



January 17th VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 5:30pm

Land Acknowledgement: Cedric

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto Victoria University Students' Administrative Council operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land. I would also like to take this time to bring light to recent news from BC, where police were given permission to shoot to kill regarding protestors against the pipeline the area of the Wet'suwet'en people. It is 2020 and we should not be seeing this horrible behaviour from the Canadian government.

Official Regrets: Katherine

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Vibhuti motions to approve the October 18th Meeting Minutes. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy, Disha

Motion: Tran motions to approve the November 1st Meeting Minutes. Rintaro seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Lucy, Disha

Additions to the agenda: Update from Student Projects (3 minutes)

Motion: Vibhuti motions to move governing body updates to after action items. Fatima seconds.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

Motion: Lucy motions to approve the agenda. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

150 Charles St. West, Room 127
Toronto, ON, M5S 1K9
(416) 585 - 4473
www.vusac.ca | fb.com/vusacuoft

- Abstained: Disha

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Campus Life Coordinator (Christina): 2 minutes

Updates:

Welcome Back! I'm happy to meet with students 1:1 anytime throughout this term.

New: Vic Opportunities and Wellness Fair – February 5th, 12-2pm, Various Locations, in the process of booking massages, terrarium and/or succulent making, lots of free food, clubs, levies hopefully. Cameron will be sharing more information soon through his newsletter and I'll be following up with VUSAC about commissions. Will be co-hosted by VUSAC and VOCA, thank you to The Cat's eye for being one of our hosts.

Past and Upcoming:

- Equity-Seeking Experiences in Career Pathways – Thank you Massoma and team, first event was a success! Upcoming dates: February 11, March 11 and May 11th sessions
- Slice of Vic Free Pizza Sessions Open to All - Managing Your Finances, Getting a Summer Job and Finding Off-Campus Housing (11:30am-12pm Wymilwood Jan 29, Feb 5 and Feb 12)
- Hiring Leaders, Mentors, Senior Mentors and Execs, Info Session next Wednesday 4-5pm, for all details visit www.vicorientation.com/opportunities

Finally, I'm away February 15th-27th if you have any needs prior to then please let me know to give me ample time to support you and our Dean's Team will be available as well in my absence!

ACTION ITEMS:

- Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify Sarah Derawi as the 2020 Orientation Co-Chair [3 minutes].

Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify Sarah Derawi as the 2020 Orientation Co-Chair. Mehr seconds.

Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

- Motion by Marco Istasy to ratify Thomas Sider as Co-Editor-in-Chief of Acta Victoriana [3 minutes] Jay seconds.

Motion by Marco Istasy to ratify Thomas Sider as Co-Editor-in-Chief of Acta Victoriana. Jay seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all



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- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

- Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify Nerija Gray as Academic Co-Chair [3 minutes]
Lucy proposed new position for VUSAC to expand academic portfolio, position ratified in October, number of applications, happy that Nerjia accepted the position.

Motion by Katie Marsland to ratify Nerija Gray as Academic Co-Chair. Jay seconds.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

- Motion by Michael Meija to ratify amendments to the Cat's Eye operating policy [3 minutes] [See Appendix B]

Motion by Michael Meija to ratify amendments to the Cat's Eye operating policy. Fatima seconds.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

- Motion by Michael Meija to ratify Regina Ilagan as the 2020 Cat's Eye Co-Manager [3 minutes]

Motion by Michael Meija to ratify Regina Ilagan as the 2020 Cat's Eye Co-Manager. Vibhuti seconds.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

- Motion by Cameron Davies to ratify Women of the World as a VUSAC-recognized club [3 minutes] [See Appendix A] Tran seconds.
- Spandan: Do they fulfil the requirements of having 70% of exec Vic students?
- Cam: I believe all of them were Vic students; confirmed yes 2/2 are Vic students.

Motion by Cameron Davies to ratify Women of the World as a VUSAC-recognized club. Tran seconds.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha



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- Motion by Cameron Davies to ratify CommuniTea as a VUSAC-recognized club (3 minutes) [See Appendix A]

Vibhuti: Have they talked to commuter dons about this name, two, would it be possible for them to apply as an academic club because they'd get funding, seems like an academic-focused club.

Cam: I'm not aware of them having reached out to the commuter dons, I can ask them to reapply as an academic club if we think it's appropriate.

Jay: I'm concerned because of the name because of the weekly events we have it might be confusing.

Alexa: It is a long-standing event that the comm dons hold, and I don't want to infringe on that, so I think we want to make sure that they've spoken to commuter dons beforehand.

Hannah: What does appropriate discussion entail especially because they might be difficult topics of conversation.

Cam: There are no guidelines, from what I got they wanted to create a safe space... but one's conception of a safe space might not be the same as everyone else.

Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend for two minutes. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha

- Cam: might be good to introduce motion to table.

Motion: Cam motions to table aforementioned motion. Jay seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: Cam
- Abstained: Disha

- Motion by Michael Mejia to release the honoraria of Rachel Bannerman as Cat's Eye Co-Manager 2019 (3 minutes)

Motion by Michael Mejia to release the honoraria of Rachel Bannerman as Cat's Eye Co-Manager 2019. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Disha



DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The Strand: Constitutional Amendments (15 minutes) (See Appendix D)

Rebecca: As you can all see from the document that Gabby put up for us we want to amend our constitution since last time it was amended was 2017 and before that was 1999, so it doesn't happen often. There aren't a ton of changes, a lot of it is shifting of official duties that the editor chief does and the managing editor was, and making a clear distinction as well as working out kinks with board of directors; the editions in blue, deletions are highlighted.

Alexa: Thank you for bringing us forward and finally updated it! Article 3, it says that all registered undergrad have paid annual strand fee, is that because of the SCI?

Rebecca: Yes, it is because of the SCI, we don't want a Vic student who didn't pay their levy fee to not be able to be part of the membership at large.

Alexa: That's fantastic since we don't know the fate of the SCI. Regarding the honorarium, is it \$500 for the entire year? Is there an opportunity for there to be two editors, and can you go over the breakdown of honorarium?

Rebecca: The editor in chief gets \$1000 split down to how many there are, in the past there have been 2, each gets \$500. For giving managing editor \$500, exact amount depends on the health of the budget, \$500 is max.

Lucy: I have a question about bi-law #1 section 2, are strand members elected with VUSAC elections?

Rebecca: Only elected position is editor in chief, they hire the rest.

Lucy: Are you proposing to add that to the constitution? That's what it has always been?

Vibhuti: I think that one is talking about timing of the elections not our actual elections, while we are running our fall elections they're running theirs at the same time.

Dorian: In article 2 under section 6, it says that you are implementing a no hate speech mandate, but that seems very subjective – what is hate speech? I don't know if as member of community if I'm comfortable with that because that's leaning towards editors deciding what is hate speech.

Rebecca: We have had concerns about that, previously we've said that we are excluding anything that's not homophobic, sexist or racist, but we found that language to be too broad because what I think is sexist may not be sexist to others. By putting it in language of having no speech mandate we actually have that, we have a specific no speech mandate that specifies what would be covered under that.

Alexa: Thank you for clarifying that as well. All levies also need to make sure no discriminatory language that extends by virtue.

Rebecca: Also because the language in constitution was more vague, having the no hate speech mandate is something more flexible and fluid works better.

Leo: It's not a point that can be abused, we are not giving them the power to do anything new with that, giving power to prevent.



Motion: Vibhuti motions for 10 minute recess. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

- Elections & Referenda Code Policy Changes [10 minutes]

Vibhuti: as you know VUSAC is reviewing all 3 of our governing documents – the elections and referenda code is one of them. The reason why it is coming to council today is because we're trying to get amendments ratified by next meeting! To get our amendments to work for this upcoming election we need to present it today. We have 30 proposed amendments, many of them are technical, I've highlighted the ones I believe are the biggest changes, I can go through those ones.

4 – first one is regarding pre-elections, CRO would have to host 2 election sessions

8 – to avoid misunderstandings regarding problems with postering

9 – about postering itself; clarifying where posters can be put up so that students know where to/where not to poster

10 – allowing candidates to campaign on their personal pages because people already do

16 – the CRO will have their own Instagram page, and it will be mandated that they have to be tagged in everything and use the VUSAC elections hashtag

18 – standardizing how much time people have during town hall to give their speeches and their responses, we've changed it so that presidents are allowed a 1 minute response, which is 30 seconds more; we believed this was the best way to foster dialogue especially in the president's role where there is more to talk about or harder question

19 – same thing with personal pages being linked to VUSAC channels; personal channels will not be linked on the ballot, added that people can put on external doc if they like

21 – EAC (election appeals committee) members decide the fate of the demerit, and members who sit on EAC should be neutral members, should not give endorsements to candidates in case if appeals do come up

22 – about slander, and about defining slander in a very tangible manner. Slander has already been in purview of CRO, in their role to make those harder calls when it comes to slander

23 – candidates don't do personal campaigning during voting period but instead just encourage people to vote

26 – EAC selection process modified to include students who aren't Vic students

27 – EAC are neutral parties

Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend 10 minutes. Aminah seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none



Cam: Question about 21, I agree with it in principle, how will that policy work, members of EAC are not secretive, candidates can use that to their advantage.

Vibhuti: Framework is what I'm hoping to change with amendments, I believe that EAC members should be make public so if there is an appeal that goes forward to the EAC, candidates can be sure that the evaluators have been neutral for the entire election. I think this is more important that candidates taking advantage of knowing who sits on the EAC.

Mehr: For 10, does the CRO have to be added on every social media platform they campaign on?

Vibhuti: CRO doesn't have a Twitter, but they should be aware that they are hosting on there and candidates must use the hashtag.

Ellenoor: Is it possible for private vs public accounts we can make sure that the CRO follows you so you don't have to go off private?

Tran: For 24, would it include % for election results or just that you won vs didn't?

Vibhuti: If a candidate won they'd get the %, only get results of their own election and not others; % can go either way which would be the jurisdiction of the CRO.

Vibhuti: Finally I wanted to thank Jay, Ellenoor, Alexa, Katie, and Maria for all of their support, excited to polish this up so we can vote on it next meeting!

Alexa: I also want to thank Vibhuti for spearheading all of this and initiating the consultations as well!

- Constitution vs. Council Policies [10 minutes]

Alexa: currently reviewing the constitution and council policies governments we noticed that there was a lot of overlap between documents and they're very confusing because they contradict each other, and there's no easy way to find all the information. One conversation we wanted to bring to table was what the purpose of the docs were so when we do our review we know what to do with each one. Gabby is chairing the constitution reviews and Michelle is chairing council policies. On Sunday we were talking about just cutting down the constitution so its purpose is to give the mandate, and it was more general, whereas the specific info is in the council policies. Our goal is to make something so that the constitution doesn't have to be changed or be updated often, a quick doc you can read to get a gist of how we should operate, and we wanted to run it by everyone.

Aminah: Would it be possible to have correct versions of both documents posted on VUSAC page?

Cam: I agree with what the committees say, one of the big things that differentiates constitution vs council policies, is that amendments to council policies can be overturned by a 2/3 vote in VUSAC, and what's written here are things you or VUSAC should be doing but in the case there are exceptional circumstances they aren't completely necessary. On the other hand, things written in the constitution are absolutely necessary – if we aren't we aren't doing our job. Are the most updated versions uploaded anywhere



Alexa: Yeah, at some point in the past couple of years, when an update was approved the document was not updated to reflect what was approved at meeting, so we are currently going through all of our minutes and updating our current constitution and council policies to make sure we are working on the most accurate document and so once that process is finished it will be updated on the website.

Vibhuti: I like the approach you're taking; I believe that what governing bodies people are sitting on should be included in the constitution, even if those change, it's nice to have that in a very established way so you can't contest membership.

Gabby: Do you mean governing bodies or committees?

Vibhuti: Everything!

- VUSAC Academic Bursary Project [8 minutes] (See Appendix C)

Lucy: last year during the fall I started a new idea called the VUSAC Bursary project; the idea is to provide financial support for academic expenses that students incur in the form of refunds, I have some examples in one of the documents. There is a sum of money that is accounted for within the academic commission's budget that is directed for this project, students will apply for bursary money, there will be a specific committee set up to review applications, the structure is set up in the document; there is a limit to how much students can get. My goal is to spread this money so many students can benefit even if its to a lesser extent per student; I don't want to hand out large sums of money, that's what the actual Vic bursary is for, I think it's important for Vic to find avenues to directly help students that have large financial burdens. An upside of project is that all Vic students are eligible to apply, which is diff from Vic bursary. If a student bought a textbook they could claim refund on that up to \$100, I predict that the actual average will be lower than \$100 since we want to spread money we have to as many students as possible. There will also be a specific timeline of how things will work; the application will run from February to March, the review committee will then meet, review apps, make decisions on refunds. Refunds can be given for textbooks, iClickers, softwares. My intention is not to put a narrow classification on what can be determined as an academic expense, that's up to the review committee; intention for VUSAC to use its resources in a direct way to help students. I think VUSAC has been doing well in events side of things, hold many events, but I think we can do more on advocacy and projects side since we always talk about the Vic bubble, and not all Vic students attend Vic events; the events we put forward might not cater to their needs so this is a direct way to tackle an issue that all students face; to have even more expenses can be a burden for many students.

Ellenoor: Let's say there's a textbook that is more than \$100, will they be refunded for the full amount?



Lucy: If I bought a \$200 textbook, the maximum that will be refunded is \$100. I felt like it was important to have a maximum the purpose of the project is not to be handing \$400 to just one person.

Motion: Jay motions to extend 10 minutes. Mehr seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Ellenoor: Could subway/travel fees count as academic expenses?

Lucy: I think that would depend on the review committee's perception; if you ask me, I probably wouldn't, rather I'd recommend that the commuter commission does something similar for commuting, that might be stretching it too much... depends on how many applications we receive.

Dorian: Do you explain on the application why you need money the same way the UTSU does?

Lucy: Applications will be redacted because we don't want anyone to see it. When floating this idea I had a questionnaire that I included that talks about financial burden and how it impacts mental health; I don't see how comfortable I would feel with VUSAC asking specific questions about students' income; at the same time, if the review committee sees it is fit they can reach out to applicants for more information.

Dorian: For the UTSU it asks why do you need this, and it's then up to you to explain why you need it, I think that's more suitable to this application as well.

Alexa: It might be helpful to redact so we don't disclose who it is; we want to make sure people who need it can access it the most; just having that one 100-word statement to explain.

Jenny: Lucy thank you for spearheading this, I'm excited to see it come to life; I'm interested in the proof of payment part, how would students be able to show proof of purchase, what if it was just a cash transaction?

Lucy: I have no idea how we would go about proving that they bought something in that year and that they didn't already just have it.

Dorian: Would say something like this would have to be centered only official methods of purchasing; e.g. UTSU requires pic of syllabus, picture of receipt, and picture of the book.

Aminah: Sometimes I've bought stuff over messenger, one time it's been just talking to a person, so I think there's only so much you can do, something that could happen during application process is to include what the possible scenarios are, like screenshot a messenger or Kijiji conversation; if someone is going through all that effort to provide that info, you just trust it.

Disha: I wanted to add to that whole conversation I think it would be counterproductive if we don't accept applications from people who have bought their textbooks from Kijiji because there must be a reason why they went to Kijiji in the first place, maybe it was cheaper there, so it would be great if we could accept applications.



Lucy: I understand that input, I think it's tricky, I'm trying to provide avenues for students to get refunds, on the other hand having a more structured process... for a lot of students, they might get a refund not from their textbook expense but they may have other academic expenses, etc.

Motion: Vibhuti motions to extend 5 minutes. Mehr seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Tran: I'm concerned about international students. On the application you don't have that indication of whether someone is an international student or not, I don't know if it's something for you to add to ask if you are an international student or not, then can go to the Dean's Office to verify that info.

Lucy: I don't think its in VUSAC's preference to give more to international students but rather giving them that opportunity. Do people think there's another person we should have on the review committee or do we have enough?

Rintaro: I think this is an amazing initiative, you're discussing how the goal of bursary is to provide support for a larger community of students; 30 students is a small portion, when this program becomes more successful and you need more funding how will you get more funding?

Lucy: One of options is to allocate more from academic commission to this project if see fit; I allocated \$4000 because I thought it was reasonable need to see how many applications we actually get; if even further resources are needed, I would apply to other resources like Student Projects, endowment funds, the Dean's Office has a special initiative project fund as well, not advertised very well; first I have to see if this money is enough right now.

Katie: I have another loose idea, maybe applying to be a levy? You could start a levy you're guaranteed funding.

Hannah: Would bursary be applicable to transportation? Like a TTC pass? Those can be \$120, would that be applicable as being an academic expense?

Lucy: Maybe if the review committee sees it fit.

Motion: Lucy motions to extend 8 minutes. Aminah seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Hannah: I think it's important to acknowledge that depending on what you study the textbook cost can be very different, it's important to recognize that depending on discipline charges they incur is different.



Lucy: I think highball tickets vs textbooks are both equally important for students; not everyone wants to go to highball or networking dinner but this is a way to reach more people, benefits brought to students will be much larger, diversify the kinds of services we bring, when students think of VUSAC it's not just highball, there are different kinds of projects we put in, each of them have their own nature.

Hannah: People on VUSAC are not being paid to do their jobs; we do get things like that, we might not have to use the money for that, VUSAC members use their time to give back, I don't know where that money is coming from, you pointed out the Vic bubble is serving the Vic bubble.

Vibhuti: I don't think this is germane to the point at hand, I think we should move on and come back to this important conversation at another time...

Al: First point, about membership of committee, a suggestion I have is a lot of students who have part-time jobs and who need to apply to this fund, I'm curious to see what people think of having students already involved in Vic or from an employment position at Vic being on that committee?

Vibhuti: I would like to support Lucy's makeup of the committee because at the end of the day just like the registrar's office gives out bursaries, because it's VUSAC money it should have membership; Lucy has made is so we do have external staff sitting on it; I support the makeup of the process just want to put out there Vic students already pay for a lot of endowments already...

Cam: I was wondering if it would be awful to have a club rep on there; club levies are distinct from Vic, as far as their funding is it comes from the same general pool as VUSAC.

Jay: Would members of VUSAC be eligible to apply?

Lucy: Unless under extenuating circumstances, people sitting on reviewing committee should not be applying, important to remain neutral and hold off from applying; we don't want to have any unnecessary bias or have it feel like VUSAC is handing off money to VUSAC council members, I don't want to restrict anyone who feels like their financial burden warrants them to submit an application; not just for me to decide but the entire review committee should decide.

Dorian: Under the grant limit on the application how will you determine extenuating circumstances? How will you know these circumstances if you didn't ask specific information?

Motion: Lucy motions to extend 2 minutes. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Lucy: I would ask for specific information.

Regina: Is everyone guaranteed money? How do you choose potential 40, would be very strict I'm guessing.

Lucy: There would be a cap; for example, if someone claims for 60 they won't receive 100 dollars.

Jay: If a student asked for \$100 but you don't think you should give them 100, can you decide to give them less than they asked for?



Lucy: Yeah they can agree to a lower amount; we would look into putting an appeals process in place.

Michelle: Are you planning on writing some sort of document to outline rules for anyone applying? And how will you assess who will get the money?

Lucy: We will have some procedure in place; to maintain institutional memory, in case project does continue in future academic commission so there is structure in place.

- Email Votes [3 minutes]

Alexa:

1. Motion by Nikki Pagaling to ratify Emily Dotzlaw as the new Caffeinds co-manager for the January to December 2020 term, seconded by Cameron Davies
13 in favour, 6 abstentions, 0 opposed
2. Motion by Tran Thai to approve the Scarlet and Gold commission semi-formal budget, seconded by Vibhuti Kacholia
13 in favour, 6 abstentions, 0 opposed

Motion: Alexa motions to have 3 minute recess. Tran seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Fatima

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS:

Governing Bodies:

Board of Regents: 5 minutes

Vibhuti: I asked these bodies to come in since we haven't had any updates from them apart from Caucias; we had different committees meeting this week and will have more meeting later, board meeting coming up on February 6th. I have had good conversations about Northrop Frye – there was a city consultation on Wednesday this past week, many city members came in, it was fantastic, we talked about their concerns and questions to the city about the new NF mockups and the zoning application they're putting in. These are all interesting conversations that will continue to happen, as well, Ray DeSouza who is the bursar and the chancellor are finishing their terms, so we will be looking at re-appointment for Raeda and finding a new chancellor.

Alexa: Regarding property, we are mainly focusing on NF, but we also want to figure out what we're doing with 63/65 Charles street – will it turn into a res building? We're still deciding and having those convos about what's the most beneficial for Vic university as a whole.



Vibhuti: We also want Sayeh to come to figure out the finance committee, since it's important to be accountable to VUSAC.

Alexa: We have also talking about EM and Birge Carnegie because those buildings are underutilized right now and they're looking to renovate it to make it a space that students and faculty can use moving forward.

Hannah: For 63 and 65, what is the purpose of those buildings? From what I remember, they were affordable housing for students, is that still applicable? That's what it says on the Vic website?

Alexa: I believe they are currently administrative offices.

Vibhuti: It used to be co-op for Vic students called Stevenson house, over the years it has transitioned to a building where HR is located.

Cam: IT also has offices in that building.

Al: I know that Vic is doing its next round of Student Projects, how do those consultations feed into the BoR specifically if at all?

Alexa: On Board development day we were given a summary of some of their findings, the board members had discussions about that, and gave more feedback, it initially supposed to be put forward in February, it has been moved to the April meeting now.

Motion: Tran motions to extend 3 minutes. Lucy seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Fatima

Aminah: Just a question about the Board of Regents and accountability and positions, I think especially regarding accessing minutes, what's going on with the Board of Regents, it's difficult for students outside to know what's happening, in addition to that, is it possible to implement an accountability system where students on the committees give written summaries after each meeting and having that accessible for future VUSAC meetings, as soon as their terms are over that info goes into archives and we no longer have access to them, there is even a 10 year lockdown period for many of those docs. I think it is beneficial to have a system where these minutes/summaries are made available so people can look at what's happened over the year to help advocacy for students.

Vibhuti: I know that a lot of the things we talk about in subcommittee meetings are confidential, which is why the first part of your motion would be difficult because it's difficult to put apart what is confidential and what we can share, what we've shared today is the extent of what we can share; on the other hand, the full-board meetings are public, Alexa and I and the rest of the representatives from the board can put those summaries on an external drive so that future students who want to can access that.

Alexa: I thank you for that feedback, I can look into having summaries for those public board meetings.



Motion: Lucy motions to extend 5 minutes. Jenny seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: Katie
- Abstained: Fatima

Al: The minutes and agendas used to be public; the issue of communications not having those agendas and minutes to even put up might be an issue of just trying to coordinate that between chairs of governing bodies to have that information become public.

Vibhuti: I think it's important for student reps to talk with Lisa Khoo about this.

Hannah: About the two plots of land, I'm just curious, was that included in the discussions they were having, did they outwardly say that, I know it's been focusing on NF, so this is the first time I'm hearing about these other two spaces, is there a way they're trying to communicate to students that they're trying to develop other buildings, and I also think that student input on what should happen is important because Vic has a lot of residents and they're expensive and many students can't afford them. Knowing in the past it was used for a communal purpose, I think it would be interesting if they considered taking that ideology and bringing it towards building a residence.

Alexa: I have been saying that, I want to hear what students do think about that, student reps on board should be having these conversation so we can bring it back to these adults; we can make sure students' voices are involved in those conversations. To answer your question, those two lands are more in the early stages, they're focusing more on NF right now, whatever decisions they make regarding NF will inform other decisions, it's been a puzzle piece to figure out what is working.

Aminah: For the property and finance committees, are there no updates? I know parts of meetings are confidential, but would it be possible to have just a couple of sentences in information that you can give so we could figure out what happened during the year?

Vibhuti: I can't give you an answer but will bring it back to the board of student reps, see what their ideas are, and we can chat offline see what the best way to go about it.

Lucy: Will we talk about renaming Ryerson?

Vibhuti: During my update.

Aminah: I know some reps say its ok because you come to meetings that you speak to those committees, but it would be nice to have connection with those official channels, so they come or they send a summary; I believe that if you're elected to a position I would like to see what you have done for accountability reasons.

Vibhuti: Yes I agree

Victoria College Council: 5 minutes

Al: Sept 30: delivered a speech about the mental health crisis to the VCC - Eric Abrams, Chief Inclusion Officer at the Graduate School of Education gave a brief presentation about diversity



and inclusion - Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo gave a bit of a personal introduction as a new Victoria College faculty member and new Indigenous Advisor to President Robins (exact title is probably not this lol) - College Life Committee in the works of starting again; I had a meeting with Principal Esterhammer, and Alexa had a meeting with Paul Kutasi - new VIC courses 235, 335, 435 going well - some of us will be pushing for a reapplication of the Entrepreneurship and Society minor discussed last year as well.

Alexa: I wanted to go off the college life committee and wanted to provide more background; when the Board of Regents went through reform, it was supposed to take over from college life committee and former GUA, want to figure out what the purpose of this committee is; had meeting with Paul from the principal's office, we talked about students choice initiative, mental health, what the purpose of college life is vs GUA and DAC – if you have any other thoughts/suggestions that you want to spring up please let me or Al know or other people who sit on college life committee!

Victoria University Senate: 5 minutes

Al: The senate met once in December, not too much at the actual meeting, want to report more on what's been leading up to it; we granted an honorary degree to an individual, at next years traditionals someone will be there again; other than that, one thing I wanted to bring up to the senate was around the distinction between the guaranteed and college participation scholarship. Currently, students who apply for the participation scholarship do not also receive an in-course scholarship. It seems that the issues are more a problem of not having enough funding; idea that came up was that for future donors, when they add to pool for guaranteed scholarships displace a spot every time from participation ones thereby allowing those to be an additional one that can be given. Another thing that I've been working on is setting up calculator for guaranteed scholarship, involves sessional GPAs, number of courses you've taken, CR/NCRs – it is a defined calculation with a specific algorithm for calculating whether someone receives a scholarship; there isn't a particular timeline for this but want it to get up by exam season.

Spandan: I'm confused because you said problem with in-course scholarships and participation ones is the lack of funding?

Al: Actually seeing the numbers, I don't know how confidential they are, essentially from income they get from the endowment that they generate all year, based on initial conversation it seems like it's hard for people to set up in course participation scholarships, seems impractical... I know it's convoluted but I don't know how its changing...In short, it seems like people set up individual funds or endowments for specific scholarships, so Victoria College is reliant on donors and can't just reallocate funding to more scholarships.



Spandan: What I don't understand is why that would not make someone eligible for a participation scholarship if they're already getting an in-course scholarship?

Al: The conditions set in the participations scholarship include a GPA bracket (CGPA of 3.50+) – which is more or less the condition required by the guaranteed by the in-course scholarships (albeit a much simpler calculation) – and is currently mutually exclusive with the guaranteed in-course scholarships. I can't answer why this is the case other than an answer that was given to me, which was along the lines of an understanding that Victoria College has enough scholarships to give every student who meets the guaranteed academic standards, but not enough to also allow for overlaps with the participation scholarships. I'll seek to inquire more upon request.

Cam: Is the name of the honorary recipient public yet?

Al: It is confidential right now but will be released soon.

Motion: Jay motions to extend 5 minutes. Spandan seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Fatima

Lucy: People who have transfer credits aren't allowed to have in course guaranteed scholarship, senate should change that...

Al: It used to be that they asses you for a guaranteed scholarship for every 5 credits you complete at Vic; what seems to be happening, is that so many of us get the in-course scholarships which is why they may have decreased the number of recipients, I don't know the process of changing this, because I don't currently have a constitution or anything from the senate where I can see what needs to be changed; part of issue is not having these documents public...

Aminah: Our endowment fund has a little under \$5M, you're saying all of this goes back to scholarships?

Al: The general endowment fund doesn't all feedback to our scholarships, only donors that have specific recipients I believe...

Vibhuti: I want to thank everyone and recognize Al who has kept us in the loop and been an active voice, we are hoping to have more VCC members come!

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Returning Officer (Maria): 15 minutes

I'm going to give an update of some of the most important things from the report:

I wanted to thank everybody generally, especially four people, Christina for coordinating for me and being so helpful with the Dean's Office, and on VUSAC I wanted to thank Alexa, Vibhuti and Katie, without those three I would have been completely lost. And Rachel and Michael from Catseye too, the Town hall went great! Okay, so the important things I want to highlight are regarding postering and the voting system itself.



For posterung I believe it was mainly a miscommunication of where we could poster, I will reach out to maintenance staff directly to make sure everyone is aware of the rules, and make sure I have cleared it with the Dean's Office, so that they are clear with what's happening on campus.

The other big thing was social media, we talked a bit about it with the ERC but some candidates found it clunky so I think the changes we made/are hoping to make will be likely implemented by next election and will make things much easier!

The issue with the voting system was that U of T does not allocate money for people who update it; the way we are dealing with it is while we are promoting the elections we will be informing them of how they can vote, making sure people have their cookies cleared, history, etc. The issue was the OS systems and the web providers like Chrome are so advanced that you need to do a couple of things so that the voting and web systems can work together to bring up the page, so I will be doing that. Additionally, with the help of as many members of VUSAC as possible we are hoping to set up tabling sessions, which will come up later, if people have trouble voting on their own they can go somewhere to vote on a clean computer that will not have those cookies and such; I think it's a good way of promoting the election, and would love to hear your impressions! Thank you!

Gabby: Are you going to hire a new CRO?

Maria: Yes, I am working on the language for that now, want to make sure that person doesn't end up running for the CRO in the spring elections.

Vibhuti: Maria ran for elections at Trin and UC, what was your favorite and least favorite part for running election at Vic?

Maria: My favorite is that VUSAC is super involved, it's difficult to get other people on governing bodies to actually fulfil some of their responsibilities; the fact that the voting system didn't work was my least favorite thing but shit happens, that was just frustrating, and now that we've figured it out I hope it will be smoother!

Alexa: Thank you so much for compiling that report and all of your feedback; it's important to hear your experience, and I'm sure we will make some great changes!

Maria: Thank you so much guys

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Commuter (Michelle & Rheannon): 10 minutes

I just have one thing, commuter assassins is happening starting January 28th, when posters go up please let people know, we will only be opening it up to 50 people, tell your friends, and make your groups!

Alexa: How was home for the holidays?



Michelle: It was really good, thank you to everyone who came and helped out, thank you to DJ-Bhuti, I was very happy with outcome, we didn't get much feedback but we did run another feedback campaign for what VOCA was doing and we got 19 responses, so we will be working from that! We also have some new exciting initiatives regarding pancakes and website coming up soon as well!

Scarlet & Gold (Tran): 3 minutes

Big thank you to everyone especially Jay, Fatima and Taro for helping out with semi-formal!

Sustainability (Aminah & Leila): 5 minutes

Environmental equity week is coming up the first week of February, so please come out for that! We plan on keeping the momentum from last semester, we are working on ideas on making Vic more sustainable with the petition and working with governance and putting the pressure on and that's it!

Vibhuti: Were you thinking of having a blanket exercise?

Aminah: It's something we initially discussed, something that we will not be doing due to time and the time it takes to organize an event like that.

Leila: Also, Jared advised us that we should do it like a separate event.

Alexa: Jared was the sustainability commissioner the past two years.

Aminah: Last update, about composting, we imagine the pilot spreading, it's currently on one floor of Annesley, so we want to get to all floors, we plan on speaking to Vibhuti about Neds too.

Jay: I have a question regarding composting, assuming you're in talks with U of T composting services; could you ask them if the paper cups that say compostable are actually compostable?

Aminah: It does not go into composting, which is something we will be clarifying in our posters, we are currently working on making sure, and will be working on communicating that information!

Leila: Vic doesn't have the same composting, or any same waste services as U of T; as a general rule, if the city of Toronto says it's not compostable it's probably not here.

Jay: I'd like to get confirmation on that!

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

VP External (Vibhuti): 10 minutes

1. Crescams – this is an awards ceremony that recognize students who have gone above and beyond in the Vic community, nominations will start on February 7th, and will close on February 28th, these are important dates so please write them down. The actual date for the ceremony is March 23rd which is a Monday, all the hot shots will be there, president Robins, Dean Kelley, Christina Alcena, and you get a free meal!



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Next, something I talked about last semester is how I have been in talks with Lyndon about affordable catering options; he has compiled this menu that he put together with staff that he sent to Scott and I a few days ago. While there are some holes in the menu that Scott and I will discuss, it looks pretty cool, the menu options include 2-3 course meals for \$10 per head which is huge! Also there are snack options that are well priced, so I'm excited to be working with Lyndon on that.

Also, I will be meeting with the dons to figure out how we can better support res life; please let me and Steven know if you have any ideas!

Caucus happening once more, February 26th, which is a Wednesday, and the reports for VUSAC will be due on February 19th which will be done through Holly. Y'all did a great job last semester, so I'm excited to put that together for our members!

Next up, I had a meeting with my councilors Mehr and Disha to discuss some of the initiatives we want to do this semester! These include putting up the extra menstrual dispenser, having inter college events, and hosting events catering to international students. If you're interested in any of these please let me know!

Next up, Ned's composting – I'm seeing Lyndon on Tuesday and will ask him on updates on that, it should be happening soon. Renaming Ryerson, if you've read the varsity article, people are giving a lot of credit to me and Alexa, we didn't do much but we're happy about what's happening, we are hoping to be in talks with Angela about the name. I just wanted to say that we are using our roles as student advocates, we don't have much power at that level, so it's up to Angela and principle's office decision, we are just hoping to submit a good case and go from there; in terms of the entire project, the problem with renaming Ryerson is a lot of what happened last year got lost in transition, so I didn't know what was happening until a month ago; the main goal for VUSAC in the next few months until the end of my term is to appoint an indigenous student to a special committee called the Indigenous Student Committee as well as appointing another/same indigenous student to the Presidents Indigenous Circle, which is a group of people advising President Robins on indigenous initiatives on campus.

Recently I had a fruitful conversation with Jade, an indigenous person who does cool work, and who is a superstar on the Board, we talked about VUSAC's role in reconciliation on campus, and talked about shifting perspectives on VUSAC and campus. While we like to be social justice changemakers, we are far from making these changes, and we have to address our institutional history. One thing she said that I want to share with you is that you can't conflate social justice projects with reconciliation, that is a very important thing to keep in mind, and an important thing to dwell on. I ask that you take that on and think about that, as settlers we have a supportive role in indigenous issues, in making space and making time and giving our own resources to creating spaces where indigenous students can leave their own events; as leaders that is our goal, we are not leading those but yeah things to think about!



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Jay: Why is caucus not on a Friday, I'm asking because some students will be in class on Wednesday.

Vibhuti: We can't do it on Friday because VCDS is having a show that weekend. If you can't make it just email me your regrets so you are accounted for, we will have our minutes and everything so you know what will be going on!

VP Internal (Katie): 3 minutes

Retreat will be happening on February 8th in the afternoon.

VP Student Organizations (Cameron): 5 minutes

Over past week I have had 17 check-ins with clubs and levies, which sounds like a lot but it is only about a third, I will continue to have check-ins with everyone for sure, I will try to have check-ins with all clubs. Next – club and levy equity training will be happening soon, I will be reaching to Mari to set up club and levy equity training, we are thinking of having 3-4 sessions, I've been talking to Massoma and Hannah. And finally and another update in terms of services we can provide – Michelle and I brought over a popcorn machine, once it's cleaned it will be a service we can provide to our commissions, clubs and levies!

President (Alexa): 10 minutes

Hi everyone, I hope you had a restful holiday, it's nice to see your lovely faces today. I'll try to keep this quick: before school ended in December, subcommittee of alumni of the Alumni of Victoria College committee met to select next year's distinguished alumni recipients, I sat on that committee, it was super inspiring reading all of the applications, and the winner will be announced soon. The awards ceremony will happen in September.

I want to talk about the SCI – it's still in period of uncertainty, as you know opt out period had gone down after Ontario divisional court struck down the Student's Choice Initiative; it was supposed to be open until January 20th, but that went down, the student society leaders received a kind of confusing email from the office of the vice provost and I will read it verbatim:

For the Winter 2020 term, students will be required to pay all incidental fees deemed optional for the Fall 2019 term, in addition to the mandatory incidental fees. Some societies had fees identified as "refundable" prior to the Student Choice Initiative. If applicable, those fees continue to be refundable through your society's previous processes. The University will await the result of the appeal before making any final decisions on Winter 2020 term opt-out selections made prior to November 25.



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Bottom line, I don't know whether we need to keep our winter budget in that category, also don't know when we're getting our funding. I will be meeting with the vice provost on Monday, so will have more answers to share at that meeting.

Next up – grad photography! New paramount has been at Vic taking grad photos and the VUSAC composite photos; you don't need to pay for your sitting fee, just have to go at any point, and they will be coming back in February (I will follow up with the dates for February.) And to all graduating students we are planning on having feedback which will be very helpful to determine if we want to have changes to the contract.

Next up, Student Projects – I have been working with Cedric on making surveys, which are different from what President Robins is doing, which is why ours was on hold, we didn't want to confuse Vic students with having two strategic plans. So we are going to be doing some tabling and have a couple of town halls over the next month or so, and I hope we make the most of it, I'm excited to learn about what students want from VUSAC, the one question I did want to bring forward is because we originally thought of having the 5 surveys, the more surveys you fill out the bigger chance the student has to win a prize; the three prize options are a sweater, a ticket to high ball, and a pennant. I want to make sure that the surveys are anonymous but we're still able to give people prizes so if you have creative ideas on how to make this happen I can't wait to hear them; I am also thinking of if you fill out all 5 you can come to the VUSAC office and get a Northrop Frye sticker!

Some other things, policy reviews – we are making sure each document is updated, please read all the governing docs, as VUSAC members you should know how we operate!

I just quickly wanted to plug, there is currently a vacant Vic director seat, the application closes at midnight tonight, so please tell your friends to apply!

We will be doing a big VUSAC clean-up on January 26th at 1pm, so please keep that day open and remember to clean up after yourselves and encourage others to do the same!

We are currently in the middle of the budgeting process, that meeting will also be on a Wednesday evening, later in the semester. The Student's Choice Initiative has done stuff to make it that late so I'm sorry, and last of all, going into the semester I just wanted you all to make the most of your time on VUSAC enjoy your time, and please try to find balance in life!

Gavin (3 minutes):

Hi everyone, I'm Gavin, I'm the chair of the Student Projects Fund, I wanted to give you a quick update, as of this moment student projects is functional, we are currently accepting applications, we just had our first round of hiring committee members but still have 2 spots open. Student projects needs to have a stronger presence among the Vic community, we're trying to roll out our advertising campaigns over the next two weeks, so it would be greatly appreciated if you guys can help me share the posts, that would be awesome! And that's all.



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Alexa: thank you for coming and I'm excited to see what you do with Student Projects!

Motion: Michelle motions to adjourn the meeting. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: Fatima, Hannah, Cedric