



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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

VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 27, 2014 at 5:10 PM in the Goldring Student Center

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

PRESIDENT

Rowan DeBues

Assessor Members

CHAIR

Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

SECRETARY

Ally Scandolo

Commissioners & Councillors

ACADEMIC & PROF. DEVELOPMENT

Robert Fan

ARTS & CULTURE

Conor Tangney

COMMUTER

SaraLi Forouzanfar

EDUCATION & EQUITY

Claire Wilkins

SCARLET & GOLD

Olivia Klasios

LEVIES

CAFFIENDS CO-MANAGER

Linh Nguyen

VOCA CO-CHAIR

Saad Khan

Not In Attendance

OFFICIAL REGRETS

No Official Regrets

ABSENT

COMMUNICATIONS

Sumeeta Farrukh

FINANCE

Ben Atkins

VP OPERATIONS

Enxhi Kondi

Rowan moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Conor seconds. Unanimously approved.

Rowan moves to approve agenda. SaraLi seconds. Unanimously approved.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *President* – Rowan
 - Caffiends Relocation
 - Rowan: I mentioned at the last meeting that we've been having discussions about the relocation of Caffiends. A week ago today, we were given an ultimatum by Dean Kelley Castle to make a decision as to where Caffiends will be moved. Due to increasing programming, Wymilwood Lounge is now out of question. It is fully booked for the coming year. We have to now decide between Cat's Eye or the Commuter Lounge. We were given a contract and I have brought it here to have it voted upon by VUSAC before I can sign it. The Caffiends Co-Managers released a poll and there was a response of over two hundred students voting on which space they would optimally like to see Caffiends in this coming year. The Cat's Eye received an average 2.4/5 and the Commuter Lounge received 1.7/5. My personal conundrum on this discussion is that students have been against the options we have been given to work with. We do need to follow the procedures of the Dean's Office, though we need to see what's needed for the organization as well. Everything Caffiends knows about the situation has been relayed through me and I am personally not comfortable with that. We have been told what will be happening with this situation and not given the opportunity to discuss what we would like our options to be.
 - Robert: I thought that last year Principal Esterhammer agreed with Jelena on the current location being suitable for Caffiends, I'm not sure why the Dean's Office wants to change this location. Does the Dean's Office not converse with the Principal on the subject?
 - Rowan: There has been the effective understanding that the location is suitable for Caffiends. The former VCR, the Victoria Common Room, is where Caffiends is currently. Jamie Janeiro said in meeting minutes during his presidency that Caffiends would move for 18 months to the "current" space, before returning to the VCR (original Caffiends space). Nothing has been put in writing; all decisions on the Caffiends space have been done through oral agreements. Dean Castle has said that even if it was written in the past, the space needs to change regardless because it is not suitable anymore and the space is needed for other purposes. I am partially uncomfortable with this space agreement because even if it is written, it seems like it can be simply overridden. Principal Esterhammer is currently out of the country and Kelley Castle has been assigned to Caffiends relocation.
 - SaraLi: Why was this not brought up before Goldring was built? This problem could have been solved while structuring the building.
 - Rowan: The decision was made this year after the building was put into use and they realized they did not have as much office space as needed.
 - SaraLi: Does the Dean's Office technically own Caffiends?
 - Rowan: The Board of Regents owns the space Caffiends is in currently, but the Dean's Office does not own or control Caffiends.
 - SaraLi: Then why isn't the Board of Regents discussing this?

- Rowan: Because there are no BoR meetings left in the summer, and there will not be any until September. Esterhammer is not here presently, which relays all discussion to Kelley Castle for the summer.

Claire enters at 5:18 pm.

- Rowan: The contract presented will be renewed every year between the VUSAC president and the Dean's Office. What has been occurring is a one-sided relationship; we've been informed and not consulted. My concern is that the Dean's Office will review the agreement and then we will be told that these are the facts, without consultation.
- SaraLi: Why are Cat's Eye managers not in attendance?
- Rowan: They are unavailable to make it currently. I have been in correspondence and they have said they will work with whatever the decision is. They are not happy with this by all means, but they won't let this decision affect whether a levy functions or not.

Straw Poll: Is VUSAC comfortable with making a decision on the contract today as it stands? Six opposed, one abstaining.

- Rowan: I do not think we should vote on this if we are unsure of our decision.
- SaraLi: Would it be possible to co-write a Caffiends contract with the Dean's Office?
- Rowan: We could write our own then bring it to them.
- SaraLi: I think if we do this they would be able to see what we are looking for in the relocation and in this contract if we can write part or all of the contract.
- Rowan: My ideal plan is to stall the decision and say we are uncomfortable making a choice on this agreement while students are not at school. Ask to leave Caffiends where they are currently and allow them to start the year in the old space. I believe this reasoning to be fair, as this decision will affect every single Victoria College student because all Vic students pay for the Caffiends levy.
- Linh: Will they allow us to stay there that long? I was under the impression they wanted Caffiends to move as soon as possible.
- Rowan: This is important to push their deadlines back as much as possible.
- Linh: I would like to stay for the rest of the summer, but it would be good to know where it is moving to in order to prepare.
- Rowan: I do not see it moving into the Commuter Lounge, the student polls show that this is not a desired location by any means. Does anyone have opinions with Cat's Eye versus Commuter Lounge?
- Robert: Where is the Commuter Lounge?
- Rowan: I think that this is proof enough that the location is not functional, as you are on VUSAC and unsure of it's location. It is below Ned's Café, where the lockers for commuter are located. Tom Osbourne said that money might be wasted on renovating Caffiends while it could be used on renovating Food Services instead. Those arguments do still stand because if these were concerns then, why are they not concerns now. Does anyone have any additional ideas in the matter?
- Conor: Change is almost inevitable, I suggest that Rowan and VUSAC draft a contract ourselves with Kelley because it may be a stronger proposal than if written between Rowan and Kelley. It may be good to have a conversation with Cat's Eye and Caffiends managers together,

as well. In a meeting with Kelley, bringing up the issues the Cat's Eye and Caffiends managers may have can give us a stronger case.

- Saad: Right now, Cat's Eye and Caffiends are levies. There needs to be a solid agreement in case of conflicts between the two sets of managers because both are separate organizations. My perspective is that Caffiends could boost the use of the commuter lounge and Caffiends will bring people to that space.
- Rowan: Commuter Lounge is underused not because people do not find it necessary, but because it is a bad space. Caffiends *would* pull more people down there, but I don't think it would be fair to allow a levy suffer in bad space.
- Conor: In the Cat's Eye, Caffiends would operating out of the same space as Food Services bar servery?
- Rowan: Yes, it would operate out of that area. I saw the space with Krista Steeves and Scott Johnson, there are fridges and sufficient space. But, it would need renovation to meet Caffiends needs.
- SaraLi: How long would renovations take?
- Rowan: If started now, it would be completed for September.
- SaraLi: What if they were allowed to keep their space as it stands? Would they work on it throughout the year?
- Rowan: Yes, it would be renovated and moved from one to the other throughout the year. If we can stall till September, that would also allow the majority of students who want Caffiends to stay in Old Vic to express these sentiments. How would everyone feel if we ask for student, staff and alumni support of keeping it in Old Vic? Alumni have been the most vocal in this discussion and many have contacted me in order to tell me to not let this happen. Former VPE, Craig Ruttan, from when Caffiends was formed said to stall in order to garner student support. Former VUSAC president, Catherine Brown, along with Craig suggested a Vic alumni and staff support system for the space. If we can stall for time, would you like me to investigate this?
- Robert: There is a large amount of alumni who work at Vic and U of T who will support this whom I have been in contact with.
- SaraLi: How many offices would they want to put in the Caffiends space?
- Rowan: One.
- SaraLi: Can this one office wait till other space becomes available without removing Caffiends?
- Rowan: We will be regaining the Birge- Carnegie building in two years and I would like to suggest holding off this one office space until Birge is returned to our use.
- Robert: Number six in the contract says there will be the Manager of Food Services, the Manager of Caffiends, the President of VUSAC and a Dean's Office Representative sitting on the operational committee. Will this not influence the autonomy of Caffiends? In the VUSAC constitution, By-Law #34 has the VUSAC Internal Review committee that has more student representatives than Dean's Office in order to represent the student needs.
- Conor: The terms of this contract and committee set up seems similar to that of the hiring committees I have say on.

- Rowan: Robert is pointing out the committee is 50/50 Dean's Office and students, I believe it's important for students to have the plus one.
- Claire: Is there office space in Birge-Carnegie as of right now?
- Rowan: There may be some professor's offices, but there is a lot of space currently occupied by the Faculty of Law that could be opened up and utilized by Vic. Places like the old Wymilwood lounge is very big.

Linh exits at 5:45 pm.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Commuter* – SaraLi
 - Commuter Commissioner Constitutional Amendments
 - SaraLi: I have been going through the constitution and looking at the by-laws pertaining to the commuter commissioner, I have collected many minor changes to be made to the constitution pertaining to these parts.
 - Gabe: Did you explain your reasoning for your adjustments? Are any major constitutional changes?
 - SaraLi: Most are minor grammar or word changes, but the largest change would be changing the name of VOCA to the Commuter Commission. I wanted to bring that to the council to get other opinions on this change.
 - Saad: We as co-chairs are unsure of where to go with the name change. Calling it the Commuter Commission may offer
 - Claire: I know a lot of people are used to the name VOCA and may be confused about what their resource is as a commuter if VOCA disappears.
 - Rowan: The commuter commission is fairly straightforward and it is technically more accessible than VOCA. As a first year, VOCA may not be understood immediately. In regards to tradition, I think if the name change does not necessarily change the spirit of what VOCA is, then it should function.
 - Olivia: I think it should be kept as VOCA, it is familiar to the Vic community. I know as a first year it could be confusing, but it's an acronym just like VUSAC. It's something you learn when you're a first year here within your first week.
 - Conor: I personally think VOCA sounds better than Commuter Commission.
 - Claire: On the other hand, if you are a commuter, you may not even be on campus often. Being someone who isn't here often, seeing Commuter Commission over VOCA would be more easily understood and direct.

Conor exits at 5:50 pm.

- Saad: If we change the name to Commuter Commission, then there may be confusion about my position since I am going to be the Commuter Commission Co-Chair. This may be confusing in comparison to SaraLi's title as the Commuter Commissioner.

- SaraLi: People are sometimes unaware of the fact that Saad and I are equals on VOCA as co-chairs, I just also hold the position on VUSAC as the Commuter Commissioner.
- Olivia: I think it is important to first make it clear what VOCA does in comparison to the Commuter Commission on VUSAC.
- SaraLi: I agree, though people also need to be aware that VUSAC and VOCA are affiliated.
- Rowan: If we were to change the name, the implications should first be discussed amongst the VOCA co-chairs and the judiciary. It would be irresponsible to pass any changes without discussing the details amongst us first then presenting them to the council.
- Robert: There should also be more information on the VUSAC website about VOCA and what it does. If people want to get involved and understand what exists at Vic, we should give more information.
- SaraLi: If you click the Commuter tab on the VUSAC website, it leads you to all the information on both VOCA and the Commuter Commissioner.

Motion 7: Rowan moves to table the discussion on the VOCA name discussion till the next meeting. Robert seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

○ Commuter and Residence Alliance

- SaraLi: There was a Residence and Commuter Alliance a few years ago, I believe it would be good to resurrect. It does not fall under my umbrella, but I thought it would be a good idea to bring to the table to discuss. I was told that Residence affairs did not technically fall under the jurisdiction of VUSAC, but I believe there needs to be more programming for both res and commuter students at Vic to come together.
- Rowan: Was it Scott Johnson who told you VUSAC and Residence students were separate? Yes, we have had a commuter-minded focus but I disagree since all Vic students pay into VUSAC and our programming. I think it is in our business to have both groups in mind. Right now, we have no residence students or presidents on campus; but we can strike a committee and bring these people together with VOCA to create a Residence/Commuter Alliance.
- SaraLi: It would be mostly event-based work in order to bring people together. Would we be able to insert the committee and the alliance into the constitution?
- Rowan: I do think we can put it in the constitution.
- SaraLi: Scott was saying that funds needed for events would have money coming from different places, from VUSAC, the VOCA levy and the Dean's Office.
- Rowan: There are many events that are split between the Dean's Office and VUSAC, like grad banquet or Festive Dinner. I'm sure it shouldn't be an issue. Who would you like to see on this committee?
- SaraLi: The residence presidents, my co-chair and myself would be on it. I would also like a Commuter Don, Residence Don, the commuter councillor and a commuter and a residence student.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TIME

- Claire: Are we going to have any involvement in Frosh Week?
- Rowan: Yes! Enxhi and myself are working on a few events for Frosh that involves VUSAC. Enxhi is running the majority of these VUSAC events, so be prepared to be available that week. You will all be made aware of what's happening in early July.

Motion 8: Olivia moves to adjourn meeting. Robert seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 6:08 pm.