



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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VUSAC Annual General Meeting and Caucus Meeting

Friday, February 27, 2015 at 6:17 PM in the Northrop Frye 003

MINUTES

- Student Projects Discussion and Update
 - Arlette Bax: I am chairperson for the Student Projects fund this year. We are a fund that every student pays \$10 into yearly that money is used for new improvements for Victoria College – can be to start a club, a new event or even purchase equipment. We have been talking about reassessing Student Projects since we have so much money as it stands. We receive \$30,000-\$40,000 every year and there is accumulation from previous years that hasn't been used. We had almost \$100,000 at the beginning of this year. This is a lot of money that could be used for student ideas. We are dealing with different issues, like awareness. We want to promote Student Projects during Orientation to first years so they are aware of the fund from the beginning of their time at Vic. Also, we'd like to maintain promotion throughout the year since projects are accepted on a rolling basis and do not have deadlines - which sometimes motivate people to apply. One of the issues I've noticed this year is that our policy encourages only new ideas and improvements to Vic. We want to work on changing this to accept improvements to pre-existing projects already. It has been suggested to me to change the student projects fund and creating a technology fund since many projects are typically centred on this. Moving forward, we want to set a committee for a forum for discussion on the student projects policy and how to improve it. I'll be advertising this more in the future as to where we'll be meeting, if you have any ideas now though, we have a few minutes to discuss it. Otherwise, you may email me about it at studentproject@vusac.ca
 - Anthony Burton: I was going to ask this question before you spoke to revamping the acceptance guideline. I think awareness isn't the major issue, but people may think it's a fund that is difficult to get money from. From the initiatives I was a part of, only one application I have helped with has been accepted and we were unsure why this was the one that was chosen over others or why certain ones fit the criteria more. I am in support of revamping the policy. It feels like a weird thing to be concerned about if the policy is the reason money is not being released.
 - Arlette: That's a good point, and the reason we want to change it is because it is a shame to have to reject certain projects because of the strict policy.
 - Auni Ahsan: I think Student Projects requires a website. For one, it's currently using a Facebook page; two, can you explore ways to put this money into some sort of investment while it's not being used yet and also increase ; and three, there should be clearer back and forth between committee and applicants – instead of waiting to hear about feedback while filling out applications instead of afterwards.

- Arlette: Good ideas. It was established in 2002, it actually had committee members assigned to each project which allowed there to be more communication with applicants instead of the chairperson taking care of all applicants, which is something we can discuss.
 - Alice Zhu: The criteria could be less strict. For instance, one of the criterion is to endorse projects that benefit commuters and residences. Some of the projects I applied for, it was difficult to grant the items because of this stipulation.
 - Arlette: The reasoning behind those criteria is accessibility, because items placed in residences can't be used by all Victoria College students - but that's something that can be up for discussion. Once again the email I can be reached at is studentprojects@vusac.ca. Application forms on VUSAC page under levies.

- Summary of VUSAC Council Structure
 - Enxhi Kondi: For those of you who don't know me, I'm Enxhi, the Vice President of Operations – potentially the first and last since that is one of the positions that are up for discussion.

Academic and Professional Development Commissioner didn't have a mandate last year but was put in place to provide students with alumni connections, help with career paths and connect to the Dean's Office. This is the new mandate we have come up with stipulates that the position will liaise with all Vic offices and update VUSAC with different opportunities. It allows VUSAC to update students on these programs that are offered. It will help develop career and academic success programs – a lot of these are vague to allow the commissioner to create a more specified portfolio. A lot of these things are left vague to give the commissioner room to work with the position and give VUSAC more liberty with its first year. It has Grad Banquet in its portfolio, which was moved from President's. The peer mentorship program was mentioned previously and it was added to this portfolio. They'll work with Dean's Office because they already have developed wellness and networking opportunities at Vic – it seems almost distance from the student body but this position will link the two. This will focus on professional opportunities and engagement in the Vic community.

For the Scarlet and Gold commissioner, essentially what was changed is that there will be a semi-formal event in the first semester as well as Highball. There is also a mandate for collaboration with other Vic groups – it worked with hosting Harry Potter Pub Night with the Building Presidents but it worked so well that we put it into the constitution as an optional mandate. The commissioner also was added to the Gardiner Gala planning committee.
 - Conor Tangey: The master calendar thing will be implemented?
 - Enxhi: The only thing that was changed was Grad Banquet – it's just a thing that hasn't happened but will in the future.
 - Sabina Freiman: With the semi-formal in first semester, does that mean it gets less money than highball?
 - Rowan DeBues: It will work the same way that any budgetary thoughts work and their proposed budget – then we go through with our critiques and decide the right amount. It's up to the discretion of the council but the commissioner can figure out how they approach both events' budget lines.

- Ben Atkins: It also doesn't necessarily take from specifically Highball's budget, it could also take away from any other budget line.
- Leah Moncada: Is Arts and Culture still heading the Gardiner Gala or is Scarlet & Gold assistant to the Arts & Culture Commissioner? I was swamped with it and I think that it would be great.
- Enxhi: It was modelled after mandates in other commissioner's roles; it does fall under both their mandates. Since Scarlet & Gold is an event planning commission, it does make sense. The event does fall under both commissioners' portfolio, we thought for both to collaborate on it and it would just add to the Scarlet and Gold's mandate even more.

Education and Equity Commissioner's change would be to change the name to Equity Commissioner.

- Kareem Jarrah: Vice President External as it stands, manages the levies and works with residence councils as well as the UTSU. For the most part, Rowan has been handling the UTSU for the this year.
- Enxhi: The way we modified the position is so it represents VUSAC externally in the UTSU, Victoria College Council, Board of Regents, the Dean's Office, Residence Councils, Victoria University senate. They have been empowered the position to liaise with these groups. This gives them more power in representation of VUSAC like the president. They will be more involved with St. George colleges and professional faculties at large. A general change is that the VPI, VPSO, VPE all will maintain the caucus list together.
- Ben: I could shed light on it since Stuart and I did it. The way we envisioned VPE is because Kareem was focused on Vic itself with levies, residence councils and other Vic external bodies to VUSAC. There is still a lot of burden on the presidency to have interaction with external bodies because Kareem had a lot to work on with levies. The VPE will serve like a Foreign Minister for VUSAC. The responsibilities the president's role entails that they are in charge of VUSAC, has the final say and will be the voice of VUSAC. It will be good to have someone who is fully committed to meeting with people like the SGRT and UTSU, especially the Board of Directors. They could manage external bodies and there could a clear definition of roles. This removes the fuzzy margins between two positions and make it an externally focused and politically active bodies.
- Kareem: Opinions on section K in the mandate: Do you think we as Vic students can benefit from having someone go to each of the colleges?
- Anthony: I think to go to one meeting is a token thing. Maybe they should focus on liaising without concrete terms?
- Apurva Kilambi: Perhaps, if someone cannot go, they could read their agendas, read their minutes and liaising with chairs or equivalent VPE's of those colleges to stay updated. Understanding what's going on without being officially present.
- Lucinda Qu: I agree with Anthony's point, only attending one meeting is silly if we want to establish some sort of repoire and representation – as well, it would help with cross-pollination in colleges.
- Rowan: This was my suggestion. You cannot get a consistent overview of what's going on at all colleges and faculties throughout the year – the VPE should have documentation to keep abreast of the issues. The UTSU meeting minutes in comparison to ours, have only brief summaries from each motion and it's hard to see what a discussion is – whereas in a few days you can go onto our website and see me saying these words. It's also

good to see people face to face. I went to my first TCM, it's a direct democracy and it brings experience to their experiences than just reading their minutes. It's about seeing how it functions and operates.

- Steve Warner: I would agree with Rowan on that. It's important to liaise with organizations in person; it would be unfair to say a position should go to every single meeting of every college council. It's important to say that though they're only attending on mandated meeting, that isn't to say they wouldn't keep up with issues and minutes and talking and liaising with other councils. Attending meeting should be required on top of that, it's a way to see things in action and see people in context of their meetings. It absolutely something that should be on top of keeping up with things. Only looking at minutes will give half a picture – you need both sides.
- Rahul Christofferson: This is an opportunity to have a member of VUSAC introduced to every other council.
- Simran Kataria: In addition, the VPE should look into holding a tea or social for other VPE's and Presidents from other colleges to promote interrelations with colleges and faculties.
- Lucinda: I guess if we wanted to make an introduction, it could be included here and make it more informally that the VPE should go to one of the meetings towards the beginning of the year. That way, from the get-go, they will know who to contact.
- Enxhi: I don't know if beginning of the year is functional, because the council that they may visit will not have all their members or be stabled.
- Lucinda: I didn't mean right at the beginning, maybe towards mid-semester? Just around the beginning rather than later
- Alice: How many colleges and faculties at U of T?
- Rowan: There are about 12-15 groups.
- Enxhi: To put in perspective, there are 9 levies the VPE had to meet with currently including those groups.
- Arlette: Is there another medium than meetings to meet with other colleges?
- Rowan: There are two main areas of interaction across campus. There is the SGRT, which currently has every president of our college council, and Kin and Phys Ed – music and law have been in contact. There's also the UTSU Board of Directors that will have representatives from every single group – that is for more in tense policy discussion, you would be observing more than discussing.
- Enxhi: The next position is Vice President Operations. It is currently the amalgamation of clubs commissioner and Vice President Internal. Office duties were removed for clubs to be added last year to the portfolio – it was a tester position. I have not found it to be the best it could be, there is not enough space to deal with internal VUSAC matters and clubs at once. There are over 30 clubs at Vic, and it's hard to manage on their own. Vice President of Student Organizations to hold clubs accountable to higher standard than commissioner position and to keep levies maintained by judiciary. There are changes but this is the mandate for the position. Make sure they're following club policy.
- Conor: In the case of a single president, there is an even number of judiciary members – how will that work in a tie?
- Enxhi: President has tie-breaking vote.
- Ben: Just so everyone is aware – the TA's have now gone on strike. They voted not to ratify the agreement.

- Thomas Lynch: In terms of levies, does this mean increased oversight of levies?
- Enxhi: Definitely will remain the way it is currently.
- Auni: Levies take a lot of work to set up initially. Better promotion for clubs to be created – greater variety of clubs at Vic.
- Sabina: It's good to have the clubs and levies covered underneath one position so it's easier to have one person coordinate events for both groups and discuss budgets.
- Gabriel Zoltan-Johan: It's implicit to the position, that this retains the presence of clubs and levies in the judiciary – it has the highest authority to oversee them and advocate for them.
- Enxhi: The VPO named change will be to VPI – internal defined as VUSAC and Vic student body. They will be assigning councilor's initiatives, maintaining internal policy – implied by internal position before. But they weren't necessarily put into the constitution previously.

For the position of President, there has been a reduction in the number of committees, but there is the choice to run as an individual or co-presidents.
- Rowan: VUSAC President has had an idea of what they would like to accomplish, but this year we may have bit off more than we could chew in terms of initiatives. We had expanded outreach, most of it was my fault – we started discussing mental health with the provost, or discussions of the TA strike in order to inform students. We have, SaraLi who has started OCSA and has promoted across-campus initiatives. The SGRT. A lot of people here were at the UTSU AGM, being involved around campus has been higher but internally has been maintained as the same. Financially accountable and sensible. This is a lot more than a full time student can do. I sit on more councils than Paul Gooch and Kelley Castle while they are paid lots of money and I have to attend class. It'll be strongly recommended to not take a full course load, but you shouldn't have to sacrifice your academics to be apart of this intuition. Co-presidency permits there to be power in two places at once.
- Arlette: I understand the motivation behind co-presidents, but communication may be an issue. I am also wondering how conflict can be dealt with having two presidents. It may be easier to have one person who knows everything in order to represent the council.
- Enxhi: For this position, you can pick your co-president and run together – it is not a situation where a runner up is placed with an individual who won. One would essentially hope that they run together for a reason and be able to communicate properly based on that decision.
- Rowan: The judiciary does not run on a slate, but it is mine, Kareem and Enxhi's job to communicate. When we became overworked, communication also fell apart. Less stress we're under, the easier it'll be to communicate. They have to choose to run together, if they're smart, which you hope presidents would be – encouraged to look at what they agree on. There should be trust in who you're voting for that there is a degree of cognitive ability.
- Arlette: Even if they're the best of friends, there still could be issues in communicating properly.
- Rowan: They can have opposing positions – you're expected to work through issues in an adult-like fashion like other council members do with opposing views.

- Gabe: To nuance what Rowan's saying, at the end of day, there is one person each and there is a check and balance in council and within themselves. If there is a difference in views, you can bring it to the rest of the judiciary or if the issues are dealt with the council through democracy.
- Rahul: On the same note, the president isn't supposed to act unilaterally on all things. The relation would not be that different that if there was a dispute with the VPE.
- Thomas: I have a couple clarifications, the first is: how is the honorarium going to be divided?
- Rowan: It's in one of the amendments; honorarium is for the summer office hours. They would meet with the Dean to decide and formalize how to divvy up the summer workload for the honorarium. They can come up with a creative solution, but that'd up to them and dean.
- Thomas: What's the logic besides giving each president a vote each? It gives an extra vote to a judiciary.
- Rowan: The judiciary is not a superpower-voting block on VUSAC, councilors have more votes than judiciary members at the end of the day. In parliament, they are technically first among equals. For example, Stephen Harper has one vote while the representative from Timmins has the exact same vote – just different levels of positions.
- Auni: From my perception, it's an addition of another layer to VUSAC that creates a fine power balance – it adds the president-voting block above the judiciary. The judiciary tie-breaking vote is a rare occasion. The power structure works fine in my perception.
- Rahul: At the end of the day, VUSAC will represent Vic student issues – I don't see how the president's decision would make the council vote on a block if they each represent students' interests from their opinions.
- Thomas: How are the roles divided? Who decides what gets what, do they decide?
- Rowan: They will take into account time allocations, strengths and weaknesses in order to determine who can commit to which roles. There is precedence for co-presidents, like at Music and Trin. They can choose how to allot their time throughout the year. Tina, one co-head, knew she would have a heavier first semester, Connor worked majority of the first semester, then swapped. We don't want to pigeonhole it in the constitution. They'll have to pick and choose for Board of Regents and VCC on paper for whom will take those since they are legal institutions – one will have to sign on for a particular committee for the full year.
- Roxanne: I am one of the co-producers of VCDS, it's good to have help but in terms of dividing roles, it is better to have clearly defined roles from the beginning. It's sometimes hard to know what is my co-producer's responsibility or mine since we both hold the same position. If this becomes an effective presidency, then it should be divvied up in roles.
- Rowan: Division of labour by the end of May could be mandated in the constitution, would you approve that?
- Roxanne: It'll help you to get into the mode of what your responsibilities are without worrying who is taking care of what roles.
- Rowan: There is also consideration for administration to know who is liaison for different committees and who to talk to on specific topics.
- Julie: I think by a certain date to set what each President will do but circumstances can change throughout terms. Different things come up – should have a discussion to separate roles but shouldn't be pre-divided.

- Enxhi: We should allow the presidents to divide it themselves in order to allow flexibility.
- Benjamin Lacombe: From a constitutional standpoint, this is not supposed to act as guide or manual but speak to general expectations of members.
- Rowan: Krista – not to put you on the spot, I just wanted to know your opinion?
- Krista Steeves: I worry that added co-presidents is too much complication to a council that is already so big. I wonder how you bring a unified voice to so many committees with two people attending different meetings. Are we adding a complication to two students if it's manageable by one student while the judiciary could support them?
- Rowan: I think it used to be more manageable, but we decided that there are issues we still hope VUSAC was more active in. We don't want to overstress everyone; VPSO will be managing many others, for example. The crazy concept of what if not everyone was overworked by a position. part-time student or co-presidency.
- Auni: Correct me if I'm wrong, the councilor number will change if there's a co-president?
- Enxhi: There would be 7 councilors if there were co-presidents, 8 councilors if just one. Right now, the presidency to be help - part time student means to do another term, or summer school – take on role with financial or time loss.
- Enxhi: I was speaking to Bergita, what she told me wasn't necessarily that it had to be part time- just reduced. But do you not have to be full time to vote at the AGM?
- Rowan: The president doesn't necessarily have to be able to vote, I chose to not drop courses in order to do that. APUS doesn't let full-time students
- Krista: If you carry 3.0, you're full time now – but I think there may be a carryover from when full time was 4.0 credits.
- Rahul: The divided work time to make it more manageable and more appealing for people to run increases pool of more candidates.
- Enxhi: The purpose of splitting of these positions was to also make it more attractive to students who may find it too hard to handle.
- Brenan Sivapragasm: Year to year, if there is one or two presidents – how much time is needed to account for the number of presidents and the effects on structural parts on VUSAC?
- Rowan: What scenarios? One example I think of is the requirements to get a new checkbook since there will be 3 signatures instead of two for presidents. In terms of participation, you'll have a new person regardless so there will be a learning curve – there will be one for one president or two presidents. There are still 25-30 committees for them to sit on – I don't think it'll make much of a difference though.
- Simran: I don't know if this is correct, but do presidents get residence?
- Rowan: No. I wish.
- Simran: How are you paid?
- Rowan: There is expectation to put in a certain amount of hours in the office throughout the summer; you are paid a little less than \$8000.00 before taxes.
- Simran: Would this be divided?
- Rowan: They wouldn't both get \$8000.00, they will be divided based on how the choose to occupy office hours.

- Thomas: If one of your concerns is that a single president will have too much of a workload, why not just mandate two presidents?
- Rowan: If one president thinks they can run alone and have the means to, they can definitely run. I don't want to set the precedent that if "Rowan can't do it, no one can!" The system is in favour of encouraging a co-presidency.
- Benjamin: It still allows the electorate to decide who they feel fit, whether it's these two guys or one girl for the presidency.
- Rowan: If they notice two presidents work well in the future, they can mandate two presidents at all time once it's proven to function 100%.
- Auni: Also I think co-presidents will always have to decide how to divide their workload regardless if it's precedent.
- Brenan: Is it correct that some positions have been given to president, what happens if that happens again?
- Enxhi: Same thing will happen again – it would be passed to presidents.
- Brenan: Would we run into the same situation again with the President being overworked, is there some way to make sure that doesn't happen?
- Enxhi: Up to president to delegate these roles, not something many can foresee.
- Brenan: To be clear – the president didn't feel overworked due to taking over the VPE position?
- Rowan: It is kind of a personal issue. The overworking came up in October right when Kareem was introduced. It would have been great to have Kareem over the summer; he would have contributed a lot. The president is the only person who can be guaranteed to be in the office in the summer. We've had a good response with councilors filling the Arts and Culture Commissioner role. There is next to no stress on president over the summer for other positions. When the school year is in progress, the councilors can pick up the slack.
- Brenan: In the event a VP position went unfilled, could a councilor to attend a meeting they are meant to attend in order to take over?
- Rowan: Depending on the committee, it would be inconvenient. I wouldn't send a councilor in my stead of a VCC meeting in my stead while I would prefer a Vice President to go in that case.
- Ally: The CRO can also choose to hold a by-election that will fill the position.
- Sabina: Crescams was taken from External but where has it been put?
- Rowan: Crescams put in Academic & Professional Development since it's related to alumni awards.
- Enxhi: It's not written down here, for any changes you have given us ideas for – essentially, as it stands it doesn't mean we can't pass amendments to positions for any issues during transcribing. Like Crescams, it will be added to VPE. What we can do to have your say in this vote and see who would pass this document as it stands. We will look into making changes in order to have elections be functional.

Straw Poll: Approval of amendments to VUSAC positions?

Steven pulls out co-presidents amendments.

Majority in favour, one opposed, one abstaining.

- Ben: The only thing that matters is whether there can be co-presidents.

- Ben: I think we should just vote on it, everyone has voiced his or her opinions.
- Enxhi: It's not like we're forcing people to be co-presidents, even in the event, it's equal as long as they recognize the workload. We will be advertising reduced course load if running alone.

Straw Poll: Approval of co-presidency.

Majority in favour, five opposed, one abstaining.

- Open Question and Discussion Period Re: VUSAC Overall
 - Auni: I think on a yearly basis, we are occupied with being transparent and it's hard to see how we are doing. What is your feedback on what we have done right or wrong?
 - Anthony: Issue that I have as a member of The Strand, we were told about a mysterious fund that is for levies or clubs that go to conferences. We went to NASH, a student newspaper conference, about a month ago, some of it was paid of our pockets. I don't want to say to strongly that it is a pattern, but I have asked five or six different people what these things are and had no one able to give my a straight answer. If there is a fund sitting there, I would like to know about it.
 - Rowan: That's because the fund doesn't exist yet, there is money to make it happen. We haven't been able to go through the time and energy to make it happen.
 - Anthony: My follow up is why it has taken so long for me to get that answer then. There seems to be more barriers than a levy or club wants or finds useful in order to obtain information. I thought that was the most useful example I can think of.
 - Enxhi: Do you have any suggestions?
 - Anthony: I just wanted to raise that experience.
 - Lucinda: I wanted to mention that VUSAC in the coming year or months can work on defining relationship with associate clubs. I think most don't know how an associate club exists – just best to advertise what it is.
 - Enxhi: That is definitely a job the Student Organizations Vice President can take care of.
 - Brenda: What is an associate club?
 - Enxhi: It's a club, but they do not have full requirements for club status but just want to rent Vic space.
 - Simran: VUSAC is always looking for better ties with it's levies, I think we contacted to you about the athletic banquet which has been booked and is at the same time as the town hall.
 - Enxhi: It couldn't be cancelled because it had to be at a time where there are no classes so anyone can attend. We would have to have it at 9 pm every other day of the week, which is inaccessible to commuters. In terms of changing the day, it would change our elections process.
 - Simran: It's all about being inclusive, but what if there are people who want to run but also cannot attend the banquet?
 - Kareem: First of all, if there is a valid reason, they could reason with the CRO. Sometimes there is a choice that needs to me made by that person.
 - Elizabeth White: The initial question was in relation to communication, we used to receive emails from VUSAC in my first year all the time, but Sumeeta currently sends the emails. They include links and sign ups for

things for first years so that they're read right from the beginning of their university careers.

- Rowan: One of the advocacy things that has been developed, our listserv can be now sent to U of T central to send our listserv to all Vic students' emails. It'll be updated from next year to go from 800 people to 3000.
- Thomas: As a club exec, the club storage situation effected us. We did apply for shelves and were told club storage was going to be handled by VUSAC. Little transparency on what VUSAC members is working on than their publicly available time. Allows all of us to see what's going on with these kinds of projects.
- Enxhi: The reason you were not getting updates was because there wasn't any for a long time, I wasn't prepared for what I thought the project was.
- Ben: We were anxious because we had specific requirements but we were happy things were taken into consideration. The sign out of the key was a nuisance, since we required it at night for our equipment.
- Enxhi: Did you know that key could be signed out for 24 hours?
- Ben: Yes, but we needed it for longer.
- Brenan: Has there been any discussion of improving the listserv?
- Auni: We discussed at the last emails to condense it and make it more digestible. We are hoping to set it up for next year, potentially for elections.
- Brenan: Second thing to the tie during club ratification, when being asked to provide information for ratification.
- Enxhi: We did know that, that you are not just a board games club – I don't recall what my email was asking you for. You weren't able to disclose at the time, but we felt out of the loop that we may not get club status.
- Rowan: not reading documents and delaying procedure Sorry for that lapse at the beginning of the year wasted a lot of time.
- Krista: Quick announcement, Bergita Petro is off for some well-deserved time before the summer months, the Dean's Office is still here to support you. Even though she's not here, we are still here to provide support.
- Steve: Some people last year made a vitriolic speech about how the structure of governance at Vic is confusing, but it's much better this year. There have been improvements this year, the change from MAL to councilor is much more descriptive. To improve and continue on that front, Vic understanding what each group does but each group at Vic having specific functions, there are silos within Vic which deal with different things. It would be to have a way to coordinate all the events at Vic through organizations that may or may not be involved with VUSAC. Whether that is through the Listserv or website, it'll help bring the groups together.
- Auni: I was thinking to a similar issue. I was thinking of having something on a page of the VUSAC page with structure of Vic's internal workings to help address issues.
- Steve: I think the issue I was trying to get at was the events of all groups to be condensed and have a centralized calendar.
- Sumeeta: Scott Johnson and I meeting had a communications meeting about how to reach out to students. Something you could sync to your phone, hopefully something like that can be implemented soon.
- Apurva: The leaders all had a Google calendar that was very helpful and just synced to our phones.

- Thomas: This is related, but the VUSAC website is really bad. It's not an accessible website, I think it's something that should be worked on.
- Krista: The alumni office and our office can help you make the website accessible.
- Ben: It might be worth to put down some money that actually looks professional.
- [name]: We do teach Photoshop skills. With the student start up fund, starting an associate club that will help people learn those kinds of skills and give back to the college.
- Enxhi: Is anyone here from the Strand?
- Ben: We have Adobe Creative Suite.
- Brennan: The Building Presidents are now setting up lawn party, so we're looking for collaboration – March 27th!
- Apurva: Orientation Leader applications are due March 25th.
- Enxhi: Also, congratulations to Apurva on your position as Orientation Co-Chair!
- Simona: VUSAC has an Instagram and VVS is March 13th and auditions will be soon.
- L-P: We also have a Twitter account, follow us!
- Linh: Caffiends is on Instagram, follow us too!
- Julie: Related to Student Projects, is it that student pay \$10 at the beginning of every school semester?
- Arlette: It's included in your tuition.
- Julie: Has anyone thought of cutting down how much students pay?
- Krista: It's hard to change it; you have to run it through their constitution since it's a levy.
- Julie: Is there a real justification to continue to take money?
- Gabe: In my first year, the reserve was six digits – like \$120,000 - and it has been decreased over the years to a large degree, I think in comparison to before. Is that incorrect?
- Krista: If you wanted to buy a house, you have a healthy down payment – though, I say that in jest.
- Gabe: It has been reduced by a greater amount than in the past five ten years. I agree there should be an investigation into cutting it, but also investigation into use – make sure there is not a cost equilibrium.
- Krista: Student Projects every year is \$31,000 to \$32,000 dollars every year depending on number of students. Student Projects has done a good job in allocating it, that's correct. It's not like we can't spend the \$30,000 in the year, it's that it's hard to execute. It's been sitting there since 2001, it's just been growing. If we execute half, over 15 years, here we are.
- Thomas: Would it be helpful to bring together a council committee to bring this to fruition?
- Krista: I think next year we should look at it, I just think we're happy to revisit it. It was created in the early 2000s, Wymilwood was going to die so they used it to fix the space by Goldring is introduced.
- Gabe: When the Goldring did surface, it was the greatest student project investment in forever. I think it's a little disingenuous to say the new student's centre is the reason the investment went down.
- Krista: I'm sorry to misconstrue, but they used to use large chunks of money to revitalize old space while the Goldring had brand new furniture purchased.

- Auni: I think we can better promote it next year with Rowan's campus-wide listserv.
- Simran: What about looking into creating a gym space at Victoria College?
- Krista: Do you mean equipment or a dedicated space?
- Simran: Both.
- Krista: The Webster Fund would probably help with that. The Webster Fund is a fund that supports healthy living at Victoria College – it's supports VCAA. We struggle to spend it each year. If you are looking into a gym, contact us if you're eager to explore that.
- Simran: We got it this year and spent it on more permanent things.
- Krista: It's payout annually is \$30,000.
- Rowan: If you had a great idea on how to set up a proper gym in Goldring. We have more money than we have space at Vic. It's more of a long-term building, but if you set up a 5-year strategy for space.
- Simran: There are rooms on the top floor of Goldring that could be used.
- Thomas: We did the straw polls, what is going to happen? Will it be a referendum or passed in a meeting?
- Enxhi: After it's posted for 7 days, it will be passed in an email vote. It will be advertised with these positions.
- L-P: In a conversation with Ben earlier just about VUSAC's financial position, we have a \$59,000.00 surplus and if everyone spends their budget lines we should have about \$30,000.00
- Ben: We've only spent \$29,000 of the budget that's been allocated. So, look at your budgets and spend as much that is budgeted – you will be reimbursed. Even if we fulfill 100% we will be fine. We have a projected surplus that's larger than we've ever had.
- Enxhi: The inactivity of the Arts and Culture Commissioner helped – it has very expensive budgets that aren't being used.
- Ben: We'd have a projected \$30,000.00 surplus.
- Rowan: We've moved from using Excel and QuickBooks – also working with the finance office upstairs to better our systems. Having professional financing, nice to see we're in the 21st century there.
- Roxanne: VUSAC seems to have a lot of money and Bader fees are increasing – how are we able to deal with that?
- Krista: The performing arts endowment, we have never turned anyone with Bader fees away. It's a healthy endowment, never turned anyone away due to that – this was actually raised at last performing arts meeting, students thinking we won't support them. If you are unable to pay your bill, come see me.
- Enxhi: Last announcement, on March 1st – Nomination packages will be released. Monday is the last day for Crescam nominations.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:21 pm.