VUSAC Meeting Agenda

**Call to order:** 5:37 pm EST, December 2, 2022

**Land Acknowledgement:**

*Cameron*

*I wish to acknowledge this land on which Victoria University operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.*

**Official Regrets:** Zoe Lazaris

**Absent:** Medha Barath

**Approval of minutes:**

*Motion by Michael Elsaesser to approve the minutes for November 18, Seconded by Dhir Shah*

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

**Additions to the agenda:**

*Executive Report by Sooyeon Lee*

**Approval of the agenda:**

*Motion by Michael to approve the agenda for Month Day, Seconded by Luca Carnegie*

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

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

*Motion: Michael Elsaesser motions to grant Ali Kehl speaking rights, seconded by Dhir Shah*

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

Ali: Happy last meeting everyone, I know we’re all excited and some of you might be sad. A huge congratulations to Shane for Caucus, I think you all brought up really great discussions. We have the December 6th memorial coming up, and we have lots of wonderful speeches from your fellow VUSAC members and it’s be good to support them. We have the BOB this week, go support them! Study Space opens December 9th. And we have lots going on in the new year, Semi, Gardiner Gala, Kress Cams, and more. Student applications will open, like Exec for Orientation, TM, IM, Res and Comm Dons, and more. Leadership Fair is on Tuesday, January 7th 11am-1pm, and Thursday, January 12th from 3:30-5:30pm. Take care of yourself and if you need anything you can contact vic.dean, or contact me.

ACTION ITEMS:

*Motion: Diana Vink to ratify the recently approved Student Projects application (Appendix A), seconded by Maarib Kirmani Haseeb (5 minutes)*

Diana: So on student projects a few weeks ago, we approved an application from Victoria College Helpers. It’s their website costs, and we did vote to give them a contingency fund which I know is a point of discussion. Jiwoo said that we can approve the website plan only, and not the contingency. I brought this up so that we could discuss how to move forward and I think we should redirect them to the VPSO fund.

Shane: The contingency fund is a problem because VUSAC has a contingency fund and I just don’t think it works well if we give that to a club because we denied it from others. I don’t know how we can go about this, maybe we can split, or do two different motions. I would strongly encourage all of you to think about the contingency fund, I think the website is something they should get, but not the contingency fund.

Jackson: We don’t allow this for other clubs, and we don't set the right example if we do this for this club. Student Projects does have the money, but I would urge you to think that we aren’t doing this for other clubs and it’s not really setting the right example. Jiwoo, we could make a friendly amendment, or Diana would make it since they put it forward.

Jiwoo: I speak on behalf of VCH. Because it’s fairly new, VCH would need the emoney to get them started, and as they become more established they could gain more funding elsewhere. This contingency fund wouldn’t be an annual thing we fund. We did ask for clarification by what they meant for a contingency fund. The $500 would be used for the criminal record checks, and other things.

Shane: On the contingency fund, you can propose an unlimited amount, and if they wanted that funding for those reasons they should have put that on their application.

Lara: And didn’t we already approve criminal record checks in their Fall Budget?

Thomas: That’s true.

Diana: I think they’re using it in the event they have more volunteers than they realise, so that they could support them. I also wonder if they dont know that the VPSO fund is available because they’re new.

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the action item by two minutes, Seconded by Carolyn Gao*

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

Michael: I did meet with VCH and I hope they’re aware of the fund because I spoke to them. Clubs typically don’t have a contingency fund, that’s what the VPSO fund is there for.

Sooyeon: Contingency funds are used when budgets lack considerations like conversion or tax. They shouldn’t be used for a situation where you don’t know what might happen. If you find out that you need more money for other things, you come to VUSAC for an additional line item.

*Motion to pass the website plan of VCH by Diana Vink.*

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

*Motion to pass the contingency fund.*

*None in favour. Nine opposed. One abstaining. Motion passes.*

*Motion: Julie Seeger to re-allocate lines 373 and 372 (World Mental Health Day and TTC Fare) to a new line for a therapy animals collab with The Cats Eye (Appendix B), seconded by Jackson Leslie (2 minutes)*

Julie: So we had two events planned for the fall semester. One was a walk, but we wanted to do that on campus, and then instead of having an in-person event for World Mental Health Day we wanted to do an online event instead, so we didn't use that money. So we’ll be holding a collab with the Cat’s Eye to bring therapy animals in during exam period.

Thomas: There’s no net change in the budget because old lines were struck.

Jackson: Do you have a breakdown of how much you’ll be spending?

Julie: Right now, we have the Corporate Canine Therapy package which is $800 for 4 hours for 3 dogs.

Ali: This is the same company we had for the Residence Council event. It’s more expensive because of additional insurance.

Rebecca: Is the extra money coming from the Cat’s Eye?

Julie: Yeah, it’s coming from their half of the budget.

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

*Motion: Maarib Kirmani Haseeb to reallocate $100 from Line 336 to Line 339 in Fall 2022 Master Budget (Appendix B), seconded by Michael Elsaesser (3 minutes)*

Maarib: So we’re just moving $100 from November to December and we’ll be doing one big giveaway in December instead of one for this November.

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

*Motion: Diana Vink to make changes to the Equity Commission’s budget (Appendix B), seconded by Jackson Leslie (5 minutes)*

Diana: There were some events the Equity Commission did that we didn’t think were feasible, so there's money leftover. So we’re going to be working with the Academic Commission and bolster their event. We’re doubling the amount of packages that are being given away with the leftover money. We were supposed to go on a field trip in October, and the money for those tickets are going towards this, and our excess t-shirt event funds are going to this as well. We budgeted a lot of money for snacks but they weren’t spent. The field trip that was in October, we would have been reimbursing meals, so that’s just going to be moved around. And our December event will go into that, and we’re adding a little extra money incase there are changes in shipping fees.

Jackson: This is something I was talking about to Diana and Cameron, and we explored different options for a last minute event. On a short term, we can collaborate with any of the other commissions. So Academic Commission budgeted $10.50 per package, and with Equity it’ll round up to $15, and 80 packs will be given away. Exam Jams are usually quick to go, so we thought eighty was a good amount. The prices we got was based on what academic budgeted, but we’re not sure about what shipping would look like. It’s already less and I think this a good initiative.

Shane: To clarify, are they requesting less?

Thomas: That’s a -$210 so yes, they’re spending less.

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

*Motion by Michael Elsaesser to approve VEFS’ budget request of 185.18 for their welcome social reimbursing them through the VPSO contingency fund, seconded by Shane Joy (5 minutes)*

Michael: We’ve talked about this in previous meetings, regarding VEFS. I’m more than happy to use the VPSO contingency fund to fund VEFS’s event. They’re a great club and I’ll make sure that their finances are all good moving forward.

Thomas: So I got the receipts, everything checks out there. And this is basically what the contingency fund exists for.

Abigail: So I just want to be clear that we’re not wasting any money. We want to make our show as big as we can this year to highlight the passion and talents of our designers.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Post-Caucus Thoughts & Feedback, put forth by Shane Joy (5 minutes)*

Shane: So Caucus happened, and I thought it went pretty well. I was pretty happy with how our administration answered our questions. But I was also really happy about how they were generous with their time, and I think we should be thankful for it. I’d like your thoughts on how it went.

Diana: I was quite confused with Kelley Castle’s answer, and I'll be meeting with her to clarify that. I’m not thrilled with them redirecting to Vic Bursaries and I've been doing research on that. I don't know how many options UofT is providing. I was thrilled to hear that it’s a thing for the future, but I’d like to see what they can do now. I was also disappointed with the answer regarding Robert Reisz. I don’t like that response and it sends a message to me that there’s an acceptable amount of abuse, when there really isn’t. Rhonda stayed later and I liked that effort, I thought it was really impactful. Shane did a lovely job, but I watched you attempt to cut them off but didn’t actually do it. Overall, it was a positive meeting, but there were answers I was unhappy with.

Jackson: I know it’s a bit of an awkward position to cut people off but it’s something we have to do because admin tend to ramble, and we lose time, taking it away from the important time to ask questions. But overall, I think it went really well.

Rebecca: I second everything Diana and Jackson were saying. I was pretty impressed with Rhonda on sustainability policy. But for the cops on campus, I didn't like her answer. I don’t think that it’s true that we believe cops are called every time there’s an issue.

Jackie: There was a long answering period, which was great. I asked about the early starting dates of U of T, which they claim to start it from the academic year 2024-25, asking why they were so adamant about it despite the obvious harms for students - such as reduced work hours, housing problems, moving problems etc. I asked whether it was to increase tuition with the excuse of extra days opening facilities/staff/professors, they said that it's a new perspective that they never though about and such. But then, in a passing statement, they said that the extra fees will befall on the students. This is very concerning and disturbing, which I think we should try to discuss later on.

Shane: I probably should have done a better job with emphasizing the time limit. My thinking behind that was a matter of respect, it was Rhonda’s first time, and I think they needed to say what they wanted to say, nothing said was irrelevant. I think it’s a matter of me being more assertive at times or extending report times in the future.

Diana: I want to just let you all know that TCM, the Trinity College Meeting signed on the open letter and administration contested whether or not it was right for them to sign the letter. I wanted to put that on everyone’s radar.

Shane: That’s interesting and unfortunate. It was really fortunate that the ratifying letter occurred during Caucus and it was a wider vote. And on the idea that we don't represent, we are elected, so we do represent our community.

Sooyeon: If you’re elected, then you’re there to represent the student body. It’s unfortunate that TCM encountered that push back. VCC had a meeting on monday, and the VCC deals with academic matters. In my report I stated that in “UofT it is important that we are transparent that we don't hire predators and uphold Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as Vic.” They didn't like it when i used the word predator to describe Robert Reisz. And generally across administrative boards, there’s been a discomfort talking about him.

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the discussion item by three minutes, Seconded by Amy Mann*

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

Amy: So in TCM they aren’t elected, it’s whoever shows up. Sustainability wasn’t super pleased, and I didn’t like that Rhonda didn't think that it was too important. Things they said they were doing they said they’d do that a year ago.

Diana: In TCM, every Trinity student has a right to vote. So the argument that 40 people arent representative is really inaccurate. I also think that there’s a different atmosphere at Vic than Trinity. A representative from Trin wanted to poll the whole student body. And, I just think it’s important to think about how they phrased the housing situation, by them saying we can’t have all the students pay for something not all students use, it was odd because that’s how fees work.

Shane: I think it’s also especially unsurprising that that kind of behavior came from the college that Andy Orchard came from.

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the discussion item by two minutes, Seconded by Sooyeon Lee*

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

Tariq: I think the main takeaway from the meeting especially from Rhonda, is that she’s open to our suggestions if it’s a give and take situation. I think going into the semester as a council we need to look at providing solutions. She wants to help us, it’s just a matter of what she can provide given the limitations.

Shane: I really appreciate the feedback, I think we need to look at the Caucus minutes and use that in conversation with them.

*Life after Vic, put forth by Dhir Shah (10 minutes)*

Dhir: So Life After Vic is an event that's hosted annually by the Academic Commission for the second of March 2023, Thursday. Thursday is better for alumni because on Friday they want to wrap up their week. The venue is Old Vic lobby and Alumni Hall. We expect it to be an intimate event and it’ll be a collaboration with the Alumni Team. It’ll be a semi-formal to formal event.

Usually there’s catered dinner, but this time we thought of changing it to a more natural environment with drinks and bites. Giveaways to be decided. Ideas from our team included a small session on networking before the event, a chance for the alumni to come earlier to bond with each other, and have alumni from various backgrounds. We expect to need $3000-5000 from VUSAC and Student Projects. I’m happy to answer questions and hear suggestions.

Shane: I’m really excited that all these events are coming back, but what’s the intention behind the event?

Ali: It’s an opportunity for students to bond with younger alumni, it’ll be about to fifty to sixty people. It’s like speed dating with alumni. It’s not a prom but it would be business casual. And the goal is to take networking more accessible.

Jackson: So could you elaborate on that, did you say that they want to do mingling before the students get there?

Dhir: So the alumni usually like to bond among themselves before they get to the session, so that the alumni can get to know each other.

Ali: The alumni team want to feel comfortable and confident so that when the event occurs they’re able to mingle comfortably.

Julie: It sounds like it’s a very exclusive event, it’s been gone for a few years and there’ll be demand so how is the process for selection, are how are you gonna determine that?

Dhir: I was thinking the same thing. Since it’s more Life After Vic, we could prioritize our audience from Third and Fourth years and then go for First and Second years.

Shane: I don’t know, I feel like prioritising upper years isn’t a good way to go about it because it’s always good to start early. I would suggest that maybe think of another way to have people of all backgrounds to be able to come.

Dhir: The purpose of this discussion was to take into account your opinions. Definitely it is more intimate to encourage meaningful bonds. I’ll have a discussion with the Alumni Team on that and I’ll update them.

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the discussion item by five minutes, Seconded by Dhir Shah*

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

Luca: Well there are other opportunities for networking skills and what the Academic Commission has isn’t the end-all be-all way.

Lara: I do agree it came off as exclusive. I think we can advertise the fields to the students and have them sign up depending on the field of the alumni.

Shane: For Luca, I think that’s a good point that there are other opportunities but VUSAC should be doing it’s best to make opportunities for everyone. I had a faculty mentor because of my scholarship, and if first and second year students got that opportunity, it’s really valuable. For Lara I think that’s a great idea, advertising what fields are available, in orientation, we got people from different fields. Dhir, I have a question why is there a cap on the number of people?

Dhir: Old Vic can only accommodate a number of people. Either we make it accessible to everyone or make it a bit more intimate.

Ali: It’s the fire capacity of Old Vic.

Diana: I don’t think prioritising is a good idea. First Years might not have a concrete idea of what they want to do and it might be helpful. Lara’s idea of promoting the people who are there would be good so we could know which fields we’d be talking to.

*Motion by Amy Mann to extend the discussion item by three minutes, Seconded by Luca Carnegie*

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

Dhir: We will be sending invites in January, and provide information on who will be attending. And it’s an opportunity cost, if we increase our capacity, then we have to look for more space which is a higher cost.

Amanda: The previous year was a Google Form signup, and the people had to pickup their tickets.

Luca: It might be a suggestion, but it was a cool idea that they would have several breakfasts, and have sets of networking. You could invite alumni from various fields and pay for a small meal for them to bond over.

*Motion by Shane Joy to extend the discussion item by two minutes, Seconded by Tariq Harney*

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

Rebecca: I agree with what Lara was saying, and a waitlist was also a good idea to do. I do think the first come, first serve is the most fair way to do that. As to what Luca was saying about breakfast is that that would be a lot of work on you guys.

Ali: With Luca’s comment, I love the idea, but this isnt their only commitment and they can only offer that one night.

Agrata: How many spots were available for the event?

Dhir: It’s not confirmed but hopefully eighty.

Agrata: I think there are great points as to why it should be a specific group of people prioritised, but I think what we can do is have information out and have certain number of seats reserved for each year and then also roll it off as first come first serve after that.

Shane: I just want to ask how to sign up, will you use forms?

Dhir: Yes, we will use forms.

Shane: We should probably ask what purpose they are signing up for - shouldn’t sign up people if they just want to come by without a specific purpose

Amy: The equitable option would be to prioritize third & fourth years because because otherwise they will never get the opportunity to attend the event because it hasn’t happened for several years, whereas first and second years will be able to attend it in future years. Third & Fourth years also have a specific plan they already have set.

Shane: A counter to that would be a student would enter in their first year rather than their fourth.

Dhir: When we get in touch with the alumni team, we’ll try to get alumnus with various backgrounds, we’ll coordinate to see which disciplines will be involved. Since the council wants it to be more accessible to students from all years, I will make sure that’ll happen and work with first-come first-serve basis to be more accessible.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

*Academic: Dhir & Amanda (5 minutes)*

Amanda: Exam Jam is coming up for us. We have two collaborations. The first with Mental Wellness, not only giveaways but also to do cute paintings for destressing from 4-6pm this Monday in the Wymilwood Lounge. It’ll be a first-come first-serve basis. The second event is Jeopardy with VOCA on Tuesday from 6-7PM in the Cat’s Eye. It will be a winter theme. Our daily giveaway will start next week. But since the exam starts on thursday, we will do it until Wednesday because we don't want to interfere with exam season. There’s also our collaboration with The Equity Commission, and at first it was 40 packages, but we’re doubling it now to 80. And adding additional items, like Muji Pens, Highlighters, and a small water bottle.

We’re also in the process of analysing the survey and the networking dinner was highly anticipated.

*Arts & Culture: Amelia (5 minutes)*

Amelia: Yesterday we had a coaster painting event with Mental Wellness in the Atrium. Next week we have The Bob. It’s from 7-8PM and you can buy your ticket at the link in the Vic Arts and Culture bio.

*Commuter: Maarib & Emilie (7 minutes)*

Emilie and Maarib: We have some VOCA Exec team updates. Our first one was a Presto ticket giveaway with our advocacy duo, and all tickets were given out, so we’ll probably repeat that. We had the Fall Photo Contest, which we’ll likely repeat in the winter. After Reading Week we had a Spotify Frame Event, and this was a different style of event because we did registration, and everything was really nice. We’ll probably do more of those in the future, low-effort graphic activities. Our Little Library is up now, you can take a book and leave a book. The lockers are being cleaned out, and Winter Semester Lockers will open mid-January. Our collabs duo also did a movie night in the Cat’s Eye. Our Pancakes Weekly Brunches have finished. There was a dip in participation but it quickly picked back up, and we had our last one for this semester. We now have custom VOCA aprons and with the remainder of our funds we’re going to get plates for next semester. We’re going to be booking the Cat’s Eye for next semester. Home for the Holidays was an atomic slay. There were no issues with any of the student groups. The budgeting plan worked really well, and we recommend the same amount of budgeting for next year, should they do the same plan. We had 275 participants, and the passports were really engaging. The party favors were good incentive as well. A piece of feedback we got was to have better signage of booths, and to put maps around the event space. If you have any other feedback just let us know. For the rest of the events, we have Jeopardy Night Tuesday, December 6th, and an end-of-year giveaway. Emilie and I are so lucky to have a great exec team.

*Equity: Diana & Cam (3 minutes)*

Diana: We’re working with Dhir and Amanda on the giveaway and we’re so excited about that. We’ve restocked the menstrual products and we have plenty, hopefully enough for next year and we’ll budget for more. For next semester, our team wants to orient away from events and more towards advocacy, because our events didnt go the way we wanted them to this semester.

Cameron: Everything happened as planned, and we gave all the tickets away. Starting from Monday is our online Gender Affirming Giveaway, and it will be available from 2023 for those to order it to VicPride.

Diana: For the gender affirming gear giveaway, whatever gets ordered by the last possible day and we will be budgeting for gear for next semester.

*Scarlet & Gold: Ninon (5 minutes)*

Ninon: Not a lot has been happening, but we’re planning big events for next semester, Semi and High Ball. Semi is January 20, and High Ball might be on March 17. We’ve gotten pretty good responses from venues. Planning has been going pretty slow because it’s so early. The form for shift signup for semi-formal will be available via email and chat. If you want to attend as a student that’s alright, but if you attend as staff you can’t drink. I’ll be sending out that form, and hopefully get the shifts sorted by the end of the semester.

*Sustainability: Amy & Rebecca (3 minutes)*

Amy: We've had a pretty good term. A lot of our events have been winding down with exams, and we’ll be doing an end-of-year gathering, because we havent used up all of our budget lines. We’re gonna do one of our events in January so that it’s more appropriate because of exams.

Rebecca: We have our Seed Library in the VUSAC Office. It’ll be moved to the front for accessibility. We’re also working on our Sustainability Policy review. We’re going to go over what we heard from Caucus and start reaching out to admin, and see how we can help out and make sure that gets done.

Amy: Vic Divesting is a big thing we’re working on more. We’re going to organize the strike, and partner with more next term. And we’ll also have Vic Divest stickers coming soon.

Tariq: With the blog, I have a few submissions but we definitely need more, hopefully it’ll start next semester as things are getting going.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

*VPE: Shane Joy (3 minutes)*

Shane: Caucus is done, Memorial is on Dec 6th Tues from 1:30-3:00. We will have speeches from staff and students, and I’ll be doing the Land Acknowledgement. We have speeches from Soo, Maarib, Diana, and Caitriona. It’s in the atrium. Regarding the Robert Reisz statement I’m glad we got that out. I think the intention behind the statement was that we don’t want to talk about our action, we want to endorse what PEARS is advocating for. Students don’t want to read multiple pages that we put out, so we endorse. Regarding the Statement on Iran, it’s been complicated with time constraints. I'm really thankful that Tariq and Zoe have been helping me out with this. I met with Yvette this week and we spoke about the ways Vic could be helping Iranian students. Although it was a productive conversation, there was nothing Vic could do even with extending deadlines, because applying to Vic is controlled by the Faculty of Arts and Science. We’ll see with the ASSU if there’s a capacity to change the deadlines on that. The good outcome was that there is a process for appeals and they accept almost all of the appeals.

*VPI: Jackson Leslie*

Jackson: Checkins are done, and the next ones will happen in January, so keep an eye out. Merch has been sent in, I’m just waiting back to see what the deadline will be. I'm hoping within the next week or two. Dates have been decided for next semester, I’ll send out an email to everoyne with the emails for that. Office Hours stop next week Thursday, and I know Thursday is make-up class, so please let us know if you can’t make it. The last day for reimbursements is coming up, so please get those in. The only exception is if it’s an event, but for the Gender Reaffirming Gear you might need an extra week or so. Printing is closed until Monday, someone will be coming in on Monday to fix that. It’s been great working with you all. Take the time to rest and I’ll see you all soon. Have great exam periods!

*VPSO: Michael*

Michael: So beyond solving internal issues, I’ve also finished my Fall Checkins, and I’m excited to get those started again next term. Also two of our levies, Cat’s Eye and Caffiends, are in the process of getting for new co-managers. I want to give a shoutout to Daisy and Madeline, who are the respective co-managers of Cat’s Eye and Caffiends, who’ve done such a great job. We’ll have a new co-manager step in, and it’s always great to have new blood step into Vic leadership. I also wanted to give a big shoutout to Charlie for organizing the international student event last night, there was an overwhelming amount of participation. I know there’s such a large amount of demand for events for international students, so I’m really happy about that. On that note, we have continued to have conversations as exec on directions for VISA, and we’re hoping to try and revive VISA as a levy. So I’m gonn work though that, so that we have more events for international students and it’s not all on Charlie. I also had another meeting with Steven from the Dean’s Office regarding another levy that currently doesn’t have a student head, and that’s WUSC. It’s a levy that exists to help sponsor a refugee student to come to Vic. A student has been sponsored this year, it’s been taken on entirely by the Dean’s Office. We’ve been having conversations about how to get student development in that and the current plan is to hopefully get a student levy head. I wanna give another shoutout to VOCA for Home for the Holidays. I’ve also been working on updating the new Club and Levy Handbook which I’ll be working on over the Winter break and include how VUSAC works, how to interact with admin, policies since COVID, etc. It’s been a great semester I’ve loved working with you guys and I’m very excited about the following year moving forward.

*President*

Sooyeon: Earlier this week, Shane, Zoe and I had a meeting with St. George Roundtable, and what that is is a meeting group with all the student heads such as Trinity, New, Engineering, etc. We met with Sandy Welsh, who is part of the Office of The Vice Provost. She’s like the Kelley of UofT. We brought up student mental health, and we found that UofT is focused on opening up access and speeding up the waitlist, and it’s now changed to same-day appointments if students want that. There may be some longer waitlists for higher acuity services, such as psychiatrists, which can be an issue for students who want diagnoses. UofT does have partnerships with hospitals, like CAMH and Trillium and Scarborough Health Network. UofT now has a navigator which is able to help students get connected with community resources and with UofT. It’s great that they’re doing it with CAMH but needs to be more widespread throughout all other Ontario hospitals and health care facilities. We need a non-policing approach in response to mental health. Sandy Welsh said they’re always looking for ways to improve but that’s really a non-answer. So UMLAP is the University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy, and this allows the university to place students on a non-punitive, but mandatory, leave of absence from U of T if their mental health either poses a risk of harm to themselves or others, or if it negatively impacts their studies. This is heavily opposed by students. Every year, about 4 out of 90K students are placed on leave, so far 11 students have been placed on leave in total. In these cases, it’s due to behaviours that relate to community safety, not mental illness. The OVPS is placing in revisions that will stand the test of time not limited to one decision-maker - taking out language related to harm to self, but keeping in language that relates to harm to others. But the Ontario human rights commission raised concerns that this UMLAP is discriminatory on the basis of ability. So even if a handful people are going to be tangibly affected by UMLAP, the fear of getting put on mandatory leave is still there and could prevent people from accessing help. Sandy Welsh said that the policy is for students whose behavior is concerning, but that’s not clearly communicated because I thought it was for mental illness. Changes to the UMLAP are going to be discussed at Governing Council and different boards in January, and all students can come to these board meetings and speak, so I would strongly encourage you all to come. Regarding Robert Reisz, we asked if UofT was planning to respond to the open letter? Micah, the PEARS founder, spoke at the OVPS brokers board. They acknowledge they need to do better in terms of transparency and making it clear to the community how these things are being handled. There were corrective actions that were taken that is not able to be shared. There was an external fact-finding investigation about poor supervisory practices as well. But I don’t think we need to wait for students to be in crisis to address issues, and we want to highlight the call for his termination as someone who is causing harm. We also encouraged the Vic admin to do the same to uphold values of having safe classroom spaces, not something we’re absent from, ex. David Gilmour. We met with Ray de Souza who’s the bursar at Vic on the BoR. BoR does a space audit every three years and they hire a space analyst, and I spoke about the importance of accessibility in buildings like braille, adjustable light switches on a gradient, ramps, more functional elevators in existing buildings, elevators in upper and lower burwash and guesthouses, and we also want silent study pods. There are accessibility suites are in RJ but we need more, every single residence building should be accessible. And how the allocation works is that the accessibility suites are allocated by the DO but these should be distributed equitably on a needs-basis. It should go to other non-vic students who need these suites instead of vic students who don’t need these suites. Ray is asking me to bring forth specific accessibility requests that he wants to highlight to the space analyst, and will also highlight these requests at Board of Regents meetings. Please let me know any and all suggestions you have for building accessibility across Vic. It’s been a super great semester and I love that we’ve been having in person meetings, thank you all for your hard work and dedication, it’s been amazing working with all of you, and best of luck with exams, have a well-deserved restful winter break and i’ll see you all in the new year!

*Motion: Shane Joy motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Elsaesser*

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

*Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.*