



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7:10 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

Gabriel Zoltan-Johan [INCOMING CO-PRESIDENT]

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER
FINANCE
SECRETARY

Kathleen Walsh
Ben Atkins [INCOMING CO-PRESIDENT]
Ally Scandolo

Commissioners & Councilors

COMMUTER
EDUCATION & EQUITY
SCARLET & GOLD
SUSTAINABILITY

SaraLi Forouzanfar
Claire Wilkins [INCOMING E&E]
Olivia Klasios
Alice Zhu

COUNCILORS

Auni Ahsan
Rahul Christofferson [INCOMING VPI]
William Cuddy
Golda Greenspoon
Alex Martinborough [INCOMING VPE]
Simona Messina
Stuart Norton [INCOMING S&G]
L-P Veilleux

INCOMING COUNCIL

LEVIES

CAT'S EYE
STUDENT PROJECTS
THE STRAND

Darren Cheng
Arlette
Anthony Burton
Rhianna Jackson-Kelso
Emily Pollock

GUESTS

BURWASH CO-PRESIDENTS
DEAN'S OFFICE
STUDENT

Brennan Jackson
Shiny Balachandran
Leila Atri [INCOMING
SUSTAINABILITY]
Sadia Awan
Shannon Brown
Niamh Gomm
Thomas Lynch
Anna Pozdniakova [INCOMING
COMMUTER]
Lucinda Qu [INCOMING VPSO]
Brenan Sivapragasm
George Wilson
Michelle Vacarciuc [INCOMING A&PD]

Not In Attendance

**OFFICIAL REGRETS
COMMUNICATIONS**

Sumeeta Farrukh [INCOMING ARTS &
CULTURE]

Motion 144: Rahul moves to approve minutes from last meeting. L-P seconds. Motion passes with one abstaining

Motion 145: Stuart moves to approve agenda. William seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- *Student Projects* – Arlette
 - Updates & Final Projects
 - Arlette: I have four last projects to present for this school year. Red Ink have asked for \$800.00 to fund a zine. Another project by David and Ariel to screen a sexual assault documentary in Bader \$3000.00. This was approved on the condition that they will ticket event and it will still be free – the tickets will be give Vic students priority. It's the first screening of the documentary and it is very good, so this is to ensure Vic students are getting priority since there will be public interest. The same policy goes for the next event: student Nicole Fogel wanted to fund a talk on Vic campus from Leslie Schwartz, who is a holocaust survivor. This project would be \$2187.00. The next is for a new table and chairs for VUSAC, which would be \$12,842.00. We discussed the possibility of VUSAC funding half of it itself, since it is an operating cost and a lot of money. It would be roughly \$6500.00 but that can't be discussed until budget steering meeting in August and it's up to the discretion of the new council. Just wanted to bring it up to have on the record.

Motion 146: Kareem moves to omnibus all four projects.

- Kathleen: I'm wondering about the ambiguity of the refunding from VUSAC? What are we putting through at the moment?
- Arlette: Student Projects is putting through the full amount, but it would be a discussion about being reimbursed later.

- Claire: Could you repeat the amount for the meeting room?
- Arlette: \$12,480.00.
- Enxhi: Just to describe the table and the amount – it's boat shaped and curved – similar to the copper room design. It's open in the middle and has outlets on the table. It's chairs similar to these ones in the Copper Room. It's the same company the Dean's Office uses, Patrick Cassidy, it's very reputable and well made.

Motion 146: Motion passes unanimously.

Motion 147: Kareem moves to ratify the omnibussed projects. SaraLi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Arlette: Student Projects chair applications are still open, due Wednesday, April 1st at 5 pm. Little known fact that the Student Projects chair receives \$500.00 like VUSAC assessor members for their work. This year we allocated \$58,990.59 to 18 projects. Not all of that will be necessarily spent, but that is how much was approved. That leaves a bare minimum of \$20,000.00 surplus for next year if all projects are spent fully, before next year's fund.
 - Auni: We're trying to figure out how many Vic constituents there are. How much did you receive this year?
 - Arlette: We received \$31,000.00 and each student pays \$10.
 - Rowan: You would like a specific number of VCU members? I can give you the exact number.
- CRO – Kathleen
 - Election Results & Final Remarks
 - Kathleen: We had a successful election! We had 648 votes in total, which from my records is the new record for VUSAC. I had to give out quite a few warnings and strikes, but fortunately did not have to disqualify anyone. There are new rules I'll be recommending to next year's CRO. I'm not sure if we have to ratify the new members of council.
 - Rowan: It's only have to ratify them if there is less than 15% voting.
 - Auni: We had about 20%.
 - Kathleen: I spoke to the Registrar's Office; there is 3373 Vic students not including Profac students or other members of U of T who pay VCU fees. Myself and my assistant CRO, William, calculated different totals depending on which groups are included. We had over 15% and under 20% depending on the definition of student – whether we include just Victoria students or all those who pay fees. This means we are still in the above 15% margin regardless. Does anyone have questions?
 - Auni: What are some of the new rules suggested?
 - Kathleen: Some of the new rules suggested, I am not sure if they are the best to put through but I will bring them up, had to do with some complaints about campaigning through class listservs and general messaging of a lot of people all at once. I received quite a bit of feedback about being spammed through various campaigning means and there are no rules against a lot of them as it stands.
 - Rahul: Just wanted to say thanks for all the work you've put in, Kathleen!
 - Leila: I don't know exactly how I feel in terms of this, I felt uncomfortable going into classrooms to campaign. There are mediums

of classrooms that warrant a more comfortable environment for that and there is nothing in the rules saying those spaces are not permitted for campaigning. Vic One students can access more students through those channels; there is a slight disadvantage for those who don't have intimate class settings like that. I'm not sure if anyone has stronger opinions about that?

- Kathleen: I made that rule because I did not think it was an issue if the professor was okay with it. I also wanted to get the advertisement of voting out there as much as possible, but I understand your concerns.
- Brenan: There is a breakdown of how many people used polling stations versus their own computers. There are concerns about polling stations as expenditures of people's time.
- Kathleen: In my mind, we have done them in the past so there is precedence. I was hoping for the highest possible turn out and I could use any means to do that, but it is tricky. Some of the polling stations did give me feedback – like Old Vic, that probably won't be used again due to low turnout. There is data saying when people found out about the elections and there was a question about finding out through polling stations.
- Anthony: Is there a way to have the CRO next year keep a tally of whether votes came from a home computer or a polling station in order to have a better idea of where votes are coming from?
- Kathleen: That's definitely possible. In my mind, I see the concern and I don't think it's invalid if there were fewer people. At the same time, if you get one or two more percent of voters, it does make a difference. I do agree they're not the most effective method, though.

○ *Chair – Gabe*

- Gabe: I wanted to ask council to ratify the checks for the assessor members.
- Enxhi: I was going to do that in my section, but we can do that now.

Motion 148: Enxhi moves to release the \$500.00 honoraria for Finance Chair, Communications Coordinator, Chair, Secretary and CRO. Rahul seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

○ *President – Rowan*

○ Board of Regents Update

- Rowan: The Executive Committee of the Board of Regents met. Property was talking about the little house on Charles Street earlier this year; the general consensus from administration and the executive committee was that there is no need to expand classroom or residence space at Vic. They would like to use it as revenue generation. They will look into a commercial venture, like condo's. It will not be sold but they will rent it out.

President Gooch said something quite interesting, in my opinion. He said that the admin would re-examine their sexual assault crisis response – said he wants to do this before he leaves. There are currently 17 steps for sexual assault incidents that admin has to take - he thinks this is too much and does not allow accessible help. That's something I'll work on in my capacity as a Board member next year and over the summer.

There is the retirement party for President Gooch on April 10th, that's the day to celebrate President Gooch's tenure here and also find out who the next President is. With that announcement, the Presidential search committee job is done there and we're very happy with the way the search was done – the student voice was definitely heard.

○ UTSU Updates

- Rowan: First time in 18 years that a non-incumbent has won all the UTSU executive positions. We have a totally new Students' Union perspective next year. The opposition won 22 seats on the board. A specific congratulation goes out to Auni, our very own who won as an independent and beloved Stephen Warner who was 2 votes ahead of Auni.
- Auni: Shout out to Stephen for going all they way to Mississauga for the Board Meeting today.
- Rowan: There is the last Board meeting of this year happening to ratify the new council currently happening now.
- Ben: They pushed back ratification to April 15th.
- Rowan: I'm particularly excited about this because this is a group committed to many things. They have said they are committed to marginalized student representation and college representation on the Board; open and democratic governance which means election reform and transparency. They also view college societies as a number one method for student engagement. They want to use groups like VUSAC and reach out to students – we know students in our colleges better than we do and they are proactive, excited people who want to get to know the campus. Best of luck to them!
- L-P: The property on Charles, did they say how long before it'll be before it starts generating revenue and what will be done with the revenue?
- Rowan: They need to know how much they'll be making before they put it towards something. The idea for it right now is to partner with St. Michael's. They are looking to renovate Loretto College – work together to update the space and increase the revenue of those spaces.
- Rahul: Update on the Caffiends relocation?
- Rowan: Unofficial and there is no final decision yet because President Gooch must sign off on it – but the committee Kelley formed agreed that it's best it stays in Old Vic. They couldn't have a convincing argument to move it – touch wood.

○ *Vice President Operations* – Enxhi

○ Updates

- Enxhi: The first thing is that Equal Voice Victoria will not longer be a Vic club anymore. It's a U of T wide group with branches at Vic and Trinity, but they'll be combining the branches and transferring it to U of T wide solely. Changing name to Victoria College Equity Collective – they want to ratify that and continue their year as an official Vic club. They will continue into next year serving as a safe place for students to discuss race, gender and class – same kind of club they are right now. They are changing their name because of the U of T wide changes.

Motion 149: Enxhi moves to ratify Equal Voice Victoria as Victoria College Equity Collective.
Auni seconds.

- William: We have the Equity Commissioner and the Equity Commission already – would having the two be confusing?
- SaraLi: They should talk to the Equity Commissioner about joining together. As William was saying, there may be students who do not realize the difference.
- Auni: A club is a more safe space for students to talk rather than the Equity Commission, which focuses on just hosting events of the sort.
- Brenan: Is it operating outside the Equal Voice domain and just doing the same thing while serving only Vic?
- Enxhi: Yes.
- Kareem: The exec just decided to make it a U of T group solely?
- Enxhi: Equal Voice is an organization that exists outside U of T. I was approached a while ago about this, the groups both run a lot of their events together anyway. It allows the Vic branch to continue to exist over the summer – if we ratify this, we can suggest they change their name to something more appropriate.
- Kareem: Would it be useful to have both the Equity commission and club discussing equity issues?
- Claire: They're not changing much of what they do – it doesn't make much of a difference and it's good to have both.
- Stuart: I thought Equal Voice's mandate was about focusing on promoting women in politics. We should encourage keeping this club and eventually changing their name to reflect their mandate.
- Alice: What events did they hold this year?
- Enxhi: Speaker events, writing events – it's similar to what Claire does but they have a more specific mandate.
- Claire: Nothing is changing in their actual mandate? I would suggest a name change. I think Equity Collective is seemingly more encompassing than women in politics.
- Brenan: To echo what Stuart said, they should have their name reflect their mandate. There is also VicPride and don't want to cause further confusion between clubs.
- Ben: I can speak to this because I have talked to the heads of Equal Voice, Emily and Priya. The main difference between the official descriptions, their goal is to empower young women to be more involved in politics.
- Brenan: That's different than what Enxhi read out.
- Ben: I'm not sure if they're changing their mandate after separating from Equal Voice now that they can form their own club.
- Auni: We should go ahead and vote them in. More equity is great, they may need some changes but they need to be a club so we should vote on it.
- Enxhi: Re-ratification happens in September, so it can always be adjusted.

Motion 149: Motion passes with one abstaining.

- Enxhi: I put in the order for the new club storage furniture; it will come in and be installed in July.
The applications for the five assessors on VUSAC will close tomorrow and hiring interviews will be Thursday through Tuesday.

The transition period is until April 30th, the current council has until then to transition the new members and the next council will get their keys starting after this meeting. Current judiciary and commissioners reach out to your successors.

I posted something in the VUSAC group and this is a suggestion I want to make to the next council. In previous years, there were suggestions similar to this to the former VPI's. The City of Toronto has something called Accountability Officers – people who audit the council, what they promised to do and if they completed these tasks. There needs to be an individual, or multiple, holding VUSAC accountable to what they said they would do. This kind of position will have someone tracking every member's actions and events. This is too much for the VPI – who has other responsibilities to keep the council running smoothly and this position requires tracking of every member. The person also needs to be impartial and distanced from council. In the event that a someone is not doing their job, this person can hold someone accountable and rally petitions. A council member won't have time for that, this needs to be someone's only task. You can see more examples and descriptions of the City of Toronto website.

- Michelle: I think that is a great idea, but it should stay in the VPI's role. Instead of the VPI tracking everyone by themselves, but there could be a database to input each event done and there is less pressure on the person auditing.
- William: I've dealt with the ombudsman's office in Toronto – it's not the most effective system. There is a level of conflict of interest. It'll be hard to find an impartial person. That role can be entrenched in council, like with the VPI.
- L-P: There are four positions on the website and there is already positions similar or not necessary made for VUSAC. That is something that falls under the purview to the VPI – supporting council members, dealing with problems on council. I'm sure Rahul will do a great job next year, but I don't see a purpose in hiring someone who would mimic exactly what the VPI would do.
- Brennan: I just wanted to add that without a clear mandate, it would add an unlimited level of power to that position. This could overrun executive power of VUSAC through their accountability privileges.
- Brennan: You give an ombudsman this job they also need an assembly of punishment actions; they could impeach people, which VUSAC already can do, or report on the shortcoming of people. You can't publish slander in elections – unless you let this appointed member publish reports on the shortcomings of members, which is similar to elections slander.
- L-P: We do have a recall procedure – it requires signatures of 15% of the VCU. We would have to get our election turnout percent in order to recall a member of council if this person were to impeach someone.
- Stuart: According to By-Law #32, there is an internal review committee and it's chaired by the VPI and has multiple council members. The mandate of this committee is similar to this position – it'll convolute the process since this is already in the constitution. You could reinforce the needs of the committee.
- Claire: There are things in the constitution you could look over and use next year. I think we can go into the constitution and tweak things in

order to make things like Internal Review more functional. There is a lot of room for productivity in that structure.

- Rowan: There is a lot of speculation as to what it could look like, this could go badly but it could also go well. I would recommend that if the new council is interested, this will fall into your lap and it should be researched if it'll work in a practical reality. It's hard to imagine what it will look like in a discussion like this. If I was a first year councilor, I would not be keen to rag on a senior member of council to another council member. There is something valuable in an arm's length member of council to report things to. Anything unresolvable by council could be brought to them.
- Stuart: The one-on-one's don't fall under the mandate of the Internal Review. The Internal Review is supposed to meet three times a year to discuss council's work.
- Rahul: For one thing, Enxhi wasn't suggesting a lobbyist or ombudsman but having an arm's length member. This is a transition idea – we can discuss it later.
- Enxhi: Thank you, Rahul. I know about Internal Review, but my point is that it is internal and arm's length would give a helpful perspective. VUSAC is essentially a very large levy, every levy has an advisory board and it's just a suggestion. My other suggestion was having monthly AGM's and it allowed an open forum – I think that should happen more often. Voting by all students at the AGM and have binding votes.
- Kareem: Point of information – most levies do not have an advisory board, just the Cat's Eye.
- L-P: My suggestion to the previous conversation is to have members of the VCU on the internal review in order to also have an arm's length student's perspective.
- Enxhi: Another suggestion is to inspect funding – events that are exclusive in terms of numbers like Highball, get more funding while Winterfest is open to everyone and has less.

○ Club Ratification

- Enxhi: There is also a new club on the table from Alice.
- Alice: I had this idea for a long time regarding a club to empower students to host it's own leadership opportunities – we would host bi-weekly workshops on social innovation and student leadership. I've found a few people interested in joining. Every workshop would be a different topic, for example, the first one would be on the issue you would like to tackle in an event, then how to find a target audience, how does a campaign work... Students would give a presentation by the end and then have an opportunity to host their own events.
- Kareem: Is there a demand for that?
- Alice: A lot of people have asked me how to go from helping out at an event to hosting your own event.
- Enxhi: The club statement is: "The club will host workshops every month to expose Vic students to social issues and empower them to tackle these issues through their own projects. This club will collaborate with other clubs at Vic and the broader U of T community to make Vic students better social innovators and leaders and let them take a stance on issues in their community. There will be seminars,

guest lectures on social innovations, issues and topics and people will be able to stay after and discuss their own topics.”

- Auni: I recall we approved a club from JJ about something similar. Do you see overlap?
- Enxhi: That would be Hacking Humanities, it was to bridge humanities studies with entrepreneurship and manifest opportunities for students. Those would be monthly meetings.
- Leila: Alice’s seems more about workshops, while JJ is about finding speakers in terms of teaching different topics. Alice’s is more step-by-step and like a course.
- Alice: I remember JJ’s idea was about two months ago and kind of vague. It’s more teaching rather than just being exposed to these ideas.
- Brennan: It sounds like something that can be taken on by the Academic and Professional Commissioner.
- Alice: It does tie into that, but it’s more about what students can do now to tackle social issues rather than later.
- Michelle: I believe this club is valid and will work well.
- Kareem: Have you spoken to JJ about this and discussed merging this?
- Alice: He didn’t even specify what his meetings would be about. I have planned monthly sessions already and have a plan of what we would like to do.

Motion 150: Enxhi moves to approve Vic Social Innovation. Rahul seconds.

- Alice: We wanted to bring this up because wanted meeting space for the summer to plan.

Motion 150: Motion passes two abstaining.

○ *Vice President External* – Kareem

- Kareem:
 - Student Projects: Chairperson will be chosen next week and will be ratified through an email vote after selection.
 - Acta: New issue will be out soon, it will be in the library and campus spaces. They will be selecting Editors-in-Chief at the end of the month.
- L-P: Would the email vote be current or the incoming council?
- Gabe: The current council.
- Kareem:
 - Caffiends: They have been very active this month, catering for VOCA, Vic Variety Show and Lawn Party. Unofficially Kelley will be recommending to President Gooch to keep Caffiends in Old Vic. Satisfaction survey will be distributed through myself soon to see how students feel about Caffiends. What’s on your mind? Program will be starting, it’ll be a series of workshops from the Registrar will have drop in office hours in Caffiends – it will be fun and very informal. The first will be this Thursday with Emmanuel Melo. Co-manager applications are due on April 7th, the new co-manager will also be ratified by an email vote.
 - Cat’s Eye: Latin Pub Night with the Latin American Students’ Union was last week and it was very successful. End of Year part will be tomorrow with VOCA, will have Dance Dance Revolution and food! I have asked Thomas to be here today because he was chosen as Cat’s Eye co-manager.

Motion 151: Kareem moves to ratify Thomas Lynch as Cat's Eye Co-Manager for 2015-2016. Auni seconds. Motion passes with three abstaining.

- The Strand: Published their magazine issue themed The Wild. There is also an online version of their last newspaper issue. They will be publishing a joke issue as a de-stressor. They elected a new masthead – 12 new editors and 3 Editors-in-Chief.

Motion 151: Kareem moves to ratify Anthony Burton, Rhianna Jackson-Kelso and Holly McKenzie-Sutter as The Strand Editors-in-Chief for 2015-2016. Claire seconds.

- SaraLi: How were elections done?
- Kareem: Open to all editors and contributors to vote, anyone could run for the positions.

Motion 151: Motion passes with two abstaining.

- Kareem:
 - VCAA: Athletic Banquet was last week. They had over 180 guests and a fun after party at Burgundy's. They'll be voting for their new exec tomorrow.
 - Victoriad: They were selling yearbooks at Lawn Party and will continue to sell them throughout April.
- Rahul: They were sold at \$5 until Friday on their posters.
- Kareem: It should be \$10 unless they have changed it. You can buy books by emailing them and will be selling from their office.
 - WUSC: Has been inactive since no events planned for after International week. New co-heads will be chosen next Tuesday, email ratification.
 - VicPride: They were at Lawn Party and worked the cotton candy machine. They have selected Sadia as the new VicPride president.

Motion 152: Kareem moves to ratify Sadia Awan as the new VicPride President for 2015-2016. William seconds.

- SaraLi: How were those elections done?
- Kareem: Done by the current executive, I was invited but it was done during Crescams.
- SaraLi: How did it work?
- Kareem: Anyone could run but they were interviewed by the current executive.
- SaraLi: They have been pretty inactive this year – can you speak to that?
- Kareem: I've spoken to them about that, they debated opening it up to non-Vic students to join but since they are a Vic levy, I said no to that and we wanted to make sure it gave Vic students priority. Hopefully under the leadership of Sadia, they will do great things.

Motion 152: Motion passes two abstaining.

- Kareem:
 - VCDS: Having elections, applications are due on April 6th – open to anyone and only exec could vote, only hiring for the position of CFO. Application is on their website.
- Dean's Office wanted to have an AGM but it was not feasible since it is the end of the year. Anyone who has anything to say about counselling services at Vic, it will be in September and you can pass on your concerns to me or directly to them.

- Brennan: It's a bit intimidating to approach the Registrar for appointment; you may not want to discuss your issues with them while booking an appointment. Would it be possible in the future to move it to an online format?
- Kareem: Counselling services are offered through the Dean's Office, you can call CAPS and book the Vic specific counsellor.
- Shiny: Just a few notes on Counselling Services, there will still be a larger discussion event in September but there are two opportunities this week to discuss your concerns. I'll help us get things in place for September. It seems to be working well, but We want to know how to make it better and keep offering it to Vic students as a premium. It'll be held in the Wendy Cecil atrium, there will be snacks and students will have a chance to speak to us, VUSAC and the Dean's Office, about your concerns. There is a learning strategist, wellness counsellor, career counsellor. Learning Strategist can be booked through the Registrar's office, Career Counsellor through Wanda and the Wellness Counsellor can be booked through CAPS or the Dean's Office. If you have ideas on how to access them, you can email us or come out tomorrow or Wednesday.
- Emily: It seems like they're embedded in Vic, but you still have to call CAPS to book an appointment for the Wellness counsellor. I feel like the appeal in having someone embedded in Vic removes contact with CAPS. Is there a way to remove an intermediary?
- Shiny: You can choose to meet with someone in the office, like Scott or myself, to book an appointment. You can come see us and help you get connected.
- Claire: I ran into the Learning Strategist one day and he said you can also approach him directly in his office to make an appointment.
- Enxhi: To echo and add to Claire's point, I don't necessarily know if students want the Dean's Office to know about them reaching out to counsellor's – if there is a channel aside from that. I don't think the atrium is an ideal location for events like this when dealing with sensitive topics, but I think the Wymilwood Lounge, which is more enclosed, will make people more comfortable.
- Auni: They wanted it to be a less of an event but more of a drop in with snacks – a looser environment for discussion.
- Rowan: This is mental health we're talking about – there are a lot of different things that people will not be able to bring up certain aspects of their emotions. The main thing with it being in the atrium should allow students to not have their experiences critiqued or judged. It might be harder to do on the topic of mental health, but these are to structure better counsellor experiences for all students.
- Shiny: It's mostly about how the different services can be made better – concerns or questions about bettering programming. If you want to provide more feedback and get into personal feedback, we can do a more personal line of communication.
- Brennan: The space is very accommodating, but I attended a conference there in that space that allowed both for serious discussion and a looser environment.
- Goldring Student Centre Committee
 - Kareem: The Goldring Committee met last week and a couple things brought up were discussed: lights in the commuter lounge that don't

dim. There can be motion sensors in order to save electricity, it's mainly about safety since it is in a basement and darkened space can allow illicit things to happen.

- Enxhi: A motion sensor would work so that when someone is in the space, it will turn on the lights.
- Kareem: They can still be blocked, a basement that has a possibility to be darkened the whole time. Auni mentioned to me before about Bahen having access through a T-Card, and we discussed the possibility of Vic student access. They brought up having to hire new security and heating the building all the time if that's the case – it's all about cost. Burwash Study space is open a lot, 7 am to 7 pm, which is a functional overnight student space.
- Thomas: Only CompSci students can access Bahen Centre.
- Kareem: This would be only Vic students, as well, but doesn't mean people wouldn't bring in their friends from outside Vic if they have key card access.
- Apurva: Doors closer to Avenue lock at 8 or 9 pm, is there any way to not have to walk all the way around the building?
- Kareem: I can ask, but they will mostly likely give me an answer relating to security and easily controlling the doors.
- Auni: I understand the costs, but I think it would be worth it. Extending hours would also be better for students if the key card access is not possible?
- Kareem: I can talk to them about having it open until the subway closes, but it is a matter of security expenses.
- Brenan: Bahen is almost all classrooms – Goldring is administrative and multi-functional which creates different levels of security.
- Kareem: They were alright with students using the space, but there is a necessity for more security which is a concern.
- Rahul: How about weekend hours?
- Kareem: I did not ask, I will ask next time.

There will be a retirement party for President Gooch in Goldring next Thursday, April 9th. There was an RSVP sent to people, but feel free to come by. It was just to get an estimate of how much food to purchase.

Enxhi attended a meeting about the MargAd field on my behalf and she will speak to it.

- Enxhi: Essentially, you will be able to sign out the MargAd field for certain amounts of time from MargAd front desk.
- Rowan: Have they come to a decision about cleats?
- Enxhi: No cleats, unfortunately. They don't want it used for practices, just for fun.

COMMISSION REPORTS

○ *Commuter* – SaraLi

- SaraLi: Just some updates from the past month. First, the brunches have not gone well this semester. Exec availability was mainly on Thursday mornings, but the turn out was not as much as Tuesday. The student body is important and can ask other people to help out if

Tuesday is the most popular. Waffles will be served this Thursday for the last one.

Our comedy night was really good for those who came, and we did not sell all our tickets due to the printer being broken and lacking promotional materials.

The End of Year Party will be tomorrow between 5 and 9 pm in the Cat's Eye. Free food, fort building and a DDR tournament will be happening.

The mural began last week on the Student Project for the commuter lounge.

Locker clean out will be until April 30th at 5pm, then the next Commuter commissioner will take over and emptying out the lockers. Co-chair application due Wednesday at 8pm.

Just wanted to touch on transition reports. It's important to have your transition reports for your successors; I got three Facebook messages after pestering. You don't want to have people pester you, so do your transitions!

- Brenan: Can commuter lockers be put on the Vic-wide listserv next year?
- SaraLi: They have been included on the Listserv this year.
- Enxhi: You received Christian Julien's transition? I emailed it to you. It would be good for your successor as well as your own.
- SaraLi: If you sent it, it would be organized in my email for them.
- Rahul: When did the application come out for lockers? That seems like a very short period of time
- Anna: I can talk to people about extending it but we just didn't want to let it go into the exam period.

○ *Sustainability* – Alice

- Alice: First off, the gardener for the summer was hired.

Motion 153: Enxhi moves to ratify Melissa Canesa as Community Gardener. Alice seconds.

- Enxhi: We had three applicants: she was the most qualified and is still a Vic student. Hopefully this will allow her to continue her work until she graduates, since this is not a popular position. She is being paid \$500 and new supplies will come from that honorarium.
- Kareem: Do you know where the old materials are?
- Enxhi: She is in contact with the previous gardener, it's apparently in the Old Vic Phys Plant storage area.
- Kareem: She may have to use more of her \$500.00 than expected if there is not a lot of pre-existing supplies.
- Enxhi: She can choose how much she spends on new materials.
- Ben: When does she begin?
- Enxhi: She already has.

Motion 153: Motion passes with two abstaining.

- Alice: We had a conference for two days called Climate for Change. We had two speakers. First one was Michael Chalm, a Conservative MP. He gave a lot of insight into what his party is doing wrong and how Canada can move forward to make environmental policies better. We also had a presenter from National Strategy, they are working on a campaign leading up to this federal election on climate change action.

There's an exciting and important meeting this December, called Comments of Parties 21. There's a meeting of all the heads of state to discuss climate change. It is happening in Paris this summer; they are

working on organizing a delegation to go. If you are interested in planning or going, speak to me. Does anyone know if Vic has a travel fund?

- Ben: We do have a travel conference fund but it's only to the states.
- Alice: We had our fashion show and funds went to a sustainability fashion company in BC.

Something to discuss with Leila is a committee to deal with waste reduction at the college. I tried to do put forward a compost program in residences and we have been diverting waste from landfills through this program.

- Leila: It's enough of an issue; this is something I'd want to think about. If it requires another committee, we can discuss it.
- Alice: I would like to host an event in May, a 5k-10k run for climate awareness for sightseeing and having fun.
- Leila: It would be cool to team up with the longboarding club and also make it a wheels events. Could also tie it in with photography if it's about sightseeing?
- Enxhi: On that note, VicXposure does photo walks and may be interested!
- Alice: This is not just in terms of Sustainability, but to engage students interact with VUSAC more, there could be another way to have people attend meetings or get to know members better.
- Rowan: Tie into Enxhi's idea of monthly general meetings, you could have those monthly general meetings where everyone is able to engage. I've always dreamed of having a VUSAC meeting in Burwash, you could have that worked into those monthly meetings.
- Auni: In my capacity as Vic director, Stephen and I want to have casual forums to get feedback from students. With the AGM format, it was a multi-hour meeting that was formalized. It might be easier to hold consulting sessions.
- L-P: Would this AGM replace one of the two meetings per month?
- Enxhi: I think that's logistics to be figured out by next year's council.
- Michelle: People come to VUSAC meetings for a specific purpose, when people need to be ratified or find out information, they will be here.
- George: As someone who came here as not a member, this could be promoted through social media and awareness in order to have students attend. This wasn't even brought up on the VUSAC Facebook page – just awareness should help.
- Rahul: Food could also bring people out.
- Ben: This is definitely something for next year.
- Alex: Maybe not once a month, or even once a term to have a big meeting in Burwash can draw people in. It's important to have more people involved.
- Darren: Sending out the agenda to more students instead of just members so people know.
- Emily: It may be an easier sell to do something that isn't a meeting – the idea of being in a long meeting can be daunting when you're busy. I think a more casual setting is better.
- Enxhi: A personal incentive would be having a vote at these meetings. I think we should hold actual AGMs with votes for all students.

- Alex: I do like the idea of having a non-meeting setting to interact with VUSAC members. I think that using only office hours is limiting.
- Kareem: This is similar to Caucus meetings that happen per semester.
- Claire: Something I found that gathered first years together would be having a plenary next year would be useful – not sure how feasible it is but it's a good way to reach out.
- L-P: Adding to Alex's point – that was the principle behind the VUSAC hoodies and making sure that hoodies were there sweaters to more events.
- Golda: I recognize that it's good to actively have conversations with the Vic community is very helpful.
- Rahul: Some of the Q&A's candidates had been very helpful.
- Enxhi: I really like the idea of just branching and hanging out with VUSAC people. You mandate VUSAC people to hold office hours elsewhere outside their actual office hours.
- Alice: At the formal meetings, can anyone add agenda items?
- Enxhi: It's not advertised, but if they emailed any of us, we wouldn't say no.
- Alex: I view it as a failure on my part to not have gone out and done more outreach.
- Rowan: This is everything I tried to have at the beginning, but it resulted in hyper-approachability. When you start by being ever-present and defining yourself as only VUSAC, it can lead to more stressful situations. There is a line between professionalism and being social.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Rahul
 - Rahul: I just wanted to talk about Vic Variety Show – we had a good turnout and a lot of performers. We had help from VicXposure, L-P and Vic for a Cure. Thank you to Thomas and Simona for helping organize it!
 - L-P: Do you know how much money we raised?
 - Rahul: I'll talk to Vic for a Cure and get a figure!
- Golda
 - Golda: I think you guys are expecting something that is not going to happen. I helped host an intercollegiate event – throwback dance did not happen, but may happen in later years. It was a mixer. I suggest it still happen, maybe not me as an active member and I think first years should plan it. There should be something more intercollegiate events.

PRESIDENT REPORT

- Email Votes
 - Gabe: We considered both slates in the UTSU elections and who was campaigning with more of students' concerns in mind. Members of council voted to endorse the Brighter Executive slate. It passed with two opposing and one abstaining. There was active endorsement of Brighter executives through social media due to the vote.
- Conclusion
 - Rowan: I cannot promise to be totally brief, but I will try. This has not been a perfect year, but there is never a perfect year for VUSAC. We can all agree that the one word for this year boils down to

“communication” and summed up all our problems. A lot of it does come down to me. Council to external bodies, within the judiciary, judiciary to council members, council member to council member... All these different levels of communication that I may not be directly involved with or to blame, but there is certainly a bar set by leadership on council that could have been set higher and I'd like to apologize for my part in not helping make communication better this year. This year we had an interesting council culture, we already had a tight social group before we began. Many of us knew each other, but when it came to professional business, there was drama and problems with voting. It was messy and damaging. People's personal friendships were impacted, which you do not want to see. My advice to next year's council is that when you start your new council culture and when you define the social and professional – you must set the line. Communication will help that culture prevail and succeed.

I want to say to you all that this council's accomplishments cannot be thrown away or ignored. For one, the budget. A couple year's ago, VUSAC almost went bankrupt. We are looking at our budget and seeing a surplus this year. That's a vast turn around then when we were looking at the budget and wondering how the Finance Chair and President were going to personally fund VUSAC. After going through an awful, stressful budget meeting, thank you. Number two: Caffiends is still in Old Vic and I'd like to say thank you to everyone who made sure it stayed there throughout the summer and year. Three, the big one I worried about the most was the UTSU election and AGM this year. I have alumni from 2004 emailing about what happened this year with the elections. The level of shock and surprise is astounding. There would have been no change had Victoria not represented itself. Had Vic not had the turnout we did at the AGM, we would have lost and Auni would not have had a position to run for. The *change* in the number of opportunities that has opened up for the Students' Union with our hard work at Vic has allowed more advocacies for Vic. This is because of this collective effort. As far as our records go, this is the highest percentage turnout for Vic giving a damn about VUSAC and student politics.

Amongst all these wonderful things, we also did not fall apart as a council. We did all this to the backdrop for the worst personal disputes and crisis' VUSAC has had in a long time. Be it an impeachment vote or poor communication. Everything kind of picked up and it was a vicious cycle – we broke that cycle and turned to collective effort and managed to create these results, efforts and successes. As much as I am discussing collective effort, I do want to single out Enxhi. Whenever I was ineffective, Enxhi took over for me. Take Enxhi away, and I'm not sure this year would have been this successful.

For next year's council, I'd like to say to approach things with open hearts and eyes. It's impossible to do 100% of the time. What I'm asking next council and anyone in the room is to take that to heart and be optimistic. I'm trying to channel Golda with my enlightening talk. We've gone through the storm and come up with solutions on how to deal with solutions. Ben and Gabe, you have the torch and this is when you take it to the next level. This is going to be the year for the greatest potential in possibilities in council. I'll see you on the Board

and hoping to get more involved in U of T central stuff. Good night, good luck and I'm sorry Kareem, I move to adjourn this meeting.

Motion 154: Rowan moves to adjourn meeting. Olivia seconds. Motion passes with three opposed and one abstaining. Kareem notes abstention.
Meeting is adjourned 9:30.