



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 17, 2014 at 5:10 PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

In Attendance

VUSAC

Judiciary

PRESIDENT
VP EXTERNAL
VP OPERATIONS

Rowan DeBues
Kareem Jarrah
Enxhi Kondi

Assessor Members

CHAIR
COMMUNICATIONS
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER
FINANCE
SECRETARY

Gabriel Zoltan-Johan
Sumeeta Farrukh
Kathleen Walsh
Ben Atkins
Ally Scandolo

Commissioners & Councilors

ARTS & CULTURE
COMMUTER
EDUCATION & EQUITY
SCARLET & GOLD
SUSTAINABILITY

Conor Tangney
SaraLi Forouzanfar
Claire Wilkins
Olivia Klasios
Alice Zhu

COUNCILLORS

Auni Ahsan
Rahul Christofferson
William Cuddy
Golda Greenspoon
Alex Martinborough
Simona Messina
Stuart Norton
L-P Vielleux

LEVIES

VCDS
VICTORIAD

Olivia Long
Brenda Bongolan

GUESTS

UTSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zach Morgenstern
Victor Lee

Enxhi moves to approve minutes from last meeting. SaraLi seconds. Unanimously approved.

Enxhi moves to approve agenda. Conor seconds. Unanimously approved.

LEVY REPORTS

- *Student Projects - Arlette*
 - Arlette: Student Projects now has advisory board and a committee. Our first meeting will be October 27th, but project applications are now open. If you have a project or know someone who has a project, please let them know they can access forms online or at the VUSAC office. I have someone working on a new logo, I feel like the old one did not represent Student Projects very well. Applications can be found on the Facebook page and will be up on the website.

JUDICIARY REPORTS

- *President – Rowan*
 - President's Report
 - Rowan: An apology from Bergita because she cannot be here today due to the short notice of the meeting rescheduling. My main report is about the UTSU AGM. I'd like to thank everyone for making the AGM a relevant and hot topic at Vic this year. Estimating the number of proxies per college, it's a toss up between Vic and Trin. We had 70 proxies in total last year, so we definitely have more votes going to the AGM this year. It's a good thing that people are looking to be represented. We may have outdone Engineering this year. I'd like to thank the councilors, and also the collective council, for creating a discourse. There will be a VUSAC meeting next week, I will have more updates about how the AGM will unfold and I will continue this discussion then.

Board of Regents has met this month [Rowan, is this correct?]. The search for a replacement of Paul Gooch has begun and the committee has been bound to secrecy until the process is official. [money?] I am so proud of you guys as a council. Anyone have any outstanding questions?
 - Auni: Will there be exact numbers on how many proxies are coming from each college?
 - Rowan: There will only be estimates. I know you would like receipt of your hardwork.

There was great discussion on how to head over to the AGM. We could have a pre or post AGM social, but I'm weary because I don't want people to think we're bribing people into attending. There is a situation I will be investigating. On the UTMSU Facebook page, they are saying that if this motion passes the UTSU will be dissolved. They are advertising a free dinner for students who attend the AGM.
 - Victor: Trinity is offering free beer for their students.
 - Rowan: We do not know if that is official or not. A VUSAC social for the AGM would be an official event. It is one thing to have kegger afterwards unofficially, but it's another to spread it via Facebook as VUSAC.
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- Zach: I was made aware of the issue at UTM. The dinner would have to end at 5, it was the muslim students association and LGBT Out equivalent group that was spreading the idea that the UTSU would be dissolved – it is written misleadingly and I did let them know the UTSU lawyers are saying there is 12 months before it would be dissolved to be compliant with the new law.
- Enxhi: Can we gather everyone in Goldring and head over altogether?
- Rowan: I think that it is a good idea to do that. Someone also suggested a brief etiquette meeting about expectations because it can get heated.

Rowan secedes 32 minutes of remaining time to VPO Reports. Kareem seconds. Unanimously approved.

Rowan secedes remaining 2 minutes to VPE Reports. Rahul seconds. Motion passes with one abstaining.

- *Vice President Operations* – Enxhi
 - Clubs Ratification
 - Enxhi: We have no clubs at Vic right now. We have to re-ratify all clubs. We can amalgamate them or pull out the ones you want to discuss.
 - *Clubs up for ratification:*
 Aesthetics at Vic (AestheVic)
 Amnesty International
 Arts and Crafts Club
 Equal Voice Victoria
 Hey, Teach!
 Humanitas
 Music for the Heart
 plenTea to Talk About
 Red Ink [*Edit: Red Ink was initially listed but due to a lack of documents, cannot be ratified; see page 7 for discussion*]
 Semiotones
 Shadow Dance
 The Knit Project
 Vic Badminton
 Vic Board Games
 Vic Chorus
 Vic for a Cure
 Vic iTeach
 Vic Jam
 Vic Life Drawing Club
 Vic Scarlet Dragons
 Vic Trivia Club
 Vic Urban Dance Club
 Victoria College Art of Living Yoga Club
 Victoria College Dumbledore's Army

Victoria College Fencing Club
Victoria International Student Association (VISA)
VicXposure
Werewolf Club

Enxhi moves to amalgamate all clubs. Kareem seconds.

- Ben: You mentioned The Semiotones. Based on my experience with the Semiotones and their budget, you might want to consider making them an associate group. That is more the term I would use to describe the club in their practices.

Auni pulls the Semiotones out for discussion

- Rahul: What makes them an associate?
- Ben: I'll consult the website.
- Gabe: In the mean time, discussion can continue.
- Enxhi: Associate clubs do not require a full exec of Vic students and do not require 75% Vic students as members. You can still use Vic space and can apply for a budget, and it is less
- Victor: They're a great band; just something for the council to consider is that they are a club that focuses on charity work. The UTSU is more careful with clubs that work with charity, you don't want to take Vic money and donate it directly to charities.

SaraLi pulls out Humanitas

- Auni: How much money do they request?
- Ben: They typically request not an inconsiderable amount of money. They're probably in the top 2/3 of money requests for this year. Are they self-sustaining in terms of profit with album sales? I'm not sure because they did not submit a breakdown of their income.

SaraLi pulls out HeyTeach, iTeach, the Goose, Red Ink, Vic trivia.

Auni pulls out Vic Jam.

Claire enters at 5:27 pm

Motion passes with three abstaining.

Rowan moves to approve amalgamated clubs. Motion passes with two abstaining.

- SaraLi: I do not know the difference between Hey, Teach! and Vic iTeach. Why are they not the same club?
- Ben: They are very similar but Hey, Teach! is a magazine and iTeach is a social and mentoring organization that focuses around CTEP.
- SaraLi: I've heard it does not cater to Vic students, would they maybe better as an associate group?
- David: The question of whether it caters to Vic students as a whole is irrelevant, I don't see any real reason to reject their funding They have been rejected as a levy because of questionable quality.
- Rowan: SaraLi, almost all of the clubs you have pulled are publications. Was there a reason for this?
- SaraLi: We have publications that are levies and clubs, there is a lot of separate clubs for these and I don't know if this is a sufficient way to go about funding if we could perhaps combine them.
- David: Some publications are more institutionalized as levies but all of them are still important; these are the first places for students to get their first experiences. They take about 11 submissions per year each roughly, you cannot accurately represent the Vic student body with one publication. They can publish interesting things and then can

disappear, but they can also further the growth of academic discourse outside of the classroom. I think this should be promoted and it can be beneficial to the students.

- Rowan: I think that Vic has one of the most vibrant publication cultures at U of T, some can become very popular elsewhere in the world and turn up outside of Vic. Though I see your point, SaraLi. Humanitas is \$3000 and is probably the most expensive club, how much of the Vic student body is this reaching? We can't just make assumptions and we can discuss this further at the next meeting about how we would want to explore the readership of these journals or how to expand it, or we could even be brutal enough to cut funding. I think we need more info. Some of these are quite old, and I wouldn't want to cut their history short with no knowledge of how differently they operate from other publications.
- Zach: It's dangerous from the outside to assume that what they do is all the same. My understanding is that Red Ink isn't a publication and it's a writer's circle that shares creative writing. There is nothing explicitly wrong with these groups and we need to see if they would be okay with being merged. There are no outstanding applications to become a publication at Vic either.
- David: When it comes to undergrad publications, readership shouldn't matter so much but it's an ability for students to share their work academically. It benefits the students who choose to involve themselves. They stand, as much as financial prudence is, as a productive use for student money.
- SaraLi: I'm not saying we should cut them down and I just wanted to raise the discussion on them.

For Trivia Club, I didn't understand why it isn't with board games?

- Conor: Quite simply, it's not a board game.
- Enxhi: They have buzzers and they attend competitions as a group.
- Gabe: Moving onto the Semiotones.
- Auni: I pulled out the Semiotones because of Ben's point of it maybe being better as an associate. For Vic Jam, they are described as a group of people coming together to jam but it seems they get together to practice as a band. There is displeasure with people working in the Cat's Eye and it reduces the ability for students to use the space. Students have to leave on the Friday when Vic Jam are there because of noise.
- Rahul: I think that's an issue between Cat's Eye and Vic Jam whether they can book the space or not. I think that it is good to have a discussion it. It also relates to David's point of though it's small, it can benefit them outside the classroom here.
- Enxhi: They function as a group to [Enxhi, could I get the description of the club?].
- Auni: I'm reverberating about what I've heard from the Cat's Eye but they rehearse the same songs repeatedly over weeks. Rehearsal is different from jamming. I do agree with Rahul, but I know the Cat's Eye had difficulty figuring out whether to give them space and we should have a rep here to discuss it.
- Karem: I have been to a couple rehearsals, it is 4 or 5 of them practicing songs and it is the same people every time. It is the

discretion of Cat's Eye, but I can speak to it as Chair of Cat's Eye advisory board. We can advise them to use another space.

- Rahul: They have to use the drum and cannot take it upstairs since it's stored in the Cat's Eye.
- Enxhi: Accessibility to the club seems to be the real problem. They are maybe not getting attendance so maybe they are rehearsing.
- Kareem: They go and play the songs without waiting for more people to join them is what I have experienced.
- Auni: If I started a band with friends, I would rent space on my own time. We have to think about whether the benefits for these few people are more beneficial than students using the space. I don't know how often the drum is used in the Cat's Eye, it could be moved there or even periodically moved using the elevators. I want to support them but not at the cost of the people using the Cat's Eye.
- Rowan: Question for Ben, how much did we trim their budget?
- Ben: I'm meeting with the head of Vic Jam after this meeting. To put a rough approximation of what we are going to agree, it is not contingent on her agreement but I would like consensus, I think we are halving their budget. They requested [Ben, what is their budget total?]
- Rowan: For people's information, they want to hold Open Mic nights, a spring recruitment party and end of year show in Old Vic. This informs the discussion of what they plan to do to reach out.
- Ben: It's worth noting that their spring recruitment that because they had so few people attend their first recruitment parties, they want to hold events to get new members. They are having Open Mics and seeking new members.
- Rahul: Can anyone speak to efforts of publicity to bring people to their events? I have not seen anything.
- David: This is anecdotal, I asked someone about the club and people have told me it is a single band that managed to cleverly get money from VUSAC. That was my perception before this meeting.
- Enxhi: They fill requirements and they are trying to get members. They use Vic equipment, if they are not a club, they cannot use it any longer.
- David: If I can also make a contrary point, clubs get members in September then keep going with a core group for a year. It's easy for a jam group to become a rehearsal group for a band and it will be the same group of people who go in every week, that happens at board games and we don't criticize them.
- Rahul: I've seen people show that there are people who claim instruments, not to say to we should buy more. But that claim doesn't allow other students to join in.
- Ben: They did ask for more equipment and totalled a third of the summer budget request and we recommended they apply to student projects. I don't think they are taking advantage of our collection of equipment.
- Auni: We have come to an understanding of what they want to achieve. Maybe we can suggest they partner with the faculty of music students. Instead of having to purchase more equipment when they can partner [Auni, clarify further]
- Enxhi: VUSAC does not buy their equipment, they would have to go to student projects but it would still be Vic property.

- Alice: Has anyone tried to join them in their jam sessions?
- William: A friend of mine approached them to play drums for five or ten minutes, but it depends on interest.
- Alice: I had a friend who joined and stayed on, she would sing karaoke and she enjoyed it.

Enxhi moves to ratify Hey, Teach! LP seconds.

- Kareem: What's their budget?
- Gabe: Club ratification has nothing to do with budget approval. Those are two
- Golda: [Golda or Ben, budget lines for Hey, Teach!]
- Auni: Do SaraLi and I have to abstain from these votes?
- Gabe: No, you do not.

Enxhi calls the question. Motion passes with two abstaining.

Enxhi moves to ratify Humanitas. Conor seconds. Motion passes with two abstaining.

- Enxhi: Red Ink shouldn't be on the ratification list because they didn't hand in their contract.
- *Vice President External* – Kareem
 - *Levy Reports*
 - Kareem: I've been meeting with levies and I will go through the list of levies. Acta Victoriana has sent me their constitution, and they did not have banking access for a bit but that is now fixed, they also had an outstanding check they did not pick up in summer that has now been claimed.

Caffiends gave me a copy of the correspondence between Rowan and Kelley over the summer. Question to Enxhi, you are chairing the committee for space development?
 - Enxhi: Yes, I am.
 - Caffiends would like to speak with you for obvious reasons. Have you formed the committee?
 - Enxhi: Not yet.
 - Kareem: VCAA sent reps from each sports team to meet with me, but I am still waiting for their constitution.

The Victoriad is up and running. We have Brenda here today as a rep; they are selling yearbooks for \$10.00 to \$15.000 and they will make an income for this year, they did not state that in their budget initially but Ben spoke with them
 - Ben: I did speak with them and it will be spent to me tomorrow.
 - Kareem: They will need to take VUSAC photos for the upcoming yearbook; I will put them in contact with Sumeeta.

VicPride cannot access their website, but they have created a Facebook page that will be put on our website instead.

WUSC lost their constitution. They also had lost banking info, but they are working on both. For the record, I'm asking all levies to send us their constitutions so we have institutional memory for cases like these where there isn't proper transition done. The Strand refused to meet with me because their constitution is 15 years out of date and there is not point in discussing it, they need to find a committee of people with a faculty member and have yet to do so. They also have no delivery person has been hired officially but Neil MacIsaac has been hired unofficially to distribute papers. As for the Cat's Eye, one of the co-managers is not pulling their weight. They are working out their working issues in meetings. The Their website is down and this is an

issue because there are people who check it to find updates. They paid the URL fees late, so it is still down. The Cat's Eye advisory board is partially formed: it includes me, Rowan, the Cat's Eye managers, [Kareem, who else was listed? CLC, Anna P from Sub-Comm. We are still looking for one maintenance person and one food services rep.

- Enxhi: I can connect you with people for both positions.
- Isabel Bader Theatre
 - Kareem: VCDS likes to hold shows in the Bader but the funds are increasing. When funds for the Bader were granted, 500 hours would be given free to Vic students to perform and use the stage. It was revoked. I spoke to Julia Culpepper, who does booking for the Bader, it was quote: "unsustainable" to keep the 500 hours. Not sure why it was unsustainable, but it was taken away for this reason. I am meeting with Julia and other student groups. Arts & Culture can use it and we will talk to Krista about why it was taken.
 - Auni: Did it exist last year and why was it removed last year?
 - Kareem: That is a similar question, but it did not exist last year and I do not know when the free time was removed. I can look into it.
 - Olivia [Long]: It was removed three years ago. The cost from year to year has differed.
 - Auni: Can we get an approximation of the cost and cost difference per year?
 - Olivia [Long]: No.
 - Kareem: I will fill everyone in at the next meeting.
 - Victor: It's always surprised me how expensive it is. It's something like \$5000.00?
 - Kareem: It's a minimum of four-hour blocks. It's not over \$4000.00.
 - Victor: I know that it is expensive because of ushers?
 - Kareem: Even if it is rehearsal time, you need to pay because of technical staff and they are unionized.
 - Conor: For a six-hour chunk of time, it's over a \$100.00 an hour for tech. For a six-hour block with ushers, it's almost a \$1000.00 per night and that has gone up over a 100 from last year.
 - Rowan: All I ask is that you ask the question of why it is zero instead of 500 hours of time, even 50 could be a reasonable amount to offer Vic students for a year.
 - Kareem: I heard it was a U of T chapter of a Vic club that took away privileges for all groups due to misuse of space. The person who donated funds for Bader, they must have contacted him to inform him of this. I will find out what the reasoning for it was and what the conditions are.

FINANCE REPORTS

- Budget Update
 - Ben: Budget steering had its final meeting on October 7th and I've contacted all clubs and levies with modifications. Window closed on Thursday for responses. I have to finalize two commission budgets and then after that, we may create an aggregate budget for Saturday night if everything goes well with commission budgets and final modifications. With all the funds in our bank account currently, assuming all checks are cashed this year for levy budgets, with

projected revenue from last year, with all those funds that we have and expect to take in for this year, and taking into account the total summer budget, assuming we spend all money of draft of aggregate budget, we would still have a deficit of \$2000.00 as it stands. There is a very slim chance of this happening; **projection revenues [Ben, figure]** and we have seen clubs not spending all summer budgets fully. The \$2000.00 is the worst-case scenario where all checks are cashed and we make a low to middling amount on our events. I am working with Golda and Rowan on not allowing that to happen.

- Rowan: Olivia, is Halloween happening?
- Olivia [Klasios]: SMCSU said they would do it for \$1000.00 and cover the rest.
- Ben: Once students get to the Halloween Club night with SMCSU, purchasing drink tickets would possibly create an issue with the alcohol policy. We are still revising many other potential issues, but that is the most glaring.

COMMISSION REPORTS

○ *Sustainability* – Alice

- Alice: I have not done anything for events yet but I have met with people. I met with the chef in Burwash Hall and we're going to be testing a composting system and we may start with a pilot in Annesley hall. Annesley only has three common rooms and functions more similarly to the Dining Hall in terms of garbage. We'll also be putting up signs for 'Lunch with a Buddy', to reduce washing dishes in Burwash. I'll be meeting with Sustainability Council, Betty and Dash and Environmental Fashion Show. I met with the Greep Reps for each residence and we have discussed residence sustainability events and plans. I will be meeting with Bergita to discuss campus life affairs and her alumni socials. **For the winter semester, [Alice, can you clarify what you said about second semester?]**
- L-P: What is the principle behind Lunch with a Buddy?
- Alice: Posters will be put up soon that describe the event for the day. It will prompt students to eat lunch with someone they don't know and share food. It'll reduce dish washing and usage of soap.
- Auni: How closely do you work with the Greep Reps?
- Alice: Overall, there is a Green Rep council run by Simon and there are 11 reps in total. There are one or two from every building and I sit on it.
- William: How often will you schedule sustainability initiatives?
- Alice: Once of month.
- Enxhi: On the note of meeting with Bergita, just walk in during the day.
- Kareem: Is it you or Rowan who takes care of the Greenshift plates and forks?
- Rowan: I'll transition you on that; I've been cutting corners to save money.

○ *Commuter* – SaraLi

○ CARA

- SaraLi: We met two or three weeks ago and everyone was able to come out. Instead of hiring commuter and residence student for the

- trial session, we chose two people and instead of hosting big event, we're going to meet next week about what's happening this semester.
- Auni: On the topic of CARA, some building presidents cannot attend because of other commitments; can we have other building reps?
 - SaraLi: Yeah of course. This was a rough constitution, but we can have representatives come in the case building presidents cannot attend.
- Commuter Appreciation Week
 - SaraLi: I've been meeting with other commuter reps from other colleges. It would be early February or late January, each college would pair up and we would be with SMCSU because we are the east end of campus. We are having problems with the budget because we maybe cannot put aside \$500.00. I suggested we do Werewolf and Pancakes since we do that already.
 - Ben: We can talk reallocation of budget money for that event after this meeting.
 - Auni: How much money do pancakes cost?
 - SaraLi: It's roughly \$66 per week and we try to get toppings in bulk or from Chef Nathan. It should be fine to do it on a larger scale because it is a collaborative initiative. The colleges have all met once but maybe next week or the week after.
 - A&P Development
 - SaraLi: What's going on with the position and how are we going about it since it's vacant?
 - Kareem: Not VUSAC related, not in camera and in the light of day, *but* if Bergita were here she would be discussing her networking initiative session that Alice just discussed. **One would be on etiquette [Kareem, what's the full list?]**
 - Rowan: This means like getting a professional to come in and discuss how to schmooze. Wendy Cecil hosted it last year and had a dinner. It shows students how charm people in an interview. We have a very wide and talented alumni base. Essentially if hers succeeds, we may not have a reason for the position.

Sumeeta enters at 6:24 PM

- SaraLi: Are we doing anything about the vacant position currently, though?
- Gabe: Procedurally, the CRO would hold a by-election. The position can be removed through amendments.
- Enxhi: I think each commission should work on connecting with Alumni. I spoke with Kathleen and if no one runs, too many elections can drown out people's interest. By-elections are constitutionally mandated, but it does drown out our mission.
- Auni: Obviously we'd like Kathleen to speak to this, but she suggested to me that maybe we can make this a non-voting member and hire someone to work on these events for the year. I do agree with Enxhi that it can drown our message.
- L-P: Are there are any VUSAC expenses with a by-election?
- Ben: No.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Movember – L-P

- L-P: I'm looking into running a Movember initiative. There is no cost and Movember covers all the costs for the events. This is charity close to my heart and I would like to have VUSAC involved.
- Rahul: This is not to take away significance, where does this put us in a position of engaging with cancer awareness activities? As an equity issue, is this problematic?
- Enxhi: Charity drives are new thing Rowan and I are working on for the year. VUSAC can't put money directly into a charity and as long as we are not directly funding it, it's fine to have charity events.
- Rowan: We can't tell members of VUSAC what they can and cannot support. If we were actively supporting other charities, I don't think this is an equity issue. That is a valid point, though, and this has come up before.
- Ben: Would this require any additional funding?
- L-P: As I said, they provide publicity packages for free.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- Email Votes

- Gabe: We had two email votes in the past month due to time constraints. One was for Kathleen's ratification as CRO and Claire's equity training amendment that was spoken about at the last meeting.
- Claire: The dates for Equity Training are October 31st from 2-4 and November 1st from 12-2. Location hasn't been decided.

Rowan moves to ajourn. Enxhi seconds. Unanimously approved.