



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
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### VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, April. 4, 2014 at 5:30PM in the Goldring Student Center  
MINUTES

#### **In Attendance**

#### **Outgoing Council**

PRESIDENT

Jelena Savic

VP EXTERNAL

Zack Medow

VP INTERNAL

Kathleen Walsh

FINANCE

Eli Bourassa

SECRETARY

Enxhi Kondi

[INCOMING VPO]

CHAIR

Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

[INCOMING CHAIR]

CLC

Bergita Petro

CRO

Rajesh Sankat

COMMUNICATIONS

Jade Huguenin

COMMUTER

Christine De La Cruz

SUSTAINABILITY

Kristina Dokoska

EDUCATION & EQUITY

Sienna DiGuiseppe

ARTS & CULTURE

Leah Moncada

SCARLET & GOLD

Sebastien Hart

MAL

Alan McCallum

Ashley Harripersaad

Anastasia Langiano

Lucinda Qu

Robert Fan

[INCOMING A&PD]

Conor Tangney

[INCOMING A&C]

#### **LEVIES**

STUDENT PROJECTS

Angela Sun

CAT'S EYE

Karl Cadonic

VIC PRIDE

Peter Lim

VCDS

Blaire Townshend

STRAND

Claire Wilkins

[INCOMING E&E]

ACTA

Zack

VCAA

Michael Nguyen

#### **GUESTS**

STUDENT

Rowan DeBues

[INCOMING PRESIDENT]

Olivia Klasios

[INCOMING S&G]

Ben Atkins

[INCOMING FINANCE]

SaraLi Forouzanfar

[INCOMING COMMUTER]

GRAD BANQUET CHAIR

Sarah Berger



*Zack moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Lucinda seconds. Unanimously approved.  
Zack moves to approve agenda. Alan seconds. Approved with 2 abstaining.  
Sienna is Ally's proxy.*

## ASSESSOR REPORTS

### – CLC – Bergita

- I just wanted to extend a personal and official thank you to this year's VUSAC for all your hard work and dedication. You were an outstanding and amazing group to work with so thank you for all of that, big round of applause to all of you. And welcome the new VUSAC!

### – Levy Head Ratifications

Motion 123: Zack moves to approve Taylor and Miranda as Acta Victoriana Levy Heads. Jelena seconds. Unanimously approved.

Motion 124: Zack moves to approve Paula, Amanda, and Emily as The Strand Levy Heads. Alan seconds. Unanimously approved.

Motion 125: Zack moves to approve Michael Nguyen as VCAA President, Lucinda seconds. Unanimously approved.

Motion 126: Zack moves to approve Olivia and Roxanne as VCDS Producers, Leah seconds. Unanimously approved.

Motion 127: Alan moves to approve Minna Frederick as Vic Pride President. Zack seconds. Unanimously approved.

### – Cat's Eye

- Karl: Katie's honorarium. Speaking to Bergita, it was paid out by Dean's Office as part of her resignation. So in order to cover that cost, I'd like to release \$1000 to Dean's Office from VUSAC to cover that.

Motion 128: Sebastien moves to release \$1000 to the Dean's Office to cover Katie's honorarium. Conor seconds.

- Kathleen: Why did the Dean's Office pay her initially?
- Bergita: Part of the resignation was that she required compensation right away, so the wait time would have taken longer, so in working with that student we gave her the honorarium.
- Jade: How much for each semester to Cat's Eye managers get?
- Karl: \$1000.

3 abstaining, passes.

- *End of year report:* Coming into this year it was a new space so it was definitely a time of growing pains. Lots of new equipment. Huge influx of popularity with external groups, however they seem to have unusual circumstances as to what they want to do with the space. So there's been talks for closing the space for the future. It was good to have a mentor from a previous manager and we did not get



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a budget passed until February. We got Sabina ratified last week and we're all working together to make sure she has a smooth transition. Hopefully we can start next year on a better footing than we did this year. Pub nights we've been trying to bring back, but it might be a good idea to partnering with different Vic groups and encouraging residence to get involved with it.

- *CRO* – Rajesh
  - Elections went pretty well. I asked for a pretty chill election and that's what I got. For the most part, the candidates were pretty great. We had a huge turnout, along with Vusac's help which I super appreciate; we had a total voter turnout of 508, which is 15.2% of the VCU. So the new council doesn't need to be ratified. I'm also working on my report, but if anyone has any sort of concern or have new ideas for what the elections could include, please tell me. I'm working on changing the campaigning and election awareness systems.
- *Student Projects* – Angela
  - I don't have a finance report for you yet, but that will happen in the summer meeting.
  - The advisory board were unable to choose a new chairperson, so I'm going to stay on as chairperson during the summer, and then we're going to reopen chairperson applications the first day of school.
  - I will not reapply again as student chairperson.

## JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *VPE* – Zack
  - Referendum
    - Zack: Approximately one year ago, VUSAC voted to not approve fee diversion and instead to do a study on the merits and disadvantage of fee diversion. So keeping in mind the efforts that have been put forth this year and the documents that should be produced by governing council, I think we should wait for another year.
    - Alan: To future council, it might be worth holding another referendum to see how things are changing.
    - Sebastien: Holding it another year is just making it VUSAC's call. I don't think we need to keep this under our belt to make the decision ourselves. I'd say we shouldn't extend this decision, I think we should end it and if something does happen we can talk about it then
    - Rowan: Next year's council can vote on this matter now right? (Yes.)
    - Jade: After a year of review, it would be a decision of either adopting the referendum or not adopting referendum. I would suggest that we have two separate motions; 1. Not adopt the referendum question from 2013, and 2.



Incoming VUSAC would continue to review the system of governance at uoft in accordance with the UTSU.

- Zack: Only thing I would say is that the review this year has only shown that we don't know anything yet, so it would be premature to dismiss the referendum.
- Sebastien: Even if it didn't specify a one year term, I still think the nature of the question was positioned around last year and the information we had and that students had going into that referendum. Therefore if we want an accurate representation of how people will feel with these new changes to the situation, we would have to ask a new referendum question.

[Looked at April 5, 2013 minutes re: referendum discussion and motion.]

- Kathleen: The sentiment [behind that motion] was that we'll pass this into a nonbinding manner to honor the referendum, but not binding so that we force ourselves into a decision we don't want. So from there, we just decided to continue discussing.
- Alan: Could we motion to research for a year on the issue?
- Jade: To my understanding, referendum questions and enactment of referendum is finite to a year, so technically we shouldn't have the power to extend it. To extend it for another year, it would be taking the decision of a council two years ago, so in order to pose the question again we'd have to ask another referendum.
- Zack: I'd like to dismiss the referendum question. Also the spirit of that referendum was very different from what we're dealing with now. Now we're dealing with governing council and are dealing with UTSU policy.

Motion 129: Zack moves to dismiss the referendum. Jade seconds. Unanimous.

Motion 130: Zack moves to ask incoming council to watch closely and assess the guidelines which Governing Council is going to propose on the meaning of open, democratic, accessible council at UofT and in accordance with that, either call or not call another referendum. Sebastien seconds.

- Jelena: Why do we have to motion for them to do that?
- Rowan: I figure if something were to go down to require another referendum question, we'd watch it closely. I can see I'll definitely be watching this closely and it's one of the hot topics in politics at uoft, so I don't see a point in having a vote on it.
- Sarah: I don't know, I think there's still a chance that whether or not things go well, Vic students may not want to be part of the union, so it'd be interesting to know.
- Zack: I'd like to remind you all that the motion I put forth is to call referendum *dependent* on what governing council gives us. What we can't ignore, in a particular situation when this arose, over 60% of voters voted in favor of fee diversion. So the point of the motion is to show that we're not just dismissing those voters.



- Sebastien: I think it's good to have that motion because we can refer to it in past minutes. Just like we're looking at last year's minutes now, the next council may want something they can refer to.

### 3 abstaining. Passes.

- Budget reallocation
  - Zack: We budgeted about \$1600 for crescams, but because of generous help from the Deans Office, we only spent about \$600. So we'd like to reallocate about \$250 to the VUSAC end of year party.
  - Kathleen: This still holds us to a very high standard of reality because other groups at uoft spend vastly more money. We had a holiday party that cost us 0 dollars, we didn't subsidize sweaters, and I think we should get this small reward for VUSAC.
  - Alan: I want to advocate to not reallocate the funds because that is a larger sum than many clubs use. I think there was nothing wrong with the 0 dollar Christmas party. As well, I think we have to be careful about the idea of rewarding ourselves with money that is student money. I think if we changed that to \$100 that'd be more reasonable.
  - Eli: We hold clubs and levies to very high standards, so it's very contradictory of us to do that and grant ourselves money, but then not letting clubs do that.
  - Kathleen: To put this into perspective, other clubs have food at their meetings, but we don't. We are also held to a much higher standard of reliability than clubs; we have office hours every week all year. It's important to be humble, but at the same time let's not kid ourselves that we don't do a lot of work. When you break \$250 among twenty people, it works out to being just over \$10 per person, so that's really not a lot. We are not a club or levy, we *manage* the clubs and levies, so it frustrates me to be compared to that. The only thing I've had close to VUSAC is orientation exec, and we were rewarded for that by a \$25 dollar meal at the end.

### Motion 131: Zack moves to reallocate \$250 from Crescams to VUSAC end of year party. 2 opposed, 1 abstaining, passes.

- Rowan: What's happening to the rest of the money from Crescams?
  - Zack: Going back into the pot and it's yours to play with.
- VPI – Kathleen
    - Kathleen: I just wanted to mention that this weekend I'll send out a doodle poll to find out everyone's availability for the end of year party, which might be next week. That's basically it.
  - President – Jelena
    - Jelena: First and foremost, I'd like to acknowledge all the hard work that our CRO, chair, secretary, and finance chair this year did. [applause]



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Motion 132: Jelena moves to release honorariums of \$250 for CRO, \$500 for secretary, chair, and finance. CRO honorarium is conditional on receipt of final report. Alan seconds.

Unanimous.

Motion 133: Jelena moves to approve Gabe to remain VUSAC chair next year. Conor seconds.

- Gabe: In terms of the applications that came in, I understand that there was no other application. I was wondering the rationale behind not having an interview for the only applicant.
- Jelena: Probably because we were positive about you, we've seen you work as chair the entire year.

Unanimous.

Kathleen leaves at 6:14 and proxies vote to Jade.

Motion 134: Jelena moves to ratify Ben as Finance chair. Conor seconds.

- Jelena: We had interviews this week, they lasted for a long time, and we felt Ben was highly qualified.

Passes, 2 abstaining.

- Jelena: For next year's council; we talked a lot this year about instituting a board structure to have an oversight over VUSAC exec. Because there are people who run for very specific portfolios, yet at the meetings people are expected to vote on everything, even things very outside their portfolio. So that should be addressed for next year the way voting works and the way information is handled on council. I'd like to congratulate everyone for a very successful year!
- Jade: What's the timeline for the rest of the assessor members to be hired?
- Jelena: It's going to be up to next year's council.
- Rowan: We're just waiting on finding out times when everyone can do the interviews.

Robert leaves 6:19 and proxies vote to Zack.

## **FINANCE – Eli**

- Creating new budget lines to keep track of revenue from charities at Vic
  - Dumbledores army \_\_\_\_
  - Mike the change 127.58
  - Cuts for cancer \_\_\_\_

Motion 135.1: Jade amalgamates the three budget lines. Alan seconds. Unanimous.

Motion 135.2: Jade moves to approve. Alan seconds. Unanimous.

- Eli: Dumbledore's Army; issue with events and services; when they gave them their event quote they forgot to charge tax and a clean-up fee; so \$250 extra. DA has enough money in their budget to cover this, but in different budget lines. So we just need to create a new budget line for this.

Motion 136.1: Jade moves to amalgamate the previous DA budget lines to budget line 6.

Sebastien seconds. Unanimous.

Motion 136.2: Jade moves to approve. Alan seconds. Unanimous.



– Highball

- Eli: I met with Sebastien this week to go over everything. The amount of money available from VUSAC this year was \$13,000. So far, the only thing that's remaining to get in terms of expenses is the final quote from Hart House. But the event in total came to a value below budget. The issue earlier was that the budgets Sebastien had presented earlier were different from the amount actually spent. The budget for venue stated earlier was relatively accurate, DJs were also on budget. But originally it had said 300 for decorations, but it specified further in the email that the difference in budget would go to further decorations. So the final amount spent on decorations was \$1932.04. We went through the constitution; it states in some places that VUSAC is responsible for any debts incurred, but it says that VUSAC needs to vote on any changes above the pre-considered budget. We can't reject their reimbursement forms because our constitution is contradictory and doesn't tell us what we're supposed to do. Also, VUSAC never voted on the highball budget, so it wasn't formalized anyway. So we are going to reimburse the highball. For next year's council, with budgeting for big events there should be something in the constitution requesting very detailed budget lines. I'm going to change the cheque request forms so that they are signing off on the statement that if they are above budget they will not be reimbursed.
- Sarah: In the VUSAC budget it says that highball is one budget line. So in future, any event like this should separate the budget line based on what we're spending that money on. Even early in the year, there should be a standard of how much is spent on each thing.
- Eli: Of the decorations budget, quite a bunch of that stuff is reusable for further events.

Motion 137: Zack moves to raise highball budget by \$5950.00. Jade seconds.

- Sebastien: I want to address some things. I understand my previous mistakes with reallocations to Winterfest, and I know that shows a lack of understanding of rules on my part, so I apologize for that. And I think I did the same thing here, but my plan was, when I said in the Feb. 28 minutes I tried to explain that this year's venue does not meet the theme as well as last year's, so I'd like to use the rest of the money in our highball budget to make it look better and match the theme. That was my plan. It was never a last minute addition and no control. Everyone who spent money, we had the idea of what we were going to do, but we just didn't have the numbers. When I presented it, no one said anything and we didn't vote on it. So I didn't see this as me slipping something under the council, just no one really knew what we were supposed to be doing. And I don't think 2000 was unreasonable for decorations because almost half of that was reusable to future years. As well, the red carpet we got, we had planned a student project for a red carpet that we could purchase, we couldn't find a company to deliver it to us in time because the project was last minute. So we had to rent the red carpet instead.
- Alan: I think the real problem we have to be aware of from here is procedure.

Unanimously approved.



## COMMISSION REPORTS

### *Commuter* – Christine

- Quick update and reminder about lockers downstairs. Students should have stuff out of lockers by April 30.
- Gabe: No more VOCA pancakes?
- Christine: Unfortunately no. This week we had our last one; pizza, waffles, and pancakes!

### *S&G* – Sebastien

- Despite the budget issues, Highball was a success, the theme was well-matched by people's dresses and suits and I'd like to thank everyone who got dressed up in spirit of Gatsby. And even if you didn't, you still looked great. We had the Semiotones playing for a while and it was great because people were dancing even at the sound-check, and then DJs played, so that was awesome and I look forward to next year's Highball.
- Eli: Is it true you ad-libbed that rap?
- Sebastien: Yep, I made it up on the spot! I had a speech prepared but I was like nah... "Big parties are more intimate."

### *MAL* – Alan

- Referenda turnout amendment [See Appendix A]
  - Zack: This is a good thing to work on but I think this wording is unfair.
  - Sienna: In the last few years there's been a lot of confusion about what a spoil and a no mean.
  - Zack: You're making the value judgement. You're appropriating a value judgment into the question because you're saying that change requires an exceptionally higher change than no change.
  - Alan: I think I am making that value judgement and I want to see if you guys agree. Considering that a referendum may sometimes have a no option to implement change, I'd like to cancel this amendment.

Motion 138.1: Jade moves to amalgamate next two amendments regarding MALs [See Appendix B]. Alan seconds. Unanimous.

Motion 138.2: Alan moves to pass amalgamated amendments. Zack seconds.

- Alan: I want to change MAL to Councillor because people outside of VUSAC don't understand MAL. It helps to give more autonomy to the position in terms of seriousness.
- Rowan: Linguistic question but with the term Councillor, I agree that MAL is inhibitive, but are we not all Councillors as well? So would another term in the constitution be referring to Councillors and then Councillor referring to MAL.
- Jelena: I think that should also be discussed by next year's council, to see how many MALs they should be taking in anyway.
- Jade: I was just going to say if the new council doesn't like the term, they can change it. But to actually have some sort of political term, it's better.





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- Alan: In response to Rowan's question, how I view it is the same way you see Toronto City Councillors who are not councillors, but have a vote.
- Sebastien: We had this discussion before and we brought up other names, but we asked people of other names and no one could think of anything.
- Sarah: What I want to reiterate is that whether or not councillor is used, it'd be interesting to implement a rule where everyone is a councillor, but on top of being that, you are a commissioner. So your first responsibility is a member of council, and then your second responsibility is as a commissioner.
- Sienna: If you were going to implement the board structure that wouldn't work. Also, there's specific responsibilities in a commission and to make a hierarchy of those responsibilities in relation to council is false.

Unanimous.

*Sustainability* – Kristina

- If you guys recalled, student projects approved money for our conference last week. I was informed that half the money that we paid went to a non-profit organization called Water that provides free drinking water to poor countries. So in total we spent roughly \$1000 on charity! Woo!

## **GUEST REPORT**

*Student Concern* – Angela

- A situation that happened last meeting that I felt was unfair. I feel that what happened during the in camera session should not have been in camera. I was under the impression that there was impeachment procedures going on toward a member of VUSAC and I believe that as Vic students we were the one who elected the member, so the meeting should have been open for us to give our views as well. So I feel it was undemocratic of VUSAC to hold that meeting in camera.
- Lucinda: I think that it's safe to say that would have infringed on a lot of people's privacy and would have exposed some internal workings of VUSAC that we don't necessarily want to expose.
- Sarah: I disagree. I think it's good for VUSAC to expose its internal workings and people should see the procedure, but in the end it comes down to the fact that I don't think the member deserves to have this go public and should not be slandered in a public way.

Motion 139: Jelena moves to adjourn the meeting. Leah seconds. Motion passes unanimously.  
*Meeting is adjourned.*



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## MOTION SUMMARY

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*Motion 128:* Sebastien moves to release \$1000 to the Dean's Office to cover Katie's honorarium. Conor seconds. 3 abstaining, passes.

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*Motion 130:* Zack moves to ask incoming council to watch closely and assess the guidelines which Governing Council is going to propose on the meaning of open, democratic, accessible council at UofT and in accordance with that, either call or not call another referendum. Sebastien seconds. 3 abstaining. Passes.

*Motion 131:* Zack moves to reallocate \$250 from Crescams to VUSAC end of year party. 2 opposed, 1 abstaining, passes.

*Motion 132:* Jelena moves to release honorariums of \$250 for CRO, \$500 for secretary, chair, and finance. CRO honorarium is conditional on receipt of final report. Alan seconds. Unanimous.

*Motion 133:* Jelena moves to approve Gabe to remain VUSAC chair next year. Conor seconds. Unanimous.

*Motion 134:* Jelena moves to ratify Ben as Finance chair. Conor seconds. Passes, 2 abstaining.

*Motion 135.1:* Jade amalgamates the three charity budget lines. Alan seconds. Unanimous.

*135.2:* Jade moves to approve. Alan seconds. Unanimous.



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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendments Submitted By: Alan McCallum**

**Position: VUSAC Member-At-Large**

**Submitted: Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

**Article/By-Law and Section Number: By-Law #28, Section 11**

#### **Original Text:**

S11) A referendum shall be recalled if 20% or more of the cast ballots are spoiled.

#### **Amended Text:**

S11) A referendum shall be recalled if the sum of “no” and “spoiled” ballots comprise 50% of total ballots cast.

#### **Reasoning:**

It isn't democratic to have 20% of the student body block the will of up to 80% by spoiling ballots. However, if the outcome of a referendum has a majority of ballots spoiled or against the motion, then the democratic will can be understood as not supporting the motion, such that the referendum must be withdrawn. Essentially, this is a requirement that any motion must have a true majority of total ballots cast to carry.

## **APPENDIX B**



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**Proposed Constitutional Amendments Submitted By: Alan McCallum**

**Position: VUSAC Member-At-Large**

**Submitted: Tuesday, March 18, 2014**

**Article/By-Law and Section Number: Bylaw #2 Section 1**

**Original Text:**

Non-Executive Members of Council shall consist of nine Members-at-Large who shall assist VUSAC Commissioners and committees as needed.

**Amended Text:**

Non-Executive **voting** Members of Council shall consist of **eight** Members-at-Large who shall assist VUSAC Commissioners and committees as needed **in their executive functions. These Members-at-Large shall retain autonomous representative voting duties.**

**Reasoning:**

The current language currently excludes an explicit statement of the voting rights of MALs. As such, it is stated that they are voting members. As well, the vague statement that MALs shall assist the commissioners may encourage an attitude of deference towards executive members from MALs when it comes to voting. As such, it is necessary to change this clause to a clear statement requiring MALs to be assistants in executive functions but autonomous representatives in meetings. Also, changing it to reflect that there are eight, not nine, MALs.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendments Submitted By: Alan McCallum**



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**Position: VUSAC Member-At-Large**

**Submitted: Tuesday, March 18, 2014**

**Article/By-Law and Section Number:** Where ever relevant.

**Original Text:**

All uses of the title “Member-at-Large”

**Amended Text:**

“Councillor”

**Reasoning:**

The title of Member-at-Large is problematic for various reasons. The purpose of the position is unclear for those unfamiliar with council. To make the position clearer to both the Victoria public and to those interested in running for the position, a name change would be desired. The current name also may lead to timidity in opinion among Members-at-Large when compared to the more serious names of other voting members (e.g. commissioners, vice-president, president). Another benefit is that a more serious sounding title may encourage a more serious and dedicated approach to the position. Finally, the name Member-at-Large is currently viewed in VUSAC culture as a stepping-stone to executive positions, which could be attributed to all the above concerns. As Members-at-Large are voting members of VUSAC, a name change that encourages greater autonomy would add to the richness of student discussion at Victoria and also attract a broader range of students to apply. The title of Councillor is clearer, encourages greater autonomy, is more serious, encourages a broader range of students, and is in line with the title of Victoria's student society (which is titled council). To note, the term Council Member was also considered, but was not chosen because it was used already throughout the constitution to refer to all members of council.