



VUSAC Meeting Agenda

Call to order: 5:30 pm EST, Month day, year

Land Acknowledgement:

Atlas Changulani

Official Regrets: Caitriona Federico; Callan Murphy; Teresa Wijaya; Yuna Lee

Approval of minutes:

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to the Budget Steering Policy 2020-21 (Appendix B), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (8 minutes)

Michael: I want to draw attention to section 2, subsection 4. From the list of things VUSAC will not fund, an addition has been made that quotes, “any honoraria in excess of \$200 which are not already mandated within the official governing documents of the VUSAC or its constituents.” I don’t think this is a great idea. I think it’s a really important to pay students for their work. Is this line saying, no honoraria for one payment or stopping the additional payments of receiving roles in general? I think there’s a real issue with financial accessibility in student life, and honoraria helps to alleviate this issue ever so slightly. We should be promoting more roles on honoraria payments for students – not restricting them. In section 3, “Budget Steering committee shall not alter any budget lines submitted by requestors, all alterations to budget lines will occur during the budget ratification.” – I would like some clarification. Some people don’t like being put on the spot. I would recommend tweaking the wording of this. In section 6, subsection 1, “The Finance Chair and President will decide whether to grant request(s) to use the (emergency) fund. Any request granted must be communicated by the Finance Chair in their report at the next meeting.” I don’t love that the power to distribute the funds are resting just on two people, I think the decision should be made by the entire VUSAC executives and the Finance Chair.

Lara: The honoraria was in regards to positions that were either elected or hired that have an honoraria so it should be within the constitution of the Levy or the Club. If you’re worried about speaker fees, those are not considered honoraria under this part of the policy.

Michael: I’m worried that the phrasing implies that VUSAC or Levies can no longer add any roles with honoraria if not already stated. I think changing the wording would be better. I’m also going to mention the VPSO contingency fund – I’d also like to have as an exec vote, not just the



VPSO, President, and the Finance Chair. It's always good to distribute the power of how money gets handed out.

Lara: Yeah Michael, I agree. For example if VicPride! wanted to do a co-presidency they would need to write it into their governing documents first and then those need to be approved by VUSAC and therefore that honoraria would be ratified, technically speaking. I agree with Di that if we could just strike the word already, but I think this is a good point with wording.

Shane: Since VUSAC doesn't have to ratify this, we don't have to follow the whole process. I would suggest that it's fine for us to adjust those technicalities than the changes of the content. Michael, I agree, we're not trying to prevent people from getting honoraria in any way. The intention was to make sure they're mandated. The quotes regarding the decisions made by the Finance Chair, VPSO, and the President – we made these changes because we're the ones that ultimately sign the cheque. But I do agree – I don't imagine for this process to not be a consultative practice but the policy itself doesn't suggest it could be that way.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to the Equitable Hiring Policy (Appendix C), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (8 minutes)

Michael: One broader problem I have is in relation to the jurisdiction over Levies and their autonomy. I would recommend it should be existing as a VUSAC internal hiring policy but it currently includes a lot of information that mandates for Levies. I will state chapter 11, article 22, section 2a – the VUSAC constitution states that, “amendments to the constitution of a Levy organization must be ratified by VUSAC following the recommendation of the heads, in consultation of VUSAC executives.” I would argue that changes to this policy which includes how Levy heads attain their roles is VUSAC changing Levy constitutions. It is the role of the Levy constitution to describe this process. If there's a conflict between what was written in the Levy constitution and what was listed in this policy, there becomes an issue. Making any changes related to Levies to this document would be VUSAC unconstitutionally changing Levy's constitution without consulting the relevant Levy heads. Each Levy has its own process of changing its governing document, many of them first have to be approved by their exec team, the advisor committee, then by VUSAC. By having Levies involved in this document, VUSAC is overstepping its role in regards to Levy autonomy – Levies should have jurisdiction over



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themselves. Levies should not be in this document and VUSAC should not be pushing through changes to the internal functionings of Levies without their consultation.

Shane: Michael, I agree with you but that's not the point of this. It's just us updating it in order to be in-line with other Levies. The whole issue behind this policy and the reasoning behind adjusting it is because it went unupdated for 3 years. So for several years, VUSAC have been unconstitutionally "breaking the rules." I don't see it like that because VUSAC hasn't done something like that in recent years nor do I hope for it going forward.

Lara: Michael, I see your point, it would be easier on our end or for VUSAC to check their documents. That way, we wouldn't have to constantly update if the Levies do change the documents but I do think that the benefit of having Levies here is that the hiring process throughout Victoria College is equitable. We aren't trying to mandate Levies, it's more about the principle of conducting hiring in an equitable way.

Michael: Just on Lara's point, I agree with some of the generals such as redactive hiring and general interviews but VUSAC already has the ability to do that for Levies in their own documents and having that oversight. Having it here, where it doesn't follow through with the Levies personal practices on how they do their governing documents, I would still argue that VUSAC is overstepping. There's also another line that says, applications for hiring positions must be opened for a minimum of 3 weeks in section a of chapter 3. VUSAC cuts down this to 2 weeks – I think this should allow Levies to do 2 weeks as well. I also have an issue specifically to Cat'sEye, mainly about the changes made about how their hiring policy operates and the Cat'sEye Levy heads were not consulted.

Shane: If I'm not mistaken, we copied this directly from Cat'sEye's constitution. We'll fix it if it's not – the point was to keep it completely in line. For the change of the 2 weeks, could you remind me where it was?

Muskaan: The changes were made in regards to the present constitution. For the past 2 years this hasn't been updated so it's what Cat'sEye currently follows, not something that VUSAC is adding.

Michael: Just to answer Shane, it's chapter 3, section 8. For Cat'sEye one, in the current hiring policy, it says 2 Cat'sEye executives. It's not really how it works – Cat'sEye has to reach 7 people, and if you just reach 7, then you can have a maximum of 4 Cats in that 7, which usually



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breaks down to 2 co-managers and 2 exec members. I know it's messy but that's why I think it's better to cut Levies from this document and just have it on the one document. Also there's a weird line here, "it is the responsibility of selected sub-committee members, the current co-managers, and the VPSO to ensure that the selected sub-committee members are as unbiased as possible."

Lara: I think given the edits that needs to be made, maybe Muskaan can schedule a meeting with the co-managers of Cat'sEye and solidify what's on our document in line with yours, and also what's in your end are in line as equitable practice.

Michael: Section 3 of chapter 5, I would like those circumstances to be defined so that there's a high bar.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapters I-IV, VII, X, and XVI-XIX of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (14 minutes)

Shane: I amalgamated and omnibus these together because these were the least controversial chapters based on what we saw in our conversations during review. The only major things to note – the re-election process, which is outlined fully, is integral to have if we're allowing for the potential to have nullifications, as well as the fact that the elections report is to remain redacted unless deemed necessary by the CRO.

Michael: Chapter 15, if someone wants to pose a referendum question, they create on the elections portal before it's ratified by the council. I just feel like it would make more sense if the question is proposed to VUSAC, ratified, and then added to the portal. Chapter 19, section 1, subsection c and d, I would like some clarification on why these lines are being cut.

Shane: The issue with these is that both of these would come after the joint council meeting. So the end of elections, as we understood it, is the day the election results are ratified, two weeks following to which the CRO delivers the results, and there would be no chance for discussion because the final joint council meeting of the year would be the point at which that's discussed.

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



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Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter V of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Shane: The point of this is to keep it open and we fixed the issue during the meeting about the discrepancy between personal level and non-personal.

Michael: Article 6, section 2, I just want to confirm, is this saying that Levy heads are allowed to be in campaign materials? Are these changes fully removing Levy heads and adding them fully with the Club section? In section 3, the issue throughout the changes in the whole testimony thing, I don't want this to get messy and people to be watching each other's backs so I would like to know what the standard would be for that. Even for the evidence, I'm just worried what behaviour this is codifying. Section 4, subsection b, are Levy spaces like the Cat'sEye lounge and the Caffiends cafe included? I assume they are but I wouldn't consider them offices. For clarity sake, I would recommend phrasing these neutral areas as Levy/Club offices and spaces. Section 7, subsection c, only candidates are allowed to be penalized for offences – I find it strange that executives can now remove someone from office for breaking neutrality. Is that the only disciplinary action? Who determines if neutrality is broken?

Dhir: I just wanted to touch on the endorsements by the Levy heads. As a Levy head, you can personally endorse someone using personal accounts but in no way are you supposed to use your Levy powers or accounts to endorse someone.

Diana: I just wanted to touch on the testimony. When we are hiring someone for CRO, we are looking for someone who is trustworthy and has the ability to judge things on a rational level. We hope that the CRO would be considerate of all the different perspectives on something, such as what kinds of personal testimony should be accepted or not. This is based on the level of trust we have towards the CRO because we chose to hire them. It would be more dangerous to exclude personal testimony simply because some things aren't documented. We don't want to encourage people to be audio recording as an evidence but if they find themselves in situations where needed, it's not out of the question to start taking an audio recording. Codifying it doesn't necessarily encourage, it's just a guidance on how to respond in the event it does happen.

Michael: I'm sure Dhir will do a great job, I'm just always in the state of mind of making sure everything is codified and protected. I also think that writing down the audio recording line can be concerning in terms of what it can do to the community and the vibes during elections which is already very tense.



Shane: I think that's very fair to what everyone had said. The whole point of the ERC and what Dhir and I had in mind, which we'll see how it goes in the Fall – I'd like to see this as a good next change because there was nothing about what kinds of evidence can be brought forward.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter VI of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Shane: Changes were mostly clarifying what a penalty is. The biggest adjustment would be in the bottom about the process of publicizing penalties.

Michael: Article 7, section 3, subsection b, is the nominations package no longer going to say the minimum number of however many nominators? It's a common practice to get a few more than required in case nominators are thrown out. For placing a candidate before their required number, would a buffer minimum amount be allowed? In subsection c, the phrasing "on one's behalf" – I feel like that should be clarified somewhere on the document because people don't understand what that means. I strongly believe that it's unfair to punish someone for another's actions. I think having a clear definition of what that means would be important and helpful. Section 6, I would strongly suggest that any public announcement of a penalty issue to a candidate wait until said candidate is able to appeal to the ERC.

Lara: I see where Michael's coming from, I mentioned this in a meeting before, if you're deciding between 2 positions, and one requires more nominations than the other, maybe including this in the wording somehow so that we have some sort of a leeway for that.

Shane: That's always in the nominations package every time. To respond to Michael, the appeals process, that's the process – the penalty is given, and we wait 48 hours to elapse and at that point they're either considered verified or appealed and taken off. For failing to maintain neutrality, I'm just trying to use the wording properly.

Michael: It states 48 hour period on the document but I think it would be better if you could just state "until the appeal is done." Also section 8, this states that penalties can be issued at the start of the nominations period, but only candidates can be penalized. Someone doesn't become a candidate until they receive their nomination package so it would be weird to penalize someone



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before they become a candidate. I think it would be better to wait until they submit their nomination package to start issuing penalties.

Shane: The idea was for the penalty and appeal to be posted after the 48 hour period, so it would mean that it would be posted after the appeal is finished. If this becomes an issue in the call, we'll go through it and clarify it. We cannot make amendments – we can only ratify at this time. Anything that's not clear but aren't huge issues will be written down in the nominations package.

Michael: We know there are issues with this and I think it's important to make these changes now and make sure everyone is happy with it instead of rushing it through.

Diana: The reason why we want to ratify this now is because if we don't ratify this now, the whole section wouldn't go through. There are changes that are very valuable here. If we were to run the ERC we had before the Fall elections, it would be the detriment of all candidates whereas this is not perfect but better than what we started with – we want it to be as good as it can possibly be at a given time for candidates.

Dhir: We will have multiple policy reviews. I think we should see how the Fall elections go and come back to review this.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter VIII of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Diana: I am personally opposed to publicizing candidate nominations as they roll in. These nominations can be used as pre-campaigning, that's why we decided to set a maximum number of nominations. It gives the option for candidates to decide when to strategically submit their nominations. I understand that there's VUSAC chatter around election time, about who is running for what, but the difference for me is that none of those conversations are sanctioned or confirmed by VUSAC. Some people might be hearing conversations about who's running for what while others aren't but that information isn't and shouldn't be sanctioned. The rumours behind pre-campaigning is unavoidable but I don't think we should be sanctioning it. The biggest concern for me is that this section makes it difficult for an individual to consider running for VUSAC. I think there's 2 key issues in publicizing the nominations. Firstly, students can be



intimidated by running from the competition. Second, people focus on the elections based on what their platform is to other people involved.

Cam: The idea that unsubstantiated rumours are somehow less powerful than what VUSAC publish is inaccurate. Unsubstantiated rumours and intimidation exists but I think publishing ultimately eliminates the intimidation that people face when they hear things. We're talking about a difference of a couple hours here.

Lara: I agree with Diana, it actually creates more of a fear. I also think that because we are publishing something, there are ways to go around it – for example, if someone doesn't want their name out or is afraid, they can wait until the last minute to submit. Regardless, there are ways we can try to limit this tension. My only concerns are what are the changes that definitely need to be made in this section to be implemented for Fall.

Shane: If folks want to make two different discussions, feel free to divide the motion.

Motion by Lara Athena Reyes to ratify all parts of the proposed amendments to Chapter VIII of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D) other than Article 13, seconded by Diana Vink.

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

Diana: I just wanted to clarify that I'm not saying that rumours are less powerful than substantiated claims. Rumours are more words of mouth that individuals will need to work through to decide what to believe in but when we're just handing them information that creates another level of intimidation. I also wanted to add that the difference isn't just a few hours – our nomination period runs for 2 weeks. If someone submits their nomination on the first day, then they have to be published on the first day according to this clause meaning that there's a 2 week difference between someone who submits on the last day. VUSAC has been discussing a lot on environment exclusivity and considering ways to deconstruct it – I think this article would reinforce it by intimidating the process around nominations.

Dhir: Instead of having a “live” list, how about making a friendly amendment to post the list of nominations after the nomination period closes?

Shane: We can't do friendly amendments.



Lara: I was just going to mention that Di, that's technically what we do but no nomination packages are confirmed until ACM and that's only when people start campaigning afterwards. If someone didn't campaign and showed up to Town Hall, no one would know they were running. So I see the benefit in what Dhir is saying but we can't do a friendly amendment.

Cam: I think there are two groups that matter here. The folks who aren't involved with VUSAC and don't really know what's going on. Then there's those who have been in VUSAC before. I understand being intimidated when running an election but I also think that there are some people who you don't want running for the election. If I knew someone who I didn't like was running for election, I would put my name up against them instead of finding out that they've been claimed after an easy race. And for people who aren't involved in VUSAC – what I think really matters is that if you're coming into something with a lack of knowledge, and the people who are in the organization talks, that makes unsubstantiated rumours are a lot more powerful than the truth. I'd rather have pre-campaigning through someone's name being published really early rather than pre-campaigning through me going to every Club or Levy head I know and getting signatures during the 2 week period. I think this provides transparency which is really important.

Motion by Lara Athena Reyes to ratify amendment Article 13 in Chapter VIII of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Diana Vink

None in favour. All opposed. None abstaining. Motion does not pass.

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter IX of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Lara: I still think we should ratify this, but Dhir, for future note, I think what we can take down is posting in residence. We can just make it a general statement because it changes year to year and it's harder for us on our policy. Maybe in coordination with the dean of student office and the residence dons, sometimes we won't use the mailboxes.

Michael: Article 13, section ii, subsection e. Do people ever actually campaign outside of Vic campus? Should that be allowed? I just think it makes sense to limit Vic campaigns to Vic campus. Article 15, section i, subsection b, what does the phrase "from scratch" mean? I think a further explanation would be helpful. Section vi, subsection b, why are we penalizing this – if a candidate doesn't want to answer questions that will be reflected on the voters opinion of the



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of-said candidate. Candidates should be encouraged to answer questions but not forced to. Article 16, section ii, subsection a, if there are 2 town halls how would that work? – I think this should be more detailed. There is an anonymous question form but people want to ask non-anonymous questions in person at these town halls, would that be allowed? I think that should be codified. Article 19, section i, subsection a, why is the addition of “meanings of” in front of previous experience in student politics? I think that would open for people to be penalized for discussing student experiences.

Shane: I think it's good for commuters. A lot of people from Vic actually don't go on Vic campus. Also, if you're a very proactive candidate and you want to campaign elsewhere I think you should. It allows people to know about the elections even if they don't step on Victoria campus and allows them to know what's going on in the community.

Diana: Commuters in the sciences won't usually be on Vic campus. We also have residence students who might want to run for VUSAC because if they pay Vic fees, they can run for VUSAC.

Michael: I just wanted to loop back to article 19, subsection i, subsection a. If someone could explain the addition of “mentions of” I would love the clarification on why that was added. I'm just worried that it will create a loophole.

Diana: Just wanted to clarify what this clause does not include. Meaning, people could bring up their previous experiences in student politics. The reason why we have “mentions of” is in case people want to say, “if (someone) did this during the campaign, I would do it this way.” As long as it is truthful, it's not a problem and it's kind of what it's saying. You can reference things people have done in the past with their positions or if you are a candidate and you can mention anything you've done.

Michael: I agree Diana, I would just like that to be more explicitly written down.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter XI of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)



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Shane: This is a big change – we're changing how voting works on VUSAC. We're looking through different voting systems.

Diana: My only concern in ranked voting is that it's easier to rig. For example, people structuring their votes in a certain manner to disadvantage other candidates. I just thought it was worth bringing up and should be mindful of.

Cam: For sure, I think that's a problem that exists with ranked voting. But I think it's less of a problem than strategic voting. Every system can be abused but the reason why I think ranked ballots is better is because if you abuse ranked ballots, the outcome is never going to be worse than first pass votes. In the current system, a candidate can win with 33% of the vote if there are 4 people running. The way a candidate wins in a ranked ballot is with at least 50% of the vote. Instead of choosing who your favourite candidate is, you rank the candidates. If your first choice candidate is eliminated, your vote is allocated to your second choice candidate. The outcome from this is more consensus based.

Michael: I just wanted to ask a question about "Declare Vacant." Is there going to be a "Declare Vacant" and an abstain? What if someone doesn't want to declare vacant or vote at all.

Cam: What we have in the constitution now doesn't prevent people from leaving their ballots blank. So the abstain function would not be a part of the ballot. If you want to declare vacant, declare vacant, if you don't want to vote, then you have the option to not vote.

Lara: If we're moving onto different system or staying with the same one, is this feasible on both ends?

Shane: No, we're looking for a new voting system currently that can support everything we need in time. Unless doing so is determined impractical by the EAC and our CRO. The goal is to have the ranked voting as our first option.

Cam: The reason why we're planning a new system is not solely because we want ranked ballots. Regardless whether this passes or not, we're looking for a new system so this won't create new obstacles.



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Dhir: Having our own system would be better. The CRO has full control of the system so we can edit ballots the way we want to in case there's a disqualification or someone needs to withdraw themselves. Also it would make voting a lot more accessible – telephone voting, office voting.

Michael: Is VUSAC looking to pay money? I know UTSU had some issues trying to find one. What are they willing to pay for, what's the payment schedule and the budget?

Shane: Dhir is currently looking into that. Our goal is to figure out by Fall but if that doesn't get figured out by then, it would make sense to open up the conversation to everyone. Dhir and I are kind of in a rush to find something that works. It would probably be something we could pay for.

Dhir: I have done some comparisons and will have a discussion about it very soon. If we're doing a month to month budget, we're looking at about \$60 for a good system with some of the things we need or more. Hopefully we'll have a better idea in the coming few weeks.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter XII of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Lara: I know that we have the candidate portal in mind right now. I'm just worried about writing that into policy right now and it not being pushed through for the Fall and finding out it's not going to work.

Shane: I think an issue Dhir and I talked about is whether all these massive changes we want to do are feasible with the time left. We're trying to find ways to make sure it happens but we don't want to find just a suboptimal option.

Dhir: I am trying my best to find a system as fast as I can. A lot of it is ready just a few things here and there but it should be ready soon for me to present it to VUSAC and make changes accordingly.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter XIII of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)



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Shane: The biggest conversation here would be the massive extensions, the nullification additions, and the failure to abide by selling period. We added this qualification as a potential consequence, just because it's broken way too much. Once people receive their informal results, they should not be talking about them outside with the CRO but that's our way of deterring that to the maximum degree.

Diana: At first I thought it was extreme but I think the language in the document is also "can result" meaning that the CRO does have the discretion to give them a "less-strict" punishment. So there's a difference between someone telling their partner they won an election versus someone telling everyone in Vic. So I think that's an important part of the language.

Michael: I have a comment on Article 25, section ii, subsection a – when an extension becomes a nullification. Just the phrasing of it – if a student asks for an extension on voting because of a conflict in thier home country and if that conflict isn't totally resolved in the 48 hours, the entire election would be nullified? I think there should be a higher bar for an entire election to be nullified. We also saw that VCU doesn't like it when their votes are overturned or when the elections are nullified.

Shane: Expecting extreme weather or conflict events to end – that's obviously not what we're doing, so I'll just say that. I agree that it's a little confusing and maybe Cam can explain more.

Cam: The way that this works isn't based on something that would reasonably prevent a student from voting. Remember, voting for VUSAC happens while students are on campus. In events where the situation is very extreme, the EAC has the power to use it to discretion for things like that.

Dhir: I think that if the event cannot be resolved in 48 hours, to some extent, it would imply that there are significant flaws in the election itself. That's why we should be calling for a nullification. 48 hours is good enough for an internet problem or something small that prevents people from voting.

Michael: I understand that that might not be the intention of this section but I would like a different phrasing of this because it's a little too vague and I want loopholes closed.



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Cam: It's not ambiguous, beyond bizarre circumstances – which would be impossible to account for, in a way that doesn't cause damage elsewhere. We need to recognize that the bar is incredibly high for a student to not be able to vote. You have a 9 day period to vote and an additional 48 hours extension as well.

Diana: I don't think this question is a deciding factor whether we should vote on this or not. I think it's something that we should think about when we're closing the polls like Dhir suggests. This may be a little dramatic but what happens when 10 different students reports 10 different issues. Does it have to be 10 different students reporting on the same issue?

Shane: I think ultimately, this is something that the EAC considers. I definitely think this is a great question and something we should work through.

Cam: If the 10 countries are experiencing something so severe that internet goes out and the student has to take care of their families or if there's a crazy weather that affects multiple places, then yeah, VUSAC elections can wait.

Diana: If something is preventing students from the internet then students can't make any reports to the CRO. I'm thinking of some dramatic weather ordeals and I know these are dramatic but I'm just marking these questions for when we return to them.

Shane: I think that's a great point, but another thing to add to that is we should be considering what students will be prioritizing in a conflict situation like that – probably not VUSAC elections and reporting it to the CRO.

Dhir: Just to respond to Di, what I've also been looking into – and something that our current voting system doesn't have, is voting through the phone, which comes with the package itself. Once we get a new voting system, I will make sure that voting is as accessible as possible.

Cam: This would pretty much only apply if something happened in Canada, at which point nullification would be necessary – these are very rare cases and it's very unlikely that these would be happening.

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



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Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter XIV of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Shane: Removing the President and VPI from choosing the EAC is essentially the change here, as well as adding non-college members to the EAC.

Michael: Article 24, section i, subsection a, I don't think that the EAC should have speaking powers to overturn election results. I think it should be investigated by the CRO, a penalty issued if needed, and then appeal to the EAC. Directly giving them this ability I've noticed, can get a little messy and not very proper.

Cam: I believe in the amendment that we just passed, there's an incredibly clear set of guidelines for the EAC to overturn results in cases of very severe offences. These are things that compromises the elections, like sabotaging the ballot counting process. So compared to what we have now, this gives the EAC a considerably less amount of power.

Shane: The point of this clause in spirit is to allow individual cases following when they're appealed.

Lara: Can someone just explain why we changed it from 2 students from a different college to 4? Just curious.

Dhir: We should have it ballot-style. I feel the EAC should be slightly independent. If there are more students in the VCU, it may cause some bias. My idea was to make it autonomous and it was from an equitable perspective.

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

Motion by Diana Vink for a 5 minute break, seconded by Shane Joy (5 minutes)

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter XV of the Elections and Referenda Code, excluding Section 5 (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (10 minutes)

Shane: The only change is excluding section 5.



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Michael: Just a side note, when you guys update this, if you guys could update from roman numerals to normal numbers, I would love that and I believe students would love that. Procedural questions – if someone wants to pose a referendum question, do they create something on the elections portal before it's ratified by council? I think it would be cleaner if the question is ratified by VUSAC then added to the portal. It would also just mirror the way candidates have to get nominated first. I think mandating that process would make that process a lot cleaner.

Shane: I agree with what Michael said.

Motion by Shane Joy to separate Section 3 of Article 25 from the rest of Chapter XV, seconded by Lara Athena Reyes.

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

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments in Chapter XV of the ERC excluding Section 3 and 5, seconded by Lara Athena Reyes.

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

Shane: I think this is something I've brought up before. I like the process of VUSAC exec, to council, then to vote. I am personally against these changes, so it would mean that we would revert back to the VUSAC executive, which considers it, bring a motion forth to council, council votes and then the referendum is voted by the whole population – which I prefer.

Diana: So would a VCU member take it to exec?

Shane: Yes.

None in favour. All opposed. None abstaining. Motion does not pass.

Motion by Shane Joy to ratify the proposed amendments to Chapter XV, Section 5 of the Elections and Referenda Code (Appendix D), seconded by Lara Athena Reyes (5 minutes)



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Shane: This is something that was brought forth during policy review and decided it would be a good idea to discuss with the entirety of the council. This makes it so that VUSAC has to submit this to a referendum, whether or not to increase its fees. This is not the best interest of VUSAC at all. We're voted into these positions to make the decision whether or not we're going to increase our fees. It's not up to our fiduciary duties to leave this up to referendum. I'm strongly against this.

Lara: I'm going to be speaking to my own opinion but I feel not so strongly about this right now. I can see both sides how it would be important for us to do so without a referendum. Obviously not all students voting probably attend VUSAC events and might not understand the impact student fees actually make to the functioning of VUSAC. I also think that it should be in the students' discretion as to how we receive and use that money. So I do see the benefit of getting their opinion through a referendum. But on the rebuttal side of that would just be that if they don't agree with the way we are using our fees, they can bring that up to us – we're not that accessible in that sense and they might not be that comfortable. If anyone wants to share their opinions, because I don't feel so strongly about voting either way.

Cam: I can't express how strongly I disagree with this. Our purpose as VUSAC is to make decisions on behalf of students. If we were to pass this, we would be undermining our mandate. This isn't about this amendment transparency or consultation. Our job is to make decisions that are equitable. While we obviously have our challenges in doing that, to take that power out of our hands would be a disservice to those who won't be able to exercise that.

Dhir: While I understand where everyone is coming from, the reason why I put it up there was, if we do end up needing a fee increase, we should justify why we need it. The fund isn't really ours so we should be able to give people a reason why we want to increase fees. Students should get a right to say since it's a financial toll to a lot of students. If our reasons are well justified, I don't see an issue. I strongly believe that this clause should be there but I welcome everyone's opinion of this and the decision our council takes today.

Shane: I think Dhir has good points but we're elected and hired into these positions for people. To have it up for referendum, assume people don't vote to increase VSUAC fees, that means if inflation is going up, it would mean less events, resources, provisions, and everything else. Keeping it within a smaller group of people so that the right decision is made.



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Lara: I believe that this amendment can be changed in the Fall policy change because we probably won't have to do a referendum for VUSAC fees in the Fall elections.

None in favour. All opposed. None abstaining. Motion does not pass.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Returning Officer: Dhir (5 minutes)

Dhir: Thank you for ratifying most of EAC policies. It gave me a better idea of how to conduct an election smoothly. Thank you to the team who supported Shane, Lara, and I with this process. One of my major plans for this year is to switch to portals which I introduced. It would be a good way for me and future CROs to keep track through one database for the candidates – any appeals they made, when they submitted their nominations, any questions they might have. Anything can be done through the portal and it would help me to make reports without having to go through numerous emails. Another plan is to find a good voting system. Within the next 2 weeks, we should have an idea of what we will be doing. I have been looking at some systems – one of them is simply voting, which has quite a few features and I suspect the price would be quite good as well. Some of the things I'm hoping a voting system can do is having more accessibility – turning the VUSAC office to voting stations, people come in to vote through computers, and tackling some small issues that have arisen such as voting through a telephone. When I say accessible, I also mean getting more in touch with the CRO. As of right now, the CRO can only be contacted through email but with the new policies, I will be able to have a chat service where you can get in touch with me informally, which would allow me to communicate more easily. I also plan to have at least 3 to 4 sessions each semester on how to get involved with VUSAC and what the election is like, to try to get more voting engagement and for more people to run for the election. The election period can be quite stressful and it would allow people to ask questions at the sessions prior to the election. Looking forward to working with all of you!

Communications: Tanya (2 minutes)

Tanya: My name is Tanya and I'm entering my second year, double majoring in Chemistry and Linguistics. I'm this year's Communications Coordinator. Something I want to work on this term, is to improve communication to increase student engagement. I hope to get more reels and visual content on our platforms that capture Vic's spirit. We're in the process of updating our website which haven't been worked on in the last few years, as well as improving its functionality. Lastly, I'm aiming for us to have a consistent headshot look and a council photo on



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the VUSAC website once the entire council is established. I believe this will create a positive and professional impression for anyone visiting our site, and inspire everyone to join us to make a positive impact at Vic.

Chair: Jackie (2 Minutes)

Jackie: I'm Jackie, entering my third year, majoring in Criminology, Sociolegal Studies, and Writing Rhetoric. I'm sure you have noticed that we're trying to do new things with the meetings, such as the 2 minutes limit for indirect and the 1 minute limit for direct. Those are the things we're trying to do, to be more efficient and getting to the point. Because we're trying new things, if you have opinions, please feel free to give feedbacks on the time limits. I think today it went well. I'm being quite strict with deadlines. Agendas – I'll give a week and you submit within the week with no edits, unless there's an urgent matter that appeared after the agenda item that must be discussed. We will also be imposing a deadline for regrets because people were submitting late, just for communications wise.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Academic: Medha & Stephanie (3 minutes)

Medha: Hi everyone, we're Stephanie and Medha, and we're responsible for the Academic Commission next year.

Stephanie: My name is Stephanie and I going into my second year. I'm currently doing a Physics and Philosophy specialist and minoring in Literature and Critical Theory, Science Technology and Society. I was involved with the Academic Commissions last year as the Communications Coordinator.

Medha: I'm also going into my second year. I'm thinking of pursuing programs within Computer Science, Economics, and maybe Physics. I was on VUSAC last year as the First Year Councillor and I was involved with the Academic Commissions as a part of one of my portfolios.

Stephanie: Medha and I have quite a few goals for next year. We hope to host regular programming for students to be able to succeed in this area and plan many more Anti-Procrastination nights in addition to Career and Resume workshops. I was also interested in letting more students know the "Big Minors" because they're very helpful that students might



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not be aware of. Consequently, Medha and I were considering planning a Program's Fair to allow students to get to know more about possible areas of studies.

Medha: We also have the big "Life After Vic Alumni" event in January, so that's also something that's important which we're trying to figure out the logistics for. Stephanie and I also discussed some more long-term projects that we were interested in pursuing, like expanding the Peer Tutoring program at Vic or helping students understand what Career or Academic resources are available to them. We were also interested in starting a textbook or resources library drive to subsidize the cost of taking certain courses for students. We're also looking forward to collaborating with different commissions.

Arts & Culture: Kate (3 minutes)

Kate: My name is Kate and I'm this year's Arts & Culture Commissioner. Last year, I had the opportunity to be a part of VUSAC as a First Year Councillor where I got a lot of experience getting to know how VUSAC operates, working with different people, and plan events with the Arts & Culture Commission as a part of my portfolio. Something I'm very passionate about is creating a strong Commission that highlights Arts & Culture at Vic College – being able to connect with artists and allowing students to showcase their passions. This is something I hope to create with small events. I also want to be able to connect students with the art scene in Toronto and offer more opportunities to engage in the city. Something I've done in the past few weeks is reaching out to TIFF and organizing ways for students to go to that filmfest and have some screenings as well.

Commuter: Juhyung & Aimee (3 minutes)

Juhyung: Hi everyone, my name is Juhyung but you can call me Ju. I'm this year's incoming Commuter Commissioner.

Aimee: Hi my name is Aimee and I will be this year's Commuter Co-Chair. Throughout the year, we'll be advocating for commuter students, making sure they're welcomed and integrated well into the Vic community. Most importantly, flipping pancakes! We'll be continuing the VOCA legacy with weekly pancakes and home for the holidays. There's also new things we'll try our best to implement.



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Juhyung: Some of our biggest goals this year would be to renovate the commuter lounge, making commuting and housing resources more accessible, advocating for commuter students' safety with workshops, safety alarms, expanding the outreach of commuter student through collaborations with not only commissions and clubs but other commuter organizations throughout UofT. Most importantly, strengthening the commuter community at Vic! We're so excited to be a part of the VUSAC team and working with all of you. Thanks for ratifying all the awesome policies today.

Equity: Diana & Caitriona (5 minutes)

Diana: Hi I'm Diana, and Di for short. She/They. I'm the Equity Commissioner and so excited to be here. My Co-Chair Caitriona wasn't able to make it tonight, she's in Kenya saving the world. We are trying to move away from doing events and with the events we do do, we want to make sure they're meaningful. We're intending to do a lot of collaborations with organizations. Some of these, we started last year. For example, we did a collaboration with Vic Black but it never really fully manifested so we want to bring that to life. Working on how we can support student groups that use their individual voices to support their students. We also want to focus on providing services to people that might not necessarily have access to. One of the things we started planning last year was access to increasing swimming lessons. When we do giveaway or sales, we will be focusing on providing products that people might need, such as the menstrual products giveaway. The big thing we have been talking about right now is exec hiring. We restructured our executive positions. Last year, we tried to do general executive positions but we realized it's a little harder to delegate tasks and be efficient. This year, we are hiring 2 Director of Events, 1 Director of Advocacy and Outreach, a Social Media Coordinator, and a Graphic Designer. If you have any equity-related questions, ideas, concerns, please let me know.

Scarlet & Gold: Krystyn (3 minutes)

Krystyn: My name is Krystyn and I'm this year's Scarlet & Gold Commissioner for this incoming year. I am doing a specialist in Molecular Biology and a major in Literature and Critical Theory. We host 3 events with the pub night we host in the Fall, the semi-formal, and the high-ball. There are also a lot of events I have on the transition report from last year. As of right now, I've reached out to a couple other Clubs for collaboration and I'm excited to say that we're hosting a collaborative pub night with the Cat'sEye! If anyone wants to reach out to discuss events or collaborations, please let me know. I would want for it to be welcoming for the incoming students.



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Sustainability: Atlas & Leah (2 minutes)

Atlas: Leah, who is the Sustainability Co-Chair couldn't be here today. The Sustainability Commissions' main goals for this year are doing all we can for VUSAC to transition from TD Bank to banking with a credit union. This is already in progress with Shane and Callan. Other than that, we are also working on re-establishing the Victoria College's community garden which existed until 2016 or 2017 and closed down due to some issues. I think it would be a fantastic way for the Vic community to engage in things related to food sovereignty and ecological restoration – sustainability in a more hands-on way. For that, I will be meeting with Nadia, who is a coordinator with Dig In!, which is a campus club that already runs 4 gardens across the UofT campus. This public meeting is going to be held next Thursday at 4 PM which is welcome to everyone, and will be posting it on our Instagram.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

VPI: Lara Athena Reyes (5 minutes)

Lara: Hi I'm Lara, most people call me Lars. I use she/they pronouns and I'm your VPI for this year. I'm excited to do some awesome work for Vic alongside all of you. Some goals of mine include tying council's various visions together, sharing council's well-being, and improving the transparency of our work. I'm also passionate about training for student leaders, safe and accessible student spaces, and increase the availability of information of policies and relevant issues. I wanted to mention hiring last meeting. I think application numbers for staff and co-chair positions is a good indicator of the engagement we will have this year, and I'm excited about it. I've already spoken to all of our now-ratified staff and co-chair members but I wanted to thank some people – Muskaan for adapting all 53 applications. Your hard work did not go unnoticed and I really appreciate it. To Shane and Di, thank you for helping me hash out my thoughts and sitting through hours and hours of interviews with me. To the resident and commuter students on the panels, you had no obligations to be there but still provided extremely valuable input and I'm very grateful for all of your support. I've onboarded everyone on the team, which I'm excited about. We have a lot of spiderman fans and a variety of music tastes! I did a preliminary June check-in with all of the commissioners – it's really great to hear where everyone is at. Most, if not all mentioned collaborating with other commissions and organizations so we have our commissions round table scheduled where everyone can discuss rooms for collaborations. I'm also doing July check-ins with the staff members. For newsletter, Shane and I have discussed that there's untapped engagement on social media because it's a saturated market right now. I've been



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creating monthly newsletters for VUSAC which hold important links and information. July newsletter was sent out with a lot of the hiring of the commissions. One of the things that was on my vision list was a hand-drawn Goldring map. If you are interested in helping out, I'll send an email out. In terms of orientation, Dinner with VUSAC and Levies, GSC Doors Open and the Vic Social are parts we will be participating in officially. Shane and I are in the process of hosting a Pub Night for VUSAC which will be on the weekend of orientation. We will have staff and commissions be there at orientation. Please remember that your VUSAC accounts should only be used for official uses only, by using your email, you are representing VUSAC, and these will be seen by future staff, commissioners, and co-chair members. In addition to that, other accounts such as social media and Canva should not be used for personal reasons. This is our second meeting now, I look forward to everyone's input and we all value your opinions, so please speak up, which includes voting. Please check your emails and reply to it as much as you can. Remember to be polite and respectful in emails. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

VP Student Organization: Muskaan Aggarwal(5 minutes)

Muskaan: Hi everyone my name is Muskaan. I'm really looking forward to working with all of you. The past few months, I've been working on a number of projects by being in touch with Levies and Clubs, trying to understand their needs. I'm happy to say that all of the Levy heads have been ratified in the meeting and they're all ready for the Fall. I'm currently in the process of overseeing the transfers of signing authorities for the Levy heads. I'm also going to be conducting Levy check-ins starting next week. Some of the things that I've already been working towards is getting the keys for student organizations that have a physical space in the Goldring Student Centre. The keys are ready for pickup, which I sent out an email for. Clubs and Levy handbooks are now updated and available on the VUSAC website. The project that I'm currently working on and is having a little bit of a trouble with includes cleaning the storage space. I do plan on inviting all the Clubs and Levies to come and take a look. As a side note, some of the conversations I've been involved with include helping some Clubs and Levies update their hiring policies. Also, changing VSH's name to Vic College Student Helpers. Lastly, club applications are now open and I encourage everyone to promote this. Since the recent amendment made it mandatory for Clubs to have learning documents this year, I'm planning in conducting a "How To Make Constitution" workshop next week, which everyone is welcome to. Also potentially bringing changes to the funding methods for Clubs because I heard little complaints on how Clubs find it inaccessible in having to go through VUSAC for funds. Something I'm planning to work on in the next month would be asking the CCR department to make it possible for them to



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give CCR credits to Club and Levy executives. I'm currently talking to them and since the CCR department is under review, this will be brought again in August hopefully before the school year starts.

President: Shane Joy (10 minutes)

Shane: My name is Shane, I use he/him pronouns. I'm going into my fourth year as the VUSAC's President. I'm currently in person at the VUSAC Office, room 127 at the Goldring Student Centre for 20 to 25 hours a week which will be increasing in the near future as school and work schedule changes. On average, we've been seeing 200-250 people every 30 days according to the student tracker that I've been keeping. Using the office for printing, as a space to work during orientation or to study, as well as to borrow material from us has been great. We can see the traffic that we've been getting. To put these hours for further use, we've also been facilitating VicPride!'s gender affirming giveaway in the office. I'm really glad VUSAC is able to help out in this way. I would like to thank Chris and the rest of the VicPride!'s team for including us in that project. VUSAC will be making its printing services free for students during the summer. The cost of printing here is already extremely low but it's better to not have a cost at all. We would like to still encourage people to print what they really need. In terms of policy review, the biggest project I've been working on was the amendment of our governing documents. The process we had to go through was create a number of working groups, consisting of whatever council members we wanted to get involved, making adjustments we thought were appropriate, and introducing for discussion and ratification as you've seen. We spent hours in these working groups suggesting and adjusting, which I am looking forward to bringing in the Fall. Especially with the elections and the referendum code, the best approach will be to see how things go in the Fall and do another round for review. Thanks to everyone who joined me on working on these and in these meetings. We spent nearly 6 hours talking about it – thank you, especially to Dhir. VUSAC has been working really hard on creating a number of resource lists and guides by the beginning of the Fall semester. This is something we've always been talking about doing and it's something the Mental Wellness Commission in particular is mandated to do. This will allow us to be more effective so thank you to Juhyung, Aimee, Charlie, Stephanie, and Medha for those projects. Dean's Office updates – housing at Victoria College, Cam and Diana have been working on this over the Winter break. This is something that VUSAC has been talking about for a while now and the Dean's Office has been long interested in this as well. The question was whether they had enough interest from students as well as having enough resources to make this possible. While it's still likely that it'll be costly, there are still a number of ways in which Vic can reduce costs for students such as making housing an



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intercollege project among the Feds or soliciting donations from donors. As more students indicate an interest, the more the cost will go down. In the rising number of international students coming to Vic, we expect a substantial amount of students to be interested in it. We will receive the results next week. Dean's Office also reached out to me to be involved in conversations surrounding the Okanagan Charter. It's a call to action for universities and colleges to imbed mental health into all aspects of campus culture including administration, operations, and academic mandates – this is from the charter. And to lead health promotion in collaboration globally. Having been created in 2015, this has been something the Dean's Office and other administrators say they've been looking into for a long time. Vic and UofT are generally a little late to the party on signing this in comparison to other universities, but it's never too late to do something like this. It will be an important reference point for students that seek UofT to sign it as well. I think one issue in the charter lies with the fact that there are no evaluation mechanisms built into it. That's allowed universities to sign the charter and make little progress towards their goals. So it will be integral for Vic to also think of ways to assess and evaluate if progress is being made such as annual reporting, censuses, or things like that. The Dean's Office is also working on providing VUSAC with detailed versions of its budget, allowing students to see exactly where resources are being allocated and adding a higher degree of transparency to their work. We'll be publishing that as soon as we receive it or if they publish it themselves. The UTSU campus college advisory committee is another great initiative that I've been helping to work on. It was established by Aiden, the Vice President PUA of the UTSU. It's consistent with the head of the student union of every college and serves as a space for us to come together. Bringing new ideas and issues to the table, and keeping the UTSU and each other accountable to our goals. We only met twice but some of the issues we're working on include pushing against the changing of academic start dates, expanding emergency alarm systems on campus, discussing the role of campus safety, protecting and expanding student spaces, reducing food insecurity, coordinating all of the student union with Trinity College's union heads to collectively advocate, improving old campus buildings, and expanding affordable housing. I'll continue to update and try my best to include you all in this progress. Perhaps most importantly, I have concerns regarding Victoria's response to the attack at the University of Waterloo on June 28th. Following the attack and the outcry, Waterloo's failure to respond adequately and transparently to what happened – I sent an email to Vic University's Administrators asking them to acknowledge the incident publicly, commit to hearing student demands, as well as the demands of staff and faculty about how they can improve safety on campus. A letter has been released to the community acknowledging the incident in hopes of engaging in a consultative process of review. Vic's emergency preparedness in security and support began the day after the incident took place. I will be meeting with Vic's administrators in a number of occasions in the future to talk about this



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but I've also been communicating with relevant groups on campus to advocate and I've already received a number of demands from groups such as Voices. With the ongoing concern surrounding campus safety, we're thinking of releasing a survey to assess where students need support. It's integral for VUSAC to work hard to also be consultative and acknowledge other voices in our advocacy.

Motion to adjourn by Lara, seconded by Shane.

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

Meeting adjourned.