**VUSAC Meeting**

Friday, November 8, 2013 at 5:20PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

**In Attendance**

**VUSAC**

CHAIR Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

PRESIDENT Jelena Savic

VP INTERNAL Kathleen Walsh

SECRETARY Enxhi Kondi

COMMUTER Christine De La Cruz

COMMUNICATIONS Jade Huguenin

ARTS & CULTURE Leah Moncada

SUSTAINABILITY Kristina Dokoska

EDUCATION & EQUITY Sienna DiGiuseppe

CLUBS Edan (Dan) Binyamin

SCARLET & GOLD Sebastien Hart

MAL Anastasia Langiano

Ashley Harripersad

Alan McCallum

Lucinda Qu

Ally Scandolo

**LEVIES**

STUDENT PROJECTS Angela Sun

VCAA Nirusha Shanmuganathan

ENVIRO FASHION SHOW Sarah Berger

***Official Regrets***

VP EXTERNAL Zack Medow

MAL Kate Dotsikas

Robert Fan

*Kate proxies vote to Alan. Robert proxies vote to Jade.*

* *Kathleen moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Sebastien seconds. Unanimously approved.*
* *Anastasia moves to approve agenda. Sienna seconds. Unanimously approved.*

NOTE: VUSAC members that have provided official regrets to the Chair prior to the meeting are excused. However, all members that have not attended the meeting *and* have not provided official regrets are explicitly being warned: if you miss 3 meetings, you are subject to the process of impeachment (this does not necessarily mean you must be impeached, but that there will be consequences). Fair warning.

**AGM DISCUSSION**

* Gabe: AGM was really great, there was food and people. I was worried the room mix-up would’ve caused a lot of people not to come, but we had a full room. Two motions passed during AGM. Both are investigations, so they’re not really binding to do any specific things. But the first thing was to investigate voting reform, and the second was an investigation of Board of Directors structure. What this entails is two new subcommittees and exec and MALs to sign onto these committees. We need to complete these committees before the end of January. And the second thing included an Open Meeting that must occur before end of January and if you are part of B.o.D. committee you must plan this open meeting. And then there were other updates, like about the summit and how Jelena and Zack feel about how the summit has transpired.
* Anastasia: So with B.o.D., when you say investigations do you mean a couple different proposals as how it would be structured?
* Gabe: Yes, and even further than that, we have to have an open meeting to get student input as to how that structure should be and such. That initiative really starts off with planning that meeting, and then you start the investigation.
* Jelena: So Zack and I will spend winter break figuring out how things are structured at other councils, and then we’ll research how to structure this whole process so we have as many people involved in as many steps as possible. So we’ll have the open meeting to see what people think is supposed to be the function of this board and that’s how we want every step of the process to look. So essentially, it’s going to be a very busy time after the break and the whole council is going to be involved; clear, directed tasks and research and responsibilities for every single person.
* Sienna: If we choose to go forward with this, what is the way we would move forward; does this go to referendum or do we decide internally this is what we’re going to do?
* Jelena: It’s going to be a public consultation, but we have to bring the structure up to have positions open for the elections. And probably a constitutional addition to clarify the roles and such of this board.
* Sarah: If you have a town hall and involve students in the process of drafting it, and there’s no resistance, then a referendum isn’t really necessary. So ideally VUSAC should want to do something people actually agree with, so the referendum won’t be necessary.
* Jelena: But if it does come down to option A or B type situation and we need a referendum, I’d hope we’d have this set up in time for the election period.
* Sebastien: Say we eliminated a role, would you be able to eliminate something from spring voting without a referendum?
* Jelena: Yep, the position just wouldn’t exist.
* Sarah: Like if someone runs and is elected for a position, then VUSAC decides to cancel that position?
* Jelena: I don’t know. We’ll talk about that later, that’s not really what we’re trying to do. You could always have an implementation later.
* Alan: In constitution, there is an allowance for independent referenda.
* Sienna: To take things back to the AGM, I felt like so many people were complaining about “I don’t know about this, I don’t know about that” and I feel like there are more things we can do about more outreach events. Having said that, I do think we hear these criticisms and we’re hard on ourselves, like we need to be more accessible, but honestly there’s also a responsibility to each person to seek out knowledge and information for themselves. So it frustrates me when people complain, but don’t take the responsibility to be resourceful.
* Alan: People being confused, I think what would be useful would be both outreach, but also implementing more educational processes during orientation.
* Lucinda: Yep, I think it’d be very efficient if there was some sort of guide and people could refer to that.
* Anastasia: There was the clubs fair, though, and that’s how I found out about VUSAC.
* Sarah: So I had two remarks about this. I think it’s true, but at the same time there are certain things to make the council more approachable. One of them, in the constitution there’s this thing called the Vic University handbook which no one prints anymore, but they were super useful. But I find when you put it in frosh kits, people actively get it and it’s a physical thing. And I know Jade had a project which probably isn’t happening now because of finances, but she wanted to hire someone to work on the VUSAC website, because other councils have way better and way more accessible websites, because the VUSAC website isn’t that easy to navigate.
* Leah: I vaguely recall in first or second year there were two different student leader days where you go and find out all the different positions you can get involved in.
* Sarah: They have that in April for sure, like when you’re first elected to your position in April, and they teach you like a bunch of stuff that is really useful.
* Leah: I remember when I was a levy head, I was a levy head for a year before going to student leader day, so I thought “wow I could’ve used knowing that earlier.”
* Anastasia: I agree with Sienna earlier, I have a negative response to those comments about not knowing where to go and who to approach. It frustrated me because I feel like we are accessible; our office hours. Maybe the issue is actually advertising that we have those. Because we all put in so much time being here and being accessible. And that’s the same about not knowing who to approach for certain things. We make it clear that certain people should be approached for certain things, but we should also make it clear that you can approach any of us.
* Alan: The student handbook idea would be a great thing to do again. Also, I agree about more advertising what we do now.
* Angela: It’s hard to have one person talk about everything because we have so much going on. And I wanted to say that it’s sad when someone said people are just doing it for their resumes and they don’t actually care, but honestly people spend a lot of time and work really hard at VUSAC.
* Lucinda: In addition to the student guide, not simply list the positions as they’re described in the constitution, but just a very quick and realistic description.
* Jelena: Who wants to take on the handbook?
* Sarah: I think what Lucinda said about being more colloquial is very important.
* Kristina: I was thinking we should have a day where we set up a booth and explain to people what we do and what our function is. Like an informational thing. We could be stationed at different places and that would seem more approachable.
* Ashley: In terms of a book, we could include that FAQ page we worked on in that because its tangible and they have it.
* Angela: Also, could VUSAC sort of hook up with the academic organizations because I have a lot of friends that do stuff with their academic unions, but never come to Vic, so maybe doing collaborations with those would be good.
* Sarah: We talked about this, but fundamentally big thing is having a sign at the window. Either in the hallway or on the glass windows, or somewhere. And somewhere to just have a copy of the constitution. Also, another big thing about VUSAC is the support that VUSAC members give to each other’s events and other events in the Vic community. There was always a huge VUSAC presence at these events. And I think that’s really important. It makes VUSAC visible in a way that people will come up to you. So individually, what you do on a day to day basis also makes a difference for people. Also, investigating putting info of VUSAC on that Sid Smith board.
* Angela: To that board, I believe the key for that board was kept by either communications or commuter dons.
* Ashley: I’m actually working on that board and that will be coming soon. And we’re going to have a featured levy of the week and club of the week.
* Alan: With regards to the sign outside idea, I know the admin might not be that receptive to? (Jelena: On the balcony yea it would be fine.)
* Angela: Since we’ve moved to how to advertise, what right now are the rules for postering? And even in Old Vic?
* Jelena: Yep, we’ve got bulletin boards on these walls. Don’t put them near the Dean’s office entrance. Don’t put them on the glass. Brick is not ok either.

**LEVY REPORTS**

**Student Projects – Angela Sun**

* Two projects to pass: $250 for the Vic for a Cure Cancer Tree, $4,278 for Longboards at Vic.

Motion 51: Kathleen moves to pass both projects. Sienna seconds. Projects pass unanimously.

**VCAA – Nirusha**

* VOCA, VCAA, and Sustainability hockey night pub night had a pretty good turnout. Our next event is Dec. 5; we’re going to meet in Wymilwood lounge for hot chocolate and cookies, then we’ll make our way to Nathan Phillips for skating. Also, sign up for intramurals is open!

[3 more from jelena]

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Education & Equity – Sienna**

* Mike the Change is this Friday, I hope you all can come out, we have an alumni speaker coming. And we have about 5 or 6 signups. We’re going to have raffle prizes. If any of you guys know of anyone who can give us some prizes?
* Lucinda: do you need any more signups?
* Sienna: Yes, email Leah if you want to perform. Our proceeds are going to the Toronto People with AIDs Foundation and the Olive Branch for Children. It’s from 9-11:30ish.
* Leah: Also acts should be between 5-15minutes.

**Commuter – Christine**

* Next week is the last VOCA pancakes of the year. We’ve had a lot of turnout, it’s been great. Next week we’re doing a gingerbread decorating event. It’s on a Wednesday, so we really need you guys to promote this! It’ll be happening right after the next VOCA pancakes. Also, festive dinner is on Thursday. Me and Nevraj, my VOCA co-chair are deciding commuter of the year, so if any of you have someone in mind you think deserves this award, please send me an email.

**Sustainability – Kristina**

* Hockey Night at Vic was last Thursday, which was our last event this semester. But next semester, we have about two events a month coming up. We’ll be doing a bunch of collaborative events to spread the word on climate change, leading up to our final event which will be a keynote speaker. If anyone has any ideas for who the keynote speaker should be, please email me, and if you want to help and participate in this, I’m very willing to let you help!

**Scarlet & Gold – Sebastien**

* Today was the last day for Winterfest Chair app, but Friday is the last day for Winterfest Committee applications.

**Arts & Culture – Leah**

* I’d just like to say, the BOB made $3200, then from that we subtract some little fees. Anyway, Garden Gala is coming up.
* Angela: When will those tickets be available?
* Leah: Jade has to make them still, but hopefully next week, because the gala is the first week back.
* Angela: Will there be Winterlicious this year?
* Leah: There definitely will be! And the restaurant we did it with last year wanted us to come back, but apparently a lot of people didn’t like it.

Jade enters at 8:14pm.

* Lucinda: What is this event?
* Leah: I basically buy a ton of tickets and subsidize them so Vic students can go out and do Winterlicious, but it’s slightly cheaper.
* Sarah: I think it might be interesting to do it at two different restaurants, but it might be less complicated to not have to worry about all that.

Dan enters at 8:19pm.

**Communications – Jade**

* The semi-annual reports. It is my responsibility to complete; entails every VUSAC member to write a summary on what’s been done over the course of semester and some plans for next semester. Everyone should’ve received this email. Everyone should be included. It allows any members of the Vic community to see how you’ve been doing in the role given to you. I set the due date as the end of exam period, which is because I wanted it published for the end of second semester.
* Kathleen: Do you have the reports from last year?
* Jade: Any report should be online somewhere.

Lucinda leaves 8:20

* Alan: I think this is really cool, especially for self-evaluation purposes. For format, do you want it list-wise or paragraphs?
* Jade: For some of the busier people, the point form is fine. But the MALs should take more of a narrative approach and be more self-reflective.
* Angela: It might be a good idea if you want to send out an email to the levies or clubs to include a report as well.
* Jade: There’s no way of enforcing it. And honestly they’re already supposed to be giving reports at each meeting, which is a new responsibility for them. So making them give an additional report might be another responsibility.
* Jelena: I would support making that report mandatory too because I currently only have two reports of all the levies, plus VCAA who was here. Of all the groups that get student money, and yet they’re not even being transparent enough to tell us what they’re doing, is unacceptable. It’s their responsibility as levies to write these reports. And there are levies which haven’t been present at these meetings for an entire semester.
* Sarah: Is there a constitutional process for getting rid of levies?
* Jelena: Not getting rid of levies, but getting rid of levy heads by withholding money.
* Leah: Most levies have an independent bank account, so you can get rid of the levy head and refuse to give them money, but you can’t touch that bank account.
* Sienna: What happens with that money that we don’t give them?
* Jelena: Nothing. It just sort of stays there, VUSAC can’t use it.
* Alan: Could we also consider making physical copies of our reports and get it out there somewhere?
* Jade: As long as we are not compromising our sustainability policy. Some people have been using the listserv/VUSAC newsletter very well. But an issue is that not every student gets it because they need to be subscribed. So starting next semester I’m going to get a campaign going to get more people signed up to that. Also, there’s been a survey conducted, but wasn’t done in the last 4 years, so it’s preferable we do one this year. But the issue is that the websites that used to do these cease to exist so I’ve been trying to find certain websites to do this, and I’ll have a committee to work on this.
* Dan: Sarah asked earlier, is there a process to get rid of levy heads? Is there something we can do?
* Jelena: I’ll talk about that in my update in a second. You wouldn’t have a referendum to remove a levy, but you would require them to have a referendum to justify their continued existence.

Ally leaves at 8:29pm and proxies vote to Kathleen.

**JUDICIARY REPORT**

**President – Jelena**

* *Levies*
  + Notice over 50% of levies that have not provided reports. It says on constitution, if levies fail to attend or submit updates to two consecutive meetings, they should no longer have levy heads. So, Zack is meeting with Caffeinds co-managers to hire new co-managers tomorrow. We are looking into replacing levy heads for a couple other levies too.
  + Alan: If a levy head vacates their seat, do we as a council get to vote on that?
  + Jelena: Yes, but it’s a process of consultation with the levy head. We withhold their levy check until we come up with some sort of resolution. We wish we didn’t have to step in any more than we already are.
  + Gabe: So the levies that attended the AGM, did you or Zack confront them?
  + Jelena: Yep, they told us they were going to submit something for this meeting but they haven’t.
  + Sebastien: Is there a formal process where you guys send emails out after the first missed meeting or something?
  + Jelena: Yes, and we’ve already done so.
  + Jade: If they were present at the AGM, does that count as a meeting attended?
  + Jelena: Yes. Exactly, but in terms of what we’re saying now as “two consecutive”, they’ve missed multiple meetings before that as well.
  + Alan: Do you have a record of communication showing you’ve tried to reach out to them?
  + Jelena: Yep.
* *Clubs*
  + Students who wanted to join clubs emailed clubs and never heard back from these clubs. So, I would recommend if any student comes to you and says this is a club they signed up for and they haven’t heard back, tell them to email Dan so Dan knows which clubs are not taking on this certain degree of responsibility. If a club wants to justify getting student money, they have to actually do stuff for the students. So we need to think of ways to ensure this isn’t an issue anymore.
  + Alan: Is there something we could do as consequence?
  + Jelena: Withhold funding, change club head, and you can remove their club status.
  + Sarah: The fact that the constitution is very vague about club status, removing club status is very easy so it gives VUSAC a lot of power. But what I wanted to say is to verify that these clubs students are complaining about are still active because they may just be emailing a blank email, since even the clubs website hasn’t been updated. So I hope this is actually just a miscommunication and not clubs who don’t actually want new members.
  + Jade: Another proactive way to address connection to information is that over the course of the winter break, I’m going to revise parts of the website that people don’t really go to so I can sort of incorporate things together in a way that it’s more accessible.
  + Dan: From perspective of clubs, I’m working with Anastasia to make random non-exec members of clubs to answer some questions and then she lets me know if there’s anything I should be concerned with in clubs.
* *CLC*
  + There was a transition-type meeting this morning to figure out what we’re doing with the CLC role before the new CLC is hired. So the different jobs Samantha does will be spread out among the Dean’s office. For events, you should contact Bergita. They will just send someone to VUSAC meetings. I`ll be meeting with Kelly on a weekly basis to get updates from Dean’s office.
* *VCC Updates*
  + Basically, President Gooch gave a report and what we’re doing is looking at the VCC and Campus Life Committee. They both have similar functions, but we’re trying to split their roles up and really look at who’s supposed to be doing what. There’s a lack of communication between all the governing bodies on campus, and President Gooch recognized this too, so we’re looking at that.
* *Enrollment & Awards*
  + When students enroll in Arts and Sci, a certain percentage of them have to go to Vic, then the rest get split up among the colleges. Now we’re taking 13% of these students. The gender ratio at Vic is 68% female and 32% male. We have 777 first year student, some are Vic One (1/3), some are transfer students. The standard for acceptance is 86% average for humanities and 87% average for sciences. Awards; Vic got in trouble for giving too many admission awards last year. About 50% of the incoming class gets an admission scholarship, so that was decreased, but you can’t control the in-course scholarships.
* *Mental Health Program*
  + They’re evaluating mental health services at different universities. They’re trying to implement stuff at Vic and U of T. In December, provost office is meeting with deans from all the colleges to talk about U of T and how the system works. Everybody has very unique perspectives and there’s a clear miscommunication that they’re working on fixing. It’s definitely recognized that mental health is a really big problem.
  + The biggest thing that came out of this meeting was the institution recognizing that this is a problem and happens to students, so they actually recognize that professors aren’t at all equipped to deal with mental health of students.
  + Sara: So how are they going to follow up on that meeting?
  + Jelena: So they talked about Cornell’s framework, which is where they have the central CAPS, but then they have these spread out hotspots so it’s like a more flexible system. They’re looking to imitate that. Kelly is going to Cornell in the next couple weeks to actually see how it’s going to be structured.
  + Alan: Will all of this lead to a public report?
  + Jelena: Yea, ideally.
* *Access Copyright*
  + U of T is negotiating this contract. Basically, by law if you are photocopying something you can do either 10% or one chapter of a book, so that’s still in place when negotiating Access Copyright. But when we asked whether or not this’ll affect students, they said check your blackboard links and make sure they still work.

**VPI – Kathleen**

* *General Comments*
  + I just wanted to remind you guys of a couple of things. Keep in mind that you guys are VUSAC members. Thank you to everyone that has come to this meeting. It’s important that we’re all here for each other, reach out if you need help, but you know we’ve had some cases of people shifting work to other people, and we want to encourage a cohesive network of support. But if there are deadlines or initiatives you know you’ve been keeping on the backburner, now’s the time to step it up because we only have 7 more meetings next semester. So you really need to keep pumping stuff out and getting stuff done.
* *Orientation Co-Chair*
  + The committee met and interviewed the four candidates who had applied, but based on the interviews we weren’t fully satisfied that we had an appropriate pairing for this year. So we are re-opening the applications, and they’ll likely be open until mid-January. We’re going to be promoting it and trying to get more applicants.
  + Jelena: The biggest issue with the pool of applicants was that there wasn’t enough experience.
  + Gabe: Did you explicitly ask former execs to apply?
  + Kathleen: We did, and I think we’re going to resend that.
  + Sarah: So the people who applied had also never been leaders?
  + Kathleen: One person who applied had once been an exec, and one person had once been a leader, and the other two had never been either.
  + Dan: Can people from VUSAC apply?
  + Kathleen: Yea!
  + Jelena: You just can’t be president.

Motion 52: Alan moves to adjourn meeting. Dan seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned.

**MOTION SUMMARY**

*Motion 51*: Kathleen moves to approve Vic for a Cure Cancer Tree and Longboards at Vic student projects. Sienna seconds. Projects pass unanimously.

*Motion 52*: Alan moves to adjourn meeting. Dan seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned.