**VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

September 16th, 2016 at 5 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

**In Attendance**

**VUSAC**

**Judiciary**

PRESIDENTS: Stuart Norton and Rahul Christofferson

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Hannah Brennen

VP EXTERNAL: Stephen Warner

VP INTERNAL: Golda Greenspoon

**Assessor Members**

CHAIR: Saambavi Mano

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Taylor Cenac

SECRETARY: Artimes Ghahremani

COMMUNICATIONS: Shailee Koranne

FINANCE: Nicole Gumapac

**Commissioners & Councillors**

SCARLET AND GOLD: Zahavah Kay

SUSTAINABILITY : Jamil Fiorino-Habib

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT : Nina Christianson

COMMUTER: Co-Chair Karen Indraatmadja/ Commissionner Position Empty

ARTS AND CULTURE : Olivia Klasios

EQUITY : Co-Chair Zoe Kwan / Commissionner Position Empty

**COUNCILLORS**

**LEVIES**

**GUESTS**

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR: Emily Gilbert

Hamboluhle Moyo

Garnet Lollar

Melinda Hector

Ahmad Ilyas

Yasmine Shelton

George Wilson

Chris Knipe

Thomas Lynch

Hana Nikcevic

Zayneb Ragheai

Jaime Redford

Stephanie Spagnuolo

Annick Beaucherne

Sumeeta FArrukh

Simran Kataria

Kathleen Mahoney

Assad Hussain

Peter Huycke

Land Recognition: Rahul

Motion: Stuart moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Stephen seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

\* Hannah’s updates moved up before discussion items

**EX-OFFICIO REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*CLC – Emily*

**Co-Curricular Record**

Emily distributes materials on the co-curricular record, where students’ non-academic involvement can be recorded. Emily notes that not all involvement positions are listed on the sheet. If not, you can email Ketri. At this time, it is too late to add involvement from last year.

Secondly, September 25th is student leader day. You do not have to be in an appointed leadership position to come, all are welcome. The event starts at 10:00 and ends at 4:00, Emily asks that you encourage people to attend.

Saambavi strikes the Student Projects Update from the agenda.

*Vice President Student Operations* – Hannah

**Ratifications**

Hannah will go through each club, then omnibus them to have them ratified all together.

[List of clubs and their descriptions. Hannah’s edits **not sent in.**]

Stuart asks if the Environmental Fashion Club is applying independently, since their budget goes through sustainability. Hannah responds they want club autonomy in addition to receiving sustainability funding.

Zahavah asks if as an exec on one of the clubs, she must abstain from voting. It is decided that Baegals will be voted on separately. Stephen requests the same for the Werewolf club.

Nicole asks about the status of TBA and others which are operating outside of Victoria College. Hannah responds that they will not be provided funding, but will have access to Victoria College space.

Hannah moves to omnibus 26 clubs [Hannah’s edits **not sent in**]. Zahavah seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: all
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Olivia moves to extend Hannah’s time by two minutes. Steve seconds. Motion Passes.

* Favour: all
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Hannah moves to ratify the twenty-six clubs. Olivia seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: all
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Hannah moves to ratify werewolf. Stu seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: Stuart, Rahul, Hannah, Golda, Zahavah, Jamil, Nina, Olivia
* Abstained: Stephen
* Opposed:

Hannah moves to ratify Baegals. Golda seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: Stuart, Rahul, Stephen, Golda, Jamil, Nina, Olivia
* Abstained: Hannah, Zahavah
* Opposed:

**UTSU Clubs Summit**

Hannah says the UTSU Clubs Summit is an event collaboration expected to be held on October 7th, but the date is to be finalized. It will be an evening of programming and an opportunity for club heads to meet. Hannah says there are similar things happening across campus, and it would be good to use each other’s resources. There will be more information to come, if there are any questions, email Hannah.

**VPSO Contingency Fund**

Hannah says they are starting a contingency fund for students who want to start new clubs after the budget deadline. Previously, they would have had to wait until the following year to do so, so there will be money set aside for clubs started later in the year. If you would like to start a club now, contact Hannah.

**General Updates**

Hannah says the clubs fair, which happened during frosh week, went well. Many groups have new sign-ups, and the google form system went over well. Additionally, Hannah is still working on a space booking system, and has met with Maria to make space more accessible. If anyone has suggestions/anecdotes, talk to Hannah.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Hannah – Changing the Name of the Judiciary*

Hannah revisits a discussion which was brought up over the summer. All other student groups on campus have ‘executives’. The name ‘judiciary’ is intimidating, and wrong. Hannah wanted to bring this idea to a meeting and see what people thought about changing name to ‘core executive,’ as the ‘executives’ would be the commissioners.

Nicole says at University College, finance was a part of the core exec, and this is something for consideration.

Golda says VUSAC gets to decide who they want included, and this should simplify things.

Stephanie asks what councillor positions would be called. Hannah says this needs to be figured out, asks if Stuart will respond directly. Stuart says currently, the executive does not include councillors. This is potentially based on election timing. If the framework is kept the same, councillors would not be included.

Steve clarifies that currently, the executive is already defined as commissioners plus judiciary, and agrees with the change.

George asks if judiciary meetings would be replaced with all voting members. Olivia responds that they are just looking to rename the judiciary, not to revaluate council. Olivia acknowledges that using terms like core executives would be confusing and would make it less accessible, as the jargon would get jumbled up. Golda responds that the idea is that judiciary is incorrect, but there are other possibilities, and they are open to suggestions. Hannah adds that the judiciary were hoping to get suggestions, because they cannot use the term ‘executive’. Zahavah says using the term ‘core executive’ creates a hierarchy and gives a negative impression about councillor positions. To avoid a two-tiered system, Zahavah encourages them to think about a term that doesn’t have the word executive.

Steve asks if the current executive actually does anything. Stuart responds that it is more of a title. In the past it has been looked at for executive meetings, and there is a difference – commissioners have a goal oriented commission, there is more support. Historically, there has been no purpose to the executive.

Stephanie echoes Zahavah’s point about hierarchy, as councillor positions are viewed as entry level positions, and VUSAC should be trying to eliminate that reputation. Stephanie sees a power imbalance being formed if this is the case. Olivia says there is stigma around the councillor position, but it is an entry level position because there is no portfolio - you get to put your hand in everything, there should not be negative stigma around that.

Garnet asks if there was a decision made, Saambavi clarifies it was just discussion.

Nina moves to extend the time by 4 mins. Hannah seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: Stuart, Rahul, Hannah, Golda, Zahavah, Jamil, Nina, Olivia
* Abstained:
* Opposed: Stephen

*Nicole – Budget Steering Policy 2016 to 2017*

Nicole reviews the Budget Steering Policy, which was sent out with the agenda. Nicole will go over the document. Hannah asks if the file could be made accessible online.

In the preamble, the document includes definitions, fee information, and outlines of the roles of VUSAC.

The second section names exclusions, or items VUSAC cannot provide funding for. Some examples of this are direct charity contributions, member only retreats, etc.

The third section outlines the budget process timeline. The budget has been restructured to a two term system, in which the first is slightly longer. Term one runs from May 1st to November 13th. Term two runs from November 14th to April 30th.

When reviewing requests, the factors outlined in the document will be taken into account, some of which are the degree to which it will benefit VCU members, the number of participants or contributors to each budget line, and whether the club, levy, or commission addresses an underrepresented niche on campus, etc.

The fourth section lists alternative sources for accessing funding both at Victoria College and at the University of Toronto.

The document then outlines policies for reallocation. Funds not spent after the first term can be used elsewhere.

There is then an overview of the VPSO Contingency Fund, accountability mechanisms, and the auditing process.

Saambavi makes the policy available on the event Facebook page.

Nicole says the reason for this review is to ensure transparency and accountability.

*Nicole – VPSO Reallocation Contingency Fund*

Nicole says it was already covered.

*Nicole - Review of Term One Budget Meeting and Term Two Budget Meeting Reminders*

Nicole says on Aug 31, the Term One budget meeting was held and all was ratified. An email will be sent out by next week.

Nicole reviews the key dates for Term Two. Nicole will send out a reminder email on September 24th. October 15th is the deadline and the Term Two meeting will be held on November 3rd. This gives VUSAC some time to sort things out if necessary.

*Jamil – Potential Proposal for Green Shift Orders*

Jamil thought it would be good for clubs to use VUSAC as a resource for their events in order to access biodegradable cutlery and plates. It would make VUSAC a liaison for all these clubs, they would either order the cutlery as needed, or have an amount ready and on hand. Jamil asks whether existing groups would be willing to go along with this idea. If VUSAC would cover all ground, this would make things simple.

Hannah says for groups that already do that and budget for this, would it still be in their budget or would VUSAC cover the cost? Jamil says they would propose their order, and it would be ordered with secretary supplies.

*Steve – You Decide CFS Defederation Campaign*

Steve says last year the Canadian Federation of Students was discussed. It is a student union of student unions. Everyone in the room pays into it through the UTSU. A group of students started a campaign to hold a petition for continued membership. They want to hold a referendum to see if UTSU members would like to pay student fees. The first step is a petition, and Ahmad from Woodsworth will speak to this.

Ahmad says the CFS is an umbrella of organizations, and students all pay fees. The CFS is a representative group at the national and provincial level. The reason for the issue is related to transparency and accountability. You Decide begins the process and puts the issue towards students, getting a petition signed and taking steps beyond that. The campaign does not take a position on the outcome of the referendum. There is some merit towards being involved in the CFS, the goal is to take the matter before students. Pushing over 10 years, it is a good idea to pose the matters to students repeatedly. One of the reasons the campaign has been brought forward is a change in membership – there were previously 2 classes of membership, now 1. 13 000 signatures are needed for the petition. The graduate student union attempted something similar, and eventually needed litigation. One of the best results was the post-secondary metropass. There have been issues on what they actually do in terms of lobbying – members were kicked out during the last election.

Simran asks what is planned in terms of litigation. Ahmad responds 13 000 is a good estimate because it is over the 20% threshold. You Decide’s efforts focus on making sure they make their attempt as litigation-proof as possible. The spearhead has signed a retainer with a lawyer.

George asks if being on the CFS is undemocratic, and whether there is there a reason why it is so hard to leave. Ahmad responds that the UTSU makes a fair indictment over the actual process being burdensome. Ahmad considers cultural reasons, with student solidarity being one of the ways issues can be brought up, having the ability to leave easily restricts solidarity.

Stephanie asks if the referendum vote would use in-person ballots. Ahmad responds the only CFS referendum online was at Guelph, and was done through litigation, as the judge found that there was a culture of online voting at Guelph. The chances of that happening again are very low.

Stephen wants to bring up a primer of what has been happening, if this is interesting, Steve is involved and has petition forms for those interested in collecting signatures. It will be an exciting year, this will be brought up again, any other questions about student politics outside of Victoria College can be brought to Stephen.

**ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*Nicole*

Nicole notes that any cheque requests can be submitted now.

**JUDICIARY REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*President* – Rahul and Stuart

**St. George Roundtable Updates**

Stuart says the St. George Roundtable is a body of elected student leaders which meet regularly and put forward events. Homecoming is happening tomorrow [Saturday, September 17th] from 11:00 to 4:00. 11:00 to 1:00 will be a pregame rally on the Trinity College back field with activities. It is an intercollegiate event, and should be fun. From 1:00 to 4:00 is the football game v. York. There will be free admission with your t-card. Come out for fun and school spirit.

The St. George Students Alliance is a student union that has been incorporated. It used to be the St. George Students Union, the idea is for it to be a union for St. George students only, as opposed to the UTSU which includes UTM. There are talks at establishing a new union which does not collect fees. They are looking at consultations and bylaws for the new union. Background information will be published on the Facebook event page. There will be a town hall next Monday. The St. George Students' Alliance proposes to create a student group to look after and serve first-entry undergraduate students on the St. George campus exclusively, comprising the seven Colleges and first-entry Professional Faculties. Much in the way that the SGRT brings together students in the colleges and faculties to collaborate among each other and share knowledge and resources, the SGSA would formalize this relationship and give the organizations a democratic mandate accountable to students. If you are interested in knowing more, stop by the town hall next Monday. Nick and Ramsey are working on drafting bylaws, or reach out to Rahul or Stuart. Stuart notes that this is not an endorsement or rejection, just a suggestion.

**Update on Presidential Summer Report**

Rahul says at the beginning of year the presidents give a report of what they have done over the summer. The report will be ready by next meeting, compiling their work and office hours. Any questions can be posed to them before then too.

**Administration Meetings**

Stuart and Rahul had meetings with administration over the summer. Included were President Robins, the Dean’s Office, the Principal’s Office, the registrar, the bursar, and event services. They will go into more depth in their summer report.

Stuart adds they have met with everyone but the chancellor, who is more of a ceremonial position and doesn’t directly relate to students. They are seeking general student connections, as historically administration has been disconnected from students. It is a positive way to move forward.

**UTSU Sexual Violence Policy Consultation**

Stuart was approached by UTSU President Jasmine regarding the Sexual Violence Policy Consultation to take place next Monday from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Multifaith Centre. Organized by UTSU members, the consultation is in regards to the lack of relevant policy at the University regarding sexual violence response and protocol. It has not been reviewed in 19 years, and Victoria College also refers to this. At the town hall, there will be counsellors on site and they are ensuring accessibility. The Vice Provost is in full support of this consultation, and has been meeting with college and pro-fac heads. They are engaging students in a significant way, but there can always be work done on centering the appropriate people. Stuart encourages students to stop by or send an email to either of the VPs. There will be a link on Facebook to the draft policy to be presented.

**UTSU Services at VUSAC**

Stuart says last year, VUSAC members met with the UTSU VPI to talk about establishment of UTSU services to sell at VUSAC. They have tickets to sell at discounted rates, and VUSAC wants to bring them from the UTSU office to the east side of campus for accessibility. The current agreement has no expiration date, but they never ended up moving forward moving tickets. Stuart brings this up for brief feedback before purchasing tickets for the year to come. They sell Cineplex passes, Ripley’s tickets, comedy shows, etc. (basic front desk services). VUSAC cannot bring metropasses because the TTC is looking to phase them out, maybe bringing in Presto. Garnet adds the AGO, Medieval Times, Casa Loma, Archers Arena, Raptors, CNE.

**General feedback from the room is positive.**

Peter asks what the sales were for last year. Stu responds nothing was purchased from the UTSU last year, as the agreement was never followed up on.

Hamboluhle asks if voters should go around and say which ones are wanted. Stuart says they will talk after.

Steve asks for sales info from UTSU to see how well things do. Stu says nothing is committed, VUSAC can see what the options are.

*Vice President External* – Steve

**Summer Update**

Steve was working on a report that outlines how VUSAC fits in the broader governance at U of T. It will be finished by the time councillors are elected. There will be a meeting with the Burwash president to collaborate with residences, also with other building presidents. Caucus was planned to be next week, but will be held later in October. Finally, Steve is working on a student experience survey, which was held off until staff got back from the summer, hoping to restart talks on that soon.

Saambavi asks for clarification on caucus. Steve says it is an AGM for students. If you are on VUSAC you must attend, clubs, dons, and anyone else CAN attend. It will be a forum to talk about things happening at Vic, where Vic is and where Vic is going. It is a nice opportunity to just talk.

*Vice President Internal –* No Report

**COMMISSION REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*Commuter* – No Report

*Academic and Professional Development* – No Report

*Scarlet and Gold* – Zahavah

Zahavah says next Thursday will be the Back to School Pub Night at the Duke of York. Advertising will start next week. If you could share those posts and attend, it would be lovely. Also, it is an all ages event with a wristband policy. VUSAC wants a big turnout, space is not an issue. Come have fun. If anyone wants to volunteer, there are spots left. Any song requests can be sent to Zahavah over Facebook.

*Sustainability* – No Report

*Equity –* No Report

*Arts and Culture –* No Report

**COUNCILOR REPORTS**

None

Motion: Olivia moves to adjourn the meeting. Jamil seconds. Motion passes.

Meeting is adjourned.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

\*Hannah absent from room.