



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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VUSAC Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2016 at 7 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

PRESIDENTS: Stuart Norton and Rahul Christofferson

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Hannah Brennan

Assessor Members

CHAIR: Saambavi Mano

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Taylor Cenac

SECRETARY: Artimes Ghahremani

Commissioners & Councillors

SCARLET AND GOLD: Zahavah Kay

SUSTAINABILITY : Jamil Fiorino-Habib

COUNCILLORS

LEVIES

GUESTS

Chris Knipe

Not In Attendance

OFFICIAL REGRETS

COMMUNICATIONS: Shailee Koranne

COMMUTER: Co-Chair Karen Indratmadja/ Commissionner Position Empty

ARTS AND CULTURE : Olivia Klasios

EQUITY : Co-Chair Zoe Kwan / Commissionner Position Empty

VP EXTERNAL: Stephen Warner [vote proxied to Jamil]

VP INTERNAL: Golda Greenspoon [vote proxied to Rahul]

FINANCE: Nicole Gumapac

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR: Emily Gilbert

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT : Nina Christianson [vote proxied to Zahavah]

ABSENT

Motion: Hannah moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Zahavah seconds. Motion passes.

- Abstained: Stephen
- Favour: Hannah, Golda, Rahul, Stuart, Zahavah, Jamil, Nina

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS AND UPDATES

CLC – No Report

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS AND UPDATES

Secretary – Artimes

Following up on the Pad and Tampon initiative – our proposal to Proctor and Gamble has been declined, as they feel the initiative is just not right for them at the moment. Moving forward, we plan on exploring other opportunities, one of which may be Student Projects. Another thought was to discuss budgeting for this initiative, which has been estimated to be around \$20 per month. If anyone has any questions or sponsorship suggestions, please contact Artimes, Shailee, or Saambavi.

Zahavah asks if we can ask members of the community who have never bought tampons to donate some. Jamil approves of this idea, but agrees that it would be nice to have sponsorship for sustenance, and recommends other places like Shoppers Drug Mart. Apart from this, donations would be interesting, but the budget suggestion is reasonable. Donations don't always come through, and the budget can be used as a back up.

Hannah agrees with Zahavah's idea, but is concerned about how we ask for donations. Jamil says we could do a good campaign, with funny videos. Saambavi says it is a good idea, and we can try to donate half elsewhere, like a shelter. Hannah suggests a pad and tampon drive in which we donate some of what we receive, as it would also reduce stigma around fem hygiene.

Chair – Saambavi

Saambavi moves to change the language in the constitution to gender-neutral pronouns. This would entail them/their pronouns. The motion has been separated into constitution and bylaw, because different amounts of votes are needed for each.

Motion: Rahul moves to approve changes to Articles V and IX in order to ensure gender-neutral language in the constitution. Zahavah seconds. Motion passes.

- Abstained: Stephen
- Favour: Hannah, Golda, Rahul, Stuart, Zahavah, Nina, Jamil

Motion: Rahul to approve changes to Bylaws 2, 8, 11, 15, 24, and 31 in order to ensure gender- neutral language in the constitution. Zahavah seconds. Motion passes.

- Abstained: Stephen
- Favour: Hannah, Golda, Rahul, Stuart, Zahavah, Nina, Jamil

JUDICIARY REPORTS AND UPDATES

President – Rahul and Stuart

Stuart says they have been looking at changing the current media policy, as the structure is currently somewhat informal. They have had their first meeting with Shailee, in which they looked over the Policy and Procedures Document for VUSAC and are working on it for September.

They have also met with main archivist, which was pertinent to institutional memory. Stuart says VUSAC has files from 2009, and they could look at them for background information should we need it. Hannah will be reaching out to clubs to see if they would like information stored in archives.

They also had a long meeting with Nicole, in which they discussed what she would like to see out of the budget structure and steering. They are looking to move forward with a semestered budget as opposed to a summer/school year divide.

Judiciary Meeting Summary: Golda is looking at starting a policy handbook, which would consist of two documents. One is internal – a standardized VUSAC ‘how-to,’ a policy document that would contain guiding principles and standards. Another goal is taking out articles from the constitution that are inappropriately there, instead moving to non-binding practices and mandates. They will be in contact for feedback. Stephen is looking into the student experience survey, potentially sending out two per year. Hannah discussed club storage, a change to come in September, as it is not as efficiently organized as it could be.

The Orientation Executives met with the Dean’s office, and have arranged to make traditional ceremonies in orientation week not gender segregated. They are taking place as a joint ceremony with aspects of each in Convocation Hall. We will all walk there as a group.

Hannah asks for clarification on whether there is only one ceremony, Rahul confirms. Chris asks if the decision to move off Vic campus was due to lack of space, Rahul says yes. Stuart clarifies that VUSAC’S role was brought forth due to concerns from the trans community, and students who felt the ceremony was non-inclusive. If anyone wants more information about the logistics, they can follow up with Diana, the Orientation Co-Chair.

Vice President External – No Report

Vice President Student Operations – Hannah

Hannah says that she has heard back from the clubs looking to apply for the upcoming school year. The Google form application is going well, and Shailee has added the websites of the clubs to the actual VUSAC website. VCEC is to be ratified for 2016-2017. VCEC is a safe place for students to engage with race, sexuality and class discussion. Students are empowered to be engaged citizens, and the organization encourages diversity in Canadian institutions through equity and leadership.

Motion: Hannah moved to ratify VCEC as a club for the 2016-2017 school year. Zahavah seconds. Motion passed.

- Abstained: Stephen
- Favour: Hannah, Golda, Rahul, Stuart, Zahavah, Nina, Jamil

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Rahul - Response to the Orlando Shooting

Rahul discusses ideas that could be applied to the recent shooting in Orlando, potentially healing spaces, events, etc. Chris suggests a vigil or a solidarity event, if they do not have a time restriction. Hannah says this has already occurred at the beginning of the week, and it may be too late. Jamil says it is not necessarily too late, there is freedom to make an event related to pride, but also recent events. Hannah asks if we are doing anything for pride, Saambavi says VUSAC currently is not. Rahul says we *can*, and we can get in contact with [pride]. Zahavah discusses whether we take a political stance or that of mourning, because the topics are intertwined. A uniform stance is required. Rahul says we can't take a neutral stance because it was more than a shooting, bigotry and discrimination are involved, and we must acknowledge that. Hannah says we are all in agreement that we should do something- but what? Zahavah says we could do something for Vic people, perhaps organize them to go to Pride. Saambavi says certain people were uncomfortable going to pride, and this would increase solidarity. Stu says because it is summer and we have a new equity co-chair adjusting, an effective way to do this is to work with another group on campus, offering assistance and advertising that to the Vic population. We may also consider having a more active social media presence, perhaps daily posts, publishing more and advertising the significance of this hate crime and systems of oppression.

Hannah asks if there is a series we can start, like a safe space throughout the year, considering that it is currently summer and people are not here. Chris seconds this, agrees that it makes sense. He also encourages posting and social media, reformatting what was done during black history month, posting information with more of an LGBTQ spin. We have to make it relevant to current events. Hannah asks if people think that there would there be a point in reaching out to the Dean's office. Rahul says it can be looked into, as the Dean is interested in the safety of students, and their ability to comfortably exist and express themselves. Moving forward, any larger discussion should have more than the 8 people currently present and should have an equity representative, as well as representation from racialized groups, LGBTQ, etc. We are making a safe space for all students- we need something to invite contribution from people who don't always get the opportunity to do so.

Taylor asks if this discussion is concerning what happened and remembrance of it, or if we are talking and trying to work against this kind of situation. Saambavi adds that though there are fewer people present than usual, it is good to talk.

Hannah asks if there is a timeframe for action to be taken. Rahul will look into getting in touch with other organizations across U of T, so Vic can help, or organize, or even just show up. In response to Taylor, there was no specific purpose for this discussion, just something we shouldn't be silent on. Hannah wants to get a statement out within the next very rapid period of time, as she feels this is a pressing issue. Rahul says they had put out a statement the day after the event, but more can be done.

Jamil likes the idea of doing something before pride. It is 2 weeks from now, so we have time to organize, and in the meantime we can have a drop in safe space in a vigil manner of expression. In recent years, pride parades have become more mainstream and accepted,

but there is still a political edge. VUSAC can get students into that mentality as one and then collectively go to the parade.

Zahavah says a vigil may not be pertinent considering the low traffic in this building. Instead, we may publish names of the victims somewhere. It wasn't just LGBTQ people, they were of a specific race and that shouldn't be ignored. She is not sure where this would be best done. Also, there have been published threats against Toronto Pride, and this is a big issue because there is a concern for safety v. solidarity. If we are encouraging people to go, we need to tell them, to avoid personal danger.

Stuart says that since this is recent, we would be responding now and trying to mobilize efforts during pride month. However, we need to consider bigger issues, respond now, and also address these six months from now and continue onwards. Also, there are some issues surrounding pride as an event that has been historically exclusive of the trans community. We should combine our efforts and see the bigger picture.

Hannah – Assessor Hiring Restructuring

Hannah says that it was discussed at a previous judiciary meeting that the way the committee works is not as effective as it could be. They have talked about reducing the number of judiciary members involved, potentially creating more than one committee. They are looking into drafting a constitutional amendment, and she wants to know who should be on each...

Suggested structure: **[Hannah please send me this list in your edits]**

Rahul says that we should make an effort to bring in non-judiciary or non-VUSAC individuals. It may be beneficial to have at least a commissioner, assessor, or people outside the VUSAC bubble. He and Stuart do not like the idea of separating the presidency, because they are two different people and need to be on the same page. That being said, each needs to be looked at on a case by case basis depending on need.

Hannah responds that she will reach out to people, review the structures and bring it back to a meeting. Stuart says that because this is a small meeting, and there are only 3 assessors here, it would be nice to have a follow-up discussion with all of them present, where they can comfortably speak. He recommends we do this before moving on to the next step of drafting a constitution.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND UPDATES

Commuter – No Report

Academic and Professional Development – No Report

Scarlet and Gold – Zahavah

Zahavah says the graduation pub night went well. Additionally, a survey will go out to VCU members about what they want to see in the upcoming school year regarding socials.

Sustainability – No Report

Equity - No Report

Arts and Culture - No Report

COUNCILOR REPORTS

None

Motion: Stuart moves to adjourn meeting. Hannah seconds. Motion passes.
Meeting is adjourned.

- Abstained: Stephen
- Favour: Hannah, Golda, Rahul, Stuart, Zahavah, Jamil, Nina