



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

150 Charles St. West, Room 127
Toronto, ON , M5S 1K9
(416) 585 - 4473
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VUSAC Meeting Agenda

Call to order: 5:30 pm EST, June 23, 2023

Land Acknowledgement:

Diana Vink.

Official Regrets: Medha Barath (Proxy: Juhyung Yun); Charlie Sun (Proxy: Shane Joy); Kate Mochina (Proxy: Lara Athena Reyes); Atlas Changulani (Leave early 6:20PM); Krystyn Kalloo (Leave early 6:20PM)

Approval of minutes:

Additions to the agenda:

Executive Report by Vice President External.

Approval of the agenda:

Motion by F/N L/N to approve the agenda for Month Day, Seconded by F/N L/N

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

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

Motion: Shane Joy motions to grant Ali Kehl speaking rights, Seconded by Lara Athena Reyes.

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

Ali: We had our Open Vic day, our open house to all incoming students. We've been working on our TM program as usual. As you know, we have our Slice of Vic coming. A new program called Slice of Vic will be dedicated to welcoming first-year students to the city and community opportunities such as the 519 and the library. We also have upper year programming coming for orientation back to Vic, which will be happening again with Thursday and Friday programs. Lastly, you should all look forward to Student Leader Week (a week of activities for all to enjoy), which is from September 25th to 29th.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion: Lara Athena Reyes to ratify VUSAC Staff Members, Seconded by Shane Joy (5 minutes)

Lara: Some background applications for staff members – applications were opened on April 24th and closed on May 15th – open for 3 weeks. Communications Coordinator application was



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extended to May 18th just because we had a very limited amount of applications for that one. Our hiring panel consisted of me (Vice President Internal), Shane as President, Di as Equity, the outgoing staff member when available, as well as a residence student and a commuter student. We offered at least 3 interviews for each position based on their scores and during deliberation, each member of the panel sent their ranking of the applicants to me privately, which I took heavily into considering when making a decision. We were pretty much unanimous on all fronts.

Lara: For Chair, Jackie was the strongest applicant after experience in meetings. Her main focus was to make meetings more efficient by enforcing Robert's rules. For CRO, Dhir was very clear about what his concrete ideas were to improve the elections – had a good balance between innovation and improvement of our current processes. For Communications Coordinator, Tanya had the best portfolio, and also communicated her constructive criticisms on our platforms and communication methods. For Finance Chair, deciding on Callan was relatively easy – demonstrated a lot of knowledge and Vic and he turned being involved in the community into a responsibility to keep VUSAC's books in order and serve. Lastly, for Office Manager, Yuna definitely checked off all my boxes in terms of eagerness to learn, excitement towards ideas and improvement.

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

Motion: Lara Athena Reyes to ratify VUSAC Co-Chairs, Seconded by Shane Joy (5 minutes)

Lara: Co-Chair applications were open on May 1st and closed on May 21st. We extended Commuter Co-Chair applications to May 30th because we had a lack of applications. Our hiring panel consisted of me (Vice President Internal), Shane as President, Di as Equity, Outgoing Co-Chair or Commissioner, and a Resident and Commuter student. We assessed a record number of 36 applications – 10 from Academic, 9 for Mental Wellness, 3 for Equity, 11 for Commuter, and 3 for Sustainability.

Lara: For Academic, we hired Stephanie who had great ideas that were very feasible and doable within VUSAC. For Commuter, Aimee's experience as a Senior Transition member was highlighted as she would have had more knowledge on accessing resources at Vic. For Equity, Caitriona had incredible attention to detail – had very concrete goals that she planned to accomplish into how Equity impacts a university student. For Mental Wellness, agreeing on Teresa was a no brainer – had great experience in Mental Wellness, accessing and compiling resources which is a huge goal of Charlie's this year. Lastly, for Sustainability, Leah's work on



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the Sustainability Commission did not go unnoticed, as she had demonstrated determination and commitment to the position of Co-Chair.

Diana: Just wanted to take a moment and thank Lara for coordinating all the hiring process and everyone who helped out in our interviews – the resident and commuter students who showed up.

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

Motion: Shane Joy to Omnibus 12 motions in the Agenda, seconded by Muskaan.

Shane: I'm going to motion to just omnibus the 12 motions on the agenda because it's 24 minutes of motions that can be condensed into 5 minutes – Muskaan and I taked beforehand.

Jackie: Omnibus, just to clarify, is a motion to join multiple motions together to one.

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

Motion: Muskaan Aggarwal to ratify Levy Heads, Seconded by Shane Joy

Anna Novak as the incoming Cat's Eye Junior Co-Manager, Elaine Lee as an incoming Caffiends Co-Manager, Cristiana Da Costa and Victoria Lee as the incoming Co-Editors-in-Chief of Acta Victoriana, Chris Wong as the incoming Vic Pride! President, Onbee Kim and Katerina Carrozzi as the incoming VCAA Co-Presidents, Chae Rin Jang (Alayna) as the incoming VicXposure President, Michael Elsaesser as the incoming VCDS Producer, Zindziswa Claire Malanca as the incoming Student Projects Chair, Daphne Kapsales as the incoming WUSC President, seconded by Shane Joy (2 minutes)

Michael: Shout out to all the great Levy heads – specific shout to Anna. Anna is somebody who is so kind, so caring, and knows so much about all the different technical parts of the Cat's Eye. I hope more leaders take Anna's approach of going all at it and caring about people/places.

Muskaan: I'm so happy to be here and introduce all the exceptional Levy heads within our community – please know that you have the unwavering support of this council!

Muskaan: First up, we have Anna Novak as the incoming Cat's Eye Junior Co-Manager who was also the technical director for Cat's Eye last year. Second up, we have Elaine Lee, the new



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Co-Manager of Caffeinds with her exceptional leadership as the Volunteer Relations, Co-Director. Next up, we have Cristiana Da Costa and Victoria Lee who are going to be taking on the role of Editors in Chief of Acta Victoriana. We have Chris Wong as the new incoming Vic Pride! President with their great dedication to inclusivity and empowerment. Next up, we have Katerina Carrozzi and Onbee Kim, the Presidents for VCAA. Moving forward, we have Chae Rin Jang (Alayna), our returning VicXposure President. Head of VCDS Producer, Michael Elsaesser brings fresh perspective and wealth of understanding, leadership, and skills to our vibrant theatre community. Next up, we have Zindziswa Claire Malanca as our Student Projects Chair of Vic. Last up, we have Daphne Kapsales coming in as the President of WUSC President.

Michael: Just a VCDS heads up, we are currently accepting pitches for the upcoming season. Pitches are open until the 27th. I'll look through all of them and pick the best ones.

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

Motion: Shane Joy to ratify the Summer 2023 Budget (Appendix A), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (60 minutes)

Jackie: You can all check the budget spreadsheet in Appendix A. Just a reminder, it'll be strictly 60 minutes because of the time, we won't be able to go over it.

Michael: I need to add an extra budget line for the Cat's Eye budget, specifically for banking fees; \$30 in total for the summer. I forgot to add that in as a little side note. I also proposed this last year with Amy during the Winter Caucus – trying to get all the Levies and VUSAC moving over to Credit Unions. I'm meeting with Credit Unions, negotiating different rates and such.

Callan: Thanks Jackie for bringing up the budget. The spreadsheet has 3 tabs: "Summary - Groups" (shows our total expected expenses assuming everything gets ratified for Levies, VUSAC commissions, reviews for staff with a grand total at the bottom), "Summary - Requesters" (takes one level deeper with details for each groups, where all the Levies/VUSAC Commissions/VUSAC Executives/VUSAC Staff have each of their proposed expenses within the budget, expected revenue, and then total funding). Those two are our high level overview. To ratify the budget, we're going to go into the "Master Budget" tab which goes line by line for ratification.



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Atlas: Michael mentioned wanting to transition the banking partners of multiple Levies to a union. Me and Shane have been trying to do the same thing with VUSAC, we currently bank with TD so Michael, I'd just love to get in touch.

Cam: Just a question for Callan with the budget as it stands, assuming we pass everything, is that financially sustainable for VUSAC or would we be in debt?

Callan: Yes, the summer spending is a little different here because VUSAC, historically, has given Levies their 10% summer spending in the Winter so Levies already have that funding on hand. The catch here is, for Levies, we're not spending out of the VUSAC account directly. Levies have their own fees, their autonomous and their finances – so that's their role in expenditure. And this process is just for approval – ensuring that the ratification and those budget lines match VUSAC policies. In terms of the Commissions, the Execs, and the Staff, which would come out of VUSAC's budget – if the question was “Do we have enough money to fund those things?” the answer is yes, we do, but I would also say that we are still in the process of working with the Office of Bursar to make sure that we are prepared for the Fall as well.

Cam: Just to be clear, unlike previous budgeting sessions, the purpose that we're going through here is not “we've got to catch something,” it's just “are these reasonable uses.”

Callan: I'm not going to speak too historically because I know things have been done differently in different budgeting periods and this is ultimately up to council. But I know that this summer budget does not include Club spending, which means it does not include reimbursements for Clubs. This is all Levy spending but also VUSAC spending. We certainly have to be sure that all the budget lines meet our qualifications for VUSAC guidelines and are financially reasonable.

Jackie: As we go through the budget it won't be a line by line process, we will go Levy by Levy.

Michael: Just a general question for Callan, I noticed in the budget, there were no note sections. I just wanted to check, was this budget reviewed by a budget student committee and did they have like no notes or were you not able to assemble a committee in time for this to have any numbers?

Shane: The Budget Steering Policy doesn't require us to do a committee in the summer.

Jackie: VicXposure, does anyone want to speak on it? I'll go 3 to 1. No, so VicXposure is done. Next is Cat's Eye, Michael has already spoken on it so do you have anything to add?



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Michael: As I mentioned earlier, could we do a friendly amendment to add in a different line for banking fees? It's \$30, so not a big dent to the summer budget. You'll notice the honorary align item which was budgeted for in the Winter period but our hiring stuff got a little pushed so we're doing it for the Summer instead – this was already budgeted in the Winter so it would be coming out of the Winter funding, which should be easy and quick. Repairs and miscellaneous things, sometimes things can break like random lights or sounds.

Motion to ratify VicXposure budget line by Diana, seconded by Lara.

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

Jackie: Is the banking fee added to the Cat'sEye budget? Callan you can speak on it because there was a request to edit.

Callan: There was a request to add that but I'm pretty sure that's something the council has to vote as a friendly amendment.

Jackie: Friendly amendment doesn't require votes.

Shane: We can add it, I'll just agree on it, if that's what's needed.

Jackie: Let's say that this motion is adding that \$30 and we'll vote on it.

Motion to pass the Cat'sEye budget by Diana, seconded by Lara.

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

Jackie: Elaine will speak first about the Caffiends budget.

Elaine: We're not open during the summer but we've been asked to open for Comm-O, so it's just based on the numbers from last year.

Motion to pass Caffiends budget by Cam, seconded by Diana.

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

Motion to pass The Strand's budget by Larat, seconded by Muskaan.

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



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Jackie: Next we have VCAA's budget, does anyone want to speak on it?

Diana: I just have a procedural question, what is the threshold for, we need a representative present for budgets to pass if we can't vote on budgets that have us for more than \$500 without representative present, correct? Or is that just for Clubs?

Shane: Yeah, it's not required.

Atlas: Just wanted to say that I have to leave now – The Sustainability Commission Report will be delivered by Leah, who is my Co-Chair and have provided my notes to her.

Krystyn: My exam is starting soon so I have to leave but what I wanted to talk about were the events and if anyone had any suggestions – if you do, please email me.

Lara: If the representative from VSIDS wants to speak that's fine I just had a question about one of the budget lines.

Onbee: Can I speak something for VCAA before we go to VCDS? I just wanted to say that we were over budget from last year to some error so we will be reimbursing VUSAC shortly after we get in contact with the previous Co-President from last year.

Motion to pass the VCAA's budget by Cam, seconded by Diana.

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

Jackie: For VCDS, Lara will be asking the first question.

Lara: I had a question regarding the refreshments during the rehearsals, it's like the last line on VCDS. Just on our budgeting guidelines, we can't ratify anything that doesn't have a justification so I was wondering if you had a reasoning for the quote of \$300.

Cass: The show that we're doing with the summer budget is a bridge between a school and a professional show and it's a standard to have for the producing company to bring some sort of catering to the workshops and the rehearsals.



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Lara: I was just wondering why it's \$300 – is it ordered from somewhere in particular or if there's an exact receipt.

Cass: We don't have any specific orders but we based it off of a previous year that did a similar show – basically they had once a week for the 2 months of the show run, bringing \$20-\$30 order in.

Lara: I think just for the precedent and following our policy, if we could resubmit the line with the justification, that would be great.

Shane: It's fine, we can do an email vote for it.

Diana: I was wondering if we could add the justification now because it was basically just said to us – I don't know if we can amend the budget in that way.

Callan: The other challenge here is that there's no explicit quote of what is being bought exactly – the drinks/food/direct price for these sorts of things. From a finance perspective, I'm gonna advise that we get those details in total via submission, but that's up to council.

Cass: I can give specific numbers, then also can look at them specifically and vote on them.

Ali: So regarding line number 26, I know this is a prop but for purchasing cigarettes, technically in our budget, we aren't allowed to spend money on alcohol, drugs, or any related substances. If you can buy something that is not a real cigarette but looks like it (maybe those fake Popeyes thingies). I know it's silly but there isn't anything we can do to say that someone might then not smoke them and the money goes to that. The second thing is for lines 36 to 42 – I'm just wondering if you already contacted the finance office to get approval for selling merchandise just because they need to be involved in that process. So if you haven't gotten that approval, we might want to wait on approving those lines.

Cass: Yes, we will get fake cigarettes and I don't think they should be that much different in price. In terms of the merchandise, I will send you an email Ali – if you could just help me out figure out what that process looks like, because I want to make sure that we're on board.

Michael: This is more on principle. Ali, you mentioned the budget policy line about not funding alcohol events or anything related. The Cat'sEye is doing a pub night – I think the line that states



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this policy is more for Clubs and Comissions, whereas Levies have more economy over their funding so I don't think that's really an issue for VCDS.

Ali: You can absolutely spend money on pub nights. What you can't spend money on is providing free alcohol substances which is why I was saying it's silly but we can't prove that the cigarettes wouldn't be smoked. For pub nights, you're not paying for alcohols to be consumed, you're paying for bars to be open. And Cass, just email me and I can connect with Hannah.

Cam: Yeah just be clear, the reason why I'm moving to defer the whole budget is because there are things that we need more information as we've discussed from VCDS that we cannot resolve. The reason why I'd like to defer the whole thing rather than line items and certain lot is because there are issues prevalent throughout the whole budget. I think reconsidering the budget as a whole will ensure that those other items do not have the issues we've just picked up on.

Diana: It would be helpful for me if you could clarify what issues you're specifically mentioning.

Cam: To explicitly specify: cigarettes props, explaining the quote for catering services, clarifying with the fiancne office – those are the issues that have been identified so far.

Cass: I'm just questioning what that timeline would look like if the budget gets deferred and when you would need things from us, because things will be coming up within the next month/less than a month.

Callan: I just wanted to say I agree with Cam in the sense that the cigarette line was mentioned by Ali but also the merchandise lines. I think from a finance perspective, most of these lines are not exact quotes or references. But I think it's very important to be financially prudent.

Lara: In terms of an email vote, as long as you get us the numbers revised within this weekend, we can send out the email vote and council will vote within 72 hours – we can get back to you within by next week.

Michael: It's kind about the VCDS. I know in the past, the lines were more general than what it is now. I find it strange that it's been this budget specifically which has been singled out for wanting exact votes for every single line. I feel like this is more than sufficient in my opinion.

Cam: I have motioned first to defer to an email vote.



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Jackie: Would anyone like to second this motion? There's no seconder for that motion so we'll move on.

*Motion to strike the budget lines 11 to 17, 1 and 19 for VCDS by Diana, seconded by Lara.
All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Michael: Just wanted to confirm the timeline for the rest of the VCDS budget, because I know the Jackson Jill is happening early July so I want to make sure that this will be passed before that so the money isn't spent before it's passed. That way, people will get reimbursed.

Lara: As long as we get the numbers to us by this weekend or early next week, we'd be able to ratify that through an email vote because it's only 72 hours and they'd be able to spend on those lines.

Cam: For Cass, how many students will be participating in this?

Cass: About 6 current students and about 5 to 6 alumni.

Shane: Just wanted to remind everyone that Muskaan and I met with Cass and Effie to chat about the budget; we deemed it was fine because it is in the best interest of the VCDS reputationally to go forth with having their show as part of a festival. I think that it's good to do it over the summer rather than in the Fall or the Winter. They have the funds, so I highly recommend that we pass.

*Motion to pass the VCDS budget which has not been struck down, seconded by Shane.
All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Jackie: Next is VicPride!

Chris: For transparency sake, we have included some funding from a giveaway over to Summer and we have leftover money that we are allowed to use from the Student Project funds until September 30th – so some lines/funds are not directly from VUSAC. Next thing is that we did have a substantial amount of money leftover from last semester. We poured a lot of our energy to the queer prom but there were some parts of the Winter budget that we haven't actually fulfilled



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or asked money for, for example pride pins and some events, so we wish to have \$600 of expense to buy pins and have it ready for orientation or earlier events for incoming students.

Shane: We can just put net expected revenue, the exact amount that they're spending so it doesn't amount as a net loss for the Levy just for like the purpose of making the budget clear and transparent. Chris, I also wanted to ask, the other money that you spent on the giveaway, was that budgeted previously with VUSAC?

Chris: I think VicPride! asked for a total funding amount of \$200. VUSAC funded \$1000 and Student Projects funded approximately \$4300. So we have funding from both VUSAC and Student Projects funding.

Shane: It helps clarify, I'm just wondering if the funding that came from SPF, the \$4300 minus this – what you're spending now – so that's \$2500 or so in spending. Was that budgeted through VUSAC? Just for transparency purposes and to be clear (not a problem with ratifying the budget).

Chris: I'm not quite sure, I can certainly ask for clarification and send an email over.

Motion to pass the VicPride! budget by Shane, seconded by Lara.

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

Jackie: So next, Vic Black Student Network Budget.

Diana: The only question I have is some of the lines are specific, so the popcorn, chips, etc. I just wanna make sure that those are including taxes and any other fees.

Sharese: I wanted to comment on our first item which is Breakfast. The price is based on an estimate of our previous experience with Vic College's catering services. \$40 of the \$200 will be for the service fee but I don't expect that the price will actually cost \$200 because we are catering to a small number of students and for simple items. For karaoke and pub night, I put an asterisk by this reservation it's up for discussion – given the dates we expect to reserve the room. There will be a rule as 19+, given that this event is ideally for orientation students may not be 19. So it is likely that we will be changing the conditions of this event so most students can attend.



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Lara: Sharese, I just wanted to clarify, the first line for the breakfast event with the executives, is that an open event (can anyone come)?

Sharese: Yes, these are all open events. Ideally, we want incoming students to participate but they are open as well. I should also mention that the funding for these events will be from our previous allocations because we had some issues with hosting activities and financing in the past so we won't be able to use the money that we actually got. So this funding will come from what we already have rather than new money from VUSAC.

Michael: Vic Black does not currently give honorary to any executives so when they do breakfast or dinners for their executives, this was an issues last year as well. Executives put in a lot of work to run their Levy and they do not get honorary for their work so please allow them to be rewarded with dinners or breakfast even if it's a closed event.

Sharese: Thank you for your contribution Michael, just to confirm, this is not a breakfast event for the executives of Vic Black, it's an event for other students to be able to come and meet the executives.

Shane: I'll just note that the date of the event occurs after our budgeting period, which is a bit of an issue from an reimbursement standpoint. I'm wondering whether it would be better to confirm with the Finance Chair spending, sort of in advance to get that approval for this spending and then ratify this in the Fall just because our reimbursement deadline will have passed at that stage; it ends at August 31st.

Sharese: I wanted to repeat that we won't be applying for reimbursement for these events because we were given money in the past and weren't able to host these events.

Callan: Sharese and I chatted over email and she specifically asked about the start of Fall and whether or not it should be included in the Summer budget. I said yes, this should be included in the Summer budget because of the dates for the budget ratification for the Fall. Like Shane mentioned, our Summer budgeting period does end at the end of the summer but that leads to this limbo between the end of the Summer and the start of the Fall. In this case, this is not Club spending, it's Levy spending. As Sharese mentioned, they have funds on hand and they wouldn't be able to budget for this in the Fall before the event actually took place. I actually think it's better to budget now in advance of the event so we are approving the use of those funds.



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Diana: I just wanted to ask a quick question about the venue. Are you anticipating to make the event more inclusive to people who are not of age? Would the rate be similar? Are you anticipating having to switch venues? In that case, we might need more specific quotes for it.

Sharese: I should get back to you with a more specific quote, this is something I need to discuss with other members of my team.

Lara: If anybody feels that we can scratch a line, come back to us and ratify that line with more details – just so that we don't overestimate or underestimate anything and have the exact finances you need.

Motion to strike line 58 of the spreadsheet by Shane, seconded by Diana.

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

Motion to ratify the rest of the blocks budget by Shane, seconded by Lara.

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

Jackie: Now we're going over to Sustainability Commissions.

Michael: This is about the Vic Black budget that was just kind of asked. Sharese, you liked a message by Anna about being able to host at Cat'sEye.

Lara: We already voted on it and I think Sharese probably wants the opportunity to think about it.

Diana: That's what I was going to say, I'm also going to add that if it's free we wouldn't need to revise the budget line.

Motion to extend this discussion by 15 minutes by Lara, seconded by Shane.

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

Diana: We order a bunch of stickers at the end of the year last year. Do we have any of those left?

Lara: Atlas isn't here but I looked over this budget. In terms of the stickers, I know we did a bunch and it's also the fact that this will be for orientation so we'll have a bigger number of people who will want them, so I think this is a justified purchase.



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Leah: Just relating to the stickers, some are supposed to be from a competition that's gonna be happening at the end of the summer. It'd be nice to have more during orientation and have extra.

Motion to pass the Sustainability Commissions' budget by Lara, seconded by Cam.

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

Jackie: Next we will go to Commuter Commission's budget.

Ju: We need plates, cutlery, napkins for pancakes, training sessions, vegan and gluten free pancake mixes. I also funded some decorations for renovating the commuter lounge – cushions, fake plants, cork boards, shelf from Ikea. Without donations we would need to budget for \$30. Lastly, aprons for executives.

Motion to pass the Commuter Commission's budget by Diana, seconded by Lara.

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

Jackie: Next, we're going to the VPI budget.

Lara: The first lines are maintenance stuff – Google Drive for all council members. The first line is different because we get charged the month after. This is for April when we had 30 emails, whereas what we're paying in July will be charged in the following month because we're not a full council yet. Doodle Poll needed for hiring and check-ins. To maintain VUSAC's website, Tony has done an amazing job revamping and will continue to revamp. For council, we're getting shirts and will have a VUSAC Social at the end of the week.

Diana: I'm just wondering, Commissioner already has a trifold bold that could be easily altered and used from last year. Just to take into account that some commissions have existing boards.

Lara: I also think that the Office Manager from last year may have, so might need to check.

Motion to pass VPI's budget by Cam, seconded by Shane.

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

Jackie: We'll go onto VPE's budget.



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Cam: I want a banner and it's weirdly expensive. It adds to the look when we do big projects, like Open Vic. While VUSAC has a lot of detailed resource lists, there's little cards with our contact information which would be useful for tabling.

Lara: Just a side note, I'm not sure if this is the central resource you're planning to print is just VUSAC printing?

Cam: No, it's not. The reason why it's high volume and also like I wouldn't want anyone to fold 500 papers.

Lara: Yep, so I just wanted to clarify that because I'm not sure what the timeline is for the resources and I don't think it's appropriate for us to be budgeting and finalizing this when I know that this should've been a collaboration with the Commissions. We can finalize things internally for us before ratifying a budget. I just wanted to speak on the banner. I'm not sure when you plan to begin tabling, just because this seems like an obscene amount for a banner. I also think that it's not necessary for us to print a banner – we've done pretty well in terms of engagement with posters and social media, and it's also just not sustainable for us to kind of produce things that we have alternative routes of like advertising.

Shane: Lines without justifications also cannot be considered by us according to our budgeting guidelines. So that means that the tabling materials at least, will have to be struck and put to an email vote. I think it's probably a poor financial decision to spend \$200 because we don't want to fold some paper.

Cam: I'm happy to wait on printing, like it takes a week. The banner, though I do hear the fact that it's \$219, and I agree that isn't it's an investment that we will have for council and councils to come I think it's part of us looking like a professional organization. I think the biggest complaint about us that we heard last year was that people didn't know what we do.

Michael: To my recollection, the budget policy exact phrasing is “VUSAC *may* choose not to ratify a budget if it doesn't have a justification.” But I do agree that printing can be done at VUSAC, and like people, can fold this.

Shane: I wasn't referring to the policy, I was referring to the guidelines, but I would say that they're essentially the same thing. I just would prefer to know exactly where it's coming from. Cam if you wanna like provide more information on that, that would be good.



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Lara: Yeah, just to clarify Michael's point. So in the VUSAC budgeting guidelines document itself, a line item submitted with no justification will not be considered. I understand that Cam probably has the numbers on the quote of the manufacturer he got it from. But I also just want to set like a proper example, because this is the same justification we used for VCDS and I don't want to make exceptions.

Cam: I mean as Michael pointed out, the guidelines are guidelines. I would be happy to put this to an email vote though if people would feel more comfortable doing that. And yeah I can send you the link so that you can buy a banner.

Diana: I think printing 500 pieces of paper is a lot of paper, but also I think that a lot of resources nowadays are virtual, so I feel like for a lot of the resources, it would be actually more productive to have a virtual guide and then print like QR codes for display. The other thing is, I just want to comment on the idea of the sustainability of the banner. Organizations switch logos and things all the time. I don't necessarily know if it has the same kind of long lasting use. I think we need to appear more professional in the same breath; appearing professional and having a banner is not the same as people knowing what we do.

Shane: I just think, procedurally, it's probably a better idea to strike it just so that we're treating everyone with the same element of fairness in terms of the one without the description. And then the 500 copies – I am personally opposed to it. But I know that there's still more discussion to have.

Cam: I'm happy to defer just quickly, at this point about consultation. If this passes, or if it were to pass by email, though that would happen afterward and we'd work closely on. Secondly on the banner, we're really not looking to cut things here right? I'm not sure why it's necessary to cut something that puts us in line with other student governments who don't have the same reputation as having limited transparency.

Shane: I'll motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, seconded by Lara. We'll go onto Michael's indirect.

Michael: Are we fighting this long about a banner for VUSAC? This is kind of ridiculous in this sense, like this is not an overly expensive item. This is just kind of like access enforcing



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bureaucracy in this sense it kills the ability for a union to act properly.

Shane: I think Michael raises a good point but students do spend this money so that it could be put into good use.

Diana: I'm not opposed to the idea of a banner conceptually. I think that at the moment, it might not be the right timing, especially considering, VUSAC is an organization that comes with transparency. I think that doing things like putting up a banner, can make us appear as more of an exclusive organization, which is also a problem we've had in the past, and I think we really need to work on our policies and how we communicate with the student body before we work on the imaging that could go with that.

Motion to defer both lines (1 and 2) and do an email vote by Shane, seconded by Diana.

Motion is deferred and does not pass.

Jackie: Will proceed to an email vote. Next, President's budget.

Shane: For printer buyout, I'm hoping printing will be more affordable than before. Essentially we're giving them a loan and getting the money back. VUSAC's pins will be used for orientation. The rest is just printing and upkeep invoices.

Motion to pass President's by Lara, seconded by Diana.

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

Yuna: \$150 for office paper – Shane reached out to me about this and was estimated based on previous years.

Diana: How long is this supposed to cover?

Lara: This amount should cover early Fall which I think is good because we won't have time until budget ratification for the Fall to be able to buy new papers so it's good that we have extra just to last us.

Cam: I'm gonna be voting against the paper because I feel as though, while other student governments might have it the kind of default printing colour that we use might change. So it might not be the sustainable decision.



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Motion to pass the Office Manager budget by Lara, seconded by Diana.

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

Callan: If you go back to the summary pages, I just modified this a little bit so that we can see on the left what the proposed budget was, and then on the right what the approved budget. Some were deferred and will be discussed later. Approved grand total: \$26000, Proposed Grand Total: \$28000. This is a little overview of the budget that has been ratified.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Shane Joy (60 minutes): Amendments to the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix B)

Shane: We're not voting on the changes. We're just talking about them. Breaking neutrality includes placing posters and chatting about elections. This was to ensure that commuters who don't have access to these spaces are not disadvantaged. We made changes to Levy head neutrality, so that, like Clubs, Club heads, can now voluntarily speak about candidates, but cannot be solicited for endorsement. But of course, personal info, are things that people don't really want out there. They can chat with the CRO – it's at their discretion whether or not to include it. Pre-elections; we added that the elections must end one week before exams, to provide time for dealing with any issues as well as that the CRO has time to do both of their reports since they have to do a transition in elections report to reduce the burden on their shoulders. We've implemented that they *must* appoint an a CRO. Nominations period from 3 to 2 weeks. Postering cannot be placed in residence buildings, off-campus, and that they may not slip posters under doors. For social media, made it mandatory that candidates must respond to the questions on the elections forum, as well as that campaigns account for each new campaign accounts for each new election must be started from scratch. For Town Hall, made it that spring elections must have 2 town halls to allow enough questions for candidates and increase the length of the speeches to allow them to give the full account of themselves. Voting ballot; if possible, the CRO is to remove the names of disqualified candidates from ballots if they're disqualified in that voting period when the ballot's already up, but not to throw out the entire ballot altogether. We added that rank ballots should be used if the voting platform allows it, but if deemed impractical by the CRO, they can revert to first pass. We're still, trying to look for a voting website. Clarified the process of appealing, added that the EAC will come into virtual proceedings with the appellant, the CRO to get their takes on the appeal – will give poeple the chance to explain themselves easier. Results; we revamped the process for recieving results, made disqualification a possible penalty of breaking the silent period. We outlined the conditions under which extensions and



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nullifications can occur in the processes to follow. If nullification occurs, we included a process for re-election. The EAC to eliminate any bias; we're eliminating the President, the CRO and the VPI from the process and getting the Dean's office to randomly choose students. We also increased the number of students from outside the college to balance out the EAC (4 from outside) and then the Chair referenda included a stipulation that VUSAC's fee can only be increased at the direction of a referendum.

Dhir: One idea was setting up candidate portals for every candidate that submits a nominee. Via a live chat service during the CRS business hours, they will also be able to submit an appeal form directly to the portal itself to the EAC. They will be able to see the results and any penalties they receive. They will also be able to download the certificate issued by the CRO. The nominations form is ready, the live chat service is also ready. I am still working on the appealals form and implementing the results. I think databases will be easy for us.

Michael: Section 1 defines neutrality as including campaigning on a candidate's behalf, discussing the merits or demerits of campus platforms, and preferred candidates for aiding campaign in any way. I like that you've added a description of what neutrality is but unfortunately I feel this conflicts with a description of neutrality later on. I feel like endorsing a candidate is the same thing as helping a candidate's platform. I also feel like for section 2C are in conflict with one another. I think disqualifying a candidate for breaking the silence period is a bit excessive. I feel like you need to pick a lane there if you wanna publicize all penalties. I love the addition of making sure the election cycle ends before examinations. I have a slight issue with letting the Dean's office choose the EAC. I have a question about kind of hosting 2 different townhalls. Would candidates be required to attend both town halls, or are they required to attend the Town Hall in which they are participating in? I don't understand the change from 5 to 6 posters in Goldring. I feel like that's kind of not needed. I'd love to have some explanation on what that was expanded. I have a quick issue with the lines whenever talking about penalizing or disqualification, when it says, quote, has a discretion to treat first hand testimony as evidence, and quote in a place like Vic, where we often talk with the Vic bubble people forming cliques. I think it's dangerous to rely solely on firsthand testimony on issues like this. For the referenda, if you're gonna eliminate a deal like abstaining and changing for the other ballots of, are you into the same thing for referenda? Specifying what the phrasing difference is going to be and having a specific definition section would be very useful.

Shane: Michael raised a really good point on the the referendum – I felt like it was probably a little hypocritical for us to criticize the board and then do the same things ourselves. Would say



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that's perhaps in VUSAC's best interest financially to keep that within council. I'll also say that we are elected to make these kinds of decisions. The Town Halls, social media, a few things that you mentioned Michael, I think, are great points, and I think those can be added into the nominations package just as general guidelines. Because I feel like if people are required to attend Town Hall, or social media from scratch can be added into that, I feel like the neutrality aligns, I don't really see where exactly it doesn't.

Cam: I want to highlight ranked ballots – this is like global democratic principles. Nullification, this is another really important thing, as everyone here, I think, recognizes no one likes nullification until we've set incredibly high standards for when that will happen. Government and student union represents students. I think the people who tend to vote in referendums are not necessarily reflective of the broader big community.

Anna: I just think it's important that you just don't use first hand testimony, because that can be very dangerous. I think you just need the clear evidence, so that people don't make up things, because I think that might happen. So, yeah, I just think it's not a good source. And there needs to be actual proof to disqualify or do something.

Shane: Perhaps there's like a hierarchy of proof that you can assign in terms of the explicit means, like messaging, emails or video/audio recordings. Whatever it'd be, the primary sources are proof. But I still think that we should include somewhere that, like the experiences of folks, should be listened to, and, factored into decision making with regard to penalties.

Lara: I think Anna has a good point in the sense that, it's obviously gonna be hard, because nowadays, things can be fabricated. But I do think that it being saying that it's at the discretion of the CRO. I think as a candidate, being able to treat people's testimony as our experience and as evidence can also be valuable just because there's no other way.

Diana: I totally understand, it's definitely kind of muddy waters. We can take another look at the clause and see if there's anything we can offer that'll make it more specific. I also do think that we should honour people who come forward and share testimony. The other big thing on neutrality that I wanted to kind of emphasize is when it comes to club and individual neutrality – and the boundaries between personal and professional.

Dhir: One of my idea is to set up an anonymous group of students who would be on lookout. This way you can ensure neutrality is maintained and also get evidence.



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Shane: Interesting, but also sounds like spying on students. I think neutrality inevitably gets broken and we can do our best to make sure that it doesn't as much as possible.

Michael: I agree with Shane. I also agree with Diana's point about the differentiation between individuals who are acting as Levy heads vs. individuals who also maintain that Levy head rule. I feel like specifying that in the EAC would be very beneficial to make sure that people as individuals who are Levy or Club heads can endorse people, but they cannot endorse as the club.

Diana: We could clarify that no penalties are publicized prior to the appeals period. We did say in the EAC report that we have to include any successful appeals, but we did not clarify if that is the case for penalties that are successfully appealed during the election. It can be helpful because it can point to inconsistencies in the appeals that are being made. I think that raises an important question about the integrity of our voting process at the same time. I also wouldn't want people to be judged unfairly based on penalties that were genuinely issued in error, and I think that even if you see penalties successfully appealed, the fact that it's there could still be concerning for some people, especially if it's for something serious.

Dhir: One solution to this is the candidate choosing to appeal – we can have a status bar to show what's going on with the penalty.

Anna: I looked up the definition and it says "Slander" has to be false so I think it's really important to consider, because I don't think something true would be counted as slander. Just wanted to ask that.

Jackie: For Pre-Elections. Does anyone have something to speak on this? Then we'll go into denominations. Does anyone have something to speak on this?

Diana: I personally have a problem with candidates being published online as nominations are received. First of all, I think that it puts a lot of pressure on people to submit nominations early when they might not be entirely decided on. I think that it makes the nominations itself a competitive aspect of the elections, and I don't think that's appropriate on a personal level. I think that we should be encouraging people to run for positions that they're passionate about more so than positions that are just there.



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Cam: The thing that sticks out to me about publishing candidates online is – we have this knowledge, that people who are just part of the community in general don't necessarily have. The objective that we should have is transparency.

Jackie: We're gonna have another emergency meeting scheduled. We'll go to the voting period or appeals?

Anna: I think it's very important that someone gets to appeal anything that comes at them, because it's just at the last moment. I think that's a little bit unfair. So I think that's something that should be kept in mind.

Shane: What appeals are you referring to?

Anna: I'm talking about every appeal.

Shane: Penalties by EAC cannot be appealed because their decisions are final.

Anna: I think everything should be able to be challenged.

Jackie: We'll go to results. Elections and appeals committee. We'll go over to Referendum.

Shane: If everyone's in agreement, I say we should probably get rid of the section 5 there.

Dhir: VUSAC fees are funded by students at large because we want to give them an equal saying to where their money goes and how it's being utilized.

Diana: It needs to be publicized in a certain number of ways, so that we're not just making decisions without telling them. And then suddenly, the number changes.

Dhir: Just if anyone wants to discuss further, you know, on proposed changes, and you know, concerns they have regarding the EAC, just feel free to email me.

Motion to extend the meeting by 39 minutes by Shane, seconded by Lara.

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



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Motion to limit reports with 1 minute and Commission reports to 2 minutes by Cam, seconded by Diana.

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

Dhir: My name is Dhir, I'm a 3rd year student studying Economics and Mathematics with a minor in Statistics. I will be taking over as the Chief Returning Officer for this academic year. I'm really excited to work with all of you and I'm looking forward to improving the elections process.

Tanya: My name is Tanya, and I am this year's Communications Coordinator. I can't wait to see what we accomplish, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any ideas on improving communications.

Callan: I'm Callan and going into my 5th year studying Computer Science and Astrophysics. I'm very excited to be this year's Finance Chair.

Jackie: I'm a third year student majoring Criminology and Socio-Illegal studies, minoring in Sociology and Writing Rhetoric, and I'm this year's Chair.

Stephanie: My name is Stephanie, I'm going to my 2nd year, and I'm doing a specialist in Physics and Philosophy. I was involved with Academic Commission last year, and I'm really glad that I get to stay. I'm looking forward to a great year.

Ju: I'm Juhyung, but you can call me Ju. I'm an incoming 2nd year student, and I will be studying IR and Public Policy. I look forward to working with all of you guys.

Aimee: My name's Aimee. I'm gonna be this year's Commuter's Co-Chair. I'm going into my 4th year with a major in Biology and 2 minors in Environmental Geography and Immunology. I'm really looking forward to working with you.

Caitriona: I'm doing a specialist in Global Health. I'm really excited to be working with Di this year and getting a chance to make our campus more equitable.

Diana: My name's Diana, but you can call me Di. I am the Equity Commissioner for this year. You might know me from being the Equity Commissioner last year. I'm really excited to continue the work that we started last year and to move forward with Caitriona.



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Charlie: My name's Charlie. My pronouns are he/him. I'm gonna take in the position of the Mental Wellness Commissioner this year. I'm also looking forward to working with Teresa on this project and working with all of you guys.

Teresa: My name is Teresa. I'll be working as the Mental Wellness Co-Chair. I'm entering my 3rd year studying Psychology, Cognitive Science and Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health.

Leah: I'm the Co-Chair of Sustainability Commission. I'm going to be working with Atlas, who couldn't be here right now. I'm going to my 3rd year. I'm studying Ethics, Society and Law, as well as Environmental Studies.

Cam: What pronouns do I use? Unclear, anything but they/them. I'm the Vice President External, I'm in my 3rd year and studying Sexual Diversity Studies and Canadian Studies.

Lara: I'm Lara, I use she/they pronouns. I'm the Vice President Internal. I will be staying in the meeting room for a couple of minutes if anybody needs any support or needs to decompress with me.

Muskaan: My name is Muskaan. I'm going into my 2nd year, studying Mathematical Applications in Economics and Finance specialists, and I'm very excited to be here and look forward to working with you all. I just wanted to mention that in some of my projects that are going to be working on is getting the Levies under a single credit union.

Shane: My name's Shane. I use he/him pronouns. I'm going to my 4th year studying History, International Relations, and near Middle Eastern studies.

Motion to adjourn by Lara, seconded by Shane.

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