VUSAC Meeting Agenda

**Call to order:** 5:39 pm EST, October 14, 2022

**Land Acknowledgement:**

*Zoe*

*We wish to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto and Victoria University operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land. Beyond acknowledging the land, I am also aware that we operate through Victoria College. So I want to take this time to remind us that we take an active role in the colonization of this land and we continue to contribute to that history. Very briefly, I’d like to mention about an artifact that was recently moved from the Royal Alberta Museum back to the original site, where it belonged to indigenous people. In the article, there was a line that said it was moved to Toronto in the 1800s and was later moved to Alberta. The actual history is that it was not moved to Toronto in the 1800s, but rather the original Methodists who stole this from the people who had it at that time, because they thought it would be easier to convert them to Christianity and colonize them. So back in 2002, this was an issue of Victoria College, the public became aware of this, and the President of Victoria College at the time was tasked with what to do with this under his provision that was in the museum in Alberta. The problem we all benefit from makes decisions that impact colonization and indigenous communities to this day, and reconciliation doesn’t start and end with the land acknowledgement. An organization called Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction that does a lot of action items and mutual aid across our city.*

**Official Regrets:** Amy Mann, Amelia Collet, Julie Seegar, Medha Barath, Diana Vink (Proxy: Jackson), Vincent Espenida

**Absent:**

**Approval of minutes:**

*Motion by Shane Joy to approve the minutes for September 23, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

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

**Additions to the agenda:**

*Discussion Regarding UofT Start Date by Michael (3 minutes)*

**Approval of the agenda:**

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to approve the agenda for October 14, Seconded by Shane Joy*

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

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee motions to grant Ali Kehl speaking rights, seconded by Michael Elsaesser*

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

Ali: We had student leader day, and we had great turnout, about 40 folks. They were all either new leaders or of newly elected positions. If you couldn’t make it we will be sending all the information out. This stuff is all important when learning to replan events now that we’re in-person. For our orientation survey, we had 200 responses, which is great. And the results were good, a lot of responses liked the Dinner with VUSAC and Clubs, they really loved getting those opportunities to speak with you and interact with you. We’re going to start tabling in the atrium for clubs, levies, and commissions to get the word out. We’re also going to have our Minding Our Minds annual mental health conference, which is really timely given the circumstances surrounding mental health and technology. There’ll be a keynote from President Rhonda, so that’s a good opportunity to meet her too. It’s a drop in and out type of thing, and there will be free lunch, so sign up! We also had our VOCA collaboration, and we’re also planning our transition mentor social, and the Royal Ontario Fair tour next month. It’s where you and your peers explore the city, so that’s fun. And, it’s a busy time of the year, with midterms upon us, so please take care of yourselves and be kind.

GOVERNING BODIES:

*Board of Regents: Zoe, Shane, & Zach (7 minutes)*

Zoe: This is just an update from our last meeting, to let you know what you can about the Board of Regents. I’m not sure if you know but there was a section in The Strand on an interview with President McEwen. And she said that she has read the plan for divestment and she wants to get that executed. So, our pushing is working! The other thing we asked a question about an oil well. Someone donated an oil well to Vic, that takes oil out of the ground and makes profit from it. Not much has been done about it since it was donated in 2002, so we asked what was going on with that. They confirmed that they are still profiting from it, and that’s still operating. Another item we brought up was 63 Charles. The board is currently looking at what to do with the 63/65 Charles street property. The property use to be Stephenson house — which was afforable, cooperative, needs based housing. The location of Stephenson house moved throughout the years (from 1939 to 2011) but was most recently at 63 Charles. A decade after the board shut down the house, they are just now discussing what to do with it. The students are encouraging them to reopen affordable housing.

Zach: I’m also a member of the Board, I just wanted to say that 63 Charles it’s going to be a long process. They’re working on it, this will take a while.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Fall 2022 Budget additions as presented in Appendix A, put forth by Thomas Keough (45 minutes)*

Thomas: Alright, welcome to our budget ratification, this will be shorter from the last one. This is for new budgets from student groups, and VUSAC will vote if they are reasonable. Most of it looks pretty good, but regarding procedure, we’re going to motion to pass each student group. How much we’re spending is $57,010.90, and our funding is $57,901.68. I think that we can reasonably spend on everything, including all of the revisions, because our reserves are bigger than I thought they would be. With that being said, every bit we can save this term can be sent to our next term, so don’t be any less strict. This is all conditional on the income we have accounted for. And this excludes reserves, which means we don’t have to take any money out of our fall funding for it, but the budget accounts for it for transparency.

*Women’s Circle*

Thomas: This one was pretty solid, we cut down a lot from our last meeting. The only thing I would like to bring up is the bus, could you elaborate on the description that ‘public transit isn’t accessible’?

Rawan: Commuting to rouge park would take two hours, and for twenty people going, it’s not a good idea. We thought about budgeting for a bus because that would mean more people could come on the hike too, and this would cut down on commuting time.

Ali: So there have been some recent changes to bus protocols. In COVID, there were changes made that resulted in Victoria College events having a higher standard for buses. This was linked to the return to campus, with safety on buses, meaning more expensive buses. And given this budgeted line, I don’t think you’ll be able to get a bus that fits into that criteria.

Maarib: I’m just looking at an alternate TTC route that takes just over an hour would be a subway and a bus. It would be a cheaper alternative than renting out a bus.

Sooyeon: If the bus liability would increase it to over $1000, is there an alternative, could we consider another park nearby that we wouldn’t need to take a bus?

Rawan: If we didn’t receive funding for a bus, we would have to look at a closer park. Anything the size of Rouge Park or a size that’s hikeable, excluding Queen’s Park, is hard to find. However, if we are not able to go for something as far as Rouge Park, we’d be able to accept that accommodation for something that’s closer.

Rebecca: I’d just like to ask, roughly how many people are you expecting to go? Because if you’re able to use a route that Maarib found that’s roughly an hour, that’s cheaper.

Rawan: Yeah, we usually budget for twenty people, maximum thirty, but our usual turnout is twenty. And with that route, we’d need a car to bring us there still, and we don’t have enough Execs to be in each car.

Maarib: The route that I’m looking at is taking Line 2, and then Bus 86A, and it should drop you at Rouge Park, and if you’re budgeting for twenty people and covering both ways, it would be $6.40 per person, and that would bring your line down to $128

Lara: I had the same route in mind, but with Soo’s comment, with an alternative park, you could also do High Park, I know that’s a pretty popular spot as well, and that’s just one subway ride, and bring down your line to $130.

Shane: Would you be fine with friendly amending it to $200?

Rawan: I just wanted to ask about the speaker’s fee, we discussed with our team, and we had to bring down the fee from $250 to $100. But there was no actual policy on that to lower it. Our speakers are mostly chaplains or psychotherapists, and they usually spend an hour thirty to two hours and thirty minutes with us, and we give an honorary fee. But giving them anything less than that isn’t very feasible because the make around $100 an hour.

Thomas: I understand that they’re paid more, but they aren’t coming to work for you. The honoraria is not compensation for their time as if they’re working a job. Unfortunately, we don’t have enough to fund everything we want to. What I would suggest would be to reduce the amount of time they’re there, but is also might come down to what they’re willing to do for. If they won’t accept less than one hundred, then you can say that unfortunately, those were the guidelines we’re given. It’s up to you. But going back up from a hundred dollars would not be financially responsible for us to allow.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Women’s Circle, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

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

*Cat’s Eye*

Thomas: They just reallocated their budget, so their net change is zero.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of The Cat’s Eye, Seconded by Luca Carnegie*

*Eighteen in favour. None opposed. One abstaining. Motion passes.*

*The Strand*

Thomas: This looks a bit scary, but all of these are coming from their own bank account, and all of these are savings, they have a large surplus.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of The Strand, Seconded by Shane Joy*

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

*VicPride*

Thomas: Very few net changes, and these are very small. We can definitely afford these additions.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of VicPride, Seconded by Michael Elsaesser*

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

*GLAM*

Thomas: They’ve cut this down by more than half, and so their line here is a reasonable expense because GLAM exists to take people to museums.

Liidia: We budgeted so people could go to the special exhibition, which is separate from a normal ticket, and this solution that costs less than what we originally proposed.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of GLAM, Seconded by Tariq Harney*

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

*Tunes Beats Awesome*

Thomas: This is a bigger budget, with a net change of $2208.25. These were all items that were struck. This was less than what they initially requested, though. Could you touch on the Sound Equipment Rental, please?

Jenna: So we did ask about renting equipment from Cat’s Eye or Vic Records. And with Cat’s Eye we can’t rent outside of the space, and for Vic Records, they don’t have the types of mics we need. Where we plan on getting this equipment is from someone we’ve worked with before who specializes in acapella setups, and it’s good equipment for what we need it for.

Zach: I just wanted to mention that you reached out to us through social media, and we don’t check our Instagram DMs too often, and that you should reach out to us through email.

Sooyeon: Regarding the venue item, I’d like to ask, is booking Bader free?

Ali: For orientation plays, we did pay for Bader. But using the Performing Arts Endowment, you can get a reduced fee. The deadline is November 1st, so I would act quickly on that.

Jenna: So Bader holds a lot of people, and we don’t anticipate that many people. It’s hard to perform with a half empty energy. The Trinity venue can hold the amount of people we expect.

Jackson: I just wanted to ask about website recording line. The last time we spoke about this we spoke about possibly doing a recording with Vic Records. Was that in the conversation you had with them?

Jenna: No, it’s about the types of mics that we need.

Dhir: What kind of mics do you need?

Zoe: I was wondering why did it increase?

Jenna: There was a mistake and one section was added up instead of two, so it would be more.

Zach: I was wondering why the costs are $450?

Zoe: Can we do a friendly amendment to remove that part, then?

Thomas: Okay, we’ve amended the to $1758.25

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Tunes Beats Awesome, Seconded by Zoe Lazaris*

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

*Vic Art Studio*

Thomas: Yeah this one is just one line.

Jackson: It was passed in constitution that clubs don’t subscribe to Canva Pro, because that would be pretty pricey if all clubs had a subscription. It’s accounted for under the VPSO budget, so the account is still there. We’ll make an amendment to add that to Michael’s budget, so just shoot us an email so you can get access to it.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to strike the line regarding Canva Pro, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

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

*Vic Records*

Thomas: This is just money requesting for food.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Vic Records, Seconded by Michael Elsaesser*

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

*Academic Commission*

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of the Academic Commission, Seconded by Tariq Harney*

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

*Commuter Commission*

Thomas: These lines have been reallocated, so changes have been made. I think the main thing that needs discussion is Home for the Holidays. It was brought from $3,500 to $2,500, and the net change to their budget is $2,545, which is pretty affordable.

Emilie: I’m just going to explain our plan for Home for the Holidays. In past years it was a dinner and a formal event, but last year we changed it to a holiday market theme. This year, we requested the same date, November 24. We know that the holiday market is friendly for commuter hours. Last year, council allowed us 70 gift packs. To incentivize those to come, we want to give away party favors after the students visit. So that’s 166 favors, which amounts to $2,500. Items would have notebook, pens, hot chocolate, etc. We want to make sure people have an incentivize to come too, so there will be a passport that people would have to go to each booth.

Ali: I just want to clarify if you plan to have food for this year and if you’ve reachd out to the Dean’s Office already?

Maarib: Emilie had asked at the pancake event if they would cover it and they said that they would, but it hasn’t been solidified yet. We put in the VSEF form that’s been sent that we can meet to discuss food.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of the Commuter Commission, Seconded by Carolyn Gao*

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

*Equity*

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of the Equity Commission, Seconded by Tariq Harney*

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

*Sustainability*

Thomas: This is really small.

Rebecca: Yeah, so we’re doing $10 gift cards in a collaboration, that’s about it.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of the Sustainability Commission, Seconded by Luca Carnegie*

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

*Scarlet & Gold*

Thomas: So it’s not that this is not unaffordable, but I would suggest an increase in cost per ticket.

Ali: Yeah, so things have increased a lot, I know you probably pulled this from an old budget, but food, alcohol, and security has increased quite a lot. You’re looking at quite a big increase, about $1000.

Maarib: I don’t know if you’ve booked already, but Home for the Holidays is being planned for November 24.

Jackson: So the date doesn’t matter, so we should focus on the budget, but we’ll discuss to find a date that accommodates both parties.

Zoe: Would we have the extra $1000 incase there is an increase?

Thomas: So we’ve taken off $650 thus far, we’d be able to afford $1000. But that’s the minimum estimate, so I think we should take some time to gather our bearings before deciding.

Shane: We can still consider budget items in the future, so keep that in mind.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike the budget lines of Scarlet & Gold, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

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

*International Councillor*

Charlie: So there’s a high expectation on these two events, the Christmas party and the Halloween Haunt trip. There’s been a lot of interest and people said they’re willing to pay $30-$40, so VUSAC will be paying 50%, and the student would by paying 50%.

Shane: I’m not sure if this is what you plan to call it, but Christmas isn’t inclusive so I would recommend renaming.

Lara: Yeah, I was wondering about why we’re calculating for the TTC fare as well as a six-seater car fee?

Charlie: The metro can only take us to that stop, and then we can’t walk to the park so we’d need a car to take us.

Lara: Right, so the route I’m looking at, you can take the TTC and then take a bus to get to the park.

Charlie: The actual event is 7-11PM, so it’s a security concern to take public transport. And it’ll be hard to make sure everyone’s safe then, so it’s a safety choice to choose an Uber.

Jackson: I was wondering about the Christmas decorations, cause we have those in the VUSAC office, so I’d like a friendly amendment to strike that cost.

Sooyeon: I just wanted to ask, what equipment and room rental fee were you referring to?

Ali: With the date proposed for Halloween Haunt, I thought it’d be important to know that Halloween Haunt isn’t open that day. I also think it’s important that you conduct a risk assessment, and think about the staff to student ratio. There have been incidences of violence during Halloween Haunt, so keep that in mind.

Maarib: The UTSU offers discounted prices for Wonderland, including tax already, so it might be cheaper to book through the UTSU. It’s also important to note that Haunt is only open 3 days a week.

Zoe: So if you’re worried safety, Casa Loma has a haunted house event that could be an alternative.

Charlie: I don’t think people would want that, about half of the responses asked for this event.

Ali: Regardless of when you end up scheduling the event, you need to conduct a risk assessment before buying tickets.

Sooyeon: Could we make a friendly amendment for the equipment and rental fee, because you don’t need that anymore?

Shane: You could also just change the date, and have the event before the break begins.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to extend the meeting time by twenty minutes, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

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

Sooyeon: When you were getting feedback, how many students filled out the form for interest for a holiday party?

Ali: I’d just like to say, don’t hold events so late in December. Holding it earlier before exams is great too, as a reenergizer before finals.

Carolyn: I know exams will also run until the 21st, so people might have exams then too.

Dhir: I know that the Halloween Wonderland trip is concerning in terms of safety, can we increase the number of staff members present?

Charlie: So if we walked to Wonderland it’s farther than 35 minutes.

Luca: Yeah, I would agree it is longer than thirty five minutes.

Charlie: So ten people wanted the Wonderland trip in the group chat, and 14 people wanted it in the survey.

Tariq: I think you should ask students if they’d want to do Casa Loma instead, I think that it would still satisfy that Halloween event without the safety risks.

Jenna: The lines during Haunt are so long, so if you’re going to Wonderland to experience Wonderland, it isn’t worth it to go during Haunt.

Luca: Yeah, Casa Loma tickets are $10 cheaper, and it looks pretty comparable to haunt.

Charlie: For international students, this is something they really want, and we don’t really spend on international students’ events.

Luca: You could reallocate to go somewhere else instead.

Charlie: They have indicated that they want this event, so I’m going to stay on this.

Jackson: I’m going to motion to strike the Halloween Wonderland Trip. There’s another option with Casa Loma that we could consider, you know, students will go to anything free. Our next meeting is October 28, so the Exec will meet with you to discuss a budget with you.

Sooyeon: There are safety issues and a lot to consider, and it will take too much time if we discuss this now.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to strike the budget line regarding the Halloween Haunt, Seconded by Luca Carnegie*

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

Sooyeon: Regarding the holiday event, can we amend since you won’t need a room rental fee?

Charlie: Can we just reallocate the money to buying more coffee, I don’t think it’ll be enough.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the remaining budget of the International Councillor, Seconded by Zoe Lazaris*

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

*VPE*

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of the Vice-President External, Seconded by Dhir Shah*

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

*VPI*

*Motion by Dhir Shah to pass the budget of the Vice-President Internal, Seconded by Maarib Haseeb*

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

ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee to ratify the Fall 2022 Budget, seconded by Jackson Leslie*

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Amendment to council policies as presented in Appendix B, put forth by Sooyeon Lee (5 minutes)*

Sooyeon: The one in green at the bottom is the amendment im proposing. I was reading over council policies and we had measures in place for levy heads to make sure they were following VUSAC’s constitution but we didnt have anything in place for club members. It doesn't make sense for club members to not be held to the same standards. We know that club heads still hold a lot of power so I'd like the amendment to add onto existing council policies.

Shane: We do have a mission statement and clubs should act in alignment with that.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

*Scarlet & Gold: Ninon (3 minutes)*

Ninon: So we had our first event last Friday, we did a karaoke event. People stayed pretty long, until the Cat’s Eye closed. As a commission, we’ve started planning for the semiformal as well.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

*VPE: Shane (3 minutes)*

Shane: As many of you know there’s been domestic unrest in Iran after the murder of Mahsa Amini, with the deaths of 200 protesters. Many of you may have noticed that various organizations have condemned the actions of the morality police, and we need to call out the same. I’m going to be working with The Women’s Circle to draft theirs and VUSAC’s support on these items and not just letting this matter dissipate. This is something I’ll be working on and if anyone else would like to help, I would love the support.

*VPI: Jackson (5 minutes)*

Jackson: This is just a reminder to check your emails. It’s super important in this position, especially if there are time sensitive issues. What we ask is you check it at least once a day, and if you get one that is time sensitive please do your best to respond. In regards to office hours, I know we’re all getting in the flow of it, as the schedule was updated a little late. Just a reminder to do your best to attend office hours, you can just send a message if you can’t attend or will be late. Communication is very important in this role, and we expect that people will get back to us within a reasonable amount of time. For example, if I’m planning an event and expecting you to be there, message to let someone know, just please do your best to communicate. For retreat, I’ve sent the schedule and some of you have been sending your regrets, so thank you for that. More on regrets, a lot is going on and we understand that, but sending in your regrets doesn’t automatically mean it’s a valid excuse. Just a heads up that our constitution does require attendance and a motion can be made to withdraw you should you violate different expectations. For councillor’s portfolios, please fill out the Google form by tomorrow night, with which portfolio you’ve been assigned to. Lastly, on merchandise, there was an issue with the stock of quarter zips, so we just approved the budget for full zips. I sent out the Google Form with the email, so check out your color options as well as the sizing charts. Events are starting to run so it would be great if council could represent!

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

*Discussion Regarding UofT Start Date by Michael (3 minutes)*

Michael: So as you heard from Dean Kelley Castle, UofT is looking at the possibility of shifting start of class date to directly after labor day. So they want to see what everyone’s thoughts are on it.

Zoe: How does this benefit students?

Michael: I believe they want more academic learning days, essentially.

Tariq: Are you asking students to spend another month’s rent because you’re starting class early?

Luca: And the integration of the first years into the community is really important.

Shane: We run a lot of transitional programming during that time that’s really important on learning how to be university students.

Rebecca: I totally agree, the extra few days are a great time for people to get used to the campus environment, it’s a few days of break.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to extend the meeting by ten minutes, Seconded by \_\_\_\_*

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

Jenna: I was one of the students that didn’t get an orientation because of COVID, and it sucks, I made very few friends. I think from a club leader perspective too, it’s a really great time to put club awareness forward. And lots of students are broke, some people work during that holiday too and need that extra pay.

Lara: As an international student too, there are already issues with students getting their visas on time, what more if we push it back earlier?

Jackie: Yeah, for me, flights are only available on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and you’re also asking students to pay more because they’re moving in earlier for residence.

Zoe: It’s taking away people from work, and people have to move in earlier too.

Rebecca: Yeah, moving in earlier is already bad, it will be a logistical nightmare, and students will have to pay residence more. It’ll overall just be more stress.

Jackson: I’m enjoying the feedback we’re getting, but this is way beyond our scope, this is a UofT central issue. We should be considering different avenues, get in collaboration with colleges and other unions. We should look into getting feedback from students, you know, we’re only one college and we need support from other people.

Ninon: When living off-campus, it can take someone up to a week to get their life together.

Luca: They want to do this for more academic time, but students will be forced to take time off anyways to get aspects of their life together. And they’d be sacrificing learning, and students won’t be attending first days of class to get things together. It’ll be more disorganized than they were.

Ali: Thank you everyone for your feedback. I think what Jackson said was really important, we will not be able to make the mark alone.

Jackson: So the Exec will meet with Kelley and the Dean’s Office. The more people that are aware of this, the better, so we should organize a student feedback form. Following that meeting, I’ll reach out to everyone on council, and on behalf of the Exec and Council, I think that students appreciate the support that we’re giving.

*Motion: Shane Joy motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dhir Shah*

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

*Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.*