



Victoria University Students' Administrative Council

150 Charles St. West, Room 127

(416)585-4473

www.vusac.ca | fb.com/vusacuoft

VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 5:30 PM, December 4th 2020

Land Acknowledgement: Tran Thai

Tran: We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. 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.

Official Regrets:

Approval of minutes: *Motion by Jay to approve the minutes from November 20th, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.*

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Additions to the agenda:

1. Fatima Rana with a motion from the Scarlet and Gold Commission
2. Alero Ogbeide with a 7-minute update from the Campus Life Coordinator

Approval of the agenda: *Motion by Maggie to approve the agenda for December 4th, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes*

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Meeting Procedures Infographic:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zRWgkDwCE0_lqbm_ml6RHSBSzGOf0NiH/view?usp=sharing

VUSAC's Guide to Robert's Rules:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10KKxEtx9wESMfN8GWax0-ApoW7J82evSrD03qZwKSFQ/edit?usp=sharing>

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Campus Life Coordinator (Alero):

Alero: The University is going to be closing at the end of the day on December 22. School starts for you on January 11th, but the rest of the employees come back on January 4th. Goldring Access will be revisited next semester to please pass any feedback you have onto Michelle so we can improve it. Orientation Co-Chair hiring is happening! Regarding the COVID case in residence, I

know there was some concern that there was no follow-up after that. I want you guys to keep advocating for this and I think that the admin should make a statement about this. Fatima and I will get together to talk about this but there will be a crap-ton of event from January 11-15th that are geared towards getting people involved on campus. I want to remind you that you can use me as a resource because I am your person for risk management and all that.

President of Victoria University:

Dean's Office:

Board of Regents:

Victoria College Council: 5 minutes

Mehr: We had a VCC on November 30th. We had Yvette and Emily give some updates about the semester. We discussed assignment guidelines and micro-assignments with professors which was really productive. There was a lot of good discussion from enrolment statistics and there was an increase in international students. Vic One was lauded for being a good way for students to connect online. We also had a discussion with Dean Kelly Castle about how to better support students with mental health issues on and off campus. There were a few academic updates and there have been a few majors and minors that were either added or changed. If you have any questions about any of that, please let me know!

Victoria University Senate:

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Leila Tjiang to approve the addition of VUSAC's signature on the [Vic Zero Sustainability Strategic Plan Petition](#) [Appendix A], seconded by Nerija (5 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Leila: We presented the Vic Zero Strategic plan to council last meeting and we've made a couple of small edits since then which is included in the Appendix. We also included a statement that we are planning to release if we pass this motion. Part of endorsing this report is adding our name to the official petition linked in the Appendix.

Motion by Jay Muoio to ratify the proposed amendments to the 2020-21 Budget Steering Policy, as they appear in Appendix B, seconded by Michelle Zhao [Appendix B] (8 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Jay: The Budget Steering Committee met and ratified the annual policies for the budgeting period which is what we direct clubs and levies towards when they are forming their budgets. When we

drafted the budget in the fall, we decided to make some updates and improvements in the policies to make it easier to conduct budgeting in the future.

Michelle: We added all of the changes in our fees for the Winter 2021 term, so we've amended the policy to reflect those numbers. One of the significant changes is that we have capped the honoraria payments at \$200—which is down from \$250—this year to make sure that those are being distinguished from speakers' fees. We also clarified some issues that existed with timelines including a new deadline for cheque requisition purposes which is on January 15th, 2020 on the Google Form. Also, the Finance Chair needs to put out a call for budgets to clubs, levies, and VUSAC council members one month before the budget ratification meeting. We also added a Move U action grant which is for international students who have good ideas about physical activity initiatives that can be conducted remotely and is worth up to \$500. We also talked about the Emergency Reserve Fund because over the last couple years, VUSAC has been using the Emergency Reserve like a contingency fund and we were discussing whether or not the two should be separate or the same. For now, we've decided that it is at VUSAC's discretion funds in excess of \$2500—which is the minimum that is allowed in the emergency fund—can be reallocated to clubs and VUSAC internal which is essentially what we're doing already but we just codified it. Lastly, we edited the grievances period which is 10 days before the budget ratification meeting but students can still submit their grievances at the meeting itself.

Motion by Hannah Ahamedi to ratify a grant of \$458.00 + tax for Board Game Club [Appendix C], seconded by Tran. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Hannah: The first thing to bring up to bring up to VUSAC was the proposal from the Board Games Club to impose a rental system. They were hoping to house it in the Cat's Eye, but they decided that maybe it would be better to host it somewhere else in the Goldring but that is listed in the stipulations in the Appendix. The motion passes with full approval of the Student Projects Committee.

Erik: I am the one who put in the application so I can answer any questions about what we plan to do with the funds.

Motion by Hannah Ahamedi to ratify a grant of \$5000 for the Women's Circle [Appendix C], seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Hannah: This was brought forward by the Women's Circle. This is approved by the Student Projects fund and there are some stipulations in place to ensure that the Women's Circle would advertise the event. It happens to go against our operating policy about wages. Scot Johnson said that there is a precedent set by past Student Projects decisions regarding wages, so it is eligible to pass.

Jay: On the Women's Circle budget, it says that there was an honorarium so I'm wondering if the honoraria is coming from VUSAC or Student Projects?

Hannah: They did not say whether or not their \$250 honoraria would be going towards it.

Alexander: Does Student Projects post meeting minutes?

Hannah: Our minutes are published by the deputy chair. The minutes were sent into me by Spandan and they will be sent into the Student Projects website.

Spandan: The meeting minutes aren't fully edited but they will be soon.

Hannah: I would also like to say that Spandan is doing an amazing job as our chair.

Jay: I'm not super comfortable with the fact that they have an event that VUSAC funds are going towards, but they didn't mention in their application how the \$250 is going to be spent. I wish they told us what their \$250 are going towards.

Hannah: I would like to reiterate that how this \$250 was going to be spent wasn't included. If you are concerned, I would suggest reaching out to the Women's Circle.

Dorian: Can you clarify on how that precedent was set in the past?

Hannah: At the moment, all that was said was that there was a precedent that had been set and we weren't given any other information. Our website in the process of being updated with past minutes.

Motion by Hannah Ahamedy to ratify a grant of an additional \$77.54 for the VUSAC Academic Commission [Appendix C], seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Nerija: I brought this forward to Student Projects. The iClicker project was brought forward last year but we were using the prices from the UofT Bookstore, but they are not selling iClickers anymore. The shipping on the new retailer we are buying the iClickers from is \$77.54 so we needed to apply to Student Projects.

Hannah: The iClickers were approved last year but we extended any projects put forward last year until December 31st this year to use their funds.

Motion by Hannah Ahamedy to ratify a grant of \$8000 for the Caffiends [Appendix C], seconded by Jay.

Hannah: This was ratified last year but we got the cheque requisition form now so I wanted to let you all know that this is something that we are putting through now.

Alexander: I see in the Agenda that this is for \$8000 but I see that the motion is for \$8900?

Emily: We got two different quotes which is why it changed.

Jay: Should we be voting on this item or is it already approved?

Hannah: I think it is a mistake on my part, I just wanted to let people know that this is something that's happening.

Jay: We probably shouldn't vote so should we strike the item?

Motion by Michelle to strike the motion by Hannah Ahamedi to ratify a grant for \$8000 on the basis that is has already been ratified, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.

Motion by Alexander Bogatch to add a budget line under "Recovered Paypal Concert Revenue" for \$885.26, listed under Revenue [Appendix D], seconded by Jay (3 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Alexander: I was going through the emails and I saw that 5 years ago we had a concert hosted by the Cat's Eye and we that we also had a PayPal account with a positive balance. I wanted to declare that we had this revenue and that it will be going into our budget.

Motion by Alexander Bogatch to add a budget line under "Selling Revenue" for \$1287, listed under Revenue [Appendix D], seconded by Alexandra (3 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Alexander: We sold a whole bunch of old equipment that were no longer useful to the Cat's Eye and we have receipts that record this but they are still in the Cat's Eye so we haven't been able to confirm whether or not this amount is absolutely precise yet.

Motion by Emily Dotzlaw to increase budget line 145, Espresso Machine Funding, to \$8,898.75, seconded by Mehr (5 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Emily: This is accounting for the cost that was incurred in March. We thought that the full amount had been paid in March and we had to account for the difference in October.

Mehr: I'm really excited that the espresso machine is here!

Emily: It's such a good machine!

Alexander: How long are the warranties for these machines?

Emily: The warranty is covered for around 5 years, but we void this warranty because it is meant to be used in a pro-consumer setting. We have a lot of advice on how to best keep it running and so we're expecting it to last around 10 years.

Alero: I'm not sure if the espresso machine is already in the space or not?

Emily: Yes, it is in the space, but it isn't fully set up yet.

Hannah: Hi Alero, if you want to go check out the picture on the Student Projects website you can go look at it!

Motion by Shannon Vincent to ratify amendments to Caffiends constitution [Appendix E], seconded by Jay (10 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Shannon: As you have heard, I am motioning to ratify the amendments to the Caffiends Constitution. Initially we had planned to just add the word 'normally' to the section but based on feedback, we added a stipulation to say that 'normality will be determined by the Advisory Board.' Our advisory board is made up of our faculty advisor, a rep from the Dean's Office, the manager of food services and the current co-managers. We are putting in this clause so that we can extend our terms and the word "normally" was suggested by Bob Davidson based on terminology that he has seen regarding other COVID-19 constitution changes. We believe it restricts it to only abnormal circumstances.

Vibhuti: I have two questions. First, I am wondering why you didn't use an emergency clause to put in the clause that would allow you to extend your term? I feel like it would be a better way to protect against misuse. I was wondering why this motion was coming in the beginning of December when you would usually be hiring your new co-manager.

Shannon: Our phrasing was based on what Bob Davidson told us and we trust his input so that's how that wording came to be. I recognize the phrasing for the emergency clause. We first had to follow due process which meant that we had to set up a meeting with the advisory board on the 15th of November and then on November 30th we got a unanimous vote on this. The next step on our list was to address our exec team and we conducted a vote on this on Wednesday. We recognize that this should have come out sooner. We have been in dialogue with our exec team, the Dean's Office, and the VPSO this since the summer.

Emily: Another reason why this came so late was because our biggest issue this semester was the lease renegotiations, so it came later in the year.

Vibhuti: Thank you for your responses. I will say that for myself, I would have loved to have given my insight on the wording on the constitutional amendments in a meeting before this.

Alero: Just so everyone here knows, lease renegotiations started in the summer but given COVID it's been hard to decide what's happening with that.

Emily: I've spent several days looking over constitutional policies, but this isn't outlined in our constitutions, so we were following that since we have levy autonomy. Shannon and I were doing the best we could with the information we were given.

Motion by Tran to extend the discussion by 15 minutes, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Jay: I wanted to clarify; levies are still responsible for following VUSAC's constitution.

Alexander: I wanted touch base on the lease renegotiation. I remember this being a big issue and I was wondering if without the tenure extension would be beneficial to allowing for the lease negotiation.

Shannon: We didn't want to publicize this, but this is a big deal because we don't want to lose our physical space. It is a big undertaking, and I would be lost if Emily didn't stay on the team. It is a lot of pressure for a student to renegotiate the lease.

Emily: Previously, there have been issues where Caffiends might relocate or close. It's been very stressful, and we need a lot of support on this.

Michelle: Are there plans to include any kind of amendment to your Constitution to include VUSAC in the decision-making process?

Shannon: As of right now, we believe that the constitution reflects the fact that we are an independent levy. We are happy right now with what is written but we are trying to be pragmatic and not over-edit what we have.

Jay: I would like to see something in the Caffiends constitution reflects that Caffiends is responsible to the VUSAC constitution. I think an amendment that puts this stipulation in place would be beneficial.

Mehr: I just wanted to agree with Michelle and Jay. Caffiends is a part of VUSAC but I think that VUSAC is able to reflect a lot of different student concerns which would be beneficial.

Alexander: This is trying to say that there is a discussion prior to the motion or are you saying that there should be a discussion with VUSAC before the motion was placed? I can see that a lot of this should have been done in retrospect.

Jay: I would like Caffiends to change their constitution to say that "normality will be determined by the Advisory Board and VUSAC"

Emily: Typically, in normal years, we would bring this forward to the student volunteers so I'm wondering if this is not enough student representation.

Jay: I am referring to tenure extensions specifically. In an additional amendment, I think this should be included.

Emily: Would it make more sense to have this was approved by the majority of our volunteers?

Michelle: I think it is important because VUSAC needs to use their oversight role to ensure that decisions are taking place equitably. I think it would be important when adding emergency clauses, that VUSAC should be added as one of the groups who are addressed.

Jay: This is about terms of abnormality and I don't think that a bunch of volunteers should decide whether or not normality is in place.

Shannon: Emily and I have been talking about doing a general overhaul of the constitution next semester.

Dorian: I'm going to continue the conversation because I think VUSAC is overstepping their bounds here and I don't think we have the right to decide what is normal.

Tran: I got lost in the comments, but I wanted to ask a general question as to why we aren't able to make suggestions on the amendments?

Motion by Jay to extend the discussion by 6 minutes, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Erik: I think another point of discussion here is that we are dealing with contingencies for abnormal situations and the constitution doesn't define abnormal situations. However, in abnormal situations we need to make the constitution as streamlined as possible in order to make sure that the levy can deal with the situation.

Hannah: I think abnormal situations are abnormal or a reason so I think checks and balances should be in place. Just because something is abnormal doesn't mean that we should be overlooking checks and balances.

Shannon: We do have checks and balances. Our Advisory Board is not an unseasoned bunch. These are people who care about Caffeids and have no reason to blindly support us.

Erik: I didn't want to imply that Caffeids didn't have any checks and balances.

Emily: Jay has known about this since September 15th, so I apologize if this seems like it's coming late.

Motion by Tran to recess for 7 minutes, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Motion by Emily Dotzlaw to accept the justification for the Caffiends co-managers tenure extension [Appendix F], seconded by Alexandra (15 minutes). Motion passes. (3 abstentions)

- Favour: thirteen
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: three

Jay: I wanted to clarify that this motion is to accept the fact that this tenure extension is warranted and that this is approved by VUSAC

Tran: After reading the letter of tenure extensions, it is my understanding that it is to allow Shannon to get in-person training but there's a possibility that Caffiends might not be opening next semester. I was wondering what would happen next year if there is no in-person training.

Shannon: This pandemic has been a roller coaster of timelines. We are talking about maybe being able to open come March in a limited capacity. In terms of not being able to get in-person training, we are really just hoping that we will be able to open. I don't really have answers.

Emily: Even just having this semester will give Shannon more time in the space. If we don't extend this, we will have no experienced co-managers in the café.

Jay: Even with the vaccine, there is still a likelihood that Caffiends won't be open at all. I would suggest that there is some kind of in-person training to ensure that there is the kind of transition that you want.

Emily: We are still going through the motions and we are hoping that having this extra semester will give Shannon the best shot at managing the café in person.

Mehr: When I was reading the rationale, I was considering Caffiends as a student group but it also a café, so it requires different aspects of training. I was interested in hearing more about how the tenure extension would benefit the position.

Shannon: Caffiends is a business, we are small profit business, and the café has been growing every year. We are a small business in a pandemic, so we aren't a typical student club. If we open, we need to be able to obey cleanliness and volunteer training so there's lots to contend with there.

Alexander: I think it is commendable that these two are considering a tenure extension. I am really proud to see that students are able to reach out to the student body. I wanted to address the members of VUSAC. Even if levies are autonomous, we have been shown a lot of issues in the last year and we both made choices that were in the best regard for their teams. I was wondering if there are any possibilities for what these co-managers could do in the future to improve their operations in the winter semester?

Mehr: I think this is an important conversation happening, but I think we need to be considering the unique needs of Caffiends here. As for how to go about discussions, I think the VPSO would be best trained to have these conversations with you.

Dorian: If we're going to question their rationale and then insult them by not giving them advice, why are we having this conversation?

Nerija: I do think that it is a stretch to say that things will be able to open up by the winter since COVID-19 cases are rising in the GTA area and we've been put into another lockdown. I wanted to know what the plans were in case you couldn't do any in-person training in the winter?

Shannon: That is your opinion, and we are going based off our opinion. We are balancing health and listening to professionals because we don't want to lose customers. I don't think our hope is unfounded or that it should be criticized. If we don't open, then we are going to have to double down on training me. We didn't think about what the greater community would think about this because we were so focused on Caffiends. If Caffiends isn't able to open in the fall then we are going to have to sit down and double down on what this looks like. I don't feel confident at the moment being able to run the cafe on my own.

Tran: I am wondering why Caffiends didn't create a position with an honorarium for Emily to help with the transition of new co-manager since other organizations, like VCAA and VicXposure, have done this.

Emily: I believe this was partially mentioned in the tenure statement. We were wondering how much the honoraria would be worth. Also, mentors aren't allowed to sit in on lease renegotiations so that's another consideration.

Motion by Mehr to extend the discussion for 15 minutes, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Mehr: I was wondering how a turn-over in management might affect these negotiations and whether or not a past manager would have been involved in this.

Emily: The last lease negotiation happened in 2018 and it was a very stressful experience for the incoming co-manager. Having in-café is a benefit for lease negotiations and I believe that it would be detrimental to the negotiations.

Shannon: If we took on Emily as a mentor, she wouldn't be able to go to those meetings and I don't want to be in a position where I have to go into these meetings alone.

Spandan: I don't understand the rationale behind the mentorship idea that Tran put forward because it just adds an extra redundant position.

Dorian: I agree with Spandan. Any suggestion of a mentorship program means that it will just be adding more bureaucracy.

Alero: I can speak to the mentorship program because it was something that I brought up in an advisory meeting. It was set up on the assumption that maybe tenure wouldn't be extended and there might not be a person who had training. It would have made things very difficult and especially considering the lease renegotiations.

Spandan: I think if the tenure extension doesn't go through, I think that there should be a mentorship program in place.

Michelle: I wanted to thank Caffiends for preparing their report and putting out an FAQ. For the sake of the meeting, if you could give us a brief summary of why this extension is important and helpful to Caffiends in the long run.

Emily: Caffiends co-managers experience more on a day-to-day than what can be described here. There are more new things every year to content with as Caffiends grows. Shannon is not currently equipped to run the café or train a new co-manager on her own and it would be an absolute disaster for the café if she was left alone. I would fear that it would fail to foster the kind of community that Caffiends relies on for our success. We wouldn't pursue the tenure extension if we didn't believe that this was in the best interest of the café.

Mehr: I wanted to direct that the Caffiends lease isn't happening until April 30th, 2021 but there are sometimes issues so we wanted to start that conversation early.

Michelle: I don't want to put the spotlight on Nikki, but I wanted to see if she had something to say about the extension proposal.

Motion by Jay to grant Nikki Pagaling speaking rights, seconded by Alexandra. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Nikki: I wanted to commend Shannon and Emily for their hard work on this. Having been on that end of co-managing, I know that the amount of energy that was put into this role is tremendous. This is a lot for them. I whole heartedly support this decision extend their tenure. The alternative is to put two new, untrained co-managers into the space which would be an incredible challenge. In this position, you are responsible for everything from health and safety to corresponding with your suppliers and these are things that can only be learned hands-on. Transition reports don't cover nearly enough information for co-managers to approach situations with the full knowledge of the situation. I wanted to be candid about two different things: the first being honoraria that there will be a 50% reduction in honoraria. They get paid less than \$1 an hour so there are no financial gains to be received from this. There is also a huge mental strain that is placed on the co-managers. Extending the tenure for co-managers wouldn't have any have any social, emotional or financial benefits for them.

Motion by Shannon Vincent to re-ratify Emily Dotzlaw & Shannon Vincent as Caffiends co-managers for one semester, seconded by Jay (5 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: fourteen
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: two

Michelle: I wanted to say that the motion should include a direction for how long the tenure extension will be.

Emily: I don't know how to reword it, but it would be for one semester from January to March.

Michelle: I want to say thank you to everyone for contributing to this conversation. I am excited to work with the Caffiends co-managers to figure out how to deal with this extension in the future to ensure that tenure extensions are codified.

Motion by Fatima to increase the Scarlet and Gold Budget Line 8 entitled "U of T Merch" by \$5.00 for a total of \$500.19, seconded by Mehr. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Mehr: I think the best way to go about giving the prize for our raffle is to give the winner a gift card to the U of T bookstore so that they can buy a hoodie from them

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Fall 2020 Reflection Survey, put forth by Maggie Zhang (10 minutes) [Appendix G]

Maggie: If you hosted any events this semester that you want included in this survey please let me know. Also, if you have any questions that you would like the students to answer that would be great!

Fatima: I think it would be nice to include a social aspect into the survey to see if that's something that students have been liking so far.

Mehr: I think the questions look awesome, but I wanted to say congrats to Maggie, Michelle and Kate.

Michelle: Big shout out to Maggie and Kate for helping me with this! I wanted to say that you shouldn't pay too much attention to the sections, since everything is going towards the greater good of the council.

WUSC constitution, put forth by Anu-Charul Narain (10 minutes) [Appendix H]

Anu: I'm the president of WUSC which is a levy here at Vic. After talking to Jay, we realised that WUSC didn't have a constitution and we decided to create one with the advice of the committee.

It is divided by the mission statement, definitions, information on positions, elections and hiring, finances, student refugee program, meetings, and amendments etc.

Spandan: Who votes in your elections and do you have internal voting? Do the appointed execs have a vote in that?

Anu: The voting is for Victoria College students only and there isn't really an internal vote.

Spandan: In case you are trying to come up with an amendment, do you have internal members who have a vote in that?

Anu: Any of the changes we want to incorporate due will pass through the exec and the staff head. Out of all of us, Brigita has the most experience so we take her opinion very seriously.

Jay: I wanted to thank WUSC for putting together their constitution which is great!

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS:

Vic UTSU Directors (Ava & Radhika):

Orientation Co-Chairs:

Victoria College Dons:

Constituent Organizations:

Cat's Eye: no report

Acta Victoriana: no report

Caffiends: no report

Student Projects: no report

The Strand: no report

VicXposure: no report

VicPride!: no report

VISA: no report

VCAA: no report

VCDS: no report

WUSC: no report

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Returning Officer (Vibhuti):

Communications (Veronica):

Finance (Ralph):

Office Manager (Holly):

Chair (Zoe): 7 minutes

Zoe: I sent out a survey about how to make meetings more accessible. If you haven't filled it out, please do! The responses are really invaluable so thank you!

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Academic (Nerija & Cathy): 5 minutes

Nerija: The Academic Commission wrote a letter to Dean Woodin and she responded! They said that they would incorporate our propositions in Winter 2021. Exam Jam is next week so please come join us for all of our events and giveaways!

Arts & Culture (Jenny):

Equity (Lulu & Sooyeon):

Mental Wellness (Dorian):

Scarlet & Gold (Fatima): 5 minutes

Fatima: Something fun is in store! We are bringing back Winterfest this year and we are keeping it online. It's starting on the week of the 11th and we are going to need your support to run it. Stay tuned for updates on what events we are going to host which will be promoted over the next couple of weeks! It is basically a revamped spirit week so please let me know if you have any questions.

Alero: The Registrar's Office and the Dean's Office is also having a spirit week so we would love to work with you!

Fatima: Sounds good!

Sustainability (Leila & Jerico): 5 minutes

Leila: We ran a whole bunch of events in the last couple of weeks which all went well. We started work on the sustainability policy and we have environmental equity week planning. It'll probably be run from January to February this year, but we are still planning it out. The UTERN environmental working group is still out and collecting signatures so please sign onto that! We are going to meet with the student reps on the Board of Regents to talk about bringing divestment up to them in their coming meetings.

Commuter (Rheannon & Aya): 5 minutes

Aya: We have been hosting giveaways and events throughout the last couple weeks. Rheannon and our advocacy executive were able to package 75 gift packs to students who were signed up to receive those gifts. These packages will be delivered via mail. Additionally, we've been posting a lot on Instagram about the events we will be hosting over Home for the Holidays.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

VP External (Mehr): 5 minutes

Mehr: The Crescam emails for last year's winners have been sent out so they are getting their gifts soon. I spoke to this year's Vic Directors to talk about how to encourage participation in UTSU meetings which is on the 22nd of December since it is an important space on campus to voice concerns. I reached out to last year's Vic Director to talk about a mapping project to outline all of Vic's governing bodies. We have also been working with the Dean's Office to put together the Violence Against Women ceremony on December 6th so please join us at 3pm if you can. I have

been working with Michelle to fundraise for the BIPOC award. The official DSC meeting happened last week, and we had some very productive conversations regarding mental health, academic and anti-racism initiatives on campus. Caucus happened last Friday, and I felt that was very productive; please fill out the survey that I sent out so that I can improve Caucus in the future!

VP Internal (Tran):

VP Student Organizations (Jay): 3 minutes

Jay: I am going to be sending out an email to everyone joining the VAT so that we can compile the history of VUSAC's past governing documents and have something that we can refer to in the future. VicPride nominations have reopened so please encourage your friends to run if they are interested in fostering the Queer community at Vic. If elections don't work, we are going to try and figure out another way to get VicPride active this year.

President (Michelle): 10 minutes

Michelle: Thank you to everyone who spoke today! I wanted to take a minute to remind people that VUSAC meetings are an open forum and we are trying to create an open space for people to engage in discourse in a constructive way for our community. We are all responsible to creating this space. I also wanted to remind everyone that they should be as receptive as possible to concerns that are brought up in this space, especially to concerns that are brought up by students who aren't on VUSAC since that can be a really scary prospect. I also wanted to say that the management team of the Cat's Eye has come to the decision to create a mentorship program rather than pursuing a tenure extension for next year. I've been working on the BIPOC student awards with Mehr so please donate or tell your friends to as well once the website is set up (hopefully by the end of this year)! The survey that Maggie brought up will be published on Monday so please send any updates or questions that you want added to that. Ralph has informed me that he will be stepping down as Finance Chair so Tran and I will be compiling a list of responsibilities regarding finances that he needs to cover before he leaves our team. I wanted to give a big shout out to everyone on council and all our student leaders for being so great this semester! You are all so strong and so inspiring. I also wanted to give a shout out to Zoe for hosting the meetings.

Hannah: It was evident that I made a comment last week at Caucus that had some negative backlash, and it was disheartening to hear that some people didn't feel like they could say what they wanted to say. I will continue to speak out about things that I find important and I want people to know that I will back you up if you are afraid to speak up. Hard questions are there to make people feel uncomfortable and they are important to make sure that they hold people accountable. Today's meeting felt uncomfortable and I realize that there is so much work to be done to make sure that students feel comfortable speaking.

Motion by Fatima to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nerija. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.