



February 14<sup>th</sup> VUSAC Meeting Minutes

**Call to order:** 5:30pm

**Land Acknowledgement: Vibhuti**

**Official Regrets:** Rintaro (Proxy: Tran), Cedric (Proxy: Ellenoor), Hannah, Leila, Rheannon, Katherine

**Approval of minutes:** January 31<sup>st</sup>

Motion: Tran motions to approve the minutes from January 31<sup>st</sup>. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

**Additions to the agenda: 5-minutes elections update**

**Approval of the agenda:**

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

**Campus Life Coordinator (Christina):** 2 minutes

ACTION ITEMS:

- Motion by Gavin Li to ratify a grant of \$1075 for the U of T Pre-Law Society & VUSAC Equity Commission (5 minutes) [Appendix B]

Vibhuti: Is there a reason why they chose Innis town hall instead of somewhere at Vic?

Gavin: They didn't think they had enough people to fill the Bader.

Vibhuti: I saw that the Chapel was an option – why did they not choose that?

Alexa: There will be 30 seats set aside for Vic students.

Lucy: in the package it says that they applied as U of T Law and they are applying as the Equity Commission later on, can we as VUSAC approve a grant if it hasn't gone through due process?

Gavin: I would like to clarify, the decision was made through two meetings. They had to resubmit the form and the second form that you are seeing right now is the price comparison form.

Aminah: Is there Vic catering at the event?

Gavin: Initially they were thinking of having the event at Vic but no since it is at Innis, there will be Innis catering.

Motion by Gavin Li to ratify a grant of \$1075 for the U of T Pre-Law Society & VUSAC Equity Commission. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.



- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

*Tabled Motions*

- Motion to approve line 150 of Motion Victures' budget on Bader Theatre costs. (5 minutes)  
[Appendix C]

Motion: Cam motions to take the motion off the table.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Massoma

Motion: Tran motions to approve line 150 of Motion Victures' budget on Bader Theatre costs.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Massoma

Motion: Tran motions for a 3-minute recess. Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
  - Opposed: none
  - Abstained: Massoma
- 
- Motion to approve line 153 of Motion Victure's budget for a phone lens adapter. (5 minutes) [Appendix C]

Motion: Alexa motions to take motion from table. Cam seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Amiah

Alexa: I'd like to motion to amend this motion, to strike it; to clarify, there was an overspent cost, it is against our policy to refund over-spent costs because we approved a certain amount of funding, we will take funding out of contingency fund and approve it that way.

Motion: Alexa motions to amend line 153. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: Spandan
- Abstained: Aminah



Spandan: I know it's a bad precedent to set, but doing this way, isn't it just creating a loophole that is also creating a bad precedent.

Vibhuti: It is a loophole, but a necessary one because it gives us more control over equitable aspects, if clubs keep overspending and coming into our contingency fund and we won't accept it. That's the logic behind it, not enabling people to overspend but a way for VUSAC to reimburse in a more mindful way.

Spandan: how is that any different from doing it directly?

Cam: I think the difference is that this method says that VUSAC has taken notice of the overspending, whereas if we went through the budget line would look like VUSAC will let it slide, we are aware it is against our policies.

Alexa: There is a difference since VUSAC didn't approve it in the budget, it's now something we have to add in because of the overspending.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Equitable Hiring Policy (10 minutes) [Appendix A]

Katie: This is something Alexa and I started over the summer, looking at formalizing the process of hiring, this will hopefully provide a conceptualized place for all these policies to live, essentially just putting stuff we already do into a formal document, I hope you had a chance to look through it. It outlines how long hiring positions should be long for, who is required to sit in the hiring committees, etc. are there any questions?

Tran: Can we add to Highball Hiring Committee that we want to add a past member of Highball Committee?

Alexa: We're doing it as the policy is right now, since we don't know if those amendments are going to pass, then we can motion to amend based on this.

Jenny: This is really great, I have a question – I don't understand why the past member of the Bob technical team is there since that's not what happened for the hiring process.

Katie: That was passed last April. That's supposed to be what happens.

Fatima: Under Cats-Eye co-manager

Cam: PhysPlant services, they maintain physical services around Vic, I don't know why it was written into the Cats-Eye hiring policy but that is the policy, just so that they have some input, also staff input from the Campus Life Coordinator and from Food.

Michael: Food and Services also isn't on here.

Katie: Thank you!

Michelle: For chapter 3, it talks about hiring Ex-Officio members, then it talks about assessor members under that...

Katie: When we figure out the definitions, we will definitely amend that.

Alexa: Thank you Katie for this beautiful document!!



- International Councillor (10 minutes) [Appendix D]

Vibhuti: We've chatted about this a few times, this is a position that I really want to see on VUSAC, it is an important and needed position, a lot of our students in the past and majority of students are domestic students, and it's hard to get involved in student politics as a whole just because of the barriers it places if you are an international student. I believe this position will really help push VUSAC to a place where we can engage with International students in a meaningful way. This position would be a mixture between a co-chair position and a councilor, but in terms of VUSAC lingo would be a councilor. My first amendment is to add the, my second one would be their roles, I took some of their roles also from Equity and Sustainability advocacy; subsection B is about the educational aspect, from Equity's portfolio because I think a large part of this portfolio should be about educational campaigns for international students to navigate a better university experience. They must pay international fees for the duration of their term, and will be elected in the fall with all the other councilors and have a separate Town Hall section and separate campaigns since it is very different. Amendment 3 is about that, I haven't indicated whether they could be a first year or upper year, but I think it should be open to all students since I think it would be a great way to get your foot in the door in student politics. Will be assigned under the VP-external portfolio, they usually get 2 councilors so they would then have 3. They have a collaborative role with the VPE. A lot of their tasks/programming, one would be geared towards international students and collaborating with international student organizations to widen VUSAC's reach and make more niche events for these students. That's my vision, if anyone has any questions or concerns or any amendments please let me know.

Disha: I think it's a very cool idea, I'm very happy to be moving forward, my question – the person in this position would have to pay international fees, but there are a lot of students who were born here so they're Canadians but they've been living out of Canada for 10 years, but they still fee domestic fees, so what about them?

Vibhuti: I think students paying international fees have a certain experience, and they understand the financial burden which is important to consider; domestic students don't have to navigate that, in terms of that that's why I positioned it in that way.

Fatima: A question linking to what Disha said, how can we ensure that they meet all the requirements when applying and they know what the requirements are, and do you think that students who have been living somewhere else for 10+ years but are born in Canada but moved somewhere else, do you think they would feel segregated because of that one point in the position?

Vibhuti: I want to clarify in terms of the requirements, the fees make them a viable candidate, and if they are a Board or Regents member they have to be a Canadian citizen, that information is very thoroughly widespread, and to your second point, this is to help students who aren't well represented and to make sure we get that voice and a student who is hopefully excited for



advocating for these things and has the burden of the fees well best put on programming for all international students, that's the division there.

Jay: Is the only portfolio they will be assigned to the VPE's?

Vibhuti: Only the VPE portfolio because their role differs from other councilors in that they won't be hopping around the commissions and will be focused on international student advocacy.

Jay: I think the language is not that vague but you may read that as they could be assigned to more, maybe we should put an 'only' there to clarify. But then that might feel too constricting, so I'm not sure.

Vibhuti: I do like your insight on this, on those terms putting an only might be constricting, since if a student really wants to be involved with other portfolios they should be able to.

Jay: In the other subsection concerning general councilors, is there a point that states that general councilors sit on multiple portfolios? The contrast between the two subsections would make it more clear if that was the case.

Vibhuti: The other subsection will work under the assigned portfolios under the VPE.

Nerjia: with the elections, you have the first year and second year councilors they are running for the same position, but since this is a hybrid, how would that work in the elections? Would there be one reserved spot?

Vibhuti: I'm seeing this as a 9<sup>th</sup> councilor position; it would be first year, then upper year, then the international councilor.

Nerjia: If someone is running for the international councilor they can't be running for another?

Vibhuti: Yes.

Motion: Michelle motions to extend for 10 minutes. Aminah seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Ellenoor: This is just a suggestion I thought of, with the international fees I think it's important to have that distinction, since there are some international students who worked hard to get scholarships, would it have to be the entire tuition, what limit will we give?

Vibhuti: They would just have international fees on their Acorn, the way they pay is not our business.

Cam: I think this is an amazing idea, with the constitutional language are you thinking of understanding council policies language?

Vibhuti: I'm bringing this now just to have more time to talk about it since it is a new position on council; if this does pass it will be put into Gabby's things, and we can add the same policy to Michelle's package.

Katie: How do you see this position interacting with the International Mentors and VISA?

Vibhuti: I have it written in the policy.



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150 Charles St. West, Room 127  
Toronto, ON, M5S 1K9  
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Alexa: I think it's great to have this added in!

Vibhuti: Since I think our student population is diversifying,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our students last year was international and we don't have that diversity here, I think it's important we see that here.

### COMMISSION REPORTS:

#### **Academic (Lucy & Nerija): 4 minutes**

Lucy: Networking dinner happened on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, it went super well, thank you all for your help! The Alumni and students all seemed to be happy, I'll have the photos soon once I have an SD-card reader. Language learning cafes are happening again, for Spanish it will be February 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have another early March for Portuguese. We are having an immigration workshop in mid-March with an immigration advisor, this will be directed towards international students, how do you get a PR, how do work visas work, how does a limit on hours you can work on campus works, how can you get an extension if you want to work more than 20 hours, etc. That workshop will be fun, and yeah I think that's it.

#### **Commuter (Michelle & Rheannon): 5 minutes**

Michelle: I have two things for you, Commuter Assassins, sign-ups have started, we have about 20-something spots left, we are restricting signup to commuter students but if we have extra gaps then we can take in res students. I will send an update closer to the start of the games on February 24<sup>th</sup>. On that Friday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a check-in at the VUSAC office at 5pm, I will send more info on that. I've been in touch with commuter reps and we've been thinking of having commuter appreciation week which will be at the start of March.

#### **Scarlet & Gold (Tran): 3 minutes**

Tran: Highball tickets were on reservation yesterday, they were all sold out! Adding onto that, ticket sales will go from March 2<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to that, the affordable formal wear sale is happening, if you guys are going home for reading week and have anything you want to donate, please do, we are taking donations the week after reading week, and then the sale will happen March 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>! If you all want to sign up for a shift that would be cool as well! Highball committee will start decorating soon so please be mindful of their things in the backroom.

#### **Sustainability (Aminah & Leila): 7 minutes [Appendix E]**

Aminah: Thank you everyone, environmental equity week was successful, and I'll touch on the document. Leila and I are coming up with composting now and waste managing guidelines, essentially we emailed Green Shift, and they gave us a very thorough response, questions came up on whether products were compostable. City of Toronto is a mess with waste management, they aren't investing enough to change their policies, their guidelines are changing, she said it's good for us to stick with Green Shift because they have a minimal effect on the environment, if you read



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through it, there's a very thorough response and it may be in the portfolio for next year. We emailed the chair of the Board of Regents, we went to the meeting, we had Cedric there were another first year student from the commission, both were prepped for the revolution! They are looking to sustainable practices, but it's a hard process, that's what is happening with that. April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the next Global Climate Strike.

Ellenoor: Does the email say that some places can compost in their own facility? And if so can we?

Aminah: that's something to bring up but it would brought up as a sentence, hopefully PhysPlant could take it somewhere, we also have contracts with the City of Toronto that would complicate that.

Alexa: It's April 3<sup>rd</sup>? Would we want to look into closing the VUSAC office again?

Vibhuti: We all know Cedric is sick, the other first year that Aminah brought absolutely killed it; Jerico did such a good job, that's a testament to the way Aminah is empowering her councilors.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

#### **VP External (Vibhuti): 5 minutes**

Caucus is happening February 28<sup>th</sup> in the CatsEye, 5-8pm, please get your reports in by February 19<sup>th</sup>, she's from the Prairies, you don't want to fight her.

In terms of talking about administrative responsibilities, I've been told there has been some miscommunication between my emails and what they thought; me and Kelley Castle had a good conversation about that and will go forward making sure we have good representation for administration at Caucus.

Crescams are happening, nomination packages are out, please nominate your friends, maybe your family, they close on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and you can send the package to Vibhuti or Christina. And tell your friends who aren't that involved at Vic too!

VPE equity – I wanted to introduce this new position, been in the talks for two years with equity commissioners last year and the year before; how it will work is at the next meeting we will have a chat, a low-key informational chat to hear about what everyone wants to hear, and the meeting afterwards will be a discussion where we bring it up. At the joint council meeting after that it will be voting on – since it's an exec position it is a big deal, the election will happen during the fall. I'm telling you this now so you can think about what you think VP-equity can do in this position, how they can work within the framework that we have.

Lyndon is come back with a under-\$10 menu, for catering, if you have a conference, a group of 30 people, a bigger-scale thing, it has so many vegan and vegetarian options, I'll be circulating that, if you're thinking of having a bigger event please look to using this.

Karaoke, VUSAC is hosting karaoke with the building presidents on February 26<sup>th</sup> in the CatsEye, that's that.





I have a done meeting in the next month, if you have anything to say to them, they are nice. They are happy to hear what we have to say, I will be talking about elections and neutrality with them.

**VP Student Organizations (Cameron): 3 minutes**

Cam: Happy VUSAC-time's day, I wanted to say that when Lucy talked about the Networking dinner, and I think she really deserves one. Now I'll get into what I wanted to say, as VPSO I am working with Massoma, Hannah and Mari to host Equity training, it is happening, we have sessions scheduled as early as next Friday during reading week to make it accessible for those who can make it, and three sessions the week after, if you know any clubs/levies please let them know and remind them and make sure everyone has gotten my email. We will be having to types of workshops, one is on event planning 101, and the other is on responding to microaggressions, if any of you are interested in coming just send me an email!

**President (Alexa): 5 minutes**

Alexa: Happy Valentine's day, love you all, thank you for spending it with us. I want to talk about a few things I love, starting with the Board of Regents – that happened Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup>, we have a new chancellor, it has been announced online, Nick Saul, many students and faculty involved in this process are confident, Robins also mentioned that he will be presenting a revised version on the legacy of Ryerson at the June BoR meeting, we have a date for that proposal. Another governing body, the VCC met this past Monday, started with a presentation from the Experiential Learning & Outreach Office, they highlighted some of Vic's programs. Experiential learning is out of classroom unique learning opportunities that students have to strengthen their learning like doing research, working at a library. They will have a new office on College soon. Robins also had an update where he mentioned his strategic plan, they are hoping to have the final strategic plan the first week of April and it will be voted on that month. There are no decisions on Frye yet, they haven't decided what they will do yet, another VCC update – we are hoping to hold the college life committee sometime in March, we want to make sure we have enough students at that meeting. One of the things we want to discuss and figure out is the purpose of that at that meeting. There are also two new courses: Posters and propaganda for first year students, and special topics in science and society, they made three of their full year-long courses half year courses. The DAC also met this past Wednesday, we had lots of interesting discussions, I wanted to highlight that Burwash Study space will be bringing back fruit, and they're looking to bring back fruit regularly so I'm excited about that. Do you ever go to Study Space and want to bite into an apple because I do. 🍏

Motion: Alexa motions to extend 5 minutes. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none





We have wanted to introduce a Commuter Orientation part 2 during reading week and introducing that as another touch-point for international students, it may be an option to explore, apparently in the psat they've had trips to the Hart House farm. So that's exciting to see that might come back! We also had a discussion on mental health, Vic was doing a lot of what was recommended in the Provost's reports already, but there are many improvements to be made on how to centralize what the college can offer. We've also talked about the faculty's role in mental health and will be exploring ways to create a guide for professors on how to teach us, I think most of the Vic profs do a great job already but we are hoping to expand that. The Student Choice Initiative, I haven't heard about our opt-out rates, I think the choice is that if students opted out, they will remain so, retroactively making them pay their fees is complex, but that may be the only year with the SCI. And the VUSAC Strategic Plan, the surveys are out, please share and fill them out! I have enjoyed reading them, that being sad, having a SP for a body with 1-year terms is difficult since they are usually for bodies with the same team for a certain amount of years, so we need to sort that out.

Massoma: Is there a timeline for the strategic plan, when the in-person stuff happens and when the final document will be rolled out?

Alexa: The in-person stuff will happen the week after reading week, hopefully for a minimum of 2 weeks then will present it at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting or the last meeting.

Vibhuti: One, just to clarify, the Ryerson reports Robins is bringing is his own research that he is bringing, it is separate from the report sent. Two, Alexa, Spandan, Angela and I went to the UTSU meeting if you wanted to say a few lines.

Motion: Alexa motions to extend 5 minutes. Jenny seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Alexa: It happened Wednesday evening, a huge part of that meeting was sorting through their bi-laws; they combined the VP external and university affairs to one position. The new position is called Vice-President Public and University Affairs. They also moved all their committees out of their bi-laws to their internal policies so they don't have to vote on them at every SGM. You can see all their changes on the website.

Vibhuti: UTSU elections happen on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you want to run for the UTSU you can start doing that soon, it is a great way to get involved in politics outside of VUSAC.

Lucy: Did VUSAC appoint Aloysius as UTSU director?

Alexa: VUSAC was not part of that; UTSU did internal hiring.



Vibhuti: Al was hired by the UTSU about 2-3 weeks ago, I had a meeting with him to talk about his role within the UTSU and how now the term is coming to an end his goals, and connecting him with Angela. He wasn't present at the SGM but I know Angela filled him in.

Jay: Why was the Vic director hired internally through the UTSU when they are usually elected internally at Vic?

Alexa: We weren't notified about it, by the time I did reach out they told me they had it in place, moving forward we will have a conversation to sort that out in the case that it happens again, it makes sense on their part since they are a member of the UTSU, but given that VUSAC does internal elections that does make sense. There may have been one Vic student on that panel but they were employed by the UTSU

Vibhuti: That conversation is not specifically about having VUSAC representation but having Vic representation on that hiring committee. Having internal elections for UTSU Vic Directors is a very new thing, before they were always voted for by the UTSU.

Disha: What is the difference between Angela's and Aloysius's role?

Alexa: There isn't a difference; the reason why Aloysius was hired is because Thomas stepped down.

Alexa motions to extend 10 minutes. Fatima seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Disha: So now in March, those two position will be re-elected?

Alexa: Yes, in the nomination package coming out today we will be electing two Vic directors internally.

Disha: But last year those elections happened in the fall?

Alexa: Last year only one person ran and there were two positions we elected another in the fall.

Cam: It was the same situation as Aminah, Aminah was new in the fall.

Vibhuti: One, the VUS meeting was cancelled, do you have any information on why/when it will be rescheduled for?

Alexa: I haven't received any emails about that, I will look into it.

Vibhuti: About the DAC, Heidi, who is a new associate Dean, she is very cool, very nice. She was talking about how Vic was part of a study from the US and Canada and they polled data about involvement and student engagement on campus, and how Vic killed it! Alexa and I are excited to see the data and see how we can incorporate that into what we do in VUSAC.

Maria:

Nominations are open today, I will go over the important dates going forward: Nominations are open until March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, in between then we will have 3 election information sessions, and I



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will post the dates on the Facebook page. I thought that if you know you aren't running, it would be nice if you could come by and answer questions about VUSAC for anyone who comes by for the elections information and help promote elections, I hope everyone got the email about neutrality, important to make sure everything is fair. Also, part of neutrality is promoting the elections and helping people make sure that they know they can run. After the meeting at 5:30 I will be at the all candidates meeting in the Board room. After that campaigning will begin, there will be two resident poster sessions, people who can come with us will be putting up their posters themselves so they know they are up there and it helps make it easier. And then until the 13<sup>th</sup> there will be campaigning, and on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> will be Town Hall, we couldn't book the CatsEye, and they had booked another event so it will be at Wymilwood, and they will put up a mic and speakers and such. After that if everybody could stay behind so we could put down posters, and voting will begin online right at midnight on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and it will go until March 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:59. Everything will be done by Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>. We were also hoping to table in front of the Dean's Office so we can have people vote there as well. I will be putting in a tabling schedule closer to the date, if you are not running for elections, please sign up for a slot. Any questions?

Motion: Jay motions to extend 5 minutes. Lucy seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Jay: Just a comment about Vic spaces, recently there have been many double bookings, they may have made mistakes recently, hopefully it won't happen on Town Hall.

Maria: I will double and triple confirm.

Cam: They have been very short-staffed, they are hoping to hire a new person for the front desk.

Katie: Are you hiring an assistant CRO?

Maria: Yes that email will come out!

Tran: Is that position open to only Vic students?

Maria: Yes.

Alexa: It is a council member who is not running for elections. Usually it is a councilor, but if for some reason if one of you want to run it is open to anyone is not running in the elections.

Motion: Tran motions to adjourn. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none