



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 27, 2014 at 8:43 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

PRESIDENT
VP EXTERNAL
VP OPERATIONS

Rowan DeBues
Kareem Jarrah
Enxhi Kondi

Assessor Members

CHAIR
COMMUNICATIONS
FINANCE
SECRETARY

Gabriel Zoltan-Johan
Sumeeta Farrukh
Ben Atkins
Ally Scandolo

Commissioners & Councilors

ARTS & CULTURE
COMMUTER
EDUCATION & EQUITY
SCARLET & GOLD
SUSTAINABILITY

Conor Tangney
SaraLi Forouzanfar
Claire Wilkins
Olivia Klasios
Alice Zhu

COUNCILLORS

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

LEVIES

GUESTS
STUDENT

Thomas Lynch

Auni moves to table minutes from last meeting. Rowan seconds. Unanimously approved.

Agenda has been approved from the last meeting.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *President* – Rowan
 - Student Societies Summit Reports
 - Rowan: There are a few key things that the council needs to be updated on for the AGM. I have some ideas for the AGM that I also want feedback. Within 24 hours, two different reports came out. The first was the *Alternative Summit Report* and the other is a report from the Provost on the summit from last year. To fill everyone in: last year, **Governing Council [Rowan, can you confirm this is correct?]** decided to have a societies summit to discuss governance and democracy with all U of T societies after certain groups wanted to divert fees from the UTSU. The summit didn't work; the UTSU and UTM subsequently left. The alternative summit report was SCSU's way of fixing things without the help of admin. They are telling us to ignore every other report and follow what is said. The ideas are nice but they are ridiculous and far-fetched – it recommends Governing Council give all student societies leaders free residence and give student leaders the option of a sabbatical year, which means they can be a U of T student without having classes and serve their terms in their positions. Meanwhile, the actual summit report comes up with useful stuff like electoral reform to have more legitimate UTSU elections, an appeals board so there's someone other than union hired judged to decide grievances. I don't expect admin to look at the Alternative summit report with any credibility. There are next-level amount of grammar and spelling errors in the alternative report. The Provost wrote an initial report that will be turned into a smaller report for governing council. It discusses key stuff like what is democracy, and there are some interesting quotes like: **"The status quo is... [Rowan, quote]"** Admin also says we cannot go on doing what we are doing as societies. For one, in the short term, admin is going to impose a students appeal board for students to file grievances against societies. Say you have a grievance with the UTSU, you can bring it to them, if they reject it there is higher court that will discuss your case.
 - Auni: What's the time line for that?
 - Rowan: It should take about a year. It will have faculty, admin, students and even alumni sitting on the committee – they may have an old provincial judge as the judge of that committee. The alternative summit wanted to use a conflict resolution workshop from a community house to solve the problems with the societies. The Stephenson house does amazing work, I'm sure, but I don't see their place in this. The letter in the provost office report has a long term approach, meaning that they talk about what the university going to look like in 2030. That is really scary, because that is far away and it will take a lot to make students care for something so far in the future. Those are the two reports, and it will be an interesting AGM on Wednesday. People will be name-dropping one report and the other so

I thought it would good to brief you all on them. The summit report is nice in practice, but does not make sense, the provost report isn't the best but it has content that will enact change.

- UTSU Annual General Meeting
 - Rowan: Kareem has made an AGM event for Vic; I don't think we need to complicate it further than that. It will be a hellish evening with everything happening, and we can count on people pulling shenanigans during it. We want to make sure we have all of our proxy holders here and any additional Vic students who want to attend, join us. There is a vote count of approximately 340 people on my computer, who followed through with that?
 - Auni: I did.
 - Rowan: How do we feel about meeting at 3:30? We will meet in Goldring, brief everyone and give the group some brief explanations of procedures on papers.
 - William: I have class until 5 PM, what should I do?
 - Rowan: Head over as soon as possible.
 - Auni: What if people do not get briefed before getting there because they're late?
 - Rowan: I'll bring extra copies to OISE to hand out.
 - Ben: We should use the Facebook group for any questions prior to the event.
 - LP: For the people who cannot go with the big group to OISE, what should they do?
 - Auni: Rowan, when you speak of the opposition for proxies in terms of Engineering and Trin, do you know about the Faculty of Music? Do you have their contact to find out what their proxy numbers are?
 - Rowan: They noticed the seriousness of the situation and have
 - Auni: I was talking to a friend at Music and they said they are rallying for votes.
 - Rowan: People are talking about 2:30/3:00 but I think anything earlier than 3:30 is over kill.
 - Kareem: Should the group be public or private?
 - Rowan: Let's make it public.

FINANCE REPORTS

- *Finance* – Ben
 - Commission Budgets
 - Ben: It's disappointing we didn't pass the entire budget on Friday, but hopefully we will today. In terms of process, the debate took five hours and I was hoping it would go faster because people would have prior knowledge. I sent out all the budget lines a week early in order to inform the council so people could be informed for the meeting. Questions were asked that could've been answered earlier or were uninformed questions that were being asked sporadically. We will start with Sustainability today, if anyone has objections to the budget, please say so. There are copies on your devices, I again have not printed copies to save paper.
 - Rowan: After I left the room, how many budgets did we get through?
 - Ben: We got to the end of Sustainability.
 - Rowan: Even Scarlet & Gold?
 - Ben: We ran through everything.

- Enxhi: Do you mind reiterating what each of the Environmental Fashion show lines are?
- Gabe: One was for clothing, two was for Old Vic and Three was for...
- Auni: Long & McQuade rentals.
- Enxhi: Isn't Old Vic free? Why is it still \$780.00 on the budget line?
- Ben: They asked for \$1000.00 so I adjusted it to \$780.00 because of that.
- Enxhi: Is the rest in the Old Vic budget for decorations and any other costs?
- Ben: Yes.
- Rowan: So, if items on Friday were pulled or tabled, how do we address them in this meeting?
- Gabe: There were tabled and pulled items. They were tabled to this meeting, technically and do not need a motion to be discussed.
- Ben: The budget line items tabled from clubs: EQV-008, HT-001, GO-002, VCBC-002 and the commuter commission line SCMT-013

Rowan moves to table EQV-008, HT-001, GO-002, VCBC-002 until the next VUSAC meeting. William seconds.

- Kareem: Can you ask badminton to call and make sure the courts are not free?
- Ben: They did ask if it could be free and there was a charge for nets when they inquired.
- Kareem: The AC told me the space was entirely free when I called.
- Rowan: For Festive Dinner: SCMT-013 got lost in the discussion. When SaraLi first requested money, we told her it was quite a lot. Ben and I asked her to cut it down and asked her to do research for it, which she has.
- Ben: It was quite an obnoxious debate about it on Friday.
- Alex: I'd like to apologize for my part in that nasty debate. It would be a nice event to have if it is accessible.
- Rahul: I also apologize for my part in the debate, as well.
- SaraLi: I have a question for Scarlet & Gold, what is the \$700.00 for Grad Banquet? I thought it was VPE's event.
- Olivia: It's under my constitutional mandate, not Kareem's.

Motion passes unanimously.

Conor moves to remove SCMT-014. Enxhi seconds.

- Conor: This is the tokens budget line. There's no system in place right now to hold anyone accountable if they do not pay us back. I don't think people will pay it back or remember to.
- Rowan: Why not table this instead of cutting it so SaraLi can come to council with an explanation of a system at the next meeting, instead.
- Conor: I don't see it working to hold people accountable in any way.
- Ben: I budgeted for this anticipating that people will most likely not pay it back. We obviously don't want people to not pay it back, but we can cover the loss if it happens.

Motion fails with 2 in favour, 6 against, remaining abstaining.

Rahul moves to table SCMT-014. LP seconds.

- Enxhi: Are you tabling it based on the stipulations Rowan mentioned?
- Rahul: Yes. But, I have changed my mind and I withdraw my motion based on Ben's explanation.

Motion dropped.

Commission Budget 2014-2015 passed unanimously.

- Ben: This is the first organic surplus in years and I am very happy we are moving forward with this budget.
- Rahul: Was SCMT-013 passed?
- Gabe: It was passed within the aggregate.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *Vice President Operations – Enxhi*

Enxhi moves to go in camera with the exception of Ben and Sumeeta. Motion passes unanimously.

Thomas exits at 9:13 AM

Leave in camera at 9:16 AM

Thomas enters at 9:16 AM

- Enxhi: One-on-one meetings are coming up and each of us will meet and talk about what your experience on council is like: I will be asking you how you are doing in your position, how you are liking your initiatives, any complaints about council etc. Any issues can be brought to the judiciary's attention and you can even meet with the entire judiciary if needbe.

We're working on creating the lounge for the office. Ally and I will be filling out an application to get couches for that area through Student Projects.

I put in a constitutional amendment for giving Gabe agenda items from 7 days previously to 3 days previous. I think that is more reasonable and works more logically.

The Clubs Head meeting is happening November 14th. It will be a one to two hour meeting; I would like you guys to be there to introduce yourselves to club heads so they have an idea of who is on the council.

In terms of space booking, I've been letting law students book this room and the meeting room. If they book it and then the Vic students would like to book it, Vic gets the priority. I have been booking it for law students regardless. If anything happens, I am held responsible but they know how it works.

- Kareem: I object to that. No other spaces in Goldring except the office used by students outside of Victoria. It's setting a precedent for other spaces
- Auni: If the room isn't being used, people are coming in and walking in to use it. Law students will probably not appreciate losing space, but there is often room.
- Enxhi: Realistically, there aren't a lot of people booking space and so I thought it would be fine. I let law students know previous to booking that they can lose their space, and I leave it up to their prerogative.
- Ben: Do other groups outside Vic book the space?
- Enxhi: I probably won't be booking it out anymore; I was going to ask if they are going to be associates.
- Kareem: Don't they need 70% Vic students to be an associate?
- Enxhi: It says 75 people in our constitution. It's not listed as a percentage, as it stands, law could be an associate.
- Kareem: Maybe the founding fathers meant it to be 75 people in order to make it more difficult to get associate status.
- Thomas: The constitution says: "The associate status committee can disregard this number for practical reasons."

- Ben: What is that committee?
- Gabe: They decide the associate status of groups. It's comprised of the CLC, president and VPO.
- Enxhi: For the VUSAC social, I was hoping to hold it November 14th. We'll have our Secret Santa holiday party in early December.

The Vic community garden met with me and she said – do you all know what the garden is? It's a garden behind BG, it exists as a garden right now but it can only be used in the summer till November really. The person running it right now, she wasn't maintaining it in the summer and we haven't released her honorarium. On October 31st, she's going to bring people to the garden and see if we can find interest in the Vic Community to run the garden. If anyone asks you about it, let them October 31st at 2-3 and 5-6 there will be sessions to check the garden or direct them to me.

- Ben: Just a reminder we pay \$500.00 to maintain it while it's not in use for a lot of the year.
- Kareem: Is it Simon?
- Enxhi: Yes, but she cannot do it.
- William: If they cannot do anything in the winter, why is it budgeted?
- Rowan: It was budgeted in the summer budget. The way honorarium works, you do the job then you get paid. I don't know if there's a problem in her understanding...
- Enxhi: No, she just took over and doesn't expect because she hasn't a chance to do anything.

Vic has two associate clubs currently, for everyone's information, MUN and [club name].

- Kareem: Did TBA ever submit an application?
- Enxhi: They did not, they intend to.
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○ *Vice President External* – Kareem

○ Levy Constitutions

- Kareem: I am currently trying to get all the levy constitutions because some are lost and some are out of date. I'm hoping by collecting them we won't have them go missing in the future. They all have different ways of amending their constitutions. For some of them, they need a certain number of professors and other strange positions from the Vic community. I wanted to gage everyone's opinions on getting VUSAC to amend their constitutions through our meetings.
- SaraLi: I like it.
- Auni: By that you mean they will have a proposed change to their constitution, and we approve it?
- Thomas: If they don't want to go through VUSAC, they can do their way to amend it?
- Kareem: Yes, both options are open.
- Gabe: Is this ratification or amendments?
- Kareem: Amendments.
- Ben: Does this include levies?
- Kareem: This is for levies.
- Ben: Aren't levies supposed to be at an arms length? The point is that VUSAC doesn't have a huge jurisdiction over their operations.

- Rowan: This is in order to expedite the process and make it faster for them to fix their constitutions. Their separate amending process is still open.
- Kareem: I would bring it up with the levies at the next meeting I have with them.
- Enxhi: It also seems a little bias heavy. When someone may want to pass an amendment on their constitution, and they know people on VUSAC then they can get it passed easily through their friends.
- Rowan: We have to have faith people on council will vote without bias.
- Enxhi: We could set up an external committee, just my opinion. I think approaching VUSAC is a good idea, though. I'm just worried about bias.
- Kareem: Ben asked me to get all levy banking info on record. I think it's a good idea, but what can we use it for? None of them use their online banking.
- Ben: We should at least have their account numbers. We don't really need to know where they do their banking, but we need to know how much money they have in their accounts to avoid overdraft when spending. Also, it's critical they give me updates on their financial status at the beginning of the year, the mid year and end of year so again, we can avoid overspending.
- Kareem: You won't have their logins, so how will you check?
- Ben: I want to avoid people not being able to access their accounts and we can also keep records of their accounts. We want to avoid ghost accounts, as well.
- Cat's Eye Bookings
 - Kareem: We discussed at an earlier meeting how groups book the Cat's Eye. I've spoken with co-managers and CLC and I will talk to the advisory board, but it seems like we can only accommodate one booking for Vic Jam.
 - Auni: Did you bring up issue of booking at a non-peak hour?
 - Kareem: I told them but the co-managers reserve the right for one booking per month. It's one per week or even two right now.
 - Enxhi: I think it should be contingent on finding another alternative space. Once a month only allows for them to meet 4 more times in this year if they don't have another space.
 - Kareem: It's five members and they empty out the entire Cat's Eye currently. I think it's more detrimental to the people who cannot use the space in that time.
 - Conor: For clubs ratification, they need to have more than 5 members. If 5 members show up each meeting, they should have people joining exterior of those people to. I think that it's good that it's emptying the Cat's Eye.
 - Auni: We shouldn't discriminate based on member numbers. This booking directly affects the Cat's Eye and who can use it, though.
 - Enxhi: I agree, but they need space before we can only limit them to once a month.
 - Kareem: I will speak with them and see if they can book the space at non-peak hours.
- Victorian of the Month

- Kareem: We're restarting this. Sumeeta is making me posters. Forms will come to my mailbox nominating people. They will receive a \$20.00 gift card as a price.
- William: What's the decision process?
- Kareem: Just the VPE always chooses, I'm okay with keeping it like that.
- Auni: VUSAC members are not allowed to win it?
- Kareem: If there is a conflict, I will ask people to decide for me.
- Gabe: VUSAC members cannot win constitutionally.
- Enxhi: I suggest doing a blind application, and then pick based on the application and not the person's name.
- Kareem: Do we have a way to relate student number to name?
- Rowan: No.
- Enxhi: What does the application look like?
- Kareem: I need to make a new one.
- Enxhi: Check communications email for the one from previous years.
- Building Representative Meeting
 - Kareem: We went to the building presidents meeting, Alex was there. We discussed festive dinner. SaraLi, have you looked into your dinner further with the Dean's Office?
 - SaraLi: I'm meeting with Krista today. I've already spoken with Bergita.
 - Kareem: We're getting 50 tickets that we will sell through the VUSAC office to commuters.
 - Rowan: They are not sold; they come from the commuter experience fund.
 - Auni: At the residence festive dinner?
 - SaraLi; that's something I'm going to talk to the admin about it, it wouldn't make sense to keep the 50 seats at regular festive dinner. Before putting out the list with the 50 tickets, I will clarify first what to happen.
 - Kareem: Can you contact Scott? Thanks. We are also selling 50 tickets for the Harry Potter pub night. It's free but need to
- Bader
 - Kareem: We had a meeting with Conor, Alex, Krista, Bergita and Tom to discuss the hours in the Bader. We may have been accused of union busting at one point.
 - Alex: It was all you.
 - Kareem: I am trying to look for other avenues to get students hours in the Bader. Krista doesn't know why we lost the 500 hours because she was on maternity leave then, Thomas wasn't hired yet and Bergita was still a student. I am speaking with alumni and other students right now, I would like a file of some sort to find out.
 - Rowan: ScoJo [Scott Johnson] was associate dean at the time Krista was on Mat leave, ask him. I will find out what the email is about.
 - Kareem: Is that in the minutes? That's not official yet.
 - Gabe: A note on procedure, you cannot say "off the record" or "do not put this in the minutes." Because it will be recorded.
 - Ally: I have to record everything that is said. I will even include you saying "off the record," or "do not put this in the minutes."

- Gabe: Also, people are supposed to be directly speaking to the chair instead of pointing their questions directly at the person they wish to address.

FINANCE REPORTS

- Ben: Thank you for passing the budget. Thank you to Golda for all her hard work, I kept her in the office working on the budget till 4 AM once. I want to resolve the elusive Cat's Eye summer budget. It was submitted late and not a very good budget initially, to be honest. I pulled it until it could be discussed with the co-managers. We have in front of us the amended Cat's Eye Summer Budget that is \$4500.00 from the requested \$8,600.00. We have met with Sadia and Sabina and budget steering and Rowan has approved it. Computer Replacement - \$1,200.00, the \$200.00 is for padding, modernization fund cut to \$500.00 from \$1000.00. \$300.00 was spent on poster frames already, which is inadvisable and should not be done, but they plan on using it for throw pillows, posters etc. Cleaning and office supplies cut to \$75.00 from \$200.00. \$50.00 was spent for sub-comm interviews – it was spent already which again, is inadvisable. The miscellaneous fund is for video game repairs or delivery tips - \$40.00.
- Kareem: What's their levy amount for the year?
- Ben: I don't have it right now, but the budget amount is less than their amount.
- Auni: \$1,200.00 is way too much for their computer, that's wasted money.

Enxhi moves to approve The Cat's Eye summer budget. LP seconds.

- Kareem: Did they tell you what computer?
- Ben: I told them to but Sabina said it will be a cheap Dell.
- Rowan: I bought a really great \$800.00 laptop, it doesn't need to be that expensive.
- William: You can buy a [computer William mentioned]. You do not need to spend that much money.
- Thomas: The idea is to get an all-in-one computer. Sabina is looking at all new computers because cables are messy. They are all new Windows 8 because they don't sell old ones anymore. She's still looking.

Rahul moves to table CE-002. William seconds.

- Conor: I don't hang around the Cat's Eye, but don't they have a Mac?
- Auni: The screen has been smashed.
- Thomas: You can't put CD's in it.
- Auni: It was broken a while ago.
- Conor: This is the second year in a row where the Cat's Eye spent before their budget was passed. It wasn't passed until second semester last year. This is just information for everyone on council who doesn't know this. This shouldn't happen, levies spending recklessly without any approval.
- Ben: Conor does make a good point. There's not a high level of communication about the budget between the co-managers. There were double lines in the yearly budget. We don't need to finish this discussion now.
- LP: Question to finance: would it be a laptop or desktop?
- Thomas: It's actually an all-in-one desktop.

- Kareem: In terms of communication between co-managers, it's being dealt with now.
- William: For the record, it's a Mac from 2005 and 2006
- Conor: If we pass this now, when would a conversation about spending before approval happen?
- Ben: I already talked to the co-managers about not spending before approval. She said yes but we will see if that happens. In their yearly budget, there were lines are already used.
- LP: What tools can we use?
- Ben: We can withhold money.
- Rowan: We can remove them from their positions, as well.
- Kareem: It depends on which position, for the levy heads, you would have to go through the advisory board.

Table: Motion passes with one abstaining

Budget: Motion passes with one abstaining.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- *Education & Equity* – Claire
 - Claire: I have to go to class. But I just wanted to remind everyone I emailed people about equity training.
 - Kareem: Did levies respond?
 - Claire: Not yet.

Ben and Claire exits at 10:00 pm

- *Commuter* – SaraLi
 - CARA
 - SaraLi: For CARA, only Burwash showed up for residence with one student. There will be an open mic on the 28th on November. I think it's going alright, it's a matter of getting presidents involved and actually caring about this. It needs to improve and have people come in represent building presidents.
 - Rowan: To go back to E&E quickly, when is Mic the Change?
 - Conor: It's an E&E and A&C collab, it happens as close to World Aids day as possible. The second last Thursday or Friday of November.
 - Enxhi: Can we get a detailed report on CARA next week? Every time I talk to people, I have mixed emotions and undetermined answers. I would like to know exact problems.
 - Rowan: I think she pinpointed its getting presidents to come in.
 - Conor: Is skyping into a meeting a precedent now?
 - Gabe: This is an emergency meeting, and she had valid reasons to not be able to be in this area because of the election and her schedule.
 - Tokens
 - SaraLi: I wanted to implement the token rental this week, but it has been tabled. I wanted to keep 20 tokens in the office in a moneybox. I can see the problem Conor has brought up and figure out how to mitigate that. I have made a sheet like Enxhi suggested unless anyone else has suggestion. People can come in during VUSAC office hours and then pay VUSAC back within the week in either another token or \$3.00.

Another initiative is trying to get a breakdown of the commuter experience fee. What I have seen is big lumps of tens of thousands of dollars and no percentage of where money is going. I don't think it's visible or accountable of the Dean's Office.

- Festive Dinner
 - SaraLi: I was going to have a decision about it last meeting. There was a tangent discussion that I was quite upset about. I will secede my ten minutes to discuss this but if you have any questions, you can approach me separately. I do not want to get into the same discussion as before.

SaraLi moves to table constitutional amendments until next meeting. LP seconds.

- Gabe: Want to explain them?
- SaraLi: VOCA updates to the constitution – changing how many people will be on the committee and who decides who decides the co-chair and the committee.

Motion passes unanimously.

- *Scarlet & Gold* – Olivia
 - Harry Potter Pub Night
 - Olivia: We are meeting with food services last Friday and will get quotes today. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. It will be November 13th.
 - Auni: Can you elaborate on what you need from people?
 - Alex: We have a need for people doing one hour shifts, making sure no one is indisposed and making sure people don't go upstairs. It will be walking around and making sure nothing is going wrong. Additionally, set up and clean up.
 - Rowan: You have my sword.
 - Gabe: That's Lord of the Rings.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- Auni: Security guard talked to me about leaving doors open after leaving.
- Enxhi: SaraLi also posted in the group about this, but please remember to turn off the lights and the computers at night in the office when you are done a closing shift or leaving late at night.

Motion []: Enxhi moves to adjourn meeting. Kareem seconds. Motion passes with one abstaining.

Meeting is adjourned.