VUSAC Meeting Agenda

**Call to order:** 5:40 pm EST, November 19, 2021

**Land Acknowledgement:**

*Tabina*

*We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land. To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation for those whose territory we work and live on and a way of honouring the indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on this land and to seek to understand your place within history as well. Land acknowledgements don’t exist in past tense or historical context. Colonialism is a current ongoing process and we need to build on the mindfulness of our present participation in that.*

**Official Regrets:**

*Bright Anthony(Proxied by Tabina Ahmed)*

**Absent:**

**Approval of minutes:**

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to approve the minutes for October 29th, Seconded by Tabina Ahmed*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

**Additions to the agenda:**

*Update from Tabina Ahmed (3 minutes)*

*Vic Pride Budget Ratification (3 minutes)*

*Removal of Commission Report*

**Approval of the agenda:**

*Motion by Tabina Ahmed to approve the agenda for November 19th, Seconded by Kate Haberl*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

*Motion: Jerico Raguindin motions to grant Ali Kehl speaking rights, seconded by Kate Haberl*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Campus Life Coordinator, put forth by Ali Kehl (3 minutes)*

Ali: Happy past mid-November everyone! We have been offering our first few in-person events. We have been preparing for Caucus, our December 6th memorial, and all the hiring for the new year. Orientation Co-Chair and Cat’s Eye Co-Manager applications are now open and due November 22nd and 28th respectively. I highly recommend you encourage people to apply if they are interested. We also wanted to let everyone know that on December 20th all applications (Orientation Leader, TM, IM, and Don) will open. We hope that opening up on the same day will ease some of the confusion. So many clubs have been going through the VSEF application. Please keep it up and ensure to be doing it in a timely manner as it is harder for us to accommodate short-notice requests. Lastly, don’t forget to be taking the time to take care of yourself. If you have any questions feel free to let me know.

ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion: Kate Haberl motions to ratify The Women’s Circle as a VUSAC-recognized club for the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Tabina Ahmed (3 minutes)*

Kate: The Women’s Circle is a returning club at Vic catered specifically toward Muslim women in the Vic community to create a safe space and run fun cultural events. I am fully in favour of them being ratified.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Kate Haberl motions to reallocate $175 from the VPSO Contingency Fund to Budget Line 27(Boundary Merch Fundraiser), seconded by Tabina Ahmed (3 minutes)*

Kate: The Contingency Fund is in place to reallocate specifically to clubs who may not have gotten their budgets in by the deadline or for clubs who made a mistake in their budget and need a little more. In this case, The Boundary accidentally budgeted in Canadian dollars when it should have been in US dollars.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Katherine Hovdestad and Kayla Man motion to reallocate $250 from the Finance Chair Contingency Fund to an event by the Scarlet and Gold Commission in December, seconded by Tabina Ahmed (1 minute)*

Katherine: The Scarlet and Gold Commission is looking to host an event in December that wasn’t previously budgeted for. I would be very in favour of this because our budget is very underutilized right now, so more expenditure would be very good for us.

Kayla: I was thinking it could be similar to the Home for the Holidays event that is happening next week or it could be different pending our later discussion.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Katherine Hovdestad motions to ratify the Cat’s Eye’s additional budget line as it appears in Appendix A, seconded by Tabina Ahmed (5 minutes)*

Katherine: When we were going through our previous payments, we found that the Cat’s Eye had been underpaid by around $4000 for a check that wasn’t properly processed from the 2021 school year. It’s been recently issued to them and they would like to use these funds to bolster their budget and expenditure in fall and winter. Everything they’ve suggested seems quite appropriate with what they’ve requested in the past and in comparison to other Levies.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Jaden Muoio motions to ratify the Vic Pride Budget as it appears in Appendix B, seconded by Tabina Ahmed (3 minutes)*

Jaiden: As some of you may be aware, Vic Pride is continuing to have issues accessing our funding from the bank. Contacting them has been very difficult and we feel that we are close to gaining access. As we are working to resolve this issue, we do have events planned for the end of this year that we would like to use the budget for. We have a Zine Making Workshop happening next Friday and we are looking to get supplies for that. We are hoping to have a movie night where we would like to send people off with individually packaged popcorn and candy canes. We are also hoping to hold a holiday market in December in collaboration with other groups on campus and create a fun place for students to visit.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Caucus, put forth by Sooyeon Lee (10 minutes)*

Soo: Caucus is happening next Friday from 5:30 to 8:30 pm and you are constitutionally mandated to attend unless you have otherwise sent me your regrets. This year Caucus is going to be run differently than it has in the past. Typically people were expected to send in reports on what they have done over the year. Instead, we’re going to be asking people to send in discussion items to give people to opportunity to talk about really important matters with people from the Dean’s Office, President’s Office, Clubs, Levies, Dons and a lot more. If you have any discussion items you would like to submit, please do so before midnight tonight.

*Instagram Surveys, put forth by Anne Huynh (10 minutes)*

Anne: Hi everyone! I wanted to talk about possible Instagram stories because they came up at a meeting and also during our retreat. I was wondering if we think that surveys through Instagram stories would be a good way to collect feedback from the VCU? If we were, what kind of questions would we include?

Kate: I remember this coming up at retreat because my argument for it was that we should be making student feedback as easy as possible. I think Instagram stories are a great format for basic questions that don’t require in-depth answers. It’s super useful for creating feedback for things like reopening. I don’t think it would be a good way to decide important matters, just because it is too easy to click an answer without any thought.

Tabina: I was going to say the same thing as Kate. The level of difficulty of the questions needs to be easy because it will be on social media. Social media is supposed to be interactive and fun, so it should be a lot of yes/no, rate this/that questions etc. We would have to make a separate survey that is more formal for more difficult questions.

Jerico: To put it into the advocacy efforts we are doing right now, it could be along the lines of “How do you feel about Burwash?” and include a Likert scale. We can expand it to ask more about mental health and if they feel supported and so much more to generate interest at Vic.

Kate: Another thing is that we can’t use this to make decisions because we have no way of verifying who is voting like to decide on a referendum.

Ali: I think that you should be using your Instagram surveys to hype up the Instagram community about your reopening. “Have you ever been to VUSAC?” “Do you know where the VUSAC office is?” and use it to announce your reopening date and plans.

Fatima: If you use Instagram surveys to gauge public opinion, it is a really good opportunity for engagement. There are so many factors that can be discussed and even dedicated days for specific topics because it can be overwhelming for students to answer all at once.

Jerico: It would be great to use it for expectation management. If we get a lot of negative responses for an event, then we know to pursue other options. Maybe over the Christmas break, we can ask students if they would attend certain events before planning for something that will have a low turnout.

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*S&G December Event Suggestions, put forth by Kayla Man (7 minutes)*

Kayla: As I mentioned earlier, I wanted to hear suggestions about things they would like to see at the event. So far I have things like candy and photobooths and I am open to hearing more.

Tabina: I don’t know if it’s possible with the budget, but I was thinking we could do a candle sale. We could have a few holiday-themed scents like candy canes or cookies.

Fatima: If you are trying to do things online, I always find that winter-themed game/trivia nights are very interactive and fun. You could also consider doing Karaoke and have a list of winter-themed songs for people to choose from.

Tabina: Maybe you could do your own hot cocoa with your own marshmallow and have different extract flavours. I think if you collaborated with Caffiends it would be a great way to tie everything together and to let the students know that they are open.

*December 6th Memorial, put forth by Sooyeon Lee (5 minutes)*

Soo: I want to let you all know that on December 6th there will be a memorial happening on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. It’s a day that commemorates the lives of the fourteen young women that were shot and killed as a result of a deliberate act of misogyny and gender-based violence that happened in 1989. It is our responsibility as university students and socially aware people to ensure that things like this don’t happen again. It is an event that is being planned and organized by myself, Ali, Cam and Psalm. The event is structured in that people come and students do spoken word or even give a speech. If any of you are interested in saying something or want to contribute to the event, please let any of us know!

Ali: If some of the personal aspects may be too much for you, we have pre-written speeches that can be said if that is more your speed. At the very least we need three people to participate and we welcome those who would like to.

Cam: We have been doing a lot of work on the event, and I just wanted to thank everyone for all the hard work. I know it’s going to be a very meaningful event.

STAFF REPORTS:

*Update, put forth by Anne Huynh (3 minutes)*

Anne: I wanted to update that Tiffany and I have created a VUSAC TikTok account so please follow us @vusac\_tiktok. If you have any suggestions on videos we should make, please feel free to reach out to either one of us. My second update is that I am currently working with Elena from the Dean’s Office to organize a VUSAC takeover on the Victoria College Life Instagram account. It would be a week worth of takeovers with a different council member each day talking about a different topic regarding VUSAC. I have two people already and I am looking for three more. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with me so we can work on that.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

*VPI: Tabina Ahmed (3 minutes)*

Tabina: I am excited to announce that I am finally holding the fall semester VUSAC 30 minute check-ins with everyone on council. I want to thank you all for being patient. The date and times will be available in the email that I will be sending shortly. Ideally, these availabilities will allow everyone to be flexible with their booking. If you ever have trouble I can help you out.

*Motion: Kate Haberl motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded Kayla Man*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.*