VUSAC Meeting Agenda

**Call to order:** 5:36 pm EST, September 23, 2022

**Land Acknowledgement:**

*Thomas*

*We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. 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.*

**Official Regrets:**

**Absent:**

**Approval of minutes:**

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to approve the minutes for September 16, Seconded by Maarib Haseeb*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

**Additions to the agenda:**

**Approval of the agenda:**

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to approve the agenda for September 24, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Budget Rules & Guidelines, put forth by Thomas Keough (10 minutes-)*

Thomas: Welcome to Budget Ratification, this will be one of the longest meetings of the semester. If you guys aren’t familiar with the budget ratification meeting, basically what we’re going to do is work through the entire budget as I have built it and look at all the budget lines and see which of them are allowed to be passed. We’re going to be looking at each budget as a whole, going by organization. We’ll be starting with levies, then clubs, then commissions, and so on, and so forth. Representatives–I know there’s a lot of you here so if you’re a representative from a levy, club, or commission, be prepared to talk about your budget when the time comes. There will probably be questions, and I will also open the floor to you guys, if you want to mention anything that you think is worth mentioning. In the case of levies or club requesting more than a thousand dollars in funding, you have to have a representative here, otherwise your budget cannot be ratified. And, council, I’d like to mention to you guys to keep an eye out for highlighted lines, especially, these are lines that myself and the Budget Steering Committee have already taken a look at and determined that these lines need reviewing, changing, or striking–they can’t exist in the budget as they currently do. Let me move on to the most important thing for this meeting, and this is especially for council. We’re over budget for the Fall by about ten thousand dollars. This means that it would be financially irresponsible for me to pass the budget as it currently stands. There isn’t enough money to do that. That means we’re going to have to be very strict with the budgeting rules. If at any point in this meeting we’re deciding to strike a line from the budget and you can’t decide, I would suggest to err on the side of frugality and just strike the budget. This is especially true for clubs, commissions, executive, and staff budgets. Levies work a little differently, but the aforementioned need to be strict. Right now, the net expenditure that is budgeted for on this existing fall budget is $67,000. The absolute most that we can responsibly spend is $57,000, which is about ten thousand dollars, or eighteen percent of the budget that needs to be cut down. To help us with cutting down, I’m going to talk about some of the budget steering policy, which is in the meeting package for this meeting. Some lines that we probably shouldn’t pass aren’t technically in violation of the rules, but given our current situation, we should avoid passing them. For things we cannot fund: including alcohol, or funding for alcohol, cannabis, or any other substances. Secondly, any charity contributions, members-only retreats or similar activities that are deliberately and unjustifiably exclusionary or inaccessible to all of Vic members. There is an exception to this-one, exceptions will be made for exceedingly long mandatory sessions, open meetings that pass in approximately three hours in length or similar situations, and any honoraria in excess of two hundred dollars, that is not already mandated in the constitution of VUSAC or its constituents. So those are things we cannot fund. Again, this list is in the budget steering policy, but you can access from the meeting package or from the VUSAC website. Moving on things I suggest we do not fund given our current situations. Firstly, lines with minimal or no justification of the expense listed, secondly, lines requesting expenditure for things that are cheaper or free when taking into account current resources. This includes things like using venues on campus, decorations that are already in storage versus going out to buy new ones, and thirdly, contingency funds. There are some budgets that were submitted that have their own contingency funds, this is especially true for clubs and commissions. This is because VUSAC has its own contingency funds in place, so it’s kind of unfair for us to set up a secondary or tertiary contingency fund for specific clubs. Levies, that’s different because they have their own bank account and funding, if they want to budget for contingencies then that takes away from their total spending, so that’s fair. Technically there’s no rule for contingency funds, lines with minimal or no justification, and lines requesting expenditure for things we already have. I’d like to use the remaining time to open the floor to any questions or anything anyone would like to say.

Cameron: Just speaking from a commission perspective, I want to express some caution and concern about issues around contingency funds. I understand that because we’re over budget, contingency funds are an efficient thing to cut. But I also want to recognize that certain commissions have things that can only be addressed by contingency funds, because those commissions have needs that we don’t yet know. So, for example, for my commission, the Equity Commission, an equity issue that comes to the commission’s attention. To the Sustainability Commission, an issue with sustainability. I think, broadly, contingency funds for clubs and certain commissions is something we should avoid. But, I think it’s important to not paint every commission with the same brush, because commissions like equity, mental health, sustainability have unique needs that we should take into account when we vote.

Thomas: Thank you for that. It’s definitely going to be a case-by-case basis even with the things I mentioned.

*Fall 2022 Budget, put forth by Thomas Keough (2 hours and 20 minutes)*

*Acta Victoriana*

Thomas: We’re going to get started with Acta Victoriana. We do have a representative in the form of Juliana. Should there be no issues with this budget then we can pass it. Council please take a look, anyone can bring up any concerns that they may have regarding the budget. Overall, this looked pretty solid, and there aren’t any notes from me and the budget steering committee. If nobody has any concerns we will move on. Also, for any representatives, if you feel the need to explain any line or your budget s a whole, please feel free to do so.

*Motion by Diana Vink to pass the budget of Acta Victoriana, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Caffiends*

Thomas: This is kind of a unique situation, Caffiends is one of the few, maybe the only revenue generating organization. You may see here that the budgeted expense column, looks pretty heavy, but after accounting for their net inflows, it brings their budget down quite a lot. This levy is actually earning money rather than spending it this term.

Sooyeon: I’m looking at Line items 26 and 27, is there an update as to if Caffiends will be able to sell food items this semester, or like, when, or if that is going to happen? If anyone from Caffiends has an answer to that.

Radhika: For food items, we’re still sorting out some of the logistics with displaying them right now, and we marked it as ongoing, because it is an ongoing weekly order, and we tentatively put it towards the end of September, because we are ultimately not a hundred percent sure how we’re going to manage it, considering how our space is set up right now.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Caffiends, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Cat’s Eye*

Jerico: So we’re $800 over budget. I just wanted to explain the first line item for the honoraria that’s separately budgeted because we have not provided honoraria for two of our past executive members. They just weren’t cashed in in the summer in that budgeting period, so we have to re-budget for it. It’s still in our bank account, waiting to be cashed out. But, with how the budgeting periods work, we have to declare everything that will come out again. So this will be coming out right after this, which is why in this budgeting period we allocated eight hundred for it, which is why we’re over, and the rest of it is self-contained for the fall. I could also explain the rug costs. We got a request, a suggestion that a rug would be really beneficial for in front of the stage. If any of you have been to the Cat’s Eye, our floors are cold, hard, concrete, that aren’t very comfortable so we got a suggestion that if we bought a rug it would be more comfortable. It’s $400 because the stage area is really big, so we’d have to get a really big rug or maybe multiple, so we’re budgeting a little more, so people can sit and have a more intimate experience within the space.

Shane: I was wondering why it’s $400.

Jerico: It’s an estimate of what we’ll be getting. A big 5ft by 8ft rug is like $200, and the space we have to cover is probably 13 by 9 feet. I don’t know where to get that rug, but it’s probably going to be $400. We have not looked at a specific rug.

Thomas: I believe that was the main concern, cause the quote was a little vague. I would like to ask council what they’d like to do with this line. I think $400 isn’t unreasonable, but given the budgeting situation, if council wants to put it on a tighter limit, that’s something that can be done.

Jerico: It’s self-contained within Cat’s Eye’s budget, so if Council does want to strike it I would like direction on what you want us to spend it on instead. We’ve assessed the space and assessed our budget to the best of our ability as experts of the Cat’s Eye.

Shane: Wouldn’t you, if you didn’t spend on the rug, you’d still be $400 over budget? Meaning, there would be nowhere to spend that money? I’m just confused.

Jerico: No we wouldn’t be. We’re $800 over budget because we’re going to pay the honoraria that should have been paid out last year, they just weren’t cashed in cheques. So if you disregard that, that’s not part of our fall spending, that’s part of spring, we’d be filling in the funding we received for the fall.

Diana: My thought on the matter is that if it costs $400, then cool, but if it doesn’t then that’s fine, and the money doesn’t get spent. I don’t see that it’s a big deal to spend that money on the rug, I don’t see it as a big deal to err on the side of caution and then have that little extra money for rugs in case it is really expensive.

Jerico: If let’s say we buy a cheaper rug for $200, then the remaining $200 would be moved to the Winter semester, and we can put on an event with it, buy another piece of furniture, more equipment, more video games, etc. We can really use that money again to buy more things.

Thomas: I should mention, that this figure, that we’re $10,000 over budget, excludes levies. The reason this excludes levies is because they have their own funding. So, we don’t need to be as strict with the levy budgets, it’s more of clubs, commissions, executive, and staff budgets that we need to be strict with in terms of cutting down, because anything we take away from the levy budget is going to be taken away from them, and not the VUSAC budget. We don’t need to be as strict with the levy budgets.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of The Cat’s Eye, Seconded by Maarib Haseeb*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*The Strand*

Thomas: We have a representative from the Strand, that’s Rion. We’ll talk about Line 42, which is magazine printing. I believe this one is highlighted because of the difference in expenditure related to issue printed here. This is 150 copies and it costs $2,000. And then we have issue printing for 180 copies, $100, or roughly $1300 each. Rion would you be able to explain the difference there for us?

Rion: Yeah, so the main difference is that we’re using different publishers for these. Master Web only publishes our newspapers, and newspapers are actual physical paper, and it’s printed on a large scale, so the cost would be the same. But then with the magazine, we have to go to a different publisher that specializes in magazine printing. I don’t know for sure, but I’m pretty sure that Acta Victoriana and the Strand use the same magazine publisher. We’re cutting corners a little bit with our magazine printing this year, just because printing costs have soared exponentially over the past two years with supply chain issues.

Thomas: This is a levy within budget, even though this is a lot of money here, they are well within their funding. I don’t think there’s any problem with allowing this budget.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of The Strand, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*VCDS*

Thomas: They’re within their budget, everything’s good.

Jackson: Yeah, so the budget steering committee did highlight a couple of line items. If VCDS could comment on that, I think that would be pretty helpful.

Jefferson: So music and tech rentals is an estimate.

Cass: We’re running off of what we’ve used for previous shows. So, usually tech costs for a musical which we have a few, and higher tech budgets are for musicals. We are renting instruments, mics, sound machines, all of this. All of those usually amount per show to be about 2500. We lowered it to the minimum amount we could to stay within our budget, and these are already accounting for anything we already have from VUSAC and the Cat’s Eye. This is anything additional to that. Regarding the post-October 14th, could somebody explain that?

Jackson: We do have a second budgeting period that’s happening on October 14th. So that’s just to allow for anything that’s been postponed during this meeting, or for when the new members of council have any budget additions they want to make, so we allow for a second budgeting period. So the reason we’re saying that is because we would prefer something with more clarification. We would encourage you to allow us to motion to strike the item until the next budgeting period until you can come up with a more specific quote. So I think for venue, something that we had discussed was that if there was any way of doing that on campus, for a cheaper option. If it’s possible to delay until the next budgeting period to allow you time to come up with something more exact rather than just an estimate.

Jefferson: Yeah, so for this one, I don’t want to put anybody on the spot, the reason that we weren’t looking to use a big space, because we’d be using them so much already for the first two shows, so we didn’t want to also get that same one, so I think that’s why we were hoping to find a different space, and most of these other spaces have this higher cost.

Cass: I think it does make sense to wait until the October 14th because we won’t be paying for it until then anyways. But yeah, that makes sense, we can push it to that next budget meeting.

Shane: Quick question–on the three lines that say music and tech rentals, I don’t know how much these things normally cost, but when you’re spending this much on rentals, have you considered just buying them in anticipation that you’re going to be using them for future years as well?

Jefferson: We absolutely would, but usually the amount of tech that we need is hundred of thousands of dollars, so even in the long term it’s cheaper to rent. If we were a venue that would keep them in, that’s a different story. But because storing them would be very difficult considering a lot of people have access to the space, it would be hard to keep track of them.

Shane: That’s fair, thanks so much.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike the line regarding Music and Tech Rentals, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of VCDS, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*VicPride*

Thomas: We do have a representative from VicPride, Agrata, thank you. Are there any questions about this budget? We do have two lines highlighted. The concern here is that the existing supply is already in the VUSAC and could be borrowed or temporarily used.

Sooyeon: Yeah, I just flagged these two items because something that I’m adding to my personal budget is just buying a bunch of paint just because we have a lot of people who want to do art events throughout the year. So if VicPride just wants to use VUSAC’s paint, that’s totally fine. It’s there for all students to use, we have paintbrushes and paints. If you want to start your own paint fund, you are more than welcome to do that And I just thought that I plug this, and this is going to come up for all of the other groups who have requested materials like paint and brushes, because VUSAC has so many, so there’s no need to budget for that separately.

Agrata: Yeah, that’s even better if we don’t have allocate our budgets for that.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike Lines 73 & 74, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Diana Vink to pass the budget of VicPride, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Victoria Black Student Network*

Thomas: Moving on to Victoria Black Student Network, we have a representative in the form of Zindzi. I’ll read out the comment–stickers themselves are very popular and large, cheaper than pens. Social media, newsletters, and posters on their own without stickers are a great way to promote. I believe this is in concern with the marketing materials line, which was six hundred dollars. Would you like to defend this budget line?

Zindzi: So the primary item is that we focus on getting our stuff printed and made by black-owned business, so that does factor into the cost as well. And then there is a possibility that we could focus on doing stickers as opposed to pens. We haven’t exactly built up as much of the club materials for like club fairs, since we are a new levy and also as a club. That would be our time to make enough materials so we wouldn’t need to buy any more.

Sooyeon: Yeah, I just wanted to ask you about Line 88, which is the Executive Dinner for the dining expense. I guess I just had questions about what the purpose of the Exec Dinner is, because if student funding is going to go to a very specific small amount of people, then it can run the risk of being exclusionary and not including anyone who isn’t an Exec. So I wanted to ask what your thoughts on that was.

Zindzi: That is 100% valid, we can change that. In previous years, we have opened up our Exec Dinner to general members as well, as we are a club with a fairly small attendance. That hasn’t usually been a problem in the past but that is a very fair comment.

Thomas: On this note, I would like to remind the council that one of the points in the budget steering policy is that members-only retreats or similar activities that are deliberately and unjustifiedly exclusionary or inaccessible to all these members are technically not allowed to be funded. Exceptions will be made for exceedingly long mandatory sessions, open meetings that pass approximately 3 hours. Council, this one’s up to you, but I believe that this technically falls within that kind of exclusion.

Cameron: Sorry I just wanted to know, Zindzi you said that everyone can be a general member of the Victoria Black Student Network, right? So would you say then that it is exclusionary for any student hypothetically who goes through the step of joining the Black Student Network as a general member to be a part of the dinner. Because there are many things that, you know, we’ve already approved where the carpets at Caffiends, or the Cat’s Eye, are not accessible to every student unless they go to Caffiends. Like, we’ve put in a layer of work that the student has to do in order to get it. If there isn’t anything that necessarily bars any VCU student from being a part of the organization, I don’t see why that exists as exclusionary. Unless it’s something that is explicitly set out, I think, you know I’m a member of staff, but I think councillors and executives should support this, and it’s a necessary thing to do to reward the hard work that the folks at the student network do.

Sooyeon: Cam, I think you raise a good point when you say that by virtue of being a student at Vic, you can choose to be a member of certain groups and certain activities. But, I think there’s a difference between a dinner and a purchase, that will be there for more than a one time thing. Feel free to disagree, but part of the reason why we consider meals and very specific group bonding activities as exclusionary is because it’s generally a one-time expense, and will not be there to serve other people who can participate there. I think it differs from the carpet example in the Cat’s Eye, because it’s not just going to be a one time expense. It will be there, and will be there for four years, for not just the people who are in the Cat’s Eye for that year, but for many years onwards. And so I think that would personally be my justification as to why stuff like this isn’t generally something that council can pass and approve.

Cameron: I think just speaking from the Equity Commission from an equity perspective. I don’t think it is a one-time purchase to recognize people who have put work toward an organization. I think it’s crucially important that general members and executives be rewarded and given an opportunity to engage in an organizaiton’s work without necessarily working, so that they come back, right? And I’m disappointed, frankly, that it’s being seen as an exclusionary thing for people to contribute to an organization that does so much for black students at Vic. I also wanted to note that we’ve already given $150 to the Drama Society for a bunch of line items, for things that will only be used by certain students in the drama society’s productions, right? So, I guess I just kind of question why it is that certain expenses for other organizations are exclusionary, and for this organization the Black Student Network, why their members can’t be engaged with and rewarded for the work that they do.

Shane: Just a quick question–what is the Victoria Black Student Network’s budget right now? Are they over budget right now, or not, just wondering.

Thomas: They are within their budget right now.

Diana: I guess I have a question, and this is coming from a place of just not knowing. Is this an event that could be justified as a, quote unquote, networking event under Black Student Network? Or is it solely for the purpose of celebration. Because I think if you can also consider it as a networking event, then it might fall out of the exclusionary thing we’re looking at, and more into the responsibilities of the club itself. I don’t know if that’s more justifiable under a budget line, but if there is a purpose more towards the side of the club, then these discussions might dissolve. I’m personally in favor of having it either way, I would not be opposed to asking to budget it in the next budgeting period, just so that it could be confirmed that it’s open to general members as well, because I do think that the label of Exec Dinner is a little bit misleading. But that’s not a big deal to me, and if you’re confident that this is how it’s going to be run then I’m fine with that. But I think, for purposes of justification, it might be helpful if there is some context on if this can be viewed as a networking event, that would technically fall under the purpose and intent of the club.

Thomas: This is definitely something that could be viewed as a networking event, I think, but it would have to involve changing this line title here.

Sooyeon: In response to Diana, I think if the purpose of the dinner is less so, a ‘we are celebrating each other’s accomplishments’. Which I’m not saying is a bad thing at all, I think that student groups should be recognized for the hard work that they do, it’s just that for the purposes of the best allocation of student funds, and how we can responsibly spend the money that people are paying into VCU. I’m in agreement with Diana, if the Exec Dinner was relabeled or reorganized into something that was like a networking event where you have professors and other students from different faculties or colleges and have an event like that. Or, alternatively, if it’s opened up to the entirety of the general members who are part of Vic Black, or even also, just if you want the Exec Dinner, there’s nothing wrong with that it’s just that it’s something I would caution against including that in the budget. You can definitely spend that money on your own, just not paid for with the student funds that you’re given, so I think those would be my personal suggestions.

Callan: Yeah, I just wanted to note, that we’ve highlighted very similar lines for similar events for other clubs, like for Mental Wellness, the VCAA, and the Women’s Circle for the same thing. So I just wanted to note that if we do go forward with this, it sets a precedent for those other events as well, if they are similar enough to this, and have a similar rationale. I just want to keep that in mind that this is a policy, and if we are looking at other clubs and our things as well, are we saying yes to some and no to others, yes to all of them, or no to all of them, if they are of a similar nature.

Diana: I think that this is a really important event and I’m going to encourage you to do it. But, I think I would ask for a clarification in the budget line, that it’s not just for the Exec, but for the organization as a whole, and kind of with the knowledge that that’s what it is. I don’t think that’s an unreasonable thing to ask for and with that clarification, it would remove setting that precedent for other things, that this isn’t an exec only dinner, I think just expanding that would get an easier pass, because we know the fullness of the audience. I think that at the moment the problem is that it’s not necessarily representative of the entire club, so I think that’s going to be my recommendation, is to table it for now, and then in the next budget period, if you just clarify that then it should be totally fine, because I think that it’s a great event idea, and I think it could be helpful for a lot of people.

Zindzi: Thank you for all of your comments. My only stipulation on this is that, since we are a levy that intentionally does not set an honoraria for our executives, this is a way of thanking our executives, but also thanking our club members that have stood out as mentors within the network. So, it is partially a thanking event, but it’s also geared towards calling out the students who are already minorities on this campus, who have extraordinarily put themselves forward not just within the exec, but within the students of Victoria College that identify as black and have gone into leadership positions and also supported the network through mentorship.

Amy: First of all, I love the initiative, just one thing I would mention is that the reason in general that we often, and we’re looking at passing a policy against dinners, is just that they’re very expensive. Say we did open this to general members, that would mean it costing a lot more than $250, and so that’s the other kind of issue I have with relabeling it. So my suggestion might be considering a mixer, or something like that, where you can have a lot of people, and it’s just not as much of a use of student funds. I just wanted to throw that out as an idea going forward.

Shane: I just wanted to say that in my opinion, Zindzi raises a good point about the fact that their Exec doesn’t get an honoraria. And in my opinion, I think it would be better spent actually on a dinner than just giving people money. That’s just what I think.

Thomas: Thank you. I would now like to ask council to motion on either striking this line or passing the budget or both.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Victoria Black Student Network, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Victoria College Athletic Association*

Thomas: We do have a representative here in the form of Jacob. There are a couple of highlighted lines here, first up is the jerseys. This line is missing a bit of justification.

Jacob: So when the budget was submitted we didn’t really have any numbers on intramurals, so that’s why it’s a little bit lacking detail, but I can provide some currently. So we do have some inventory of jerseys leftover, all students that participate in intramurals are given a jersey for their participation. So we do have about a hundred jerseys left in inventory currently, but we have over 600 students sign up every Victoria College Intramurals. So each jersey in previous years cost 19.95, so basically $20. All 600 signups don’t show up to actually play, so under that assumption we usually assume that about 25% of actual sign-ups to 50% actually come. So this budget is for another hundred jerseys, and these jerseys are universal. The only sport that we can’t use a universal jersey is hockey, and they’ve requested $200 for hockey team jerseys, so that fits into that budget as well. So that’s 90 more universal jerseys for all of our students, for just this semester, and 20 jerseys for the hockey team.

Thomas: The next line that had concerns were Line 97, the council bonding line. Similar to the last line, we’re missing some information.

Callan: Just the last one about the hockey jerseys–because I know that last year the jerseys cost $55 each, and the players paid it out of pocket. So I just want to make sure, I know that the VCAA has quite a large budget and you know there’s some things here that I’m questioning, if we can better support some of those funds so that students don’t have to pay it themselves. Hockey, I’d say, is one of the sports that’s very inaccessible because of how it is to play and how expensive equipment is. So I think that’s something that may be super useful as well on the VCAA side, and maybe this exists and i just don’t know about, but it’s actually more of a breakdown. I think the $2,000 is kind of a sweeping amount, but it’d be great to know how much is allocated to each sport based on that sport, is it jerseys, is it equipment, like what is it? I know VCAA is a levy, and there are differences there, but I’m just curious how we can best use those funds to support students, so that students don’t have to pay out of pocket for some of those things.

Jacob: I just wanted to clarify the line of jerseys. Allocation for the jerseys is purely for the universal jerseys, it’s the burgundy short-sleeved jerseys. So we usually apply for the Webster Fund, but this is just in the case of that, so we do need quite a bit of funding for jerseys, just based on the number of players interested in playing sports. So we do have another line for equipment, and this is pretty broad as well, this is just for any of our events or things like hockey. I guess you did mention something about accessibility there Callan, but just to clarify that these jerseys mainly pertain to the bulk of charges for all the intramural sports other than hockey. But I guess we could clarify for hockey, but just in the interest, forms and things for intramurals have just been finalized, that’s why it’s very broad in the budget.

Jackson: I was wondering if you could maybe clarify where these numbers are coming from, you mentioned you had some extra from last year. But I was wondering where these numbers are coming from, cause I played on intramurals last year, and I know a big bunch of people who didn’t get a shirt. So, I’m wondering if these are actually being given out to everyone that plays. And if you could just clarify the numbers and if it’s actually being received by students, Jacob.

Jacob: Yeah, I can clarify that, so last year, I was involved in the purchasing of the jerseys. But they were purchased in the winter semester, and they arrived very late, so we weren’t really able to distribute it, and that is, to my knowledge. But we did buy jerseys last year and that’s why we have the leftover stock for this year. So, I mentioned, we have 133 jerseys left of ranging sizes in our inventory, and according to our invoice last year, each jersey is $19.95, so round that up to $20, the 2,000 funds, an extra 100 jerseys for our intramural teams. And as mentioned we have over 600 sign ups for intramurals this year, so this might not be enough, and we do have some allocated or plan for the winter budget as well for any new athletes, but this is just for the fall semester.

Thomas: I should mention, that the VCAA, they are within their budget.

*Motion by Diana Vink to pass the budget of Victoria College Athletic Association, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*5 in favour. 1 opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*VicXposure*

Thomas: This is one of the elvies that is over budget by $1800. This is almost purely because of the honoraria. We do have a representative in the form of David. I’d like you to open the floor to you to discuss this honoraria line, because it says in the description that you’re submitting it for the winter cheque approval, but it’s the Fall, so why not just budget it for the winter?

David: First of all it required approval, so we just wanted to put that there so everyone’s aware of the honoraria. Otherwise I can budget for it in the winter, because most of our purchases consist of a lot of funds for equipment. So we want to have it now rather than later, so it’s best to have the honoraria in the winter. I just put it there so everyone’s aware of the $2000.

Thomas: Because you are technically over budget for the Fall based on the funding that you would receive from the Dean’s Office, we would like to ask, do you have the money in the account to spend on all the things you need here?

David: No, our account is pretty empty, like a few hundred.

Sooyeon: So I’m not confused about the honoraria situation–the funding, the honoraria will be released in the winter after December 31st?

David: Yes.

Sooyeon: In that case, because whenever different levies decide to release their honoraria that differs per levy, and they just budget for it according to the appropriate budgeting period and almost always passes, because it’s justified in the constitution. So I don’t think it’s necessary for honoraria to be budgeted for the Fall period, especially if you’re giving it out in the winter. We appreciate the heads up but it doesn’t need to be in here right now, though.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 145, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Thomas: That brings VicXposure within budget for the Fall.

*Motion by Diana Vink to pass the budget of VicXposure, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Victoria Black Student Network, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Thomas: I would like to implore council to motion for a ten minute recess.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee for a ten minute recess, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Thomas: Just before we get started with the club budgets, I would like to remind council that this is where we need to be stingy. Our current net expenditure is $67,210.96 for levies, this needs to be about $10,000 lower than what it is now. The things that are going to reduce this number, unfortunately, would be striking out lines from the clubs, commissions, executive, and staff budgets. In the interest of being financially responsible, if you are torn between leaving a line in and striking it, please err on the side of frugality and strike it. Budget lines can always be resubmitted later, and there are later budgeting periods as well, it might just need to be remodeled a little bit.

Callan: I just wanted to jump in, Thomas, you said that it’s about $10,000 that we’re over. Do you have that number that says that this is how much funding VUSAC has in total that we can put up beside the number. To say this is how much money we need to cut down? We’ve got an amount of money that we can spend and we’re over it. So no club wants their funding cut, but we’ve got to work together to bring it down.

Thomas: I agree, thank you for mentioning that. But, this number here, $56,634.78, is what we need to spend. I think it’s within reason if it’s a little over, but we need to have it much closer to this.

Cameron: It would be really cool if someone could vote for commissions to go first.

Sooyeon: Yeah, I mean we’re going to get to it anyways, but if a commission member feels like they need to get theirs done first because they have somewhere to be afterwards, that’s definitely fine.

Cameron: To be clear, this is a motion for all commissions to be voted on first, whatever order they’re currently in. It’s not a time issue, I just think that when we’re possibly making cuts, we should make sure that we know where our elected commissioners stand before we get to clubs which are creatures of VUSAC.

Shane: Wait, why exactly do we need to get to commissions first? I don’t see why we can’t just do the order.

Cameron: To be clear, it’s just that I would like to have, as a student of Vic, an idea of how much needs to be cut from clubs versus how much needs to be cut from commissions. I think that, between clubs and commissions, because commissions have elected commissioners who can advocated for their commissions and have mandates from the VCU to talk about why their commissions are important, and also because commissions like equity have funding relationships with other clubs. I think it’s valuable that commissions get done first so that we know how much cuts need to be made from clubs and not vice versa.

Thomas: As the chair, I’m going to make the executive decision here to go ahead and do commissions first. Shane, Jackson, would you still like to make a comment?

Shane: Yeah, I don’t think we should do that.

Jackson, I don’t either, I think we should revote now that there’s been some clarity on what the motion is. Cam, I agree, but I think if we were to switch it around, it might set a bad precedent saying that VUSAC is more important, we should get more funding. Regardless if we’re 10,000 over, commissions are likely going to have some cuts as well as clubs. I don’t think there should be any hierarchy with that, so we should continue with the order.

*Boundless Books*

Thomas: There were no flags in this budget, but we do need a representative from the club, Saskia, thank you. Are there are any concerns we’d like to touch on?

Sooyeon: I’m just looking at the logo design contest, and it says that the winner of the logo design contest will be given a gift pack, including tote bags, and every book your club has read. In that case, could you potentially save costs on book fees, if you’re just going to be giving away the books that would be donated to EJ Pratt anyways? Would that save on potential costs, instead of donating all the books that you’re reading throughout your weekly meetings, they just don’t get all donated and they could be going to the people winning the logo redesign contest?

Saskia: Yes, that’s a good point, we could probably save $40, but most of those books are those we’ve read in the past two years.

Shane: You said $40, what about the other $190?

Saskia: No, only four of the books that we’ve read this year, the other ones are from past years, that we’ve already donated. So we don’t have them, and we’d be purchasing all of those books and the tote bag.

Jackson: Soo can do a point of clarification, but from my understanding it’s the weekly meetings that are overlapping? So you said books are donated to EJ Pratt or to TPL after use. But my understanding, it was if those books could be donated to whoever wins the redesign contest.

Sooyeon: Yeah, that’s what I was trying to get at. So instead of Budget Line 146, those books being donated to Pratt instead, putting each one of those books, those individual copies aside, and giving it away as a giveaway, if that would be a way you could save some costs.

Saskia: I think that’s a great idea. For Line 154, we can reduce that line by $40 so it’s $160 instead of $200, by using a couple of the books that we read in our club this year.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to friendly amend Line 154 to $160, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Thomas: If there are no other problems with the budget, I would like to ask council to motion to pass this.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Boundless Books, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*5 in favour. None opposed. 1 abstaining. Motion passes.*

*CommuKNITy*

Thomas: This is a short budget, and is requesting less than a $1000.

*Motion by Diana Vink to pass the budget of CommuKNITy, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*GLAM*

Thomas: They are requesting funds in excess of $1,000, and we have a representative, Anita. There are a couple of lines highlighted, I’ll start with Line 160. The concern here is that museum admissions have student discounts or are free at certain points during the week. Have you incorporated this into the budget, or an estimate assuming the full price?

Anita: This is assuming the full price, but I can lower it, because we wanted to do the special exhibition, which isn’t free admission, but they have discounts on Tuesdays which is $11. The only thing is, we weren’t sure if everyone would be able to go on Tuesdays. If we do two trips, we could do half and half, and that would lower it to $600.

Sooyeon: So I went ahead and looked at all the admission prices for the ROM, AGO, and the Gardiner. So depending on the day, ROM is free on Tuesdsays, but the Gardiner and the AGO are free for all students regardless of day and time. I guess my question is if there’s something specific about the special exhibition that you feel as though GLAM needs to attend, because if not, I would highly suggest you just use the free admissions available because we are trying to be mindful of the cost.

Anita: We have done AGO trips in the past as well as the ROM, we just wanted to provide something that students on their own cannot as easily get. The special exhibition in the ROM does cost money, and students may not be able to go on their own, so we wanted to do something more exciting to entice people to go to something special. But I recognize that it’s not necessary, and we can split it to one trip on Tuesday where it’s cheaper, and then go to the AGO as well. So that would lower the cost too.

Thomas: If there are no more comments for that line, then we can look at the others. This one for the Materials line, we’ve discussed a few of these before, given that there are materials available in the VUSAC office. So do you think you’d be able to utilize the supplies at the VUSAC office?

Anita: Yes, I didn’t know there were paintbrushes and paints that we did have. We did want to have Glow in the Dark paint, it’s not necessary, but we just wanted it to be more exciting. But if we had just that paint it would be 39.50.

Thomas: Alright, we’ll make a friendly amendment for that. There was also concern for pens for $250, because there are better forms of promotion.

Anita: Yeah, last year was the first year of our club, and we had both stickers and pens, which we used up all of them. So we wanted to do the same thing this year, since they were so popular. But if there’s not budget for it then we can just make do with the stickers.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 160, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Jackson: I think that striking the line item, you guys have another budgeting period and you can come back and revise it. We strongly encourage you to use as many free resources as possible, and I know that you know, it might not be everyone else having access to it. But I think the whole point of GLAM doing that is to facilitate a community, and have students go with GLAM. If you would like to go back and do one where it’s a special exhibition, then you’re more than welcome to bring that back during the next budgeting period.

Anita: Even if we only had one trip of fifteen on a Tuesday, that’s still $165. Is that still too much?

Jackson: It will be at the discretion of council, so you’re more than welcome to bring that up again, but I personally don’t think that’s an issue. I can’t speak on behalf of council, but you’re more than welcome to bring it up again. I do think it’s worth a shot.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 170, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of GLAM, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Hey Teach!*

Thomas: This is a short one, they have not requested more than $1,000 in funding.

Shane: I just wanted to mention that they’re $550 under, so I think we should just move this along.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Hey Teach!, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*RealTalk*

Thomas: They’re also under the $1000 threshold.

Jackson: Just a quick mention, but I know during the Budget Steering meeting we discussed having snacks every meeting. I know that we discussed that for groups, and we didn’t think it’s an appropriate use of student funds to do snacks for every meeting. I guess, it’s only a little bit.

Shane: I’m not sure what you discussed, but it’s only $150 and these meetings are open to anyone who signs the contract and go to the meeting.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of RealTalk, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*The Boundary*

Thomas: They’ve also budgeted less than $1,000. Council, please take a look.

Sooyeon: I’m just looking at line 184 for Social Media Advertising. I’m not sure they need, $390 worth of Instagram advertisements. I feel like that might be a lot, if they could limit it to less weeks, or just don’t do that much money for weekly costs. I think that would be more reasonable.

Shane: I agree, I think we should just cut this. They could just reach out to other social media platforms of other organizations to get promotion that way. I don’t think $390 needs to be spent on something like this.

Jackson: Yeah, just echoing, I know for other commissions and clubs, they also do social media advertising but definitely the number might be on the larger end. I think we would need a little bit more clarification on how this number was created, if they have any data on how it’s boosted their engagement. I know it’s been brought up too that engagement is good but sometimes it’s not necessary in the area.

Shane: It’s also important to note that we just struck the budget line of GLAM, who was planning to spend money on promotion, so with that same response, they could just do it through free means.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 184, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of The Boundary, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Tunes, Beats, Awesome*

Thomas: We have a couple of red highlighted lines, equipment rentals and venues. We do have a representative, Julia. I would like to ask about the rationale behind some of these, if we could do borrowing for the equipment, or cheaper venues.

Julia: For the microphone rentals, I’m not too sure about the logistics of it. The microphone rentals are really detailed but that’s just an estimate. For the first microphone rental line, our music director said it would a hundred to three hundred dollars. So is it possible to amend that?

Zach: I’m President of Vic Records. We have recording mics, so we could figure something out so you don’t need to use rentals.

Julia: That sounds great, thank you. In regards to the venue, we’re in the process of finding what our venue will be, we put that in there to make sure because we’re not entirely sure if we’re going to find a venue on campus. Same goes for the microphone rentals for the concert, we’re not entirely sure where, but since someone said we could possibly borrow equipment from them, I think we could talk to them about that.

Lara: I know that this is based on last year’s Spring Concert, but I think taking into consideration how big you plan your audience to be but there are available spaces on campus, especially at Vic, like Isabel Bader, Northrop Frye. These are spaces that are available to students, I think also in terms of accessibility, if you want UofT and Vic students to attend, people are less likely to go off campus somewhere farther or away from their residence, or having to commute somewhere that they’re unfamiliar with, rather than going to campus just for this event.

Jackson: So just because this event is happening late in December, because of lack of clarification, you’re more than welcome to come back. It was also mentioned during the budget steering committee if you would be able to reach out to Vic Reecords to see if they’re able to collaborate on using any of their equipment. So I would motion to strike the three red lines, and you’re more than welcome to come back next budgeting period once you have specific details, highly recommend looking into campus and getting a quote.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to strike Lines 187, 188, and 189, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Sooyeon: For Line 191, I just wanted to say you could book the music room for free.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike Line 191, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Tunes Beats Awesome, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vic Art Studio*

Thomas: I believe they are requesting $778. We do have a couple of yellow highlights here, concerning existing supplies in the Vic Office.

Sooyeon: We have all the supplies available. We definitely have scissors and palettes, I don’t know about the rest of this stuff, so, if someone is here we could do a friendly amendment, but otherwise I would look favorably upon striking the lines in yellow from 202-209 because we have those supplies available.

Diana: Just a clarification, I was under the impression that Vic Art Studio was dedicated to being a studio in itself, which I had the thought that if they were purchasing art supplies they would live in their own studio space, so it wouldn’t make sense for them to borrow and return to VUSAC. So that was just my understanding why they had to purchase their own materials.

Lara: Unless someone from Vic Art Studio is here and would like to direct then that’s fine, but just for clarification because I don’t know if they have a space, otherwise it’s going to be kept in the VUSAC Office and they would be borrowing our materials anyways. So in that case, we would be saving money because they’re just going to keep it here.

Sooyeon: The only club that has a regular space or office for themselves is Vic Records, so they definitely do not have a club space on their own.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike the yellow lines of 202-209, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Shane: My motion was to strike 210, so I’m not entirely sure what’s going on.

Amy: I’d also like to strike Line 216, because we already have those decorations in the office.

Sooyeon: To direct to Shane, my original verbal motion was for 202-209, because we don’t have some of the supplies that they’re asking for in 210, so I don’t think it’s okay to strike that. And for Amy, that was during orientation, so it already happened.

Thomas: Looking back at the chat, Shane’s motion was to strike all of the yellows, and that’s what was passed, so I think that’s the motion we have to go off of. But I don’t think it’s a major problem if we do strike 210, since some of these are available in the VUSAC office already. We could just let Vic Art Studio know that they can budget for what we don’t already have. And for Line 216, then we’re keeping it.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Vic Art Studio, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vic Chorus*

Thomas: This is a relatively tight budget, but there are some lines of concern here. Vic Chorus has requested over $1,000, we have a representative, Chloe. The first line we can discuss is the clarification on the cost of Vic Chapel, if this space does cost $450 to rent.

Chloe: We’re actually not sure, because that was taken from the Vic College website. But in previous years, when we’ve used it, there was nothing on the budget for it. We’re not sure if it’s because we’re a Victoria club, we can use the chapel free of charge.

Shane: I don’t know the price, but I was going to say that maybe we could strike that and have them find out, and they can rebudget for it. I think there’s time for that.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 221, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Amy: Just a suggestion, with the sweatshirt line. I’m doing sweatshirts in another club I’m apart of, and if you order them from Toronto Tee, a local brand, it’ll be about $30 each, so that would save about $200 on sweatshirts. $40 just seems like a very large price to be buying them for.

Chloe: We can look into it, I’m not the one who put that on the budget, so that’s not my area of expertise. But the one talking in the chat, Asha, was the one who did it, so it would be more her call.

Asha: Yes, we would be amenable to that. I was also shocked by how steep the cost was, so by all means, I don’t have any problem with cutting that cost. If it’s something that’s known to be fairly reputable and reliable.

Amy: We could even cut by $100 so even if it ends up costing you more, then that’s okay.

Sooyeon: In that case could we do a friendly amendment, for $600. Another thing was the Thank You gifts, would these gifts be different from the snack and drinks that the guests receive?

 Chloe: You could actually strike that, we talked about it, and we decided against it. It was just pulled from an old budget, so we can strike it.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 223, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Vic Chorus, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vic Dance*

Thomas: This is a small budget, less than $1,000, that does have a couple of lines highlighted. The first one here is the soda. We do have a representative here, Sofia. The budget was submitted with an empty space, here.

Sofia: Yeah, I forgot to put that in there, but it’s just 3x3.99.

Thomas: Yeah, I’ll just quickly do a friendly amendment for that.

Sooyeon: For the photography line, VicXposure is a levy that we have that has a lot of equipment and have really good photographers, is there any chance you could use their services instead, and it would be free.

Sofia: Yeah, absolutely. I wasn’t sure if they were still doing it, because last year I believe they weren’t doing in-person photoshoots with COVID. But we could absolutely do that, if that takes away expense.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike Line 230, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Vic Dance, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vic iTeach*

Thomas: This is a longer one, but they haven’t budgeted over $1,000. We’ll start with these highlighted lines, there were similar concerns as we have brought up that these supplies are just in the VUSAC Office.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Lines 233 and 234, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Vic iTeach, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vic Records*

Thomas: They have requested $1,303 and change, we do have Zach as a representative. We’ll start with this line, this is equipment for the studio session. Do we have this or does this need to be rented?

Zach: The reason we have this budget line is because often we have artists who need specific instruments. Like last year, we rented a percussion instrument, because we don’t have that. We also rent cables, because there aren’t mic cables long enough in the Cat’s Eye for us to use. We also usually gets DI boxes, which we can budget in the future to buy.

Diana: I know we’re trying to cut costs, but if you are continuously encountering the problem with the cords, I wonder if it’s worth investing in the longer cords as well. But that doesn’t mean exactly right now, it’s just an idea.

Zach: I’m happy to look into that for a future budgeting period, but we don’t have that money right now.

Jackson: I’m looking at the website line, and $300 seems a little steep. I don’t know if that’s normal. I know some other clubs, levies, etc., are also requesting website fund.

Zach: This was the one I wasn’t super happy about, basically 3-4 years ago, the club executive chose Squarespace for our website design, and this is now the cost to maintain it. I’m happy to chat with someone about ways we could go about finding different solutions to this because I don’t love the fact that it’s this cost, but it’s the lowest plan we can get on Squarespace. If we go to a different platform we’d have to start from scratch.

Shane: I think we should motion to pass this because they are under budget, and then Zach you could talk about that this year, probably.

Zach: I was just going to say that we dropped our budget by $1,000 from last year.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Vic Records, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Werewolf*

Thomas: This is a small budget, less than $1,000, and no concerns from the budget steering committee.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of Werewolf, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Victoria College Helpers*

Thomas: There are two concerns here. But as this club is requesting $932, they might not have a representative here. Considering we just voted on the website plan for Vic Records for $300, I’m now thinking if we see this $432 cost is reasonable.

Jackson: I agree that voting in favor of Vic Records complicates things. But Victoria College Helpers is a new club this year, so they’re not in the same situation as Vic Records where they would have to start over from scratch. So I know that what they’re requesting is still a low amount, but spending $432 for a website, is quite a lot. Given that they’re in their first year, I think they should look into cheaper options.

Callan: I think we already said that Vic Records spending $300 is steep, but they’re in a situation with continuing costs and they have to figure out another solution. So I don’t think we can justify a first time expense of $432. I know other clubs have found cheaper website options, so they should look into that.

Amy: We don’t even have a website plan. But to connect it on Wix it’s $7.50, so that’s a lot less.

Sooyeon: VUSAC’s own Wix premium plan is $175 a year, so they can look into that and save a lot of money. I would also be in favor of striking the advertisements line, because you can do well enough with social media and flyers.

Jackie: I just wanted to say that VUSAC’s website plan is the Business Combo, and not the unlimited, and it’s marked in $135.60 USD, but in CAD it’s $183. It’s still cheaper than four hundred, so I think that’s something to consider.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to Strike 268 and 273, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Jackson: I just noticed that the date they put down seems to be September 13, which means the date would have already passed. I’m not sure if they went ahead and budgeted for that. No one is here to talk about that, but Thomas I guess you could just do a follow-up and make a note to come back next budgeting period with a cheaper cost. But I think if they did pay for it we’re probably just going to have to bite it and pay for it because I wouldn’t want it to fall on the students.

*Motion by Diana Vink to pass the budget of Victoria College Helpers, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*VOICES*

Thomas: Theirs is quite long, but they’ve budgeted for $1,832.36. We do have Sarah as a representative.

Sooyeon: For the line on paint, it’s the only one highlighted yellow. The only thing you’d need to budget for would be the canvases and sheets, is that something you’d be okay with amending?

Sarah: Totally, I didn’t know VUSAC had those supplies available. I’m open to putting it at $20 for canvases.

Sooyeon: We’ll do a friendly amendment for Line 288, $20 instead.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to extend the time for the discussion to 8:30PM, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of VOICES, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Women’s Circle*

Thomas: That brings us to our last club, the Women’s Circle. They’ve requested $4,505 in funding. They have a representative, Rawan. The biggest concern here is that the amount of money that’s being spent on food and speaker fees. We’ll do speaker fees first, there seems to be a lot here, but we’re worried about overspending on these types of line items. Could you explain your rationale?

Rawan: A feature of our club is getting speakers to our weekly circles, and we’ve had many speakers come in the past, and this is just accounting for those.

Thomas: I think the concern from the budget steering committee was on the magnitude of the expenditure on that. Would you think it’s reasonable to maybe cut these fees you’re giving to the speakers, or cutting some of the speakers out. As you know we’re tied on funds for this term.

Rawan: Previously we were told that the limit is higher, like $200, I believe, that’s why, unless that’s changed.

Sooyeon: I’m not sure what the precedent of the past was like, but a lot of the spending over the last two years has been a lot more liberal because we haven’t had in-person programming to plan for. We could spend more money on different things but because we have to be mindful on how much money we’re spending. It also isn’t specified how long these workshops or weekly circles are running for, but if that’s two hours each then that’s a $50 rate if you’re awarding someone a $200 speaker fee. So I would strongly recommend cutting that down to a limit of $100 per speaker which seems a lot more reasonable. Again, past precedence might have been different but we have to be really careful about how much money we’re spending on things, so it might be different, I’m sorry about that, but it’s just something we have to work with going forwards.

Jackson: It was also noted in the steering committee, I know we spoke about the prices, so typically like Soo mentioned, it’s at a limit of $100. Just reiterating, we don’t have the privilege of being as liberal this year. Another comment was the magnitude, it’s requesting too much if you’re having a speaker every week. It’s a good five times that speaker fees are highlighted, which is quite a bit. Another thing that was noted is trying to reach out to someone who is UofT affiliated, so it’s within their job description to do that. Sometiumes they won’t ask for any honoraria but you’re more than welcome to budget something small as a thank you package. I would highly recommend going in that route to find UofT individuals to do that free of cost.

Callan: Thomas could you click on summarized budget for a minute. If we look across the clubs here, Women’s Circle is significantly higher than a lot of the other clubs. And so I think part of our discussion was about how much clubs are looking to spend, and how much we can afford to give them to spend. It’s going to have to be a group effort to bring that spending down, and we’ve got Women’s Circle as a big outlier in how much an individual club is requesting, so I would really encourage that we try to be cautious about spending in this situation.

Lara: I’d just like to clarify–this speaker fee is not an honoraria?

Rawan: Yes, it’s for the speaker, it’s not an honoraria.

Lara: And I’d also like to clarify about the end of semester night/dinner, I’m not understanding if it’s a trivia night, why there needs to be a speaker? Based on how an event would run, if you’re focusing on a trivia night, it could be a bonding activity for the club itself.

Emilie: It says renting a bus from Vic to Rouge Park. I know there’s a GO train stop to Rouge Park, so you could take the TTC down to Union and then take the GO train across, that could be another option.

Thomas: So, evidently it seems like there’s a lot of work that needs to be done on this budget. I’m not sure what council would like to do, but I don’t think it’s unreasonable to table the entire budget and have it be reviewed and come back with a smaller budget.

Jackson: I was going to say the same thing. The dates of these are all past our next budgeting period, with the exception of homecoming dinner, that might be the same night of. So I think in the interest of time, I motion to table everything that’s been highlighted, with the exception of Line 316, and maybe ask for a friendly amendment to do $100. And then they’re more than welcome to come during the second budgeting period once they’ve significantly reduced their cost. They’re about $2500 plus what every other club is requesting, so yeah.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to strike all highlighted lines, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Jackson: And then maybe you could just comment if you’re okay with doing a friendly amendment of $100 for the homecoming dinner, and I don’t want you to feel uncomfortable, especially if some planning has already gone underway, and $100 would be within our total budget. So would you be okay with a friendly amendment to $100?

Rawan: Yes.

Thomas: The remaining lines that can be passed are the ones that aren’t highlighted.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of Women’s Circle, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Academic Commission*

Sooyeon: Line 338, with VicXposure Collab, I don’t think it’s necessary to give them any money, they’re a levy that exists to take photos.

Amanda: Yeah, so regarding the photography, I contacted VicXposure prior to the budget submission. First, I invited them for the collaboration, and asked it there was an incentive necessary to hire the two photographers, and they told me that $25 per photographer was reasonable on their end, so I went along with what they were requesting for that. But I was also not aware that they receive funding for taking photos, so I’m totally find if we amend that.

Sooyeon: Yeah, VicXposure as a levy whose main purpose is to serve the Vic community by having photos taken, should not have a monetary incentive to be taking photos.

Shane: In the meantime, I think since there’s nothing we can do about this at the present moment, maybe we could just pass it anyways and deal with this later, since it’s just $50.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass strike Line 338, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of the Academic Commission, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Arts and Culture Commission*

Thomas: This is their budget, and there are flags here. For web domain, $233 seems reasonable given what we’ve seen so far. And this line is talking about supplies that exist already in the VUSAC Office.

Amelia: Yeah, I’m the Arts and Culture commissioner. The website domain can just be cut, both of those lines can be cut, since it’scombined now with the rest of the VUSAC website, so we don’t need that anymore.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike the line on website domain, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Arts and Culture Commission, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Commuter Commission*

Thomas: This is a bit of a longer budget as well, there are four highlighted lines here. For the first two, the concern is that because there are some missing details for the description of these budget lines, if they are happening after October 14th, they can just be budgeted for in the next budgeting period, which would give you time to have a better quote.

Emilie: Yeah, so the nature of VOCA is that we leave our events up to the collaborations and events duo, based off of what they want to do. So currently we don’t have a date for those two events, so we can definitely strike that and budget for it in the next period. But for the advocacy duo giveaways both of those, it’s up to the advocacy duo to pick what they want to do, but we have self-care items, so things like face masks, hand cream, warmers, things like that will be purchased. And for the holiday theme items, if you want a better quote on that, we can always strike it and revisit it, but it’ll probably be the exact same amount, so I don’t really know what the deal would be if we pass it today or strike it today and do it the next time. I’m not really sure how that would benefit us.

Sooyeon: I’m just looking at line 360, could you explain what you mean with the Home for the Holidays student group participation? I’m not sure what you’re planning on that event to look like, but wouldn’t those student groups already have those materials available? I’m just a little bit confused as to what your intention is, so if you could elaborate, that’d be great.

Emilie: So last year, for Home for the Holidays, because it was kind of our first in-person Home for the Holidays in the past two years, we decided to make it a holiday market, because we thought it was more commuter friendly, so we tried to change the format of the event entirely. In that event, we had multiple student groups who had their own booth and their own prizes to give away to people as they were walking through the holiday market. That being said, they didn’t budget for any types of prizes or things that they were giving away at the holiday market, because the opportunity for it to become in-person came after the budget ratification meeting. So we’re implementing that within our budget for the other groups so that when we reach out to them when we plan this, we can say you have fifty dollars to spend on prizes you want to give away, and you can take it out of our budget.

Callan: Yeah, I think the elephant in the room is that Line 368 is the largest line in the whole budget, and we’re really tight on trying to meet our numbers here. If we have this much in a single line, I think it would be beneficial to split this out and make it clearer in smaller amounts with more detail. Even if it is fifty dollars or seventy dollars a gift pack, I think that’s a lot of money on one-time items, this big, that isn’t going to impact a large portion of the Vic community. I’m just concerned by the amount of money on this event.

Emilie: Home for the Holidays has been a VOCA tradition for a really long time. In the past it used to be a sit down dinner, but in recent years, because of COVID, we’d taken that funding and turned it into a prize-pack, home gift pack that we would give to commuter students because they couldn’t be with us in the actual event. Last year we revitalized that and changed it into a holiday markey, because people might not still be able to attend that holiday market depending on the day, time, because it’s a one-time event, so we want to try and reach out to students still through these gift packs. We have reduced the cost. It used to be seventy dollars a gift pack. We have cut that down to fifty dollars and we've cut the seventy-five gift packs to only seventy. We can reduce that, if necessary, if money’s tight, but just letting everyone know we have reduced the cost for those gift packs from last year.

Callan: Yeah, no, that makes sense. And I know that Covid has changed how things are spent in a lot of ways. I guess I just just to get my own again. These are my own personal thoughts as a commuter student, and this may not be true for everybody, and I'm very curious to hear what other community students may think, but I would rather an event that i'm unable to attend, but other people can attend, and is in person, and has, more of a spirit to it. Being able to get, a gift of a few things, that to me, doesn’t as much give you a sense of community. And unfortunately we’ve been so limited in these previous years where we didn’t really have other options. But I really would, in my personal opinion, push to try to make this more community focused.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to extend the meeting by thirty minutes, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Emilie: I just wanted to mention that in Line 368, we would also be using a part of that money for catering. So if we still have to have conversations with the Dean’s Office about if that’s available for that day in terms of snacks, drinks, things like that, throughout the market. So not all of that money would go towards the holiday packs.

Diana: I think it’s a good idea to expand into different forms of getting people involved. I know that with COVID everyone has different comfort levels. And for commuters as well, sometimes it can be hard to come to campus just for the events. I think prize packs are great in addition to the event, because not everyone is comfortable. So this might be a question we revisit next year with regards to the current situation. But for right now, I’m definitely a fan of diversifying the ways that commuters are getting involved.

Amy: I think you made a great point of diversifying, Diana. I would just caution people against prize packs because it doesn’t actually get people involved in the community. The money can be used for the community pantry instead, so it doesn’t seem like a justifiable use of funds, especially when we’re in a year we’re so over budget.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 368, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the remaining budget of the Commuter Commission, Seconded by Sooyeone Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Equity Commission*

Thomas: I have a couple of yellow highlights here.

Diana: There are a few things I want to say. First off, the contingency fund was a mistake on our part, we meant to budget for $500 and not $1000. So, if I can amend that to five hundred. I am going to defend our need for a contingency fund, because equity issues in particular are not really predictable, and we wanna make sure we have the money to support students. So while I understand that VUSAC has its own contingency fund, I think it’s important that equity in particular does. And I will motion to strike the line of the dinner right now, because that’s something that will happen at the end of the year, and we want to see first how many people show up to our meetings, things like that. That’s line 386. I will also defend the menstrual cups, they were really in demand last year, and while there is a possibility that we don’t need as many as we have, given that the Sustainability Commision has also funded them, I would also rather have enough to work for a high demand, and know they’ll be around in the future as they don’t expire. I don’t think there’s any harm in having too many.

Sooyeon: Yeah, I just wanted to address the idea of a contingency fund to begin with. Just for some context, contingency funds weren’t a thing until COVID began, just because things became so unpredictable that you didn’t know what your money was going to be spent towards, because you had no idea what kind of programming you wanted to do. I do understand the importance of having a set fund incase equity-related issues come up, but that’s why we have a budgeting period, and I can see you guys have done a lot of great budgeting for things that you want to do. And for that reason, I don’t think the Equity Commission would need a contingency fund because it’s supposed to be prepared for support by well done budgeting, which is being done well in this case. But also secondly, that’s why VUSAC has their own, the VPSO has a contingency fund in case stuff like this happens, so there’s no need for a secondary contingency fund on top of that. It’s more of a matter of us making sure we’re budgeting as well as we can, especially during a time where we are trying to support as many students as possible, given the amount of money we are allocated this year.

Amy: This is not at all a critique of the menstrual cups, we budgeted them for the summer, and I love the intitiative, we just ordered some of them and they’re arriving. Just one note, I was wondering where you’re ordering them through, because ours were cheaper. I think you only need about $550 to purchase twenty through Diva Cup wholesale.

Jackson: Yeah, on the contingency fund, this is something that’s been done for COVID. And the whole point of Finance Chair and VPSO, is to have a contingency fund in case anything arises. I agree that it would be nice if the Equity Commission had a contingency fund, my only concern is that contingency funds with the VPSO and Finance Chair, they’re still voted on by council. So my worry is that you guys would give the go-ahead to a group and bring it forth to council and we don’t think it’s proper use of student funds. And we’re in a dilemma of if we want that to fall in student funds or not. There’s no need for equity in itself to bring forth a contingency fund, because that’s what the Finance Chair Contingency Fund would be for.

Cameron: So I want to explain two things. For the menstrual cups, we did pretty thorough research on the cost of the menstrual cups, and there are cheaper cups available from wholesale websites, but the concern on my end was that those websites were generally known for selling very cheap things. They were not necessarily trustworthy, especially because it’s something that students are using intimately in their bodies. The Diva Cup product itself, we found, was wholesaling at $30 or a little bit over that. So I’m not sure if it’s gone up or we were looking at the wrong place, but this is the cheapest available we could find from a Canadian retailer, which was the Shopper’s Life brand ones at Shopper’s. On the contingency item, I think for the Equity Commission, there’s a pretty big need for this. We had a contingency fund last year that was approved and used up in its entirety. The reason for that was the gender affirming gear sale, was much greater than anticipated. There was also the issue with the Ramadan dinner, which we would have used it on, had we been consulted on it by the executive who organized it, and it ended up that that was a deeply inequitable event where students were served pork gelatin. So I think, if the desire of council is to have the VUSAC contingency fund used on every single thing voted on, that’s fine, but in the past we have needed money very urgently, where either people would get their gender-affirming gear weeks late, because we would have to place the bulk order later, or we were able to act quickly, use the contingency fund, and get it fast. Same deal with Ramadan, where it was something that happened in a week, and had we not had access to the contingency fund, we wouldn’t have been able to put something together.

Amy: I’m curious for the Diva Cup where you’re getting the wholesale for, because Diva Cup in Canada does their wholesale through Purity Life, and so it’s a little bit of a process because you have to get an account as a retailer. But I can show you, they’re actually on sale right now on the website for $22.82, which is less than we paid, which is $25.35, which is the regular price. I’m willing to make that purchase for you too.

Cameron: Yeah, that would be great to amend.

Sooyeon: Cam, yes, would agree, the gender affirming gear had incredible popularity and served a lot of the students, and did really good work. But that’s also why, I can see you guys are now budgeting $1,000 and Vic Pride is also budgeting a significant amount of money going to that, because now you know what that demand is like, and you can anticipate for it. So, I would still motion to strike lines 386 and 387 for that reason.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Lines 386 and 387, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*8 in favour. 1 opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Equity Commission, Seconded by Diana Vink*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Mental Wellness Commission*

Thomas: First thing, Lines 390 and 394, I believe we thought these were duplicate lines, since they’re both titled the same thing. Can someone confirm or deny that?

Vincent: That was a mistake on our part, these are the same event, and we’ll be going with Line 392, our $900 budget.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 394, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Vincent: I don’t know, for the sake of time, if it would be better to go line by line, because I do have some friendly amendments. With Line 389, I understand the argument, so I would propose changing it from a $25 gift card to two $10 gift cards, for a duration of eight weeks, for a total of $160. I’m going to talk about line 395, my commissioner was the one whou found the price of $36.16 for these notebooks, but I do understand that this is a hefty price of $1000 just for notebooks. We’re going to mirror our budget for Line 390, which is $500. But I do want to defend that these will be separate events for accessibility purposes, we want to make sure that for both midterms and finals, students are able to get a journal if they can. For Line 397, I’d like to propose a friendly amendment of $350. For the Exec Meeting Fund, for Line 398, I understand the President talked a lot about it this meeting, so I am okay if we have to strike that for the sake of the precedent. For Line 400, I’d like to change $50 for snacks to $20. I’d like to change the $30 for a fifty pack of reusable cups, we’re going to check the club storage for cups, so we can remove that. So that would be a new total $57.29 per week for twelve weeks. And then for Line 401, we’ve discussed this again in the meeting, the only thing I’d like to defend is the papers and post-its, but otherwise I understand that the VUSAC office has resources. The one I wanted to talk about was Line 391, the plant giveaway, the note is to try to reduce. I’m going to defend this, it’s one of our biggest events of the year, and because we’re going in person here, we really think the amount of students this will reach will be bigger than last year, and we think that $10 per plant is reasonable for students. In terms of the Uber’s numbers, I can’t provide that, because that’s based off of Julie’s expense from last year. So the $1,048 is something I can’t really change.

Shane: I think that we can motion to strike 398 and 401, I believe we have everything for that. And in terms of the plant giveaway, given how much Vincent has removed from their budget, maybe we could just go ahead and pass the rest once we’re done with the striking.

Callan: I just wanted to say thank you to Vincent, because as we go through this stuff it’s pretty tough to find places where can cut stuff, and thank you to Vincent for being really open to amend things and helpful in trying to cut this budget down.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike Lines 398 and 401, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Lara: Just a question–I know that we amended the Five-Minute Journal part to $500, could I just ask quickly, is that just going to be normal notebooks?

Vincent: Yeah, the amendment is for the quality of the notebook, the previous budget was for higher quality notebooks over $35, but due to budget constraints, we’re going to mirror our similar five-minute journal event with more cost efficient notebooks.

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Mental Wellness Commission, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Scarlet and Gold*

Thomas: This is a pretty tight budget, with just one highlighted line which is existing supplies in the VUSAC Office.

Ninon: You can totally strike that. As we mentioned, we have supplies, then that’s all good, so we can strike it.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 407, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Jackson: Maybe take inventory in the VUSAC Office and then come back next budgeting period, and if there’s anything that’s not there, then you’re more than welcome to budget it.

Lara: Just a clarification, the Vic sweater for incentive, is $25, and we don’t charge tax.

Thomas: Okay, I’ll amend that to $25.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of the Scarlet & Gold Commission, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Sustainability*

Amy: Yeah, I just wanted to make a few friendly amendments. First of all, the leaflets and posters that was highlighted, that was when the printer was broken, and now the printer isn’t broken so we can strike that. And the other thing is in the interest of saving money, I’m okay with changing the $75 gift card to our guest speaker, who we’re not paying, for the David Zooke foundation, so we could cut that a little bit. I would put it to $25 and I can just give them a small gift.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to strike Line 419, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Sustainability Commission, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*President*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the President, Seconded by Jackson Leslie*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vice-President Internal*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Vice-President Internal, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Vice-President of Student Organizations*

Thomas: There is one line, the VPSO contingency fund, for clubs, whoever needs it. We are technically required to have this, so this has to pass.

*Motion by Sooyeon Lee to pass the budget of the Vice-President of Student Organizations, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Chair*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Chair, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Finance Chair*

Thomas: My only budget line is the Emergency Reserve Fund similar to the VPSO’s contingency fund, which we have as an emergency fund.

*Motion by Jackson Leslie to pass the budget of the Finance Chair, Seconded by Shane Joy*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Office Manager*

Lara: I just pulled that from the past VPSO’s budget, since Kate was budgeting for the office. I didn’t know VUSAC had a contingency fund, so I’m fine with that being stricken.

*Motion by Shane Joy to strike Line 463, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion by Shane Joy to pass the budget of the Office Manager, Seconded by Amy Mann*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee to ratify the Fall 2022 Budget, seconded by Jackson Leslie (3 minutes)*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

Jackson: We are expecting some budgets to come back, like Home for the Holidays, but even still, once we’re within the playing field plus or minus a certain amount. We are more than okay touching into any reserves. But yeah, I just wanted to extend a thank you to Thomas for organizing this, you’ve done a great job, thank you to the Budget Steering Committee for getting together and everyone who sat through this very long meeting.

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shane Lee*

*All in favour. None opposed. None abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.*