



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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**VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

September 12, 2014 at 5:17PM in the Goldring Student Center  
MINUTES

**In Attendance**

**VUSAC**

**Judiciary**

PRESIDENT  
VP OPERATIONS

Rowan DeBues  
Enxhi Kondi

**Assessor Members**

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR  
COMMUNICATIONS  
FINANCE  
BOARD OF REGENTS

Bergita Petro  
Sumeeta Farrukh [ACTING SECRETARY]  
Ben Atkins [ACTING CHAIR]  
David Kitai

**Commissioners & Councilors**

ARTS & CULTURE  
COMMUTER  
EDUCATION & EQUITY  
SCARLET & GOLD

Conor Tangney  
SaraLi Forouzanfar  
Claire Wilkins  
Olivia Klasios

**LEVIES**

**GUESTS**

UTSU DIRECTOR

Victor Lee  
Zach Morgenstern  
William Cuddy  
Naomi Stuleanie  
Ingrid Llambi  
Rahul Christopherson  
Alan McCallum  
Connor Annear  
Yolen Bollo-Kamara  
Cameron Wathey  
Pierre Harfouche

STUDENT

MALE HEAD OF TRINITY COLLEGE  
UTSU EXECUTIVE

**Not In Attendance**

SECRETARY  
CHAIR

Ally Scandolo  
Gabriel Zoltan-Johan

Motion []: Enxhi moves to approve minutes from last meeting. Rowan seconds. Unanimously approved.

Motion []: Enxhi moves to approve agenda. Rowan seconds. Unanimously approved.

## JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *Vice President Operations* – Enxhi
  - Sweaters
    - Enxhi: First thing, the VUSAC sweaters are going to be zip up hoodies with our position and name listed on the back. I posted numerous options on the private VUSAC Facebook group and this was the design the council liked best. We have the option of getting them each screen printed for \$35, or embroidered for \$75. We budgeted at \$60 per sweater. What do you guys think?
    - Ben: I don't think we should have embroidered sweaters, it would go over the allocated budget.
    - SaraLi: Is it possible to have them partially embroidered?
    - Enxhi: If we get the front embroidered, I'm assuming it'll be around \$55. It'll definitely be under what we budgeted.
    - Rowan: We should go with the least expensive option. The point of sweaters is to make VUSAC visible to the student body; as long as it gets the job done, it doesn't matter whether printed or embroidered.
    - Enxhi: The position will be on the back with the name. The name will all be last names, for uniformity sake.

*Straw Poll: What colours would the council like for sweaters: Black with red letters? Red with gold letters? Three in favour of black and red sweaters. Six in favour of red and gold.*

- Retreat
  - Enxhi: It's not going to be somewhere off campus and it will most likely be in this meeting room. We're be having a workshop with Bergita for part of the retreat. For those of you who are candidates, reserve the dates October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for the retreat.
  - Claire: Is it really a retreat if it's in here?
  - Enxhi: It is called a retreat, but it is sort of a misnomer. It's a training session. Our constitution says clubs cannot have retreats, so neither can VUSAC. It is a training day for us and a chance to get to know each other.
  - Rahul: Are there particular details about when it would start?
  - Enxhi: It would be 9 AM to 9 PM on Saturday going into Sunda, Sunday will probably not be the full day. More details to come at the next meeting once details are finalized.
- *President* – Rowan
  - President's Report
    - It's been a long four months, the hours that I've worked this summer were more or less Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM. I think the

highlight in terms of crisis or conflict resolution was the situation with Caffiends. Some context for those who are unfamiliar: over the summer there was a fairly large and organized alumni group that organized a protest when they found out Caffiends in Old Vic was going to be moved to the Goldring Student Centre. I received about 150 emails in the span of a day, and those emails were directed to admin. I worked closely with Dean Castle and President Gooch to come up with a solution. That solution was that Caffiends was to stay in Old Vic. This year we will be taking a survey to ensure that that location is most favourable location for everyone.

After Caffiends was resolved, I worked on was the UTSU situation. Vic and Trinity, plus the Faculty of Engineering, voted to stop paying fees to UTSU because they felt the UTSU was not being representative of students. This summer there have been a series of meetings with groups to deal with the aftermath of the fee diversion referendums. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, UTSU made some changes that would eliminate the current board structure. Naturally, the vast majority of students that I have been talking to have been very upset about having their representation as a college or faculty taken away. It hasn't been passed yet. The student body has a chance to decide if they are for or against the changes, but the bottom line is if they're paying 1.2 million dollars to UTSU, they want some sort of director representation. Again, UTSU will be here to talk about this later in the meeting.

Enxhi and I were Orientation Executives, we'd been running around like chickens for the past four months trying to plan Orientation Week. This has to have been one of the more successful orientations from my memory.

We are trying to move forward some new initiatives with the board of regents, which is the governing body of Victoria College and Victoria University. Two things we're trying to push is a investigation to create effective upper year credits. There are early talks of trying put together a student credit union.

- Victor: I'm the Victoria College director of UTSU. I'm not sure if this has been made public yet, but I think they are going to be adding a committee for the faculty Arts and Science. Each college will be sending one college representative to that committee, to try to answer the loss of college and faculty representation part in the new board structure.
- Rowan: That was in the original board structure, but ultimately, we can have a committee but it is still a non-voting committee. It still has the situation of we lose the vote and have the same sort of speaking power. I would argue that's the same situation of taxation without representation. I honestly don't see this as something that will pass. It shouldn't pass.
- Victor: I definitely agree. We need to argue for more representation at the UTSU.

## **ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS**

- *Campus Life Coordinator - Bergita*
  - Bergita: I just wanted to welcome everyone back and welcome all the students. A couple things that are going this week: New Leader Day will be taking place this Sunday, many VUSAC members will be

leading or attending. It will be held in Northrop Frye hall and registration is online.

The Dean's Office now has counsellors, learning strategists and career educators on staff here at Victoria if you're interested in those.

There are some positions the Dean's office is hiring for Ideas for the World. If you're interested in those, Kelley is looking to have some students help with the community members. Many of you have approached me for meeting in helping out with mental health initiatives, do talk to me about it if you're interested, I would be happy to meet with you.

And again, as Rowan said, this orientation week was a great success. It wouldn't have been possible without all the great execs and student leaders.

○ *Finance Chair* – Ben

- Ben: This summer we changed a lot of aspects of the budget review process and screening process for VUSAC. Earlier, levies did not have to submit summer budgets, I changed that and I requested summer budgets from levy heads and club members. The rationale behind that was to engage in early dialogue with the levies. It's good to get a feel of how they treat their finances in general, and to get a good sense of what levies want and what they need, where the majority of budget request are coming from in terms of specific needs and events. This summer I've also been working with Rowan on the possible credit union. The whole budget steering process and the budgeting process in general - there were guidelines in that were put in place two years ago but they aren't public. But there has an initiative to reform those guidelines.

Finally, we've ratified the club, levy, and internal VUSAC budget for the summer. I'm happy to say the combined drafted internal and club summer budgets, which we financed directly, totalled less than \$41,000.00. This is less than last years' total budget.

The past couple of years, we've always had a surplus of money at the end of the year, and we have been spending whatever has been accumulated. I understand there is potential room for discussion about what the procedure should be for these situations. My rationale is if we have money, we should invest it so that we have more money in following years on consistent basis. Investing VUSAC surplus into assets can provide income overtime.

- Alan: Just curious, is this something we'll be implementing in a matter of months or weeks?
- Rowan: It's in the early stages, and we would need to have the surplus at the end of the year in order to invest it. It's something I would like to investigate.
- Alan: Will there be other opportunities at future meetings to ask further questions?
- Rowan: Yes.

○ *Board of Regents* - David

- David: In the board there is general desire to see a downsize in its overall membership. We are also encouraging more board members to

connect with students and faculty directly to better know the institution they're actually running. They will hopefully be contacting Rowan, or club heads and levy heads to have a casual chat, get to know them, see what issues are with the board. I think it would be incredibly beneficial for the board to continue to connect with the Victoria community.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

### ○ *Arts & Culture* - Conor

- Conor: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Emmanuel College Room 119 at 8:30 PM are auditions for The Bob. If the council could share the event on your personal Facebook pages, I would greatly appreciate it.

Rowan, Olivia and I have been working on U of T homecoming and it is happening tomorrow. Free food, free drinks, face paints, signs, free swag. The game kicks off at 1 against York University.

- Enxhi: Do you need a T-card?
- Conor: Bring your T-card, that's how you get your free food and how you get into Varsity Stadium for the game.

### ○ *Education & Equity* - Claire

- Claire: Today I met with a group of student leaders and we were exchanging ideas for events. There is a book exchange we do with Caffiends every year. We'll be working on that and getting in contact with Caffiends. We're also planning equity training currently. Usually it's just Equity Commission but I think it would be good for all of us to undergo the training.
- Ben: When would the equity training be?
- Claire: Around mid-October.

### ○ *Commuter* - SaraLi

- SaraLi: Over the past summer, I did a hosted a few VOCA events; some were successful and some were not. I hired my Co-Chair and team of execs. We currently are a total team of 13 and we plan on hiring two first years. Applications are up and it's due by September 22<sup>nd</sup>. VOCA was present during Orientation Week at registration and we did a workshop on commuter communities. That's basically little communities in Toronto and outside Toronto for commuters to meet each other. Meetings for that begin next week, so we're going to be advertising that.

Lockers have applications this year and it's by semester. I put forward some constitutional amendments at the last meeting. We also started pancakes again. I added an organics bin, and trying to get that started at pancakes, such that there is more recycling and compost at the event. We're also bringing back what happened two years ago, where a table is present or a club can advertise their club each week. We're also looking at creating shirts and armbands for the VOCA team. We want people to recognize us and talk to us, be comfortable and know who is running the events they are attending. Other events we'll be doing are movie nights, monthly dinners and socials. I'm also

going to be meeting with other commuter college reps to look into a commuter appreciation week.

Finally, festive dinner. I've been looking into doing a separate or different kind of dinner such that we have more space for us because I don't feel like the representation is fair. This is still in the works. We're going to have a survey going out soon.

- Ingrid: Is there anywhere we can find the dates for these events?
- SaraLi: Yeah, they're going to be up on the website and our Facebook page.
- David: How is the budgeting working with an extra hour for pancakes?
- Sarali: We used the same amount that we used last year on a good day, 5 bags of batter. It doesn't look like it's going to cost us too much, especially since we have a deal with Chef Nathan that allows us to purchase batter at wholesale price, so it's a lot cheaper.
- William: Are you going to keep it exclusively pancakes in the future?  
SaraLi: We do have waffles every month. That's a sort of surprise that we do. We did have some suggestions, but we just have to look at budgets.
- Rowan: Did Kelley get back to you about festive dinner?
- SaraLi: We are talking about that. We also talked about the commuter meal plans. That was just headed by the Deans office and we were just asked to advertise it. It's not really our program whatsoever. It's unfortunately the commuter meal plan is only for first years. We're trying to find something that would be good for upper years.
- Claire: I know with pancakes you guys use cardboard plates. I was just wondering if you would ever want to use something more sustainable, since it's something ongoing? It might be useful to see if Burwash could lend some of their dishes.
- Rowan: The plates are biodegradable, which I know isn't the same as reusable. But we can see about contacting Burwash.
- Bergita: In the old Birge-Carnegie, there were tons of plates that were left behind. Just washing the plates becomes an issue because it entails that students have to stay behind for hours to wash dishes.
- SaraLi: We only have the one hour dedicated to cleanup and that's just the execs cleaning up, and just the one sink. It's a lot to do with time.

*Rahul, William, Ingrid and Naomi exit at 6:01 PM.*

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Motion []: SaraLi moves to discuss previously tabled Constitutional Addition of the Commuter and Residence Alliance (CARA) to By-Law #43. Enxhi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion []: Rowan moves for a short recess that would give time for Sarali to print off copies of that constitution amendment. SaraLi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

*Meeting resumes at 6:28 PM.*

- SaraLi: CARA is basically to promote Commuter and Residence students coming together. I based it off what myself and the exec team would ideally like the relationship between these two communities to be like. We want it to be a cohesive community and I don't see that as much as I'd like to. I created this addition to the constitution. I'm open to feedback. This is just what I saw as something might create fair

representation and have everyone's voices heard on Vic campus. So there's a certain committee that will be a committee the does the work during the year. [SaraLi, please clarify what was said] I feel like this could be something that could last for a long time and better the relations between the two groups.

- Enxhi: I really like this idea because the Commuter & Residence relationship does need to be improved. However, CARA will be creating these events, are they not going to be events that already exist in different forms? Dances exist, dinners exist, socials exist. I don't know why we need a committee to say, "These events are open to residence and commuters," when all events are already open to both. I think it is redundant.
- Rowan: I think the point of merit that comes from CARA is because right now there's nothing that facilitates commuter members with residence members. Clearly VUSAC isn't working to the best we can do so. I think the strength of this is that it puts everyone in the same room. As in we're running events for both, but we're not seeing necessarily how each side of it is running.
- Sarali: My perspective was to bring more commuters and residents together. There's a big wall between the two groups as I've heard from a lot of students. Commuters feel they don't know anyone on residence and the residents don't know commuters, sometimes there's friction between the groups that shouldn't be there. And there's no mediation of people getting involved with each other, and it should be there. I think this would help.
- David: I think it has good intentions as a committee but I think if the solution you propose is include two random residents. If the problem is an outreach of general resident community, I don't think two resident students on a committee is going to help. I don't think the job of the residence presidents is perfect but I think they're well equipped for this sort of situation.
- Rowan: Could we potentially pass this on a trial basis? As in, what do we have to lose if this doesn't work?
- Ben: On a practical level, it just takes up time.
- Bergita: I'd like to point out that one of the best examples of an event where both commuter and residence attendance is high is Highball, and the planning committee of Highball involves the building presidents, so I think it's a great idea to involve building presidents more.
- Enxhi: Coming off of the fact that it works so well with Highball, I think there are better ways of engaging commuters and residence students than creating a new committee. We could instead modify the committees that already exist to include a more residence presence. Again, while it comes from a great place and great intentions, it seems redundant to form a new committee to do what other committees do.
- Claire: I actually don't think CARA is redundant. I think there are a lot of gaps between residents and commuters that people don't look at. It's not just events; I think it's more than that. It would be good to have a board that emphasises the relationship between commuters and residents.

Bergita: What are the implications of what you are trying to pass? What would the difference be in just trying it out for a year?

- SaraLi: I wanted to have the board in the summer, but Scott Johnson was not allowed to tell me who the presidents were, and that's the only way it would be feasible. I wanted to get them on board first.

Motion []: Rowan moves to conditionally approve By-Law #43: Commuter and Residence Alliance. SaraLi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion []: Rowan moves to instruct SaraLi to carry out preliminary meetings of CARA and then report back to VUSAC by the end of the term as to their successes and failures before making it a permanent committee. SaraLi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion []: Rowan moves to have a recess at 6:51 to wait for UTSU to arrive. SaraLi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

*Pierre, Zach, Cameron and Yolen enter at 6:55 PM.*

*Meeting resumes at 6:57 PM.*

## **GUEST REPORTS**

- *UTSU Presentation – Yolen Bollo-Kamara and Cameron Wathey*

Motion []: Rowan moves to give speaking rights to Pierre, Cameron and Yolen. Enxhi seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

***The UTSU Executive Team gave the members of VUSAC and students in attendance a presentation on the UTSU Board of Directors Structure. The Powerpoint presentation will be available on the VUSAC website.***

- Yolen: The UTSU AGM will be on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The next board meeting September 29<sup>th</sup> will set the deadline [ask Rowan what this deadline was about].
- Rowan: When will contents of that board meeting be made public?
- Yolen: The contents of the board meeting won't be made public until after the deadline for [Rowan – clarification on deadline?] set at that meeting.
- Rowan: [Lawyer statement?]
- Cameron: Graham never stated that this was not allowed, but he did say it would be a bad idea.
- Zach: This discussion can go to the AGM, but there were serious problems with it.
- Yolen: The July Board meeting discussion about switching to provincial incorporation structure would involve separating into classes. They recommended against using a class system, especially 22 classes, because holding 22 General Meetings per year would not be feasible.
- Rowan: VUSAC is mandated to hold one AGM per year. Given Vic is currently its own class; you could easily merge those AGMs. I am sure Engineering and Nursing already hold AGMs. It might require more bureaucratic red tape, but it is doable.
- Pierre – If you want to submit a change to article of continuance, it doesn't have to go to policy and procedure. As long as it doesn't change any bylaws, you can propose the article.
- Yolen: Not every single organization hosts an AGM at U of T. Each class would have veto power. For us to pass a substantive change, it wouldn't be a majority or super majority, there would



have to be an AGM for every single class in order to do so. We would have to be the ones to administer the vote. It wouldn't be possible for a VUSAC AGM to do that. Also, VUSAC includes part-time students, whereas the UTSU does not include part-time students.

- Enxhi: Does any individual on the Arts & Science Committee have a vote in UTSU board?
- Yolen: No, but the way the committee works is that they will make decisions within that committee, which they will then come to the board of directors with. The Board of Directors will then vote on the committee's decision.
- Enxhi: College representatives on the Arts & Science committee do not get a direct vote?
- Yolen: No.
- Enxhi: Rumour has it the AGM will be held at the University of Toronto Mississauga. If that were the case, will there be buses provided for St. George students to get there?
- Yolen: It won't be at UTM, it will be at St. George. But if that were the case, buses would be provided otherwise.
- Pierre: As Yolen said, we have to switch to the new law by October 17<sup>th</sup>. We have a year after that to fix our board structure. So, just so everyone is on the same page, "classes" are where you're allowed to define divisions within your corporation. For example, within a company, you can split Ontario people and Quebec people into two different jurisdictions. The problem is you have to have two different meetings when voting on company changes; one meeting for Ontario people and one for Quebec people. I wouldn't say its impossible; there are very creative ways to form classes so that meetings are easy to hold. For example, you could hold concurrent meetings for different colleges chaired by the individual board representatives of those colleges. There are very many creative ways and its important not to rush this. I was surprised by the September 21<sup>st</sup> deadline for motion submissions because I am working on my proposal still. The AGM will feature three motions; one is changing to being provincially incorporated, another is changing our structure to fit federal incorporation, and the last is doing nothing in terms of these changes. And if we do nothing we can still hold another AGM later, so we shouldn't discount that option. The new federal law has protection for members; if you believe you've been wronged, the law now has defined ways for you to complain. The new law is structured on the fact that they want members to be really in charge. Changing to provincial will give us more time, but we're going to end up wasting that time with meaningless meetings and structure proposals. We have a year as it is; until October 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. I encourage everyone to try and understand the complexity of the issue. If you aren't comfortable voting, come to the AGM and vote to do nothing because we have a whole year still to do nothing.
- Rowan: When Zhubi carried out investigation of other unions, did he get feedback to see how this system works? Why were those groups in particular chosen?

- Cameron: He looked at organizations with similar structure to ours, to the complexity that U of T has.
- Rowan: This summer I investigated board structures of universities across the world looking for old established college system and large student body. Obviously they don't have the same legal restrictions, but I contacted Cambridge, Durham, and Oxford. All three have some form of constituency membership. Oxford had specialized offices to represent minority groups. Cambridge had autonomous campaigns. All three still had college representativeness at the same time. Unions and colleges are incompatible. All of these universities have never had problems regarding the college system representation. How problematic is it really? Regarding the new directors proposed; we have under current college system somewhat proportional representation. Why was there no consideration of proportional reps in these proposed representatives?
- Yolen: What we heard from our lawyers wasn't about the colleges and union being incompatible, it was just logistics of having 22 general meetings, which they advised against. We will be receiving a more detailed memo that we can share with everyone. In terms of proportional reps, I think it might get really complicated if we counted number of students. The important thing is anyone can technically run for these positions. But, I'm not certain that having proportional reps would work. Currently, our board is quite large and has 46 people on it, that's another issue we are trying to deal with scheduling meetings is quite difficult.
- David: By grouping students politically, in a forum where people are likely to be bumping heads, and tying people to identities, why is tying that and placing students within these lines? Why is that beneficial to a more inclusive community?
- Yolen: Students have a number of different identities. I could run for anything, but the main thing is to make sure each board member has roles tied to UTSU mandate and make sure there is someone tasked to working on specific campaigns, like for international students for example. The policy procedures last year tried to specify actual positions people could run for.
- David: My suggestion is remove from these roles the elected nature. Rather have them appointed if the UTSU can put selection committees, instead of tying political representation to people's identities. Remove the political aspect, it could work to a far greater degree without adding potential for exclusion.
- Yolen: One of the first introductions people get to UTSU is through elections. Elections are a way that we are made accountable to students. For example, students would elect the mature students director, but I think Mature Students Association would have a big impact in endorsing candidates.
- Connor: Yolen, correct me if I'm wrong but right now, college and faculty directors have oversight in the committees. In the new structure, they would have oversight only in the arts and science committee?
- Yolen: We would give the Arts & Science committee power to appoint other students into other committees. We want college and

faculties to have same amount of representation, but in a way that coincides with law.

- Connor: From what I know about Trinity students, they would not be happy with not having someone represent their interests on policy and procedures committee. Would it be possible for us to have some sort of voice there?
- Yolen: Policy and Procedures has three college students on it. The whole purpose of committees is smaller discussion. Arts & Science would be able to elect a representative to Policy and Procedure Committee.
- Rowan: Having a voice is different from having representative on the committee. Having a representative is having a vote. Sometimes having a voice can be irrelevant in discussion.
- Claire - To ignore that people are made up of their own identities would be a mistake, so I do value what's trying to be done by this proposed structure. But, trying to put everyone into categories is problematic.
- Yolen: I agree that its not a perfect system but the hope would be that the board would be able to address issues.
- Rowan: Why does UTM get more reps than Arts & Science in the new structure?
- Yolen: It was taken from percentage of representatives that they have on our board currently.
- Pierre: St. George has college representatives and at large representatives. UTM is given amount of representatives proportionate to colleges, as well as faculties.
- Rowan: Why, Yolen, if you yourself can't believe this is a perfect system, why are we trying to shove through this? We have a whole year. I wouldn't want to pass something that we don't believe is going to get the job done. It's irresponsible.
- Yolen: I was speaking specifically about constituency representation and I don't know if there's ever a perfect model. But, I do think this is a good model. We're here today because we want to hear your feedback. We want to make sure that whatever we come up with helps. If people feel we haven't had enough time, perhaps switching to Ontario would be an option worth considering.
- Cameron: I just wanted to say if people are not committed to this, there is the Ontario option. This would buy us more time and then we can set a timeline as to when propose a new structure because it will eventually have to change. Thank you very much for allowing us to come here and hear first hand from you guys.
- Yolen: You can send me email [president@utsu.ca](mailto:president@utsu.ca) if you have any more questions.

Motion []: Rowan moves to adjourn meeting. Sarali seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting is adjourned.