



VUSAC Fall Caucus Minutes

Call to order: Mehr Mukhtar, 5:00 PM, November 27th 2020

Land Acknowledgement: Mehr Mukhtar (2 minutes)

Mehr: 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 most recently, 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.

Official Regrets:

Approval of minutes: *Motion by Mehr to approve the minutes, seconded by Maggie. Motion passes.*

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

Additions to the agenda:

Approval of the agenda: Discussed at the end of Caucus

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (40 minutes)

President of Victoria University: President Robins

Motion by Mehr to grant President Robins speaking rights, seconded by Vedika. Motion passes.

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

President Robins: I wanted to congratulate our student leaders on the exemplary jobs they are doing in this difficult situation. They are doing a great job of advocating for you and all faculty, staff and students should recognize the outstanding work that they are doing. I am going to present my top priorities this year and they are separated into 3 COVID-related and 3 non-COVID related goals. My COVID-related goals are: 1) to reconfigure our spaces to respond to COVID, 2) develop strategies to mitigate the effects of COVID on our finances, and 3) accelerate the growth of online learning. My other three non-COVID-related goals are: 1) to scale up the Vic Ready program 2) develop anti-racism resources and training 3) complete my 5-year strategic plan. Really, the top-of-mind priority right now are the students and making sure that they are supported and that they know that we are here to help.

Principal's Office: Paul Kutasi

Motion by Mehr to grant Paul Kutasi speaking rights, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.

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

Paul Kutasi: The Principal's office runs a lot of the academic programs and we've been dealing with a lot of the delivery changes due to COVID. We also run two research centers, undergrad research opportunities, and the Vic One groups. Next year we are changing some of the course designators for our main programs. This is to give some more visibility to the classes so there will be some changes and we hope this will help boost the program. We also have undergrad research opportunities to help with conferences, publish papers, etc. We are having a virtual research day on Monday, March 29th and the proposals are called for in January. We've got the Northrop Frye Centre and the Scholar's-In-Resident program running from May 3 to 28 and we are still deciding how that is going to be delivered. We also have conference support for virtual and in-person conferences on campus. If you have questions, reach out!

Dean of Students: Kelley Castle

Motion by Mehr to grant Kelley Castle speaking rights, seconded by Jay. Motion passes.

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

Kelley Castle: Our staff has been bending over backwards this year to get things sorted for Vic. It is hard to create a community under these circumstances. We are used to having this conversation about how to get commuter students involved which an interesting thing to think about in years from now. The peer support element of this has been critical to creating a community for people in this scenario. The Dean's Office has been working hard with student leaders across Vic to help create community on and off campus which has been so important this year. Those students are such a lifeline. We also have had tons of programs—namely Vic Ready—that has been incredibly successful. The academic and non-academic world are so closely inline this year which has been great getting to work with the Academic Registrar. Our students have been lit by the racial injustice that led to George Floyd's death which is making waves on our campus. Our BIPOC counsellor is starting next week and we just finished our Race and Racism conference which was so successful. In terms of feedback, it is so important for students to tell us what they would like to see going forward in these programs. We will be continuing to have COVID-related conversations going forward. We will be talking about COVID on campus and what it means to our demographic. Also, we will be having our Minding our Minds conference which will be specifically focused on isolation and competition and how that effects students' stress levels. In March, we will be talking about COVID and Equity and in June, we will be having a conversation about the effects of COVID on Indigenous reserves. We are trying our hardest in the Dean's Office, but we can always do better so please let us know what we can do better.

Registrar's Office: Yvette Ali

Motion by Mehr to grant Yvette Ali speaking rights, seconded by Imani. Motion passes.

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

Yvette Ali: At this point, we are not doing very much programming other than the Vic Ready program. We are really focusing our efforts on one-on-one appointments with students. We are trying to focus our efforts on supporting individual students and their navigation of online learning. Additionally, we are working to help students with disabilities with their transition to online learning. We now have a learning strategist who is available more than they have been in the past and he is working with students on how to improve their online learning. One of the things that is new for our office is that we are doing 10-minute drop-in appointments online. All you need to do is contact our office and they will give you a timeslot in the upcoming week. We are doing a prospective student event on Wednesday, December 17, so please encourage people to join us for that. This is a great way for prospective students to connect with us. I've been working with Kelley to figure out more programming for the winter semester.

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS AND QUESTION PERIOD

Spandan Sengupta: This is directed towards Kelley. In the times we are in now and considering how hard it is for students to have access to mental health, what is Vic doing to help people who are not in Ontario at the moment?

Kelley Castle: If people are in another country it is difficult to contact resources on the ground. My SSP has really been a lifeline for us because they are a sustained service provider, and they offer services in multiple languages. This means that students can access the same counsellor again and again. The main thing for us to do is advising. We have peer advisors as well as people who are working within the administration to help students. Unfortunately, we are not able to help students in other countries with finding help on the ground where they live. For people in Ontario, we have two counsellors who can help students.

Imani King: This is directed towards Yvette. I wanted to ask how scholarships are affected this year. Will in-course scholarships be affected this year?

Yvette: We have way more bursary funding this year than we have in the past so that's excellent. This allows us to increase flexibility. We are open to meet with international students if they are experiencing international challenges which we weren't really able to accommodate for in the past. Our bursary application form is open now and in the winter, so you haven't missed a deadline or an opportunity. The in-course scholarship is not going to be impacted by COVID. There are going to be graduation scholarships that you should consider applying and we will still have applications for study-abroad funding this summer.

Motion by Vibhuti to extend the discussion for 20 minutes, seconded by Imani. Motion passes.

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

Vedika: This question is probably for Kelley. Vic Residents received an email two weeks ago saying that there was a COVID case on campus, but we haven't really received an update since then which I think that students would appreciate. Has Vic learned anything about how to approach COVID cases in the future?

Kelley: I have learned for every person there is in the Vic community there is an opinion. The president and I just left a meeting about COVID protocol. There was a push from some people within the meeting who didn't want to inform students on campus that there was a COVID case on campus but there is a delicate balance between protecting that student's privacy and promoting the interests of the community. We will let people know if there is any heightened risks or any precautions they need to make, but we will not reveal the identity or specifics of a student's individual case since we don't want to dissuade students from telling us if they have COVID.

Will Gotlib: I think this question is for the Principal's Office. Many students are worried that the extension of the winter break might make the winter semester too intense. Does the Principal's Office have anything in the works to prevent this from happening?

Paul: The semester hopefully won't be compressed too much. We get that students might be worried about the fact that profs might try to fit things in, but we are trying to get make sure that it doesn't get too stressful for students. We are hoping to deal with it as we learn more throughout the semester.

Aloysius Wong: This is question for Yvette and Kelley. I am curious about how outreach to first years has been going so far. This is considering both academic and social integration

Yvette: We are finding that first years are feeling that the transition is much more difficult. They are learning how to learn in a first-year environment online. Often their perception of how they are actually doing is unbalanced because they aren't really getting to interacting with their peers. We made a big push at the beginning of the semester for students to reach out to us which we did get some engagement with but not a lot. Students also sometimes feel so overwhelmed that they feel like they can't get involved.

Kelley: In September and October, we had a lot of engagement with our students. Our welcome was strong and sustained I would say, but it has since declined since students are wiped out. Students have asked us to create social opportunities with other students, so we've been trying to push out our programming as much as possible. We have found that students are Zoom exhausted. Students are coming in less and less for social activities but there is increased in programs that promote academic interaction.

Paul: We have been engaging with our faculty to create best-practices and we had a session yesterday to help faculty create a better online environment.

Kelley: We are also trying to increase interaction with students and faculty and hopefully that will get better in the winter semester.

Yvette: Every student we have met in the Vic One seminar raves about their experience, so it's great that we have so many of those programs.

CONTENT WARNING: Suicide

Max Caron: We found out a month ago that a student took their life on campus and Vic didn't acknowledge it at all which I felt was wrong. It horrified me that this could have happened here, and I was wondering why Vic didn't release a statement about this.

Kelley: The privacy of the student is always top-of-mind. We've had many meetings about this, and we have reached out to students who were proximal students so that we can provide individual support. I would say that from my perspective, I'm not sure what Vic's public statement would add considering that UofT already made a statement.

President Robins: This is a UofT students, so we show a lot of deference to the UofT when communicating these events.

Motion by Kate to extend the discussion by 15 minutes, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.

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

Illan Mendel: I wanted to ask about issues that students are having with meals because right now the only way that we are able to eat with other students is outside and of course it's getting colder so we won't be able to do that for much longer. I am wondering what protocols are in place to allow students to eat with one another to help with students' mental health.

Kelley: We are losing sleep over that. We have built massive programs around breaking bread with one another and we don't take this lightly. During lockdown, we can't do this, however. We are waiting for the end of this lockdown to revisit this.

Mehr: I am reading out a question from the anonymous form: "I am a Vic Student who was really excited to see VUSAC endorse and bring to the Board of Regents the Renaming Ryerson report. Could you please give us an update on that and when students can expect a response from your office?"

President Robins: Last year, I started an Indigenous Advisory group and we've asked a panel of historians to investigate the history of Egerton Ryerson but due to COVID, that work has slowed down. I don't have a timeline for when that will be finished but hopefully, I can make a report on this by the end of the school year.

Vibhuti: This question is for President Robins. I learned that both colleges have an anti-racism taskforce, and I was wondering if this was something that you were considering putting together and how students can get involved with this.

Pres. Robins: This is one of our top priorities. Instead of a taskforce looking into what we can do, every department is tasked to look at what they can do to improve this. The meetings that the Dean's office has had with VicBlack has been incredibly useful and I encourage students to continue engaging with this.

Hannah: My question is for everyone. What current problems do you think exist on Vic campus for racialized students?

Kelley: One of the issues is students finding one another. We often don't have enough racialized students on campus so it's sometimes hard for students to find each other. Making it so that we can create relationships between students is incredibly important.

Nathan Ching: What type of programs do you have that make sure that international students are included and to prevent them from being evicted from residence?

Kelley: In March it was very scary for the students and the staff, but the circumstances were different. We used to have 802 people in residence but now we have 1/4 of that amount. We admitted fewer students to hopefully ensure that students won't be kicked out. We have had lots of support within the Vic community to help international students, so we are much better prepared now than we were back in March.

Motion by Imani to recess for 5 minutes, seconded by Michelle. Motion passes.

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

VUSAC President (Michelle): 15 minutes

Michelle: In terms of responding to COVID-19, back in March one of our immediate responses was to cancel all the in-person events and move them online. If there are any students who are still waiting on High Ball refunds, please let me know and we'll give you an update. We also did a fee reduction for VUSAC. We have moved our meetings and our office hours online; as VCU students, you are more than welcome to come to both of these. We also had our first ever all-online election and our first-ever retreat. You can read up on her report online. Additionally, we have been working on a Goldring Student Centre Access plan with the dean's office. We also released some surveys to gather students' opinions on issues that have arisen in the past few months. Next week, we will have our Fall 2020 reflection survey which will be open for the next month. We are also working on transitioning our services onto an online platform. Essentially, we hired all 5 of our staff positions and 4 co-chair positions. We did onboarding with all of our council members. We have also started VU-Slack to help promote inter-council communication. Our Sustainability Commission has started sustainability training and we have a new mental wellness co-chair. All of our commissioners have been working really hard to translate their programming online. One

new initiative that the Sustainability Commission has been working on is Vic Zero. Mehr and I have been working to establish a BIPOC student award so keep an eye out for that. The Equity Commission has been putting our surveys and the Mental Wellness Commission has been trying to highlight the various resources available to students. We had a follow up meeting with the Office of the Vice Provost about UofT wide initiatives regarding COVID.

Ralph Sayegh: Our balance as of November 4th is \$175,000 but this is before our Fall Cheques have been sent out. There are around \$61,000 that are going out to the levies for the fall. We also have around \$31,000 in cheques payables which are in the process of being sent out. We have a balance to Victoria University which is around \$5,000. The total allocated budget this year is around \$53,000 and there is a summary on this on the VUSAC budget. This budget is assuming that everyone will spend all the money allocated to them. In terms of total expenses, we matched all of the expenses with funding. Cheque requisition is a long and arduous process this year especially due to COVID. The cheques to the levies have all been written out and we are trying our best to send those out hopefully before winter break. Most of the requisition forms have been received and approved but they will be sent out soon.

Motion by Mehr to extend the discussion for 10 minutes, seconded by Rheannon. Motion passes.

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

Michelle: Please look at the Winter 2021 VUSAC and Levies Fees to see how much each levy and VUSAC has reduced their fees!

Hannah: Was there any rationale for the amount that the fees were reduced by?

Michelle: I might suggest that this should be asked to specific levies. We informed levies that reducing their fees was an opportunity that they could take up and that they should give some sort of rationale. Levies have the best understanding of what is needed for their organizations, so we left that up to them.

Emily: I was wondering if it was possible to host a budget or a finance workshop?

Ralph: I would be open to doing this again but we need to discuss dates and everything but I am more than happy to do so.

Rheannon: For the sake of transparency, I was wondering if you could elaborate on whether or not you think the cheque requisition is going well since I've heard both sides of the argument? Do you envision any changes to the system that might make it quicker?

Michelle: There was an issue where we thought that the cheque I had mailed Ralph never arrived, but it did. The delay is that Ralph still needs to sign and mail our cheques and the fact that we need to mail everything is adding a lot of time onto the cheque requisition process. We are looking into the possibility of E-transfers.

Rheannon: It would be great to have E-transfers set up to make this more accessible!

Vibhuti: In terms of levy auditing, have there been audits done and will there be more done in the future?

Ralph: I am 100% that there will be another audit done for the levies, but I will follow up with a specific date later. My concern right now is the winter budgeting period.

Vibhuti: I think it is important to make sure that VUSAC has oversight to how fall budgets have been used.

Building Presidents: 10 minutes

GOVERNING BODIES

Board of Regents: 10 minutes

Vibhuti: We have the four student reps here. The BoR is Vic's highest governing body and we are governed by the Victoria University Act which is a federal act. We look through Vic's financial affairs as well as their property investments, as well as appointing people at Vic and working to see the university flourish as a whole.

Aminah Attar: We are composed of 5 committees which you can check out on the slides we created.

Aloysius: There are 5 of us in total and each committee, except for the investment committee has a student representative.

Ally Johnston: On the BoR, we bring up student concerns to the board and we have been advocating for mental health services and holding the admin accountable in terms of equity and sustainability on campus. This semester, The Finances, Pension and Audit Committee has been very focused on COVID responses. We have been looking over financial losses and challenges for students due to the pandemic.

Aminah: On the Government and University Affairs Committee, we have been working on short-term planning and responses to student needs. We have been looking to students to share their experiences.

Aloysius: On Property, I can tell you that they are looking to renovate multiple spaces on campus. Overall, we have tried to make sure that the Board knows about the important role that students play when considering spaces.

Imani: I saw that there have been anti-racism talks and I wanted to know how those talks have been going with the Board.

Aminah: As a BoR rep, we haven't had a formal consultation with specific BIPOC representing groups. With that said, there has been a lot of crossover in my role and I have been able to do a lot of consultation with students' needs on campus. On the GUA, most of the accountability perspectives have been about questioning admins. Questions that I have asked have been about meaningful transparency and concrete actions.

Vibhuti: The biggest focus is putting pressure on the President specifically as they have declared that one of their priorities is anti-racism. We will consider future consultations once more tangible actions have taken place.

Victoria College Council: 10 minutes

Mehr: If you want more info about the VCC, you can check out the slide in the appendix explaining their role and structure as well as any updates. I sit on the VCC as a member and we have our next general meeting on the 30th.

Nerija Gray: The Academic Committee did meet and that's where a few new programs and courses were discussed. If anyone wants any details about this, please let me know.

Victoria University Senate: 10 minutes

Aloysius: There have been two meetings so far which have been focused mainly on scholarships. Yvette mentioned this earlier is that in-course scholarships need to be reconsidered due to unlimited CR/NCR. The AGM was very report-based and that's about it. If you have any questions, please let me know.

University of Toronto Students' Union Vic Directors: 10 minutes

Ava Harrington: We are trying to engage more with the Vic community. We will be at more VUSAC meetings and we will be sending out more email updates coming up soon.

Radhika Dhawan: In terms of the UTSU's structure, there is the president and 5 VPs. There are also reps from different colleges and faculties. We have been trying to engage with Vic via social media and we sit on different boards. Also, please come to the UTSU's AGM!

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

Acta Victoriana: 10 minutes

Mehr: I have an anonymous question from the form: "Why does Acta Victoriana have \$2000 allocated for printing asking this given that in-person access is very limited so what will happen to the many copies they ultimately physically print?"

Claire Ellis: We haven't totally had this discussion yet but since it is a print journal, the hope is that we can distribute copies as soon as we can in-person. This is also for people in residence and we thought that it would be best to proceed as normal. Most of our fees go toward remuneration

and since the process of selection submissions is going on as normal, we didn't want to reduce compensating for people's time and effort.

Caffiends: 10 minutes

Cat's Eye: 10 minutes

Vibhuti: I was wondering if you could go through some of the renovations and things that have been happening in the Cat's Eye in the last term.

Alexander Bogatch: Basically, we received a huge backlog of cheques from last year, so we had a large amount of debt but an even larger surplus so we decided it should go towards renovating the space, which was done in collaboration with VUSAC, the Dean's Office, past managers and the Cat's Eye sub-committee. We've posted a few photos of renovations that we've made so far. We introduced a new study area because we wanted to increase capacity in the space. We've also moved the games corner into the game's rooms and some new LED light fixtures. COVID made us realize that our spaces could be more sanitary, so we budgeted a lot for new cleaning supplies. We also got some new art, refelted the pool tables, got a new paint job, and got some new games. We're talking to the Dean's Office right now to hopefully get more furniture. Additionally, we are trying to get better instruments for the space with help from Student Projects.

Regina: We have also been taking a lot of initiative to start projects like reaching out to youth artists to have their work in our space. We have also started to reach out with other levies to talk about potential collaborations both online and off.

Hannah Ahamedi: My question is about the proposed tenure extension for all members which was approved by the Cat's Eye Advisory Board. I am wondering what the rationale for this was.

Regina: The idea of a tenure extension was introduced to me back in the summer because I felt there was a degree of unfairness. The current Operations Coordinator and I have only spent a 3 out of our 12-month tenure inside the space, and it prevents us from realizing the goals we have for this role. We also believe that in-person training is necessary for the space. The Cat's Eye team strongly believes that if there is no senior member who has that training in the physical space, then we don't think that the space would be in its best condition or be able to operate fully.

Hannah: As a member of the VCC, this is upsetting to hear. As Chair of the Student Projects Committee, my ability to engage with people on campus was limited due to COVID, but I am not attempting to halt the ability for other students to fill my position in the future. It would be like if the entire VUSAC exec team decided that they wanted to stay for an extra year in their positions because they didn't get to hang out in the VUSAC office. This is something that you should have consulted the entire VCC about because they are the ones who use the Cat's Eye and interact with the space. Additionally, all of the student leaders on campus write transition reports so I don't see the necessity for in-person training in the space when it could just be passed on through the reports. Every student leader right now is probably feeling frustrated because they weren't able to interact with the college in the way that they would have liked so it seems unfair that the Cat's Eye and Caffiends are getting special treatment here. It feels like this is a lack of transparency since the

VCC hardly knows about what's going on and the rationale for this continues to fall flat. Also, speaking as Student Projects Chair, we haven't passed the Cat's Eye instrument updates, so it puts an onus on us when you include it in your update to pass it perhaps without due consideration. I also don't understand how you were able to update a space when the Goldring Student Centre has been closed for months now.

Motion by Mehr to extend the discussion by 15 minutes, seconded by Kevin. Motion passes.

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

Alexander: We have been looking to upgrade our current instrument repertoire and we are hoping to go through Student Projects to do this which is why I included it in our update. As of now, the only Student Projects-funded item we have in the space is the Nintendo Switch. The tenure extension was proposed to us by a member of the Dean's Office and the rationale for it was seconded by a member of VUSAC. We have thought a lot about this process and we, the Cat's Eye, want to make it as transparent as possible. We have had many conversations with stakeholders. The Advisory Board is representative of a lot of VCU members, but the process has happened very quickly because there are a lot of other things that are going on in the Cat's Eye this year, our renovations being one of them. If you would like to talk more about the tenure extension, please come to the December 4th VUSAC meeting where we will be talking about it further. We have made 3 changes in our operating policy that we will be presenting later in the winter semester that will make the tenure extension make sense. The first thing is that it has to pose a threat to the safety and security of the Cat's Eye. Since the Cat's Eye and Caffiends are physical spaces, there are a lot of little things that need to be considered and understood before the space can operate safely. The second is that it would cause trouble with training and that the next co-manager wouldn't be fully equipped to manage the space. The third thing is escaping me at the moment. The tenure extension is trying to make sure that all the people in the Cat's Eye are properly trained since the Cat's Eye hosts events almost every day of the school week with sometimes over 100 students and sometimes these events involve alcohol. We believe that extending tenure is a safety measure essentially. We understand that many students of the VCU might see this as a cash grab, but that is not what we are trying to do; we are not interested in collecting another \$1000 honoraria. We've worked so hard to get these renovations done and we have been abiding by the policies that have dictated space access. Additionally, we have cut the honoraria in half because we realized that it was not necessary to pay our exec in full this year. I also think that it's important to note that when we were hiring back in March, nobody applied for the first 3 rounds that the applications were open for. In terms of renovations, we have been very careful about the space and balancing COVID precautions and everything has been done to increase student engagement in the future. I apologize that there haven't been any huge transparency discussions with students, but we have been abiding by the rules.

Emily: I apologize for the lack of transparency. As Alex said, because Caffiends operates a physical space, it is completely different to operating it online. Not everything that goes into operating our spaces can be covered in transition reports because so much of it is actually experiential. When we were talking to the advisory board, they said that they were worried that it might be blocking student experience but it's not much of an experience operating a café online

which is essentially impossible. We are running events but it's not like being an actual co-manager. A lot of what Regina and Alex have said is very similar to what we are worried about at Caffiends in terms of the unpreparedness of hiring a new manager who is unfamiliar with the space.

Regina: I wanted to apologize if we came off as hiding things. We have had constant conversations with members of VUSAC and the Dean's Office throughout this process and I guess we didn't realize that we weren't doing enough to connect with the community. In terms of renovations, every time we have gone in to renovate has been cleared by the Dean's Office.

Hannah: I understand that it's been difficult for all of us who have been hired into this position, but I don't think it's fair to have people continue on in roles that they have already filled. In terms of the people you say you've consulted, VUSAC and the Dean's Office really constitutes only a small proportion of the VCU so I think if you wanted to do this transparently, you should have made sure that you consulted with the wider Vic community.

Michelle: The VUSAC Exec were consulted by the Cat's Eye in terms of what they should do if this is something that they wanted to continue on with this process. VUSAC Exec was not necessarily in favour of extending their tenure but rather we were just giving them possible next-steps in the process. Furthermore, we did express to them that it would be in their best interest if they consulted with students. I just wanted to clarify what it meant when the Cat's Eye said that they consulted VUSAC Exec.

Mehr: We have to cut this discussion item short because we need to keep going, but if you have any concerns, please email the VPSO at vpso@vusac.ca with any questions you might have and they will forward it on to the relevant levy head. If you have any more questions about this, please attend our December 4th meeting. In the meanwhile, VUSAC Exec will work with the Cat's Eye and Caffiends to address some of the issues that were brought up tonight and try to get more transparency on the subject.

Student Projects: 10 minutes

Hannah: As of today, the Student Projects fund has passed 4 new applications that are going forward to VUSAC for approval. They will be voted on at the December 4th meeting and all information for those will be included in the next meeting agenda package.

The Strand: 10 minutes

Ellen Grace: I would refer people to the document that we posted in the interest of time.

VicXposure: 10 minutes

Erik Gillis: We had a rocky start to the year, but we now have a full exec team. We put out an online photo exhibit online in the summer and we are hoping to do another soon. We are hoping to invest a lot in equipment this year. We are also drafting changes to our constitution also the AGM is in the works and will be happening at the end of the year.

Mehr: I have another anonymous student question here: “Your report mentions a surplus from previous years, but your levy didn’t reduce your fall or winter fee, what was the rationale for not reducing your fee?”

Spandan: Basically, all of our in-persona activities were not funding through the levy fee, they were funded from the Webster Fund and the Performing Arts Endowment. Since we won’t have those events this year, we are not applying to either of those funds and will be using our levy fee to operate instead. We’ve had a lot of demand for equipment that we don’t have so we wanted to keep our levy fee the same to cover some of the demand for new equipment.

Erik: We had an exec vote that sided with not reducing the levy fee. Most of our budget is tied up in honoraria and our equipment needs to be replaced quite frequently so we decided to keep our fee the same for the upcoming year.

VISA: 10 minutes

VCAA: 10 minutes

Motion by Mehr to extend Caucus for 1 hour and 10 minutes, seconded by Gil. Motion passes.

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

VCDS: 10 minutes

Alexa: Our first radio play is coming out next month so stay tuned for that!

WUSC: 10 minutes

CLUBS

Boundary News: 10 minutes

Emory Mitchell: I just wanted to plug our content! You can also join us or write for us whenever you would like!

Vic Records: 10 minutes

Women’s Circle: 10 minutes

Mehr: I am going to ask a question that was in the anonymous question form: “Could the Women’s Circle provide a breakdown of their budget in monetary terms as well as an explanation or some clarity of each component listed in their report?”

Fatima: Our budget is broken down into three chunks. A big chunk of our budget goes toward honoraria for speakers, another one is for our book club and making sure that students have access to these books, and the last chunk is shipping costs for these books.

Victoria College Environmental Fashion Show: 10 minutes

Zara: Instead of hosting an in-person fashion show this year, we are going to do a virtual livestream with an online look book so stay tuned for that!

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VUSAC Town Hall: Mehr Mukhtar (10 minutes)

Mehr: I was reflecting more about how we get student feedback and how to make it more efficient. I was thinking of happening a monthly VUSAC town hall with an informal agenda and then having a conversation about issues within the college. If you have any ideas about this, please let me know.

Zoe: I think that is a fantastic idea. I think some of the most important conversations we had today happened with admin and I was wondering if the admin would be invited to these meetings.

Mehr: I was thinking about this for sure, but I am not sure how receptive they would be to that even though it would be super productive.

Imani: If the admin is receptive to that, I think that these meetings should also be advertised on social medias and in their emails.

Leila: If you are concerned about having to invite members of the admin, I think it would also be productive to have a separate caucus every semester dedicated to meeting with just the admin.

Zoe: I would advocate for having extra time to consult with the admin when we aren't under time restraints.

Mehr: I think we need to make our needs clear to the admin so I think this would be very important.

Vibhuti: I wanted to speak from my experience as VPE from last year and I know it's difficult for admin to make time to come to these kinds of question periods and they have a lot of other priorities. They prefer to use other avenues like VUSAC to access students.

Winter Caucus Minutes Approval for 2020: Mehr Mukhtar (5 minutes)

Mehr: We are unable to approve these minutes since they have been lost since last year. However, we will continue to try and find them so hopefully by Winter Caucus next semester, we will be able to approve. Also, you might have seen that there was no slide for VicPride since they were not operational this semester.

Jay: I ran the VicPride elections in the fall but there is currently no one in the position. I will be reopening the position of president and the rest of the exec team very soon.

Erik: Can you speak on the risk of VicPride going defunct?

Jay: If a levy is inactive for 2 year than VUSAC needs to make a vote to bring a referendum forward to dissolve a levy. VicPride was active last year so they still have an additional year to be inactive. I personally don't want this to happen.

Motion by Mehr to adjourn Caucus, seconded by Erik. Motion passes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.