



## **VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** 5:30 PM, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Land Acknowledgement:** Elaine Lee

Elaine: We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

### **Official Regrets:**

**Approval of minutes:** *Motion by Jay to approve last meeting's minutes, seconded by Joy. Motion passes.*

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

### **Additions to the agenda:**

1. Motion by Tran Thai to reallocate \$250 to a new line in the VPI Budget titled "CRO Honoraria"
2. Motion by Tran Thai to release Vibhuti Kacholia's honoraria

**Approval of the agenda:** *Motion by Kate to approve the agenda, seconded by Max. Motion passes.*

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

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

**Campus Life Coordinator (Alero):** 10 minutes

Alero: I have seven updates. Everybody has heard hopefully that winter break has been extended to January 11<sup>th</sup> so take that break! Orientation co-chair applications are now out so please let people know to apply. Applications for that officially close on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, but we'll likely extend it until November 30<sup>th</sup>. They are open on the Victoria College website. My third update is a request: the Career Educator, Simon will be holding a winter panel with alumni and they are wondering if students would be willing to help co-host one of these sessions. If you are interested in doing this, please email me to let me know! For those of you that submitted your access forms, thank you. However, recently we are working off some new provincial restrictions so our access to the space might change sometime in the near future. Next semester, we are hoping you won't have to fill out such a lengthy form. If you have any feedback about filling out the current Goldring form or

anything that you want to see next semester in the space access, please email myself or Michelle. December 6<sup>th</sup> is the day that we commemorate International Violence Against Women Day and we hold a ceremony for that, and this is going to be an important year for this given the women we've lost to domestic violence and police brutality. This year our ceremony will be held on either the 4<sup>th</sup> or the 7<sup>th</sup>. For anyone living in residence, the Winter Residence email has gone out and international students who can't go home are allowed to stay in residence. If they are having trouble paying for their residence, they can email the bursar for monetary help. Our book club panels have been operating really well over the last few weeks. We're having another book club tonight so thank you to everyone who attended! We have other conferences coming up in the spring so keep an eye out for those!

Added via email submission from Alero Ogbeide:

- For those of you who are graduating and looking to pursue a second or graduate degree, I highly encourage you to apply for the [John H. Moss Scholarship](#) that recognizes students for academic achievement and extra-curricular involvement. **Deadline: December 2, 2020**
- For those of you who identify as an emerging leader, I recommend the [Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize \(Emerging Leader\)](#) which aims to recognize an Influential Leader and an Emerging Leader, who has made positive and lasting contributions to education and action against discrimination. Past winners have included individuals who have been recognized for their scholarship, personal service to others, or activities in support of the University of Toronto's commitment to the values of human rights, equity, diversity and inclusion. **Deadline: January 22, 2021**

**President of Victoria University:**

**Dean's Office:**

**Board of Regents:**

**Victoria College Council:**

**Victoria University Senate:**

#### ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion by Alexa Ballis to ratify amendments from the VCDS Constitution (5 minutes) [Appendix A], seconded by Tran Thai. Motion passes.*

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

Alexa: This was brought up last VUSAC meeting. There are 3 amendments that were brought up last time that you can check out in our new constitution!

*Motion by Jay Muoio to reallocate \$263.32 from budget line 86 "Magazine Printing" to budget line 83 "Graphic Design Software.", seconded by Mehr (5 minutes). All in favour, motion passes.*

Jay: This is a reallocation within HeyTeach!'s budget. They are hoping to have a greater online presence this year which they didn't fully account for in their initial budget. They are reallocating money that they were going to spend on printing their magazine to graphic design software to help improve their outreach online.

*Motion by Jay Muoio to ratify Inter Ethica Journal as a VUSAC recognized club for the 2020-21 school year, seconded by Elaine Lee (5 minutes) [Appendix B]. Motion passes.*

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

Jay: They have actually been a club at Vic for quite a while and they are looking to reapply for club status under a new name. They are building up their exec team at the moment, but their club head is a Victoria College student so that's awesome. You can check out all their info in the appendix!

*Motion by Dorian DiTommaso to reallocate \$100 from Emergency Reserve Fund to budget line #46 (3 minutes), seconded by Maggie. Motion passes.*

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

Dorian: I have to change budget line 46 which is the Mental Wellness Commission's website cost. This is my fault because I confused USD and CAD, so I need to increase the budget for this.

*Motion by Tran Thai to reallocate \$41.84 from the Emergency Fund to the Canva budget line in Communications, seconded by Alexandra (3 minutes). Motion passes.*

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

Tran: We paid the fee for Canva, but it turns out that the fee was in USD instead of CAD, so this reallocation is to account for the difference between American and Canadian dollars.

*Motion by Mehr Mukhtar to rename budget line 46 titled "Crescam Glassware" to "Giftcards for Winners and Nominees.", seconded by Nerija (5 minutes). Motion passes.*

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

Mehr: This is renaming the Crescam glassware budget line because usually we gift shot glasses to the winners but that isn't happening this year and we still want to give a gift to these students who won awards. Also, it's an UberEats gift card just to clarify.

*Motion by Leila Tjiang to approve the addition of VUSAC's signature on the UofT Environmental Resource Network (UTERN) Environmental Working Group (EWG) Coalition's letter in support of divestment initiatives at UofT, seconded by Alexandra (5 minutes) [Appendix C]. Motion passes.*

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

Leila: This is pretty much the same deal as petitions we have signed collectively before. I was working with a campus environmental group who decided that there were a lot of petitions in support of divestment across campus but there wasn't anything really that student groups had actually been able to sign. Right now, the Sustainability Commission's name is on it, but I wanted to get broader council to also add their name so we can endorse it as VUSAC.

*Motion by Tran Thai to reallocate \$250 to a new line in the VPI Budget titled "CRO Honoraria", seconded by Leila. (3 minutes). Motion passes.*

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

Tran: Vibhuti recently handed in her resignation for CRO. She worked extremely hard and since she ran such a successful election, we are giving her half of the honoraria that she deserved.

*Motion by Tran to release the CRO Honoraria to Vibhuti Kacholia, seconded by Mehr. Motion passes.*

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

Tran: When we budget for the honoraria, we have to motion to release it as well. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Vibhuti and wish her well on her future endeavours.

Mehr: I wanted to say a big thank you to Vibhuti because you navigated online elections so well and we had such great engagement.

Michelle: I wanted to give Vibhuti a big shout out. She has been on VUSAC for the last 3 years and she has dedicated so much of her time to helping Victoria College students. She has changed VUSAC and changed Victoria College for the better. I feel so lucky that I got to work with her.

Alero: I think it's important to note that your name comes up all the time around Vic. While this might be your last time of VUSAC, this is not the end of your journey!

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Fall 2020 Election Report and Recommendations, put forth by Vibhuti Kacholia (15 minutes) [Appendix D]*

Vibhuti: Thank for your kind words everyone! I appreciate it so much. I hope you had a chance to skim the report, but I wanted to go over it now because I think it's important to reflect on it as a group. I started with talking about the summer and orientation engagement, especially noting the great engagement from first year students. Next was the nomination period which went quite smoothly. The one problem we had this semester was that a few students missed the All-Candidate's meeting. In terms of the campaigning period, Instagram is the new place to be for campaigning which I think that we need to re-look at our election policies and make sure they match the guidelines for Instagram. Town Hall started off quite rough, but it ended up really well. We learned a lot about Zoom etiquette, but we also should have been more focused on Instagram marketing rather than Facebook. The silent period was also challenging because the ERC is quite vague on that. The actual voting period was quite smooth, but apparently the actual voting platform was challenging to open in countries like China. We had one infraction. We had around 7% turnout and I wanted to flag that this is the first year ever that we have had more first year counsellors than upper year counsellors. I think this is due in part to a change in our language and I think this speaks well to how we have engaged with students this year. Additionally, the Equity Commissioner is a really challenging position to fill every year, so we should be thinking about how to make these roles more attractive to students in the community by making it less burdensome in the future. My last and favourite topic is the Vic Bubble and its effect on elections. We all play a role in contributing to the Vic Bubble and trying to make sure that it is not a barrier to people joining the VUSAC team is so vital to ensuring that our team is diverse as it should be. Something that is important to keep in mind moving forward into next semester, is that a lot of the younger members on counsellors are thinking of re-running for VUSAC so please be aware of your privilege moving forward. Since you are already part of the institution, you need to be aware that you have an advantage compare to your peers who might not have been. The last part of my report is a data analysis of the survey that I put out—which only got 8 responses—but it was still very useful. I just wanted to say thank you to Tran and Veronica and Michelle for helping me so much throughout the elections. Also thank you to everyone who ran in the elections! I'm not going anywhere but I wish everyone the best of luck going forward!

*Vic Zero Project, put forth by Leila Tjiang (10 minutes) [Appendix E]*

Leila: It's here, it's 20 pages long, and it took us a year to write. The only thing I have to say is that Vic Zero started as an independent project that was focused on zero waste and Carbon Neutrality but now it calls on Vic Admin to take more substantial action on climate issues and environmental justice. It's mainly operations-based though. I am presenting this to council now so that you have two weeks to look over it before we publish it. Please let us now if you have an edits on it and we might make some small changes before it officially goes out. We hope to have council endorse it on our next meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>, but it won't be official until then.

Vibhuti: This is the best report that has come out of VUSAC ever! It is so well-researched and well-put together so we should all feel very lucky to have Leila and Jerico and Aminah on our team.

Leila: Another quick note, if you scroll down to the second to last page there are acknowledgements so please let us know if your name is recorded correctly if you contributed at all to the creation of the report!

Tran: Once this is published, can you summarize what your next steps are?

Leila: I've been talking with Michelle about this, but we're sort of in the works about this. We are basically planning on having a meeting with the Chair of the GUA subcommittee and potentially President Robbins. We haven't laid out a timeline for that but over the next few months, we want to bring it to the entire Board of Regents so it can be endorsed by them. Basically, until the Board of Regents meets as a whole again, our plan is to open up a petition for students to sign in support of this document. We'll also be trying to get student groups both at Vic and outside of Vic to endorse the document which we'll be doing until the end of this year.

*Motion to recess for 5 minutes by Kate, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.*

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

**ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS:**

**Vic UTSU Directors (Ava & Radhika):**

**Orientation Co-Chairs:**

**Victoria College Dons:**

**Constituent Organizations:**

**Cat's Eye:** no report

**Acta Victoriana:** no report

**Caffiends:** no report

**Student Projects:** no report

**The Strand:** no report

**VicXposure:** no report

**VicPride!:** no report

**VISA:** no report

**VCAA:** no report

**VCDS:** no report

**WUSC:** no report

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Chief Returning Officer (Vibhuti):**

**Communications (Veronica):**

**Finance (Ralph):**  
**Office Manager (Holly):**  
**Chair (Zoe):**

COMMISSION REPORTS:

**Academic (Nerija & Cathy):** 3 minutes

Nerija: Since the last meeting, we had two Academic Commission events, and both were great! Mark your calendars for exam jam coming up which will have even more giveaways and prizes. Additionally, we are in the planning stages for the Alumni Dinner! The Alumni Affairs office has asked us to compile a list of student interests so that the alumni they invite to the dinner are in careers that are relevant to what you are interested in. Last year, the Academic Commission received funding for iClickers from Student Projects that we hadn't used until recently. Although it might be a weird time to roll this out, we didn't want that money to expire so we went ahead and bought our iClickers which will be used when we are able to get back into the Office.

**Arts & Culture (Jenny):**  
**Equity (Lulu & Sooyeon):**  
**Mental Wellness (Dorian):**  
**Scarlet & Gold (Fatima):** 3 minutes

Fatima: Last meeting I didn't give my update, but our first event was Arcade Night in October and I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who came out for that! Our commission has some really exciting ideas for next semester that are going to be low-key and easy to attend. Our team also had a meeting with Michelle about reimbursements for High Ball, but essentially, we just have to write the final round of cheques and then we are done. We contacted our winner for the Halloween event and all we have to do now is get their prize to them!

**Sustainability (Leila & Jerico):**  
**Commuter (Rheannon & Aya):**

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

**VP External (Mehr):** 5 minutes

Mehr: Caucus is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. If you aren't able to attend, please send me your regrets by Monday. There's also a DAC meeting next week that is going to be mainly focused on mental health on campus, continuing to raise awareness about anti-Black racism, and academic pressures in the COVID world. I've also been working on building VUSAC's relationships with indigenous groups on campus. One thing we talked about is setting up discussions with Ingenious students on campus and gauging for interest there. We are also trying to see how VUSAC can support Indigenous students and give them spaces on campus. I am also meeting with a member of the First Nations house, the Indigenous Student's Union and the ISA to get more feedback and help build relationships. I think we have a lot of work to do to acknowledge our colonial history on Vic campus. I've also been meeting with members from the Black Liberation Collective who played a big role in collecting race-based data at the university. The University has released their Equity Census so please fill that out! I am interested in VUSAC starting our own census and I think

engaging with the numbers we get from that might help us connect with the student body better. Additionally, the Race and Racism conference has been going for the last week. At the core of these conferences is the unpaid emotional labour that student leaders have been putting in throughout the semester. I've been keeping track of a lot of these changes that we want to make in the system because a concern identified with students fairly often is that there isn't a unified response to racist events on campus. I've also been working with Stuti to talk about some advocacy work that we are hoping to start with international students, so I'll pass it over to her.

Stuti: Currently, we are trying to gather international students together in one common space so we can work off that foundation for our future initiatives. I have a survey drafted to see what international students at Vic want and will be releasing that soon. There's also been a Facebook group set up so please let your friends know that space exists, and that they are welcome to join it.

**VP Internal (Tran): 3 minutes**

Tran: Governing document reviews have started. If you have any thoughts on any of the 3 governing documents, you can join the groups or email the respective chairs if you have any ideas. Check-ins are almost done so if you haven't done it, please email me and we'll set up a meeting. I have a meeting with Alero from the Dean's Office to talk about Goldring access which is still a conversation that is ongoing. Secret Santa is not happening in the same form as last year, but we are hoping to have an exchange of Secret Santa letters. I will also be sitting on the Orientation Co-Chair hiring panel and on the Mental Wellness Co-Chair hiring panel and on the CRO hiring panel coming up next semester.

Vibhuti: We are also hiring our ACRO in addition to the CRO this year so if you are interested in that position, let Tran know and we will onboard you before the spring elections.

**VP Student Organizations (Jay): 7 minutes**

Jay: Equity Training is now finished! This is a qualification that we have for our club and levy heads and this allows them to continue operating and request a budget in the winter. If you are a commissioner who wanted your commission to attend training, let me know and we'll make sure that all went through. The Cat's Eye Advisory Board will be meeting very soon and there might be some topics that are brought up to VUSAC afterwards. The VicPride president has resigned unfortunately which means that essentially VicPride is without exec again and so they won't be collecting a winter levy fee and they won't be at Caucus. Please let your friends know that this position is open and encourage them to run!

**President (Michelle): 7 minutes**

Michelle: We have decided to reduce our Winter fees by 35% because we are still in the process of finishing our bank reconciliations, so we are still figuring out what exactly our surplus is from 2019-2020. For full time students the total fee will be \$19.61 and part time students will be \$10.69. Most of the levies reduced their fees which hopefully they will talk further about at Caucus! On Monday, I have a meeting alongside the elected heads of the colleges as well as the heads of the professional faculties with the Office of the Vice Provost to follow up with some issues that were

brought up at the last PUSAG meeting. Also, please email me your thoughts on the Goldring Access Form because we want to make it as accessible as possible for you. If you have any concerns or criticisms, please let me know! I am working on figuring out what the status is for the funding request that VUSAC put in with Student Projects last year. The funding is for the chargers that Alexa wanted to put in the office which we know isn't going to be used right now but since the funding is expiring soon, we're hoping to buy them now and have them ready in the office for next year. Tomorrow is also the Board of Regents development day so I'm looking forward to networking with the board members to talk about how they can better support the students and hopefully I'll get the chance to talk to President Robins about the Renaming Ryerson report since it's been a while since we've had updates on that. Mehr and I have been working hard to figure out the wording for the BIPOC scholarship and we are hoping that a donation page for this will be open sometime in the next few weeks! We are hoping to fundraise \$25,000 to create an expendable gift of \$1,000 every year. We are working on the policy for Budget Steering next semester. We will also be releasing a survey for Winter 2021 based on how Fall 2020 went to ask students about their experiences last semester.

Tran: Also, it was recently announced that all classes are officially online next semester.

Cathy: Labs are still unsure so if you still have a lab in your schedule, that could still possibly be in-person

Leila: I also wanted to add that even though the Winter Break is being extended by a week, the year isn't extending by a week into the spring. Basically, our year is a week shorter than usual.

*Motion by Tran to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fatima. Motion passes.*

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.