



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

150 CHARLES ST WEST
TORONTO, ON M5S 1K9
CANADA
T 416-585-4473
F 416-585-4462
WWW.VUSAC.CA

VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 16, 2015 at 5:15 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

PRESIDENT

Rowan DeBues

VP OPERATIONS

Enxhi Kondi

Assessor Members

BOARD OF REGENTS

David Kitai

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR

Bergita Petro

COMMUNICATIONS

Sumeeta Farrukh

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Kathleen Walsh

FINANCE

Ben Atkins

SECRETARY

Ally Scandolo

Commissioners & Councilors

EDUCATION & EQUITY

Claire Wilkins

SCARLET & GOLD

Olivia Klasios

SUSTAINABILITY

Alice Zhu

COUNCILLORS

Auni Ahsan

Rahul Christofferson

William Cuddy

Golda Greenspoon

Alex Martinborough

Simona Messina

Stuart Norton

L-P Veilleux

LEVIES

CAT'S EYE

Sabina Freiman

VCDS

Olivia Long

GUESTS

BURWASH CO-PRESIDENTS

Brennan Jackson

STUDENT

Shannon Brown

Brenan Sivapragasam

UTSU DIRECTORS

Zach Morgenstern

Victor Lee

Not In Attendance

OFFICIAL REGRETS

CHAIR
VP EXTERNAL

Gabriel Zoltan-Johan
Kareem Jarrah

ABSENT
COMMUTER

SaraLi Forouzanfar

Enxhi moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Auni seconds. Motion passes with two abstaining.

Stuart moves to approve agenda. L-P seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- *CLC* – Bergita
 - General Updates
 - Bergita: Welcome back and happy New Year! Exciting opportunities this term: Ideas for the World will be starting next week, there are still spots available. There are couple new sessions and one with President Gooch. Wellness Wednesday, the first one next week will be on budgeting and Rotman Commerce will run the seminar. It'll cover how to manage part time job income and other expenses – it's good to check out after spending maybe too much in December! An off-campus housing session will be happening the week after. Soup from Commuter Dons will still being happening on Thursdays. I'd like to also remind everyone of counsellors available in the Goldring Student Centre. I want to highlight the career educator, who is here every Friday. Life after Vic, a unique networking opportunity on the last week of January; evening with hor d'oeuvres and wine where you can meet Vic alumni; I hope all of you as leaders at Vic will attend. It's a great opportunity to meet alumni and get advice.

You are all very involved and others who are as well, I hope you take time to recognize people who dedicate a lot of time. Cressy Awards are open right now; they recognize the accomplishments of U of T students - campus wide. Encourage people to apply or nominate others. The Crescams will be opening soon for Vic students. Dean's Enhancement fund is also open for applications - the deadlines are all posted online on the Victoria College website.

Finally, I want to talk about the Orientation applications open right now for co-chair and exec. I know a lot of you may want to apply for don roles, but I want to also encourage you to apply for Orientation Co-Chair and Exec because I can assure that the development you receive from the role is almost equivalent. Additionally, Co-Chair receives an \$8,000 compensation for their work in the summer.

- Rahul: Do you have dates for the applications?
- Bergita: Co-chair applications are due the last week of January - the same day as donship and commuter don applications. Exec applications will be the second week of February.

LEVY REPORTS

- *VCDS* – Olivia [Long]

- Olivia: Our first show of the season is called The Abandoned City and it will be showing next Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It's \$5 for students.

Our new rental agreement has been finished. We had an agreement that was up to date until the end of last semester, and we've had difficulty in the past year with rentals so we've decided to update it for anyone wanting to rent equipment or costumes. We don't need VUSAC to ratify it. I sent it to Gabe, but I do not think it was passed on, I will read it out:

“For Vic students and student groups...” We also have information on rules for external student groups and responsibilities of the renters. It will be on our website over the weekend. I also would want a copy on hand with VUSAC for the Bob, for example, and even Orientation. I will send you guys a copy so that's on hand for reference to avoid any issues.

- *Board of Regents* – David

- Updates

- David: There was a very informal meeting with Kelley, Krista, Saad and myself to go over the draft of fees to give given to the CLC soon. They calculate student fees while they are raised at a Consumer Price Index by []. The CPI was at 3.3% this year, though the CLC has yet to meet and agree to the fees; but they are going forward with it. They will not be raising fees beyond that.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

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- *Vice President Operations* – Enxhi

- Council Restructuring

- Enxhi: Essentially, I would like to present my case and proposal for restructuring the council and then take questions. The first thing, did everyone read the proposal posted online? I'd like to explain how it came about and why some feel it was not properly brought to the council. In December, you all brought forward in an email [Enxhi, can you elaborate on this – missed]. I can't elaborate since it is not my story to tell, but the proposal was solution for what was happening and stemmed from that situation. I couldn't say anymore than what I did. When the proposal came out, it was stated it is not a binding document or even an amendment - it is the solution we thought of for the situation at hand. We did not come up with it without consulting the council; this was the judiciary's solution to the problems. We posted it so the council was able to read through what we came up with. Had we not, we would have had to discuss what to write in a proposal at this point; but now we already have a proposal to work with and we can discuss what to change and add so it can be passed at the next meeting. I expected it would've been well received since it was given in advance. It is not a binding document; it's just what we think the council should be changed to as the judiciary deliberated. I have heard, things that were not direct, as well as some criticism. I'd like to address those issues then continue the discussion. One we heard was about the President position changes; people were worried about the president becoming a figurehead. I was explained by Kathleen, that it

may seem like the President just represents the council without exercising as much liaising and work.

- Alex: Like the Queen?
- Kathleen: That's actually the analogy I used.
- Enxhi: The two big things were that, Kelley even said this, the President sits on more committees than Kelley and Gooch combined. This is crazy; this is a student we're talking about. Even with being the VUSAC president, there is a recommended three-course load. That's not fair to a student, that's restricting someone from graduating on time or even discourages someone to run. That's the whole motivation to delegate the presidential profile to the Vice Presidents. There is no specific of which parts of the profile should be moved in the proposal, that's why I'm bringing it to VUSAC. They can't keep the responsibilities they have and add more. For the VPO position, splitting it between operational, internal and clubs work is impossible. Clubs have unique needs. Speaking for myself, I don't think I gave as much potential to clubs as needed this year. Both people split up can give more to each position. The VPO position would be more than managing the council, I have received a lot of messages from members of the Vic community about how to do things and start things in the community. I think the VPO should be a person who knows how things function at Vic and VUSAC. That person can do the job much better if they are not only focusing on clubs. For the VPE position, that received more contention, but I have spoken to Kareem extensively about this. The position, in past years, is either oriented towards being a student life advocate or a politician, Kathleen will speak to past VPE's.
- Kathleen: I think Enxhi brings up a good point on focusing on one interest. Last year, Zack was very politically inclined and involved in the UTSU, he wasn't as invested in the Crescam Awards or Victorian of the Month. Before that, Zenia was the opposite and then before that, Shoaib was, from what I can remember, more politically inclined. They enter the job, not because they enjoy both, but by which of the portfolio requirements they are more interested in working on. The reason we've changed a lot of other things at Vic is based on someone's interests and where they lean towards
- Enxhi: That's essentially why I think it should be separated.
For Academic & Professional Development, I personally don't think, along with the judiciary members, that the position is going anywhere. For Scarlet & Gold, more needs to be mandated. What I wrote down is subject to change, but I think more needs to be mandated from the position in general but we can discuss what can be added.
- Rahul: Could either Enxhi or Kathleen speak to why Clubs Commissioner and VPI were combined in the first place?
- Kathleen: I was on the judiciary last year, so I can. We were dealing with a situation last year, but our clubs commissioner was impeached. We were dealing with someone who managed so many people and so much of the Vic community, but they were not reaching out to us. The Judiciary needed to know what was going on with clubs and we thought that having someone internally was important. The role of the Vice President isn't necessarily to keep things tidy, like the VPI had

formerly had to do in the office. That fell more into the area of the Secretary, so that delegation worked while adding clubs to the Vice President's portfolio. Additionally - it makes more sense for the VPI to take on more the president's role.

- David: I think getting rid of the clubs commissioner and bringing it back in is a difficult thing to do. I would advise against changing roles because of people's performances year-to-year. I do agree we need to delegate the presidential role. But maybe instead of specifically delineating roles to each member of the judiciary, the three people can have one portfolio that is delegated to each member. My last point is about the process in which this proposal was presented, those the ideas have merit but I have some issues with it. By putting this on a public platform instead of internally and confused students and sent a vague message.
- William: I'd like to read out a statement on my opinions on the topic: "statement".
- Rowan: I've already talked to some of you; I don't think this is supposed to be a circumvention of councilors and your opinions. There was no offence intended. Multiple secret meetings without public dialogue are also not good – that's why we posted it. David you mentioned that reacting to one year, I agree but to a point. No year on VUSAC will ever be the same, so we have to work with what experiences and institutional memory there is to make positions better. When Shoaib was president, there was no drama until the end and the council still floated through.
- Alex: Going back to the procedural side of things, I got a text from someone not on VUSAC or politically engaged telling me about the proposed changes. It felt like it was being pushed forward as if it was agreed openly. Enxhi and I met face to face to discuss this. They weren't closed meetings; they were had in the public meeting space. I'm not sure if splitting the levies from the VPE role is a good idea. I think it's maybe better to just have more councilors dedicated to that role. I think we need to remember that they are autonomous from VUSAC and having a levy commissioner may cramp their style, if you will. I think cropping out A&P development without exploring a portfolio is also not good. For S&G, I think that we can expand in terms of residence relations
- Stuart: I don't think the proposal is all bad. I think there is truth to aspects of having it been posted. I think it's important we address the procedural issues, though and we also need to acknowledge the problems from this year. I'm not going to repeat what others have said, it would have been better to be sent the original draft and not sent the link to the posted proposal. I want to ask you, Enxhi, why you did not feel comfortable with us not approaching you directly while we were told the judiciary was handling it? I'm curious because you have your own stance while we have ours.
- Enxhi: I was personally in a tough situation, but I couldn't say anything about what was happening. Basically, we just wanted to get this ball rolling. Did you read the preface and note to reader? Initially, it was supposed to be to VUSAC, but we wanted to make sure everyone knew it was just our idea. I didn't anticipate it would be

taken as a serious document, Sumeeta added another preface after addressing that.

- Brenan: From the point of view of an average student, the document could have been mitigated better if it was kept internal until it was more nuanced and then possibly releasing it once it was approved by the whole council. When it says creating additional positions for delegated tasks, the addition of tasks is difficult when it's hard to get students to run for positions in the first place, especially when spreading important roles from president and vice presidents required to be taken care of by professional students while they can go unclaimed.
- Enxhi: In the last elections, Kathleen, can you speak to why you didn't run? The reason for the person who was initially running against me dropped the election for VPO was because there is too much in the role. VPE has less people running because of the dual portfolio.
- Kathleen: I considered running for President since first year. But even as VPI last year, I struggled balancing school and council. I would've had to do summer school, an additional expense, to run for President. It counted me out of the elections.
- Auni: Regarding process with online posting, it went online and went against the message in the first place. First, diffusion of how many councillors we have – fewer positions will have a higher likelihood of having them all filled and having a higher quality council member. A lot of judiciary say they are swamped, but the councilors can be doing more and we are not communicated to enough. Entrenching the role of councillor in an amendment can also solve it.
- Kathleen: I agree that it would be valuable to have councillors be used a lot more, however, I think that you still need constitutional changes to the roles. They are specific that the president attends, it's so many meetings and I think that it is not good to have enough people.
- Sabina: I'm interested in clubs and levy commissioner. Maybe those can be combined? I think it would connect clubs and levies more. For the Frost Week clubs fair, I didn't know that the levies had to attend. That can help connect the two types of organizations at Vic. Second, from your description of the VPE separation from levies, it sounds different from the description on the document. It just sounds like politics and levies as compared to academic/social and political portfolio separation.
- Rahul: On separate and more boring note, I have spoken to other people, including Zack from last year. They really do not want the position of Academic & Professional Development to be cut. I would like to get in touch with last year's council what they imagined it to be.
- Kathleen: I personally agree with you, I do not think it should be cut either because we haven't given it much of a shot. We have only given it two elections. For the first election, it had just been introduced and it was suddenly added on after a resignation for the second. It has potential and we should keep it.
- Alex: We should also be wary of adding positions to the executive, when you're only removing one position – but it would give an even number on council and possibly give ties. The lack of involvement of councilors has been a theme and a common complaint from the executives is the lack of activity on their roles. I speak for the other

seven we'd rather work than worry about VUSAC related issues. For Scarlet & Gold, Olivia, you have a lot of things to do.

- Olivia: I do have already a lot in my portfolio.
- Enxhi: What else do you have?
- Olivia: Highball is the biggest event at Vic.
- Enxhi: But what else? I mainly meant first semester events.
- Alex: To finish my thoughts - I'm also concerned about making the president a figurehead.
- Golda: I prepared a statement, though I feel it may not be directly related to the conversation: "statement".
- Olivia: A couple things of the proposal in its entirety. I think for the past month and a half, we've been discussing communication issues and this is a huge example of that. Some things have remained private but letting us know we are restructuring would've been a step. I was told the day off that my position was being put up for restructuring and it honestly pissed me off. I may not have done much as S&G but I spoke to Kathleen and Sebastien that you make the position what you want it to be and I would've liked to help structure it more based on my experience.
- Simona: Another way to work on delegation is pair councillors with executives based on personality after the elections. I do want to commend the judiciary on taking action on the structure after seeing issues.
- David: A sense from the room there is an acknowledgement that VUSAC needed a change and resentment to this document. There was a long consultation process on the position changes. Why not organize a sub-committee, you cannot discuss this in one hour in this room, why not have primarily councillors put together a committee? Simona, what you said is the structure previously and though it had problems, it did seem to function better. I fully agree with everything Golda said, why not build on that extensive talent and use it to restructure?
- L-P: The constitutional review committee and the internal review committee could have been used to structure this. This relates to the lack of communication.
- Claire: I can't speak to S&G, but I know as a commissioner if there were changes to my position, I would have liked to be consulted. Logistically, it doesn't make sense to change a position you've never held.
- Rowan: I think the problem we've had is siloing. We would come back to meetings with cross-roading between judiciary and councilors; communication has been poor and there has been confusion. More concentrated responsibility for the councillors is what I'm hearing. If there are lists in the constitution for the councillors, that would probably function better. For example, there is a councilors for a levy liaison and clubs committee. I was talking to the Trin co-heads about how mental my year has been, they asked me why we don't have co-heads. They didn't have to sacrifice academic and extra curricular involvement, they could balance it between two people and two semesters.
- Golda: If this was mainly a change in the judiciary, it would have been fine to maybe only consult you all. But it's problematic it was drafted without asking the rest of us.

- David: My idea of an all councillor sub committee, if there is going to be a new structure – as we often do here. You can get together and discuss the restructuring.
- Simona: I wanted to stress the importance of the staff meetings and I think it's good to have an informal staff meeting where we can voice our opinions, chat and discuss.
- Sabina: My interactions have been mainly with finance chair, so I think the councilor is better for levies than an entire commissioner position.
- Brenan: For the president position, I have a few questions. The first one is about attending committees: are you representing the Vic student body or VUSAC or both? If a Vice took your position, would you be able to influence what they vote on and say? And for A&P Development, I think the position does exist and the person who would take on this position is doing – instead of having a position, but it would be good to even have a page on the website to list links, have even a councillor work on this.
- Rowan: It depends on the relationship between the VPE and the President; it was tough this year because there was no VPE in the summer. I got adjusted to working on this alone. With Jelena, I know her and Zack would work together, Zack would assume Jelena's position.
- Alex: I think the co-heads could work and having the Vice Presidents work underneath them. This will also allow levies to work autonomously. I don't think we should sacrifice the quality of a proposal for expediency; we can all sit down and come up with a great proposal.
- Enxhi: I didn't mean to rush this. It spurred more discussion by putting it up than just posting it internally. SaraLi mentioned concerns a few times about Academic & Professional Development and they were not responded to. I do see the error in my ways and I apologize for that.
- Kathleen: I just wanted to point out to everybody that you have two more meetings before promotion for elections would start and nom packages go out March 1st. You have January 30th, February 13th – that's why changes need to happen fast to make sure people have time to run for the positions.

Alex moves to extend the discussion by 10 minutes. L-P seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Stuart: Golda brought up a while ago while looking at structure proposal, we should meet as a whole council. Rowan, I think co-presidents is something we can discuss. I think it is worth discussing this with the rest of the Vic community.
- Golda: Briefly, I appreciate the fact that this got us talking and we have made progress tonight but I do not think it's an excuse for anything. Just because we've talked doesn't mean it's fixed.
- Rahul: I wanted to respond to entrenching specific roles of councillors, I want to point out I had five initiatives last semester and did one and half probably. I was given menial work to do for mine after pestering my supervisor for the initiative. Let us do the work we are assigned and maybe adding specifics to councillor roles can help a lot.
- Simona: Of my initiatives, to be honest, my greatest contribution was Friday office hours.

- Claire: I had been informed that councilors are just people who do things for your events, I do want to hear what councilors have to say about their roles.
 - Auni: Just a reminder, councillors are the future of VUSAC – so maybe it is best to provide more in depth tasks.
 - Rowan: I was the most active councilor in my year; you're special as councilors because you are eager to work. I'm suggesting moving forward that we have strategy groups with one exec in each group and have councilors in each group and discuss different elements of the proposal. Then by the next meeting, Vic-wide consultation can happen and then vote on something for the second meeting
 - Alex: I think splitting into three separate groups, I think next week should be it and then three weeks until election packages.
 - Kathleen: It is six weeks technically, but it is more four weeks because one week is promotion and one is reading week.
 - Claire: I don't see it being something in the next election. But for it to be sound, it should take time.
 - David: Council changes from year to year and a lot of memory is lost in transition – that's a lot of incentive for Kathleen's argument. If you look at this council, most people's first year is this year and may be passed on.
 - William: I like the idea of co-presidents; I've looked at the constitution and seen the breadth of the president's responsibilities. There should be a way to structure a board for a president position. Commissioners almost act independently of the councillors and the judiciary – reiterate this is a professional institution.
 - Ben: In terms of these proposals, I didn't know where I stood on them until today. Alex and I both met with her today, but I was disappointing to find out it was typed up in one night by one person. I do caution spinning off levies from VPE, we have been mandated an equivalent amount of work for levies. I think clubs commissioner is useful. I like the proposals that were mentioned; co-presidents are important. The proposal put before us sought institutional changes, and it was accurate in saying that the president's position is overburdened and I think that stripping the president's position is not valid but diffusing them between two people is helpful.
 - Bergita: With what I'm hearing, instead of having people become overwhelmed but delegating to the people reaching out. It needs to be specific in order to have people be able to complete assigned roles. It's okay for things to have happened in a particular way due to personal roles. I'm sad to hear about you thinking that you have the impression people say you are "spineless", I never see that when I walk in.
 - Enxhi: Is everyone okay in a random assortment for the groups? I will work on that tonight and then send it out. At the next meeting, we can regroup from the groups and then hold the AGM after that.
- General Updates
 - Enxhi: Where are the Winterfest chairs?
 - Rowan: Aimee is at work and I'm not sure about Emily.
 - Ben: I did request a breakdown on how much lost on the pub night, but we'll discuss it at a later date.
 - Enxhi: I'd like to thank Sumeeta for the take down of the clubs fair, thank you to those who showed up to the clubs fair.

Finance Chair

Alex moves for a five minute recess. L-P seconds. Motion passes with one opposed.

- Finance Report
 - Ben: [insert budget breakdown from sheet]
 - Auni: With regards to commuter festive dinner being a success, but Student Projects would not be available, would we fund it?
 - Ben; Yes, we'll explore.
 - Enxhi: They used at SP amount?
 - Ben: Yes. [The Bob: Gardiner Gala: Thank you to the Dean's Office. Mic the Change: Not a revenue initiative. Swag Sale:] There were tabled budget lines that weren't brought up after the budget meeting, but there are no cheque reqs - so we will pass them as a formality in the future. We had a surplus when passing it, and now we have a larger surplus. [Printing Fees:]
 - Rahul: For the swag sale, how much was spent on the swag sale items?
 - Enxhi: It was a Student Project, but we can't find how much was spent.
 - Rowan: It was four years ago.
 - Auni: Should we potentially look into new merchandise?
 - Ben: It can be looked into. I'm looking into creating a new system for new budget lines for different bodies, like for levies, with budget steering. It's one thing to reallocate and another to add.
 - Rahul: Any updates on the credit union?
 - Ben: I did meet with Enxhi on Thursday with Alex about the credit union, the message conveyed to me that due to other events happening, it was decided that I would want an assistant on that we will not be pursuing it. I think Enxhi shares my opinion that the initiative has legs but it will be difficult to get off the ground. I don't expect it to be done in this year – it would be a four-hour commitment a week to have it established in a year. In the next months and year, we can consult and looking into how to get capital and explore viability and bring in people who know what they are doing – I am a student government finance chair, not a financial consultant.
 - Auni: We were all excited a month ago, how is it being dropped
 - Rowan; if we wanted to review VUSAC structure, there is no way to go fully in on the credit union – it won't be the headliner for the term. I want to get a lot of a data on mental health for the term.
 - Ben: Rowan and I did have a meeting, the terms of his commitment last semester and he said he could not support it directly at the time, but I still think we can move forward.
 - Rowan: More involvement. I still ant to be able to look at my GPA and smile at it.
- Discussion
 - Ben: This is something I'd like to discuss on the minutes. When Conor's impeachment failed, there was a lot of crisis and discord as well as a feeling of lack of communication. I do feel that having a candid discussion, not on the minutes, was helpful, I think we owe it to students to explain circumstances of attempted impeachment, role of judiciary, voting and Conor's role but I do think it is important to discuss these things in the open. It would be a good idea to do this now and be open to express opinions and insight into the decision making process. I think it's what people deserve.

- Rowan: Basically, from my point of view. I should've prepared a statement, but did not realize it would happen today. I would like to apologize for what I called misjudgement. I did not give people the respect they deserve. At the end of the day, I did not have to be as elusive about it in order to protect him – it did not allow everyone the opportunity to understand the situation fully. As I've said to people on council, I succeeded externally and failed internally at this time with the AGM and the impeachment. At the same time, I threw myself at the AGM instead of focusing on issues with Conor. I would have preferred to give an advanced notice to the council, and I would have liked to encourage conversation during that impeachment meeting. There was not a problem with the document as much as it did not suffice for the circumstances. I could point fingers, but collectively: yes, we all had shortcomings but it was November and I expected you all be ready to understand what everything meant without help from the judiciary. I would like to apologize for my role in it.
- Alex: If I had the opportunity to go back and vote differently, I would. There were communication problems, but it's not all one-sided. We should have asked "Conor, are these true?" while he provided no defence. Outside of the document, I felt I should have not voted a certain way because of what I know outside of the document. It was a big learning experience and moving forward, I know I won't sit there and watch.
- Simona: I walked in thinking it was a normal meeting, not knowing internal matters meant impeachment. I would have preferred more time to have read and understood the document, then ask more questions. I would have voted differently than my first time had we voted a week later.
- Stuart: What happened that meeting was a big mixture of miscommunication, issues from us not asking questions in the meeting and I can tell you looking back, we did fail together unfortunately. I think we have all come together somewhat from that after our last conversation in 2014. I think we should continue talking about these things and being transparent – we should not be afraid to speak our minds and as a first year councillor, I do not believe Conor to be homophobic or misogynistic but by not impeaching him based on the document, we condoned that type of behaviour. I do have a positive opinion of Conor, but I do apologize to the Victoria College community for my role in the situation and we have talked about a no-tolerance policy because we have not talked about it before the experience.
- Alex: The discussions have come out of it have prompted need to be involved in discussions and what's going on. The discussion at the end of last semester and the discussion today about the proposal is showing that we've grown from the experience. The way we voted made us think and I think we will no longer sit back – I think we can have a great second term.
- Enxhi: We have moved forward in a very positive way, I think we can take away a lot of personal growth and I can see that you and even myself. It's a positive thing to take away from a bad situation
- William: My inability to ask questions about the situation, my vote to abstain did not take into account other members – I thought to let

others more acquainted in the matter make the decision. I did not anticipate that it would take such a large toll on council, I would have voted differently.

- Auni: Our discussion at the end of year, and I want us to keep in mind the ideas of proper communication and open communication with council – be specific rather than concise and remain open throughout the year
- Rowan: We talked in the staff meeting that we will have an equity statement at the beginning of the constitution that I will bring up in few weeks time – if you break the equity statement, you forfeit your right to be on council. I think it would be good for damage reparation to put in that statement; if you act like that, these are the consequences.
- William: The issues at hand were not a point of contention, I knew that the accusations, if true, would be grounds for impeachment but I did not know how true they were – which is why I did not vote.
- Rowan: I don't know if it would have improved the situation, its about us trying to send a message of no tolerance for certain behaviour. Most faculties and societies at U of T do have statements at the beginning of their constitutions.
- Golda: I think we should have some kind of training on how impeachments work and how to deal with things like that on the spot. With that exact situation, being put on the spot was difficult and the equity statement is the step in the right direction.
- Simona: People in their third, second and fourth year take for granted knowing what everything is. It's our first year, we are still learning.
- Claire: Are we still planning to do a second retreat?
- Ben: I think it's a good idea; our first was not finished.
- Claire: I think it would be good to continue this discussion then.
- Enxhi: If people are interested, we can make that happen again. We can work on the scheduling aspect.
- Stuart: For future councils, maybe not necessarily have it paired with equity training in October but maybe more general seminar for during our first retreat, and we can remind everyone elected to council at the time of the consequences of actions and reaction to issues – it's good to have a discussion when first elected about conduct and procedure for things like impeachment.
- Rahul: I think equity training was great, but they were also from an external group - if there was someone from council to frame how our interactions at VUSAC members.
- Claire: My objective was Stu's point to make Equity Training mandatory.
- Stuart: I really appreciate the equity training and Rahul said it perfectly, but I think that type of training is good when welcomed.
- Enxhi: We did try to talk about this at the retreat – I did not anticipate this happening but I do not know if this could have occurred at the retreat if people were comfortable, it is something to take into consideration for future councils.
- Ben: An equity statement is necessary in the preamble – I would caution a no-tolerance process, there should be consultation and an impeachment process instead. If you are interpreted as contravened, but a zero tolerance policy can have a chance to be abused.

- Rowan: I didn't mean that someone would be severed immediately. Impeachment would begin with the violation of that. Equity training was positive, but people also want a VUSAC-focused one is what I'm hearing. I have had training, but I am not trained enough – I would turn it to Bergita and the Dean's Office.
- Bergita: We would be glad to, but it would be good to have two perspectives on equity training.
- L-P: I have largely stayed mum about this due to personal implications but I have no regrets with my own vote. I think both the training and preamble is important.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Education & Equity* – Claire
 - Claire: I have a formal apology on the previous topic of the impeachment: **“statement”**
 - Rahul: It reminded me of something I forgot to say earlier. As a general statement that may have made the decision difficult is that there was lack of clarification of what would happen to the role, no one knew if there would be a by-election, a hiring process or a divvying up of the roles.
 - Ben: Ee lost a \$200.00 deposit because of the confusion for The Bob's props. It was not put in Conor's old mailbox and lost.
 - Rowan: It would have been pre-emptive to decide it, but maybe having a more structured explanation of what happens to positions post-impeachment is important. I didn't want to be too aggressive and make it seem I had already organized as if he was impeached.
- *Sustainability* – Alice
 - Update
 - Alice: This semester is pretty busy but we have our networking sessions coming up at the end of the month.
 - Bergita: Jennifer is contacting people who are coming to our alumni session, with about 11 people attending.
 - Alice: There will be 11 people and we will need people taking care of the guests from the council – so let me know if you'd like to volunteer. There will be one with U of T professors on February 26th. I actually wanted to ask everyone about the garden, I surveyed 20 Vic students and no one knew where the garden was. Should we continue to manage the garden or discontinue it?
 - Ben: I am concerned, it is \$500.00 for an honorarium that practically no one knows about and there is a great opportunity there. It could be used for educational purposes.
 - Rahul: Is it the fountain behind E.J. Pratt?
 - Ben: It's the garden patches behind BG.
 - Claire: We had someone who was running the gardening club and now she oversees it. There are many things on campus that do not require an honorarium but maybe maintaining it with a lower or no honorarium
 - Enxhi: The person who is supposed to oversee it is supposed to start in late February but the honorarium is for it as a summer job. We could advertise it with the elections to garner more attention.

- Simona: Why don't we put fruit trees or bushes? My grandmother has those and it's fantastic. Even pumpkins, Halloween is a big deal here and I'd like to see us grow things!
- Claire: I think that's a good idea because there's not a lot of things in Burwash
- William: I agree with Enxhi that we need more advertising because I did not know about it this year. If we keep advancing it towards the end of winter and beginning of spring, I don't think we should get rid of it at all. People in residence hang around there a lot.
- Alice: What I'm asking is how many people are benefitting from it currently, as in the summer? Is it worth the expense?
- Claire: I don't think the issue is that it's not a useful resource, but maybe making it more accessible or widely known with better vegetables.
- Alice: But is it worth the time?
- Golda: Is it a club? I think it's doable to decrease the honorarium and it's important to connect agriculture and food geography, I think it's a good thing.
- Rowan: I don't think there's a question if the money is worth it. If we put enough into it, we'll get enough out of it. I know when Tegan had some big ideas for the Goldring, it didn't get to happen because she left and there wasn't communication of what she wanted it to happen. I think the Vic pumpkin patch is a great idea and I fully support it. Maybe the honorarium not being \$500 is necessary.
- Alice: There are a lot of events, the clothing drive and Climate change conference and Town Hall. We have gotten a response from Thomas Muclair, we are waiting for the Green Party and Justin Trudeau.
- Rowan: There was someone who contacted me in August about the conference but I will forward that to you.
- Alice: I had an idea about The Big Green Booklet, and create a package of booklets about all the Sustainability events.

I just also wanted to address some of the touchy topics. I wasn't sure how to deal with the impeachment at the time. I think now my vote would have also changed, the more we interact, the more we will get better. I think Enxhi has done a good time in integrating social, staff meetings and general meetings. I feel like a lot of the stuff I'm doing right now and I send a lot of emails to Sumeeta about events, but I feel I do not get responses from people and I feel like I am doing a lot of things by myself. I am at the end of the agenda. After all the touchy topics, no one wants to hear about Sustainability.

- Rahul: On the note of being cut off, the issues you raised in regards to the impeachment and council, why didn't you talk about them in the hour and half we were talking about them?
- Alice: I'm very timid; I need time to process things amidst all the hands and debate.
- Alex: I think that we should start going after that pumpkin patch idea. I think it may be possible to get Justin Trudeau, but there is an environmental critic for Toronto from the Liberal party named John McKay – maybe that's someone of interest to contact? How many people who lived in lower have seen and gone to the community garden?
- Stuart: We shouldn't give up and resell the image of it.

- Simona: We should integrate into tours of campus during and before frosh? Alice, in terms of your comments, you don't have to feel alone and in terms of your events, you can include us.
- Alice; I do try to include people, but the more people you include, the harder it is to manage.
- Simona: But you can even just let us know.
- Rowan: I don't know if this was done last year, but the speakers' list used to be randomized on the agenda.
- Enxhi: I don't know if you need to randomize it, but it is ordered in terms of how pressing issues can be – usually the judiciary is pressing.

Enxhi moves to extend discussion time by ten minutes. Motion passes with two abstaining.

- Rowan: Time is allotted based on when people are available to speak – sometimes not everyone can stay for the entirety of the meeting.
- Rahul: An example is the budget meeting went very long and some people missed your points on the UTSU.
- Auni: I want to change the straw poll to random order, we should let Gabe decide the order based on levies and clubs and council members.
- Ally: You could organize it by when people submit agenda items to Gabe. You don't technically need to vote on it because you vote on the approval of the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, though a straw poll can gauge what everyone is thinking.

Straw Poll: Would you prefer having an agenda with randomized, first-come-first-serve basis based as opposed to hierarchal position basis? 9 in favour, 3 opposed,

- Claire: Alice, what would you like to expect from us as a council?
- Alice: That's a tough question, I can't say right now, I would have to think about it. I had some things to do last semester and I was told to organize my meetings better last semester. I'm not sure if it was my organization abilities or if it was their lack of interest. Is it the nature of sustainability that's not interesting or am I doing something wrong? I need volunteers for my events to help with set up and other logistics – I was just confused at the beginning.
- Ben: Would you want to meet about the budget for those events if it would help?
- Alice: No that's okay, I've already settled everything with you.
- Auni: Honorarium should not be optional for the position.
- Ben: I think paying someone \$500.00 to tend a garden in the summer that most people don't use is not the same as having a \$250.00 honorarium and using the rest to supply the garden. I don't think it's a good use of money when the garden is fallow, I think \$250.00 is fair and the rest invested in the garden.
- Rahul: We also need to consider the hours put in. The number of people who use the garden is irrelevant to how much effort the gardener puts in; it needs to be focused in what the work entails.
- William: I wanted to quickly go back to the website thing, that was a glitch and the reason I was doing that was to update the website. It was only showing sustainability from 2013, I wanted to start the update process and make it viewable.
- Rahul: In response to what you were saying in interest in position, it is maybe harder to get people enthusiastic about the environment, but with my experience with SaraLi and Saad, they delegate a lot to the VOCA execs through constant communication.

- Alice: This is my own problem; I will leave you all out of it. It's not effective in my case.
- Rahul: It's the entire council's problem if you need help and we can all help you.
- Enxhi: Two things: About the gardener, we should also realize if we restart the gardening things, we would need to put in money for new seeds. Initially the honorarium was \$500.00 for not just for the gardener – about \$200.00 was for equipment.
 - On the note of your job, I think you're doing a great job and you're motivated with great ideas – if you have problems running meetings, it's a difficult task and that's why we have a position to run meetings because they are hard. You can reach out to even Bergita about tips as well as the council, you're not the only one who is learning skills like these. Reach out if you need help and we're all here to help each other, but we can't help you if you don't let us know.
- Alice: It's not that I don't, but it's more the nature of the situation.
- Claire: We're spending a lot of time on the garden, but one last thing: was the clubs commissioner a good suggestion? I think the clubs commissioner could have the garden in their portfolio.
- *Scarlet & Gold* – Olivia [Klasios]
 - Updates
 - Olivia: Gardiner Gala went well, thanks to Stuart, Simona, Conor, Aimee and Emily – as well as Rahul and Auni who drove to Dufferin Mall to pick up so much pop – and Bergita. Update on Highball: we picked a venue – no one can know yet - and we are working towards ironing out details like the theme. Grad Banquet applications closed today at 5 pm, and we have had one. The applicant was Enxhi, so congratulations!
 - Ben: Would you want to extend at all?
 - Olivia: They need to get going with the event.
 - Claire: Maybe if we tried to advertise things like this more, we would have a bigger pool of people.
 - Olivia: I would suggest extending to get a bigger pool, actually. We can extend until Friday.
 - Rahul: We can try extending it, and if there's no one new, there should be no problem letting them know Enxhi is the chair on Wednesday?
 - Olivia: If there's one more person, there can be co-chairs.
 - Claire: How many people on the committee?
 - Olivia: It's up to the committee. The structure is similar to Winterfest.
 - Claire: Enxhi, would you prefer a co-chair?
 - Kathleen: From what I recall, the positions are not by application – they're specific to whomever the co-chair knows and wants as residence and commuter representatives.
 - Rahul: If nobody applies, we can just tell Enxhi she has the job on her own.
 - Kathleen: If I have a deadline for an assignment, I won't hand it in two days ahead. What if three more people apply on Friday, how can you make a distinction between who has been decided?
 - Olivia: I will extend it until Friday because I think a co-chair will work well.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Stuart: Gardiner Gala, Highball, Grad Banquet. We have talked about the role of councillor in this meeting; my experience on the gardiner gala was really positive and it's possible to utilize councillors in a positive way. If it takes another personal meeting to be stronger as a group, let's finish this semester off strong.
- Golda: Just an update, continuing stuff from last semester and finance coming up. International Week will be happening with Claire. The bigger thing for me this semester is that I am helping running an intercollegiate event for first years, advertising is not starting yet but, it will be on February 12th. Basically, started to first years but open to all at U of T – the whole idea is that it's a throwback to a high school dance. Most colleges are participating. For us financially, each college put in \$400.00, but since most colleges have free printing – we were thinking of contributing \$200.00 and using printing costs. I will have more stuff coming up soon about it.

Three hour mark is reached.

Auni moves to extended meeting time by 3 minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

- Auni: Sad Lamps will be able Monday to sign out. It's an important initiative, for everyone who isn't familiar with SAD I will post on Facebook. It will be one-hour sign outs and fill out their names, student numbers and emails. These are \$200 lamps and need everyone to be on board.
- Claire: I worry about people signing them out with all their information, since it is a mental health sign out.
- Auni: I will be taking those down because they are expensive. It's just for signing it out and taking it out with you. You don't need to do so if it's in the Goldring.
- Kathleen: I think it's more effective to have a few more places on campus to us them instead, just because they are expensive.
- Auni: I will try to make this format work first.

Motion []: Olivia moves to adjourn meeting. L-P seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting is adjourned.