****

**VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

Friday August 14th 2015 at 5:30PM in the Goldring Student Center Copper Room

MINUTES

**In Attendance**

**VUSAC**

**Judiciary**

CO-PRESIDENTS Benjamin Atkins and Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

VP EXTERNAL Alex Martinborough

VP INTERNAL Rahul Christofferson

**Assessor Members**

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR Bergita Petro

CHAIR Emily Dyer

FINANCE Shannon Brown

SECRETARY Golda Greenspoon

**Commissioners & Councilors**

ARTS & CULTURE Sumeeta Farrukh

COMMUTER Anna Pozdniakova

EQUITY Claire Wilkins

SUSTAINABILITY Leila Atri

COUNCILORS N/A

**ABSENT**

N/A

**Not In Attendance**

**OFFICIAL REGRETS**

SCARLET & GOLD Stuart Norton

COMMUNICATIONS Alice Sluchenkov

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL Michelle Vacarciuc

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS Lucinda Qu

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

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

**EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

* *CLC* – Bergita
	+ Hi everyone, it’s nice to see you at almost the end of the summer. I just wanted to update you on orientation. We just had commuter orientation this past weekend, welcoming first year commuter students. It was nice to see many of you there from VUSAC, and VOCA. Orientation preparations are still going on, we’re getting ready for production week, which starts on the 30th. The executive is now just finalizing things. Another update in the Dean’s Office is that Don training is starting shortly.
* *UTSU DIRECTORS* – Auni
	+ Auni: It has been an eventful time. We’ve completed our board proposal structure. It was a group of people including me, Ben, Gabe, Steve and a few others, getting ready for the AGM. The other two main proposals are from Natalie Petra and Grayce, last year's VPI, and it largely mirrors last year's failed proposal. At our emergency meeting we failed the BDS ad hoc committee, that failed 17 to 7. So we will not have this ad hoc committee but BDS is still submitted for the AGM. We’ve passed a CFS committee, examining what CFS does for us and what they actually are doing. The Cape Breton Student Union just lost a law suit with the CFS and they are bankrupt. Steve talked about his work with the elections referenda committee. We’re going to have single transferable vote next year.

**ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS**

* *Finance –* Shannon
	+ The summer budget process is almost done, and budget steering has met three times so far. We have a draft almost completed, and tonight and tomorrow morning we will vote to approve it. I should send the budget to you before the retreat. We will be about 4-5 thousand dollars lower than last year for our internal and clubs budgets, which is good, and that’s happened while we’ve increased club spending by about 65% . We cut a lot of money out of our office supplies budget. I really hope that all of you read the budgets, and ask me any questions so that we can have a shorter budget meeting.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

* *Commuter* – Anna
	+ We just finished with our commuter orientation, it was very successful. VOCA pancakes went smoothly, we had a very well received presentation on introducing incoming students to solutions and positive parts of commuter life. I look forward to seeing new students getting involved in the Vic community, I am very excited about their enthusiasm. The VOCA team has set the time for our beginning of the year meeting to be August 26th from 12 to 3pm. We will be discussing pancake schedules, which is leaning towards Tuesdays. I am excited to announce that we are purchasing new griddles and a cart!
* *Sustainability* – Leila
	+ The way the commission is going to work is in a much more active way, kind of like a club. We will be working with different campaigns. I am going to be pushing a voting encouragement campaign, an action campaign throughout the year, and an educational campaign. There will also be a documentary film club with Claire, with documentaries amongst other films. I expect a lot of cool new things to be happening, if you want to be involved with the political side of this let me know.

**JUDICIARY REPORTS**

* *Co-Presidents*– Benjamin and Gabriel
	+ Benjamin: In the past month we have met with several members of the administration, including President Robins. For him this year is a transition year into new leadership, for the governing bodies of Vic, so that’s their priority.
	+ Gabriel: We met with Principal Esterhammer, to get an idea of her goals for the year, and how that fits into our goals, especially in regards to more academic matters. We are coordinating with her and Michelle to work on an academic conference, which is new this year. In terms of focus groups, I had wisdom tooth surgery so we didn’t hold mine last week, but it is being rescheduled for before school starts.
	+ Benjamin: I concluded my group yesterday, we just did decompression and feedback. From now into early September we are going to put together a document for the dean’s office, for consideration regarding what students want, services here, and more. We are trying to have that done within the next two weeks, then to administration. This should be ready by last week of August.
	+ Gabriel: As you may have noticed we have transitioned towards a new web host and new servers. Alice is working on a new website. It should be up and running by next week. If you have anything you would like to see on the website beyond what was previously there then please reach out to me, Ben, or Alice. Or anything now that you’d like to shout out.
	+ Claire: I would like to have more posts on the equity website. Just wondering how that would work.
	+ Gabriel: Councillors or committee members could help with that.
	+ Auni: I feel like updates should show up on the central blog, drawing posts from the other blogs.
	+ Emily: I’d like a place to post the agenda before the meeting for the public. Preferably if I could post it.
	+ Anna: Do we know if it will be more mobile friendly?
	+ Gabriel: I don’t know if it will be, the drop down will be gone though.
	+ Rahul: I think she is aiming for it to be.
	+ Leila: I know you guys talked about doing videos for VUSAC. I think that would be a good thing if that were the first thing seen, as opposed to a bunch of information. I wanted to do some work on the website on sustainability. Can I do stuff for my own commission?
	+ Ben: You can do that.
	+ Leila: How much freedom is there?
	+ Anna: It is based off wordpress. So it’s as much freedom as that allows you. You can change the themes, not sure how commenting works but almost completely free range.
	+ Leila: Any particular aesthetic?
	+ Benjamin: You should talk to Alice about that.
	+ Gabriel: I was out of commission but Benjamin met with Ryan Gomes and other UTSU members. As we discussed last time we have ticket options. We are not generally impressed. The big no was in regards to metro passes, we don’t want to open a line of credit.
	+ Benjamin: Additionally, we have to pay for any unsold metro passes.
	+ Gabriel: That could really put a dent in things.
	+ Ben: So I met with carry and Esmond and Robert and Ryan. Gabe and I decided along with Golda and Shannon and we not to go ahead with charging extra and not go with metro passes and tokens. But we want to hear what you think. Instead what we are aiming to do is only sell discounted tickets, so Ripley’s tickets, Wonderland, etc. These are things that don’t have really quick expiration dates. We can control when we’re selling and what we’re selling, without too much loss. So what do people think?
	+ Leila: So this is not related to TTC?
	+ Gabriel: No, not at all.
	+ Benjamin: The timeline is that we only want these and we’ve already talked with them we’re going to get some sort of contract and we will have some things in the office by frosh week. We have a rough schedule in terms of when you’ll be needed during frosh week, going to try to get you guys into training too.
	+ Emily: Do we have to be there for the training?
	+ Benjamin: Not if you have a medical surgery.
	+ Bergita: I’m here to talk about Ask, Listen, Talk. It’s about a lot of conversations about mental health and sexual violence. VUSAC has been very much concerned with these conversations. Dean Castle is very involved with these conversations. As a result of all this the campaign was something that was developed by our Dean and working with the focus groups. You were all invited to a meeting to talk about this and the idea is for this to be a campaign to address these questions. This should start in September, Anna has been working on our posters. This is all about asking questions, listening to ‘no’, to stress, and in order to have conversation, and ultimately talk. This is one of the posters that would show ressources that would be across Vic. We tried to highlight essential phone numbers, especially 24hr services. This is one of the posters. we want to get one of the main messages to be ‘you’re not alone’, a positive and human message. This is another more general one, that we’re all responsible for campus climate. This another more informational one, delineating resources. This is a different take with more context, trying to bridge the gap understanding that this deals with a wide range of issues, this explains all three sections. Finally, this is a slide with a few other options, UofT is making a student ressources website that is really revamped, you can look at some of the resources that are offered there. So with that, that’s the material that’s there right now. This content will be on the website, with more specific pages, with mental health, sexual assault, etc..
	+ Rahul: Do you have what kind of stuff you’d find? For how to help a friend for example?
	+ Bergita: It is very detailed, and being worked on. Basically it is very specific from what to do, resources any time, resources on campus, code of contact. There’s a lot of specificity.
	+ Rahul: Are there other things your looking at other than posters and website? Like any workshops?
	+ Bergita: There might be down the road. Right now it’s just education and resources. We just want to get information out there right now. But it would be ideal to have more.
	+ Claire: In terms of promotion, I don’t if the dean’s office would be into buttons for leaders to wear?
	+ Bergita: Absolutely, the idea is that this will be printed for leader t shirts, making buttons. Yeah, and if you guys have any other ideas that would be great.
	+ Leila: I was thinking about maybe having ideas for the world talk about it. I like how you said it, that you have a responsibility for the campus life.
	+ Benjamin: What do you guys see coming from VUSAC?
	+ Bergita: I think Kelly sees it as a partnership, the focus groups have been instrumental. Kelly is also connected to a wider circle for best practices of this. VUSAC as a support and involved in terms of connecting students, answering questions, perhaps making a video, perhaps listservs, that sort of thing, as you guys are more connected with students
	+ Rahul: Are there more ways for students to get involved with the campaign?
	+ Bergita: Helping with the campaign is pretty much it for now, but there definitely will be.
	+ Benjamin: What are you planning for Frosh week?
	+ Bergita: On Monday Kelly and President Robins will speak to what’s important to keep in mind when starting university and talking about the campaign. Making sure the message of the campaign is understood. The posters should be up by then too. There will be the dissolve play, and the pane, which will be on this sort of topic. This is not just a campaign for first years so we have to figure out how to get the message across to upper year students too.
	+ Auni: What was VUSAC’s role in making these posters?
	+ Bergita: The meeting that you all received an invitation to, that some of you guys were at, that was in terms of people sitting down giving input. Anna has worked hard, trying to make the posters appealing. If anyone wants to be involved, we need you and we welcome any help.
	+ Auni: I think the posters are good, I think there should be some sort of launching event that it’s connected to. Some sort of metaphor with a play, a skit, to apply the message.
	+ Leila: Maybe an activity, getting people to work together.
	+ Bergita: I’m also interested in hearing about timing, getting people actually interested too, to really attend the event.
	+ Leila: September is probably the best time.

Claire moves to *extend time by 5 minutes*. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* + Leila: For the puppies it was in a very stressful time but everyone came out, so that worked out.
	+ Anna: Another idea is that we could incorporate this into wellness Wednesdays.
	+ Bergita: I’m hearing then that you guys want some more content with this campaign.
	+ Claire: I just wanted to say that we should bring this up again during exam period, so it feels like people are actually there for you, in practice.
	+ Benjamin: If VUSAC votes to endorse, how would members be involved?
	+ Bergita: I think in the training piece, spreading the word, making sure everything is clear in the VUSAC office, the website, and we’ll go from there.
	+ Leila: Even just having it as a part of our ideology, I think that would be a good way to approach people.
	+ Claire: One of the main conclusions I received in the mental health focus group was that studies done on mental health ressources focused on people’s on skills to support themselves. I think that would be a good thing to focus on, and workshops too,
	+ Bergita: The idea is that there will be workshops with the new councillor
	+ Benjamin: Will there be any more meetings getting student feedback?
	+ Bergita: I’m not sure, I hope so, Kelly will be back next week so we will know more then.

Ben moves to *endorse Ask, Listen, Talk*. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* *Vice President External* – Alex
	+ Alex: Caucus is going to be held on September 18th. It will be chance to talk about what’s happening on campus, and it’s also a slow week so people can come more easily. I’m hoping to get some feedback and input from you guys and what you’d like to see it be like. I want to make it as engaging and relevant as possible, more like a town hall than it was in the past. The caucus is a town hall where students of the VCU come. Typically it’s just been leaders in the past, it’s basically an opportunity to discuss how to be involved at Vic and what’s happening.
	+ Claire: Can we not hold it in Emmanuel? In Frye it was good.
	+ Rahul: It’s mandated that VUSAC has 3 per year, sometimes particular topics, like constitutional amendments, to describe the student society summit, etc. It’s used to get updates and also as a forum to see where things are heading. They are open to the public, student leaders are mandated to go.
	+ Leila: How often do non leaders go?
	+ Rahul: That depends on the topic, we got a lot of people coming out when talking about co presidency, for example.
	+ Alex: Alex: We want to get students who aren’t necessarily directly involved come out. We will talk about the UTSU a little bit, and other things to try to have a broader appeal, to see how the union does or doesn’t work. I’ve been working on what Ben and I have called a “White Paper on First Year Advisory Programs.” A lot of schools in the states have programs where first years are helped with their transition to university life to make it a little bit easier and less daunting. We’ve been researching this since mid June and working on how it could work for Vic. We finally have a first draft. It was quite a process, written with some help from Ben and Laurent-Philippe. We are working on the next steps. If anybody wants to read the next draft, I’d love to send it to you. We’ve got a few constitutional amendments now.
	+ Benjamin: It is extremely important, and your job as council members to read these things in advance, especially with the budget meeting coming up.
	+ Emily: Anything that is sent with the agenda you need to read before the meeting.
	+ Alex: So we’ve got a lot of amendments. I’ve split them into groups and slates. There are two technical slates, one of which is additions or edits. The second is deletions, and the third is changes that are substantial in nature.
	+ Emily: So the first group is amendment one, which is change all remaining references to Vice President Operations, to Vice President Internal, and then the articles and by laws are listed below. These are technical amendments. Constitutional amendment number three is, well you can read that above, and the new one is, “Non-Executive Members of Council shall consist of eight Councillors who shall assist VUSAC Commissioners and committees as needed.”, and that’s because of a numerical discrepancy. Number four, “The Finance Chair shall be appointed by the VUSAC upon the recommendation of the Finance Chair Selection Committee. The Finance Chair shall receive an honorarium of $500 from the budget of the Vice- President Internal.” Number five is changing under the current communications coordinator, “The Communications Coordinator shall be appointed by the VUSAC upon the recommendation of the Communications Coordinator Selection Committee. The Communications Coordinator shall receive an honorarium of $500 from the budget of the Vice-President Internal.”, for the same reason as the one above. Next is number seven, which combines the section of the constitution describing the secretary roles with the by-law describing the other assessor members' roles.
	+ Alex: So number 7 takes the secretary and puts it with the other assessor members, because it was separate in By-Law 41.
	+ Emily: Number ten is changing the wording in the description of the VUSAC appointed members and positions section. Number fifteen, the differences in the allocation of incidental fees, to correct those.
	+ Alex: That’s the first batch. Does anyone want to pull any for further discussion?
	+ Claire: Why the fee increase?
	+ Shannon: It changed a few years ago, it was never updated in the constitution.
	+ Emily: We need six people in favour for anything to pass. Anyone have any questions?

Alex moves to *approve the first slate of constitutional amendments*. Rahul seconds. Motion passes, one abstaining.

* + Emily: Amendment two is removing the second mention of budget steering. Amendment eight, this is the second group, to be clear, removing the separate secretary section. Amendment nine is removing CARA. Amendment eleven is removing the by-law on VUSAC appointment positions because it’s redundant because it’s combined in by-law ten. The other two are number twelve and thirteen. Twelve removes the elections policy and finance chair is moved to by-law two. The last in this slate is number thirteen. We will go into more detail on the ones which aren't technical changes.
	+ Alex: Thirteen is the finance Chair. So I guess I’ll move to approve those. If there are questions we can deal with that.
	+ Leila: What is a technical change?
	+ Emily: It is an update to reflect things that have already passed or correcting grammar, etc., it doesn't change the meaning.
	+ Rahul: For example amendment 13 is just updating things of how they are.

Alex moves to *approve the second slate of constitutional amendments*. Rahul seconds. Motion passes, one abstaining.

* + Alex: The new preamble would read “We, the students of Victoria College, having associated ourselves as the Victoria College Union, do hereby adopt this constitution; creating our representative body, to act in our interests, operating openly and democratically in improving the student experience.”. The reason “A constitution should be more than just a set of rules and should capture our aspirations and our hopes for the organization. I am hoping we change the preamble to capture what we hope to achieve as the representative body of the VCU.” To be clear I am moving to do it but we can continue to discuss it.
	+ Emily: Any comments? Anything at all?
	+ Leila: What was actually changed?
	+ Benjamin: Used to read: “We, the students of Victoria University, having associated ourselves as the Victoria College Union (VCU) for the purpose of mutual benefit and improvement, do hereby adopt the following constitution:” Instead we have, “We, the students of Victoria College, having associated ourselves as the Victoria College Union, do hereby adopt this constitution; creating our representative body, to act in our interests, operating openly and democratically in improving the student experience.”.
	+ Claire: I just think there might be some grammatical errors, and it seems a little wordy. The general sentiment is really good, and I like the way it is worded.
	+ Alex: Sure.
	+ Emily: Is it possible to make the second part a little less awkward?
	+ Alex: I’m definitely happy to work on that. But it’s difficult to express it in so few words.
	+ Gabriel: Do people have a problem with the principal? If the principal is okay we’ll just change the grammar, we don’t need to talk about the particulars.
	+ Rahul: Can we move to table?
	+ Emily: Yes.
	+ Alex: We can just move on, there’s no motion. Next is the equity statement.
	+ Claire: The statement is, “The governing body of the Victoria College Union (VCU) shall be committed to accurate and informed representation of the various needs and experiences of its diverse student population. The representative body shall strive to operate with equitable practices at the core of its function, and shall be active towards the elimination of institutional and social inequity from the Victoria College community. The representative body is committed to helping create a safe, accessible, and equitable environment for all members of the Victoria College community.” The reason is, “Council’s commitment to equity on campus should be a central component of our goals towards accurate student representation.”
	+ Rahul: This would come right after the preamble

Rahul moves to *approve the second slate of constitutional amendment number two regarding the equity statement*. Gabriel seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* + Emily: So basically in the constitution there was no description of the chair position, we thought there should be as an outline. So it says, “The Chair, who is responsible for acting as chair for all VUSAC meetings: Shall be hired upon the recommendation of the VUSAC Hiring Committee, and receive an honoraria of $500 from the budget of the Vice President Internal, calling and preparing an agenda for all meetings as outlined in S2 of Article VIII, VUSAC Meetings and Procedures, running meetings according to Robert’s Rules and the VUSAC Constitution and its By-Laws, ensuring the meetings remain civil and professional, managing email votes, as per By-Law 35, assisting the judiciary with the enforcement and interpretation of this constitution, encouraging members of the VCU to attend and participate in VUSAC meetings”.
	+ Benjamin: I was under the impression that the chair is technically the head of VUSAC.
	+ Emily: The chair controls the way meetings are run, I think head is a strong word but it is kind of implied. I am happy with this aside from the grammar but that can be altered.
	+ Rahul: Can this be altered without an amendment?
	+ Alex: I’m not sure.
	+ Emily: We can also vote on this now, and fix the grammar in September. That’s my suggestion.

Rahul moves to *amendment six regarding the position of Chair*. Claire seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* + Claire: Can we do the same thing for the preamble?
	+ Emily: Yes, do you guys want to do that?

Rahul moves to *approve the preamble of the constitution*. Alex seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* + Emily: Next is number 14, which is on the hiring committee. “The Committee for the Finance Chair shall also include the Dean of Students or a representative designated by the Dean.”, because it’s slightly different for the finance chair.
	+ Alex: I was also wondering what people thought about having an alumni on the hiring committee.
	+ Claire: Is the representative from the dean of students new?
	+ Emily: It was just in the finance chair one. It was not done in practice.
	+ Alex: For the other ones it was the CLC.

Benjamin moves to *extend the time by ten minutes*. Rahul seconds. Motion passes with one abstaining.

* + Gabriel: Can I suggest to table all amendments that have grammatical issues with them?

Rahul moves to *approve amendment number 14*. Benjamin seconds. All in favour.

* + Emily: Next is number 17.
	+ Alex: Yes, meetings and procedure article 8.
	+ Emily: I think that is somewhat problematic so we’ve changed it to, “The Chair shall call and prepare an agenda for all meetings of the VUSAC, with the advice and approval of the VUSAC. A preliminary agenda must be made publicly available at least three days prior to the meeting, and a final version must be posted at least 2 hours prior to the meeting.”

Alex moves to *approve amendment number 17*. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes with one abstaining.

* + Emily: Next is 18, the procedure for in camera meetings, basically we don’t have an official procedure, but we should so that things are done properly, there are some general rules but we should have our own. D is the only new part.
	+ Benjamin: Could you elaborate on what this further discussion means?
	+ Emily: So whatever we talk about in an in camera meeting there needs to be a procedure if it’s to be talked about in a public meeting.
	+ Benjamin: I would suggest that we discuss this further.
	+ Emily: The only issue is that if there is something discussed in an in camera meeting and it needs to be discussed later, do you want it only to be discussed by a unanimous vote of people present at that meeting?
	+ Benjamin: That is ideal because stuff discussed in camera is typically sensitive, and can have legal implications.
	+ Emily: I would suggest that this is tabled, because it is a content issue.
	+ Alex: Yeah, one thing that I would say is that there may be things that we talk about in camera that we will need to talk about in a future meeting so we might need some flexibility to that portion.
	+ Emily: Yeah, I think Ben’s saying, what constitutes a public meeting before that happens.
	+ Alex: I think this is a conversation that should be had but we need to define how you can talk about in camera things in a public meeting.
	+ Emily: Can I suggest that we vote on this line by line?

Rahul moves to *approve amendment number 18*. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Rahul moves to *approve amendment number 19*. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Rahul moves to *pull line D*. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* + Benjamin: My only concern is that the nature of in camera is to protect sensitive discussion. I like having unanimous consent, however I don’t think barring for the discussion of a public meeting is adequate.
	+ Rahul: Could all members of this council vote? Or just the members who were at the meeting?
	+ Benjamin: So if people who were out of the room wanted to know then we could motion for that.
	+ Alex: I think that it creates a problem in that some sensitive things sometimes need to be talked about publicly, and one member who says no throws that possibility out the window.
	+ Rahul: Say we were to have an in camera discussion about something leafing up to an impeachment, would that then this mean we could not vote on an impeachment immediately after that?
	+ Emily: No.
	+ Benjamin: We should make a distinction. In camera only refers to what is literally said in the meeting. It’s a retroactive application of secrecy in that what is verbally discussed is not acceptable. However, there is no restriction in talking about that subject, you cannot discuss the details though. After in camera you can discuss the subject, just not the specific wording.
	+ Emily: Can I suggest that we make it ¾ rather than unanimous?
	+ Gabriel: The problem I have with that is that there is a legal element to in camera stuff. Even if you have unanimous consent, you possibly break the law.
	+ Emily: I think you have to have precise consent then. I think we can always say we can’t talk about this specific thing.

Gabriel moves to extend time by 20 minutes. Rahul seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* + Leila: Is it important for us to understand the legality?
	+ Emily: This can be and often will be discussed at the in camera meeting itself.
	+ Claire: I thought the whole premise of what was said in camera is that you just legally can’t talk about it.
	+ Emily: Yeah, the legality issue is that. But there might be specific legality issues within the content of the in camera meeting too.
	+ Benjamin: To break it down you can’t talk about what was said outside of the meeting in terms of content.
	+ Emily: We are looking to see if there’s a mechanism to avoid this.

Gabriel moves to *table line D*. Rahul seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

* *Vice President Internal* – Rahul
	+ We have the retreat tomorrow, beginning at 5pm, meeting in the VUSAC office. Please be there on time, please bring something to write with. We don’t normally have summer retreats but this is important so that we can also have the best retreat possible in the fall, you are expected to know this stuff during the year. We will be having a social around 8 or 9. I will be here after the meeting if anyone wants to talk about
	+ Emily: The email vote for club ratification needs to be brought up in the next vote because we didn’t have quorum last time.

Rahul moves to adjourn meeting. Alex seconds. Motion passes, one abstaining.

Meeting is adjourned.