



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
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## **VUSAC MEETING MINUTES**

September 15th, at 3PM in the Goldring Student Center  
MINUTES

### **In Attendance**

#### **Judiciary**

PRESIDENT: Zahavah Kay  
VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: N/A  
VP INTERNAL: Artimes Ghahremani  
VP EXTERNAL: Katie Cohen

#### **Assessor Members**

CHAIR: Sayeh Yousefi  
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Stephanie Xu  
SECRETARY: Emma Lailey  
COMMUNICATIONS: Jade Koh  
FINANCE: Graham Allison

#### **Commissioners and Councillors**

SCARLET AND GOLD: Stephanie Spagnuolo  
SUSTAINABILITY: N/A  
COMMUTER: Gabriel Calderon  
ARTS AND CULTURE: Blanaid McNally  
EQUITY: Shailee Koranne  
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Zoe Ritchie

#### **Guests**

Jared Connoy  
Aidan Currie (The Varsity-DNE)  
Jayde Jones (UTSU Director)  
James Manny (VCU Member)  
Devon Wilton (VCU Member)  
Olivier Smith (Caffiends Co-Manager)  
Hana Nikcevic (VicXposure Co-President)  
Alexis Ballis (VCU Member)  
Haleema Khan (VCU Member)  
Ali Kehl (Cat's Eye Co-Manager)

## Regrets

EQUITY CO-CHAIR: Apefa Adjivon

### Land Recognition: Sayeh (1 minute)

I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Stephanie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

### Additions to the Agenda (maximum 3 minutes per addition)

- Jayde adds 3 minute for UTS.
- Zahavah switches her spot with Artimes; better for organization on her topic.

### Pressing Items:

- Ratification of Clubs - Zahavah (10 minutes)

To motion all the clubs into one vote. Seconded by Zoe. Favour: ALL. Not a vote to ratify budgets, but position as a club. Discussed the Organization of Latin American Student's position at Victoria and access to Vic students; (threshold 70% of the club needs to be Victoria). Motion all clubs into positions as clubs. Seconded by Katie. Favour: ALL.

Includes:

- Vic iTeach [Contract Received; Budget Submitted]
- North American Model United Nations [CR]
- Spanish Students Organization [CR]
- Victoria College Equity Collective [CR, BS]
- Kpop Dance club [CR]
- The bFriend Community Initiative [CR, BS]
- Victoria College Environmental Fashion Show [CR, BS]
- Baegals [CR, BS]
- Tunes. Beats. Awesome. [CR]
- VicReach [CR]
- Smart Investors [CR, BS]
- Victoria College Choir [CR, BS]
- Vic Dance [CR, BS]
- Vic Urban Dance Club [CR, BS]
- Victoria College Badminton Club [CR, BS]
- Organization of Latin American Students [CR, BS]
- Her Voice [CR, BS]

- HeyTeach! [CR]
- Vic Records [CR, BS]
- Victoria College Board Games Club [CR]
- Goose Fiction [CR, BS]
- VicVentures [CR, BS]
- Bachata at Vic [CR, BS]
- Vic for a Cure [CR, BS]

#### Discussion Items:

- Introduction to VUSAC Meeting rules: Sayeh (6 minutes)

[Summary] As long as the rules are followed in principle. Definition of “motion,” put forth and seconded by a voting member. “Points of Personal Privilege,” interrupting the meeting. Voting is via acclamation; fifty percent plus one. Roll call is an option, though more time consuming. Abstentions should only be used for conflict of interest or if one is uncomfortable voting on a motion. Please say your name before speaking to make it easier for the Secretary (at least for the first few weeks!). Do not stray from topic, time is tight, the more concise the better. Gavel will be used to indicate time limit/call to order.

- Charles Street Construction: Zahavah (5 minutes)

[Summary] Meeting with the city councilor next week to discuss the possibility of Charles Street changing into a two-way street. As the street is a heavily pedestrianized area, personal position is that turning Charles into a two-way street would be a bad idea. Open for discussion, what about Charles street (being a one-way street) is so essential to students?

Stephanie: There are two two-way streets on each side already. Not necessary, versus other streets nearby.

Jayde: Why do they want to make it a two-way?

Zahavah: (Their reasoning) To divert traffic out of Yorkville.

Hulma: Orientation week, move-in week, it is easier to keep it one-way during these times.

Shailee: Stressing pedestrian safety. A block in front of museum station.

Katie: Expanding sidewalk would not help traffic, it would slow everyone down.

Aidan: Was there a proposal (already) from the city of Toronto?

Zahavah: There was discussion, it is not a formal project yet, rather, a consideration they wish to discuss with Vic.

- UTSU: Hambo, Jayde (2 minutes)

Annual General Meeting on the October 31st, members are able to come and submit motions. Sept. 21st, deadline for submission. Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-2pm. Submitting a motion, members can assist with the process.

#### **STAFF MEMBER UPDATES**

##### Chief Returning Officer - Stephanie X

- Fall Elections (5 minutes) *featuring* poll clerks, monitor on Facebook, other questions/comments

[Summary] Final nomination packages are out (due Sept. 21st by 5pm in mailbox). Campaigning starts at the end of the meeting (Sept. 28th at 6pm.) Four day voting period Sept. 29th-Oct. 2nd, online voting available. Poll stations will be open on Friday and Monday. Reminder to council members: not allowed to

endorse members--more information in nomination packages. \*Make sure all pages are filled out (poll clerk page)!\* CRO account on Facebook, add as friend.

Artimes: How many days was voting open before?

Stephanie: Three days.

James: Where mailbox is located? 5:30 or 6pm? Different information on package.

Stephanie: 6pm is the better time for classes ending. Mailbox located in "cubby."

Olivier: Location?

Stephanie: Catseye.

Olivier: Do we know how many candidates?

Stephanie: Information will be released during the candidates meeting on Friday.

Katie: Is the elections form on FaceBook (like last year)?

Stephanie: Session opens at 9 and 6, questions open for two time slots. CRO account.

Zoe: Can council members ask questions on that page?

Stephanie: Yes! Reminder of CRO email if any more questions.

### Communications Director - Jade C

- Communications Requests (3 minutes)

[Summary] Google form for requests for promotional material, VUSAC information. It would be appreciated if communications were submitted one week before end of month. Will send out a draft of a general design; comments are encouraged to add/remove information. Preference to bypass and create own material is allowed.

Stephaine: When will the Google form be up?

Jade: Tonight.

- Vic App (2 minutes)

Find out about Vic events and add to schedule in App. Good idea for VUSAC events to be added onto the app. But we need to submit an online form on the website. Links available to download app if interested in checking it out.

## **COMMISSION UPDATES**

### Academic & Professional Development - Zoe R

- APD Fall Initiatives (10 minutes)

[Summary] 1. The Vic Research Fund; working with associate Dean. Apply to Vic projects, modeling off of the graduate studies fund. Co-signer, anyone who has knowledge of what you're going to that can endorse you. Will yield time to floor for comments/ideas/concerns:

Stephanie: One fund, or several?

Zoe: One sum of money based on applications. Pot of money, we see how applications look like. International vs. GTA, certain amount of money. Applications will dictate money given.

Katie: Minimum or maximum?

Zoe: Current plan (piloting) no maximum or minimum. We will receive similar applications will receive similar funds. Collaborative approach will be applied.

Jayde: "We?" Who reviews applications?

Zoe: Work in process. Who should be in the committee? (A student?) Personally want to see equity representative.

Olivier: How will it be promoted among students? (Reaching students who really need it.)

Zoe: Launch day in the works; envisioning trips and conferences. Similar to Vic Research Day. Application will be detailed, but for people who are passionate I (and others) will help with the application process within my office hours. (To council) Feedback about this is encouraged.

2. Second week of October: Ten Thousand Coffees (Like LinkedIn) Alumni sign up to have three coffees with students. To hopefully get connected with former students in your ideal field. Link in VicXposure for headshots. (To council) Feedback about this is encouraged.

3. November, journalism and networking event with Alumni. (with Katie)

Stephanie: Dates for events?

Zoe: Should be released soon, work in process.

Blanaid: <Question on applications>

Zoe: Will launch applications this Monday.

#### Arts and Culture - Blanaid M

- Arts and Culture Commission (5 minutes)

Arts and Culture has no commission, create one. Working on the Bob. Also, Spotlight on Vic with the Dean's office. Heads of levies and art's related clubs meeting monthly? (Discussed last May)

Kaite: Arts and Culture Commission and Highball two-in-one or separate?

Blanaid: Separate! But helping.

Stephanie: If you can look for discounts around Toronto, (example) Friday nights at the ROM, that might help/be a good idea!

Blanaid: Surveys to see what they want. How do I create a commission?

Zahavah: There would need to be a vote but it is a different process if it is created as a year-long club or as a constitutional amendment.

Katie: Heads of art's related clubs meeting sounds like an incredible idea! Networking, with students who have similar interests.

#### Commuter Commissioner - Gabriel C

- No update

#### Equity Commissioner - Shailee K

- Equity portfolio update (3 minutes)

[Summary] Co-chair is Apefa. Lots of first year interest in commission applications, which are still open for a week. Cultural events coming up, meant to increase programming for international students and people of colour at Vic. The first event on the 26<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Muslim Students Association.

Creating a portfolio for the Co-Chair and Equity Commission itself, will be a constitutional amendment.

Working on an anonymous form for people at Vic to raise their concerns, will be a process of who can access form/read form/etc, but keep this in mind for future meetings. Equity and accessibility checklist for VUSAC events.

- Equity training for council (1 minute)

- Equity training for club and levy execs (5 minutes)

Jayde: For students who aren't able to commit to weekly commission meetings, will they have the same ability to engage with the commission?

Shailee: All meetings will be opened and publicized. Minutes will be posted.

Olivier: It's fantastic that VUSAC has an Equity Commissioner as a resource, but it would be great for the portfolio to expand to other groups at Victoria.

Shailee: Equity training for council will be first, and we will hire Mairi (Office of Student Life).

We really want to provide equity training for club and levy executives. Sessions of equity training with drop in hours with Mairi at Vic. Great equity training shouldn't just be available for VUSAC.

### Scarlet & Gold - Stephanie S

- Back to School Pub Night

[Summary] Location will be at O'Grady's. Date is Friday, September 29th. Close to Vic (walk-able) and one of the only places that called back. Decorated with school supplies; Pencil and Pen bouquets. Will be asking for VUSAC volunteers to watch for intoxication and crowds (volunteer sign-up on Facebook tomorrow). Bathrooms are gendered, need male-identifying members; may have to ask male dons if no one on VUSAC volunteers.

- Results of summer survey

Didn't get a lot of first year opinions, was hard to reach during the summer, some reached during orientation. Lots of Upper year opinions (108 responses). Highlights: Friday nights preferred, decorations prioritized, themes for pub nights, food, decompression space (not called that though).

Hambo: Big margin between Thursday and Friday?

Stephanie: The margin was 10%. <Reads highlights> Featuring: Hilary Duff and an ice sculpture of Northrop Frye.

- UTSU Homecoming Committee Updates (20 minutes total)

It's going to be fun! Homecoming!

Zahavah: It is now called Corncoming.

[Summary] Corn-themed food. (Read: barbequed corn is corn on the cob.) T-card = free food! Move away from tailgating culture to community culture. Featuring: Pumpkin horseshoes and "giant pong." VUSAC can share a table, and sell merchandise. Fair is on Devonshire Street, beside Goldring gym. General promotion: "Vic invites you to Homecoming" or "Vic will see you at Homecoming." Perhaps an organized walk over for Vic students. Corncoming will also feature a giant dancing corn.

Jayde: A Snapchat corn?

Stephanie: A giant physical corn.

Aidan: Will VUSAC be forced to decorate their booth with corn?

Stephanie: Corn theme is extensive, but not mandatory.

Hambo: (Pub Night) Sounds like a lot of responsibility for alcohol policy, will they be educated enough? (When is Leadership Day?)

Stephanie: Not sure about Leadership Day details...First-aid trained members will be present. For those not first aid trained or aware of the alcohol policy should just alert higher authorities if a passed out student is found.

Hambo: Strongly suggests a training session.

Zahavah: Clarification: Corncoming is now being planned by SGRT in conjunction with the UTSU, rather than as a UTSU event solely.

Jayde: For those who don't already know, what is the SGRT?

Zahavah: St. George Round Table; heads and presidents of divisions.

Sustainability Commissioner (N/A)

## **JUDICIARY UPDATES**

VPSO (N/A)

VP Internal - Artimes G

- Motion to release the president's \$8000 honorarium (2 minutes)

Seconded. Abstained by Zahavah. Motion passes.

VP External - Katie C

- Merchandise Project (10 minutes)

[Summary] Victoria College Merchandise maintains a large desire in the community. Looking for companies with sustainable practices. Been designing a line, preppy sweaters, t-shirts, dad hats, etc...Starting small, costs lots of money. Looking for various sources of revenue. Looking for loan by Student Projects. Vote will be conducted in the near future, if approved, VUSAC will sell sweaters (bit above cost). Looking for a self-contained fund. First-line of sweaters: crewnecks, looking for feedback about title front. Questions?

Hambo: If this becomes successful, will you/it be working with the college?

Katie: The college isn't passionate about their merch. line...but a more sustainable place would have to have it there eventually. Don't want VUSAC to be a store.

Zahavah: Pricing details?

Katie: Depends on title front, \$32-36 we should sell for \$36 or \$40. Goal is around \$40, we are looking for a self-sustaining project.

Cameron: Risk of us being confused with B.C. Victoria College?

Katie: Probably, but am working hard to get the crest on some products. Not possible now though.

- Portfolio Update (10 minutes)

[Summary] Talked about upper year programming during my campaign; focusing on bringing an information day on Lsats and GRE to VUSAC. Plan (mid October) to bring in people who have taken Lsats, as an informal information day to hear various studying techniques and options. Questions of cost, picture, location.

> Dean's Office wanted to pass on that Career Week is happening during the last week of September.

Want to implement a mass calender--not meant for students--but for heads, levys, dons, etc... Am pushing for Executive to have signing authority so we don't have to go to the Dean's office all the time (not possible for alcohol events--but other events.)

Artimes: Date for the Lsats info?

Katie: Hoping for mid-October.

#### President - Zahavah K

- Review of Summer changes and work (8 minutes)

[Summary] Was here 30+ hours every week during the summer; many meetings. Three with the SGRT, looking to create a more formal structure. Positive change in terms of college unification. Looking at making a constitution allows us to give our successors an outline moving forward. A useful tool for divisions to communicate with each other; discussion around orientation and Corncoming. Also met with the UTSU: Discussed relationship with students and student politics; divisional structures; an ongoing discussion. Find ways we can benefit students. Outside of Vic: meeting with Sandy Walsh, general meeting about the structure of U of T. Met with the past three years of former VUSAC presidents (long-line back) in order to collect institutional memory. Met with a lot of administration at Vic (Scott Johnson, Bergita, Ira Wells, President Robins), almost all levy heads (all emailed), most club heads; discussed goals and how promotion of events can be completed effectively. Vic office space history: have run out of space, communicating to those clubs/levys with offices about details (numbers, how spaces are being used, times, etc). Some offices are now being doubled up. Reviewing office space should be done regularly going forward. No Vice President Student Organizations currently (Katie, Artimes, Zahavah working on it currently). Member of orientation executive. Wish to implement VUSAC Primer: a formal transition report to be given at the beginning of the year obtaining information so members of council don't need to outsource. The goal is to make transitioning into council roles easier.

Zoe: Had some experience with SGRT (last year) and remember that not every college was fully represented...how is it this year? Some found Trinity's actions to not be very welcoming during orientation...

Zahavah: Representation is strongly encouraged but not mandatory for every college (as it is not a formal body); numbers have gone up. St. Mikes is not represented because there is no student government. UTSU directors have been contacted. Membership is invited. Have had no meeting about orientation yet...some concernings you are referencing has been brought up (orientation chairs). It's not being ignored. Will likely be discussed at next meeting.

#### Added:

Hambo: AGM voting members can vote so you're invited to meetings.

Katie: Field is accessible while weather is nice.

Motion: Stephaine moves to adjourn meeting. Zoe seconds. Motion passes.