

VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday November 13th in NF003 at 5:38 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

CO-PRESIDENTS

Benjamin Atkins and Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

VP EXTERNAL

Alex Martinborough

VP INTERNAL

Rahul Christofferson

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Lucinda Qu

Assessor Members

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR

Bergita Petro

CHAIR

Emily Dyer

COMMUNICATIONS

Alice Sluchenkov

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Saambavi Mano

FINANCE

Shannon Brown

SECRETARY

Golda Greenspoon

Commissioners & Councillors

COMMUTER

Anna Pozdniakova

EQUITY

Claire Wilkins

SCARLET & GOLD

Stuart Norton

SUSTAINABILITY

Leila Atri

COUNCILORS

LEVIES

GUESTS

Not In Attendance

OFFICIAL REGRETS

ABSENT

*Attendance to be edited by the VPE (Alex Martinborough)

[George] moves to approve agenda. [Thomas Zheng] seconds. Motion passes four abstaining.

- Call to order –November 13, 5:38 PM
- Land recognition: Lucinda thing at very beginning
- Claire: I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. ***.

Part One - Updates

- Introduction and Welcome to Caucus

- Alex: Welcome to caucus. Anyone have anything to add? I realize I should have asked that before passing the agenda. The Vic caucus is a general town hall for vic students. TO do this in an effective way we are going to break into discussion groups to discuss a wide variety of topics. I am going to ask to please be respectful to other students and speak directly to the chair. Please speak into the microphones, clearly, state or name/role.

- Dean of Students

- Bergita: Hi everyone, welcome. I hope you had a nice fall break. The first is a big thank you to all of you, to those who supported Minding our Minds. It is great to have VUSAC be a part of that. I wanted to remind you about the onsite counsellors. If you have any questions about that please come talk to us. We are hiring an orientation co-chair right now. Applications are online and due December first.

- UTSU Directors

- Alex: Auni wanted me to let you know why he couldn't be here today, he had to sit at a board of directors meeting at UTM today.

Thomas moves to condemn the petition to move the AGM date and support the UTSU changing it's board structure as soon as possible. George seconds. Motion passes four abstaining.

- Lucinda: Can we clarify what condemning means?
- Alex: That we don't like it, trying to get them to get on with the business of the union.
- Miranda: Do we have any more information about UTM's decision for the date change?

- Gabriel: My knowledge is through twitter, it was a vote to ask the board of directors to consider moving it. It was sort of like a we like this, we don't like this
 - Benjamin: They wanted to move it because they expressed concerns about the UTSU GM coming up so close to the UTM GM. The problem w that is pushing back the special general meeting. I don't think either of us are in fave
 - Thomas Zheng: How was that date chose?
 - Alex: I believe it was because there was another GM for January.
- Commuter Commissioner
- Anna: Three things I want to talk about today, VOCA has this thing called what's at Ned's today, we will post the ned's menu for the week on twitter. We also post them around Goldring. Pancakes had guests this year, admin offices, student groups, it's a nice resource for students. With second semester if you want to see your student group at this we can work with you. Pancakes form 10-2 on Wednesdays. VOCA tries to promote its events, but I want to ask a question, have you seen voice promoting things, any comments on that?
 - Thomas Zheng: I just heard about the Facebook group right now. I know in the frosh edition of the strand the frosh read that, I know the later editions didn't have as much of an impact, I think maybe for next year put something onto the frosh edition of the strand. One of the classes I have with a lot of commuters I don't think talk about VOCA?
 - Anna: Do you thing residence students feel welcome?
 - Thomas Zheng: I don't think that's an issue.
 - Lavi: Your posters are amazing.
 - Hambo: I am only not getting these updates because I haven't like the FB page. I would say plug all events on the Facebook page
- Secretary:
- Golda: Hi everyone! My name's Golda and I'm the secretary of VUSAC. I just wanted to reiterate here that the VUSAC office is first and foremost a place for students of Victoria College and that all those students are welcome and encouraged to be in the space. We offer five cent printing and also have a student lounge and study space in our office. Also we are

getting iPads and computers in the student lounge soon! Please come and make use of our services if you so wish or just pop in to say hi! We'd love to talk with you.

- Cricket: What's going on with Happy lights?
- Golda: Happy lights policy is that you can come into the office and use one or take it wherever you'd like in the Goldring. It's recommended that you use them in the earlier part of the day so that they don't interfere with your sleep cycle.
- Sustainability Commissioner
 - Leila: Hi guys. Thanks for coming. Okay so this video is a trailer for a movie about the divestment campaign. I wanted to get at whatever feeling you felt after watching that is what we are trying to harness this year with the sustainability commission. We have been having bi weekly documentary screenings. We have done this in collaboration with the equity commission. This year the sustainability commission will be a very open and active place. Every person has a role to play. Our website will be launching by the end of next week. The first issue is education and awareness, for this we have our doc and talks with Claire, with nice discussion periods after. It is hard with things like an environmental issues because we can't always see them right away. We had a VicVenture to the Brick Works. Within sustainable living we've got labels that will be coming up on every waste receptacle on campus. It will be really clearly labeled. We did VotePosals which were a lot of fun. We also had a pre-divestment march party. People came together, Caffiends helped out. Divestment is a really important part of sustainability. We've been collecting various forms of media that will be plastered around vic. We will be working with food services, a discount if you bring a travel mug to ned's, we are going to try to get a bike that can power and charge a phone outside VCAA, an event on how to live a sustainable life, canvas bags will be within residences for grocery shopping, we will have a conference on environmental justice in January.
- Communications Coordinator
 - George: Hi everyone, Alice has put me in charge of the VUSAC twitter and Instagram. Our Twitter and Instagram don't have that many followers. The next person who follows @vusac on twitter gets one for free. On twitter we will have a lot of updates. We will also give one away for Instagram. For Instagram, we have communications requests to post things on social media, we want to have cool photos of Vic. If you have any Vic related photos email it to councillorgeorge@vusac.ca.
- Arts & Culture Commissioner
 - Sumeeta: I am collaborating with VicXposure to organize an excursion to the christmas market, more details soon, On November 25th we will be having an open mic night with

food and a polaroid photo booth. The Bob will be on in two weeks, the annual sketch comedy show Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th. If you are into theatre I highly recommend going to see the show, tickets should be about five dollars.

- Bergita: What's the date?
- Sumeeta: November 25th.
- Residence Updates
 - Burwash:
 - George: The festive dinner will be on November 25th, performances from Vic Chorus. It's gonna be pretty fun. There will be door prizes and awards. We had our lip sync battle a few weeks ago, it went really well. In second semester we are looking at running Harry Potter Pub Night. BG is in first place for Gauntlet right now.
 - Rowell Jackman
 - Betty Yibrehu: Students are doing well, things are going well I think!
- Board of Regents
 - Benjamin: BOR is the highest governing body at Vic. We would like to engage with you guys as much as we can coming from the Board.
 - Rowan: The first meeting of the year is more just a review of the previous year. Last year was a good budget year for Vic. For food services, a few years ago we had a huge revenue turn around. Another highlight was past president Gooch, the first to receive the title of President Emeritus.
 - SaraLi: This year we really want to reach out to students, to explain what the board actually does. That is in the works right now.
 - Brennan: We are working on getting our emails on the VUSAC website right now so that you can contact us.
 - Benjamin: You can contact me at president@vusac.ca

- Rowan: If you've got anything email info@vusac.ca, they will forward an email to one of us. If you have a nagging concern please shoot us an email.

- Victoria College Council

- SaraLi: There's been one meeting that we've all been to. We have about 15 positions right now. At the last meeting we went over reports and last year's minutes. The change of the CTap program was discussed. We had the question of how things would change from year to year, all years we found out will have the same opportunity.
- Zoe: This year we have two goals, to increase transparency first of all.
- Stephanie: We also want to help with the VCC having a stronger role in student life. We will look at the alcohol policy at space at Vic, particularly with the Bader theatre.
- SaraLi: We are trying to get more access to information so we can create a meeting summary and give this to Vic Students.
- Gabriel: The other thing that came out of the first meeting was the introduction of the Vic One Chambers stream, looking at business in commerce. They have worked with Rotman to make sure that people can pursue business degrees with these as co requisites.

- Commuter Dons

- Alex: Sarah wanted to be here to give an update on the calendar but she couldn't be here tonight the website is viccalendar.me. They have some weekly events, we have communtea every Tuesday. On Thursdays we have vegetarian soup. (comm don look at fb page). We also have a series of wellness Wednesdays, we also have a Facebook page with all our updates.

- Scarlet & Gold Commissioner

- Stuart: My role this year has been to revamp the social programming of VUSAC. I am expanding the portfolio as much as I can within the budget. On the 17th of September we had the back to school pub night, last night was the first VUSAC fall semi formal, 1836. It was very successful. It was very fun and hopefully it will become a tradition in the future. Our Winterfest co-chairs have been hired, Ingrid and Gabriel. Highball committee applications were due today at 5:30. The Gardiner Gala will be happening next semester. I have been meeting with the Iniss social rep. We are thinking about doing an open mic pub night. Highball will be in March. The date has not been chosen, but will be soon. I am

planning an end of year pub night that might be a collar with building presidents. Hannah Brennan made a survey and we floated it around vic to get feedback on S&G events. If you have any ideas or suggestions please direct them to me a scarletandgold@vusac.ca.

- Cat's Eye Managers
 - Thomas: The cat's eye has been doing well. We are currently approaching the end of the semester, and are therefore looking for a new co manager. There is an application and interview process. Right after caucus there will be an open mic night in the Cat's Eye.
 - Thomas Zheng: What happens on weekends?
 - Thomas: We are not open on weekends, it can however be booked on weekends. You can email us at manager@catseye.ca.
- Alex: I would like to add two minutes for an update from claire for equity
- Claire: Last week the equity commission had the art battle that was a pretty big success, raised around 350 dollars that we will be donating. Next week there will be discussion sessions on equity at Victoria. I have been working on reshaping equity training. This will be next Wednesday. Doc and talks happen every Thursday. Equity committee meets every week in VUSAC. I have been working with the presidents to get free pads and tampons for Vic students. We will be circulating a survey on how best to distribute them. The day of * Action Against Violence Against Women will be happening on December 6th.
- Alex: Onto discussion groups, the rooms will be NF006 Equity, 007 Sustainability, 008 Campus Life, you can move throughout the groups as you want to. Remember to keep it a safe space, this will last thirty minutes.

Part Two - Discussion Groups

Part Three - General Questions

- VUSAC Co-Presidents
 - Benjamin: We are going to be briefing you guys on what we've been doing and what's coming up. We are trying to get out the student experience survey next semester.
 - Gabriel: We have some project applications, the first is the provision of female hygiene products. Not sure where exactly they'll be, but that's what Claire was talking about with the survey.

- Benjamin: We are applying for a revival for the Student Travel and Experience Fund, in tandem with Michelle. Only in Canada and the U.S originally just due to funding.
- Bergita: When this was initially put up one concern was liability, with international travel there is a higher risk.
- Gabriel: The other application is the student activism fund, it's 1050 now, forms should be available soon in the office. If you have a venture that would fit this fund
- Benjamin: The UTSU GM is next Wednesday, hopefully we can get on to actual student issues after that.
- Gabriel: Last time we talked about the listserv, and to get the whole membership. We met with Kelly Castle and we started setting up the initial plans to set this up.
- Hannah moves to extend discussion time by two mins. Anna seconds. Two oppose, four abstain.
- Gabriel: This is so VUSAC has consistent to all VCU members, all paying students, so that they have access to this listserv.
- Benjamin: We are starting something called Vic This Week, it is a bulletin that will go in tandem with the listserv in terms of getting info out. There was a meeting yesterday of a group to talk about the master plan for transforming the Vic campus. Basically it is a multiyear plan, it is just in the initial stages right now. VUSAC will be working to make sure student voices are heard. Grad photos are week.
- Gabriel: Cat's Eye Concert next week, money going to Syrian Refugees, the performer is Fracture, an electronica artist.
- Benjamin: We are working with the DO about opening the Goldring during certain weekend hours, and also opening the VUSAC office as a study space as a formalized system.
- Cricket: I know lots of students enjoy burnish study space, is an extension of other days being considered?
- Bergita: It is quite demanding on the dons but something needs to be worked out.
- Jacob Blackwell: We are looking into extending it, a lot of it has to do with numbers.

- Hannah: In the future, to take the load of the dons, does it have to be the dons who are supervising? I know that when it's 24 hours all student leaders can be there
 - Bergita: During the exam period it's that everyone is paid. The Dons are employed already.
- Vice-President External
- Out-of-Office Hours
 - Alex: This will be beginning on Monday, Ben and Gabe will be out at 2PM in Old Vic. They will be there to answer any questions. There will be coffee and snacks.
 - UTSU GM
 - Alex: You can proxy your vote online. We are incredibly tired of this long process. It is important that we get it done this time, that the union is legal.
- Question Period
- Anna: I was wondering if you, Bergita, have any numbers with commuters in regards to overnight study space?
 - Bergita: There is a sign in, I don't have those numbers right now but I can get back to you with that. There is the cost of the space, and keeping it open and things like that. The commuter experience fee helps but the residence also contributes. Part of why we're hoping to have the Goldring open is for commuters. If you have any other ideas, we can look at making it happen.
 - Jacob Blackwell: It may be that numbers for the full exam period may be more telling than through the week. It may be worth it to look now and later.
 - Anna: I can see the study space benefitting a very certain type of commuter, for more just off-campus students.
 - Alex: A general question: how did you find the smaller discussion rooms?
 - Lucinda: Would be awesome if they could be longer.
 - Alex: Any other concerns?

- Betty: Is there a penalty for not attending caucus?
- Alex: There is a stricter thing for clubs and levies.
- Betty: A sign out might be helpful too.

Kareem moves to adjourn meeting. Betty seconds. Motion passes, one opposed six abstaining.

Meeting is adjourned.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:50