VUSAC Meeting Agenda

**Call to order:** 5:33 pm EST, June 24, 2022

**Land Acknowledgement:**

*Diana*

*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.*

*This link <*[*https://native-land.ca/*](https://native-land.ca/)*> also allows you to see which indigenous lands and communities are near you.*

**Official Regrets:**

*Pooja Ajit*

**Absent:**

**Approval of minutes:**

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

**Additions to the agenda:**

**Approval of the agenda:**

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

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

*Campus Life Coordinator, put forth by Ali Kehl (3 minutes)*

*Motion: Shane Joy motions to grant Ali Kehl speaking rights, seconded by Jackson Leslie.*

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

Ali: I hope you’ve all had the chance to rest. Make sure to take some time for yourself. We have a weekend coming up and it’s Pride in Toronto, so if you can go out, I think you should. My summer has been consumed with orientation planning; we’ve just hired our second round of leaders, and training. The website is set to launch and registration will be opening on July 1st. Commuter orientation will be happening on August 13th and 14th. Transition mentor and executive training will be taking place late August to early September. This year, orientation will be back in person and we look forward to collaborating with VUSAC on many of these events. I’ve also been working on our Fall and Winter transition mentor program, so introducing a new monthly excursion free for our incoming class to be paired with our regular Slice of Vic offerings. These will be taking place around the city for our incoming class to integrate into Toronto. And finally, I’m always doing one-on-one meetings with students to support their Fall planning, and I always welcome you to schedule one yourself.

ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee motions to ratify the 2022 VUSAC summer budget as it appears in Appendix A, seconded by Jackson Leslie (3 minutes)*

Sooyeon: We can start by discussing the master budget. I don’t want to present on budget items that I have not personally made, so if anyone would like to hop in, perhaps the Commuter Commission, that would be great.

Maarib: The first item is the Facebook account recovery. I’m actually going to make a motion to amend the budget to remove this. Essentially, what happened was when Mary was transferring the Facebook account to me, she left the page before I joined, and all the previous communications directors had already left before I could be made admin. So now the VOCA Facebook page has no admin and there’s no way to get them added back. We placed this method on the budget to see if we could somehow get a recovery and we would have had to go through a notary. But the response that we got from Facebook was that they wouldn’t be helping us with the situation. They wouldn’t redirect us to the right department or anything, they just gave us FAQ pages which we had gone through and they’re not really applicable to this situation. So at this point, I think we can only make a new VOCA Facebook page, so I’m going to be amending that out of the budget because we no longer need the notary. And I invite you all to like the page; I was looking at past programming surveys and our audience also comes through on Facebook other than Instagram, so we’re hopefully going to be rebuilding our likes and followers on there after. The second thing is the Little Library for the commuter lounge. The idea is to start a mini community library in the commuter lounge. How it’ll work is that it’s a VOCA team bonding exercise. We’re going to build one sometime in August. To build one from scratch was actually more expensive, so I decided to buy a wooded box from Ikea, and we can buy paint supplies to paint it together, and then put it up in the commuter lounger for students to come in and put in and take out books as they like, as a bonding activity and a community building exercise at the same time.

Sooyeon: This looks good, I really like the idea of your project, I think it also would get a lot more people into the VUSAC office when things start opening up in the Fall. One comment that I do have, you would need to buy primer, but there is an abundance of acrylic paint from dollarama in the VUSAC office as well as brushes. So, I don’t think you would need to buy that.

Maarib: Let me check the prices on that, then I can make an amendment to that.

Diana: This is just a continuation of the money we offered to Vic Pride to support their gender affirming gear giveaway. At the end of the year last year, they had $293.38 left over from the $3000 that we offered just for them. What they asked for was that as they’re sending out the last of their gear for the $293 to be extended over the summer, just to cover any sort of contingency or unexpected expenses that come from sending it out. We’re basically just extending the money we offered them as they send out the gender affirming gear.

Cass: The main big budget is where the honoraria are from the last academic year that just ended. And those are $1000 to each producer, plus $500 to the artistic director. And we will also be having an event that’s going up in early September so some things need to be budgeted for that like the rights, some of the catering costs.

Amy: We’re doing a Diva cup giveaway and there’s a few reasons for that. First of all, they’re sustainable and they last a long time. But also, it will give access to people for menstrual supplies, which is really great. So the idea was to start small, do a test run, which is why I put $500 in the budget, they’re $25.35 each, so we will get about 19 of them. But the idea is we can see how popular they are. Originally I wanted to do a pay what you want, but after some discussion with Jackson we’re just going to hand them out for free. But one option could be to buy someone else one, so if you want to you can also purchase someone else one, and then that will go to some sort of shelter in the city. The second thing is that since we have new first years coming in, I wanted to have a table somewhere around campus where people can see me so we can collect signatures for a divestment petition, and let them know about the sustainability commission and about VUSAC, and I thought it would be a great outreach idea. I wanted to give snacks, too.

Jackson: I love the initiative, but Soo, correct me if I’m wrong, they’re currently scheduled outside the budgeting period, so I think this would have to go into the Fall budgeting.

Sooyeon: Yeah, so this looks good, but this budget is for outside August 31st. So what you could do is change the date and buy snacks a little bit early, or you could move it entirely, it’s really up to you. But, there’s no problem with it it’s just that the date is being budgeted for is in September, which wouldn’t be a part of the summer budget. So would you want to amend this date to buy it earlier or move it to the Fall budget?

Amy: Can I move it earlier in that case?

Sooyeon: I can ask you now, what would you want to amend it to?

Amy: We could also do it at the commuter orientation, like any kind of opportunity, which would be in August 13th.

Jackson: Yeah, for convenience sake, since this would be an amendment, Soo just put it at the last date within our budgeting period. And then you can discuss the details later on.

Kate: I just wanted to bring up with VCDS the honoraria for the co-producers. Joyce didn’t serve a full term, she served two thirds of a term, so I think it’s worth wondering if she should receive $666 given the fact she only served eight months. I also think that given the fact that the co-producers only successfully put on 2 or 3 shows, and had several canceled shows, as well as extensive issues working with directors and other members. Some that were involved with VCDS this year have privately come to me and have questioned if the performance warranted the full honorarium amount. I’m relaying those opinions; in my own opinion, I certainly see the case for Joyce to receive a reduced amount given the fact that she didn’t serve a full term. But I’m interested in hearing from the rest of council.

Ali: I think Kate brings up a good point. Historically, if you do less of a term you have to receive less, but I don’t think it’s fair for anyone to be judged based on a performance this year, when no performance was up to a regular COVID year. I also think there are valuable reasons that students this year had a lot of hardships, and what is value of a role. So I would say it’s fair to cut an honoraria based on time, but not based on how we value someone’s general performance.

Cass: I think that’s a great point, Kate, in terms of what Ali said term wise, as well as in terms of performance doing theater in a pandemic, doing three shows is successful right now. I don’t think that’s necessarily a measure of value, and conflicts with working with the team, but I don’t really know in terms of whether they did their job and completed it, which they did.

Jefferson: And I will say that one of the shows we were hoping to put on, they pulled themselves 100%. We had nothing to do with them not putting on the show, we were doing all we could to make that happen. I didn’t work as closely as Lisa and Joyce did as producers, but one of the shows we wanted to do we couldn’t do it, and it was a pandemic reason.

Kate: I think in terms of performance, I’m looking less at the number of productions they put on and specifically the largest production that was successfully put on, High School Musical. And the number of complaints I received from both cast and crew who participated in that show about the performance from the co-producers about the execution of the show. I understand that the pandemic makes things difficult but I don’t think that the pandemic is an excuse for a lack of respect to be shown towards people who are involved, and that was what was conveyed towards me. And I think, it’s evaluating, did these people do their job to promote VCDS to make it an organization people want to be apart of. Several students told me they would rather go be a part of the Troubadours, or that they wouldn’t come back because of their experience with it. And I think regardless of COVID, that’s worth taking into consideration, but recognizing that it is subjective. I think it would be fair to move on to cut Joyce’s honoraria by 33%. Considering the fact she served ⅔ of a term.

Diana: I know it says the honoraria is written into constitution, but I would like to ask about what those clauses look like, and if they specifically stipulate if the achievement of your job is part of receiving those honoraria and what’s in those clauses, I think that’s a valuable point to bring up.

Kate: The VCDS constitution was recently amended by me, and ratified by VCDS, so I’m very familiar with the constitution. But, regardless of what the VCDS constitution says, the VUSAC constitution supersedes it. If there is a contradiction between the two, the VUSAC constitution takes precedence. The constitution does not stipulate performance it simply states that it will be received.

Ali: The dean’s office has been involved in this situation and knowing all sides, I think this is maybe a year we should move forward with more compassion and kindness. But again, I want to relay that you all had really hard jobs this year, and I don’t think it’s a year to go into performance and cut people’s money. All does go through the dean’s office, try and be compassionate with each other, I think people tried really hard this year, I know things maybe didn’t go the way we wanted it to, but having seen this story to its fruition, I think people should be paid what they deserve to be paid.

*Motion: Kate Haberl motions to amend the VCDS Budget (Line 46) to reduce the honoraria from $666.66 instead of $1000 to reflect the fact she served an eight month term, seconded by Shane Joy*

*6 in favour. 0 opposed. 3 abstaining. Motion passes.*

Sooyeon: I’m gonna run by the budget for the summer, a lot of it is just standard payments we use to maintain the office over the summer. The staff honoraria wasn’t budgeted in Winter, so it would be given out first of May. We had Open Vic last Saturday, we had incoming first years come to Vic and Shane and I promoted VUSAC clubs, commissions, levies. And so, we printed out a bunch of photos, products from dollarama to keep costs low. We also have the price to keep the website going for the next year or so, our printer lease ends this 2023 or 2024, so we will buy a printer instead of renting it. I do still need to pay Business Imaging Inc., just to have the printer stay in the office. Finally, we are running low for stamps to mail cheques, so this is the calculated cost.

Jackson: I am budgeting for the previous year’s exec honoraria. It’s reviewed by the VPI from the previous year, that would be Tabina, they send in a transition report, and as a result they get their honoraria. I’m also budgeting for Soo’s upcoming honoraria, and she gets $8,000. There will be a more formal process when that’s released, so we’ll vote on that, but just because it’s during the summer we thought that we would budget for that now.

Marissa: Hi, I’m one of the levy heads for Acta Victoriana and I wanted to give context for our budget lines. Just to clarify these are not things that we’re actually asking for, we have the funds, we just wanted permission to spend. Just for context as to why we couldn’t spend these things earlier so we had our levy audit on April 19th, and we accidentally included a receipt for an order that had been canceled, and so as a result it looked like we spent a significant amount more than we did budget for, even if it wasn’t the case. However, we weren’t able to clarify that with the outgoing finance chair before they transitioned out. It was suggested that we just wait until we formally ratify the budget lines again. These carried over from the spring semester. So, for journal production, $146.2 is our spring journal, so for printer and contributor payments. These fall in line with costs that incur with each of our sort of journals. And then the $50 giveaway, we met with Cam to discuss how Acta could be more equitable, and we talked about finding ways to compensate all of our submitters for their time, not just those accepted and printed in our journal. We decided on a $50 giveaway for all of our submittors to be entered, as a token of appreciation, and to entice more submissions while providing more compensation. Currently, we can’t download pdfs of our supplements, so this upgrade would allow us to download and upload directly to our website, making them more accessible in terms of printing delays. And then our budget lines 29 and 30, these are for business email and website subscription renewal. We are actually asking for reimbursement, Line 21, 60 pack of mailing envelopes. Katrina, my co-levy head paid this with personal funds when she went to prepare for everything getting shipped. Also, to flag the shipping cost, Line 22, $1500, it’s a substantial amount of money. We went to Canada Post and said that each package would be $15+tax to ship within the city, $30+tax to ship within Ontario. Given the amount of packages we have, we’re also waiting on some of our contributors’ mailing addresses, so we’re just making sure we budgeted enough. Again, these are funds we have, not what we’re asking for.

*Motion: Diana Vink to extend the discussion of budget, seconded by Kate Haberl (2 minutes)*

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

Maarib: Just a friendly amendment to strike the first line in the budget, because we no longer need the notary. And then, to change Line 5, from $60 to $35, just for the primer and a base coat of paint for the wood.

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee motions to ratify the 2022 VUSAC summer budget as it appears in Appendix A, seconded by Jackson Leslie*

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

*Motion: Kate Haberl to ratify Janna Abbas and Rion Levy as co-editors-in-chief of The Strand for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (3 minutes)*

Kate: They’ve both been involved in the strand for year, as I think, associate editors, and now they’re editors-in-chief. And the experiences I’ve had with them so far, I feel very confident that they’ll do an excellent job with the role, and I have no concerns with their ratification.

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

*Motion: Kate Haberl to ratify Radhika Dawan as Caffiend’s new co-manager for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (3 minutes)*

Kate: I sat on the hiring panel and I sat in on her interview, she was also my exec member when I volunteered at Caffiends. She had a great interview, seems super passionate about the role, and I know firsthand that she has the experience to be a great co-manager.

Madeleine: I’m the current senior co-manager in Caffiends. Radhika has always been a very reliable person, and great to work with. I was really excited during her hiring process, and she’s always on top of things.

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

*Motion: Jackson Leslie to ratify the 2022-2023 VUSAC Staff, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (15 minutes)*

Jackson: Hi, I’m the VPI. I’m talking about staff hiring cause that falls under my portfolio. Applications were released April 26th and closed May 17th. Applications were extended until the 19th for all except communications coordinator. Finance was extended until May 21st. Interviews were held week of May 23rd. For Chair, we had one applicant and hired Anne, she had great experience with VUSAC and proposed great ideas to increase engagement. We had four applicants for Communications Coordinator, and interviewed three. We hired Jackie, and they had great ideas to increase communications across Vic. We had three applicants for Office Manager and interviewed all. We decided to hire Lara, they had great ideas for inclusivity in the office and great experience with council. Next, we had CRO, we had one applicant, and hired Pooja. They had a great interview and really great ideas with increasing voter turnout. For finance chair, we did not get any applicants, so we’re at the point in the policy where we’re allowed to reach out, so I reached out to Thomas, and unsuccesful applicants from Communications and Office Manager. We got two applicants that were interested and interviewed them all. We decided to hire Thomas, who had great experience with VUSAC and our financial processes. They also had great ideas to increase communications with clubs and levies and being proactive on that end. Thank you to everyone on the hiring panel, and everyone who contributed to the process.

Diana: I was very grateful to sit in on staff interviews and the process. I just wanted to say thank you to Jackson for his efforts and hard-work, I hope he knows it doesn’t go unnoticed.

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

*Motion: Jackson Leslie to ratify the 2022-2023 Commuter, Sustainability, Academic, and Equity Co-Chairs, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (10 minutes)*

Jackson: Applications were released May 20 and close June 10th. Interviews conducted last week as well as this week. For Equity co-chair, there was on applicant, and it was offered to Cam, they have really great experience as the previous equity commissioner. For Commuter Co-Chairs, we had four applicants and we offered Emily the position. They were a member of VOCA last year, and had great ideas to continue VOCA Strong Programming. For sustainability, we had three applicants and interviewed all, and we decided to offer Rebecca the position. They were a previous counselor, and they worked on the Burwash initiative, they have really great ideas for sustainability. But for academic, we don’t have a commissioner. The decision weighed more heavily on my end. Amanda was interviewed for communications coordinator and finance, and while we didn’t think they were the best candidate for that position, it was unanimously agreed upon that they would be a great addition to council due to their initiatives, drive, energy, etc. and we offered Amanda the academic co-chair position. Due to time constraint, the mental wellness commisioner wasn’t able to fit within the timeline. Overall, great interview, but they will be ratified at a later meeting.

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

*Motion: Kate Haberl to ratify Jerico Raguindin as Cat’s Eye junior co-manager for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (3 minutes)*

Kate: I think we all know Jerico, his work ethic and passion for students at Vic. But he had a great interview for Cat’s Eye, and he’s a really good fit for the role. Given all his past leadership experience, I’m confident in his ability to do a great job.

Ninon: I used to be a part of the Cat’s Eye executive, he had a fantastic interview and was probably the easiest decision to make. I think he’ll do a really good job.

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

*Motion: Kate Haberl to ratify Jacob Kim and Jessica Kok as co-presidents of VCAA for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (3 minutes)*

Kate: Jacob and Jessica were elected by VCAA, and they’ve both been really involved for years on the executive and participating in activities. I’m confident they’ll do a good job.

Jessica: Jacob and I were both the vice presidents of VCAA, so I truly think we have the passion and experience to make VCAA to have a successful year. We hope to make athletics and wellbeing accessible for Vic students. We also want to bring back the athletic banquet, it’s been 2-3 years since, and I’m sure a lot of student-athletes are looking forward to it.

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

*Motion: Kate Haberl to ratify Agrata Pradhan as president of VicPride! for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (3 minutes)*

Kate: Agrata was elected to be president of Vic Pride and were really involved this year. They have experience with Events Programming and the like, and I think they have a lot of passion.

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

*Motion: Sooyeon Lee to ratify Elaine Lee and Yanni Santos as incoming Acta Victoriana 2022-2023 co-editors-in-chief, seconded by Jackson Leslie (2 minutes)*

Marissa: They couldn’t be at this meeting so I’ll be talking about their hiring process. We opened applications for one week, from April 22 to April 29, and we asked each applicant to submit a package with their name, contact information, and a personal statement detailing interest, qualifications, and any changes they would like to implement. We opened a vote for the successful candidate between all our Acta Victoriana staff. Voting lasted from May 3-10, and were shared to all applicants to dispute or ask any questions. We did not receive any disputes. We’ve been working with Elaine and Yanni since and I can personally speak to the fact that they have been really great, and really on top of things so far, and I think that they will be really great for the position.

Diana: I had the chance to work with Yanni this past years as Associate Editors for Acta Victoriana. They are wonderful and I think they’re fantastic, and I’m excited to see what they do with the job.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Fall programming put forth by Jackson Leslie (10 minutes)*

Jackson: I wanted to discuss our Fall Programming. The exec this year wants to ensure that VUSAC is a continuing body after the year is over, which depends on great programming. I wanted to open up discussion on what students would enjoy when they come to school. We’re also doing a VUSAC social during orientation, so if anyone has any thoughts or ideas.

Diana: I wanted to talk about accessibility for our programing. I think for events at the start of the year it’s really important to have virtual options for those uncomfortable to attend in-person events whether due to COVID, that they’re international students, coming to Toronto/campus later, or are just generally more comfortable with digital events. So I would encourage Zoom meetings and recordings.

Amy: I think as we transition back in-person, we need to consider sustainability. We tend to have a lot of waste at these events, so I think that now that we have this opportunity to start again in-person, what do we want this to look like? What’s our new normal for events, and what precedent do we want to set in terms of sustainability. We want to show new students that sustainability is really important at Vic.

Sooyeon: I think a movie night would be great. It’ll be September so the weather would be nice. Maybe booking out the quad space and doing a dual setup. We could play some movies and get people engaged. We also have an outdoor projector for screening, which would be great.

Lara: I just wanted to say that I can help with setting up a hybrid night for the movie screening. It checks a lot of boxes with sustainability as well as making sure international students can attend due to time zone differences, so I’m available to help!

Diana: I just wanted to mention that a lot of the first years were running film nights of their own, and I can reach out to them if they want to help out, so that’s another option for us.

Jackson: Thank you everyone for your contribution, great ideas.

*Proposed VUSAC transportation expense policy as presented in Appendix D put forth by Kate Haberl (10 minutes)*

Kate: So we had a lot of issues this year with fuel and reimbursement, so there’s a lot of gray areas and we wanted to nip it in the bud now rather than later. The policy has five chapters, with different policies for uber, fuel, etc. The mandate states what we will or will not reimburse, which is subject to the Constitution Council policies and budget hearing policy. Our general policy states that for any transportation cost to be reimbursed, it needs to be approved within a budget. This is standard practice for all our finances. It needs to meet certain conditions, such as it being transportation of students to/from an event taking place off campus, and for which there’s a reason that the travel did not occur independently. For example, students were going off campus for a Raptors game, and you could say that they should go together cause we want them to stay together. Or, you’re transporting a significant amount of supplies and can’t transport by walking, and the supplies are budgeted for. If someone is exploiting this privilege, their privilege can be revoked or subject to additional scrutiny. For example, this year, a finance chair had the organization send photos of the materials they needed to transport. Or, waking up late and taking an Uber to campus is not eligible for reimbursement. Commutes to/from campus are also ineligible for reimbursement because we wouldn’t want anyone to use reimbursement when it isn’t a club-specific event they’re attending. For Ubers or a rideshare, you need to explain why you couldn’t walk or take the TTC. For TTC, you need to explain why you couldn’t walk. For fuel, we would reimburse per kilometer driven at a rate determined by the finance chair based on gas. To get reimbursement for fuel you also need to provide an itinerary to where you drove and the route.

Shane: For Chapter 2, Section 2, bI, for a student with equipment from previous years and they’d want to transport it, would that still qualify?

Kate: Oh, so those supplies are technically still budgeted for.

Shane: And, for gas, Chapter 5, Section 3, could you give an example for that?

Kate: So you would have an itinerary and say, I drove 78km, the finance chair would reimburse for 20c per kilometer, because of the current price of gas. So it would be the rate times the distance and that would give you the reimbursement amount.

Amy: I think it’s good to bring up that they should provide explanation on why they couldn’t use a cheaper form of transportation. I think we should enforce that they should use such forms of transportation only if absolutely necessary, coming from a sustainability standpoint.

*Proposed VUSAC meal/snack expense policy as presented in Appendix C put forth by Kate Haberl (10 minutes)*

Kate: So this is an aspect we had issues with and we want to correct it before we go back into our big budgeting period. Five chapters, with different policies. The mandate states clearly what we will reimburse, and that it’s a complementary document under the constitution, the council policies, general policies to be considered for reimbursement. General policy states that any food related expenses must have been approved under the VUSAC’s semesterly budget. Any food provided should strive to accommodate a variety of dietary needs and VUSAC funding should never be used to purchase any alcoholic or illicit substances. If alcoholic beverages are provided, food should be provided free of charge. There are multiple restrictions around this provided by the Office of the Dean of Students, so those need to be abided by in that case, so we’re fully covered and insured. For policies for group meals, this is when a club would like to go out for dinner, or having a retreat, etc. They must explain why it’s justifiable and why a meal will help the programming. Only events over 5 hours will be considered for funding. This isn’t snacks at an event, this is a meal for members. There can be exceptions for work-related events or training, and exceptions can be made for meals during events. Bonding events are not justifiable, it’s exclusionary to say you want to take your closed group out for a meal. The meal should cost no more than $25 per person, including tax and delivery. The group should also provide a headcount and a list of names of people who were there, so they should be able to give the receipt. When possible, groups should choose lower cost options as that is cheaper than getting an entree for everyone. For event meals and snacks, it has to follow Chapter 2 policies, and these are at a maximum of $15 per person. This doesn’t include regularly scheduled gatherings, so ‘one-offs’. We should also have an approximate headcount through event registration, just so we can verify the per person cost. For meeting snacks, the maximum is $5 per person, which should be appropriate for an hour long meeting weekly, as well as an approximate headcount.

Ali: I think that the aspect of “over five hours” is limiting and could provide with issues. It might be better to take out the time aspect and be more specific. You might have issues with people making a four-hour event longer. I also think bonding events should be justifiable, especially given our current circumstances. Instead we could have a limit, like one per year or per semester.

Kate: I agree on the time. I think my only concern with bonding event style is that they are fairly expensive, but like $25 a person isn’t insignificant. It can be hard to justify why groups can use that money freely for a bonding event. And, if we put a once a semester rule, then it might make them think that “perfect, I can go out once a semester”.

Ali: I agree, I think students shouldn’t be so critical of student leaders. But, there is that possibility of questioning it. I think in that case you could say that student fees also fund things like sweaters, which aren’t necessary for functioning, but they are a token of appreciation for the effort of a group. I think it’s okay for a club, levy, or group to have a meal if the meal has the goal of bringing the group closer.

Kate: I think a compromise would be for us to say we’d provide funding for one planning meeting a semester. I think that sounds like there’s some work being done.

Jackson: I think bonding event might put in the wrong idea, so I think some conductive aspect needs to be included. There needs to be some sort of justification.

*Motion: Shane Joy to extend discussion time, seconded by Sooyeon Lee (3 minutes)*

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

Lara: How does the budget for the food work? Would it be ratified before or after the event? They can then show what they accomplished during the meeting.

Kate: Yeah, so the budget is at the beginning of the semester, and the ratification would come before the event. So we could ask them to submit a rationale with their reimbursement request, which would come in later. I could add that in. I’ll specify in the policy that when you submit a reimbursement request, you should give a 1-2 sentence description of what was accomplished during the meeting.

*Change to Elections Referenda Code as presented in Appendix B put forth by Sooyeon Lee (10 minutes)*

Sooyeon: I’m suggesting amendments to change the format of elections. So the way elections happen right now is that you have your nominations period, during that time you have people send in a nomination package for you to be a candidate. After, you have your campaign period, and then the voting period. These latter periods do not align, and we’ve found that many don’t think it makes sense that it doesn’t alignment. There’s a lot of different restrictions for people not to vote during the voting period. Historically, Vic does not have a great voter turnout, so I think amending the code to say that voting period and campaigning period align would solve some of our problems. With that being said, I have made some edits to the document. The biggest proposal right now is that we could strike the current clause right now and allow for the voting period to overlap with campaigning period. An existing clause is that third parties must remain neutral, so we’re not changing that. The current Town Hall mandate is that it needs to happen on the last day of campaign period, and be held on weekday outside of class hours. I think it might be worthwhile to consider making it happen at the start of voting period and be held on a weekday outside of class hours. The CRO, Jackson, and I have looked at the upcoming Fall elections, and this wouldn’t work out because it would mean that it would be a really short campaigning and voting period, and not feasible. So we’re amending it to be looser and up to the CRO to discuss, just so planning has more flexibility.

*VUSAC community fridge and pantry put forth by Sooyeon Lee (10 minutes)*

Sooyeon: Something we did last year in March and April was starting a community pantry and fridge. Outside of the office we had snacks, and inside we had nonperishable food items. A lot of people used both for snacks and free food. But, I think if we did this again, we would need to create documentation for it, like a proposal, that states what we’re doing, why we’re doing it, and what worked in the past. Before we start writing that, I wanted to get the council’s position on what they want that fridge and pantry to look like. It could be a question of where the food should be, or if someone identifies as food insecure or low income, maybe that’s something we need to be sensitive about, etc. There are a lot of options and I’d like to ask council what would be best.

Kate: So I’ll share the old proposal. We proposed that the community fridge would go into the commuter kitchen, in the basement of Goldring. And there would be two community pantries, one in the cabinets of the commuter kitchen and one in the cubbies of the shelving unit outside VUSAC office. The plan was for the exterior of the VUSAC office to have grab & go snacks, and then it’s more public. The commuter kitchen is much more private, and that’s where we would put more food bank type foods, for those that may be food insecure or low income. I discussed this with the UTSU and talked about how it’s more convenient for students to go to the student center and grab something easily. And we detailed who was gonna be involved, I took on the main leadership role and did the ordering and cleaning. Rebecca, who was a counselor and a volunteer coordinator, and then Equity Commission, Mental Wellness, and Commuter Commissions also helped. It was funded by the VCSO fund. We also planed to use this app called Second Harvest. It’s an app, you need to be a registered charity to use it, which Vic is, the app helps divert potential food waste into food banks. We also detailed collaboration with UofT food bank, and other resources like cleanliness, reusable containers, etc. And so what happened was because this initiative was towards the end of the year, it didn’t make sense to start using it in the commuter kitchen and do all the setup or use the app. Instead, we set up the grab & go outside the VUSAC office, and this skyrocketed the foot traffic. I did all the ordering and organizing, and we were consistently wiped out of supplies within 3 days to a week. We had people consistently taking the pasta, soups, menstrual products, hygiene products, etc. And so it goes to show that it was a need we were fulfilling at Vic. My proposal going forward would be to maintain all three spaces, if possible. The commuter kitchen provides privacy and space. I also wanted to add that VUSAC used to do a lot of food drives. Like, for dances, you could bring a canned good to go in, and that would be fantastic. Another thing we could implement would be having students use leftover Ned’s dollars, to buy snacks then donate that to the food bank. It might be looking into at the Dean’s office if we could do some sort of donate your meal dollars deal, for students who can’t afford meal dollars or had run out. That’s more complicated, but it’s something worth looking into.

Jackson: I wanted to stress the importance from the office manager perspective. The foot traffic was exponentially increased. Some people maybe don’t want to identify as low income, and so it’s great we accommodate that. I think if we could continue with some sort of aspect relating to the office, like snacks outside, or even more small scale and all the bigger canned goods in the commuter kitchen. And when they come by, it’s great to plug our offerings as the VUSAC office. In the end, it’s really worthwhile. Maybe for the meal plan dollars if it’s not feasible then we can just ask students to cash it out, and that would be great.

*Motion: Shane Joy to extend discussion time, seconded by Jackson Leslie (3 minutes)*

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

Diana: My experience with the VUSAC office last year was great, I went there with my friends and we didn’t even know that the office was there. I also appreciate the care given for if people want to identify as food insecure or not, and I think putting it in public places does relieve the anxiety associated with that. It’s also great cause sometimes college students forget to eat. I think this creates an opportunity for every student, and making food available for them is so important. People have so much extra money with their meal plan, so either donating the meals to the homeless (short term solution) or putting it in the VUSAC food bank would be great.

Maarib: I love the idea of using the Commuter Kitchen as well, a lot of people don’t know about it. And I think the spaces where the food would be are great spots to have it in.

Kate: I feel very vindicated and gratified by this discussion. We had a working group last year, but for this year if you’re interested, please contact me and we can put together another proposal and get that to the Dean’s Office in time for school starting, and collaborate with them.

Amelia: I was wondering how the policy would change for in-person, because last year Burwash only allowed on-residence students to access the dining hall. It made it really inaccessible for non-res students, so I was wondering how that would change this year.

Ali: That was only because of COVID, and restrictions based on UofT, Victoria University, and Victoria College. It’s never been a rule before, so our hope is that with restrictions lifting in July, things will return back to the way it was prior to COVID.

COMMISION REPORTS:

*Arts and Culture*

Amelia: Hi, I never really formally introduced myself, so I’m Amelia, the Arts & Culture commissioner. Currently we’re hiring a director for the BOB. The main issue was that no one was really monitoring the email during transitions out, so I’m meeting with them on Monday for their input on the hiring process. We have a few applicants so far, and we are going to do co-chair interviews hopefully next week. We’re working on the hiring of the director and producer, etc.

*Commuter*

Maarib: Hi, I’m Maarib, the commuter commissioner this year. We’re sitting on interviews for co-chairs and staff. We hired a co-chair, Emily, and I’m very excited to work with her. I’ve been looking at previous transition reports and files on our Drive. I’ll be working with the co-chair on ideas for the fall, hopefully bring back pancakes, which it seems like we’ll be able to do that for Fall.

*Equity*

Diana: I’m Diana, I’m the equity commissioner this year. For the past few weeks we’ve been doing soft hiring, and onboarding my co-chair Cam. I think equity is really important, so if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know!

*Scarlet & Gold*

Ninon: Hi, I’m Ninon. A lot has been happening this summer with Scarlet & Gold, mainly reading the transition reports and formulating ideas for the year. The main thing I’m working on is generating some questions for a survey we’ll be putting out. This is to gauge people’s wants on the type of programming, and logistical items. The other big thing we’re gonna be gearing up towards is hopefully doing the following for Vic Pub nights in September, and we’re starting to think about location. As we get closer to September, we’ll have more ideas.

*Sustainability*

Amy: Hi, I’m Amy, I’m the sustainability commissioner. I’m mainly working on the Diva cup sale as well as drafting a sustainability policy for the office. We’re also working on exec hiring and revitalizing Big 0, we’re hoping to get proposals to the appropriate people, and we’re also hiring for sustainability. If anyone would like to work with me, since Sustainability is involved in a lot of things, just contact me.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

*VPI: Jackson Leslie (5 minutes)*

Jackson: I’ve been doing staff hiring and co-chair hiring. I’ve been doing the onboarding processes with the elected members and staff members, and the co-chairs soon. I’ve also been doing check-ins, so I met with all the commissioners, just to see how they’ve been doing on a personal level and if they’ve had any thoughts related to their role. Anne really wants to encourage commission transparency, so I appreciate that everyone had something to say. After all of this, I’ll focus more on personal goals. I also wanted to say, I encourage non-voting members to contribute to the meeting. Although it may feel a little alienating, but your contribution is valued. Moving forward, Soo and I, as well as the finance chair, will be doing a workshop on how to plan and budget an event. We want to be very proactive with all the budgeting reallocations and amendments. For commissioners, if you have an exec team, you should be building that up soon, now that your co-chairs have been hired. I’m looking forward to seeing what you all would be doing. We have an almost-full council, and I’m looking forward to the upcoming year.

*President: Sooyeon Lee (5 minutes)*

Sooyeon: Hi, I’m Soo, your VUSAC President. I’ve had the chance of onboarding nearly all of you, working with Jackson a lot. Something that I’ve been doing is hoping to do routine check-in on our Constitution Council policies, and I wanna save that for later for the fuller council. I’ll offer again later on but if you would like to join me in giving those another read, seeing if anything should be updated, etc. I have told some of you that I would be getting in touch with you on the Mental Wellness initiative that. On the VUSAC website, we have a list of mental health resources, but I don’t think it’s been recently updated. So, I think we should give this a look and see if any of them are still relevant. I’ve had a couple of people contact me about being interested in helping out, but if you want to help, we’re just making sure the resources are good to go, so we can give students the resources they need. So please just shoot me an email if you’d like to join us. VUSAC social is also part of orientation, and I’ve kind of started brainstorming on what we could do. I’m leaning towards paint night, just because it was very successful last year, with like ~40 show up. If anyone wants to help me plan that, please message me, email me. A lot of my portfolio so far is making sure we’re all set to welcome people back into the Vic Community, hopefully in-person. If you’d like to get in touch about the community fridge or pantry, get in touch with me or Kate, for the mental wellness intiative then you can message me.

*Motion: Jackson Leslie motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diana Vink.*

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

*Meeting adjourned at 7:36.*