

VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday January 29th 2016 at 6:00PM in the Goldring Student Center
MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

CO-PRESIDENTS	Benjamin Atkins and Gabriel Zoltan-Johan
VP EXTERNAL	Alex Martinborough
VP INTERNAL	Rahul Christofferson
VP Student Organizations	Lucinda Qu

Assessor Members

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR	Bergita Petro
CHAIR	Emily Dyer
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER	Saambavi Mano
FINANCE	Shannon Brown
SECRETARY	Golda Greenspoon
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR	Alice Sluchenkov
UTSU DIRECTORS	Auni Ahsan
	Stephen Warner

Commissioners & Councillors

ARTS & CULTURE	Sumeeta Farrukh
COMMUTER	Anna Pozdniakova
EQUITY	Claire Wilkins
SCARLET & GOLD	Stuart Norton
SUSTAINABILITY	Leila Atri
ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Michelle Vacarciuc

COUNCILLORS

William Cuddy
Peter Huycke
George Wilson
Carl Abrahamsen
Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis-Hart
Hannah Brennen
Miranda Alksnis
Clement Cheng

LEVIES

VCAA	Moritz Frieling
	Simian Kataria
Incoming Orientation Co-Chair	Diana Von Schwerin
Outgoing Orientation Co-Chair	Apurva Kilambi

Caffiends
VCC
Student Projects

Alisha Talpur
Zoe Ritchie
Enxhi Kondi

Not In Attendance

OFFICIAL REGRETS

CHAIR
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSIONER
VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
COUNCILLOR

Emily Dyer
Leila Atri (after 6:40)
Lucinda Qu (6:45-8:15)
Cricket Cheng (after 6:40)

- Proxies: Leila to Hannah (after 6:40), Cricket to Carl (after 6:40), Lucinda to Alex (while she is out)

Call to order – January 15, 2015, 6 pm

- Land Recognition Chair
- I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for fifteen thousand years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat, and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe to peaceably share and care for the nations around the great lake. Today the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to meet in the community on this territory.

William moves to approve minutes. Cricket seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Anna moves to approve the agenda. George seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Shannon: This meeting is now at 2:45, time limit is three hours. Out of respect for everyone let's please try to stick to this time.
- UPDATES
- *Reflection on Conference* - Leila
 - Leila: So we just finished unpacking COP21, with a turn out of about 40 people. It was really awesome. Four speakers, one an indigenous scholar and activist, prof of geography, a prof of philosophy of enviro, and an avid student activist. Hearing this discussion was really cool. They all had very different approaches. We had lots of different questions for them and we only ended up using six of them, they spoke for a long time. people were very happy. We raised about 40 dollars, sending out to the islamic relief fund. I know the speakers were happy with it and thought it was a great discussion, good feedback from the attendees too. Two small breakout groups at the end. My favourite part was that so many

people put so much time into it. The success made it all so worth it. This is something we're planning on doing every year.

- *Orientation* - Apurva

- Apurva: We are finally closing Orientation 2015. It was a really good year for all of us. Thank you to everyone who had a role in this. I am very thankful, I am here today to introduce the new co chair. She was an amazing exec member, running around all the time getting stuff done. So, Diana Von Sherwin is the new Co-Chair. I know for a fact she will make orientation even better, it's going to be really great.
- Stuart moves to ratify Diana Von Schwerin as the 2016 Victoria College Orientation Student Co-Chair. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- Stuart: Thank you Apurva! You're amazing. We're at the year mark also for being at this, so way to go.
- Diana: I am really excited to do this. Exec applications are open now for O week 2016, due the 22nd of February.

- EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- *CLC* - Bergita

- Bergita: I just wanted to again let you know that I'm here if you need anything. Embedded counsellors are here if you need them. Please make use of the career educator, here every Friday. Can help with personal counsellor and learning strategist as well. Application deadline for don ship was today.
- Anna: Will there be any changes to the commuter don team?
- Bergita: What we found this year is that five seems to be a good number. We are happy with that but would also love to hear feedback.
- Leila: I went to see the learning strategist and found it to be so helpful.

- *VPSO Update* - Lucinda

- Lucinda: Acta Victoriana held a launch in the Cat's Eye on Tuesday, January 26 for the first volume of its 140th issue. The event was a success, with many students and poetry aficionados in attendance. Musical entertainment was graciously provided by Geoff Baillie. We are now running the Victoria College Poetry Contest, which closes submissions on Feb. 14, and submissions are also open for the Spring issue of AV140. We are eagerly anticipating an upcoming social and open mic, to be held at the Free Times Cafe on Feb. 11 at 8pm; it's called Blue Valentine, after the Gosling flick or Tom waits album - you decide. Victoriad: We held our first team meeting of the semester. Bookmarks were designed. Some of it has been printed and distributed already, but there's more to come. Still looking for printing options that will allow us to distribute yearbooks in time for the Lawn Party. Interviews were done for the yearbook, so some pages are done. More to come. Website to be released this weekend. Poster to be designed and printed for distribution all over campus to reserve yearbooks. Cat's Eye: The first week (from the 18th to the 22nd) was mostly booked by VCDS for God of Carnage. They had the space every evening of the week for tech, rehearsals and show dates. The show went well, almost reaching a full house every night. The only other event that happened that week was VOCA Pancakes, with the UofT Aerospace Team as the

- weekly guest. As usual they had a large turnout. This week (the 25th to the 29th) had many more events. Despite getting off to a slow start -- there being no event on Monday - - the week quickly picked up with Acta's Launch Party on Tuesday. This was also the first event this semester to book the bar. Wednesday started with VOCA Pancakes (featuring Dumbledore's Army), attracting many people. This was followed by the first Vic Records Weekly Session, then a VISA screening of the movie "El Secreto de sus Ojos". The day concluded with the Dons hosting a healthy eating speaker. Thursday saw VUSAC having their Out of Office Office Hours, VOCA having their Welcome Back Social, and Dumbledore's Army screening "The Deathly Hallows Part 2". All of these events had decent turnout. Tonight (the 29th), VUSAC and ICSS are having the VINNIS Pub Night. The Strand is finalizing it's 8th issue of the year this weekend. Next weekend will be a vote on the theme for our second magazine issue of the year. Tentative themes include Women and Gender. We are distributing more widely on campus as we have spent the year compiling a list of all of our newspaper stand locations and it is finalized now. A reminder that all students are welcome to use the Mac computers in our office, which include the Adobe creative suite as well as Microsoft Office. VCDS: God of Carnage concluded successfully and we sold out one night. Overall a very smooth show and great experience for those involved! Drama Festival: rehearsals are underway, now our main objective is to sell as many tickets as possible Rent: Rehearsals are going well and we're just making sure that all aspects of the show will be ready on time as the semester tends to move quickly. Overall, our main focus is on selling tickets for the festival show and keeping ahead of all the things we need to do for Rent. Caffiends: passed our official Health Inspection with flying colours. Catering the Harry Potter Pub Night on February 4th. Held our first executive meeting of the year catered the Sustainability Conference. On January 29th catered the Goose's Winter Wings Open Mic. Beginning to accept new art submissions for the cafe still in the process of training volunteers; we are nearly finished, however.
- Sim: We haven't had events yet this semester. Intramurals are going well. We have finalized the date for our athletic banquet.
 - Lucinda: Lastly, on a separate note, if anyone would like to help my councillors and I make constitutional changes relating to Vic's student organizations, please let me know!
 - *UTSU directors* - Stephen and Auni
 - CFS and Vic, recent CFS-O General Meeting
 - Stephen: Can we table Auni's?

Alex moves to move Auni's update to after councillor reports. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes, one abstention.

- Stephen: I am giving an update on the legal situation. In September the UTSU issued statement of claim against Sandy and Yolen. In the last week the UTSU has settled with Yolen, no longer pursuing legal action against her. In terms of getting money back this has no negative effect. We are still pursuing getting the money back. Yolen has said three things, she has not received money from Sandy, the true had a close relationship, Sandy falsely told Yolen that she had sought legal advice in taking the money. So those are the three things that went into Yolen's statement, we believe them to be true. Still pursuing against Sandy.

- Gabriel: For the purposes of the lawsuit it is true.

Rahul moves to move Auni's portion to now. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes, one opposed, two abstentions.

- Auni: I just wanted to give a bit of a primer to the CFS. It is the Canadian federation of students, a union of unions. Made of corporations. There are also provincial branches. I was at the GM for the CFS Ontario a few weeks ago. They are meant to engage in a national student movement for students rights. Made up of about 100 student unions. Mostly made up of smaller colleges. We are the biggest school in the union I think.
- Auni: Vic students pay a lot of money to the CFS. With the CFS we pay a membership fee and they don't post budgets or minutes. I talked a lot about democracy. Even though we are contributing a massive amount of money we still don't really have a say. It is also problematic that they sue those who try to leave. The UTSU pays a massive amount of money to the CFS so you should care about that.
- Benjamin: What was the reception at the conference like?
- Auni: I felt like it was an echo chamber where someone states an opinion and 40 other people whispering "solidarity".
- Stephen: A good example Auni made to me at the time was that he missed the dress rehearsal of the event.
- Auni: They spent about 45 minutes where people sang songs with their member unions. There was a motion to condemn the Denmark government even.
- Alex: I was wondering if Auni could share his song with us.
- Auni: I just said "here".
- Alex: How much money does the conference cost?
- Auni: They spent about 400 000 dollars on meetings per year.
- Benjamin: More detailed breakdown?
- Auni: I could provide that. Accommodations, food, etc.
- Carl: Auni, what is your personal opinion on this
- Auni: Could not possibly comment.
- Rahul: With the SGM not meeting quorum, any update on solidarity with cape breton?
- Auni: I believe the motions will be passed on to the board. There are a lot of problems with a union like this i think, the biggest being opting in or out of the CFS. I don't think students are given a fair choice. It is very hard to leave the CFS.

Alex moves to move Enxhi's update to this part of the agenda. William seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- Enxhi: I have seven projects to pass. Can somebody tell me if Leila's passed.
- Shannon: Passed unanimously with three abstaining
- Enxhi: So that was today's conference. another project is for cat's eye bean bag chairs 990.22, buying four to six. They will be pear shaped and on the stage. They are there so that people can sit by themselves if they want. Another is for the OCSA, commuter appreciation week happening, 500 dollars to go towards those events.
- Stephen: OCSA a Vic Group?
- Anna: It's an amalgamation of different colleges commuter groups.

- Enxhi: Another project is for a sex positivity conference, funding 1700, not confirmed what's happening. They are trying to figure out they speakers right now. They will have food and are trying to get an interactive speaker. Originally requested was 4700. Next is 109 for vic records to buy them a keyboard and mouse for their computer. We have a project for the scholarship and grant writing club, we are giving them 50 for food for their meetings. Darkroom phase 2, VicXposure has a dark room ,102 dollars towards the maintenance of the room. The darkroom is behind the cat's eye.

William moves to omnibus the aforementioned projects. Anna seconds. Motion passes, two abstentions.

Anna moves to pass the aforementioned omnibus for the aforementioned projects. Michelle seconds. Motion passes, three abstentions.

- COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- *OoOOH (Out of Office Office Hours) Update* - Seraphina
 - Seraphina: Turnout hasn't been great but we've also only had two so far. There has been interest on the FB events. Lots of interest in the Timbits. Going forward we will be having an accountability cafe, on February the 8th. We are going to work on hype for that. After that we will work on making them a regular thing, looking at attendance, posters, getting Facebook events up. We want them to be a resource for students.
 - Michelle: Can we make a promotional video?
 - Bergita: If you are interested in having these at another place on campus you could go to Sid Smith. We are going to try to have them in the cat's eye
 - Zoe: Have you advertised in the buildings?
 - Seraphina: We can do that
- *Instagram Update* - George
 - George: I want to consult you guys on member Mondays. Do you guys want to be on this this Monday? We want people to submit more photos from around vic.
 - Gabriel: Have you thought about re-gramming or sharing Vic X Posure photos?
 - George: We have thought about re posting, or something like that?
 - Gabriel: I think that could be valuable.
- *Motion to Ratify Constitutional Amendment*
 - George: I was reviewing some bylaws, by law 39, has a notable omission we haven't been following. Says that when we go in camera that everyone has to leave the room but assessor members can be ruled to come in by a majority vote. I have changed that line to say Assessor members, VCU members, ex-officio members, and any other person previously present at the meeting can be called to re-enter the room by majority vote.
 - Alex: That is definitely a worthwhile amendment but I think it points to the problem that assessor members are currently very poorly defined. We need to consider what the different types of assessor member are so that we can properly define them and their responsibilities.
- George: So the assessor member thing was also a part of the issue.

Moved by George. Seconded by Ben. Motion passes unanimously.

- COMMISSION REPORTS

• *Scarlet and Gold* - Stuart

- Vic x Innis Social Night

- Stuart: Tonight is the night. Vic and Innis social night/pub night/Vinnis. It's starting at nine. It's going to be a fun event. Free food. Ben and Gabe will be facing Khrystyna. There will be music, just hanging out.
- Alice: Why do we only have collab events with Innis?
- Stuart: We have a good relationship, they are small. We have kind of been ostracized from other colleges.
- Alice: wouldn't it be smart to do something with other colleges?
- Stuart: I don't think Vic is a clubbing college. I would like to see more collaboration though for sure.
- Auni: I think it's important to look at this. I think we should be using our UTSU directors for this. Maybe Vic isn't a clubbing college but the more we can do to expand the more types of people will be engaged.
- Michelle: UC reached out to us for orientation week.

- Harry Potter PubNight

- Stuart: Harry Potter Pub Night is next Thursday.

- Gardiner Gala (2 minutes)

- Stuart: Gala is on February 22nd.
- William: Art things at the gala?
- Stuart: Haven't discussed it yet.

• *Commuter* - Anna

- General update

- Anna: We got less applications this semester than last. I gave out 70 lockers. We still have empty ones. Pancakes popular as always. We supposedly had the UTSU here too. For February pancakes, we have the Alumni Office, VISA/WUSC, and Claire for Black History Month coming in. We had a social yesterday.

- External Events Items (OCSA, Commuter Symposium)

- Anna: We have OCSA with different commuter college reps. We are having a Commuter Appreciation Week, with a whole bunch of events happening this week. There is a commuter symposium happening to Friday March 4th in Hart house, it will be a round table kind of event for commuters by commuters. I am a facilitator. We are looking for moderators. Promotion will be starting soon. I am currently working on that.

- *Equity* - Claire

• Update- Focus groups, sanitary products, pad and tampons

- Shannon: Here is Claire's statement: Hello everyone! Hope the meeting is going well. I apologize for not being able to make it - I'm at the Equity Summit at Hart House and we're doing some important workshops tonight that I don't want to miss. I just have some updates for council and Victoria College that I want you all to hear about. The survey on pads and tampons access has been a huge success. 103 people have participated as of 5:55 tonight. I will be examining the results of the survey this week and working with the Equity Committee to figure out how we can successfully implement the responses into the initiative moving forward. I will be purchasing DivaCups on Monday and drawing names out of the raffle submissions. Shannon has helped me reallocate leftover funds

from the Art Battle to be able to purchase these DivaCups, so thank you Shannon! We raised \$80.00 for Mic the Change (a pay what you can event) which is pretty cool considering that donations were optional. These funds are being donated to the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention. Thank you all for your input on focus groups last meeting. Ben and I have spent some more time thinking about next steps and have been working to get focus groups up and running. The mental health report from the summer focus group is up online at the equity website and the sexual assault report should be available by next week, once Gabe has finished writing it. This semester, the focus groups will be led by myself and other committee members. I'm also looking into getting facilitators from Peers Are Here to help lead the sessions. We will be meeting in Caffiends (after hours) and the Senior Common Room. The days and times we have set up right now are weekly Tuesdays from 10-12 and 8-10 and Thursday's from 10-12 and 8-10, however these times might change. Interested students can register at the equity website once times are confirmed on Monday. The Equity Commission has also been working on some events from Black History Month. The committee is already off to a great start and has done some really important outreach work so far. On February 11, VUSAC doc and talks will be screening Remember Africville. This short film depicts Africville, a small black settlement that lay within the city limits of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the 1960s, the families there were uprooted and their homes demolished in the name of urban renewal and integration. Sumeeta and I are also working on buying tickets to Toronto Black Film Festival with reallocated budget money and provided discounted tickets to screenings for students. I went to visit Mackenzie House about a newspaper printing workshop that celebrates the legacy of Mary Ann Shadd, Canada's first black Canadian woman publisher. The equity commission will be holding a field trip esque event where we go to Mackenzie House as a group and do the workshop together, with students of course. As well I have been in contact with Scadding Court about having their Black History Month display being lent to us at Vic for display for a couple days. I'm working on a collaborative event with Victoria College Equity Collective that explores Black experience in current day American south, but we may be altering the event to suit a Canadian context instead. There are a couple other events up in the air as well. For more information about events planned for February, check the Equity Commission website calendar. Additionally, I am working with the sustainability commission to have a poster out next week that will be a complete list of all doc and talks screenings for the semester. We can probably get a better turnout this way. We were also considering having screenings in the VUSAC lounge instead of various locations on campus, which would ideally open up the VUSAC office to students a little more. At our equity meetings this week, the committee discussed whether we should have race and gender stats collected at Victoria. There were differing opinions, especially with concern by some about the effect of statistic collection in applications on student acceptance to the university. Committee members were concerned that the admissions board might hold biases against certain identities that would affect a student's chance of acceptance if submitted. However, a majority of the committee agreed that collecting statistics on gender and race were important to really examining existing biases here at Victoria college and towards implementing effective programming for our students. We discussed an optional survey or referendum to be attached to spring elections vote cards (online) and the possibility of distributing an identity survey among students in another capacity.

this term. The issues we ran into with this were about who would really feel comfortable filling out the form, who would want to, and what would be the end goals of having such a form implemented. This is the general discussion that we had on the matter. I'm going to contact Eli on the Vic Senate to discuss our ideas further and see what next steps are in regards to this topic. Equity Training is next week in the Wymilwood lounge, Monday 10 am - 12 pm and Wednesday 2:30 pm. 4:30 pm. Register online at the VUSAC equity website! VISA brought up a complaint with me today that apparently sustainability doesn't have enough money to buy green shift stock materials for clubs, and an order has to be requested in advance for materials. Catriona (international student life coordinator) said in the past VUSAC has had a stockpile room of greenshift materials that groups could access without having to request an order. I'm not sure if this is a budget issue or general miscommunication but they requested that I raise their concerns with council tonight. Unfortunately since I cannot attend to night an email explanation will have to do. General summary: student groups should not be using their budgets for cutlery and plate expense (according to Catriona's recollection) but that seems to be occurring. Hopefully we can implement a better plan for easier access of these materials for clubs, or maybe finance/sustainability can explain this further. I think that's all I have for now! Let me know if you have any questions, and hope the meeting is going great!

- Benjamin: Can you explain this further?
- Shannon: Leila just ordered 500 dollars of plates and stuff, it is within her budget. I can't speak to whether she's been contacting clubs
- Anna: I have given my own supplies to VISA.
- Bergita: It used to be a common practice that these plates and things were available. It wasn't something that people would run out of.
- Rahul: I thought that 600 dollars was for sustainability events.
- Shannon: I don't think that was the case.

- ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- Constituent Organizations
 - *Communications* - Alice
 - Alice: First, Listserv. The listserv has been going out now. People are really happy and excited that the listserv has been updated. We are averaging about 2000 views per listserv, separate of the dean's office. Friday night submissions for that. General category. In general communications requests a week in advance. The sweaters, order has been made and they should be here soon. The Instagram revamp is happening now thanks to vic this week. We are going to have a hip theme. For FB events please say you're attending. The semi annual report, there were some late submissions, so that's why it's late. The website now has an FAQ page. The office hours page will also be updated. The website now has a new picture. Reminder to hand things in on time, like edits for the minutes. I am attending a Goldring Centre meeting. There is a Crescams updated application on the website. If you want a signature at the end of your email let me know. Just wanted to say thank you to everyone. There has been such good progress with communication this year. My goals are mostly for the listserv, to set up something really strong for the future.
 - William: I have heard things about some communication requests going unfilled.

- Alice: That might happen if someone wants something made for the next day. Other than that they are dealt with accordingly. All of those have been dealt with. For the listserv things aren't necessarily be there every week. So I like to switch it up. I just want to keep it rotating so that everyone gets a chance.

- *Chair Email Vote* - Shannon for Emily

Ben moves to ratify The "COP21 Conference" student project. Alex seconds. Motion passes, 15 in favour, 3 abstaining.

- JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *VP External* - Alex

- Accountability Café

- Alex: Stuart, Seraphina and I have been planning this. We will be calling it Coffee, Questions, Answers. It will be from 12-4 on February 8th, hopefully in the Cat's Eye. I hope that many of you can be there, especially Judiciary members, and people with a specific portfolio. We will have snacks. For this to be successful people need to know that this is happening. If somebody has a question about anything that they want to hold VUSAC accountable for, they should be able to get an answer for that. If people don't have those questions they should still come and hang out. this is taking a proactive stance for transparency and accountability. I would really love all of your support. To those of you who have done Out of Office Office hours so far, thank you so much.
- Stephen: I just wanted to applaud Alex on this one. This is an idea that the UTSU has been trying to do but has failed because they tend to book a spot that people won't get to/I like the idea that VUSAC will go to an already populated place, engaging people where they actually are.
- Seraphina: Thanks everybody who's come!

- Student Experience Survey

- Alex: A few people have commented on the slack on this survey. We are meeting on Thursday of next week with Bergita and others. we will have our ten questions for that meeting. Any type of feedback would be great.
- Rahul: How will the survey be distributed?
- Alex: We will be using campus labs, 30-35 questions.

- Crescams

- Alex: Nomination forms are up on the website. They will be on the door and at the Dean's Office, and hopefully some at the Registrar's Office. They are meant for a student who has contributed to the Vic community in a meaningful way. This is something that recognized people for going beyond the responsibilities of their job. The dinner itself will be on the first of April. The nomination deadline is the 7th of March.
- Anna: Who is on the selection committee?
- Alex: Me, a Councillor, someone from the office of the Dean of Students, Registrar's Office, Events Victoria, and a former Crescam recipient. VUSAC people can nominate, and can be nominated.
- Bergita: It can also be somebody who doesn't hold a position.

- Alex: It does not have to be an elected member, there are lots of people who contributed who don't hold a titled position. Just if they do have a position, they must have gone above and beyond.
- *Co-Presidents* - Benjamin and Gabriel
 - Updates
 - Gabriel: I am going to talk about two things. On the Cat's Eye Concert, it will be February 26th. A band and opening band have been contacted. We took feedback and decided a multiple person concert would be better.
 - Anna: Is it a problem that we have a meeting during the concert?
 - Gabriel: Not necessarily. Next, I want to talk about the VCC. There is a meeting on February 8th. The agenda items submitted from students were, the first year staff advisory program, the Victoria College Academic Conference, space booking and space management for academic and social programming, the alcohol policy, discussion on indigenous course requirements, course syllabus reform discussion - that resources are provided in the syllabus (like Ask Listen Talk), finally, race and gender census data collection at Victoria university. Two to three weeks ago the U of T decided to start collecting race census data. This discussion point will be pointed to the registrar, asking if they are making these efforts. If you have any more items that you'd like to see at this meeting, please contact me or another VCC member.
 - Carl: What would be the potential product of such a talk?
 - Gabriel: The BOR functions differently in that they care much more about the bigger picture. The College Life Committee hasn't been very active in recent years, it is another avenue to discuss alcohol policy however, so worth looking at.
 - Benjamin: On Wednesday I spoke to the VWC. I have been meeting with Michelle and Peter for the travelling fund. I met with Jennifer. I met with Claire and am working with her on the next steps for focus groups. I went to two students projects meetings. There was a BOR exec committee meeting, I am looking forward to sitting on that which will review the act. I have gone to out of office office hours, babe office hours started this week. I went to the SGRT meeting today. As the year continues I want to reemphasize how it is important to support your fellow council members, I feel as though we aren't thanking each other enough right now. Express your gratitude. Typically for the babe hours we will have our door open and be in the president's office.
 - DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - *Budget Discussion, tabled from last meeting* - Shannon
 - Focus on revised budget and spending

Gabriel moves to have two minute recess. George seconds. Motion passes, three abstaining, three opposed.

- Shannon: I just want to preface this by saying I don't want this to be ten minutes of people pointing at other members saying who hasn't spent what.
- Carl: Would it be possible in future years to have a third column with money that is already allocated?

- Shannon: Yeah I think that's just something you should keep in mind when looking at the budget.
- Anna: What is the ACTA 2014-2015 cheque replacement?
- Shannon: Rewriting a misplaced cheque.
- Peter: I know that Leila isn't here but there's an advertising thing that hasn't been spent
- Carl: If there is simply a dash that means no spending or no report?
- Shannon: I obviously only know what clubs tell me. It is possible that clubs just haven't submitted anything
- Benjamin: A lot of clubs submitted at the end of the year last year
- Alex: So I've got \$25 for Victorian of the Month, which we haven't been doing. The initiative got shifted around a little bit. I don't know if there's some way to repurpose this recognition for something, if someone has an idea for it
- George: For Victorian of the Month we talked about integrating it with the Instagram.
- Alice: We could use it as prize money for something. That could help raise participation or hype.
- Peter: Why don't we use it as a prize for the student experience survey?
- Alex: We are going to use some money for that.
- Benjamin: Collaboration with building presidents?
- Alex: Well, when I submitted my request I envisioned lawn party but now I've decided to use it in a variety of ways. The first is Harry Potter Pub Night, I'm paying for the Italian sodas. Very excited to contribute. Hoping the rest will go towards food for people who go to a meeting of all of the residences presidents. Shannon: Last time there was an interest in why there's been so little spending.
- Michelle: In regards to my own spending, there is a budget line for public speaking workshops, we ended up having one that was free. So that budget line will go to the alumni dinner and the promotion dinner.
- Alice: Is victorian of the month happening?
- Alex: I refer you to the VPI.
- Alice: Okay it's not happening.
- Alex: I think we should return to an overall examination of the budget. There is a lot of money that still hasn't been used. I don't necessarily think it's a problem, but it is something to be aware of. You should use the money in the year it is given to you, because people pay into the fund they expect to, and should get services out of it. Shannon: Yes if Alice can do that
- Benjamin: We could reallocate ten minutes from judiciary things.
- Alex: I would suggest using the four minutes I didn't use.

Benjamin moves to reallocate four minutes from VPE line to now. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes, one opposed.

- Carl: Will this budget be discussed with clubs and levies.
- Shannon: Levies maintain their budgets internally, so this revised budget only reflects the value of the 60% levy cheques, not how much each levy has spent so far this year.
- Stephen: In regards to clubs, the only expense we had submitted was mine. But I know for a fact that there were other expenses. Given that we have been talking about

reconstituting clubs and organizations, could we make them submit requests at the end of the semester?

- Shannon: Yes it is. It would be possible.
- Benjamin: I like what you're saying. We talked about this last year. It wasn't implemented because a lot of the time events are moved from one semester to another. There is a bit of an issue with these people being busy students.
- George: I know that with a lot of clubs, often in the winter many clubs kind of go into not really operating.
- Carl: I think that nonetheless this could be an incredibly interesting tool for our budget.

- *Discussion of Judiciary meeting resolutions* - Judiciary

- Benjamin: So the judiciary met on Sunday. A lot of discussion was had about how we make the judiciary and other parts of VUSAC accessible to each other. What we would really like to do is to share highlights from our meetings that apply to the broader council. We have taken to releasing points and summaries from our discussions.
- Alex: I think that we should probably share those resolutions. I think that it's really important that any decisions on things like this are shared. The two tonight were talked about at the end of last semester, and can't be forgotten because of the break.
- Benjamin: The VUSAC Judiciary resolved to investigate the implementation of indigenous or equity studies requirement or seminar at Victoria College. The Syrian Refugee Crisis is an ongoing humanitarian issue. The Judiciary would like to talk with groups involved with this issue to determine the best path moving forward and establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Syrian Refugee by next weekend.
- Alex: What do people think about an indigenous studies or equity studies requirement?
- Alice: I think it would be great as an option, having it for credit I don't think would really be fair for life sci students for example.
- Peter: I think that I would agree that it should be a seminar, having well rounded students is something that Vic really prides themselves on. I think it's a good point about students outside of arts writing essays, etc.
- Anna: I think that there is a danger of trying to treat the course a breadth requirement. If they CR/NCR it means they could stop caring about it
- Lucinda: I think that the credit no credit is a good step forward. I think it sends the message that the university cares about this. Before we move on I wanted to share some thoughts, we as a judiciary weren't really sure where we stood on creating a breadth requirement or one with indignity. I had a pretty lengthy discussion with the director of the equity studies department. I entered this conversation with the sentiment that indigeneity isn't something we talk or think about enough. I think that people who don't yet understand why we need this breadth might foster resentment towards aboriginal people. Another concern being how the department could handle this. Trying to make everyone start caring about systemic oppression through one path might not be best. The director said that to act as though you want to teach students anti colonial ways of thought, might not best be done in this way. By founding equity studies it was the natural next step to talk about anti colonialism. He further said that it could be very problematic if it were just an aboriginal studies department, and this would take away from it. If we make it an equity focused requirement it puts back in the critical thinking element. We can't talk about that genocide without talking about other

forms of oppression, and the root causes of oppression. After talking to him I felt pretty strongly about pushing for a broad equity requirement.

- Hannah: Going off Lucinda's point, having more options for what courses to take, so the courses aren't just tailored to essay writers, having a few options is better. Zoe: I was just going to talk about breadth requirement, I don't see why a course has to be just an essay course. I think this could go beyond that.
- Golda: I completely agree with you Zoe.
- George: I think something like this should definitely exist at Vic, I think making it mandatory might be potentially problematic. I think it would still be rooted in colonialism which might give an advantage to certain groups of students, such as domestic students.
- Alice: I am worried about the opinions that will come off this course. With having to take a course like astronomy, I associate resentment with that. I am worried that people will take this as a chore.
- Lucinda: I think that will be the most common criticism. The hope is that if these courses are well chosen, constructed, and taught, students will come out and realize the importance of it. No one's lives are endangered, or anything, if not everyone speaks french, but if we're not aware of equity as a concept, that actually does matter. If people are coming out of here without this knowledge i don't think we've done our job.
- Alice: I just wanted to note that of course the topic isn't unimportant, it's more that it's peoples attitudes towards it.
- Michelle: You're example I think is pretty situational, I can give a counter experience. With astronomy, I kinda liked it, and now I look at the stars occasionally. My friend from Ryerson took an indigenous class and I've never heard her speak so passionately before.
- Hannah: Part of the resentment I think stems from having to take the course. Having it be only one course, only the one option. I like the idea of having the opportunity to take something from a handful of courses.
- Rahul: Great discussion. On the note of resentment, I think that people can get over it. I would rather have people be bitter than just ignorant assholes. I disagree that with the idea that an indigeneity course should be replaced by an equity course. I think it misses the point that we are on stolen land, which was the original purpose. I think that equity courses really don't focus enough on indigeneity. When you take the intro to aboriginal studies you get context that is really important.
- Miranda: I have my own issues with AST201. I don't think that course is taught well. It doesn't have to be like this
- Alex: I would like to re-centre this conversation around Vic. Implementing a requirement isn't going to happen from VUSAC but we can exert some influence to the VCC. I think that what is important to the current discussion is what VUSAC can and should do. There is currently a petition going around for an indigenous studies requirement. There are limits to what we can do, but in my opinion we should do what we can and work to get something implemented, and potentially talk to the UTSU about their lobbying efforts.

Anna moves to extend by twenty minutes. Alex seconds. Motion passes, two abstentions.

- Lucinda: We started off the conversation by looking at what some other colleges have done. While we think that some other ideas at vic are helpful, we think that more meaningful help should be given by our community. That thought process is happening.

- Bergita: I just wanted to mention that Cricket has connected with different people at Vic who are running these initiatives. It might be helpful to connect with him
- Lucinda: While I think that could be really great I don't think it's the top priority for them.
- Bergita: I think it was just one of the items. And there are also limitations on what the university can do.
- Benjamin: I can give a summary of how the judiciary feels. The main way that we are going to interact with this issue is the ad hoc committee that has been set up. Alex and I are planning on reaching out to several professors on this. As Lucinda said we feel very strongly that we can help refugees by raising money and hosting families. VUSAC is another entity from the university, and we should think about how we can help
- Alice: There's been a lot of people talking about how they feel that the government is putting so much money into refugees but neglecting people in Canada, do you guys have any opinions on it?
- Carl: I think that the people in Canada who are suffering equally are mainly a few minority groups, mainly the Inuit, I don't think it's relevant because they weren't being helped before. I don't know that it has relevance to VUSAC right now either.
- Alex: Pretty much same. There are tons of horrible things that the government should be addressing, I mean, I think that we should address the inequalities of the capitalist system. However, the refugee crisis is a huge humanitarian issue. I think that we had a moment when the federal election happened that everyone had an opinion on it. I feel it's so important that something is done, that we don't just let it fade away. In addition to helping in whatever way possible with the Syrian Refugee Crisis, we should also attempt to address the many other problems where possible. I think we should go down together as VUSAC and volunteer at a homeless centre or for something that we can do here in our immediate community.
- Lucinda: I would go so far as to say that it's not a valid criticism. We do have the money to help them. It doesn't take that much money to help groups like Syrian refugees. As far as those with current systemic inequalities of pre-existing things, those things seem to be embedded, if we want to help those people we will have to divert much more money. All this doesn't mean social programming will suffer.
- Alice: I find that there are always going to be humanitarian crises, but there are also so many things that are happening in Toronto. For example, Toronto is becoming the hub for human trafficking. This is an extension of what we can bring our resources to, things that are important to Toronto and our community.
- Michelle: With the party in power I know they also wanted to do it for appearances. I think a conference could be something to look into. I think a few Syrian refugees could talk. I think that you are correct with looking at local issues
- Carl: I agree that there will always be these crises but this is a massively important one. This is undermining the stability of many other countries and the EU. The impact reaches far further than just one country. This is an extraordinary moment of time that calls for extraordinary discussion.
- Rahul: If we look at what we can do as a council. We still have our student activism fund.
- Lucinda: I think the great thing is that action is necessary, we all agree. We could also think about making use of student projects, what if with the extra money, we submitted an application at the end of the period asking for the overflow and giving it to this.
- Bergita: One outcome was to have vic students able to learn more about the crisis. With student projects I got the idea but I'm not sure that that money can be donated directly.

- Alex: I think that something that really sticks out for me was that someone asked a question of what we can do to reach out to other causes in our community. It was an interesting question, something we should consider moving forward. I think using student projects money to do something like hosting an event to raise awareness would be good.
- Carl: If we're worried about student projects money we could always hold a referendum.
- Alex: I would like to thank everyone for participating in these conversations. This has given us a lot to work with. Don't just let this fade away.
- Lucinda: Hopefully we can have more discussions like this in the future. There are other things happening around us. Maybe when Claire is in attendance and everyone else here we can talk more about how we are going to support that kind of work
- Benjamin: Thank you for participating. For a committee, we will be setting that up. With indigenous studies we will be working on that.

Alex moves to adjourn. William seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:11.