



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 July 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Goldring Student Centre  
MINUTES

### **In Attendance**

#### **VUSAC**

#### **Judiciary**

CO-PRESIDENTS

Benjamin Atkins and Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

VP EXTERNAL

Alex Martinborough (via Skype)

VP INTERNAL

Rahul Christoffersen

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Lucinda Qu

#### **Assessor Members**

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR

Bergita Petro

CHAIR

Emily Dyer

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Saambavi Mano

FINANCE CHAIR

Shannon Brown

#### **Commissioners & Councillors**

COMMUTER

Anna Pozdniakova

EQUITY

Claire Wilkins

SCARLET & GOLD

Stuart Norton

COUNCILLORS

N/A

#### **LEVIES**

CAT'S EYE

Thomas Lynch

THE STRAND

Rhianna Jackson-Kelso

#### **GUESTS**

UTSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Auni Ahsan (via Skype)

### **Not in Attendance**

#### **OFFICIAL REGRETS**

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL

Michelle Varcarciuc

DEVELOPMENT

ARTS & CULTURE  
SECRETARY  
SUSTAINABILITY

Sumeeta Farrukh  
Golda Greenspoon  
Leila Atri

Rahul moves to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Stuart seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Emily: Does anyone have any additions to the agenda?
- Ben: I have a question before we get started: Auni wanted to Skype in, when are we going to be accommodating that?
- Emily: I told him somewhere between 7:10 and 7:20, so we're putting him just after the CLC update.
- Ben: Okay, perfect.
- Lucinda: Auni has also asked that my things be mentioned just a little bit earlier because I'll be talking about the ratification of his club. So I guess what I'm asking is if it's possible for me to speak earlier.
- Emily: Is he asking that you speak while he's on Skype?
- Lucinda: Or that my items just be brought up as earlier as possible in the agenda, and then he will probably chime in at some point to talk about his club.
- Emily: Okay, so, yeah, I can move you earlier. Do you want to be right after him?
- Lucinda: Sure.

Lucinda moves to approve the changes to the agenda. Stuart seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Emily: Just a couple of quick notes on the agenda. As per the constitution, the agenda has to be sent out three days in advance, and I know because it's summer and because sometimes things come up closer to the meeting than that, that's not always feasible. So what I'm going to do is I'm going to send out a preliminary agenda three days in advance and I'd ask that everyone who knows what they're going to say before that send their items in before, and anything that gets sent in after that three-day before period, I'm going to read out at the beginning of the meeting so that everyone knows they're there in case they haven't had a chance to check the latest agenda. Anything that's not in by 9 PM the night before will be an additional item. Also, quick note because I've had a couple of problems with this: all regrets must be submitted by email, otherwise they don't count. The regrets listed on the agenda will only be voting members going forward, since they're who we need to ensure quorum.

Ben moves to approve the agenda. Stuart seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

## **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

- *CLC* – Bergita
  - Update

- Bergita: Hello everyone, I hope you're having a good summer so far. I'm here with three updates. The first one is a quick Orientation update, you'll see me working on these postcards, they look awesome and many of you have actually been working on them. They will be mailed out to all incoming students as a reminder for Orientation. I'll pass them around for you all to take a look at. Reminders are also going out through email and various social media outlets. The second update is about the Dean's Office. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet her already, but we have a new staff member in the Dean's Office. She will be Executive Assistant to the Dean, but also the Ideas for the World Program Coordinator, and her name is []. You might see her around, so that's who she is. The third update is about a campaign, and part of a conversation that you all have engaged in by actually leading the conversation, and that is the Ask, Listen, Talk campaign. It's working on engaging students in a conversation about sexual violence, mental health, and many other issues that are relevant. The Dean would like to extend an invitation to all of you to join her on Tuesday from 12-2 for some conversation. She wants to hear ideas from you guys about messaging, content, and all those things. If you're not familiar with the campaign or haven't heard about it, this will be a good opportunity to find out more and help shape it. So, you all will receive an email invitation about this, if you're interested in attending. It's not mandatory, it's only if you'd like to be a part of the conversation. If you guys have any questions I'd be happy to answer them. Perfect, thank you.
  - *UTSU Directors – Auni*
    - Update
      - Auni: Hi guys, sorry for having to Skype in. So, last weekend the UTSU had its board member retreat as well as the July board meeting. It was a long and grueling meeting with several controversies to discuss. It ended up lasting about six hours with only one third of the items on the agenda completed. Among the issues discussed was the UTSU's potential adoption of BDS, which is Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel. A vote motion was scheduled to strike a committee to examine the issue. BDS would be voted on by the student body at a special general meeting in the fall after the AGM. If you have an opinion, whether you support or do not support this, feel free to contact me on Facebook or email me at [auni@utsu.ca](mailto:auni@utsu.ca). The motion was not completed, and we're going to be holding an emergency meeting. If you're interested in attending, just shoot me a message and I'll send you the details when it's announced. The other important thing that I wanted to note is that commission meetings are starting. I find it kind of ridiculous as a politically involved student that throughout the entirety of last year I didn't hear about any commissions, and I want to change that this year. Basically, what commissions are, a

different commission is held for every executive on the UTSU and any member of the Union who shows up can vote on things after their first meeting. So, you go to a commission meeting to recommend things to the Board, recommend things for the Union to adopt, and also even direct budgets. Commission meetings have started as of last month. They happen every month. If you're interested in attending a commission you are free to attend, and I will try to advertise them to Vic students when more are announced. Finally, at the emergency meeting, we're also discussing a motion for a CFS committee to examine the CFS and what it provides the University of Toronto Students' Union. As you might know, students give about \$750 000 to the CFS every year, so it's good that that's being examined. If you have any questions about any of those, again, just email me at [auni@utsu.ca](mailto:auni@utsu.ca) or send me a Facebook message. Steve will be back from Europe soon to report to you in addition to me.

## JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *VP Student Organizations* – Lucinda
  - Club Ratifications
    - Lucinda: I don't really have many updates aside from this one club ratification. Auni would like to start Vic Explore, and he can tell you about thirty seconds worth to do with that club. Take it away.
    - Auni: Vic Explore is a club that George Wilson and I want to start. We want to help Vic students both new and familiar with Toronto explore what there is to see in the city through an activity called geocaching. Some of you may be familiar with it, but basically it's a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game which uses GPS-enabled devices and stuff, and it is lots of fun. We would offer students who are new to the independence of university life the freedom to discover what we have found we love about Toronto. We'd be going on excursions about every one or two weeks depending on the weather. For this reason, we really want to get the club started and going in the fall if possible, so that we can start when the weather is nice before we shut down and stay inside for the rest of the winter. We're requesting money for TTC passes, so that we can fund people who can't pay for transportation to go on the trips, and snacks. We've budgeted about \$25 per trip. Within the summer budget period we'd want to go on four trips, two in September and two in October. The total budget requested is \$195, but this vote would just be for ratification of the club regardless of what happens in the summer budget.
    - Lucinda: Exactly. So, to be clear, the details don't have to be finalized now.

Lucinda moves to ratify Vic Explore as a club. Stuart seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Update

- Lucinda: Other than that, we have discovered further issues to deal with for the clubs storage units. If anybody would be willing to help me help other clubs transition while I'm gone, that would be really great. Just to help oversee the movement of club items. If that's not the case, club transitions will happen right at the start of fall.

## FINANCE REPORTS

- *Finance Chair* – Shannon
  - Finance Update
    - We just closed our books, finally, for the year, which means we have a final, official surplus of \$13 827.51. This doesn't take into account the fact that we overpaid many levies and haven't resolved all of those issues yet. Once that's resolved, it should raise our surplus by about \$5000-\$6000. The percentage of the budgeted amount that we spent last year was only 86.7%, just over \$12 500 went unspent by clubs and commissions. Hopefully, that won't be the case this year. I'd like to spend all the money we can and make sure that students get the most out of everything. If you're interested, the most money we made last year, aside from student fees, was from Highball. We made \$7500 from that, and \$1500 from the Bob.
  - Summer Budget
    - For summer budgets, the request forms are out for clubs, levies, and commissions. They're due next Wednesday for commissions, next Monday for clubs and levies. As soon as we get those in, we'll start budget steering meetings and hopefully have a summer budget ready for presentation by mid-August to be ratified. If you haven't submitted a budget request form yet, please do that as soon as possible. Even if you aren't requesting any money for the summer period, it would still be helpful to know that you are actively choosing not to ask for funding.
  - Credit Union
    - Finally, we are looking to expand our Credit Union Future Planning Committee with a few extra students, since there are only four of us on it right now. There are applications out; you can find them on the VUSAC Facebook page and, I believe, on the website. They're due July 31. If you know anyone who is at all interested in credit unions, finances, or banking, please forward that to them, let them know about it. We would really appreciate having their voice on the committee.

## COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Scarlet & Gold* – Stuart
  - General Updates
    - Stuart: With regards to Scarlet and Gold stuff, I'm still shopping around for a venue for the first pub night. I have a few places in mind, so I'm

hoping to actually finalize that in the next couple of days so that I have something to put on the budget request. Other than that, the big thing for me right now is that I've been talking to Sarah from Events Victoria about the semi-formal that's happening on October 15. We are looking at hosting it in Old Vic. Other than that, things are still kind of coming together, I've been talking to Bergita about doing a risk assessment, but we're looking at having the event in Old Vic. This is exciting because a lot of the feedback we get about Highball is that it is slightly inaccessible, even though the tickets are subsidized, so it would be great to have one nice event this year that's on Vic campus that will not be nearly as expensive as Highball. I will keep you posted on what's happening, but it will be a great time.

- *Commuter* – Anna
  - General Updates
    - Anna: Just a couple of general updates: thanks to the comments that promoted the VOCA page in the Victoria Class of 2019 Facebook page, the VOCA page has been experiencing an influx of likes and attention, so we've been trying to stay updated on our social media, we've been trying to update the commuter website to make it a great resource for people, and we are also preparing the exec team with designated roles, whether it be social media, photography, finances. There will soon be talks with Bergita, the Orientation team, the commuter dons, as well as VOCA about our involvement for Orientation. We're really excited to see what we will be able to do with that. It is a bit early, but we are preparing our summer budget and we are excited about the upcoming year, we look to have a presence, and overall things are looking good. The exec team is growing strong as a family and we are excited for the year.

Rahul moves to move the Equity update to the end of the agenda. Lucinda seconds. Passes unanimously.

## **JUDICIARY REPORTS**

- *Co-Presidents* – Ben and Gabe
  - President's Report
    - Gabe: First things first, it was advertised on the VUSAC page, but we also got a Varsity article about PRESTO, just generally around campus. Most importantly, PRESTO at Museum Station, which is a multi-year effort, starting with Jelena Savic's administration. The project finally finished with some goading on our part. I'd just like to thank the VP External of the UTSU, Jasmine Denike, for her help in establishing PRESTO at Museum well in advance of when it was supposed to be completed after the delay. It's also great that VUSAC's first coverage in the Varsity this year wasn't negative. The second thing that we want to update you guys

on is the state of our summer focus groups on sexual violence and mental health. For the sexual violence focus group, we have had two meetings so far as of our last VUSAC meeting. The first meeting was just everyone getting acquainted with the project, and with the goals of the project. The second meeting was the start of the initiative to produce a sexual violence protocol within Victoria College. Dean of Students Kelley Castle came in, as well as Residence Life Coordinator Shiny, and the meeting was incredibly productive with both of them there. There are many different ideas which have their full support, including the introduction of paid counsellors so that it's not just former residence dons sitting in to provide support for people within the circumstances of the meeting. Having paid, trained counsellors who are professionals is incredibly great, and we're very grateful for that support. Beyond that, there's the protocol coming along. The second meeting included the reviewing and revision of our own documents, but also documents from universities across Canada and all over the world. We're reviewing documents from more controversial areas such as Columbia University, as well as "exemplary" universities to build upon the successes and failures of other institutions so that our protocol can be well-represented and well-regarded once we have it finished.

- Ben: With regards to the mental health focus group, similar progress has been made. Kelley Castle sat in on our second meeting as well. Our goal is to provide perspectives on Vic's current service provision, as well as possible ways to improve services and programming in the future. We actually came up with three overarching recommendations that we have presented to Kelley Castle. She is in complete agreement with the three. The first is that the focus group expressed a desire for more peer academic support at Vic, be that peer tutoring or otherwise. They also expressed support for peer mentoring. Finally, they expressed support for continued efforts at destigmatizing mental health as well as increasing awareness of mental health resources. All of those are laudable goals, and again, we are making good progress on that, especially with regards to the support we are getting from the administration. We have a few additional items in our report. VUSAC and Frosh: in addition to the regular events like Pizza with the Presidents of VUSAC, we will also be doing two additional events with VUSAC. The first is Explore GSC, which will be tours of and events centred around the Goldring Student Centre. VUSAC will have a station there. We will also have the office open and VUSAC members will be helping out with tours of the student centre. Hopefully, this will help better integrate Goldring into student life. Secondly, we have talked with Apurva about including a VUSAC on the Quad event, which she has given her support for. Essentially, it would be something low-key like providing refreshments after the parade in the quad.

- Gabe: Also, we have a couple of exciting renovations happening in this office specifically. The first is that this may be the second last time you are sitting at these tables, in these chairs, because we are getting new tables and new chairs. It will be a boat-style table with outlets. The chairs themselves are upholstered, and I believe they're silver.
  - Ben: The legs of the table are silver, the top of the table is a nice wood, and the chairs are charcoal and black.
  - Gabe: Ben and I are interior designers. What are we doing with all of this stuff?, you may ask. We're bartering it. Hopefully getting a whole bunch of great things in return. New College has expressed interest for some of this stuff in exchange for computers, and we'll be getting more computers to put in the lounge room. Also, the red wall leading into the lounge room is going to feature a mural drawn and painted by Wenting, a former Vic One student now at OCAD. She's a lovely artist, I'm really glad that we're having her do this. We got some of the initial designs, and they look really great. We'll send them to you, and if you could give us feedback about which mural looks the best for that space, that would be great. We want the office to be more inviting, and we think that the mural will help, that the additional computers will help, and that the new boardroom will help with that as well.
  - Ben: We should also mention that Wenting is doing a mural for the Cat's Eye, so we're doing that in tandem.
  - Stuart: With regards to the office, the new table and new equipment, what's the deal financially?
  - Gabe: There's an agreement with Student Projects, they're covering the base fee before taxes and VUSAC is covering the taxes for the table and chairs. I believe that equates to about \$1500.
  - Stuart: Would that come out of the surplus?
  - Gabe: Yes.
  - Rahul: How much was this table to begin with?
  - Gabe: About \$12 000.
- Proposal to provide certain UTSU services through VUSAC
  - Ben: This is very important, and we will be moving for a vote on this, but we thought that we would summarize it first and then involve you guys in the discussion. Gabe and I were approached by Ryan Gomes, who is the UTSU's VP Internal, about the possibility of outsourcing some of the UTSU's services to Vic. This is because services that the UTSU provides, such as metro tokens, are not as accessible on the eastern part of campus as they are closer to the UTSU office. I have a brief statement from Ryan, and then I give a rundown of our discussion and we can open the floor. This is from Ryan: "Hi VUSAC! I'm really excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Vic community this upcoming year. Historically, East Campus has been under serviced by the UTSU, not just because of



distance but also due to lack of political will on the UTSU's part. This year, we want to change that, and I think the first step towards strengthening our relationship is franchising. What the UTSU is proposing is the sale of Cineplex, Ripley's Aquarium and Wonderland tickets, as well as TTC tokens. The method by which this would be done is rather straightforward. The UTSU would take on transport costs and deliver a set amount of tickets on a bi-weekly or monthly basis, depending on the demand from VUSAC's end. Tickets would be sold through the VUSAC office, and the money generated from those sales would be returned to the UTSU on a monthly basis. As none of these items expire in the short term, this would allow VUSAC to gauge demand in the Vic community before settling into a general routine of how many tickets are needed on a monthly basis. In addition, VUSAC would have the option to add a small charge to the base price if it was felt that an extra source of revenue would be required. I think this is a very promising initiative, and I hope VUSAC will approve it. Should you have any further questions for myself, feel free to email me at [vpinternal@utsu.ca](mailto:vpinternal@utsu.ca) Thank you so much!" So, I met with Ryan, and I asked him a few questions. The first was what services are they looking at providing; again, already answered, Wonderland, Ripley's Aquarium, and Cineplex tickets as well as tokens. Secondly, he made it very clear to me that the people who would be administering the sale of these tickets and tokens would be VUSAC members. So, no UTSU members would be involved in the sales, it would be all through us. Essentially, we would autonomously run this operation through the office. The commitment is whatever we are comfortable with. Any unsold metropasses from the TTC, which we might sell, are required at the end of the month by the TTC. We would have to pay back 20% of the unsold passes. Other than that possible 20% charge, as Ryan said, everything else is indefinite. There's no expiration date on the other tickets and tokens. This is, we think, a good opportunity to gain a little bit of income and also to provide services at a very discounted rate for Vic students.

- Gabe: And also at the same time it gets more people in and out of the office, which is nice because it exposes students more to VUSAC and the services provided.
- Rahul: So if we lose money on metropasses, does that come out of our budget, or are we compensated by the UTSU?
- Ben: I believe that would actually come out of our budget.
- Rahul: So it's just based on us making sure that we don't over-order?
- Ben: Yes.
- Auni: Ben, are you saying that we would sell tokens at a higher rate than the UTSU office?
- Ben: Yes.
- Auni: So people could walk across Queen's Park to get them for less?

- Gabe: That's the idea pitched by Ryan. No one goes to the UTSU office to get these tickets, so the idea is that by franchising these services out and making it more accessible, people will go to their respective college division offices to get them because they just don't do it normally.
- Ben: Also, the charge would be cents on the dollar, it would really be quite small. It would first of all, make up for the fact that we are adding to our operative burden by taking on the selling of these tickets and tokens. Secondly, it would still maintain prices at a discounted rate.
- Auni: Okay, cool.
- Stuart: Can I get clarification? Is it TTC tokens and postsecondary metropasses?
- Ben: What Ryan said to me in our meeting is that there is a possibility that we could have metropasses given to us as well. He didn't say in his statement that there would be metropasses on the table, so that would be something for further discussion. And of course we would have council involved in that decision if we were going to make it.
- Bergita: I just wanted to point out that many years ago when metropasses for postsecondary students could only be purchased at the university, they were offered by the UTSU. My only question, in the same vein as Auni, is do you really need to charge that extra fee, especially for providing a service for students? Given that you guys seem to be in good financial standing, are you considering providing it at cost, just out of convenience for the community?
- Gabe: The price adjustment is voluntary, and it's also not uniform. So we can do adjustments on certain things and not on others. For example, for everything regarding transportation we could do it at cost, for everything regarding entertainment we could potentially have a charge. Again, this is all up for discussion and we don't even have plans finance-wise for a markup. To answer the surplus question, this surplus is actually smaller than last year's. The number is in the five digits, which is very nice, but it's not as large as last year's.
- Ben: It's \$9000 smaller than last year's.
- Gabe: As a result, the summer budget is not going to be as well-endowed as last year's. But it's still a good surplus.
- Bergita: My only thing is that I know you guys do events where you subsidize tickets. So I don't see the point of a little overcharge here when you use VUSAC money to subsidize tickets to Stratford and others. It's something that you guys will have to think about. And also in terms of the budget, when you're thinking of the Highball prices and you subsidize tickets, I think it's a question of whether you do want it to be a profit-generating activity. Anyways, you should just consider that.
- Lucinda: When you guys are talking about charging a premium, are we charging a little bit more than what the UTSU office charges?

- Ben: No charge will be applied if this council decides not to. It's up to council, Gabe and I are not going to make that decision by ourselves. If we were to apply a charge, it would be a small increase on what the UTSU does, however it would maintain a discounted rate.
- Lucinda: I would imagine that a large part of why the UTSU doesn't sell as many as they want to, or why many Vic students don't buy them is because a lot of people don't know that the UTSU offers that at all. I feel like if we were to tell Vic students that those were offered, and that we offer the same things for only slightly more, they'd go across the park to get them for less. And I definitely understand Bergita's point, I think that if this year is about cultivating a more positive relationship with the Vic community then it would be an amazing idea for us to both better advertise that service over there and offer it over here, but not at a markup.
- Rahul: I just want to say that this is a suggestion on Ryan's part, this isn't something we need to decide right now.
- Alex: The biggest benefit that we can get out of providing these service is more people to the office, and generating revenue should be considerably secondary to getting people to come into VUSAC and hear about the other things that we do and offer. But actually providing the services themselves is a really, really, I think, good idea, and we should definitely vote to approve it. Any way we can get more people to come into VUSAC and see it as a space for students that provides services for students is a good thing.
- Ben: We'd actually like to go to a vote on it, if possible. We will hold off, it does seem that there is a difference of opinion with regards to charging a small markup, so we will postpone that until a later meeting,

Ben moves to provide certain UTSU services through VUSAC. Rahul seconds. Motion passes with seven in favour, one abstaining.

- Appointments to the Student Projects Advisory Board
  - Ben: It is constitutionally within the purview of each judiciary member as well as the commuter commissioner to appoint, independently, members of the Student Projects Advisory Board. This year, each member of the judiciary is appointing one, and Anna is appointing two people to sit on the Student Projects Advisory Board. The goal of the Board is to hire the Student Projects Chairperson, to generally provide oversight over the committee, and, if need be, members are able to take the place of Student Projects Committee members if they're not able to make meetings. Previously, it was never stated to council by the judiciary who the appointees were, but in the interest of transparency, we'd like to tell you who our appointees are. If you have any positive or negative feedback that you'd like us to take into account, we'd welcome it. Our six appointees are Apurva Kilambi, Willem Crispin-Frei, Jacob Cappe, Garnet Sherwood-

Lollar, Nina Christenson, and William Cuddy. They will be sent to the Student Projects Chairperson's email for approval.

- Gabe: Just to note, they have each already said yes, so we're not throwing them in the fire. They've already agreed to do this. Also, the breakdown of commuter to residence representation was well thought out. There are four commuters and two residence representatives.
- Alex: Who are the residence representatives?
- Ben: Jacob Cappe and Nina Christenson.
- Alex: Cool.
- External Matters

Ben moves to go in camera. Gabe seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Rahul moves to bring the CRO into the in camera session. Gabe seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

*Meeting goes in camera at 7:54 PM.*

*Return from in camera at 8:14 PM.*

- *VP External* – Alex
  - Update
    - Alex: I'm working on a few projects, primarily research-based. The main one is the constitution and making a few changes there. The first of those changes will be introduced and discussed today. I've also been working on researching student support programs, primarily faculty advising ones in the US to find out how they work and to see how they may be potentially useful to Vic in the future. I've noticed a couple of things that they claim are really great, we already have some of them at Vic. It's just doing research into what's different. Ben and I have looked at something like 25 different schools just to see what they've got, and some of it's pretty cool. I actually would not mind some help with that project; if anyone is interested, let me know. It would just be doing some research and starting to gather it together. Lucinda, Rahul, and I are starting to discuss Caucus, and how to make improvements to it and make it a little bit less boring. If you have any ideas, talk to any of us, send any of us an email, but any idea is appreciated and it would be awesome if you could share it. The overall goal for Caucus will be to make it as useful and engaging as possible.
  - Changes to the Constitution
    - Alex: The first set of changes that we're going to discuss right now, this is not a formal submission of changes or suggested change, it's just to see what people think and to get feedback. There won't be a vote, it's just going to be a discussion. After the meeting I will send what I have so far to all of you. Any comments would be really appreciated, because this is fun! The constitution really does set the tone for how the VUSAC

conducts its business and if it's done well it can help to set the agenda and shape the structure of the organization for more than just one year. My hope is that by starting to change what our constitution says, and making it about what we should be doing and defining our responsibility to the Vic community, we can do better as representatives and engage more students with VUSAC. I know that it may seem really inconsequential what a piece of paper says about our goals and hope for the institution, but even having a discussion on it improves our understanding of our goals and aspirations. Today, I'd like to talk about three things. The preamble that creates the VCU, and equity statement, and the definition which creates the VUSAC and defines what it is that we actually do and what our purpose is. So the preamble currently reads "We, the students of Victoria University, having associated ourselves as the Victoria College Union (VCU) for the purpose of mutual benefit and improvement, do hereby adopt the following constitution." The change that I'm going to be suggesting will be relatively minor, but it starts to define what a representative body of the VCU would be and what can be expected from the VUSAC. It reads, "We, the students of Victoria College, having associated ourselves as the Victoria College Union, do hereby adopt this constitution; creating our representative body, to act in our interests, operating openly and democratically in improving the student experience." So the biggest change there is just adding "operating openly and democratically in improving the student experience." It's a little bit more exact, I think, than "mutual benefit and improvement." It's still very broad and may still be interpreted in a number of ways, but that's what I came up with. The second part is an equity statement, and it's something that's been discussed for a while now. This draft was written by Claire, so I will pass it over to her.

- Claire: There was no original equity statement in our constitution, so we thought it was important to incorporate that into the general goal of council. It reads: "The representative body of Victoria College shall be committed to accurate and informed representation of the various needs and experiences of its diverse student population as members of the Victoria College Union (VCU). The representative body will operate with equitable practice as an embedded and systemic pillar of its function. As student representatives, the voting members of the representative body will be active as agents towards the elimination of institutional and social inequity from the Victoria College community. The members of the representative body will treat all members and communities of the Victoria College population in an equitable manner. Harassment or discrimination against an individual or group in reference to their gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or other identifying characteristics of any kind will not be tolerated. The representative body of Victoria College acknowledges

and respects its role as equitable student representation, and is committed to creating a safe and equitable Victoria campus environment.” So that’s up for discussion, I know Ben and Gabe had some input.

- Ben: We did have some comments. Obviously, we need an equity preamble to our constitution. We are in favour of adopting one. We would like to see what people on council think.
- Gabe: The one concern that was brought up by all three of us was that there was some repetition in terms of wording that could be fixed. There are also some allusions to punishment that could be better placed in the impeachment section or in a code of conduct for members. That’s basically it, really.
- Ben: But other than that, we’re quite happy with the document. There are some parts that can be moved to impeachment and protocol or a code of conduct for members, as well as some aspects that can be reduced simply because they are repetitive, but we are quite in favour of it.
- Alex: I’m working on changing the impeachment section as well, just as a fun little side project. I think that the hope for the first three things – the preamble, the equity statement, and the definition – is to make them very aspirational, what we hope to do as an organization. So it needs to remain positive. The third and final change I want to discuss tonight is to Article I, which is the definition, right now it just says that the VUSAC/CAEUUV will be the representative government, sets out an acronym in English and French. I think that we should develop it a bit more, and talk about what the point of VUSAC is. I guess the question that I want you guys to think about or discuss is what is the purpose of VUSAC? What services do we feel we provide, and how do we make the community better? What is our goal as an organization? We can start working to give it more than just “the VUSAC will be the representative body.” Give that some thought, if you don’t want to jump in right away. And please, anything you can think of that relates to this, let me know, email me, Facebook message me.
- Ben: We would be very interested to hear what people have to say. For me, personally, VUSAC really is the student advocate to the administration. We should definitely include the fact that we have the mandate to represent the entire student body not just through the events that we put on, but also through our services, through our lobbying, through our general political action. So I think that something referring not only to service provision but also to the role we play as an advocate for students would be very helpful.
- Alex: Again, any comments or questions about the constitution’s first three points that could help us come up with something that is a little bit more about what we hope to do as an organization would be really appreciated. I am always looking to hear peoples’ opinions on this because it can mean many different things to different people.

- *VP Internal* – Rahul
  - Summer Retreat
    - Rahul: This is going to be quick, the one thing I want to talk about is our summer retreat. From the dates I've gotten from most of you, the summer retreat is going to take place in the second week of August, I'll have the exact date out to you by the end of next week. I've spoken to most of you already regarding expectations of you for the retreat, but I'd like at VUSAC members to have something prepared to present. Just a two minute presentation about what you do, how that relates to other council members. I can discuss with you individually what should be in there. If you have any particular issues with that or with the date, message me privately, but soon because we need to get moving on this.

## COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Equity* – Claire
  - Equity Update
    - Claire: I originally budgeted for 15-20 minutes, but I doubt it'll take that long. I just want to bring up a couple of things. I'd like to take firstly about the preamble, and just want to stress that it's really important for all of you to think about it and give us feedback. Also, I'll be rolling out the first round of applications for the equity committee in a couple of weeks, so if you could share those on social media and with friends that would be great. Email me if you have any questions. The third thing is that I received some equity training documents from Iris Robin at Trinity College. She helped organize the equity training over there last year, and the documents were created by the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office and the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office. That's who we worked with last year and who gave the equity training here. For the most part, the equity training was pretty similar, but it was a lot more intensive, extensive and specific at Trinity. I sent those documents in an email, so if you could take a look at those and let me know what you think of the general structure that'd be good. It's very specific to Trinity in the actual pdf document, but we would change it to be specific to Vic. I would like to incorporate some Vic-specific scenarios to take the abstract equity training and put it into real, everyday occurrences.
    - Gabe: In regards to the commission applications, how's that coming along?
    - Claire: I'm just reworking them a little bit to be a little more specific and in-depth, and then I'll be sending them out in the next couple of weeks.
    - Gabe: Okay.

Gabe moves to adjourn. Ben seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 8:30 PM.

