Will we be talking about student activities later?

- Alex: What do you mean by that?
 - Harry: I have a suggestion in relation to that.
 - Emily: We just finished that discussion.
 - Alex: Out of Office-Office Hours should be starting next week. Are there people who are interested in taking part. Send me a message if you are interested. Seraphina and myself will be working on that. How do you think we could best engage with people that aren't necessarily in the vic bubble? We have a few ideas for location. It might be cool to do something in Old Vic, the atrium, the Cat's Eye eventually, even in the foyer of Pratt perhaps.
 - Stuart: When it comes to VUSAC elections people post about the relevance of student government and politics. Common to hear that it's irrelevant. I think we want to demonstrate that we are a fully functioning resource, I think we need to especially focus on the everyday, what students really deal with. I think we need to bring it closer to VUSAC being closer to that.
 - Harry: I think that for outreach we can maybe emphasize which specific impacts are being made. Another important thing is about student activities, I notice a lack of activities on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. I think we could have an emphasis on this.
 - Anna: Good point. I think that when I'm planning my events Thursdays and Fridays are good. Other nights are difficult, coming from a commuter perspective.
 - Harry: Maybe on Mondays would be more realistic and I feel more important.
 - Benjamin: I totally agree with what Stu was saying. one of our main goals this year was to increase VUSAC's presence. Stuart is right, in line with us looking in at ourselves and vic, the VPE role should be really engaged with how do we improve our outreach with students and administration at vic. I would like to look at more issues like issues of space. These are things that go with the day to day lives of vic students.
- *Focus group reports and next steps* - Benjamin, Gabriel, & Claire
 - Benjamin: So Claire and I have a presentation for all of you. Claire and I have the focus group reports. The first ten minutes will be me and Claire walking you through the report. The second ten minutes will be the next steps. The last third will be on whether or not to make the new membership application based or not. Between June and August VUSAC ran two focus groups for mental health and sexual assault. I co chaired the mental health one. It was comprised of nine current vic students who wished to participate. Similarly with Gabe's, no one was rejected based on their application. We had a former vic don on call to provide support during the session. Dean Castle came to one meeting. Each meeting was designed to focus on specific aspects of our goal. Claire and I acted to focus the discussion. June 25th we had an introductory meeting where we went over goals. The first meeting was July 9th, focusing on current services at Vic and new proposals. The second half was meeting with dean castle, talking about future plans and next steps. Claire and I drafted two documents. The discussion was focused on the proposals on the and the implementation of peer support. Throughout each meeting we took notes. There are many recommendations around those three topics. During discussion dean castle was quite supportive of these. Next meeting was July 23rd, which was experience based. They

provided experiences. I will summarize three experiences, none of these are necessarily indicative of every single experience. In one, a student went to the dean's office regarding a mental health issue of exams, the student was not given an option of when to go to caps. Similarly another student contemplating dropping all their courses was given little sympathy by the dean's office and other groups. The Don program was also discussed. They expressed the need for don's to re-iterate about their ability to deal with mental health issues past frosh week. They was also the desire for commuter dons to help with mental health support.

- Anna: How was the group divided?
- Ben: Most were commuter students, I think three had been res the year before, and the rest were commuters. Other recommendations were for commuter students to have check ins. They also were very adamant about having more animals. The promotion of hotlines was also encouraged. The provision of posters advertising in Goldring and Burwash. Members expressed their concerns and how the proposed pooling system would work. The August 7th meeting was focused on u of t wide services. Experiences were discussed, and recommendations. There were several recommendations made. An interesting one was the promotion of links between university mental health services and Toronto ones. August 13th was a wrap up meeting, looking at next steps. They agreed that there should be more meetings, they felt that the limited number of meetings limited discussion but were quite positive about the work and that the meetings were quite comfortable. This was largely a success and discussion was always done respectfully. A result of these meetings and the sexual violence focus groups was us working on the Ask Listen Talk campaign, which works on a main goal of de-stigmatization. We are recommending that these focus groups be re started.
- Hannah: I know cat's eye is doing a couch talk thing, it is an open discussion about sexuality, mental health, things that are typically more taboo. That would be an initiative that you could look at making more regular.
- Miranda: You mentioned castle was there, I know castle has a very gregarious presence. I was wondering if anyone had any issues with that
- Benjamin: We didn't get any complaints about that. People did say that she talked a lot but no one voiced being uncomfortable
- Anna: I feel that this report really highlights the difference between commuter and res dons. From my understanding for res dons its a much smaller group of people. With commuter dons its different because it's only five dons and so many commuters.
- Stuart: This is a very interesting report, I'm very impressed. I am sort of curious about the Ask, Listen, Talk campaign, I am curious as to how effective that campaign is. I am just curious as to whether or not it is being used.
- Bergita: I think we're hoping to continue to work with VUSAC. IT's by no means over, it's continuing to happen. We have heard from people who have used the website, that they found it helpful.
- Lucinda: I wonder as a federated college what our power in these kinds of discussions could potentially be with the stigma of mental health and how we pathologize these kinds of issues. A student I spoke to was advocating for access to disability related issues without disclosure, he had a lot of really compelling things to say. We should remember

that people already abuse the system with their resources. You can't fake these things if you're disabled or something like that.

- Stuart: I was speaking about this yesterday and I think a lot of times you will see in the syllabus that the u of t is committed to accessibility, but it's really not an easy thing. I would really like to see a discussion on mental health. There is a difference between diagnosed with depression and being super stressed out and overwhelmed. I think there's a huge gap on the everyday level of mental health.

Leila moves to remove 10 minutes from the final item to the current agenda item. Hannah seconds. Motion passes, all in favour.

- Claire: I think that it speaks to a larger problem that people in university are meant to deal with much more than most people are mentally able to. Firstly, our plans for this semester are for the implementation of our plans. I had some questions for you guys for discussion, where these meetings should be, who should be at the meeting, and who should be running it.
- Benjamin: This is now going to be made public and will be released to the dean's office and all relevant bodies. We would like your input.
- Lucinda: Where are we finding that people are typically coming from? Maybe we could make it with groups across the GTA?
- Hannah: That's a really interesting idea, I know that personally I would be a lot more guarded here.
- Miranda: I like the informal thing with the Cat's Eye but it feels like people could walk in or out there. Caffeinds might be good.
- Lucinda: Something that was kind of revolutionary was the concept of paying people for their contributions to something like this. If we offered some reasonable compensation we could potentially get more focused applicants.
- Alex: I'm not sure how accessible the senior common room is but that could be a really good place for discussion. I don't know if there's a ramp but there is one through the front. It is a private space that could be used.
- Claire: I guess we'll move on to the application. I personally am moving away from the application but I also don't want trolls to show up and try to shut down the event
- Lucinda: You could draw up a contract saying that they agree not to be disrespectful, etc., and that they may be ejected from the discussion.
- George: I think that putting that contract upon someone might lead to less participation.
- Hannah: I think it could also have a good effect. Having a contract like this would also be a sort of safety blanket.
- Hannah: How do you think that we would get people out to these them?
- Harry: Maybe if you can go by the word of mouth.

Carl moves to extend the meeting and conversation by 5 minutes. George seconds. Motion passes, all in favour.

- Miranda: We can probably do something like a sign up that's less scary.
 - Carl: I think you would call it a statement of interest instead.
 - Alex: Depending on how many people are interested it could help with numbers and such too.
 - Claire: I would just like to say that I would like to have a more informal conversation about focus groups in general. I would really like to have a conversation with all of you.
 - Alex: If you were interested in using out of office office hours as a platform for that, I have a budget line for outreach materials, I would love to let you use that.
 - Lucinda: Depending on what the initiative is, there are connections through the equity students union to various sources of grants and such.
- *Preliminary conversation about U of T Divest/BDS Movement* - Discussion about if there should be further discussion and what form this should take
 - Emily: There have been accessibility issues regarding any actual discussion of the very sensitive and contentious issue of discussing this at this time. So this discussion will be in regards to whether we should continue the discussion and in what format.
 - Leila: I shortened the time because it is a very sensitive and contentious issue and i don't want us to set an expectation to have a detailed discussion on a matter we haven't thought enough about. BDS is a movement that calls for the U of t to divest in companies, or other institutions that contribute to human rights violations in Palestine. I want to talk about why it's an important discussion to have. I also want to talk about how we can go about talking about this in the future: it is a conversation on having a conversation. I want to express the importance of this. I am no better than others here for starting this conversation. BDS stands for boycott divestment sanctions, movement against Israel. Why do I think it is important for us to engage in this conversation? Firstly, I think part of our jobs as student leaders is to partake in these tough discussions on issues that effect our students. Secondly, There is a growing presence of BDS on campus and if the student body cares about it we should talk about it, we had an incident last semester where we removed our name from an event because it was tied to BDS. The ultimate idea would be to have a vote on whether or not to endorse BDS. Working towards this goal will happen throughout the semester. I think the first part is to figure out whether or not we want to have a discussion in the first place. Afterwards we could invite people from various student groups who better understand this campaign and the issues at hand to educate us on how to go about organizing that conversation. I also would like people's thoughts on this. If you wanted to come and talk to me privately about it, I am committing myself to organizing how we can have a part in bettering ALL of our students experiences in university by addressing this issue. This is very emotional for me as well, but its importance makes it worth the effort.
 - Benjamin Hillier-Weltman: I think discussion on this issue will cause a lot of potential discomfort. I don't really see concrete actions coming out from this. I think that a lot of tension would be created on this. I think it would cause more tension at Vic.

- George: I think the whole issue of BDS is a much larger issue than just U of T spending money on it. I think that the movement itself largely irrelevant to student politics and that any difference that could be made by U of T would not make any difference. The second reason is that I think to many Jewish groups the issue is overwhelmingly an attack on the only Jewish state in the world, and I think that would completely go against creating a safe space on campus.
- Harry: Since this is such a sensitive issue we should remain very neutral. We should not avoid this topic solely because it's sensitive, it can have serious impacts. If we must decide to endorse or not maybe we should have a college wide referendum
- Carl: I agree that it doesn't mean we shouldn't discuss it. I don't think we should be the body to decide whether or not this conversation happens. I don't think that vote should happen here.

Benjamin moves to extend the meeting by ten minutes. Alex seconds. Motion passes, one opposed, two abstaining. Motion passes.

- Alex: Yes it is a very sensitive issue and there are a lot of implications in this discussion. Questions like these put me in a very tricky position with my ideas of freedom of speech and discussion. We should discuss it because it's happening here on campus, I would hesitate on VUSAC or caucus voting on an endorsement. It's such a complicated issue. a vote like this can create an atmosphere that isn't conducive for VUSAC to operate in.
- Claire: I think that if we were to endorse the BDS campaign we would have to be really clear on what that means. I feel like that if we were to do that we would have to be clear about our intentions and our goals, but if we did it with intent and purpose then we would get somewhere, we need that direction for productivity.
- Hannah: Could not coming to a conclusion actually be its own conclusion, maybe having a discussion without a conclusion is worth entertaining.
- Lucinda: I think that one student after the last debacle was particularly upset by the fact that no one who was anti-BDS was present. I think if we want this conversation to be inherently valuable, as long as we make sure that both parties are represented and are respectful to each other then that this is a valuable conversation
- Alex: I think my main takeaway is that I would be in favour of facilitating a conversation rather than a debate. But, it is an issue that does have an emotional meaning for students on either side. Conversations about stuff like this can be incredibly valuable. I would not like to see a divisive issue like this be the defining characteristic of VUSAC for this year
- Claire: I think a lot of us are considering what this would look like and not what the action would be. What would vic taking a stance really mean
- Carl: The concern has been raised that this might cause tension, I don't think it has to. This is the type of form where we can allow moderate positions to come out.
- Benjamin: What do you think is the best format for that?
- Carl: I think it needs to be a conversation rather than a debate. We discussed this a bit on the equity commission. I do think that this happens when you have a gently moderated conversation that doesn't pit two groups against each other.

Leila moves to extend meeting and discussion by 5 minutes. Alex seconds. Motion passes, one opposed, one abstaining.

- Benjamin: I would like to commend everyone for how they are discussing this issue. At the same time I know there are people who won't discuss it this way. Today and yesterday alone I received messages expressing fear and concern talking about BDS. What is noteworthy about this is that I've never gotten them from students divided solely on religion and race. I am not going to tell council to make a decision one way or another but I would like to note that it is good to have discussion like this. I also don't know how well we can control the degree to how this discussion will go. I would like to note those concerns.
- Leila: I don't think we can answer those questions, I just want to hear what people are thinking about. Next steps are asking people to speak about the movement. I don't think it's necessarily religiously divisive. People within a religion will also have different opinions.
- William: I think an important note is that VUSAC's scope in how it can discuss issues beyond vic is more limited than you might think. The discussion to make a decision of whether to have a conversation is more dissociated from vic as an institution. I wonder whether it is in VUSAC's scope to have this conversation. I do not know whether that is a good idea. I don't know what it would be but I don't think our discussion can be so limited
- Lucinda: I think it is really interesting to reflect on the idea that the decision that U of T makes has to filter down to us, and i don't think that's necessarily the case.

Carl moves to extend by one minute. William seconds. Motion passes, all in favour

- Lucinda: A potential virtue that I see coming out of this would be us hearing the opinions of all our students.
- Alex: It turns into a question of voter turnout and mobilization ability and can turn into a highly politicized situation.

Cuddy moves to adjourn. Hannah seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:40 pm.