



October 18<sup>th</sup> VUSAC Meeting Minutes

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

Motion: Alexa motions to give Josh speaking rights. Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

**Land Recognition:** Vibhuti

**Official Regrets:** Vivian, Hannah

**Approval of minutes:** See Appendix D

Motion: Tran motions to approve Sept 20<sup>th</sup> minutes. Lucy seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Motion: Lucy motions to approve Oct 4<sup>th</sup> minutes. Massoma seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Additions to the agenda:

- Motion by Vibhuti Kacholia for VUSAC to endorse the closing of the VUSAC office on November 29<sup>th</sup> in solidarity with the Global Day of Climate Action (3 minutes)
- Update from Tyler (3 minutes)

Motion: Tran motions to approve the agenda from October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify the results of the 2019 Fall Elections (7 minutes) [See Appendix C]

We need to ratify the results since 15% of VCU did not vote.

Devon: Were there any appeals to any rulings of CRO or did elections appeal during campaign?

Alexa: No



Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify the results of the 2019 Fall Elections. Lucy seconds.  
Motion passes.

Motion by Katie Marsland to allocate \$1000 for meals and supplies for VUSAC's internal fall retreat (5 minutes)

Tomorrow and Sunday we have retreat which is two days of training and bonding to help us best help out with VCU, for part of that I'm motioning to allocate \$1000 for meals and for general supplies for retreat.

Alexa: Because every member is obligated to attend retreat, we wanted to make sure cost of food wasn't a barrier to participate.

Cameron: Katie, where is retreat hosted?

Katie: In this building!

Motion by Katie Marsland to allocate \$1000 for meals and supplies for VUSAC's internal fall retreat. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify the proposed amendment to the Constitution regarding an Academic Co-Chair Policy (5 minutes) [See Appendix A]

This was brought forward at last VUSAC meeting, and it has been available online for 14 days as any addition to constitution must be, it will allow the academic commissioner to hire a co-chair. We wanted to get that language sorted out so we could start the hiring process as soon as possible; it states in academic commissioner's role that she will hire co-chair.

Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify the proposed amendment to the Constitution regarding an Academic Co-Chair Policy. Massoma seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Motion by Vibhuti Kacholia for VUSAC to endorse the closing of the VUSAC office on November 29<sup>th</sup> in solidarity with the Global Day of Climate Action.

[Summary] We closed our office for the September 27<sup>th</sup> strike, the sustainability commission put on great programming during the event and closure and with taking students to the strike itself. There will be another strike on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, Allie Rougeot has asked VUSAC to endorse closing VUSAC for the strike. Fridays for future to have more programming so students can come to the strike or do alternate activities to have their voice heard



Michelle: Home for holidays is November 29<sup>th</sup>, are we okay to go with that?

Vibhuti: The office will be closed for operations, but you can use office for meetings.

Motion by Vibhuti Kacholia for VUSAC to endorse the closing of the VUSAC office on November 29<sup>th</sup> in solidarity with the Global Day of Climate Action. Lucy seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Winterfest Constitution & Council Policies Amendment (10 minutes) [See Appendix B] [Summary] Tran: You can all read in Appendix B of the constitution, but basically, we are suggesting that we get rid of Vic Winterfest, the rationale is explained in the constitution policy. A lot of the resources we use for Winterfest can be used by other programming put on by Vic students, last year ~\$2700 was used on Winterfest, only \$1800 was used for semi-formal, that money could be used for other areas especially after the budget cuts. The Scarlet and Gold commission will still be collaborating with the U of T-wide Winterfest to put on at least two events, it's just specifically Vic Winterfest that we will be taking out of the constitution.

Vibhuti: What is Winterfest?

Tran: It is a week long of activities during first week of January to welcome students back – it includes events like Pub night, games and activities...etc. Having an event every day at Vic for a week really added up on costs.

Alexa: In the past, Vic Winterfest has had incredibly low turnout for most of the events, and that money could be used to help other Vic students plan events that more students can come to and enjoy,

Aminah: I know some Vic groups that want to hold events in the first week back, how would they coordinate that?

Tran: The way it works if we hypothetically get rid of Winterfest we can still collaborate with Vic levies and clubs and put on events, it's just part of U of T wide Winterfest so we're not tied to doing all of these activities that are potentially high budget.

Michelle: What kinds of events are you envisioning?

Tran: I am still in discussion with U of T side since we would collaborate with the other colleges; I'm thinking winter pancakes, we wanted to do another charity events with bags, not a pub night where we'd have to allocate large portion of budget.



Alexa: Typically Winterfest includes activities like a drag show, open mic nights, battle of the bands, there is so much winter programming! frost week is another week of programming in second week run by the St George Round Table.

- Fall Elections Feedback (7 minutes)

Katie: As you all know we just had our elections, so aside of technical difficulties, I'd love to hear any feedback you had on what we could improve for the spring elections.

Vibhuti: We tried a longer nominations period so we would love to hear your thoughts on that too!

Thomas: What was the turnout for the election?

Vibhuti: It was 7.8% of VCU, averaging 267 students for the fall election.

Cedric: I know some people I told about voting were confused with how it wasn't working; for some people it was working, then it wasn't working, for the past few weeks U of T websites have been wonky, so I think that discouraged people from voting because after the initial try they didn't try again.

Katie: Thank you for that feedback!

Disha: I think after the date for voting was changed, there was no email sent out to students, even though students wanted to vote, so aside from fact that it didn't work, an email could have gone out, I think that would have led to higher turnout.

Vibhuti: For the record, Maria our CRO, had a test running, and it worked fine until the last day before elections were supposed to happen, when she got logged out of her account. We worked with student life, the problem was with IP addresses and with students using different devices.

Elenore: Some people didn't know what a spoil ballot meant or what all the categories were – if there was an explanation of the different parts it would have been helpful!

Dorian: I have a few concerns regarding the elections; I want to ask about something I'm concerned with, not related to fall but spring elections – why is it that VUSAC ratifies their own elections when turnout is below 15%?

Alexa: Just to clarify on that, we recently discovered in our policies that 15% is not something that actually exists, it's just something we've been told, so we are looking into that. You're right though, because why that number, and why is VUSAC ratifying it?

Dorian: Why is there no elections appeal council? That should be body that ratifies the election.

Vibhuti: I think when it comes to VUSAC ratifying its own elections, it's more of a letting the VCU be true no matter how many students vote, not putting rubber stamp on ourselves but what the VCU has voted into.

Dorian: I don't see that, it is like putting a rubber stamp on it, if you have a rule, case of having it becomes arbitrary, if it was run by an elections appeal council, they're supposed to exist for 2 weeks before election, they would have ample time to prepare responses and prepare to legitimize the election. It's not a concern with people doing it, no ill intent, but the policy reads a conflict of interest, it's policy against itself, not a policy that should be there.



Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend for 5 minutes. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Vibhuti: I think your point is very valid, I want to explore the avenue of having an appeals committee to ratify the elections.

Alexa: I second what Vibhuti said!

Thomas: Also wanted to mention for any house that convenes such as VUSAC, they have to use rules of orders that stipulate the body, that's why it's in place in general!

Devon: Is the CRO here? (No) It's important that there's a venue like this where students can speak, where ratifications happen so students can say something – it has become a rubber stamp, if anyone had questions, the CRO wasn't even here to answer those questions. It's definitely something to look at, election ratification have been a rubber stamp as long as we've been here.

Alexa: We have a specific version of Roberts rules; As for the CRO not being here, it's not because of a lack of trying, we invited them.

Dorian: Can I ask, what is specific role of CRO and how is it managed?

Alexa: They are the person who runs our elections, creates nomination packages, reviews elections and referenda code to determine what the rules are moving forward, and conveys that info to people running and to people of the VCU to encourage them to run. They also conduct the voting website.

Dorian: Is the CRO an independent body? Or do they have an overseer?

Alexa: That would be the VUSAC exec; it's the first year we're having external CRO.

Jay: There were posters were taken down during election, did staff do it or what happened?

Katie: When the CRO was looking into it, at the end of the day we are at mercy whoever takes it down, we do the best we can but we just don't know.

Aminah: I don't know why, I noticed some were on glass where it wasn't supposed to be, maybe that's why they were taken down.

Jay: All of them were cleared out, also in Old Vic they got cleared out unless they were on poster boards.

Aminah: For Old Vic, there are certain rules, I think posters have to be on bulletin boards.

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

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah



Dorian: To my knowledge the posters removed were not on glass, those at Old Vic were arbitrarily removed, some on one corner stayed. I don't think it had an effect on election results, it's just an issue that made it uncomfortable and frustrating to get through elections.

Vibhuti: We will put it in Maria's transition report have VUSAC go talk to food services, PhysPlant, etc. so we know where posters can be put up.

Jay: I did read over the election package – the Old Vic rules do make sense but it wasn't in the package, it should be added in.

Elenoor: I also read it through, maybe it would be good to have places where you can put up posters to make it crystal clear, like have a list of buildings where posters can be put up.

Dorian: How does the CRO and VUSAC counteract pre-campaigning for resident students who have no paper trail?

Vibhuti: I have talked to the dons, and we chatted about how to moderate those spaces in residential spaces and in Burwash dining hall.

Jenny: Regarding the posters, I did end up putting up posters on glass pains, and they were not removed, I think it's about whether the custodians know whether or not to take it down; Maria said that custodians didn't know.

Dorian: Could I get clarification on the slander rule in voting?

Vibhuti: Slander is a term used if one candidate is speaking in person or online about another candidate in a way that's not respectful, it's the digression of the CRO in which they make those last calls. Whatever calls are made can go to appeals committee to see what calling is best fit.

Dorian: In my understanding, I think it scares people off from having any discourse regarding people's policies, because you can't challenge something because you can't say something about them. That rule makes it hard to have an election not rooted in policy vs popularity.

Motion: Vibhuti seconds for 10 minutes. Michelle seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Vibhuti: To directly respond to that, slander it is to target character attacks, people calling slander on your policies is not something the CRO will bring up.

Thomas: I just wanted to clarify, while its great we have a forum, we're getting off topic.

Alexa: I'd be happy to offer up a meeting to discuss these concerns as well, and will bring up to everyone.

Cam: I was going to say, your point of the whole slander vs policy rule is valid, I think it would be good to include that in election package, if it's not already specified, slander is when you move from criticisms of persons policy to criticisms of someone's character, so it would be good to clarify that within rule package.



Dorian: To be fair, I don't think I'm moving too far away since the agenda is talking about the event of the elections. Yes I'm monopolizing, if I was to discuss this with just one person, how is my voice going to be heard? If I'm here and you all hear me, you will understand, I will have more people understanding what I'm saying. If I talk to Alexa or Vibhuti it's them on behalf of me, not me. I have a right to speak here.

Devon: I think it's great we've had this conversation; I think elections need to be talked about outside of closed doors, and transparency is very important. I want to talk about the slander rule – slander is legal term, it means something defamatory, it has to be untrue. If you say someone is a bully, that's not slander, it has to be a lie for it to be slander, at least that's my reading on it, I encourage you to do your research, it's important that everyone understands that. If it's over-interpreted in a way that stifles the ability of candidates to discuss each other's platforms and who is best for the office, I think as a voter I shouldn't vote for someone who has poor character and wouldn't know until after. I appreciate this conversation.

Alexa: You have every right to be here, I am glad you are here; I want meetings to be a place where everyone can come, thank you for being here and pointing all of this out and I'm glad everyone can hear it.

Dorian: I do appreciate option of an in-person meeting, Thomas I'm sorry for going hard, I didn't mean to make you feel uncomfortable here.

Motion: Tran motions for a 5-minute recess. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: Spandan
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

- Dean's Advisory Committee (5 minutes)

[Summary] Alexa: As we talked about, there's a Dean's Advisory Committee on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The membership on this was decided from last year – there is over-representation of VUSAC at this meeting, so we want to hear what other students had to say.

Vibhuti: What is the Dean's Advisory Committee?

Alexa: It is an opportunity for students to receive feedback regarding deans office, sometimes they might ask students questions but often will bring up concerns; we want to hear what people think about for next year adding less VUSAC and levy and club reps and add onto number of Vic students who aren't as involved. It's important to hear feedback from involved students, but yeah, what are your thoughts?

Thomas: My only opinion about the Dean's Advisory is that yes, I would like to see more student representation but not see the Dean's Advisory stay the size it is because VUSAC members and levy heads are in a space to critically evaluate policy or ideas that come out of the Dean's Advisory Committee. Why I say VUSAC members are more inclined to critically analyze is because as an





elected representative to who sits in this body, these discussion items come up, knowing people who sit on it just as students, they are less inclined to be critical, and they just sit on it to sit in it. So I want to see more students, but same amount of VUSAC/levy/club heads.

Aminah: That's a great point, from the Strategic Planning town hall, there was a student who when asked do you think these students represent you, and she answered not at all. Perspectives among students are very different, so it goes with what you're saying so I'm happy to hear that.

Aloyisius: For context, I'm a VicXposure exec, also part of the VCU, was recently elected as one of the senate reps, joining Thomas: 1) I was at the last meeting part of the VPSO, point of membership, there are a lot of existing club and levy heads on it that already have connection with the Dean. They don't need to have that particular role as well, randomly selected students kind of work, but we need to have demographic information, and find students from certain marginalized groups that need to have representation on the DAC, that's more important than having existing VUSAC and club and levy roles when we already have through VUSAC, or through other means with relationships with the Dean.

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

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

That finishes my point of membership; it's more important to meet certain criteria from students in different years, commuter vs residence, different programs, backgrounds; we should have a discussion around that, around agenda setting. It was frustrating to go to that meeting and the dean turn that meeting into a consultation around their own Strategic Plan which not communicated to us ahead of time, that was frustrating. They should be using a forum as a way to get feedback for Strategic Planning instead of taking away an opportunity for students to bring up their concerns; if we're advising the deans, we should be the ones to set the agenda, or at least should be made with student input; with that I need to go!

Alexa: It was not the Dean's Advisory Committee, but a Strategic Planning meeting, but that information should have been conveyed to everyone, we will move forward in direction you suggested for the next one!

Vibhuti: Al just said a bunch of things I wanted to say, we are looking for a stratified way of getting random students there, usually there's just one Dean's Advisory Committee meeting per semester, November 29<sup>th</sup> is next one, that one will be way more about what students have to say.

Massoma: Al touched on many things I wanted to say, even if this is randomized, you might not get those students on the board, need to hear for them – side question, are those students just asked to come? (Yes)

Motion: Tran motions to give Kevin speaking rights. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.





- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Kevin: I want to build on that, about students who are randomly selected and what Al said, what sorts of channels are already available for students who don't sit on those groups, like students on a club that don't have enough resources, how does that trickle up into the Dean's Advisory Committee?

Cameron: Just a direct response in terms of clubs and levies – what I think I might do is email clubs and levies directly to let them know if they have any concerns, they can raise them with myself.

Motion: Cameron motions to extend for 5 minutes. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Cameron: I can also ask a club or levy rep if they're comfortable with raising concerns on behalf of other clubs and levies; I understand that I might not be the best avenue, making sure that the meeting is more publicized and more in advance for next meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Vibhuti: We will stratify the randomizing process to get a bunch of students to the table and Kelley can hear it first hand; few different ways of going about it.

Michelle: Out of the 5 appointed students how many were commuters?

Alexa: I can find that out!

Michelle: I would love to see less of a VUSAC presence; I felt like there was a very polarized discussion, many people in the room had the same experience in the room. It's important for us to send out more randomized trials specifically within the Dean's Advisory Committee to have a specific number of students that are commuters, and within the commuters have them be randomized.

Elenore: I like that idea of having categories and randomizing within the categories might be way more effective; if you're a student that is invited, is it mandatory? If you can't come, do you invite someone else?

Alexa: Yes, you invite someone else!

Spandan: My only concern with the stratified random sampling is categories are decided pretty arbitrarily and we can decide on a million different categories, if we're only sampling 5 random students how do you know which category gets sampled and how you balance out the representation between different categories?



Michelle: It doesn't have to be a specific population of that community, I do feel that VUSAC has a great obligation to reach out to students we should be representing; I don't have the connection with commuter students I should be representing, so there should be better connections.

Massoma: I don't think solution is to have a bunch of sub categories but establishing connections so that students do have their voices heard and are interested in engaging, we have the power to do so.

Motions: Tran motions for 7 minutes. Lucy seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Spandan: If the Dean's Advisory Committee has to stay the size that it is, or if it could be expanded to allow for more diversity, could we keep the VUSAC presence but make it less in proportion to the rest of the students?

Alexa: Kelley did say that she was open to having more spots; there are slightly too many VUSAC and club and levy reps, we are thinking of decreasing it a bit so students who aren't as involved still feel comfortable joining.

Spandan: What if the overall number increases but number of VUSAC spots stays the same? You have a less proportional representation of VUSAC.

Michelle: Why are certain levy reps chosen; one of the Cats Eye co-managers are required to attend, Caffiends heads, VCAA president and co-president, 2 levy heads and 4 club heads appointed by Cameron as well. What is rationale behind that?

Alexa: I was going to ask if Devon knew?

Devon: I do, the specific reason is those are levies that hold space, the Dean's Advisory Committee has a weird history that grew out of restructuring of board that left hole where the Dean was.

Cameron: If it's based on levies having space allocation, levies have various spaces on campus; strand has larger space than VCAA, VicXposure has a space, I was wondering, on basis of space, why only those three levies?

Devon: I don't have the exact details, the distinction is that Cats Eye and Caffiends are like businesses that run in those spaces, you can't put Cats Eye anywhere else, those are office spaces, I believe that was the distinction.

Kevin: I wanted to add to that those levy heads have more invested interest.

Vibhuti: The Dean's office selects students and send out emails to everyone, whoever replies back, while it is random of sorts, it is still a voluntary sample, while deans office creates incentive (food and whatnot), that is still something to think about.

Alexa: Thank you all for sharing, if you have any other ideas please let me know, we are looking to get a sustainability rep on the Dean's Advisory Committee, if you have other ideas let me know, thank you for discussion!



## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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Rintaro: Out of curiosity, is there any survey system where students can voice their opinions on the Dean's Office?

Alexa: No, but you can connect with Christina, she's an awesome point of contact, we can look into something like that for the Dean's Office and VUSAC.

Michelle: I remember two weeks ago you mentioned something about having a VUSAC townhall, is that something still in the works?

Alexa: Short answer is yes, I have date for you

Angela: Are the Dean's Advisory Committee meetings closed or open for all students to just drop by?

Vibhuti: They are closed meetings; that's also a thing to think about if we want them to be open.

Angela: I think that way so if students want to speak but don't want to be there consistently would give them opportunity to have their voices heard.

Motion: Jay motions to extend for 2 minutes. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Jay: You said there were two levy heads appointed, who are they?

Cameron: Al and Tia (Tia is one of the copresidents of VCDS). In terms of the appointment process I'm not sure of the structure, that's another bag of snakes worthwhile discussing...

- Burwash Study Space (10 minutes)

Alexa: I just want to preface that this is different from VUSAC study space (which will be Tuesday and Thursday 9:00pm-1:00am). Burwash is very expensive, including getting all the food, security costs are also expensive to ensure space is kept open for all students, and cuts have been made to it. Some of you have noticed there's no more fruit, no more cookies, but I think it's a valuable service to students, we want to hear your thoughts on how this has been going and what can be improved. Some ideas floating around were spaces for students to get up and stretch, having a member of writing center available for drop-ins, and a private lounge used as group study space.

Spandan: If there are no fruits and cookies, what is the point of going to Burwash to study?

Alexa: That's a good point, for me, it is valuable for students to rely to go get food for free, I'll bring it up if that's what people think!

Elenore: I don't know if we're first years and didn't know about there no longer being cookies but there is still hot chocolate! For residence students, they don't want to study in their room since it's hard to discipline yourself, it's easier to discipline yourself in Burwash because everyone is quiet and working.



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Cameron: I wanted to voice a concern I've heard from commuter members, but I've heard from commuter members if they come to Vic study space it costs them at least \$3 Presto to get down here, another \$3 to get up, so it would cost them \$6 to go to study space, and that puts them away from home where they could have food. I think having food there is something I'd like to see.

Lucy: I think VUSAC has to be very pragmatic in our efforts and need to look at what works, study space is something students actually use; if you go Burwash space in December it's widely used by students, I think we need to focus our resources on things that students actually use, so that I think it's very valid to have food and fruit in study space. The killer is that we have to coordinate with Burwash and coordinate by Burwash, if we could have external food that would be way cheaper, any other source of food would be cheaper...

Jay: Maybe it's just me, but as a commuter student, I don't know when study space is, so I never use it, I don't know what it is, but Burwash is a scary exclusive space since I don't eat there; maybe advertising it for commuter students could help!

Aminah: With respect to food, I don't know if Burwash would be open to it but we could have fruit out that is perfectly okay but would have been thrown out anyways, which we won't have to pay for and is also more sustainable.

Lucy: Burwash used to do exactly that, they had fruits out, just normal food that they had but would have to throw out, but I don't know what happened...

Alexa: It was \$15 a person to just have the food open, also Burwash doesn't let us bring in any external fruits as well, which is another whole discussion.

Fatma: I know it's Burwash study space, it seems to me that in addition to the commuters' lack of knowledge and the food issue about not bringing any external food, is there a possibility of holding study space elsewhere?

Alexa: I'm working on introducing a VUSAC study space, I've talked about this in previous meetings, I'm hoping to have it Monday nights so it doesn't necessarily compete, it will be in the atrium and also in the VUSAC office.

Tran: Something I wanted to say is that Burwash study space holds a lot of people, I know VUSAC doesn't hold as many people, which is just something to keep in mind.

### - Federal Election (5 minutes)

Alexa: Thank you Leila and Massoma for running and facilitating the VUSAC pop-up station and all the wonderful graphics Leila made, you can vote from your designated voting station from 9:30am-9:30pm, I encourage people to vote as well, that said, also like any VUSAC election, VUSAC is a neutral space, please vote and vote informed!

Cedric: I'm working at the elections so I have some insider information; if you bring lazy family members and friends and they don't bring ID, you can vouch for someone; you can also use a lot of things for ID, you just someone to prove your address and name.



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Leila: As for results, dons also ran vote popups for one day so we are combining results, as soon as I get the results, we will post a graphic.

- Email Vote (3 minutes)

Alexa: Last week email vote put out by Tran, and Katie seconded and it passed unanimously.

Tran: Not the entire \$250 was used, money left over will go back into VUSAC!

### EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

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

I would like to invite everyone to our **December 6<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting for our National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Memorial** – Next Thursday October 24, 2019 4:30-5:00pm Dean's Office Meeting Room – We are looking for VUSAC members to be involved in this planning, we take an intersectional approach and always looking for support and insight. Please attend our planning meeting or e-mail Christina, Vibhuti, Alexa, Massoma or Hannah for more information as they will be present. **We're currently hiring an Orientation Co-Chair.** Applications are due November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please visit vicorientation.com for more details. Orientation Exec Apps will be available January 2020. **Forging Your Future Events** – On October 28th, Ilham your Career Educator will be discussing Statement of Interest AND October 29th, Ilham will be discussing doing an Academic CV. Regent's Room 12pm-2pm. **Vic or Treat is happening** Thursday, October 31, 12-5pm in the Goldring. Please come out and join us for some candy! Thank you for the groups that will be there including VUSAC, Commuter Dons, VCDS and VCAA. Finally, now that you're all in your roles, congratulations, and please feel free to book 1:1 appointments with me as I'm always happy to connect.

Motion: Disha motions to extend for 2 minutes. Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Disha: What is the event?

Christina: The national day of remembrance and action against woman; the event is 45 minutes, we will have number of speakers discuss how we act as allies with our women; we are always looking for members of VUSAC to help out!

Disha: And where is the event going to be held? Is it just for Vic students?

Christina: December 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00-2:45 at Wendy Cecil atrium, anyone can come!

#### **Vic UTSU Directors (Thomas & Angela): 20 minutes**



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Thomas: I called in sick so I could be here with full council and with Angela. Just a little housekeeping item, transition materials are being started up again by myself and Angela, they didn't exist for the Vic College directors, but I asked previous directors if they had them so now I'm going to hand them down now. For the meetings of the UTSU board of directors, I was sick during the September board meeting, so I was not there, I was also not there for the emergency meeting on the same day. The October board meeting which was two weeks ago was four and a half hours long, we ended because we lost quorum, there were two failed executive reports, on top of that I moved a motion for the Hong Kong groups on campus, but more importantly, coming out of that, the AGM portal is now up, AGM will be on oct 30<sup>th</sup> in the Innis Town Hall at 6pm; quorum is 100, which means 100 need to be there for the meeting to be there, so please come!

Josh: There need to be 75 in person and 100 proxies.

Thomas: We have samosas!

As for ongoing projects, the UTSU met with the office of vice provost a few times, met with Merik Gertler, we talked about mental health and other things on campus. We also made changes to the UTSU Bursary System, if you go online, you will see there's a multitude of different categories covering commuting stuff that will help you purchase a presto card, etc. I encourage you all to let the VCU know through your own channels that they are also applicable to them!

The food bank is still up, also now vegan breakfasts and soups; I haven't gone to them so can't update you much on them apart from that they are happening.

The executive that you have probably seen like Josh, they are now tabling so you can talk to them through their tabling sessions, today they were at trinity, you can check on Facebook and [utsu.ca/governance](http://utsu.ca/governance) to keep up with what they are up to during meetings and keep up to date on their projects. Current projects I am undertaking, I am still working with the vice president of university affairs on work study reform program, working with the vice president of professional faculties on tutoring program, the survey for that will be released sometime soon, as well as the mental health committee will be meeting on Sunday where I will be proposing a report, I can't give you many details past that.

Vibhuti: What is the UTSU Vic director?

Thomas: The Vic director is not VUSAC's representative but the VCU representative on the UTSU board of directors, there are two of us since Vic has more than 3000 people but not more than 4000, something like that. We represent the VCU and sit on committees on the UTSU and attend meetings, if you know about the UTSU our meetings are infamously long, we hold exec meetings as well. Angela and I also set up a feedback on google docs for us, so that's cool!

Jay: Where is the feedback form?

Thomas: We didn't make status update, if you go to Vic UTSU cover page that is where there is a link, but we will be publicizing that soon.





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In terms of the tutoring project, we're going to release the survey this week but I last messaged Dermot if we could do a raffle, if we're spending money on a raffle it has to go through committee which is why it wasn't released this week, and that's about it in terms of committee and stuff. My office hours are Mondays 3:30-5:00, it's now been 6-7 months since my platform ran, I have to fill 6 months up with other stuff, if you have other ideas please email me, I will be sitting on the board pushing a radically progressive agenda.

Angela: Hi everyone, I wanted to say I'm excited and honored to be elected, working on settling into my position right now. My main goal is to listen to Vic students and take that information and spread it!

Lucy: In your report you said the mental health policy council came to meeting but didn't follow up, can you explain about that? And I also wanted to reiterate the importance of international students within the UTSU's mental health support, because I know that mental health support was lowered from \$125 to \$100, most students have OHIP+ but that's not the case for all students.

Vibhuti: If you can't see Thomas and Angela's update you just have to refresh your drive it's in Appendix E.

Thomas: I'm sorry it landed in your drive so late, to the health question first, the reason that there were changes is made is because of last year's UTSU, it happened not to any fault of anyone, but Josh has better answer than I can give.

Josh: Just to answer that question, it's not the result of any one person, basically we had more claims had on the claim than going into it, in the last calendar year alone there was a 80% spike in mental health claims and since we didn't have enough money to sustain the plan, it was advised by insurance and student care that we needed to make a reduction since it wouldn't be sustainable. We did create a health and wellness bursary, for those students that tap that resource, they will be able to apply to that bursary to cover additional costs since therapy does cover on average more than \$125 per session. We are also running referenda in spring election cycle to increase cost of plan to bring mental health coverage back to what it was previous to this year.

Thomas: I believe the bursaries are open to international students, so it's not restrictive. Onto the MHPC question, they came to our board meeting as UTSU board meetings are open to all UTSU members, those who did come out fall under that roll. Because of the UTSU board losing quorum we had to end our meeting, which is why it appears like they stopped us.

With MHPC, they have right to be in attendance at board meetings, it's just that they had come late and we had just lost quorum so we had to call the meeting towards the end. It was said to the Mental Health Committee by numerous people in room to email us the committee so that space could be given to them to talk about what was needed to, however to best of my knowledge, they have not emailed anyone on the committee. In terms of mental health policy which I sit on that committee, that if people would like to speak at committee meetings they can follow up as anyone





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in this room can; if there's something that you feel is urgent regarding mental health the UTSU can be engaged in don't hesitate to email the committee or myself.

Angela: To my understanding, it's not that they were late, they were waiting for a few hours, I don't think they knew they were allowed to sit in in the meeting, so the UTSU can be more open in advertising this.

Josh: Just a question/statement regarding the UTSU more broadly, thank you for letting me be here, I'm not a Vic student, we want to do our part to engage with as many student societies as possible. UTSU is not a representative body, we do our part in coming to you instead of expecting you to come to us. I just wanted to raise a few points, I did read the report; winter opt-out is November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be publishing opt-out numbers as we want to be as transparent as possible. The other point was the last paragraph in first section specifically mentioning the toxic culture of the UTSU, I think there's at least 3 first years here, it's just a rhetoric when it comes to student governance, groups are trying to put their best foot forward and change their reputation, we want as many people as possible to come to UTSU meetings, hopefully going forward can see more of you moving forward. I thank everyone for being here, if you have any questions let us know.

Thomas: Regarding the last paragraph, Angela and I we have fiduciary duty, I may accidentally drop a 'we/our' pronoun, and I catch myself, I won't speak on behalf of the UTSU, just for updates for council it makes it linguistically easier to use we/our, but the case is I'm not speaking on behalf of the UTSU, Josh is only one that can. When you meet with Angela or I you'll have to remember that we don't speak on behalf of the UTSU unless specifically written down by outreach committee; that being said when Angela and I communicate to the VCU, we have intent and purpose of having that voice hear at board level so governance does more accurately reflect that of the VCU.

Aminah: York took provincial government to court, and I know we have had U of T reps for some of the hearings, so are students being updated with proceedings of hearings, what is transparency with regards to that?

Josh: So I regrettably have to acknowledge our relationship with an external organization known as the Canadian Federation of Students; that lawsuit was a point of connection between the York Federation and Canadian Federation of Students. Historically the UTSU has not had best relationship with the CFS and for that reason we were not necessarily included in that lawsuit.

Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend for 10 minutes. Jay seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah

Josh: What I can say is that the government has a very poor argument as to the legal justification for the student choice initiative but our joint partner being York federation of students was not a



great example of the arguments raised. the biggest argument was university is the one enacting everything, and York didn't have a way to prove that false, Alexa can speak to this, the university has said to us that it's not their decision but the governments, the government is making us to A, B, and C, and York has been unable to prove that; it's at a point where we can't participate that much apart from sitting in the background, but that's the situation, we weren't involved in declaration even. It's just the result of a historical relationship we have and continue to have with CFS, if you have any other questions I am more than happy to talk about that.

Devon: VUSAC in past has endorsed referenda to lead the CFS.

Thomas: And you'll know I'm also in favor of leaving the CFS.

Vibhuti: I have a question, I commented this on the UTSU page but no one responded 😞 so I'll ask in person. When is the last day students can have to proxy their vote for the AGM, as well, I wanted to mention that communication to the UTSU is through me, Thomas and Angela and I have a robust relationship in which we speak a lot about what UTSU is doing and what Thomas and Angela are doing. If you want to bring any policy to the UTSU that you can do through me.

Thomas: Josh has the date.

Josh: I can double check but to the best of my knowledge it is October 25<sup>th</sup>, we want to keep it open 10 days from 15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>; I'll iron it out and forward it out to Alexa when we get more concrete details. I also mentioned community office hours, we usually only get 4 people, and there are so many snacks, so please come! Our next office hours are Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> at 12pm, right outside the VUSAC office, please come and ask questions, we will be there!

Cam: I think office hours are a great initiative, and I am excited to see that you are holding them!

Thomas: Come to my office hours too!

Motion: Vibhuti motions to recess for 5 minutes. Michelle seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: Spandan
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah, Massoma

### COMMISSION REPORTS:

**Academic (Lucy):** 3 minutes

[Summary] Hi everyone, I'm Lucy the Academic Commissioner. I wanted to firstly welcome all our new councillors, thank you for being here. I just have a few quick updates on the Academic Commission: Firstly - Networking dinner, please mark your calendars, it will be on Thursday January 23, alumni hall 6 30 - 10 30(ish)pm. It will be a very fun night together. For those who don't know, networking dinner is essentially an event put forward by Academic Commission every year. It's really just an opportunity to get alumni and students together and facilitate that whole experience. We will have keynote speaker this year. Will probably have opening remarks by Dean Kelly Castle or President Robbins and also a keynote speaker who will be an alumni. So that's (point) #1. We will also have



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a collaboration with the student society for stem cell research. We've had that in the past, that will be on November 14th probably, it will be very fun too. 3rd, this is my baby project. we are having a language learning cafe - for now it is a pilot program - event opportunity for students to come together and practice language - will start with Spanish as a test run, will look to add other languages later - currently will collaborate with Spanish students organization - will look to collaborate with other such as the U of T Language Learning Convention. Anyways, so that'll be fun. We are also collaborating with the Canadian diabetes network which will be in November as well. Vic will be partnering with Woodsworth and UC college, maybe also Innis - still to be decided. There will be a clothing donations drive - taking up all of NOV after reading week - please donate clothes if you have any around

Another point, we are having Academic Cochair hiring which will be very fun, I'm very excited. - We have all voted on policy already to allow Academic Commissioner to hire academic cochair - it will work similar to other cochairs, but for the academic portfolio - will bring many benefits - will nurture and enrich VUSAC environment

Just as with each of you as a member, it will

- bring new perspective and personality via their new role
- allow us to expand portfolio and our reach, and to put forward new ideas
- applications already prepared, just need to wait to have the vote to release them, so that it follows the official policy

So yeah, VUSAC is now hiring and Academic Cochair. Will keep you posted.

Study hub is changing dates from Monday to probably Wednesday - will keep us posted on this as well - most likely to be Wednesday. For those who don't know - Study hub is study sessions run with central U of T admin with the help of Registrar's and VUSAC. It is currently Mondays from 2-4pm - will change since facilitator can no longer run sessions at this time.

Lucy motions to extend for two minutes. Jay seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah, Massoma, Fatima

Sorry, I know you guys are all probably really tired...We will also have a collaboration with UN women, do not yet have a lot of info, will keep us posted. Funny random comment : I work with Caffiends, then I also work with VUSAC, and for the Language learning Cafe for catering order with Caffiends, had to email Caffiends with Vusac email and then reply with own email from Caffiends email being like "Hey I'm Lucy I'm putting on this event, and replying thank you Lucy, best regards, Lucy". And unrelated to VUSAC - RJ and MargAd may have meme contest - coordinating with resident council, that will be fun

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



Highball committee application released tomorrow (October 19th) - for those who don't know what Highball is, Highball is a year end formal event, big formal we put on. Applications will be released to general VCU tomorrow. To clarify, there will be a selection committee: Tran, Katie, upper year rep (will be Hannah), and hopefully a councillor who is not a part of my commission. If you'd want a part of that please let me know, and in addition, VUSAC members can apply for highball Committee - will be doing redacted equitable hiring, so that way I won't have your names when you apply, and that way we will have a fair hiring selection process. Applications open tomorrow, end November 1st 11:59 pm

**Sustainability (Aminah & Leila): 7 minutes**

Aminah: Hello everyone! So I'll quickly run through.. So we had an event for the election - seeing what role that climate plays in election, had small turnout, but a nice discussion upon individual actions and larger global scale action. Leila and I attended sustainability committee meeting this morning – so what we're trying to do, how we're trying to advertise ourselves is that we're there to support PhysPlant and the university in every way possible, to ensure policies they want to (implement) are implemented. Because and Lyndon who was in charge of both Ned's Cafe and Food Services did highlight that there are a lot of things with bureaucracy that they want to do but are not able to do. I think it's a sign for students to become more involved, so we will be setting up a subcommittee with them soon. Interesting fact - Vic and St Mike's refused 12% of St George's emissions. In relation to the Vic zero project supported by the Sustainability commission - launching petition on Monday - trying to get more sustainable goals in place within the strategic planning - that will be finalized over weekend. The first meeting on MONDAY, everyone invited, at 6:00pm in the VUSAC boardroom. And we will be holding a doc & talk on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Leila: Just to quickly add on to the petition, the idea is that it will serve as outline for a more thorough report to be later released. Idea is to get general student support for a very basic outline of some sustainability initiatives that we would want to see at Vic, not within VUSAC but within Vic generally for strategic planning. Idea is to send petition out to VCU to ask what interested in seeing, do they support what we put forward already, and essentially then have it sent to the board that has to do with the Strategic committee. That's the kind of general idea behind that, and then the outline provided in that petition will serve as an outline for a report later on.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS:**

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

[Summary] I'm just going to touch on a couple things really quick.

1 - is Emails - please check your emails at least once a day just to stay updated about what's happening

- Keys : Just a reminder that if you lose your keys it's a 50\$ charge so please don't do that



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For the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Christina mentioned that, so if you're interested in that, please speak with her

For office hours - you've all been sent the schedule, please take a look at it and just make sure - I've made a couple changes from the people who've let me know - please let me know if it doesn't work for you.

Councillor assignments were sent out yesterday - please get in contact with your teams if have not already. Check-ins on VUSAC - check-ins will be after reading week, that will be a short little time that you will each have a little one on one where I will check in on how your work with Vusac is going, so please stay tuned for that. The office - please keep the office clean, clean up after yourselves, we are all adults so please do that. And my last one - Retreat starts tomorrow and I'm really excited! - will see us all at 9:30am at Wymilwood lounge. Another note, please bring laptop to review documents on. If you do not have access to one, you can let me know and we'll sort something out. I'm excited to spend weekend with all of you!

### **VP Student Organizations (Cameron): 5 minutes**

[Summary] So I just had a couple of things to update everyone on. First of all, welcome and congratulations to new members. I just wanted to say a little bit about my role, so my role is to liaise with Vic clubs and levies - you will find out more about the difference between clubs and levies at the retreat tomorrow. But basically what that means is that I work a lot individually with levies - not all the work that I will be doing, you know, I won't necessarily share all the work that I've been doing over the past two weeks at our meeting as some of it can be kind of confidential and involve financial documents for example. As for what I have for you that I want to share with everyone is that first of all, as some of you may have noticed, VicXposure has moved into the VUSAC office! They are now in the second office, if you go past the front desk on your right, just past the VP's office, is the VicXposure office. And basically, VicXposure moved into that office as a result of a consultative process over the summer with them, Alexa and I, as well as the previous occupants of the office : the Environmental Fashion Show, and our goal was to ensure that both the VicXposure and Environmental Fashion Show's needs were met. Another thing I wanted to update everyone on, is Club and levy equity training. Massoma, Hannah and I held 6 sessions in conjunction with Mairi from Student Life as well as with some of her student facilitators and the sessions went really well. The majority of clubs and levies did meet VUSAC's equity training requirements which is 75% for levies and 50% for clubs. so we decided to count VUSAC equity training toward club and levy training, so I'm looking at the levy members in the room, so there's that, and your equity training will be tomorrow at retreat. For those who were not able to meet the requirements, what Massoma, Hannah and I decided was to allow them to attend U of T wide workshops facilitated by Mairi's office - seeing that some may not be able to make it for very legitimate reasons and we wanted to give them this alternative option- once we find out the dates for these sessions, they will be sent out to clubs and levies who have not met the requirements yet just to ensure that we are able to accommodate them as best as we can.





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Leila: So this is just to add onto VUSAC clubs and levies, we did get our Greenshift order in. So I think this also applies to VUSAC. So we now have over 7000 individual products that we would like you to utilize, so please use them. We haven't fully set up the system for distributing this, but it will be a take as needed system but we do want to keep some sort of inventory too. So we're still in the process of setting it up, but if you need something in the meantime you can grab it. It's in the back room.

Michelle: Just a general question, is there no requirement for commissions to undergo equity training?

Cameron: At Victoria College there is no requirement for commissions, there is one for clubs and levies. Last year was the first year that we piloted that, to ensure that our clubs and levies could meet the needs of the community, to have at least had some engagement with a body of a college that is equity. If a commission such as the Commuter Commission is interested in getting equity training for members - I or Massoma or Hannah can help you reach out to Ari or another facilitator for student life because I think that would be a very good idea, because VOCA for example, is very student involved.

### **President (Alexa): 10 minutes**

[Summary] Hello everyone, thank you for staying so late on a Friday - and welcome to VUSAC to our new members! Hopefully not all our meetings will go this late. Grad photography - for our new members, we are going to look at renegotiating for signing on to a new photography company for graduate photos. Part of that deal was that VUSAC will receive a review of these back to us. We have had a number of issues with former photography company which is (Lastman), some of them being the lighting not complementing fair skin tones, scheduling times, large cost to get photos and packages. And so right now we met yesterday with three of the companies, last weekend we asked for an additional contract with New Paramount and Lifetouch. We will be meeting next week to follow up with this company and hopefully sign a new contract. So that's exciting! This started last year. Next is on Tuesday this past week: VUSAC teamed up with Mental health policy council. Just as some background knowledge, I was quite disappointed in the lack of consultations. There was only one initially for the St. George campus, which was great but it wasn't as widely advertised. In the Cat's eye, Vibhuti and I met to discuss want questions we wanted to ask in this conversation and to make sure students felt safe in discussing them and to get the most out of these conversations. Computers - by time meeting ends: both new will be set up ; huge thanks to Kevin Yue for setting them up because I had no clue where to begin. So, they're really nice and beautiful and thank you student projects and VUSAC for finding the funding for that. We are still finding location for old monitors where to best utilize them. If you have any ideas please let me know. Victoria College website - while it is new and pretty, still have broken links. Overall if you have any thoughts or suggestions, or notice anything wrong with this website, please let Christina know and then we'll try figuring it out. I also attended strategic planning meeting with President Robbins. We really appreciated all feedback from students who attended. sending out survey soon



There will be one for VUSAC members – Friday October 25th at 5:30 pm. so please come, they want to hear from our experiences and we have a different relationship in some ways. We get to see some perspective that they want to hear from. I am looking forward to see your survey responses. Corn coming – shout-out to Tran and VOCA for their involvement as a part of VUSAC - and Michelle in her corn costume was on every student societies social media page that day. ASSU reached out to collaborate on coffee house event - just need to book space and promote given that we have a lot of Arts and Science students - should be in November Vic e news letters: You all should be receiving Vic e-news letters, if interested in being on Vic e-news, let me know and she can get us in touch to be on the page.

Just a couple more items to discuss – the Gardiner Gala - is very expensive event – the Dean's Office has previously contributed a lot - external catering has been close to 10k. We are trying to keep the event of this nature and this partnership with the Gardiner around, we would love to hear our thoughts on it and why we think it should be important to keep around. One potential solution - combining with semi formal which had discussed with Tran, so we are working with pricing to see if feasible, we are trying our best to make it happen!

**Tyler (Finance Chair): 3 minutes**

[Summary] For those who aren't familiar, I am the finance chair, the one who's in charge of money here. Budget process for fall term is currently ongoing and is later this year - for reasons namely the Student Choice Initiative. My update today is to inform everyone that intention is to push process by 6 days, some reasons due to me and other complexities. I will be grinding this weekend to get draft budget published by 24<sup>th</sup>, budget meeting to take place on 31<sup>st</sup>. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask

Vibhuti: What is the reason it is held on Thursday and not Friday?

Tyler: The reason is scheduling – I cannot do 3-5 on Friday before VUSAC meeting as he has a midterm and back to back meetings sounds terrible

Tran: I assume it will be in evening - I cannot attend, and if so, is presence important at that meeting to be there or can I send one of my councillors?

Tyler: I will have way to act on behalf at meeting or send notes to have input.

Jay: Is the budget ratification meeting also open like VUSAC meetings?

Tyler: Yes, it is open to everyone - as it is premised on ratification.

Alexa: Since it is on Halloween, excited for promo events for this meeting, going to be spooky (Halloween) what's scarier than the budget?

Jay: What time will it be at?

Tyler: Likely to be an earlier start time than 5pm.

Vibhuti: As a note, all VUSAC members are required to come or can send regrets to Tyler.

Alexa: You can also send a proxy.

Cameron: To clarify you must be elected member of VUSAC to be a proxy at meeting.

Rintaro: Will information be sent through email?

Tyler: I intend to send further meeting info after budget steering committee approves it.





**VP External (Vibhuti): 3 minutes**

[Summary] This will be very quick – tomorrow at retreat – we will go through platform points for this and next semester - place where new council members can ask questions about that. Menstrual product dispensers have been given to PhysPlant, Scott said if they are not up in next week, I should email them. Holly helped me very much by putting together a small info graph that will be laminated and put on dispensers explaining why and how they are there and all those things. Something I need to follow up with that had been started a month ago, I talked to shiny about the alcohol policy, but there has not been much communication so I will get on top of that.

Renaming Ryerson is happening, it is back on track and on agenda for this year – the February board meeting presenting revised proposal that was brought last year. For those who do not know about this we will chat a bit more about it tomorrow to get some context. It will be a fun and fulfilling process, but it's also going to be an intense one, and I am therefore excited to have councillors to balance out my portfolio. And that's all.

Motion: Tran motions to adjourn meeting. Michelle seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Vivian, Hannah, Massoma, Spandan, Fatima