**VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

September 30th, 2016 at 5 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

**In Attendance**

**VUSAC**

**Judiciary**

PRESIDENTS: Stuart Norton and Rahul Christofferson

VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Hannah Brennen

VP EXTERNAL: Stephen Warner

VP INTERNAL: Golda Greenspoon

**Assessor Members**

CHAIR: Saambavi Mano

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Taylor Cenac

SECRETARY: Artimes Ghahremani

COMMUNICATIONS: Shailee Koranne

FINANCE: Nicole Gumapac

**Commissioners & Councillors**

SCARLET AND GOLD: Zahavah Kay

SUSTAINABILITY: Jamil Fiorino-Habib

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Nina Christianson

COMMUTER: Co-Chair Karen Indraatmadja/ Isaac Khouzam

ARTS AND CULTURE: Olivia Klasios

EQUITY: Co-Chair Zoe Kwan / Yasmine Hassan

**COUNCILLORS**

Tyler Biswurum

Twincy Vyas

Alexa Breninger

Milliene Xu

Melinda Hector

Peter Huycke

**GUESTS**

Fiona Thompson

Erik Preston

Jayun Bae

Stephanie Spagnuolo

Alisha Krishna

Kate Taylor

Nick Shyshkin

Surabhi Ojha

Brenda Bongolan

Land Recognition: Stuart

Motion: Olivia moves to approve the minutes from last meeting. Zahavah seconds. Motion passes.

Motion: Olivia moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Nina seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Additions:

* + Hannah moves to add 3 minutes for new club ratifications. Steve seconds. Motion passes.
    - Favour: ALL
    - Abstained:
    - Opposed:
  + Olivia moves to add 1 minute for the Arts and Culture Update. Jamil seconds. Motion passes.
    - Favour: All but Olivia
    - Abstained: Olivia
    - Opposed:

**EX-OFFICIO REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**PRESSING ITEMS**

**Ratifications**

Zahavah moves to ratify the equity commissioners Griffin Kelly, Stephanie Spagnuolo, Carleigh Campbell, Ashley Khan, Tanuj Kumar, Alisha Krishna, Jayun Bae, Sayeh Yousefi, and Tiffany Luk. Stuart seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

**Hannah**

Hannah moves to omnibus clubs Vic Trivia, K-Pop Dance Club, Victoria College Fencing. Golda seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained: Nina
* Opposed:

Hannah moves to ratify the omnibused clubs. Olivia Seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained: Nina
* Opposed:

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*SGSA Discussion – Rahul*

The SGRT is a gathering of all the different heads of colleges and pro-facs who meet and discuss events, such as homecoming and winterfest. Last year, they made a push to form the SGSU, which would have been a supplement to the U of T students’ union. Similar to UTMSU which serves as its own body, Saint George would have its own. This year they changed the name to SGSA. They are currently consulting with the colleges to find out if different colleges want to run a referendum for the formation of this alliance. Last year, it was brought up by the co-presidents, but the bylaws were presented without background or the purpose of the alliance, so there was little to no opportunity to discuss concerns. Next meeting, Rahul will invite someone to speak about it, and you can ask any questions you may have and make your own statements about how you feel. Rahul will send out the updated bylaws. This avoids last year’s issue by giving a basic introduction for context. The presidents would like to establish that they are not intending to push their biases on anyone, and that it’s about whether there should be a referendum and what Vic feels. As Stuart and Rahul explain the purpose, they should not be under the impression of bias or moving their own agenda. It is essentially an association that somewhat mirrors U of T students’ union, and they would work together. It also serves as a check on the colleges. There might still be a conflict of interest. The presidents just wanted everyone to get a clear idea of what we are going in to next meeting.

Stuart clarifies that the SGSU, which was the initial name, is supposed to represent full time undergraduate students. The union has been incorporated, but the referendum would ask if Vic students want to divert fees towards this other SGSA. Technically, there are no formal bylaws yet, but it is a body that exists in the eyes of the law. The referendum would be diverting fees towards the SGSA.

Zahavah asks if it would increase student fees. Stuart says the fee is totally up in the air, we do not know how much they would ask. It is still unclear what will be proposed.

Steve says last year the SGSU was incorporated, but they had not gone through official recognition to be a student society at U of T. He asks if this is still correct. Stuart says this is correct - they are incorporated by law, but not by the governing council. There would have to be general meetings and consultations. Steve asks what the timeline would look like, and when the referendum would be.

Stephanie asks Rahul to repeat what was said on the director position, if there is still a situation with the UTSU and what a conflict of interest would pertain. Rahul didn't intend to say that elected directors might have a conflict of interest, but rather that those behind the SGSA might feel that their allegiance might be divided between their college and their slate. Seen in this way, the SGSA might serve as a check that more strongly reflects the interests of each division.

Peter responds that he does not believe they have to be elected - each college chooses how they want to be represented, election or appointment. Steve responds that the student societies can’t appoint, they have to be elected under election rules in order for it to be fair. The instance Peter mentioned is that music has appointed their VPE to sit on the board – still elected in some capacity.

Steve moves to add 5 minutes to the item. Stuart seconds. Motion Passes.

* Favour: All others
* Abstained: Hannah, Zahavah
* Opposed:

Rahul responds to the timeline question – The finalized by laws for approval by the UAB will have to be done by April 1, each division would run their election in march. All bylaws would have to be done earlier than that.

Tyler asks who the leading organizing force is, and whether there is a currently constituted executive. Rahul says the executive would be elected in march. Right now, there are no bodies part of the SGSA. The group running the organization is the SGRA, specifically, Nick Grant, the head of New College and the subcommittee. Tyler asks how much interplay there has been between Grant and the UTSU. Stephanie responds that Nick Grant is a director on the UTSU and has been involved for the past 3 years. Stephanie speaks in favour of Grant, and says he is a ‘great person’.

Rahul moves to add 4 minutes to the discussion. Steve seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: All
* Abstained:
* Opposed:

Note: Nina and Golda not in room

Rahul says he doesn’t have answers to technical questions right now, and he just hoped to introduce the idea. Next week, Rahul is looking to invite Grant himself to come speak.

Stu clarifies that the SGRT is an informal group which meets once a month and runs events, but are not a legitimate recognized organization.

*You Decide Campaign – Rahul*

Rahul brings this up because last meeting Ahmad spoke about You Decide, a campaign relating to the UTSU and the CFS – Steve to explain more on this. He wants to put it up for discussion because at that time, someone from outside Vic left less time for questions and may have made others feel less comfortable. He passes on to Steve to explain.

Steve says the crux of it is that if you are full time undergrad (3+ credits) along with being a member of the UTSU, you are a CFS member. Those with less than 3 credits, are also members of the CFS through the part time association. Full time students pay $15 a year to the CFS though the UTSU. The UTSU held a referendum in 2002 to have membership in the CFS, there is a boring history to this. The CFS is a union of student unions. Anyone here is not technically a member, but you are through the student union. The CFS meets twice a year, and every union gets a vote, regardless of number of members. You Decide was put together over the summer to reassess whether or not the UTSU should remain a member Union of the CFS. They are currently holding a petition, which must be signed to hold a referendum. They are asking if U of T students want to re-evaluate whether they want to pay $15 a year to the CFS. It is not a change petition, but a real one as per CFS bylaws. They need 20% of the membership, in this case about 9000, to sign the petition which then gets submitted to the CFS and a referendum is held for students to vote. Steve is open to questions; says he is not that involved but will do his best to answer.

Tyler asks what the CFS provides in terms of value to U of T. Steve responds that the CFS is intended – although it should be discussed whether they effectively do so - advocacy work, lobbying, broad government work, student issues, fees, wage issues, and things beyond what VUSAC would deal with. This includes equity campaigns, ethical purchasing, services where students could buy things for orientation kits – although they did move away from that last year because they found a cheaper alternative.

Stephanie says they run equity campaigns that are nation-wide. Everyone gets the same propaganda to give out to their students. All schools in Canada get the same “no means no” campaign posters. These are things you would get if you went to the national meetings as a student. You get a kit so that you are able to run pre-set campaigns. It’s not that we couldn’t as UTSU put together a campaign, but that theirs is already made and that is their purpose. Whether they do their job effectively is another question, but they are meant to do this. They discuss their interests with Kathleen Wynne. They are also in charge of international cards for international students, which give them discounts at stores. They have grand meetings where they host talks.

Tyler asks what the CFS focus on in terms of lobbying v. campaign, and what the primary way is to figure out whether they are doing their job. Stephanie says the CFS committee review will be posted, and can be found online. There are also several The Varsity articles, and Stephanie can give more detail and opinions. In terms of the first question, having seen them lobby government, Stephanie doesn’t know if it can be classified as such, as they just yelled. They have meetings with an MP, then chant at them. They just make their position known, and that is how they lobby. They also sit on boards with the Ontario government. The CFS will be invited to the discussion, usually on education. Typically, they are protesting.

Tyler asks if there has been widespread discontent, and if there is incentive to reform the CFS. Stephanie responds that there are several U of T student unions who have expressed discontent. Steve mentions that the U of T Graduate Students' Union had attempted to leave and failed. There have been issues with how to leave them – Cape Brennan was sued to bankruptcy. Most student unions don’t show up to meetings because of their discontent. Other student unions have posted that they are on board, many in BC, Alberta, etc. It is difficult to get motions passed that are not 100% pro CFS. They are looking in to reforming the CFS for the time being, also in a way that makes it easier for unions to leave. It is difficult to get out of an organization they are members of. As an individual, you have a right to have transparency. If there is a lack, you have a right to ask and get that kind of information and a right to show discontent. Steve replies that the discontent isn’t new, historically there have been many issues. He also mentions that there is precedent for leaving the CFS, since among others, a large bloc of institutions in Quebec did so in the early 2010's.

*Term Two Budget – Nicole*

Nicole sent out an email call for budgets. They read through the main dates, which can be found in the email. Budgets are due Friday, October 21st. Nicole emphasizes that in order for the budget to be considered for the second half of the year, we must hand in budgets from term one by October 28th.

Zahavah asks if the budgets from first term are not finalized, if this is alright. Nicole responds that it is ok.

**ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*Victoriad – Updates*

Brenda introduces herself as the editor of the Victoriad. Last year was a success for the Victoriad, they were able to publish many pages with contributions from Vic students and sold out copies. They will continue to collaborate with Vic Xposure. They thank for financial support. First, some copies weren’t picked up by people last year, and they can contact them by email. They will be holding them until the end of October, at which point they will be distributed to people on the waitlist. Also, there is a contributors group on Facebook, on which they will call for content and photos. There are currently two requests for photos from pub night and a call for a photo essay on graduation theme. Anyone interested should be directed to their Facebook page. If you are graduating in June, reserve free yearbook anytime between now and February.

*Finance – General Finance Updates*

Time ceded to chair.

**COMMISSION REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*Sustainability – Commission Ratifications*

Jamil moves to ratify the Sustainability Committee Michal Leckie, Grace King, Jenny Dallan, Leila Atri, Pearl Xu, Chris Knipe, Edward Dacanay, Ben Swadron, Victoria Shirriff, Jose Ceron, Melissa Kaneza, Chris DiCecco. Zahavah Seconds. Motion passes.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained: Jamil
* Opposed:

*ARTS*

Olivia sold all 20 Friday Night Live tickets, thanks VUSAC for helping advertise and selling in the office. She advises us to watch for more events soon.

**JUDICIARY REPORTS AND UPDATES**

*VP Internal - Updates*

Golda says the VUSAC council retreat will be happening tomorrow, and it will be a weekend of new and old members learning how we operate. It should be a fun weekend, and we will be staying in Toronto.

*President* – Rahul and Stuart

**Summer Report**

Stuart says in accordance with the constitution, they must hold summer office hours. The office was closed for 2 weeks for vacation. They will be updating council on what they did during the summer. They apologize for the detail, but want everyone to know what was worked on and accomplished.

Rahul starts with Orientation. He breaks it down in terms of events related to VUSAC, because there is the most overlap. These include pizza with VUSAC, Doors Open Goldring, the clubs fair, and Breakfast with the Presidents, which was run by Steve. They all turned out well, there was a good turnout, and he spoke with people who seemed excited. There were no timing issues, nothing delayed. This was the second year of Doors Open, and it went well. The clubs seemed happy with the fair. Overall, there was a fair amount of visibility. Later, VUSAC is to discuss how this is related to our elections. They advertised during orientation, but there was obviously a lower turn out. Generally, proportion of voters is to people running. If we want democratic elections with a solid voter turnout of about 20%, it is generally better to have more people running. At some point in the future there should be a discussion on what we can do to increase interest in elections moving forward, and how it is presented during orientation.

Stu discusses one-on-one meetings, which Ben and Gabe started last year. The first meetings were with council members, then with the vacant positions that were later filled. They responded to the vacancies – hired the VOCA co-chair and tweaked the role. They are trying to integrate VOCA, as in the past it has been separate. This has worked out well. Additionally, the equity chair position was added, and they are still understanding the role, which was based off the VOCA template. They created the position and hired Zoe Kwan, who will work with the tentative commissioner come ratification. Beyond this, they discussed goals, and what council wanted to get done. In the past, there have been some complaints that the presidential portfolio seemed separated. That was the first set of meetings.

Rahul says they met with President Robins a number of times, and they meet with him once a month to talk about initiatives he’s interested on collaborating on and updating him on what they’ve been working on. The biggest thing was the incorporation of the recommendations they were given from the Truth and Reconciliation report. The previous judiciary did this, and at that time the focus was on the push for a mandatory course requirement, based off the Native Students Association. The focus has shifted, more difficulties have risen, and there are more concerns of indigenous staff, students, and faculty. The presidents met with President Robins and Johnathan of the First Nations House, and discussed the possibilities of implementation of a course requirement. Other options in co-curricular seem to be the direction administration is looking to go in. Of the recommendations and directions being looked in to, some are the implementation of indigenous languages courses. There was also discussion of potential exchanges to universities. Stuart adds that the exchange program would send students to a school in an area highly populated with indigenous students. It hasn’t been thought out, and President Robins is skeptical, but it is on their radar.

Nina asks where these universities are. Rahul says they are in Manitoba, Northern BC, Vancouver Island, and ‘Quest’.

Stuart says another job is creating relationships with administration offices, and they met with the principal and their executive assistant. They talked about changes to the Ryerson stream of Vic One. Also, the principal’s office feels disconnected from students, and in trying to establish connections they are emphasizing the role of the VCC. They want to know what we are doing, and provide opportunities for students.

Rahul and Stuart also met with Ray, only once at beginning of the summer. Ray is the bursar, and they mostly talked about VUSAC’s relationship with the Board of Regents, the organization of representatives, and their place within Vic. Stu adds that another thing is reforming the alcohol procedures document, which governs Victoria University. It is a page and a half, and is legally compliant. The supplementary document of procedures has things like recommendations of food, advertising, what needs to be done, and requirements. There is confusion in relation to the policy document which is ambiguous. They are in discussion with Bill McFadden, who runs business and ancillary services, and is the main agent of this document. They also met with the dean about changing the document moving forward, but are still looking for feedback. Also, Vic has a new registrar, who just started in august. They met with her to talk about what to see in partnerships. A few big things were the collection of race census data. Currently, there are no plans to start collecting data, because there are a few bureaucratic issues regarding self-reporting/identifying. They will be looking to other universities which collect this data, and potentially sending out a survey to the students. The presidents also met with the Gardiner Museum, which is actually owned by Vic. They pay rent, and the Gardiner Museum is open to all Vic students at any time. They reached out desperately because of decreased interest from students. They are looking at hosting a lecture series, and Stuart encouraged them to host events similar to the ROM’s Friday Night Live. Because they wanted us in their space more often, they are reformatting programming.

Stu moves to add 10 minutes of time. Nina seconds. Motion Passes

* Favour: All others
* Abstained: Rahul
* Opposed: Hannah

Stuart continues that they also did some fine tuning of VUSAC services, one of the biggest being printing. They worked with the secretary and finance chair to talk about toner and subsidized printing. They shared feedback and created the printing policy, which didn’t exist before. The price has increased by 5 cents. This is a response to ‘tough times’, the cost of toner, how much it is used and subsidized. Any clubs and levies are being encouraged to print after hours. Nicole has talked about changing the budgeting structure based on recommendations from previous years. The work done has put VUSAC in a better position moving forward.

Rahul talks about the SGRT, where they sit on sub round tables. Stuart sits on homecoming, and Rahul on mental health – mental health to meet in next couple weeks. In addition to this, there were policies on governing council and conflict resolution. The Student Societies Complain and Resolution Council is a mechanism for student societies who have conflict with each other or administration, which doesn’t affect us as a federated college. They have also been working on the new sexual violence and assault policy, and are in consistent meeting with the Vice Provost’s office.

Stu talks about homecoming two weekends ago, an SGRT UTSU event which he and Zahavah were a part of. The planned a pregame rally and hype events. The Vice Provost of students wants students to give feedback on things to change. There has been a lot of checking in, seeing where everyone’s at. Vic is unique in things being pursued in relation to what is going on. It has been a busy summer, but a good one. They also held office hours.

**Principal’s Office Review**

Stu says the principal’s term comes to and end this academic year, which results in a search for a new principal. He notes that the current principal is eligible for reappointment. This is important for us because there is now an advisory committee being struck, and this results in a review of Vic specific to academics, co-curriculars, and more. Stuart proposes that if you have any feedback on your experiences, it would be welcomed.

**Senate Meeting**

Rahul provides updates from the VUS meeting on Tuesday. Vic has increased enrolment in all Vic One programs. The senate adopted a territorial acknowledgement. In terms of Emmanuel College, they are running a proposal for a bachelor’s of theology. The Chancellors term is done, so they are looking for a new one. There have been updates around physical space in accordance to the Ontario Law, including changing all exit signs to the international sign for exit. Finally, they wanted to make a note that they changed the name of the senior common room to the Victoria University common room, or VUCR.

Motion: Oliva moves to adjourn the meeting. Hannah seconds. Motion passes.

Meeting is adjourned.

* Favour: ALL
* Abstained: