



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
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VUSAC MEETING MINUTES

February 8th, 2018 at 3PM in the Goldring Student Center

In Attendance

Judiciary

PRESIDENT: Zahavah Kay
VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Nickolas Shyshkin
VP EXTERNAL: Katie Cohen

Assessor Members

SECRETARY: Emma Lailey
COMMUNICATIONS: Jade Koh
FINANCE: Graham Allison
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Stephanie Xu

Commissioners

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Zoe Ritchie
EQUITY: Shailee Koranne
COMMUTER: Gabriel Calderon
SUSTAINABILITY: Jared Connoy
ARTS AND CULTURE: Blanaid McNally

Councillors

James Hannay (Left at 4pm, proxy is Alexa)
Alexa Ballis
Ally Johnston
Haleema Khan
Devon Wilton (late)
Cynthia Wong
Vibhuti Kacholia
Cameron Davies

Guests

UTSU VICTORIA COLLEGE DIRECTOR: Jayde Jones
VOCA CO-CHAIR: Emilia De Fabritiis
CAT'S EYE CO-MANAGER: Berenice Alvarez

ACTA VICTORIANA CO-EIC: Carl Abrahamsen
VICEXPOSURE CO-PRESIDENT: Hana Nikcevic
THE STRAND CO-EIC: Molly Kay
ORIENTATION CO-CHAIR: Ali Kehl

Regrets

VP INTERNAL: Artimes Ghahremani
SCARLET AND GOLD: Stephanie Spagnuolo (proxy is Gabe)
CHAIR: Sayeh Yousefi

Land Recognition: Nick (1 minute)

I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

Motion: Zoe moves to approve the minutes from the VUSAC Meeting on January 26th, 2018 as it stands. Haleema seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Additions to the Agenda (maximum 3 minutes per addition)

- Katie to add (3 minutes) for a Levy update
- Graham moves Acta Victoriana Update into Pressing items category, before their Discussion Item "Acta Victoriana Constitution," Carl A. (3 minutes)

Motion: Blanaid moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Jared seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Pressing Items:

- Motion to give Louisa Yearwood (Alumni Affairs Office) speaking rights - Devon

Motion: Devon moves to give Louisa Yearwood from the Alumni Affairs Office speaking rights for an update. Shailee seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

- Ratification of orientation co-chair, Ali Kehl

Motion: Katie moves ratify Ali Kehl as Orientation co-chair for 2018 Orientation. Zoe seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: Zahavah
- Opposed: None

[Applause]

- Acta Victoriana Levy Update (3 minutes) - Carl A.

[Summary] Hi, I'm Carl. I'm one of the co-editors and chief of Acta Victoriana. We're just doing this update because there were some things we thought we wanted to address for transparency and to give background on why we are proposing the constitution as it is written. Over the last two years of Acta Victoriana a number of the administrative duties of the editor-in-chief were not fulfilled, yes, this includes printing of the journal, hosting the launch party, paying the design editor, maintaining the website maintenance. For that reason, for this year we had to start out by making sure those things were checked. Not everything—One of the problems that was left from the lack of fulfillment of duties, was that a lot of our documents went missing. We have not, the last constitution we have on record was from 2013. We don't have full financial records...We recently found out that we owned the Dean's Office about \$500 for an event that was hosted from 2015, and the cheque was never given. But mostly, now, we are in full order. The website is up and running. We held a launch party during the summer. We just held our second launch party for our latest issue, where we had a record attendance. We are accepting submission for our second issue with the deadline ending on February 16th. But, I wanted to give that update both so that it is in the minutes for the members of the UTSU and also to explain that in this constitution, we are changing the structure of the Acta Victoriana, which is in part to make it less reliant on one to two editors-of-chief so that in case of illness, or stress, or whatever, that the maintenance of the journal is not excessively reliant on one or two people and can continue to function. So, that's it.

Discussion Items:

- Acta Victoriana Constitution (10 minutes) - Carl A.

[Summary] One thing, so I wasn't here at the meeting when you discussed the honorarium for sign editors, but I heard your feedback through Nick. We agreed that as it is written, in the original one, it does look like it can be put forward multiple times. We've slightly changed the wording 'per the printed edition' to make it clear that the way we—the honorarium is only rewarded if an edition is produced. Like, you can't produce unlimited editions. They are relatively long lasting processes (typically it takes two to four months, costing around four thousand dollars) so the only way you would be able to cash in on this clause multiple times would be nothing short of something like printing sham issues on the VUSAC printer. That sort of behaviour would be improper with other lines in the constitution. The other reason why we don't want to have a limit is because there have been requests throughout the years do write extra/special issues and we don't want to put constitutional limits to that kind of projects. Because of course, if they desire to write an extra issue they would have to put in the extra work as well. Other things, again we don't have a past issue here, the two or three very new things is that we are changing the structure of the exec to add "Poetry and Prose" editors on the executive, we've added a line about the type of content that we publish specially saying "no racist, sexist, homophobic" so on content and we've also added a small section to blind submissions which was a request from the editors this year that in certain cases when the appropriateness of a text may depend on background information about the author, we can provide such information if the writer has volunteered it in their email.

Zahavah: I wanted to speak to the honorarium clause. I fully respect the necessity of paying people for their labour if there is a third edition, and someone is putting in the other work of printing another edition that they should be compensated for it, but I think that the way that it is worded right now goes against the nature of what a constitution is. Constitutions don't exist for when people are doing their job correctly, if you're doing your job write you don't really need a constitution. Constitutions exist largely to stop people from abusing their power. And so, I have every faith that no one would ever abuse this power, but I think that there is no point in having this constitution if it is not going to limit this possibility. And I think that given what you were saying about if there were to be a special third edition or if it were to grow as a levy, just a reminder that constitutions can be amended, at any point. And you could also, as a kind of halfway solution, add that it is five-hundred dollars per printed edition up to two editions, with the sub-clause that if there were going to be third edition that the honoraria needs to be voted and approved on in a VUSAC meeting for that third edition's honoraria. As a way to safeguard, again, not saying there is no suspicion on anyone, but potentially five years down the road you don't know who will be in charge of Acta and there have been situations, across every council, club and levy, of executives and levies who do abuse their power. So, if we had trustworthy heads to the levy then we wouldn't need this clause, but just in case we don't, I think adding something along the lines of 'another honoraria would need to be approved in a VUSAC meeting' would be good just to ensure it's not happening behind closed doors. That would be a good safeguard against that.

Carl: So, I fully understand that point, especially given the past of the levy. The main reasons why we didn't see a reason to change it is because I'm not clear about what kind of abuse of power you are worried about that wouldn't already be disallowed by other areas of the constitution. Particularly, it is the job of the editor-in-chief to decide how many editions they want to print. And there are several clauses, particular in article one, that outline the editor-in-chief's duties, so that if they were printing a large number of low quality editions, then that would be fully disallowed by the constitution and they would be able to be impeached either by VUSAC or by the editorial board. So, I think that that kind of activity is already fully covered by the constitution.

Zahavah: Is it specific enough, that if you were to say 'oh, this is sub-par quality,' is there a specific measure of length, of quality, that we can use so it is not a judgement call, of future VUSAC executive versus future Acta editors? Just to safeguard from the argument that 'we think this is sub-par quality,' well 'we think *this* is sub-par quality.' We need something really tangible so that we can say this is a rule and there is measurable, quantifiable evidence for it.

Carl: I mean, maybe there might be a reasonable rule we can come up with. I'm a little hesitant to write any kind of rule to the kind of content in the constitution about those areas because I don't want to hinder on creative freedom of future editors-of-chiefs. One of the things that is really important to Acta is the ability to sort of creatively morph into different things over its 140th year life span. So, it does say—I mean you're right, it may be problematic that it is a judgement call—It says in the article 'it seeks to publish high quality literature and it seeks to maintain the journal's standing.' My gut feeling is that in any case that this were to be accused - and I think these cases are extremely niche because it would be the editor-in-chief's call and the editor-in-chief isn't getting an honorarium, the design editor is--I think it would be very clear that it is substandard quality. I think it would be very clear that it is substandard quality. Again, it is very, very expensive to print journals and the main part of it is not the quality of the pages or the page numbers, because the pages come at a very fixed cost, so even if you were to print ten pages at a revenueable cost, it would come out to about two to two and a half thousand dollars and there simply isn't money in the Acta budget to be able to do that more than two or three times a year. I

still think that it is covered by the constitution, but I do see your worries. I would be—if the board was to pass this constitution, I would be happy to try and come up together with members of VUSAC a reasonable criteria to try to put into to try to maintain quality, but I don't really see that it is necessary for the constitution.

Jayde: I just have a question which I guess is half directed to Carl, half directed to Graham and half direct—that's not how halves work—anyway, half directed to Zahavah. So, levies don't submit budgets, like they don't have to submit budgets right? [You do?] Okay so, does VUSAC just not have the ability if they requested an extra five-hundred dollars to pay a design editor for a third issue to be like, 'no, you can't have that this year.' Wouldn't that kind of be a failsafe? I don't know the answer, which is why I'm asking.

Motion: Katie moves to extend discussion time by 5 minutes. Jared seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Graham: I will respond to that directly. This year, we have been making sure that all honoraria are in the constitutions. So, if an honorarium is being paid out—or, how much is the design editor's honorarium? It would be a one thousand dollar honorarium for the design editor? [Carl nods] Okay, so you will need to go through the finance department. They check with me to make sure the amount is ratified, so I kind of have the say as to whether or not it goes through. There is that level of control on VUSAC's part to ensure that the correct honorarium is being paid out.

Zahavah: We get budgets from the levies, but it is not the same as a club budget, it is just to check that they are within their constitution. So, that is exactly my concern. Because if you decided to do three journals this year then we would be approving the journals in advance, even though it is based on quality, but we would be approving it way far in advance of every seeing that. And we don't have that much leeway so long as the levy is following its own constitution, and the VUSAC constitution and its policies on money, so that would be a case where we wouldn't veto it, because we wouldn't know the quality. The creative control thing I totally understand because you don't want to limit the control of future editors and their ideas, however I think, and this is potentially not what you think, but having the third edition honoraria voted on in a meeting would allow that, because then you don't need to put in quality control measures. Then the future editor would just need to come to a future VUSAC meeting and say, 'Hey, it's been a good year this year. We want to do a third issue. Our design editor made the last two magazines of a good quality and we want to do a third.' Then it would be, very much so, still in the control of the editor, just making sure that transparently, it is being brought forward to VUSAC, and in minutes to the VCU. So I was thinking that maybe that would be better for the creative control side, but I don't know if that is maybe not how you see it?

Carl: I mean yes, it is certainly better than, I mean another worry about putting something like quality control on the journal is that we wouldn't want to go, in the future, to VUSAC and say that 'this was a shitty journal you can't pay anybody,' we think that that would be an inappropriate amount of power to another body, because the journal could've just had a bad year. One thing we put into this constitution in order to specifically allow for internal management is that ability the editorial board to embeach the editor-in-chief if they find they are not keeping with the constitution. And that is part of the reason why I feel like there are enough safeguards here. I mean, we could just add a clause saying that any honorarium above two has to be approved by VUSAC, but again, I feel like it is an unnecessary addition of extra steps to go

through to get that approval. And I think that it is equally as likely that you will run into—so in the past, this is luckily over, there has been quite a lot of antagonism between Acta Victoriana and VUSAC particularly in the 80s, and 90s...and 70s. And VUSAC at one point wanted to shut Acta Victoriana down. So, we would like to ensure that Acta has as much internal policing as possible. For that reason, I would prefer if we could maintain that level of internal quality control, but if the board does see it otherwise, and I've laid my cause for why I think this has been covered within the constitution, we could change the clause to allow for the possibility that any extra honorarium must be approved by the board. Again, I am hesitant to do that is because it gives VUSAC a large amount of control over the projects and runnings of Acta Victoriana. And again, if you voted down the motion to approve an extra journal that would effectively prevent us from publishing another issue, since we wouldn't be able to pay our design editor.

Motion: Katie moves to extend discussion time by 5 minutes. Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Katie: So just in reference to article one, I think that some of the safeguards that you've put in place make sense to me, but because article number 1ai says that you must speak to publishing two editions that if you were to do a special edition it would kind of violate your constitution. Because you have no clause in there that allows for a third edition anyway. So, as it stands right now you would do the two printed editions and according to one of the articles in your constitution you wouldn't be able to do a third edition because it doesn't say a minimum of two annual editions, it just says two annual editions. So, according to your constitution right now you couldn't do any kind of third, special edition.

Carl: The way we read that was that you must oversee, that there must be two annual, specific to that year. That wouldn't necessarily say any special editions that would just specific to that year. But yes, that is right. And that is part of why we thought that—the very strong suggestion from the constitution that there should only be two each year, as opposed to several is already in there.

Zahavah: The situation in which there is a third journal, it would be because it was doing so well? Like, I doubt that if there was a really bad year that there would be a third edition? Right, and so, hopefully that wouldn't be an issue in regards to the quality of the journal. I just, when you speak of your concerns about VUSAC having control of the operations: VUSAC does have to approve all honoraria. And so, we approve honoraria for every levy in its totality. There can be no honoraria given, that VUSAC has not voted to approve, and this, as it is written right now, would involve honoraria being granted that VUSAC has not voted on to approve; which is a violation of our constitution.

Carl: But, as per Graham's earlier comment, wouldn't this version of an honorarium still have to be approved by VUSAC's finance chair? Are you saying that per your constitution every levy honoraria has to be approved at a meeting every year? Or just originally?

Zahavah: So, we have to have every levy constitution on file, and then we double check that their budget agrees with their constitution. And so right now, we're approving two journals (five-hundred each) and then a—like, there isn't any outline of the process for a third journal. So, the way that constitution is set up is that right now is for two journals, five-hundred each, is all that we could approve. For a third journal you'd have to choose at the beginning of the year (do we have enough extra funds) in order to do another.

Carl: I mean, specifically we are thinking of anniversary years. It is in the constitution that for anniversary years it is the editor's responsibility to maintain the funds in order to support a third journal. So yes, that would be decided in the summer.

Zahavah: I guess that I just don't see any reason why VUSAC wouldn't approve it and it's more of just a safeguard and transparency to make sure that it is public knowledge if an additional five-hundred dollars of student money is then going to a student. It's not meant, at least I don't mean it at all, to control your numbers, I just want it to be done in the most open and transparent way.

Devon: I arrived late, so if this glosses over something already said, I apologize. But maybe it would alleviate some of the anxiety around it if there was an article or section of the constitution that outlined the process for how the editorial board decides whether or not they want to do an extra/special edition, if it was an unanimous vote or something, that might at least give it an air of due process. And just to alleviate any concern that sometime far in the future they might publish five or six leaflets and call them editions, and collect three thousand dollars. Obviously, that is a crazy idea, but could that be included?

Motion: Cameron moves to extend discussion time by 5 minutes. Nick seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Carl: In terms of leaflets, one of the reasons we added 'printed' was to ensure that wouldn't happen. It would have to be printed in a printing house and not just printed on the VUSAC printer. We have kept--I'm going to respond to two things. The honoraria would still have to be included in the budget that we submit to the finance officer and would therefore be public to everybody. They would have to be looked at by the budget steering committee, you know, when we audited they would see that. It would be very transparent and obvious to VUSAC if anyone was violating this clause and publishing many leaflets and calling them journals. In terms of outlining the decision to publish extra, I mean, literary journals are run very different from student councils, and we have been loath to include that level of formalization around how to take decision processes just because you have many different types of editor and chiefs that run the journal in many different ways, what we've tried to include here is only the minimum amount necessary for minimum responsibility of the journal and if they don't want to make discussions by holding votes among the editorial board we wouldn't want to force them to do that.

Motion: Zoe moves to ratify the Acta Victoriana Constitution as set out by Acta Victoriana, with no amendments. Devon seconds. Motion passes by one vote.

- Favour: Devon, Gabe, Stephanie, James, Jared, Blanaid, Katie, Shailee, Nick,
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: Zahavah, Haleema, Vibhuti, Cameron, Alexa, Ally, Cynthia, Zoe

- Graduating class endowment gifts (10 minutes) - Louisa Yearwood

[Summary] I'm impressed with how well you follow Robert's rules. First of all, thank you for your time. I'm happy to be here. It's great to be at VUSAC. I'm up-stairs, on the third floor in Alumni Hall Affairs and Advancement. I've come to talk to you about an idea, which I'll call the class legacy gift idea. The idea would be that for the graduating class, at some point in the year, we would approach students to see if they wanted to give a small gift (don't get worried about the amount, it's about the act of giving) that we would collect and put into an endowment (an endowment is a large pot that money gets put into, that

you don't spend, but invest) and find a mechanism to allow that class to decide how that money would be designated. So for example if the class of 2018 had a predominance of students interested in student government or VUSAC, then maybe a worthy investment would be supporting the events hosted by that student government. So there would be some input in terms of how the income would be used. The idea would be that it would rest here as a legacy for that class at Vic. There was a great idea that Devon had about pooling gifts over decades, so there would be the 2000 decades and the 2010 decades. Because if we had to do that on an individual basis it would be more complicated, because obviously the more capital we have the more money for an endowment, and the more income we have to use. You get more firepower if you pool your resources. The other beauty of an endowment vessel is that once it is in place, you can add to it at any time. So as graduates, ten years from now you can give to Vic and you can give it to your 2018 endowment. So, it is an idea that I think could be a way to supporting the long term views and the long term legacy of this place, that would honor you as well. That's the idea, and I am happy to know what you have to say about this now, or if you are interested in emailing me as well, you may. It is obviously not something we can implement this second, but are looking forward to for future year. You can tell me as well where it would be best placed. Would there be a student representative on the committee to work with my staff for example that let students know about the opportunity and would inform us of student activity. I'm keen to know if you think this idea resonate with students?

Katie: I think it is a nice idea. I have a few comments though. First, I don't know how lucrative it would be to ask graduating students for donations, because they are usually not in the place to have extra money (at that point in their lives). And I'm a little confused, on when the class would decide when the money would be given? So if the class of 2019 decided we wanted our endowment to go to Acta would that happen in 2025? How long would the money grow for? When are they informed they get the money? When would it be decided to be give to the students? 2025? 2021? Two, three years after? I don't understand how it would that be accounted for if it were to be give to a group as opposed to a group or scholarship

Louisa: Right, so you've brought a couple of questions. The first about graduating students not having the means, obviously there will be some people that are able to give and others who won't. The beauty is that everyone can give or not give as they are in position to do so. But again, I want to stress that this isn't about the amount. It is about the act of giving. The fifteen dollars you don't spend at Starbucks does make a different because it will be pooled with everyone else's. Giving money just speaks to how you feel about Vic. It's an opportunity to give back to this place. Second thing, this is a process we would work on (I'm making this up) I would think early in the academic year, September, that graduating class would designate a student on one of the committees or on VUSAC who would work with my team to think about what it would look like. Over the course of the year we'd let students know this is what we're doing, and allow people give throughout the year, with the intent that at the end of the year the endowment would be struck and then near the end of the year a vote would take place about what the endowment would be attached to (criteria). I assume this happen online, a vote. The piece around when that would happen: typically there is a waiting period to allow your investment to build, typically a year, and then we would let everyone know how that investment was used. That is important, to know that your money went to where you wanted it to go to. You spent money on this, and it was actually used for that. It builds momentum, because you can see it was doing what it was intended to do. So that is how I envision the process would work.

Zoe: This is a very exciting idea, and I'm glad you had the chance to come here and chat about it with us. I sit on the grad committee and this has certainly been in discussions we have been having. This is actually something a lot of universities have implemented and it has a very positive effect on their alumni engagement, which we don't necessarily seem to backend. We use

all this money, and do great things with it and that usually comes from alumni feeling connected and their desire to give back the same opportunities they were able to have. From that standpoint, it would be great. Alumni typically want to give to something specific and see that they made a difference. So, from that stance, when we look at these meaningful opportunities to promote alumni engagement and the opportunity to let current students see that they will also want to give back if they have the capacity to. The other thing is that for a lot of other universities they don't see their graduating students necessarily do the donations, but their parents or grandparents do it in their name, so that is another thing to think about that happens often.

Louisa: Yes, that is true. What I like about asking students to give, at whatever level, is that it becomes yours and you become invested, it is your legacy. That act of giving is very important. You're very right about the importance of alumni engagement and that is something that the university pays attention to, more so now.

Motion: Devon moves to extend discussion time by 5 minutes. Jared seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Devon: My question is, (sort of more negative ideas about the future) if you end up getting smaller donations for one year, what are the restrictions for how to use that money? So, do you have to get consent from the people to group endowments? Or if, when people plan for the endowment and they designate it toward a specific group for example, The Bob, and in fifty years, God forbid, it no longer exists, can the direction of that money be changed without input from the people who paid?

Louisa: So, typically when we strike a new endowment there is a gift agreement with the donor. So in this case there is a student representative that would sign the gift agreement and there is always clause in that agreement that outlines that should the specific group the money is designated toward not exist in the future that the money would be given to something keeping with the criteria of the initial gift. That is built into the agreement. If we do the pooling idea, (which would allow more income to spread) that would have to be cleared upfront. That the class of 2018 contributed to its own endowment, but that it would be pooled with the rest of its decade in order for there to be more endowment to give. There would have to be some rotational basis as to where it goes each year, but that would be a nice way to do it. And it builds community around that decade as well.

Devon: Zoe, do you see this falling (the student representative) under the APD profile?

Zoe: Yes! That would be appropriate. The committee does sit on the grad committee, and many of our events do engage with alumni. But, obviously I'm open to someone else taking it on, or whatever we decide. The knowledge that comes with the APD portfolio might be useful though.

Louisa: It does make sense, because you will all one day be alumni and hopefully be connected to Vic. You have that nice Alumni connection. Send me an email if you have any other thoughts: Louisa.Yearwood@utoronto.ca. Thank you all!

EX-OFFICIO UPDATES

- Dean's Office Updates (5 minutes) - Christina

[Summary] Hello! I see some new faces, so once again I am Christina the new campus life coordinator here. Just a few updates: Congratulations to Ali on accepting her role as orientation co-chair. We had our first meeting, which was very fun. You may have seen some promotional material about hiring, and we

are in the process of hiring executives, leaders and almost transition mentors as well. We will send more information. For execs, if you know of someone who is interested, or are yourself, we have our info sessions next Tuesday from 12-1pm and 5-6pm. The applications close on the 23rd. For people who want to promote these leadership opportunities, the leader applications are also out and the information session will be on the 26th from 5-7pm and then the applications close on March 17th. If you have any questions let us know! And then just for your reference, the carousel will be on the 24th. A special thank you to Shailee, who met with me for our first one-on-one as well, and to Katie. A reminder, if you want to meet one-on-one, just to introduce yourself, let me know! Thank you!

- UTSU Update (3 minutes) - Jayde

[Summary] I'll be quick, I'll update you about some events and election dates via email. I see that Katie is going to talk about the TA strike so I'll leave that to her, expect for to give you what the UTSU's asks are if there is a strike: So we are already in conversation with the administration, and I will just give you the details on what we want should a strike occur: (which as of right now is looking nicely that it will not) So we will have hope that the CR (Credit no Credit option) would be extended until two weeks after final grades are released, and that those CR credits would not count towards your cap of two full credits and that you can use CR for courses that count towards your post. And also that students who require certain instructional hours to receive certification would be given a guarantee that they can complete that on schedule and also an emphasis would be put on not having any students delay graduation for any reason as a result of the strike; as unfortunately was the case in 2015.

And also, as a brief update on moving into election season, what the UTSU is talking about as two political candidates is, one of our big things is tuition and some of our, what we think our pregame goals are as opposed to going in and being like, "we want free tuition now!" and the government officials being like, "well, we're never going to do that." and now we're not talking to you at all. We'd like to tie domestic student tuition to the CPI but then cap that at 3%, so that if the CPI is ever above that (the Consumer Price Index) we'd like to regulate international tuition fees, which are currently not regulated at all. If you have any friends that are international students or you are one yourself, you will know that it is absolutely ridiculous the cost of them having a U of T education and that largely those tuition fees go to subsidize domestic students U of T education; which is not necessarily fair. The biggest thing that I'm excited about that I'm asking for is tuition freeze by cohort, which means that if you enter in the year of 2020 for example the tuition you pay in your first year would continue to be your tuition for the next four years. Which makes it a lot easier to plan. And the basic idea behind that is that public education has kind of turned into a private education subsidized by public funding because it is less and less accessible for the broader public to be attending an institution like U of T. So yes, those are the big things. I'll update you about other things via email.

LEVY UPDATES

- The Strand Update (5 minutes) - Molly & Elena

[Summary] We are in the process of completing our 9th issue which is going to be our Love Issue. We weren't really ever able to produce an issue that talks about love and sex in so much as this one does so we're excited to see that. Moving forward, hopefully we can make that more of a tradition, here at the Strand. After this issue we have our magazine, the theme is emotion. You probably say me posting really obnoxiously in every FaceBook group—and I'm not done. I'd appreciate it if you know anyone who think wants to pitch to us/if you want to. It is open to everyone and we're hoping that the Strand can speak to a lot of people. After that we have our Queer Issue, which is a new initiative that actually my co-editor Elena started, and it is new territory for us. We are really opening this up to everyone who wants to

contribute. We have a team of people who are assembling ideas and our goals are. We want to commission a queer artist to do the cover of it. We are planning on meeting with the Equity Commission and VicPride! about this moving forward. We are trying to get the magazine under control for now, and then moving forward with this. After that, we have our annual Joke Issue. So, things are wrapping up for us, but we are excited. In the next month and a half the new EICs will be elected and then hiring positions will open up for positions for the mastheads, which will be in a google doc posted obnoxiously on all social media as well. As always, our office is open if you have any questions or you can reach us at editor@thestrand.ca. Thanks, that is all!

STAFF MEMBER UPDATES

Chief Returning Officer - Stephanie Xu

- [No Update]

Communications Director - Jade Koh

- Voting for VUSAC logo (5 minutes)

Graham: Jade is sick, but she said that we can still go ahead and vote on this. Sayeh sent out the logos.

Jayde: First of all, what a cool logo! Congrats to Jade even though she isn't here. Also, the Architecture and Visual Studies Union recently redid their logo and they opened the voting up to all of their architecture and visual studies students, and I thought that that might be interesting to do, because the VUSAC logo is all over the place. It's personally, I don't really care anyway, because the logo looks so good, but it might be something to consider. That's all.

Katie: Because it is so unspecific, could we vote to release it to the VCU to get thoughts on it?

Zahavah: I obviously always want VCU feedback, but, I mean right now our logo is just the word VUSAC. We don't have a logo. So, it's not even a logo change it's just a logo, because we don't have one. And I wonder how if we're voting on that, than without Jade present we are voting on a lot of work for Jade. Because that means she is going to have to take on everyone's comments and sift through which ones are feasible. And I know, she approached me about creating logo well before the December break, she's been working on this for a long time, and I wouldn't feel comfortable voting to give her a lot more work with her not even here. I would be happy to approve this logo, but I think that if that's not what we want to do that we should wait to consult her on this.

Zoe: I agree. I didn't see the implications of what I was voting for. Because, I think it looks great. We also might need to consider how interested people would be in this logo (without sounding patronizing). I just don't know how invested people are in VUSAC logo when it looks this great.

Motion: Nick moves to table the update entitled "Voting for VUSAC logo" until the next meeting. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Finance Chair - Graham Allison

- [No Update]

COMMISSION UPDATES

Academic & Professional Development - Zoe Ritchie

- Updates
 - Report on Recent Events (2 minutes)

[Summary] Just wanted to give some reports we had two very successful events. Cameron ran a great VOCA pancakes and James's Summer Opportunities session had good attendance, feedback and follow up! Cynthia and I have an event in the works for first years.

- Discussion of Networking Dinner (5 minutes)

[Summary] I also wanted to ask all of you to really help me in promoting the networking dinner on the 26th I'd really like to make sure we have high attendance. If you could also give some love to our facebook page that would be great.

Cameron: I can confirm that at the VOCA pancakes with APD when we asked 'would you like to enter the raffle/tell us your goals?' Zoe would ask if they liked the APD page.

Alexa: To the commissioners with their personal pages, could you send me that information so I can post it all on one place on the website?

Arts & Culture -Blanaid McNally

- Update (6 minutes)

[Summary] I just wanted to say I was unable to attend the last meeting, but I know that Zahavah updated everyone on the Gardiner Gala's success. I just wanted to reiterate, my thankfulness to the councillors and Berguita, who thought it was a great event! We are collabing with the commuter dons, a play, at the Gardiner Museum. Everyone is welcome to sign up for that. We had a commission meeting, and I'm currently trying to get people more involved in VUSAC and to become more familiar with the setting. We will do some fun crafts/de-stressors. We are also planning another open mic night, which will be comedy themed in March. Stephanie and Devon have volunteered! We are trying to work out a Ridley's trip and get tickets for at discounted price. Something called "Sharks after Dark," it should be fun!

Zahavah: Congratulations on the Gardiner Gala!

Blanaid: I just want to put in the minutes that Berguita was amazing. How helpful she is, she helps with everything that isn't even her job. I'm sure you'll be as amazing as she is. Such a great mentor to have!

Commuter Commissioner - Gabriel Calderon (6 minutes)

Emilia: Hello! I made chocolate covered strawberries! I just want to say that I love everyone here, and I want to appreciate how much I love everyone!

- Notes on Wraps Raps Wraps

[Summary] Thank you Emilia for the strawberries. I've been waiting for them the whole time. Thank you again to the APD, Zoe and Cameron. Ira Wells himself said that he used to succumb to the temptation of pancakes. I really enjoyed seeing people engaging with the exhibits. Emilia and I want to state that last week's event, which seems like forever ago, Wraps, Raps, Wraps a huge success! I want to extend a special thanks to Stephanie. It was a great event, and we gave away many prizes. Also, I want to plug the Ali Baba's on Bloor and Spadina. They were very, very kind. If you need catering, go to them. Ask for Samir. When I went there to pick up food for the event, he gave us extra food, and helped us carry it to the car. They were very generous, and I would highly recommend them.

- Upcoming Valentine's Day Event: Be my VOCA Valentine - Emilia

[Summary] We are hosting Be my VOCA Valentine. We want to play valentines episodes from different comedies (Mindy Project, the Office, Friends) which should be a better way for people to drop in instead of like sitting through a whole movie of Like Love Actually—if they don't want to watch Love Actually—although I love Love Actually—Who don't? Anyway—Next week we have Pancakes with the Board of Regents, they might be heart shaped!

Jared: I just want to say that for the valentine's day thing, it would be good to consider having some sort of queer things in there, like a valentine's day episodes. I acknowledge it is difficult, but just something to consider!

- Assassins Announcement

[Summary] We are in the process of planning assassins. We will be following the same model as last time, based on the feedback from last year. We want to continue that. Starting on March 12th, it will continue throughout the last three weeks of March. We will put out some teaser advertisement soon, before sign-up is available in March. I think that is it for now.

Equity Commissioner - Shailee Koranne

- Updates

- Art at the Intersections (2 minutes)

[Summary] It is tonight! Right after the meeting. If you want to come for performances, they start at six. Please come! It has been months in the making. It shaped up very well. There is free food, it will be very fun. President Robins will be coming. So please come. So it's not just me and him. If you have a chance to congratulate the commission member Georgia, please do, she is a first year and she put so much work into the program.

- Black History Month programming (3 minutes)

[Summary] We are doing film screenings and we've decided to do a ticket raffle for Black Panther. If you go to the screenings, you can enter the draw and then we will draw and give the winner tickets to see Black Panther. This Monday we're screening Fences, then next Monday is Girl's Trip. They are both great movies. We're also spotlighting black, Canadian artists. Last week we spotlighted last year's Equity Commission, whose work will be displayed at Art at the Intersections. Like and share the posts please, so more people can see them. Finally, we are planning a panel with the Vic Equity Collective and we are arranging for a prof panel of black, Canadian profs to speak on how they deal with academia and research and how they did it as students, and now as profs. This should happen on the 27th or 28th of this month.

- Chinese New Year celebration (4 minutes)

[Summary] Finally, we're doing a Lunar New Year's celebration. Noted, in the agenda it is called "Chinese New Year" but it was brought to my attention that calling it Chinese New Year isn't really entirely accurate because it is celebrated by many more countries than just China. So, the Lunar Celebration will be on the 14th. It will be a lunch and dinner event, with traditional cultural food in the Cat's Eye. The time looks like 3-6pm, but I will provide further information on it next Sunday. There is a chance it might not happen, because we've had so many things, but we do have a back-up plan. Likely another gift card raffle. But I believe that that is all from my updates. I am going to run!

[Applause]

Motion: Ally moves to take a five minute recess. Nick seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Scarlet & Gold - Stephanie Spagnuolo

- [No Update]

Sustainability Commissioner - Jared Connoy

- Update (7 minutes)

[Summary] The Sustainability commission had a Doc and Talk screening, Chasing Coral, and the discussion was very productive. I think there is something very unique and special about the kind of discussion that occurs at Doc and Talks. I would encourage members of council to come out to Doc and Talks in order to see it first hand, and participate in those conversations. Secondly, we will soon be starting a composting pilot in Annesley. I am just waiting on the dons to implement it. It is awesome, because it has been very hard instituting this at Vic. We have worked very hard on. Having composting in Annesley is the first step in an (unfortunately) slow process. Third, I want to say that myself and Emilia have been working on a Sustainable Commuting workshop on March 6th, and Shailee and myself will be collabing for a week during March 12-16, we will be finalizing themes in the next week or two. We will be collabing on March 21st with Ensue with another Doc and Talk, as a part of Ecofest. Lastly, we are working on a letter to President Robins on his Presidential Priorities. We've expressed deep concerns about the lack of responsibility concerning sustainability with administration. We are upset at the lack of sustainability in their responsibility. Hopefully, it will be done in a week.

Devon: I just want to say congratulations on the movement on the composting in Annesley, because that was one of your campaign promises and I thought it was really ambitious, and you did a great job. Congratulations!

[Applause]

Zahavah: A letter from the commission or a campaign?

Jared: A letter from the commission.

Devon: If you want to open it to co-signatures from council, I think a lot of us will be interested.

Jared: Thank you.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

VPSO - Nickolas Shyshkin

- Update (4 minutes)

[Summary] Hello it's me. Things I've been working on (and things I've recruited three councils on because I felt like it) the second club storage! Making that room work, building shelves, meeting with Physplant. Vibhuti came with me to meet with Peter (Physplant guy) he was really nice about it and gave us some tips on essentially now I have to measure the second club storage room, but I don't know how to do that because I'm not a carpenter. James volunteered to do that for me, so thank you James. Alexa also volunteered. So that's in the works. That's going to student projects.

Next, for the first club storage, Emma did an amazing job organizing. But we also have a lot of stuff down there. This is more so toward the commissioners, but if you have old stuff from your commissions (VOCA Commuter) that you don't need please get rid of it. We had this semester's levy head meeting this morning. That was a productive conversation that we had that Katie joined in on. Such as Caucus and Crescam and other updates...keeping them accountable. On thing that was brought up was from student projects and looking into further reallocating the money we have from that/revelating the money and decreasing the amount from ten dollars to eight, seven, six, five dollars; something to keep in mind for the time being. And that's it for me!

VP Internal - Artimes G

- [No Update]

VP External - Katie C

- Updates
 - Merch Survey

[Summary] Merch survey on VUSAC FB page. I want to do an end of year sale, but I want data that I can reference on student responses for their preferences before I start ordering. So please check that out.

- Crescams

[Summary] Nominations end on Feb. 27th, and the dinner is on March 21st. This is a great opportunity to recognize the people who are student leaders who don't get recognized. It's a wonderful way to say you are thankful for someone's time commitment and leadership. Also, there is free food if you nominate someone. I encourage you to nominate people!

- Caucus

[Summary] I originally wanted it early March, but in reflection, I want it at the end of March as a wrap up for the whole year. Like before everyone had their final events, Highball, final magazines, big events, etc. I want caucus after that so students have time to ask questions, talk about reflections, etc. I'm coordinating with Stephanie Xu to ensure that doesn't conflict with elections to ensure that people running don't try to campaign while giving updates (grey area.) If you have suggestions for rooms please contact me! I tried to book Alumni hall but that is booked until the cows come home. I want it to be an accessible space that is bigger than the Cat's Eye, in order to fit more attendance. There is NF 003, but that's lecture style and not very conducive to conversation.

- TA strike (what it means and resources)

[Summary] This morning a tentative agreement was reached with the TAs (knock on wood) but it could potentially not go through because they have until the 26th to go through. If it is decided they will not go on strike, but there is still time for things to go wrong, unfortunately. If you have questions, please ask me or Adrian Huntler who is the UTSU VPA. I have resources/articles if you want to see those.

- You Decide Petition

[Summary] I just wanted to note that it is a great time to talk about the petition during Highball ticket selling time. Stopping people at the desk and saying "Hey! Have you heard of this petition?" and then having a quick chat about it would work very nicely. We will have more traffic in the office in next few weeks so it is a great opportunity to engage students on that. That is all I have.

President - Zahavah K

- Update (7 minutes)

[Summary] I wanted to give an update on some on-going projects I have been working on/committees/meetings. Speaking to the TA Strike, I was at an SGRT council meeting on Wednesday, we did meet with a representative from the striking group and (if any of you are interested in this) they are hoping for solidarity from students (letters, support on social media) and if you want to know their specific demands (I don't have a full list) a summary is: longer time to mark, less marking, smaller class sizes, better mental health services and care. So, they feel that there is a lot of pressure put on them without a lot of leeway for assistance. What's interesting about their campaign is that it is not as focused on money, more so on services. Hoping the agreement to become official.

A few weeks ago, or many weeks ago, I mentioned the SGRT's discussion about Charles street and the report to make it a two-way. The discussion has been postponed, indefinitely. So we feel good.

Northrop Frye building in terms of the rebuilding, construction, tearing down, gutting, extension options...All those options are still being researched. The board hopes to have a decision between the three options soon (between tear down, gut and renovate, gut and expansion). There are a lot of drawbacks and strengths for each option. We are now drawing up basic costs for all three plans, based on similar projects, and there are a lot of things to take into consideration. Is it a good time to start raising so much more money? Environment considerations (trees)? There needs to be a lot of consideration on the environmental impacts. We can only do construction really in the summer because of weather and students. Classes would need to be relocated. A lot of things, but there is still movement being made on the large-scale plan of the building. Alexa and I met with someone working on the plan about expanding the technological plans of the building as it was built in a land before laptops. Profs are upset with office sizes and heating?...specifically. It is a long, though moving, process.

Motion: Zahavah moves to extend discussion time by 5 minutes. Devon seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[continued] in relation to what Nick said, Bikes are being removed and given to Bike Works. Our composite photo will be taken at the end of February. I will let you know when we have our final date.

In reference to the constitution, about the in-camera discussion, because the SGRT was producing their own in-camera policy (I was hoping to get a good look at theirs to get ideas on how to construct our own), unfortunately it is no longer possible due to an accident.

Student projects has been getting a lot more applications, which is great! We had like...eight? Which was awesome!

Also, with the SGRT: We are working on a project to improve the Walk Safe Program at U of T. Albert, the president of UC, brought forward a document comparing our Walk Safe program to other universities Walk Safe Programs, we are really falling behind. The website is a mess, links are broken, information is incorrect. Other schools have buses and a ton of resources. SGRT will be talking to the campus police and administration in order to find ways to improve it. Although, if it looks like it will be better off student run because of liability we are looking into discussing that idea as well. This is a difficult conversation to have because this year's SGRT is almost done and this would be sticking our successors with a lot of work (which we're not totally against) although we recognize it's not the nicest thing to do. That is

definitely going to continue as a discussion moving on. In addition, everyone's favourite committee that I'm on PUSAG, is meeting again soon. And as I'm sure you all know, the Mandatory Leave of Absence Policy is something that the SGRT wants to talk to PUSAG about and which we feel a little thrown under the bus from. We were listed as consultants on this policy which wasn't the case at all. We were shown it for about five minutes, they asked us our thoughts, we gave them a lot of questions, they changed almost nothing, and then listed us as consultants. That is not what student consulting is. We are going to be discussing with them on what it means to consult. You need to consult us on allowing us to be listed as consultants. We are discussing that nature about how students are sometimes being used as rubber stamps for approval. You have to think about how you're being invited to a meeting as a student consultant, use your voice and make sure you're being respected as a active participate.

Caffiends: the occupancy agreement up in April. The Board of Regents meeting was yesterday and basically a lot was approved. All budgets from previous year. One thing of interest, there will be more balancing of the domestic international ratio of students, and Vic is having to realign our admissions to adhere to the Arts and Science admissions to create a $\frac{3}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ national split. I don't know anything about money, but from my limited understanding Vic's budget is going well. Maybe a surplus? I'm not sure. No one seemed stressed. So that is good. No negative numbers.

Katie: Just a note on the Feb. 22nd date that a lot of council members will likely be away on reading break. Might want to consider a more accessible date.

Additions:

- Levy Update - Katie, Nick
 - Caffiends

[Summary] Starting Monday, February 12th and lasting for the remainder of the month of February, Caffiends will be launching a February/Valentine's Day fundraiser in support of RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs).

RAVEN describes their work as "reconciliation in action." The organization was formed in 2009 after the observation that "the struggles worldwide for the rights of indigenous peoples are frequently closely related to the effort to prevent environmental degradation through inappropriate industrial development." Following this observation, RAVEN focused their aid on Canada's First Nations, to help "protect rights and lands native leaders, advocates and their legal teams almost always face overwhelming odds when going against the established interests of large corporations and the governments that support them." For a flat rate of \$3, customers can purchase a unique Valentine's-themed card (from option of 2 designs, both made by Caffiends exec) that designates 1 pre-paid Caffiends drink (can be specialty drink or coffee/tea). This card can be given to a loved one, friend, prof, or someone you just think needs the caffeine! The card can then be presented by the recipient at Caffiends to receive their drink.

- VCAA Update

[Summary] We welcomed 11 new amazing members to our council in September. We had more intramural teams than ever this year and this semester have found new ways to manage all those teams and have very few defaults (thanks in no small part to our dedicated captains). We have had 7 events so far this year with the stand out being the new Burrito Dodgeball tournament that had over 60 participants (many of which are not VCAA event 'regulars'). Upcoming:

- Trampoline Dodgeball at Sky Zone on Feb 14 6-7pm

- All College All Star Basketball Game on March 21 st from 6-8 pm at Goldring Gym with a Pre-party at (hopefully) the Buttery (trin) from 4:30-5:30
- Athletic Banquet on March 23 rd at Burwash Dining Hall from 7pm-10pm
- Dodgeball tournament with Vic for a Cure in March -- - date tbd
- Intramural Esports tournaments in FIFA (Feb 25) and Rocket league

Berenice: Just one really quick update: we have finalized a booking policy, it was focused towards making a set rate for any external Victoria fees, so Zahavah helped us out through that which was really helpful. It is hard to cover all of our bases because there are a lot of bookings. Essentially, if you know any U of T group now looking for a space our pricing is really reasonable. There are three packages. The lowest cost is \$50, and the highest \$75 for the entire space plus management support. I will send it over to Nick, we are meeting with Christina to finalize some final details like bar event details, then I will send the final draft of our policy out and we can discuss it.

Motion: Katie moves to adjourn meeting. Ali seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None