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VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday December 4th 2015 at 6:10PM in the Goldring Student Center
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

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Saambavi Mano

FINANCE

Shannon Brown

SECRETARY

Golda Greenspoon

UTSU DIRECTORS

Auni Ahsan

Stephen Warner

Commissioners & Councillors

COMMUTER

Anna Pozdniakova

EQUITY

Claire Wilkins

SCARLET & GOLD

Stuart Norton

SUSTAINABILITY

Leila Atri

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT

Michelle Vacarciuc

COUNCILORS

Cricket Cheng

William Cuddy

Peter Huycke

George Wilson

LEVIES

*to be updated

GUESTS

*to be updated

Not In Attendance**OFFICIAL REGRETS**

COMMUNICATIONS

Alice Sluchenkov

ARTS & CULTURE

Sumeeta Farrukh

COUNCILLOR

Carl Abrahamsen

Hannah Brennen

Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis-Hart

SUSTAINABILITY

Leila Atri

ABSENT

N/A

Proxies: Gabriel proxies Hannah, Alex proxies Seraphina, George proxies Sumeeta, Cricket proxies Carl.

Gabriel moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Gabriel requests to add 2 minutes for a franchising update,

Stuart moves to approve agenda. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Call to order – December 4th 2015, 6:10 pm

LAND RECOGNITION

- Emily: I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for fifteen thousand 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 to peaceably share and care for the nations around the great lake. 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 meet in the community on this territory.

Hannah moves to approve minutes of past meeting, Cricket seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Michelle moves to add one minute at end of meeting for Grad Banquet Co-Chair ratification. Peter seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

Alex moves to drop internal elections and add those five minutes to Seraphina's motion. Seraphina seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Anna moves to move Cat's Eye Co Manager ratification to the second item. Alex seconds. Motion passes, one abstaining.

Anna moves to approve the agenda. George seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

PRESSING ITEMS

- Councillor Update - Hannah

- Hannah: I want to bring up a commuter initiative. Sort of run with VOCA. Burwash is a big social space for residence students, and there is obviously a commuter residence divide. I was thinking of including this under the VOCA field but in the incidental fees giving it its own line. About 70 cents per student but allowing for students to opt out. This would allow for commuters to go in to Burnish for a subsidized rate.
- George: How would the fee be addressed to residence students who have a meal plan?
- Hannah: Not sure yet. Do res students pay VOCA fees?
- Alex: Yes, because they pay money to VUSAC.
- Alex: Initiatives like these are important to look into and to communicate with the Dean's office on it. I would recommend talking with them.
- Peter: How would it work to have an opt out if it's a levy addition?
- Hannah: It would get it's own budget.

Carl leaves the room at 6:14.

- Rahul: If you opt out you won't get to benefit?
- Hannah: Yeah, thats how it would work.

- Senate Update - Eli

- Eli: I am a member of the Vic Senate, one of the highest governing bodies of the college, in charge of academic things. We had a meeting yesterday where there was a report on enrolment figures. There was a report from the President, he spoke about going to a few conferences, on Aboriginal students in universities, and more. One thing that came up on the discussion in enrolment numbers is that Vic has stats on enrolments based on gender, but only with two genders. It was discussed as whether or not Vic should expand that or remove it entirely. It would be great to hear your thoughts on that. There was discussion about president Gertler who has three goals, one is the question of what roles colleges can play on bettering convocation, you could send those to me. The last thing was that there is some discussion on the system of scholarships at Vic, with getting 1000 dollars if you have over at 3.5 GPA. Perhaps there could be a better way of determining scholarships.

- Julie: How does Vic determine how many students will enrol?
- Eli: I think that the pool is getting better and better.
- Rahul: Anyone in the room is allowed to ask questions and say things.
- Hannah: For scholarships is it unfair to look into more than just GPAs and look into involvement?
- Eli: There are awards for involvement and such.
- Stuart: In regards to the gender discussion, where they thinking of expanding the different identities, where were they going?
- Eli: I think they were just introducing it, just the idea of having more categories and such. Vic has specific applications that this could be in.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- Cat's Eye Co-Managers - Darren & Thomas

- Darren: We are here to ratify Jordan LoMonaco as the new Cat's Eye Co-Manager.

Anna moves to ratify Jordan LoMonaco as Cat's Eye Co-Manager . Hannah seconds. Motion passes, one abstaining.

- Gabriel: I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Darren for his time as Cat's Eye Co-Manager. For all the wonderful things he has done throughout the year.

- CLC - Bergita

- Bergita: I just wanted to say that I hope you're all doing well. I wanted to extend a big thank you to all of you because you've all been working so hard this term. I know you're all busy right now, but we're almost there. Please let us know how we can help you in the meanwhile. Study space is on in Burwash every night except Sundays. We are working on a project to have a two day conference on sex education and positivity and healthy relationships.

Claire moves to add two minutes to the agenda for equity updates in the equity section. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- UTSU Directors - Auni & Stephen

- Auni: Our execs recently learned that our health and dental plan has run a 1.6 million deficit. The way the plans works is that if too many students claim and use the plan then the UTSU is on the hook for the amount, if not we keep the surplus. It seems like a major case of incompetence in the past administration. The board had never been informed about this before this year. We are looking at changing the form to a request for quotes process. The UTSU will be going to insurance providers asking for a good deal on insurance. We are hoping to have the plan revamped for September. The exec is working very hard on fixing

this. I want to stress that this is based on a preliminary financial analysis. There is something called an insurance broker, basically an agent that finds insurance for you. We paid Greenshield to tell us to go with Greenshield.

- Rahul: Could you elaborate on the CFS?
- Auni: It is the Canadian Federation of Students. We are members of it and they hypothetically do things for us.
- L.P: Was the falling out with the broker because of incompetence?
- Auni: So when the falling out happened all the CFS unions fired him.
- Julie: Why do we need a broker?
- Auni: Because we should look at all the providers and see which one can provide us with the best service.
- L.P: Couldn't the cost be lessened if you examined the cost itself?
- Auni: The UTSU execs are not insurance experts so that's why we hire people. If you have any questions please talk to Steve or me.
- Stephen: In terms of other things, we have another general meeting. This is to deal with the member motions that aren't related to super political board proposals. These are things that weren't dealt with in October and more motions that have been brought forward. Vic will not be running a super serious campaign to get proxies. If you've got any interest in those motions though I encourage you to come out on January 28th.
- Auni: We have a student from vic that put forth a motion, Stephanie Spagnolo and Carleigh Campbell. She submitted a motion which reads, “*motion here*”. This is pretty fun. If you want to come and support this motion. This motion has been approved, it will be fun depending on whether this passes or not.
- L.P: For the sake of the room, could you explain what the substance of the motion is?
- Auni: The CFS has been accused of being an extremely corrupt organization. If a union tries to leave the CFS, they often sue, using students fees to do so. There is a very rigorous and restrictive process to de-federate. This motion wouldn't be substantial in terms of our membership, but it would be raising awareness about the CFS' activities.
- Alex: I would strongly advise any one who is interested to look into what the CFS actually does, and what benefits or lack thereof that they provide to members.

George moves to extend by one minute. Cricket seconds. Motion passes, three abstentions.

- Auni: CFS is something really important. If you have any questions about them please let us know. We are also changing something in January to the travel insurance and accidental death and dismemberment.

- *Scarlet & Gold* - Stuart

- Stuart: Here's a Winterfest update coming from Gabe and Ingrid. We've held 4 Winterfest Subcommittee meetings so far, and people are bringing good ideas and enthusiasm. We are delegating tasks to the subcommittee members to make everything run smoother and on-time. We are currently designing advertisements and signage that will hopefully be posted up around Vic before the break. Social media adverts will also be designed and published soon. Summary of events: Sugar Shack and U of T- wide Open Mic on Monday. Hot Chocolate and Skating at Nathan Phillips Square, hosted by VCAA, on Tuesday. Zumba class, Pancake Brunch, and Movie Night on Wednesday. Gardiner Gala, organized by S&G, on Thursday. Creative expression open mic hosted by the Goose, Friday Night. Sugar Shack will be where Winterfest is kicked off – there will be cookies and wintery treats, pick-up for Pub Crawl shirts and tickets, and perhaps a few other surprises. The Open Mic on Monday will not include alcohol as we had hoped for, as it might strain our budget, so we will stick to getting catering and decorations. We are researching if hiring security will be necessary for the night, since security was not needed last year. Pancake Brunch on Wednesday will be U of T – wide, being held in cooperation with VOCA. The Zumba is not 100% confirmed yet, but will be held in coordination with Wellness Wednesdays, and hopefully smoothies will be available. Movie Night will be held in the Wymilwood lounge, with a popcorn machine and two winter-themed movies. The Commuter Dons will also be planning a week-long scavenger hunt/contest, which involve attending the events and doing winter-themed activities, and will be awarding some super cool prizes.
- Stephen: I heard some concerns about the cost arrangement between the SGRT and Vic.
- George: We can't give a definite answer right now because we don't know what they are looking for. We will investigate further.
- Alex: Is there anything in the contract that was approved in the last meeting about finances?
- Stuart: Yes there is. There really isn't any grey area, it seems that this grey area was created by the SGRT Winterfest co-chairs. Today we held our second Highball Committee meeting and are working on a venue. We are focusing on trying to have a higher capacity and increasing programming. Things are good. After we narrow down the venue we will take an electronic vote and decide soon. Next is the theme and we will then discuss additional programming, potential photo booth things, and more

Lucinda enters 6:47

- Stuart: This year my commission is mandated to work with A&C to do the Gardiner Gala, along with the DO. It will be on Thursday January 13th, still determining the timing of the event. We have a meeting next week at the Gardiner to talk about food and space. We will sell tickets the first week back to class, maybe online ticketing too. I have been meeting with the Innis social reps and we are looking to hold an event together. They want to do some open night stuff and we want to do a pub night type thing. We are looking at the 28th of January, in the cat's eye and Ned's potentially. The theme will be a play on the Vic loves Innis frosh week type thing. We might have competitions with air hockey and things. Right now there is a small thing, potential overlap in Cat's eye booking. There hasn't been a collaboration like this in four years now so this is cool. I am working with the building presidents, Anna, and the Dumbledore's Army about Harry Potter Pub Night. I am excited to

work with everyone together. We are hoping to extend on the magic of last year. I am currently speaking to house presidents about helping them run pub nights.

- *Arts & Culture* - Seraphina for Sumeeta

- Peter: The two main things that we have done have been the Blue Moon Café and the Bob. The Blue Moon Café was a huge success, thanks to Carl, Seraphina and Miranda for helping out, and Robertson too. The Bob was a great success, with an audience of 300 plus over both nights.

- *Commuter* - Anna

- Anna: On Monday we have our gingerbread decorating social, which will be a lot of fun, our execs have had a large part in that. Wednesday will be the last pancakes of the semester, the special guest will be waffles. Shoutout into the void, locker contracts are coming to an end.
- Auni: Commuter kitchen is rapidly approaching a complete state of disarray. The fridge should be cleared out.
- Anna: I've gotten complaints when I've cleared it out but it's literally a health hazard when things get mouldy.

- *Sustainability* - Cricket

- Cricket: One year ago Gertler started an ad hoc committee to see if U of T should divest. The recommendation from the committee should come out any time now. 350 is looking for signatures.
- Ben: Do you have any indications into what the recommendations might be?
- Cricket: It's entirely confidential at the moment.
- Rahul: Do you have a copy or summary of what the letter contains?
- Cricket: "President Gertler, you can choose to divest the University of Toronto from fossil fuels. You can choose to place the University squarely on the right side of history by signaling that it will no longer sit idly by and finance the degradation of our planet. We are writing this open letter to you as a reminder that the University's students, faculty and greater community urge you to choose divestment. [...] We, the undersigned, urgently present you with this open letter to remind you how high the stakes are. By divesting, the University of Toronto can send a clear, strong message to Prime Minister Trudeau that climate change demands concrete action. The University of Toronto has an ethical, social, and fiscal responsibility to divest from fossil fuel companies and it can be the leader in sustainability and justice it espouses itself to be by doing so. President Gertler, you will have the opportunity to ensure the University of Toronto has a part in shaping a more just and sustainable future and it is an opportunity that demands to be taken. You must choose to divest." This is what VUSAC would add its signature to.
- Gabriel: I think this is a great letter, signing this letter continues our support.

- Stuart: Is this on behalf of 350?
- Cricket: It's alumni and student affairs.

Cricket moves to endorse this open letter. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes, one opposed, one abstention.

- Claire: Today was the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Thanks to everyone who came out and volunteered. Next week the equity commission will be screening Finding Don. Mic the Change is scheduled for next week for AIDs awareness. In regards to study space in VUSAC, we will be including SAD lamps set up. I am working on reshaping equity training with someone from campus life.
- Auni: I would not bring SAD lamps to overnight study space ,they will screw up people's sleep schedules.
- L.P: Equity training for council?
- Claire: For council and levies.

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- *Caffiends* – Co-Manager Ratification and Levy Constitution Amendment Ratification

Anna moves to ratify Hana as the Caffiends co manager. Rahul seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

- Anna: We thought it was about time to update our constitutions. There is a whole section about general meetings, saying that everyone needs to come, so we decided to strike that section. Next is the executive committee. Under responsibilities of co-managers we have added 'or a member of the exec committee as chosen by the co managers'.

Gabriel moves to extend by three minutes. Rahul seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Anna: We have amended so that cheques can be signed by one co manager. For the honorarium, so far it's been \$500 per co manager per semester and it hasn't been changed up to now. We have talked to other levy heads about if this matched up. We were going to amend that to 1000 dollars per semester. There was an advisory board in the old constitution, but now we've got a contract that allows us to be in Old Vic. Part of the contract consists of an advisory board. We are adding that the role of the advisory board
- Rahul moves to extend by two minutes. Cricket seconds, three abstentions.
- Anna: It says we will meet twice a semester. We are amending to say that any member can request to amend the constitution. It says in the old constitution that the co managers can decide to be open or not in the summer, but we cannot be open in the summer.
- Benjamin: With regards to general meetings, membership is so that members can raise concerns. What are you currently using to hear concerns from your staff?
- Anna: We are both in the cafe for a large amount of time, and we run training.
- Victoria: Any volunteer is allowed to attend exec meetings.

- Anna: We have a Facebook group to connect with the volunteers and our numbers on the fridge.
- Miranda: There is nothing formalized if the co managers aren't as great as you guys.
- Victoria: I think that the ability to attend exec meetings deals with that.

Rahul moves to extend by 3 mins. Alex seconds. Motion passes, two abstentions.

- Bergita: I think that the change with general meetings and hiring procedure, just because you don't use it now doesn't mean you couldn't use it.
- Stuart: I am curious, Miranda you brought up the fact that we don't know what all co managers will be like. But isn't that the responsibility of the hiring committee, I feel like there are other steps in place.
- Rahul: I don't think a lot of volunteers know that they can go to exec meetings, that should be publicized.
- Alex: Is there a VUSAC member on the advisory board or exec committee? I think there should be a continuing discussion on this.
- Victoria: On the hiring committee yes, on the advisory board no but we could look at that.

Alex moves to approve the constitutional amendments as put forward by the Caffein's Co-managers. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes, one opposed.

- Rahul: I wanted to take a second to thank Anna for her year as co manager.
- *Student Projects* – Zayneb (On behalf on Enxhi Kondi)
- Zayneb: \$2000 for Mind Matters conference. \$478.30 for Vic Xposure darkroom. \$250 for Recipes for Refugees event. \$360 for Fasting for Thought event. \$500 for female hygiene products in VUSAC. \$350 for Goose open mic event during Winterfest.
 - Rahul: These have been approved?
 - Zayneb: Yes.
 - Auni: I recall there were as an application for the requisition of the painting?
 - Zayneb: It was not discussed today.
 - Shannon: We talked about it last week, it was not approved.
 - Stephen: There was some concern about the format of SP meetings in terms of meeting in person rather than online.
 - Benjamin: The past two meetings have been in person.
 - Alex: could we get a description for these projects?
 - Zayneb: The Mind Matters conference is for bringing in speakers to talk about Altered States. They bring in profs. Because it is not for profit they came to us to see if we could buy tickets for Vic students. For the VicXposure dark room there is a dark room in the cat's

eye. Most of the equipment is there but they came to us for the funding they needed. The Recipes for Refugees is a fundraiser being held next week, they came to us to be able to buy food. Fasting for though is an initiative that Felipe brought to get students to fast for 24 hours, he wanted money to be able to provide breakfast for people who are fasting. Pads and tampons are self explanatory. For the open mic night it is for food and such.

- Bergita: For mind over matter I understand that it's not organized by a vic group. Is the 2000 dollars for Vic students or Bader fees?
- Zayneb: We ultimately decided that we would buy 25 tickets and since they needed funding we decided to raise to 2000 dollars because it was a vic student who came to use.
- Bergita: Tickets will be free for vic students?
- Zayneb: We bought tickets that will be reserved for Vic students.

Peter moves to omnibus Mind Matters Conference, Vic Xposure, Recipes for Refugees, Fasting for Thought, VUSAC female hygiene products, Goose Open Mic Night projects. Stuart seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

Peter moves to ratify Mind Matters Conference, Vic Xposure, Recipes for Refugees, Fasting for Thought, VUSAC female hygiene products, Goose Open Mic Night projects. Cricket seconds. Motion passes, four abstentions.

- VCC – Stephanie

- Stephanie: Zoe asked me to send her regrets. We have had two meetings so far. The Chambers stream of Vic One will be added next year with commerce and related things, in conjunction with Rotman Commerce. Named after Chambers a vic grad, she is supposed to be a role model for all students. We are working OISE to deal with ending concurrent education program. There is the personal librarian. We also discussed in course evaluations. We discussed Vic enrolment, newly admitted students were about 851 students. I would like to ask if VUSAC has anything to be brought to the VCC.
- L.P: When do we stop adding Vic One streams?
- Stephanie: Apparently this is the last one?
- Alex: I would imagine that as long as there are new things that people are interested in studying.
- Auni: They are one subject short with missing computer science, it would be cool if they had that.
- Benjamin: I think that forest conservation and lumber management would good.
- Stuart: Is Gabe going to speak about enrolment today?
- Gabriel: Yes.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *VP Student Organizations* - Lucinda

- Lucinda: VicPride! is interested in collaborating with the Equity Commission on a drag night event that is to be held next semester, and the relevant commissioner has been contacted. The movie night that was held some weeks ago, when we showed *Blue is the Warmest Color* in the Cat's Eye, had a decent turnout. The movie was received quite well by its viewers. Aside from that, all is well, and we're excitedly planning events for the upcoming semester. *God of Carnage*: rehearsals are still underway, will be some rehearsals during exam time. We will be finalizing things for set in the next week so we have the holiday break to bring everything together for the show. We will not begin advertising until classes start in January. *Useless Superhero Support Group (Drama Festival)*: We will be having a read through for this show next Monday, and then rehearsals will not start until January. But we will be figuring some preliminary tech aspects of the show before the break so we have time to put it together. It will perform at the Drama Festival in the middle of February. *Rent*: all casting has been finalized, there will be a read through next week. There may be a couple rehearsals during the break but they will get really started in January. On a financial and administrative side, everything is going smoothly. Our main focus now is figuring out what has to be done for each show during the break to make things easier in the next semester. *The Victoriad* apologizes for not being specific with updates concerning money spent. You will find those details below. *The Trick R' Treat* campus event: We spent \$47.25 from our Events budget. We weren't part of it last year, so we were unsure how much to get. Suffice to say, there was a lot of candy and chocolate left, so we used it for our festive event. Festive event "The One Where They Make All the Holiday Cards": We spent a total of \$57.40 for the crafting supplies and hot chocolate. We had a small turnout with students dropping in whenever they pleased to make cards and watch episodes of *Friends*. It was a good night, especially for the card-makers! More pages have been written and are currently being designed. *Cat's Eye*: Last week was rather packed. We started on Monday (the 23rd) with a double-feature: *The Victoriad's "The One Where They Make All The Holiday Cards"* and *VCAA's* hockey game screening. Both events were unfortunately accidentally booked at the same time, but the organisers fortunately didn't mind sharing the space. Tuesday had *VicPride!'s* movie night, featuring *Blue is the Warmest Colour*. Wednesday kicked off with another successful *VOCA Pancakes*, and closed off with *VUSAC's "Blue Moon Café"*. This was an extremely successful event. Wednesday was also the last day for *Co-Manager* applications; we received 5 completed applications. On Thursday the *Semiotones* hosted an open mic night, which had a decent turnout. On the morning and afternoon of the 27th (Friday) we held interviews for the *Co-Manager* position and, after some deliberation, we settled on a candidate. On the evening, we had our second *Cat's Eye* concert, featuring *Phraktur*. Despite a relatively low turnout, the event went well. This week was busy with exams and assignments, and so was correspondingly quiet. No events were held on Monday or Tuesday. The first event of the week was *VOCA Pancakes* on December 2nd. Thursday afternoon saw an impromptu movie screening of *Love Actually*. Later that day we had our first *Commuter Don Coffeehouse*, catered by *Caffiends*. It went astoundingly well. On Friday, we expect to ratify the new *Co-Manager*. Following that, there will be a *Semiotones* Concert, possibly the last (according to prof. Danesi). Saturday will see a collaborative social by *Shadow Dance* and the *UofT Dance Club*. We [the Strand] released our last issue of the year last

Monday with increased circulation because it will be on newsstands for almost two months. It features a totally redesigned cover and inside. We're getting ready for NASH, the national student journalism conference put on by our union, this January. We have budgeted money to send six people to the four-day event, held in Toronto, and are arranging with organizers to have any interested staff volunteer, allowing them access to the conference. As always, our pages and website are open to advertising from all clubs, student levies, and student unions. Caffiends: Here's an update of what we've been up to the past two weeks: Catering: Continuing our Doc and Talks collaboration on Thursday the 26th with tea. Last night's Coffee House was highly successful, both in that the food and drinks went over very well and in that we sold some loose leaf tea and gift packages! It was less successful in that we weren't able to serve tea for a while, or brew more coffee, because of the severely limited electrical capacity in the Cat's Eye. Thomas is really great dealing with that, but it is extremely frustrating, and makes catering there quite difficult. Tonight we'll be catering coffee and tea for the Semiotones concert in the Cat's Eye. Other News: We've officially announced our next Co-Manager: Hana Nikcevic! She'll be ratified at the VUSAC meeting tonight. Our constitutional amendments will also be up for ratification tonight. Today all through the operating hours of the cafe we're having a volunteer appreciation day, with drop in cookie decorating and ukulele Christmas carolling, which will hopefully give our volunteers a much needed break from the stress of the season. Probably not important enough for an update, but I'm super excited about it: Gabe gave us eggnog last night, so we're going to steam it and make eggnog lattes. I believe those are all of the updates. My councillors and I have continued to look at the constitution. We have created the start of a new club ratification form and for starting clubs. We might have a system where we get rid of club constitutions. This will be test piloted with a new room booking policy, new template for asking for Greenshift supplies. This will probably be test driven at the next club head meeting. The meetings that I had with club and levy heads were very fruitful. Everyone is doing amazing work. I would recommend that the VPSO next year do something similar, this was super rad. They were many hours and much fun.

- *VP External* - Alex

- Alex: I wanted to touch on that I am emailing the Cres Cams Selection Committee, that process will start shortly. The third caucus will be in late February. In the next couple weeks please talk to me about what day of the week you think it should be held on. I am working on a student experience survey, something that hasn't been around for a long time. My focus in second semester will focus from external to Vic to internal to Vic. I would like to cede my time to the Syrian refugee crisis.

- *Co-Presidents* - Benjamin and Gabriel

- Benjamin: VUSAC study space will be next week and the week after that. It is open to VUSAC members and caucus members to volunteer. It is a good opportunity to open the office up. We are going to make iPads available for sign out. It is a great way to get people acquainted with the space. It will be promoted through Facebook, our website, and we will consider poster-ing.
- Alex: I think that moving into second semester we could look at poster-ing.

- Benjamin: I went to a meeting with the Vice Provost. The main point that was discussed was open, accessible, democratic policy with regards to student councils. It was with regards to the St. George Round Table. She really wanted to emphasize that this policy, which would be a way in which administration working with students would look at student societies which are essentially breaking by-laws and committing un-democratic acts. Also talked about the sexual violence advisory committee, the report has been delayed but will be released by the end of the term. I attended board strategy day two weeks ago where we discussed the role of the board in Victoria's academic plans. I also attended student projects. Michelle and I met with Bob who is the chair of Alumni Affairs on the board. We pushed for more student-alumni contact, more involvement of alumni groups. I worked with Alice in setting up Vic This Week. Gabe and I met with all the councillors and took many things away from that.
- Gabriel: We passed our free female hygiene products project, which is an immense step forward. With that in mind we are going to be releasing the survey that was discussed. If you have any additions or suggestions to that survey this is the last call.
- Rahul: Can we get a copy of the survey so far?
- Gabriel: Sure.
- Stephen: Has it been released out of VUSAC yet?
- Gabriel: No. We learnt about vic's demographics in VCC. Acceptation is mostly merit based, we have the highest entrance average. Our population is 3395 students, 70% of the students are female. This is definitely counter to many norms of post secondary education, a welcome statistic of how Vic empowers women. Some things that were missing were things such of ethnicity, disability, whether students were the first people in their family. We don't have information as to whether or not vic is inclusive or if they accept based on membership that they are aware of. Vic has an incredibly low international students acceptance rate, it was around 16% this year. This is a little concerning that this threshold is asked of Victoria despite the lack of incentives to reduce fees for international students. A lot of that therefore can be construed as a money grab. These are interesting stats to keep in mind.
- Auni: Do you have a break down of what vic students are studying?
- Gabriel: I do not but I can request that. Ben was ill but I had the opportunity to meet with president a few days ago. The first is the truth and reconciliation commission with respect to first nations peoples responses to residential schools looking at what universities can do. U of T generally has a fairly robust framework for including the experience of Aboriginal students. The University of Manitoba is a good example. Vic has to on its on consider this commission. There will be a discussion item on the floor to discuss this, keeping in mind that we should have this discussion with the knowledge that we cannot speak on behalf of indigenous people. Syrian Refugee Crisis response for Victoria College, we have James to discuss some of the options in which Vic can respond to the criss.
- Stephanie: For the aboriginal topic, I was wondering if it could be looked at changing the names of the Ryerson stream and lower house because he was a big part of residential schools.

Gabriel moves to switch order of next two items. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- James: I'm glad to get the opportunity to present this. This presentation is a bit un polished. Do you guys know about the Syrian refugee crisis? Canada is taking in 25 000 refugees by the end of February and a much larger goal over the next five years. I think Vic has some infrastructure that could take in a refugee family. Right now Canada is accepting at risk targets, really families and gay men. Families tend to be women and children, 3-5 people and single gay men. It would be bigger than a student initiative. It would require a lot of people and time. Families require transport from the airport, food, education, homes, and language training. Victoria ought to take a role in this kind of thing as a school in a world class city to show leadership. Victoria values this sort of social justice. Vic has infrastructure, there is space at Victoria college that could be set aside. There are jobs, low skill type ones like dishwashing, groundskeeping. Those willing to work with limited English could do them. There are also education opportunities to learn English. I think it could really be done. It would be a bigger thing than just a student group. A refugee family needs at least 5 guarantors, some of those people really need to be financially stable. Students could definitely help though. There would be fundraising involved as well.
- Cricket: Do you have a timeline?
- James: No. right now every Friday a list of refugee names is released. People who are released are snapped up like that. Sponsors are snapping up but there are a lot of people coming to Canada. Folks apply through the U.N and make it to Canada and then go through a screening process followed by meeting sponsors. It is a year long process.
- Cricket: are there specific actual goals for us to take and a timeline for that?
- James: I'm kind of just pitching this as a question, asking if students are interested in this.
- Michelle: Leila already has a committee similar to this. Maybe they can go together.
- Claire: Yeah, Leila and I have bene working on getting conferences together on this. This is very important because it's a different approach.
- Alex: I think that there is certainly no need to limit the range of which we look at this issue. I think that an ad hoc committee to investigate how we can help as an institution as a whole is important. If I were to be continuing on at Vic this is something that I would really want my institution to support and be a part of.
- Michelle: This committee of Michelle's is very motivated to help, you would have the vic viewpoint and from other colleges too. Would this committee be solely a VUSAC thing?
- Rahul: I would suggest that we leave spots on this committee for students outside of VUSAC.
- Cricket moves to extend by two minutes. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously
- James: I would recommend that for this committee you invite, alumni, administration, etc.

- Gabriel: This is something I talked about with President Robins and expressed interest in how the vic community at large could help.
- Alex: I am not sure how this could be done but even if we asked that a committee be formed and that they engaged with students that would be fantastic, it can't be students alone.
- Benjamin: At the board of regents committee meetings I will push for engagement with this.

Cricket moves to strike a committee to investigate how the Victoria College Community can assist in the effort to settle refugee families. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Gabriel: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Action. In Saskatoon a collection of university presidents, came together and the uni presidents received a large set of recommendations of how to incorporate the experiences of Indigenous students in universities. They want and desire to be a part of the post-secondary system in some way, this is an actual outcry by the group it is affecting. This includes but is not limited to the credit for completion of a degree, this includes the inclusion of Aboriginal experience in different programs, Those are the ones of the top of my head. This is a discussion that I had with President Robins about how we can incorporate these things into studies at Vic.
- Benjamin: When we are talking about ways to expose students to aboriginal perspectives we should not try to dictate to experiences that we cannot attest to. With that in mind this is a good opportunity for Victoria College because vic has the ability to craft its own course material. It would possibly be a good idea to leverage our ability to influence Vic curriculum.
- Lucinda: The VP equity from UTSU is working on making it necessary to take a course on indigeneity. I strongly think we should collaborate with them, though vic can definitely do its own thing as well. An aboriginal student reminded me that one of the worst things can be resentment towards something that you are trying to promote. Equity training is also important. A mandatory intro equity course might be an easier sell, with this at the heart of it. We have to consider that U of T's resources are limited.
- Michelle: I think that the equity course is a really good way to do this.
- Claire: I think that creating a centralized equity course would be a really good idea. I think that if we can integrate students into equity courses.
- Alex: I think that it is useful to make use of the special status that Vic has within the University of Toronto. this could be a reasonably effective way to see change. An example of this is in the One Programs. Vic could have these first and then have them go to the rest of the university.
- Claire: I would argue that when I was in vic one you had to to an english course, or something, we could supplement that with a course on indigeneity.
- Alex: I think that people could also speak with the VCC.

Alex moves to move communicates update to the next item. Rahul seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

- Auni: When did the meeting start?
- Emily: 6:10.

- *Communications* - Emily for Alice

- Emily: Hi everyone! I apologize for not being able to attend the tonight meeting due to last minute circumstantial changes at work. However, the show must go on - thanks Emily. I would like to highlight some of the amazing successes and accomplishments Communications has seen since May. Firstly, we as a council were able to reach 1,033 likes on our Facebook page. Based on our currently enrolment number, that is around a 30% involvement rate of Vic students (+- 5%). If we continue the growth of our social media at the rate it is progressing now, we will sit just under 2,000 likes by the end of the winter term. That will bring our involvement rate to around 58%, which is a ridiculously amazing number considering how small Vic is. I think this goal is very reachable, as seen by our UTSU AGM efforts, we have the skills and ability to reach out to students and generate community effectively. Furthermore, since the release of our new website, we have acquired 1029 active users who visit and use our website on a regular basis. On a daily basis, we see an average of 51.15% new users to our website. Some of which come from different countries around the world. Though they aren't our target audience, we can use this as a way to verify that our outreach really works. And even further, we as a council can be seen as a positive influence to student governing bodies all around the world. Special shout out goes to the 6 people from the Bahamas who view our website on a regular basis (probably Alex's family looking at his picture constantly). Our online engagement is growing very successfully, and it's exciting to see how it will improve in the new year! I'd like to especially thank George and Cricket for their amazing work on Communications, we wouldn't be nearly as successful as we are with the website, social media, and promotional media without their hard work. Thanks y'all!

- Alex: Would this be an appropriate time for a shout out to my parents in case they read the minutes?

- *Co-Presidents* - Benjamin & Gabriel

- Gabriel: As you know this is the last meeting of the semester, so we want to do a bit of a wrap up with our goals, shortcomings, and ideas.
- Benjamin: Just to preface our analysis, we have been meeting with all the councillors and we took away three points broadly.
- Gabriel: We took a lot of your feedback honestly and to heart. Generally the first goal includes a better multi lateral and multi focused communication effort within VUSAC. This means VUSAC's internal communication. This includes improvements of communications online, a more rapid way of communicating, instead of taking away from meeting time. In reality these details should be given outside of meeting time. There have been various efforts to improve our commitment to this. This includes Slack, shout out to Cuddy for that. This doesn't just extend to us but to other portfolio holders within VUSAC. The reality is that a lot of all this was stifled because of the school wide situation with the UTSU. With that aside we can look at more productive initiative with Vic specifically.

- Benjamin: The other two points were that people want more focused updates from the Presidency. We are going to try to shed light on our decision making processes, what we are doing outside of VUSAC. We would like you guys to keep us honest about that. Finally, universally councillors want more discussion in VUSAC meetings. We have the desire for more discussions, meaning that everyone on council must try and engage with this meeting process. Please feel free to question things, make motions, all of that. We would like to encourage people to discuss during meetings.
- Gabriel: I think that a lot of the goals we presented in the first caucus meeting have unfortunately generally stayed the same in their completion aside from female hygiene products. For example the VUSAC lounge has not been set up to its fullest extent due to external student politics, and other things so that we don't know the budgets of New College or something like that. A lot of the focus has been external, which is a shortcoming for us. Ben and I put our brains together and decided that we had to think about the goal of this role. We want to have the revival of the focus groups that we were talking about before, the mental health handbook in Ben's section.

Sumeeta enters at 8:44

- Benjamin: With revising the focus groups, I think it was a major failure on our part. University College recently released a mental health handbook. I am interested in exploring the possibility of releasing our own handbook. I want to continue looking into having our white-paper and having peer tutoring at Vic. Something that Gabe and I are passionate about is the personal assistance resources in the syllabus.
- Gabriel: Having that information in the syllabi creates a greater acknowledgement and spread of that type of information. The second thing is the listserv. I wish Alice was here but there has been a stagnation on that part because we assumed that external groups would be able to help with this. When we secure this list we are making sure that the list will be able to be retained for the future.
- Benjamin: The VUSAC policy document will be another thing. Although we have the office policy ready to go we would look to have the policy of the rest ready to go, things like cheque writing policy, student space policy. Things that need to be written but not necessarily in the constitution. Another thing is the credit union committee. The goal is to have one ready by the end of this school year.
- Gabriel: That also includes the student activism fund. As well as the undergraduate research conference that VUSAC is planning to hold. And then the student lounge has been a bit of an issue. As well as new initiatives like the TRC committee. This is us kind of spilling the beans on what we've done wrong, please don't take this as us not doing anything. We would like council to realize that there are 8 of these things, and 8 councillors. This past semester councillors have not engaged with the presidential portfolio. The oversight of this is that with no councillor engagement we lack this engagements between the two groups. We want to have greater councillor interaction. If any of these topics, or any others, appeal to you, we strongly suggest that you reach out to us in order to help us with this stuff. These are very large things and a lot of things, and frankly without you guys we don't have enough time.

- Benjamin: Please use the rest of our time to engage with us on what we think VUSAC's priorities should be for the next semester. We want your thoughts to be in on this discussion.
- Stuart: First of all I appreciate your ambition for looking at new initiatives but I feel that there has been a huge lack of not just communication but support and presence from both of you this semester and when you read out your goals for next semester and all of them are eight different things, that is totally cool and props to you but I think we really need to address what's going on here and how your focus seems to continually be external and I think that's problematic especially when we have somebody on the judiciary like Alex who in his portfolio is to deal with external groups. Why is your focus continually on SGSU, SGRT, UTSU, when there are other problems, when I feel disconnected, when I feel confused, when I have council members coming up to me being concerned or not really knowing what's happening with their initiatives because they're kind of being taken on by you but then they're not being recognized. I want to see something done. This isn't that you guys have done a bad job. I do appreciate your ambition and dedication. But I feel that we need to look at striking a bit more of a balance just because I feel very disconnected from you two as presidents, as the heart and glue of VUSAC.
- Benjamin: I completely agree with you. I think that one of the things we received from the councillors is that there hasn't been enough presence. I think we've focused way too much externally. I would say that these initiatives will have most of these will not be us doing this by ourselves. We do need to be more present. We need to shed more light on what we are doing, hopefully working within VUSAC more.
- Claire: I agree with all of Stuart's points. My concern has been that with my initiatives I have to continually make an effort to be included in them. I think sometimes you forget how much people value being included and want to take a role, one with agency.
- Gabriel: I completely agree with Stu. What you'll notice about the priorities of next semester is that none of them are external to Vic. I assure you that that will not happen, that these priorities, by virtue of looking inward will involve more people. By having these looking inwards we have the ability to work with Vic initiatives.
- George: What happened to the iPads, where'd they go?
- Benjamin: They're in the presidents office, they will be used next week.
- Stephen: You both mention external as being a cause for lack of internal focus, you talk about how more internal action goals are a solution to that problem. In that same vein I'm wondering if you two have taken tangible actionable steps to step away from external committees such as taking a step back from the SGSU bylaw committee and letting Alex liaise with this issues.
- Benjamin: The bylaw committee doesn't take very much time, if there is someone else who can take that mantle I would be happy to relinquish it.
- Gabriel: For the UTSU, of course Alex is mandated to be a liaison.
- Benjamin: We will try to let Alex do his job to the best of his ability.

- Claire: I think its not enough that we see each other and you two and that we really only talk to each other formally. I think we need to have more one on one meetings. Specifically with judiciary and councillors/commissioners. It would really open the platform for communication.
- Peter: I think that one of the main things is that judiciary has their own meetings and brings it to someone else. We take your word for it but we sort of have no idea of what's been going on. All we've really got from it is that New College has got I.T issues. It's the balance of taking what you say and what is happening.
- Alex: I would be very careful of scapegoating external issues.. I really think that the second UTSU AGM campaign was a community building experience, the process itself was very positive and engaged many Vic students who had a say in how the campaign was conducted. I do, however, look forward to the increased flexibility in the external portfolio mentioned by the Co-Presidents.

Rahul moves to move up the ratification of Vic Grad Banquet Co-Chairs to this section of the meeting. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Michelle moves to ratify Ashley Harripersad and Sabrina Bilotta as Co-Chairs for the Vic Grad Banquet. Stuart seconds. Motion passes, three abstentions.

Rahul moves to extend meeting time by twenty minutes. Sumeeta seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- *VP Internal* - Rahul

- Rahul: So I wanted to talk about the structure of the meetings. The general consensus seems to be that the purpose of us and our meetings isn't just for events and updates. What I was thinking is that we separate meeting time into an updates portion and a discussions portion. Then you would have one chunk for updates and the other for discussion. This would allow for a greater general discussion. It will encourage people to bring things up to discussion and allow external people to come to the parts that interest them
- Michelle: I think that the update thing that could be fixed by making a comprehensive list for one semester
- Rahul: So the meeting would be entirely discussion based?
- Michelle: More or less.
- Cricket: I really like that idea.
- Stephen: I really like that idea. Something that I think the UTSU actually does right. Having a written review or summary of what's been happening before the meetings is a lot better.
- Golda: I also think that this is a really cool and smart idea. From my perspective as the secretary these meetings are a lot more interesting when there's discussion, it's so much more lively. I know that we're all quite tired right now because this has been a long meeting but I feel like we're still going pretty well because there's been a lot of interesting discussion and

cool collaboration that I'm seeing happening. It would be great to have more of that. Especially in the minutes, that people can read about when they're not here.

- William: I think that people have really noticed that while we are trying to promote a more discussion based meeting this hasn't happened yet, or how our agenda is sent out. I would like to see updates similar to the levy updates that Lucinda receives coming from council.
 - Peter: I think one thing we could do to have people be aware of things before a meeting would be to have a slack. That way you could have communication about issues that will be talked about at the meeting. That way everyone can see it and discuss it amongst ourselves. Everyone would know about all the issues they ought to, filling a big gap in communication.
 - Miranda: I really like the idea of having discussion based meetings. If we do that I think that non-VUSAC members must be aware of how they can participate. Striking committees, etc.
 - George: I think that the fact that the UTSU gives out packages of what will be voted on is a good idea. Preparing people with the basic facts so they can ask questions too.
 - Alex: I think that the coolest part of doing this is how do we characterize discussion. Discussion can be whatever we make it, at what effects of a committee might be, etc. I hope we use the discussion time to dig deeper and better understand the issues we are voting on
 - Rahul: A lot of you have expressed interest on submitting descriptions on what you are submitting things before the meeting
 - Stuart: In regards to discussion I know we shouldn't overstep on caucus too much but I know that there was really good discussion in the smaller group rooms. That could be a way for us to consider using the time, looking at what we could offer to get everyone to contribute. I have been using this thing called Base Camp, and alternative to slack
- Motions - Statement from Seraphina
- BIRT: We do not run internal UTSU Director elections this year and instead keep them external with the rest of the UTSU elections - Moved by: Seraphina, Seconded: Alex
 - Statement from Seraphina: An internal election for Vic directors is a great option to have, however, for the first year that this is an option I think it would be a good idea to keep our elections external within the regular UTSU elections. There are concerns about a much lower voter turnout in the main UTSU elections because of this new option. Lower voter turnout would also potentially decrease Vic's influence in the UTSU. We are currently looking into a new voting structure for VUSAC elections and adjusting to that as well as beginning director elections could be a lot to juggle for the CRO. I think a year to adjust and come up with proactive solutions for potential problems with wider voter turnout and set up our new system would be wise.
 - William: Can I just a quick summary as to the idea behind this?

- Auni : Internal elections allow for Steve and I to be elected on the VUSAC ballot. This would allow for vic directors to be elected on this ballot. The UTSU has had a lot of election issues in the past decade. The point of this is so that if there is an issue with the elections that we have choice. I think that this influence from Vic is really important. I think it would be really dangerous to have it differently right now.
- Stephen: Auni described that well. The deadline to do this is December 15th. By this date the student society must declare their decision and show that they are able to.
- Gabriel: There was a deadline and you can revoke it but you can do it as a precaution
- George: I don't think that this would be feasible to do by December 15th. I think it's not feasible for this year.
- Saambavi: Currently there is no way that we can have UTSU elections on the Vic ballot.
- Peter: Impossible for this year, UTSU directors are assessor members so it makes sense for them to be elected with the rest of the UTSU, and should be elected separately. But it seems as though it gives vic an option to be able to run this stuff. But I don't think it's necessary right now, we can decide in future years.
- Alex: I just want to comment and thank Seraphina for doing some background research. I think that when to host these internal elections should be discussed. I think that it is very good that we have the ability to do this though. I support allowing the elections to be external next years.

Seraphim moves to not run internal UTSU Director elections this year and instead keep them external with the rest of the UTSU elections. Alex seconds. Motion passes, one opposed.

Rahul moves to extend by 10 mins. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

- Motions - Alex
- BIRT: The in camera minutes from the November 6th, 2015 meeting be sent to all members of the VUSAC. - Moved: Alex, Seconded: Sumeeta
- Alex: I mean all voting members of VUSAC, the core assessor members, those constitutionally mandated to attend meetings and the CRO, to the UTSU directors in the room at the time.

Alex moves for the in camera minutes from the November 6th, 2015 meeting be sent to all members of the VUSAC, the assessor members, the CRO, and the UTSU directors in the room at the time. Sumeeta seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

- BIRT: The VUSAC CRO, together with council, investigate alternative methods of voting. - Moved: Alex, Seconded: Seraphina
- Alex: This is the most exciting motion of the day, moving away from first past the post

- Saambavi: We currently use first past the post. The best alternative is instant runoff voting, listing candidates in preference. This eliminates the weakest candidates and ensures a majority. This allows to better voter choice, eliminates the spoiler effect. There are cons: different voting system, which means we might have to pay for the system.
- George: How would this effect positions like councillor?
- Saambavi: We wouldn't use it for councillors.
- Alex: There are other systems that could be used for that however.
- Stephen: For a second time in one night, one thing that the UTSU does, with single transferable votes. That might be something to look into for proportional or ranked system.
- Alex: If this motion passes Saambavi will conduct research and determine the feasibility with budget and other constraints and assuming it is feasible we will have to see if it is better for VUSAC.
- Auni: Can we look into having non first past the post for councillors?

Alex moves to have the VUSAC CRO, together with council, investigate alternative methods of voting. Seraphina seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Auni: If you want to change UTSU by laws please talk to me.
- Rahul: I wanted to encourage people to come to Golda's after the meeting to hang out.

George moves to adjourn. Sumeeta seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:47 pm.