



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 21, 2014 5:16 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

PRESIDENT
VP EXTERNAL
VP OPERATIONS

Rowan DeBues
Kareem Jarrah
Enxhi Kondi

Assessor Members

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR
CHAIR
COMMUNICATIONS
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER
FINANCE
SECRETARY

Bergita Petro
Gabriel Zoltan-Johan
Sumeeta Farrukh
Kathleen Walsh
Ben Atkins
Ally Scandolo

Commissioners & Councilors

ARTS & CULTURE
COMMUTER
EDUCATION & EQUITY
SCARLET & GOLD
SUSTAINABILITY

Conor Tangney
SaraLi Forouzanfar
Claire Wilkins
Olivia Klasios
Alice Zhu

COUNCILORS

Auni Ahsan
Rahul Christofferson
William Cuddy
Golda Greenspoon
Alex Martinborough
Simona Messina
Stuart Norton
L-P Veilleux

LEVIES

THE STRAND

Amanda Aziz
Emily Pollock
Olivia Long

VCDS

GUESTS

BURWASH PRESIDENTS
UTSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brennan Jackson
Victor Lee

VOCA CO-CHAIR
WINTERFEST CO-CHAIRS

STUDENT

Zach Morgenstern
Saad Khan
Aimee Huntington
Emily Ernszt
Jacob Cappe

Motion 96: Enxhi moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Stuart seconds. Motion passes with one abstaining.

Motion 97: Conor moves to approve agenda. Rahul seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- Arts & Culture

Motion 98: Conor moves to go in camera. Olivia seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion 99: Enxhi moves to bring Sumeeta and Ben into the in camera session. Motion passes unanimously.

Return from in camera at 5:26 PM.

Conor exits at 5:26 PM.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- CLC – Bergita
 - Update

- Bergita: I would like to say hello and check in on VUSAC to see how you all are doing. I also want to make sure you are all taking care of yourselves as students – I know it's a stressful time and there is a lot going on! The first thing is that we are having meditation sessions and they are happening this Wednesday 4-5 and next Wednesday 2-4 – it's right before Exam Jam next week and it is a good time to take a moment to breathe between everything.

We have a personal counsellor here in the Goldring Centre every Tuesday and Thursday, please come talk to me if you need to book an appointment.

- Auni: Have a lot of people been using these services?
- Bergita: Our career counsellor has a lot of spaces available. The learning strategist and personal counsellor are booked back to back.
- Auni: Is it possible to increase services?
- Bergita: We're addressing where there's a need and adding more services as soon as we can.
- Rowan: If you have more questions about mental health, I'll have more on that in my report.
- Bergita: There are extra tickets for the Burwash festive dinner happening next week; they are free for commuters who want to go. I mentioned Exam Jam – more details will be in the list serv.

Burwash Commuter Club is until December 18th for first year commuter students.

Orientation co-chair applications are open for those who would like to do that. It is a great opportunity for those who are interested.

I have received a lot of questions about Goldring Centre hours: it is every weekday from 7 am to 11 pm. I'm working to get that posted on the doors so there's no confusion.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – I have been working with Claire and Sumeeta.

- William: What are the weekend hours?
- Bergita: If there isn't a booking, then it is closed. I'll have more info next meeting.
- Kareem: Is the music room only open when booked or during hours the centre is open?
- Bergita: I am also working on that.
- Kareem: There were some students that wanted to use the space for dancing but could not because they are not a club – what are the guidelines for booking space? Can it be used when the doors are unlocked?
- Bergita: It's a different subject when it's for personal use – I will look into that as well and find out the specific hours it is open.

We will have a new Residence Life Coordinator. Scott is not leaving but he is now Assistant Dean and still working on residence.

- Kareem: when is that effective?
- Bergita: It's in the works, there's not exact date. It's a matter of the hiring process – I will let everyone know the moment I have more information.

Study Space is open, and there will be midnight yoga thanks to the Webster Fund.

GUEST REPORTS

○ *Winterfest Chairs*

- Emily: Yesterday we finally picked our committee for Winterfest: Alex Martinborough, Brennan Jackson, Jessica Phan, Kaimon Yuen, Stuart Norton, Jolyn Platt, Darren Cheng and Nirali Shah. I do have a rough schedule for the U of T wide Winterfest: The Open Mic night we might be hosting is on Monday, Tuesday is the pub crawl, Wednesday is a sporting event - which may be dodgeball, Thursday is **[event]** and Friday is the skate and U of T Varsity hockey game. There will be a pancake crawl throughout the week.
- Auni: The night events are U of T wide?
- Enxhi: There is one more thing you can also mention!
- Emily: Right - there is the clubs fair happening on the Tuesday of Winterfest.
- Saad: Regarding the pancake crawl – which day do you have in mind?
- Emily: We don't know when and where yet – none of the colleges have picked days.
- SaraLi: We're probably doing Thursdays in second semester for pancakes - if you want to put that forward at the next meeting.

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

○ *The Strand*

○ Levy Update

- Emily: We just wrapped up production for the magazine and we're about to start the next issue. This will be our last issue for the fall semester. Amanda will now speak to other matters we wanted to bring to VUSAC.
- Amanda: I'm speaking on behalf of our masthead, a group of hardworking students who are also balancing jobs and school, I just

want to say this with honesty and hoping VUSAC can improve the way they have operated with levies. The budget being pushed back jeopardized our relationship with our publisher, postponed production and caused our masthead to have to extend their working times. I find that very unprofessional of all of you. I hope you understand our need for our budget to have been passed earlier and our time.

- Ben: Just a clarification – are you referring to the process or the meeting?
- Amada: The process.
- Ben: What delays specifically?
- Amanda: Receiving our check. Keeping our relationship with our publisher was difficult because we had to print issues for the year with no money to pay until the check was released.
- Emily: We are lucky we could be printing on credit. The check we received last year is what we have been operating on, as well.
- Amanda: Our hardworking masthead had to have their work delayed and us levy members are disregarded. We hope to see improvement of communication with our budget in the future.
- Rowan: I don't think anyone disrespects the work The Strand does. This is the first year that the Dean's Office made us switch to an electronic banking database before releasing funds. We received our checks the same time you did. The finance office has told us – not necessarily the Strand – that levies in the past have handed in a shoebox with receipts as their financial records for the year and they wanted a more clear system. Ben had to learn how to operate the program by himself. It was the first year we had to do that. Ben knows how to work with the program now and can transition this knowledge to the next finance chair. I know it was hard for you guys and also pushed other levies to the brink.
- Amanda: I'm also referring to comments made in meeting minutes in the past months. Thank you for clarifying, though. As Editors-in-Chief, it's always difficult having to tell the masthead to switch their schedules or cancel work; it's just been difficult.
- Rowan: We found out the system we had been using was not working. The previous Finance Chair, Eli, was still using Excel. Now that it's set up, it should not be messed up again.
- Ben: I'm very sorry; this year has been unusual as Rowan said, with having to switch to electronic accounting software. I would talk to the Bursar about the lateness of the check and let them know of your specific issues– they were a large part of receiving the check so late.
- Amanda: We tried to contact them.
- Ben: We tried to work very quickly to reconstitute our records –it also effected us.
- Amanda: I felt like in terms of communication, it's not been clear. But, thank you for letting us know.

- VCDS

- Levy Update

- Olivia: I'm one of the producers for VCDS. Just here to provide a brief update on where we are this year. We have a full executive of 15 people – our fall interviews did not fulfill all positions. Thomas Lynch is our newest member. In terms of productions, we are doing 5 – we

have The Garden Party and Nine so far. Our Broadleaf Theatre production called The Abandoned City is in production and it's going to be in the Cat's Eye in January – our Chase Williams and Case of the Missing Fixture, for Hart House. The last one for the year is going to be in the Bader called Company. Our last auditions for the year is tomorrow – encourage people to come out tonight before 9 pm or tomorrow between 2 pm and 5 pm. We always need people in production roles behind the scene; there are still tons of opportunities for next year.

We have dealt with some issues in leaving the space in VUSAC internally. One concern is the back meeting room that we often use – we have had issues with things being left in the meeting room. We don't know whether we can move things that are there when we book the space. If we book the room, we would hope it to be clear of items before using the space.

Our constitution is in the process of being updated and it will be sent to Kareem once our executive votes on it.

We are planning to organize a disposal bin to be brought on campus with Physical Plant to remove old props and sets.

We have spoken to you guys for over three years for where we could store costumes. We would like to remove things from our Annesley storage room, which is what we're doing with the disposal bin. Is there anywhere we would be able to create a place for VCDS storage?

- Rowan: What about the empty 'Exercise Room' in the basement of Goldring?
- Olivia: We have tried to ask about that. But, I will look into it.
- Enxhi: Come talk to Stuart and I - this is part of the project we're working on. In terms of the back meeting room - this was just brought to my attention today and I will deal with it.

- UTSU Board of Directors

- Board Structure Discussion

- Victor: It would be nice to get some feedback for the next board structure proposal. We have just less than 12 months, I did invite Yolen and Najiba to this meeting but I messed up the days. They will be at the next meeting.

- From what I understand, we cannot have classes anymore but it would be great to have college representation. The recent proposal that included Victoria and other colleges, it was deemed unfeasible by lawyers because there would have to be 19 AGMs for there to be college representation. I thought we could have a discussion of ideas here today.

- Kareem: Colleges, as it is, mostly do have their own AGMs. I don't see there being a problem having 19 separate AGMs. Correct me if I'm wrong, but Yolen said that UTM reps would still be in place and only UTM students would be able to run?
 - Rowan: She was asked if UTM students could only run – they can run but anyone can vote.
 - Victor: Thank you for bringing that up so I can find out.
 - Zach: We weren't given detailed legal opinion on that – I imagine if UTM students could only do that, there is probably a way to do that for colleges. We should discuss what college representation means. Right now, we're

hoping for discussion and there are no alternatives that have not been already proposed.

- Auni: I think we need to focus on proportional representation – there would've been three votes for Arts and Science and four for UTM. It should be representative of how many people they represent. I think this should be kept in mind
- Victor: I know St. George is larger than UTM, but there was also profac representation included with Arts & Science reps. Keep in mind, UTM is in a further location, and it can be hard to hear their voices sometimes.

Alan and Angela enter at 5:54 pm.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *President – Rowan*

- Winter Term

- Rowan: First things first, our final meeting of the year is being scheduled – either December 3rd or 5th. I would like to have a full council debrief and have open discussion to look back retroactively. The UTSU question is still there, but I will have more time then to discuss those matters and I know that Innis and Trinity have started to mobilize themselves. In terms of board structure, I will leave that till next meeting or next term.

- There are three main things I'd like to talk about today. We have \$6000.00 set aside to begin a Travel Conference fund – if you want to travel and study, or find something school or work related in the country or outside the country. This is a fund to help students deal with the financial barrier of traveling North America or the country.

- Auni: What's the relationship of that fund to VUSAC?
 - Rowan: It would be through VUSAC. We do have the money, and we would like to set up framework. Our biggest project idea right now is a concept that Ben and I have discussed. The student credit union – we are hoping to do that next year. Rather than going to a big bank, you can go to a student run capital credit union to receive student loans. They're popular in the states – we have talked to Georgetown who has the oldest and most successful credit union in the country. They have helped people mortgage their houses, ours won't be that big but it shows how successful these can be. Waterloo and Laurier have attempted a joint venture credit union but the alumni support was low. We have such strong support at Vic that I think it's very possible to make it happen – we also have fewer students to service. It will help students financially and strengthen alumni ties. We have a good arts and science base at Vic, plus music – then we can also get more commerce students to join affairs at this college.
 - Ben: The main side to this is that it's a friendlier side to banking. There are lower interest rates – that's the main benefit of having a credit union for students and it relieves the pressures banks can put on students.
 - Auni: What would the timeline be to establish a credit union? Say in two three years we have this established – is it for any sort of usage like student loans?

- Rowan: The idea is to have a financial support to remove high interest rate on your ROSI account.
- Auni: The late fees are 15.5% for late tuition payments; it would be great to move away from U of T's high interest rate.
- Rowan: Georgetown took 2 years to be fully established. It could totally fail but the potential pay off is worth investigating.
- Ben: It's never been done in this country before –it would be a time intensive effort, two to three years.
- William: In terms of planning, we would have to reorganize positions on VUSAC to work on this initiative?
- Rowan: I'm presenting this to gage interest first before we change anything.
- Kareem: I want to know how you plan to carry it on, as you both have one semester left?
- Rowan: Same as any multi-year initiative. The Travel conference, for example – Jelena gave me a report on it and I'm continuing it.
- Ben: The point is to get an infrastructure ready for next year.
- William: I think this is a worthwhile thing to pursue.
- Rowan: The Goldring Student Centre took slow deliberation and planning. I will talk more to the Board of Regents, who have a lot of bankers sitting on it – they have said it's an exciting idea. I talked to past presidents like Jamie Janeiro – who pushed Goldring to happen, he knows a lot about starting large initiatives like his one.
- Alex: It is an exciting idea and I think this is worth pursuing. Have you spoken with alumni?
- Rowan: I brought it to the finance committee of the board – they haven't said they will like to be apart of the start up but they said they would help us with any issues.
- L-P: I'd also like to add my voice in support. My family is from Quebec and Desjardins is a credit union that has done a job in working for the members. If we can get something like that off the ground for Vic – with the many great minds on council, we can do this.
- Zach: I instinctually think a credit union for students could be particularly vulnerable, would there be stiffer penalties for people who cannot repay? And is this initiative something you would want other U of T bodies to know about?
- Rowan: Our first concern was collections. Georgetown said that it's all done by a third party and it is what they have the least amount of problems are. They ask the firm to be less intense.
- Ben: They retain control over to pursue aggressively loans. There have been incidences where students have not been able to repay the loans. They have been more lenient with rates and collection windows. I thought it would also be the most difficult thing would be collection.
- Rowan: In terms of the wider U of T community, I don't see how expanding the conversation could hurt.
- Ben: There isn't much of a conversation right now, though.
- Alice: I'm still not to clear what it would add to student life? We already have so many funding and scholarship opportunities. It's already a lot to apply to all of them.
- Ben: It would not be a funding source; it's a financial cooperative. It promotes thrift – it's basically a bank. It's a place where you can do your banking and it's sort of more democratically controlled. It's

kinder in its interest rates and loans. Union members – the Vic community, would essentially control it. It's designed to be owned within the small community and more lenient banking practices. I would go that it would strengthen our sense of community, but help promote a more comfortable banking experience for students.

- Rowan: If you want a real world example, my bank account went from youth to adult when I turned 18. Scotiabank did not inform me and I began to get charged. I couldn't do anything. As a part of a credit union, I could have my voice heard. It isn't a go-to source for funds; if it can turn into a big successful loan service like that – that's also great. The average student graduates with \$27,000 worth of debt, so this could elevate the interest rates.
- Auni: To address Alice – we are fortunate to have scholarships, bursaries and grants but there's never enough. It doesn't hurt to have more cushioning and it's good to have the option. If you need any help, I completely support it. Are we going to be using VUSAC student budget to support?
- Rowan: I doubt it. Student deposits, administrative and alumni support will mostly be our start up funds. We have very strong alumni base, the university will be able to work with that. Bringing this to the table now would be a good time to do so.
- Ben: We want to make sure we don't pull from a fund supposed to be contributing to student life.
- William: I was wondering about Georgetown's scale in comparison to Vic?
- Ben: 7,000 to 10,000 students.
- Rowan: Not fair to look at them now because of how successful they are. They raised 1 million dollars for their start up.
- Ben: Princeton has 5,000 students and their own credit union, though.
- Alex: I had a similar experience as Rowan did and I was left paying fees. Their main interests are not always with the consumer, if we had a student credit union – it can save students from paying unnecessary fees.
- Rowan: Now, the last thing I'd like to talk about. One of the upshots of the UTSU developments, I have developed relationships with U of T central administration and I've had a chance to discuss student mental health. U of T just released a report on mental health on campus – there are mixed reviews, and I don't think they include important aspects, like CAPS wait times. A bunch of us met with the Vice Provost and we all discussed that attention to mental health is not enough. We are meeting next week with CAPs, provost, vice provost and us. I would like to have an open forum to discuss mental health at U of T and how to improve that. We have discussed having a fall reading week, but it seems to be a band-aid solution. It will be about finding how to create better preventative measures and how to help solve mental health issues. Also we would like to investigate professors: how many professors think of students when creating their syllabus schedule? We'll hopefully address micro-issues and create a discourse. Does anyone have any feedback?
- Auni: I know a lot of people at McMaster, they have MSAF: McMaster Student Absence Form. They have student extension time and if people are unable to get proper documentation in that time, they

are able to use their MSAF. People can also potentially take a week off of midterms. It's worthwhile to discuss with them something like that.

- Claire: I don't know if you have heard about the Student Mental Health []
- Auni: What is that?
- Claire: Makes mental health services more accessible.
- Kathleen: From my experience of receiving extremely subpar service from CAPS, they did not reach out to me when I expressed interest in giving feedback. I know it's difficult to do this, in terms of right now of not having services available to students who need them, but students who are in a place that is not good mentally – are typically not in a place to reach out. There should be some kind of evaluation of students, like a mandatory meeting, where they should talk to someone about how they are doing. As someone who has been there before, you never feel like getting out of your room to talk about.
- Kareem: I do think that's a good idea, Kathleen. But - some universities do have that policy, but some students have had their university experience taken away from them for what they expressed.
- Enxhi: That was at Yale.
- Claire: That's at a school in the states – it's different than Canada.
- Amanda: I understand the need to have something mandatory because it's difficult to have student express how they feel. The word mandatory is a slippery slope, though – it can dismiss people to not be truthful. I would suggest a service that is open and encourages people to attend. Making it mandatory can make students fearful.
- Bergita: I know Rowan is doing a lot of this front but Kelley is also working on this. The Dean's Office is trying to connect students to services. If you are not reaching CAPS, please come talk to us. If you've had any negative experience and we will make sure you're connected.
- Rowan: We're already getting ideas – this is something to take away and discuss. The idea is to create a more positive conversation about caps. There is an understanding CAPS is not functional right now. If admin is telling people there are alternative services, there is a creation of negativity. We are uniquely positioned – we have a new provost who specialized in mental health and social work, her idea is to stop running internally with CAPS and work with hospitals around U of T and connect those with students.
- Kathleen: With CAPS, their phone service is horrible and they do not have an answering machine. They should also have a crisis line or be connected to a crisis line. As any sort of resource for mental health, they should be a one-stop spot and if someone is in a moment, they shouldn't have to search for alternate places.
- Claire: Bergita, you spoke about a personal counsellor. I think it's good to shift the focus from CAPS to somewhere on Vic campus.
- William: More advertising in the front space of Goldring for the counsellor is important.
- Bergita: It just started in September. The counsellors actually are from CAPS - they trying to be imbedded in colleges. Kelley has made that happen, we will advertise as much as we can.

○ Club Status Recall

- Enxhi: I hosted the first semester club heads meeting and the clubs are mandated constitutionally to send someone to the meeting. I also gave them the option to send me their update, they signed a contract that says: “[contract clause]”. There are some clubs that did not send a rep or an update. I’m bringing it to VUSAC to figure out what to do with this. The clubs:
 - [list of clubs]
- Their financial accounts are frozen from the day I sent the email regarding their lack of attendance; they cannot book rooms currently or access storage. I know a meeting should not decide an end-all be-all of club, but this also sets a precedent if we do not do anything about them breaking contract.
- Kareem: Is Music for the Heart on that list?
- Enxhi: Those who responded to my email, they explained their situation and I felt it was understandable. Geoff Bailey, who is the head of Music of the Heart, said he was intending to attend leading up until 5 pm. He had a performance at the ROM, which is his job, the set up took too long and he was unable to send a proxy in the time or get in contact with me. Vic Badminton also reached out but they were unaware they did not have to send a response. The exec who was supposed to attend had food poisoning and no other execs could attend. Red Ink said between school and grad school applications, it slipped their mind. For Longboards of Vic, Sadia said she did not have access to the email, Mahmoud – who does have access – did not check the account though stipulated in the contract is to check every day.
- Auni: It doesn’t make sense to cut them or freeze their account. I think we should have a penalty system and the clubs do serve a service.
- Kareem: At the end of the day, if breaking the contract means being de-ratified and how do you feel about having them re-ratified if they’re still serious about the matter?
- Enxhi: VUSAC has control over this decision and they can come present their case.
- Kareem: If they are de-ratified, then that could be their punishment until re-ratification?
- Stuart: I understand the idea of setting a precedent and I think it’s important of us as a council to uphold our policies. I think we should be careful how we respond to clubs.
- Enxhi: The purpose of the club heads meeting was to go over rules, and I had one in the summer that I went over the clubs handbook and all the other information. I don’t have a doubt that they did not know what they were supposed to do.
- Ben: I’d like to echo Auni, I think it is harsh to remove them for not presenting a report but provide services to the Vic community. We should amend the constitution for leniency and we don’t want to seem too unnecessarily harsh.
- Rahul: We are not a disciplinary body, but for the clubs that have reached out – everyone makes mistakes. Maybe we are setting the precedent if we do not de-ratify them, but then again if we are lenient, we can set a precedent that we are actually good to work with.
- William: For the clubs that did respond, we can take into account that things do slip the mind. A warning system, maybe?

- Auni: The purpose of the clubs head meeting is to connect to the right source, it makes sense that they should be attending these though we are being lenient.
 - Alex: I know there is a constant concern about the precedent we set. It's not a precedent based thing, this is an opportunity to have an open dialogue with the clubs. It was great meeting, we learnt a lot about different clubs and we should connect with these clubs about how they are doing and their accessibility.
 - Enxhi: The only reason I mentioned precedence was because last year there was no procedure in regards to clubs, it's a chance to have procedure started and happening from this year forward.
 - Simona: I think that for future meetings, we have them RSVP so we know exactly who's coming. If you don't receive notice three days in advance, then send them a notice again individually.
 - Kareem: I know we don't want to seem lenient, Enxhi herself is also a busy person but she also gave them the option to send in a report or a proxy in the case they couldn't attend.
 - Alex: I don't think we need a universal policy of one or the other.
 - Enxhi: I like the idea of dealing them in a one-on-one meeting. Longboards would like to speak at the next meeting, they will remain frozen till then. If no one has any objections to the club, then the rest will be unfrozen.
 - William: What is the situation with the club's freezing?
 - Enxhi: They did not attend so it was a temporary punitive measure until I brought the situation to the council.
 - Bergita: In terms of perspective, it seems like you had a good turn out, I've never heard of having perfect attendance for a clubs head meeting.
 - Enxhi: Red Ink did respond; Knit Project did not reach out to me –
 - Kareem: I think reach out to them one more time, maybe in a different medium – afterwards unfreeze them if they reply again. If they don't respond, then it may be irresponsible on their part and we can discuss it again.
 - Alex: Does the Knit Project have any current events?
 - Enxhi: Not that I'm aware of.
 - Kareem: They get together and knit together – they would need equipment.
 - Enxhi: They technically can't access their equipment right now.
 - Kareem: I believe they bring it home with them, anyways.
 - Enxhi: They will remain frozen until Wednesday unless they speak to me.
 - Enxhi: Badminton will be unfrozen; Vic Dance –
 - Simona: Can they book space?
 - Gabe: No, if they are frozen.
 - Kareem: I advocate you keep them frozen until they speak to you.
 - Enxhi: Until Wednesday. Same with the Knit Project.
- General Update
 - Enxhi: Secret Santa will be happening for VUSAC when the last two people RSVP.
The red walls in the office were painted this weekend and look awesome!

The sweaters are downstairs, you can grab them after the meeting and they were purchased by VUSAC – they represent VUSAC and you are fiduciarily held to the constitution while wearing the sweater.

- William: Is this only on Victoria grounds?
- Rowan: Think of this way when you're about to do something while wearing it – if someone videoed you while wearing the sweater, would you be representing VUSAC poorly?
- Enxhi: A general VUSAC problem is that we are kept back in our office. We are supposed to be accessible, open and visible to the student bodies. You will be assigned to attend specific events, including assessors. If you are attending a Vic event then wear your sweater. It will start next semester.
- Simona: Now that we have our sweaters, can we take a group photo?
- Enxhi: Yes.
- SaraLi: Do we have to wear our sweaters during office hours?
- Enxhi: Yes. You have to be wearing them.
- William: Are we going to be doing anything in the constitution for the sweaters?
- Enxhi: If we did that to the constitution, we would have to alter other things in the constitution itself. I think we can count on good faith.
- Gabe: There's a discussion last year about constitutionally mandating things rather than creating a best practices guide. It's what you ought to do as a representative of Victoria – so it is more something to keep in mind in terms of best practices.
- Rowan: There's stuff in the constitution – direction of governance and a council – that necessarily doesn't need to be mandated there. There are by-laws and operating policies in our constitution.
- L-P: I think it's good to have some of these things established by convention.
- Enxhi: For the Winterfest Club Fair – I'm expecting VUSAC to be there. For the councillors - it would be cool to have your own board for the work you do as councilors. Every commission has a board. You guys will be helping out at the clubs fair and it's during the first week back after the break.

Use of office space - we need to improve upon how the space is being used and it's a ridiculously messy. Chairs should not be hanging around the computer area, the corner area where the tables are needs to be kept in the same position as you found them. It's not appealing to walk into the office when it is a mess. VUSAC members have lockers now and there are places that are out of the way.

Reports at meetings are not me trying to have you speak at meetings, but it promotes councilship to know what everyone is doing. What I said at the last in camera meeting, just for the minutes, was about council members being expected to act in a high standard of professionalism and there is certain behaviour to uphold during meetings and interviews. Just stay professional - was the bottom line.

- William: In terms of what you said about communication about reports during meetings – I think it's also important to have informal reports between councilors. It's been difficult to keep up with everyone's initiatives; it's not easy to keep in mind everyone's roles.
- Enxhi: An idea that was pitched to me by a former VUSAC member from last year was to have been to have a 'staff meeting' that would

basically be all VUSAC members where people can talk about what's going on. It can relieve any problems or a way to communicate what's going on.

- Ben: That will circumvent things like this that won't need to be brought to the meeting and that the public doesn't necessarily need to know – like how to keep the office orderly.
- Rahul: There will not be minutes for those?
- Gabe: No, it's an informal meeting.

Straw Poll: Who is in favour of having staff meetings for VUSAC? All in favour with 20 in favour, one opposed and two abstaining.

- Enxhi: Auni – why do you not think it's a good idea?
- Auni: I worry about scheduling more meetings and there are other caucus meetings for things like this to be discussed.
- Enxhi: It wouldn't be structured like a VUSAC or Caucus meeting.
- Golda: I think one way to do this would be the socials – it makes them a little less fun but it can be a small portion of it.
- Ben I think something has to be done because there are statements being made about moving chairs and wearing sweaters in a formal meeting with members of the public, I don't think it's fair to have people listen to VUSAC focused information.
- Kareem: Totally right, but we don't have that now. Then we should address those concerns with this idea.
- Simona: I think it's a good idea to regroup and we cannot ask many questions in these meetings.
- Enxhi: I completely agree with Ben – it's not fair to make it a public meeting.
- Ally: I would also be able to speak to things as office manager in informal meetings.
- Rahul: On the note of the staff meetings: in light of recent events, could they also serve to discuss contentious internal issues before bringing them to a meeting? This could be a way to preface a discussion on issues many people were not aware of?
- Ben: Councilors are not being made aware of many internal issues. I think we could have a discussion of VUSAC's culture in general – I think we can find a way to create an esprit-de-coeur and discuss why we don't have a working relationship. We don't operate as a corporation but a political entity – we are all equal in the eyes of the public. We should operate in a public fashion with togetherness.
- Alex: I think there are some structural things that need to be talked about and create more of a unit or team. We are team trying to improve student life at Vic and there ware ways we can improve on that. That cohesion can happen outside of our meetings that are every other week, but this may allow us to communicate on a level that allows work to be more efficient.
- Enxhi: For Ben what said, to have that discussion time – would it be worthwhile to have during the meeting?
- Ben: We should have half hour during the next meeting on it and I would like it to be on the record.
- William: If we were to have the staff meeting once a month, we could set specific days in advance.

- General Update
 - Kareem: I'm going to start with levy reports, most are very short:
 - Acta Victoriana
 - Kareem: They are meeting with their publisher over the break for copies, prices and publication dates.
 - Caffiends
 - Kareem: Gooch asked Kelley to form committee for space and functioning of Caffiends. This is the committee: [committee]. We're right now looking over the books for Caffiends and how much it costs them – they are not paying for it. Once we receive report after the break, then we'll look into the location issue. On their side, the clothing swap was very successful and VOCA was there to help. They would also like to report they'll be catering VOCA on Tuesday – it's on a communication basis. They have new
 - Thomas: First pancakes of every month.
 - Saad: They charge, so we only collaborate once a month.
 - Kareem: The application for co-manager is up and due tonight, but Julie's term is up.
 - Thomas: They're due Sunday, Cat's Eye is due today.
 - Cat's Eye.
 - Kareem: Applications for co-manager are due today, we had three last I checked. The advisory board are meeting Friday to discuss it: a reminder to Rowan, Alex, Bergita and SaraLi of that. They discussed pub nights – they have money and are willing to pair up with any student group to fund a social in the cat's eye. They would fund the down payment on the cash bar and then student groups can use the space to promote the use of the Cat's Eye.
 - Strand
 - Kareem: They were humble and forgot to mention they saved \$600.00 on printing and they are proud of that and should be.
 - Simona: Is it possible for VUSAC to have socials in the Cat's Eye.
 - Enxhi: Has to be open to all of Vic?
 - Kareem: There are closed events that are not paid by them.
 - Victoriad
 - Kareem: They are having a movie night on November 26th and will be watching the Lion King. It's a great movie, I have a song from it as my ringtone, and everyone should attend!
 - VCAA
 - Kareem: They updated their constitution and did want to mention to VUSAC, mainly Ben and Rowan that there was trouble with their check – an issue with the signature.

- Rowan: Did you tell them to contact Ben or me?
 - Kareem: I told them to.
 - Ben: Can we meet to discuss afterwards?
 - Kareem: Yes.
- VCDS
 - Kareem: Two things Olivia forgot to mention earlier: if any groups on campus would like to use the bin, you may use it.
 - Olivia: It is open to anyone, but we would like to avoid any large trash that occupies all the space because we have quite a bit to remove. Please let us know first, email producer@vcds.ca.
 - Kareem: Alex and Rahul put up positive space stickers in the office.
 - Olivia: Our levy brought up there were no stickers in the office and it was done promptly, so thank you.
- VicPride
 - Kareem: They are hoping to form a LGBTQ round table to encourage collaboration in the university.
 - Ben: They know their check is ready for them?
 - Kareem: They should, but they have transferred signing authority to the current heads.
- WUSC
 - Kareem: I'm meeting with Catriona on Monday about international week. They have a **event**: December 1st will be at Hart House, 3rd and 4th in Old Vic and the 5th will be in Goldring.
- VCC, VUS & Senate Updates
 - Kareem: I met with VCC, VUS and Senate. There were no emails about VCC because there were no meetings. I am on the VCC now; I will be attending those meetings. What those student reps brought to the table was that students do not have any way to access what is being discussed at these meetings on the VUSAC website. There would be a link to a document where there are summaries of the latest meeting. I've appointed Ellen Chen and Angela Sun to create updates for the website.
 - Rowan: Was David in attendance by chance?
 - Kareem: No, he wasn't able to.
 - Roan: David was supposed to be the VUSAC liaison from the board since last year. Nothing of substance has happened yet; it will start after our Strategy Meeting tomorrow.
 - Kareem: You and David were not there, so I selected Angela and Ellen because they are on all three. Their reports will be for online stuff.
 - Auni: Our website could be made better, I've heard it's hard to navigate. Documents and minutes are hard to find.
 - Enxhi: People say that a lot, but there is a button that says 'documents' and then 'minutes'.

- Ben: There should also be additions of imbedded links and plug-ins to twitter, Facebook etc.
 - Auni: They are there.
 - Kathleen: I don't know if you can change that, but on my phone – it's impossible to navigate.
 - Auni: It's a dated design and the drop down should be updated.
 - Residence
 - Kareem: I spoke at the Building Presidents meeting earlier today. I wasn't allowed to stay for the whole meeting but I cannot attest to it in full – I spoke about the caucus and that it's happening next week.
- Constitutional Amendments
 - I posted two amendments: add VPE to Budget Steering and have the VPE attend the building presidents meetings and remove the vague terms. Victorian of the Month – Rahul and Auni, can you stay back after and black out the names so I don't know who the applicant is so it's impartial. \$25 gift card for Tim Hortons. Student caucus will have food, EM119, CARA has a social but I will make sure there are three reps at CARA-oke.
 - Enxhi: Who is mandated to attend?
 - Gabe: It's all voting members, levies, clubs and building presidents.
 - Sumeeta: For Victorian of the Month, you printed a lot of posters – will you do that every month?
 - Kareem: They were removed and I have to include a deadline so I cannot make permanent ones. We can discuss better ways afterwards.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Sustainability – Alice*
 - *General Update*
 - Alice: I heard from some people that you do not know what I am doing. I haven't been broadcasting what I have been doing. Now I have 20 minutes to speak instead of 2 minute. This month, the closest event is the Environmental Fashion Show meetings – Wednesday 6 pm is the general meeting for anyone to attend if you want to be stage crew, model or designer. Because I was elected late, it is supposed to be in February but it is now in March.
 We will also have a meeting for all sustainability leaders on campus; there will a link on the Facebook page for the doodle poll. I want to get a sense of all the sustainability initiatives on campus – Caffiends, green reps etc. I really hope that most of VUSAC can be there, I need a lot of help with the events I'm planning and I didn't know that VUSAC could help me with the events I'm planning. There is a lot of poster making and other tasks to be done. It will be decided after the doodle poll.
 The Burwash Campaign – lunch with a buddy has been posted and overnight study space reminders for cups and plates have been posted as well. The posters will also be posted on the group. YouTurn is the main funding source for sustainability events at U of T. If you are interested in meeting sustainability leaders, come out to the meeting. I also attended the fossil fuel divestment march, 200 people showed up we walked in a circle from the Bahen centre to the governing council

hall. The next step is to get attention of Governing Council and convince members to sign with them. It's a worthwhile cause. There are meetings all throughout the year – it's Toronto 350 and the person leading it is named Benjamin Butcher.

For composting, I talked to everyone briefly about a pilot system to avoid compost in the garbage. Hopefully with funding from student projects, we can hopefully get a compost bin in Annesley and MargAd for next year. If it's successful, then future sustainability commissioners can get funding. Environment week is in March and I'm partnering with YouTurn and the UTSU for workshops on climate change, composting etc. I am thinking of booking the Cat's Eye for a green drinks pub night. There is also the fashion show.

The climate change conference is at the end of March. We are contacting speakers. I was talking to some non-profits outside the university who focus on climate change politics – they emphasize speaking out before the federal election in October. It is a serious issue; Canada has won the fossil award for 5 years in row, which means we are the worst country for pollution. The party running right now does not support climate at all. The rough idea I have is to have groups of U of T students together and simultaneously and have discussions with figures about climate change or a letter writing campaign. It's an initiative I'm looking forward to taking on. At the end of the all the workshops, we are thinking to have some political leaders speak to students – basically, leaders of the federal parties, it's difficult but I am looking into contacts. Like Trudeau or May – I don't think harper would come but we would still invite him.

- Saad: Regarding the guest speakers, Kristina had a climate change conference – she got the speakers but not enough students. How do you plan to address that?
- Alice: I'm already a part of 8 sustainability clubs on campus so I am able to promote it through there.
- Bergita: It's feasible to get people out if you let them know more than a week in advance. If there's enough notice and a good line up of speakers.
- Alice: I'd like to also put ads in the newspapers on campus.
- William: It may work well to update the official sustainability website to discuss sustainability issues.
- Alice: I have been asking Sumeeta for help with the website, but she has other updates to attend to.
- Sumeeta: I don't know if I have access to it, do you? What do you need for it?
- Alice: Yeah, I do. Just advertising for events.
- Enxhi: VUSAC also needs to take responsibility for this and help promote these events as a group.
- Rowan: We need to be careful, last time Justin Trudeau was at Vic – he stole the former VUSAC president's umbrella.
- William: There are multiple websites for each commission. The commuter commission updates them on their own accord – I think leaving it to Sumeeta is too much. Maybe appoint someone?
- Saad: Maybe have one person on the sustainability commission look after that.

- Alice: I know you're all busy, if councilors are willing to help, would I be able to assign tasks?
 - Gabe: Hopefully they consent to it.
 - Enxhi: Post a list of what you need on the Facebook group and allow people to sign up for them.
 - Simona: Definitely post what you need. Open communication is great.
 - William: I know being elected late makes it difficult to hand out positions and roles, but it would be good to put up the tasks.
 - Alice: Networking sessions – we haven't met yet but Kareem is also helping. As for infrastructure, the Phys. Plant manager is looking into automatic hand dryers and light switches.
- *Commuter* – SaraLi
 - Festive Dinner
 - SaraLi: Basically, festive dinner was yesterday and we had a good turn out. We had all 120 seats filled.
 - Saad: We only had 10 people not show up.
 - SaraLi: It went well with all the help from the VOCA execs.
 - Auni: I know that in the budget meeting that the contingency fund was approved on the basis that Student Projects did not come through – did you receive the money?
 - SaraLi: That was \$2000.000 approved at the last meeting from Student Projects.
 - Auni: It was in the case we could fill all seats that you did not have to take from the VUSAC funds?
 - SaraLi: We had 8/9 seats filled at high table so we need to pay for that one tickets. We didn't use any of that money and it'll go to the surplus unless I delegate it elsewhere in my budget.
 - Gabe: It would have to go through budget steering.
 - SaraLi: The only think I can do is reallocate money to different lines now. I talked to Ben about it.
 - Saad: Since it's a first time thing, we are thinking of sending out a survey about the event.
 - SaraLi: Although this is the first time we did this, it can become an annual thing! Thank you to everyone who came out.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- William
 - William: I wanted to talk about the Instagram; let me know if you want anything up there. I'm compiling an email list and posting on Facebook group about posts. I was involved in festive dinner and working with the sustainability commissioner.
- Stuart
 - Stuart: A little bit more on clubs storage, last week there was the club heads meeting, like Enxhi mentioned. The next step in moving forward was that in order to keep going forward, we have to show Phys Plant we are using it to the best. Mike the Change is happening tonight, hopefully everyone can come. Thank you to SaraLi for letting us use decorations from festive dinner for that. We talked about The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – I am helping with that as well. We will be in touch about that – it's before a tentative VUSAC meeting Friday December 5th. I would like to speak

to the council, though there have been a lot of internal matters, but we have to stick together and there's a lot to look forward to. A councilor, I am not always busy so if you feel like you need something to be taken care of, contact me or anyone else!

- Kareem: Did you want to talk about volunteers for the Day of Remembrance?
- Stuart: We need 14 males and females volunteers to commemorate the massacre in Montreal – we need 11 more people in order to represent the 14 men and women who were a part of that shooting. Reach out to me, Kareem or Bergita. There is a Google doc sign up list.
- Rahul
 - Rahul: This is a quick report because I wasn't here last week. Festive dinner was last night and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. There is a CARA social next week during the caucus meeting. There is the campaign to end violence against women.
- Golda
 - Golda: The only thing I really want to say is the next video is up. Subscribe, like and share the video with your friends.
 - Auni: Do you use an actual camera? You can probably borrow one from VicXposure.
 - Golda: We were using Stu's but there were issues. If you would like to be in a video, let me know.
 - Rahul: I'd like to thank Golda and Ben for being so patient with Alex and me while filming.
 - Kareem: Sumeeta would like to mention that you should send a new email instead of a reply to the Listserv if there is something that needs to be added.
 - Sumeeta: You have been the only one to do that thus far, but it is a good reminder. I will be sending out a mass email for Listserv notices and there will be procedure attached.
 - Auni: Bergita – could we potentially have people signed onto the Listserv during frosh registration?
 - Bergita: You know how you had the sale of merchandise station; you could add it to the registration list though for more efficiency.
- Alex
 - Alex: I just want to say that I had a lot of fun with the YouTube video – I may not have been the most efficient person to work with. I'm working on a students project application for a new computer for the VUSAC office. I would like to mention that Harry Potter Pub Night was successful, Olivia made the decorations but she is not here currently. I have a question about engaging in constitutional amendments, what would be the best way to go about educating people.
 - Thomas: People not on VUSAC are able to see it if it's in meetings, I appreciate that non-VUSAC members are able to come in and see these things.
 - Rowan: There's a balance between informal and formal. If you receive something in your inbox titled "Constitutional Amendment" then read that through. You procedurally should bring them up in meetings. You need to not try to pass things without reading them ahead of time. Discussion on constitution can be an agenda item but that can entertain an amendment. VUSAC meeting are for open discussion primarily.

- Simona: Staff meetings can also be a setting to discuss things like that openly.
 - Kareem: Thomas, I'm not sure if you know this, but it needs to be posted on the office door one week before for the public to read. I agree that in the meeting it's important, it is a good place for discussion.
 - Alex: There's a mix of informal and formal.
 - Enxhi: Amendments being posted on the door and emailed allows you to be able to know who proposed it; it's to avoid superficiality and allows a real discussion to happen in the meeting.
- L-P
- L-P: Between 16 team members, there is \$1100.00 dollars raised. A lot of donations have been concentrated among a small group of people – encourage people to donate and keep the word spreading.

Motion 101: Enxhi moves to adjourn meeting. Enxhi seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting is adjourned.