**VUSAC Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday June 2nd 2015 at 6PM in the Goldring Student Center

MINUTES

**In Attendance**

\*\*To be edited\*\*

**VUSAC**

**Judiciary**

**Assessor Members**

**Commissioners & Councilors**

COUNCILORS N/A

**LEVIES**

**GUESTS**

**Not In Attendance**

**OFFICIAL REGRETS**

N/A

**ABSENT**

N/A

* Call to order – September 18th, 5:50pm

Gabriel moves to approve agenda. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes.

**Introduction and Welcome to Caucus (VPE)**

* Thank you all for coming, and for being patient as we’re starting a bit late. Good evening everyone, my name is Alex. I am the Vice President External, and the chair of this caucus. This meeting is actually important. It is not meant to be entirely about student politics, or VUSAC, rather it is about us working together and making things the best they can be. For that to happen, we need your participation, you guys asking questions and such. Let’s all work together to make sure Vic remains the best college at U of T. Caucus is the best opportunity for VCU members to come together and identify pressing issues that we need to address. Every member of the VCU has the right to speak, vote and make motions. This is an experiment in direct democracy. I really look forward to hearing from many of you. Have some fun, this is gonna be great. I’m gonna ask you to speak into one of the microphones. State your name, and speak clearly. I welcome and encourage your contributions, please direct them to the chair.

**Dean of Students**

* Bergita: Welcome everyone on behalf of the Dean’s Office. It’s nice to have a lot of first years here. My name is Bergita and I am the Campus Life Coordinator. The first announcement is that the dean’s office is here for you in terms of your needs. We have student leader day coming up, training for all Vic leaders, or really any student who is interested. Please go to our site to register, it’s happening Saturday the \*. Another announcement is that Ideas for the World, registration is still open. Next, on October 2nd there will be the Almost There Conference, for third year students, to prepare you for time coming up to graduation and such. The other piece is Minding our Minds, a mental health conference. If you’re interested in helping out with that please let us know, it’s happening on October 29th. We have onsite counsellors starting next week here at Vic. If you have any questions please ask. The Marg Ad field is there for you to use. You can sign it out now, and you can book it in advance. Please make use of it!
* Gabriel: I understand that there is also a school that uses it.
* Bergita: Yes, students can also co-use that space, but it’s all ours after 4pm.
* Brennan: What equipment can we loan out?
* Bergita: They will turn on the lights for you. There currently isn't any other equip
* VCAA: Buying equipment this weekend, soccer balls and such.
* Bergita: Best of luck with this school year!

**Co – Presidents of VUSAC**

Summer Report

* Benjamin: Hi everyone, we’re going to give you all a brief summer report. We were working in the office as office managers.
* Gabriel: In terms of the type of work we’ve done, we’re first going to talk about internal aspects. Internally, we have created a policy document of best practices, and made an office operating guide. We have started to publish committee attendance making people be accountable to their jobs. Thanks to Alex, and Claire, we now have an equity preamble, enshrining VUSAC as a safe space. Alex helped with passing roughly 35 pages of constitutional amendments, cosmetic changes, grammar, all that stuff. We have entrenched staff meetings for council, and created a master calendar.
* Benjamin: We have worked with the UTSU to do franchising tickets and are able to sell tickets at a discounted rate. We have worked with Caffiends and The Dean’s Office, etc., to allow for Caffiends to stay where they are for three years. The focus groups were run this summer, on sexual violence and mental health. We looked at the support systems, looked for better protocols and programming. Kelly Castle sat in on meetings with us. We are writing formal reports and those should come out soon. We have already had an impact with Ask Listen Talk, stemming from our focus groups. We are considering extending the groups into the year as well.
* Gabriel: We have met with President Robins, to acclimate him with our goals. We did the same with the principal, and dean. We are getting acquainted with the administration to let them know what we’re doing. Cat’s Eye concerts are something else that we’re doing. If you’re coming that’s fantastic. There will be a different genre every month. It’s a really good social event to have. We have also gathered access to the entire VCU for a listserv, that we are setting up right now with Alice.
* Benjamin: I have been working with Alex on creating a white paper to create an advisory system for first year students who are not in Vic One. With regards to frosh, we wanted to make ourselves known to students. We are really trying to reach out to new Victorians. Creating new VUSAC handbooks was a part of this. We have seen an increase in turnout, and interest since starting too. Gabriel and I have also been working to keep viable representation for colleges in the UTSU. We also have a new website, and that has come from council but especially Alice our communications coordinator.
* Gabriel: A lot of people criticize VUASC for not taking stances on student activism. Ben and I tried to rectify that through the Student Activism fund. It is a fund set aside to allow for social justice causes to be facilitated. To invite speakers, to organize a rally, all those things. That fund is for those purposes. An application form will be out at the end of the month that council will look at to see at the amount requested and the venture itself. It is approving the funding so that you are able to participate. Beyond that, back to the internal, we created a student lounge, got new tables and chairs, for students beyond the VUSAC to be in. We also have a lounge with a mural, and we are getting computers for the lounge. We have a new printer contract that saves us 25 000 dollars over five years. We’ve got new iPads. The money that we are saving with the printer is taken out from office expenses and going into clubs and events, which is really exciting and important. We did a VUSAC summer retreat, to orient new council members and so that they could better understand the climate of the council.
* Benjamin: We are going to have a new boardroom that will be ready on Monday. We are having a smaller office budget and a larger clubs budget. Thanks to Shannon for that. One of our goals has been to have more events in the community, the pub night last night was a huge success, thank you, Stuart. Finally, we are also organizing a fall semi formal.
* Gabriel: Any questions?
* Priya: Can we add content to the newsletter?
* Gabriel: Yes you can give content to the moderator and have it sent out.
* Priya: Is there a deadline?
* Gabriel: We would let you know.
* Auni: Generally the listserv has been too long, will there be a moderating system?
* Benjamin: We will working on that.
* Liam: What is the progress of the master calendar?
* Gabriel: The onus is really on clubs and levies to get those things together.
* Liam: It’s already a thing?
* Benjamin: Yeah, we have an embedded calendar on our site for VUSAC members.
* Sarah: The commuter dons are going to be working on a complete Vic master calendar.
* Kareem: On the site, there is no description for the clubs and levies.
* Alice: There is still a lot of stuff on the website to be updated. We just wanted to get a beta version out for frosh week.

Goals/Plans

* Gabriel: We want the year to become a product of what we are able to do, but what you are able to do as well. To get yourself out there as club and levy heads. We want to take that strong foundation of the summer and allow for thriving. We finished our summer budget, it’s approved, we want our year budget to run just as smoothly, funding as much as possible with a balanced budget.
* Auni: People can start a club through VUSAC, but it’s not a very accessible process. So I ask that that be more clear.
* Benjamin: Absolutely, I think that will go alongside the website and all that.
* Lucinda: We do have a clubs handbook about all of that. I am working on that right now, and it is becoming available very shortly.
* Benjamin: We really want to make VUSAC a more relevant and active organization for the student body. With events, services, small initiative that make student life better. Finally, we want VUSAC to be as transparent and accessible as possible to students. Caucus is a really good example of that. Please come find us, and to the office.

Question Period

* Liam: You mentioned the focus groups, and that they had an impact on the Ask listen talk, and that something else will be coming out of it as well, what is that?
* Benjamin: We gave Kelly Castle recommendations on these things and then started to form a report, asking what was missing, people’s experiences. That is all being compiled into two reports, to be released soon. Those are examples of the impact. Our recommendations had an impact in advertising what resources there actually are on campus. A big part of helping the climate is showing them where to go.

**Communications Coordinator**

New Website & Communication Info.

* Alice: A big initiative was the website. This was the old website, which I spent a lot of time looking at. It was very cluttered, with lots of tabs, and photos that don't load. This is the new website! My goal has been to make it as easily accessible, interactive and pretty as possible. There are a small number of tabs. I’ve gotten rid of unnecessary pages and combined others. Things are very clear. I am improving the usability. We have come a really, really long way with the website. Another part of my role has been getting people to interact in social media, trying to get people to know about events and such. I’ve been trying to use good design in people’s events, such as pub night posters. This makes a big difference. On social media, when I started, the FB page had 730 likes, it is now at 950. I’m really trying to get us to 1000, trying to get us as involved as other student unions. My future goals include the listserv, that will be pretty and also moderated. We gained access to a large number of VCU emails. Things are still being added and updated to the VUSAC website. You can also email me communications@vusac.ca.
* Thomas: I have concerns about the landing page. I find that it is not very accessible. I don't really see it’s purpose.
* Alice: The purpose was just as a welcome for the new website for the new design.
* William: For the commission sites, will they be a similar design?
* Alice: They are managed by the commissioners themselves but they will have the same design and feel.
* Auni: Can clubs and levies have you make posters too?
* Alice: Yeah, it’s all under the communications request form. It just depends on how heavy the flow of posters is.

**Finance**

Year Budgets and Budget Steering Policy

* Shannon: Clubs and levies, this is your final reminder: your budget request forms are due on Sunday. I am mainly here to talk about my projects from the summer. It is the finance chair’s job to present these guidelines to be ratified by the VUSAC or the VCU. This was sent out, hopefully you took a look through it. The introduction talks about where we get our money from. Then we have our exclusions, with alcohol, drugs, and all that. The third is the budgeting process, what the steering committee should look for. There are no hard limits, making things much more flexible. This tries to evaluate the most important parts of clubs, including: students at events, how it’s run, where it’s run, similar already existing programming, and the club’s past spending. The fourth section is alternative funding sources at Vic and at the University in general. It has all the information on them. Then five, rights throughout the budgeting process. This is the ability of the clubs and levies to engage in conversation with me and budget steering. You can ask for the money that you need or want, so use those rights.
* Steven: What does passing this entail?
* Shannon: That we would operate with this policy.
* Anju: Would this be on the website?
* Shannon: Yes.

Shannon moves to approve the budget policy for the 2015-2016 year. Emily seconds. Motion passes, three abstentions.

Student Projects

* Enxhi: I am the student project’s levy head this year. Student projects is basically a large sum of money that you guys pay into. It is around 30 000 dollars. Students can apply to this to receive money for any funding for their projects. This website talks about what the fund is. If you want to have a better and longer description this has that, or if you ever need to figure out exactly what the levy has. There is the how to apply button, with step by step instructions, and the terms of what the project can be are up there. The application is a bit shorter than it used to be. It is very straight forward. You need an endorsement for each project. You come into an interview and then hear from us. I am still looking for a club and a levy representative. There is also a link to past projects. Another thing happening is that student projects items are going to be branded with all items that we fund. This is to make students aware of what we’re funding. The money is here for you, please use it.
* Brennen: Was the project for the new VUSAC tables and chairs approved?
* Enxhi: Yes.

BREAK

**President of Victoria University**

* William Robins: Thanks to Gabe and Ben, and also Alex and Golda, for asking me to come. It is fascinating to hear what VUSAC is up to this year. This afternoon I had a meeting with a few VPs and the Vice Provost of U of T. I was saying how wonderful it was to work with the students. One of them said “there’s something magic in the water over there”. I just want to reinforce my own commitment to the goals that Ben and Gabe laid out. These are big conversations happening right now. In late October I’ll be going to Ottawa to meet with other presidents to look at sexual misconduct, and mental health. I’ll also be looking at how universities might respond to the Truth and Reconciliation report. That will be another big social issue coming. What you all do is really foster student engagement. I really want to applaud VUSAC for trying to engage Vic students. Another initiative was the possibility of an undergraduate research conference. I want to enhance activities that allow students to be creators in their own education. I just want to say thanks for having me, letting me see what you’re up to. We have a very close relationship between the administration and the student government, so let’s keep that going. It’s great to be here.

DISCUSSION QUESTION #1:

**What do we see as the future of college representation in the UTSU?**

* Alex: The current structure of the board, is their executive, the division one that we fall under with 18 seats. We have two directors, Steve and Auni. Ryan, the VPI and services is here. We have 13 for professional faculties. And 7 for UTM. Last year there was a change with \*\*. There was a proposal that . This year’s AGM is on October 4th. There are still two proposals now, B and E. Proposal B maintains the current number of St George directors, and UTM representation. The equity commissions are listed, they would be headed by an equity director. I think that it is cool that elections would be run through each student society. There is only one class of membership. In proposal E the exec is the same, there would be only one seat for each college and professional faculty, and UTM would have 8 seats. They would implement equity directors that are specific to an issue. \*To be edited.\*
* Thomas: I noticed the UTSC isn't there.
* Benjamin: The UTSC isn't a part of the UTSU.
* Cricket: Can I have representation as someone of two minorities?
* Auni: When we say that that means that we have people for each issue. You reach out to a specific director.
* Emily: Can you speak to the differences on the two proposals for college representation?
* Steven: The current board features 18 college directors, division two has 13, UTM has 7. Proposal B would maintain those numbers, while adding 6 equity directors. Prop E limits division one and two to one per constituency, except UTM would have 8, plus special interest directors. Prop B has significantly more college/professional faculty direct representation.
* Watson: If UTM has there own student union, why does UTM still participate?
* Ryan: That’s a great question. Most people will say that they wish they knew as well. The broadest reason is because the SCSU, Scarborough, they had a referendum and left. UTM had a referendum to stay but instead they have their own union as well. They are part of two different unions at the same time.
* Andrew: If UTM is represented by two unions, why is it fair that they would have the same number constituencies?
* Benjamin: That is a good question. We will be discussing that in the discussion period.
* Steven: Currently, in the UTSU bylaws there are thresholds of how many representative are given. Proposal E would reduce that greatly, capping everything at one. Proposal B would not do that.
* Michelle: In regards to proposal E. I think having two general directors eliminates having \*\*. It could also become arbitrary if we have so many directors and we have to select one. Having that many directors put students in a position where they can be judged for what they are putting forward.
* Auni: We are not speaking for either proposal, but I will speak from my perspective. If I have an issue as a disabled student you can go to someone who is directly responsible for that. Everybody in the the room is able to vote at the UTSU at the AGM so I strongly encourage you to come to the meeting.
* Sarah: Where is the AGM?
* Steven: OISE.
* Brennan: If a board proposal doesn't pass, will the union dissolve?
* Ryan: I know the previous exec were saying that the union would dissolve, but that’s not the case. Basically, to comply with the new law we have to transition to a new board structure. Technically, the CNCA has never dissolved a corporation. If we don't pass anything, that doesn't mean we will dissolve. People should vote based on what they think, not in fear.
* Thomas: What was that law?
* Alex: The CNCA.
* Watson: If we greatly prefer one proposal, what can we do to raise awareness?
* Benjamin: Caucus is great because it allows members of the VCU to vote in favour of one of these proposals. If this were to be endorsed, VUSAC would consider it binding and VUSAC would do everything to publicize this.
* Aleks N.: How are these changes in representing minorities making this into a not for profit?
* Steven: There are two laws for this, the UTSU isn't actually changing to be a not for profit, it’s just different laws.
* Lavi: So is VUSAC endorsing any of these?
* Alex: Not at this point.
* Gabriel: In our last meeting we attempted to get an endorsement but there were some last minute things that prevented us from doing that. We couldn't reasonably ask council to make that decision. We are waiting for confirmed proposals, which will be out on Sunday.
* Sajan: Where can I read these proposals?
* Ryan: They are all on our website, look under the agenda.
* Emily: You can also email me at chair@vusac.ca
* Carl: So in the two proposals in Proposal B they were called equity and in E called what?
* Auni: I just wanted to make a procedural note, we should call B the Zhuk proposal and E the Slobodan proposal. The main difference is that the first one has general equity directors and committees underneath them. There will be specific committees. The other proposal is more rigid.

Gabriel moves to extend discussion time by 10 minutes. Steven seconds. Motion passes with 13 opposed and 10 abstaining.

* George: There are four different groups in proposal E, it makes colleges the weakest, shrinking representation. I feel that proposal E was very hastily made. Proposal B is very comprehensive.
* Watson: Regarding proxying, last year the board proposal didn't pass by a tiny amount. This year they are changing the proxying method, could you elaborate on that.
* Ryan: There were a lot of big changes to the proxying system. No longer can you collect proxies from other people, you must actively give your vote away. In the past people would go out to try to get people to get their forms signed. We have now put the proxying form online, and they must sign that and bring it to the UTSU office.
* Thomas: Are we allowed to make a decision about backing one or the other. Do we want to do that now?
* Alex: Endorsing means that this will bind the VUSAC to inform as many people as possible about the different proposals.
* Steven: So I will speak in favour of this. A bunch of us got together and consulted with lots of people. A lot of consultation with various parts wants. There was a lot of effort put into it. I will speak very highly in favour of it. I really urge you all to support this.
* Carl: We have heard a lot in the favour of proposal B, can we hear from E?
* Emily: The person who put forward proposal E was invited to our Monday meeting, and she was not \*\*\*.
* Benjamin: Proposal E, it depends on what you view as important. Last year, quite a few equity groups looked at it favourably. Gabe and I worked on B. Last year’s proposal had a lot of criticism in terms of intersectionality. Proposal B has general equity directors.
* Gabriel: I will speak to E, it has good intentions. It tries to get equity representation on the highest body possible. The problem is that when you grant these marginalized groups these votes against each other, they are pitted against each other. College representation is solidified on college spirit, etc. Proposal B has the best of both worlds, with equity and colleges.
* Ryan: I didn't work on either proposals. But I would like to speak to B.The first big one is college representation. It is important to have strong college representation. When you don't give proportional representation, it doesn't make sense. The second avenue is that in terms of equity directors, plan B addresses intersectionality. It is important to have people trying to represent as many marginalized groups as possible. I would highly recommend that this body endorse plan B.

Watson moves to extend discussion time by 4 minutes. Andrew seconds. Motion passes, 7 opposed, 4 abstaining.

* Sajan: Is it fair to have this vote without proposal E representation here?
* Gabriel: We invited someone to represent this multiple times without success.
* Emily: They were also offered the opportunity to send us something in writing and did not.
* Zoe: Have any other colleges endorsed?
* Gabriel: Innis has, for plan B.
* Auni: None of us that are speaking in favour of plan B came here to discuss that just so you know, we are here to talk about other things that we are a part of.

Rahul moves to call the question, Kareem seconds, Motion passes, with one abstention.

Thomas Zheng moves for VCU to endorse proposal B. George seconds. 54 in favour, Steven, Ben, Gabriel, and 13 more abstain.

**Chief Returning Officer**

Elections

* Saambavi: VUSAC fall elections are coming up soon. It is a great way to get involved with student government here. If you have any questions please come talk to me or send me an email at cro@vusac.ca. I hold regular office hours too. Nomination packages are due on the 21st, same day as the all candidates meeting.

**Commuter Dons**

* Sarah: The commuter dons were interested in creating a master calendar of all Vic events, along with ones that are U of T wide, and some Toronto events. There will be two versions of this calendar. One physical, another will be a google Cal. We are going to hopefully to that. If you could email the commuter don email with your event that is how your event will be on the calendar. Email us at [vic.commuter.don@utoronto.ca](mailto:vic.commuter.don@utoronto.ca). There is going to be a lot of youth friendly things on the new Victoria College media sites. The Instagram and Twitter are @viccollegelife. They’re going to have postcards with those links soon.

Alex moves to move the discussion question #2 to now, to have a brief break immediately after, and to move the clubs section to before the discussion question. Lucinda seconds. Motion passes, with 7 abstentions.

* **Vic For A Cure**
* Elaine: We are an event based club trying to create a support system for cancer initiatives. We are hoping to have a good impact on victims and those around them. [vicforacure@gmail.com](mailto:vicforacure@gmail.com)
* **Vic Chorus:**
* Emily: We wanted to tell you about how you can book us for your events. If you want a choir for your event email us at [vicchorusvc@gmail.com](mailto:vicchorusvc@gmail.com) and we will almost definitely do it. We wont ask for any payment
* Jennifer: We are accepting new members until the end of September. We are always looking for tenor, baritone and basses.

Alex moves to amalgamate questions 2 and 3. Kareem seconds. Motion passes, with 2 abstaining.

* **Discussion Questions 2 and 3**
* Lucinda: We have a very vibrant extracurricular community. But we don't reach as many people as we would like to. Please put forward any ideas on this.
* Liam: What happened to that Sid Smith board?
* Alice: So with the addition of the website I decided to focus on that, rather than working on that board. I don’t see it as a major priority right now, but we do still have it.
* Kareem: I think some of the letters fell off of Victoria, could that be fixed?
* Lucinda: Yes! Does anybody here ever felt that there needs were not being met here at vic, extracurricular or programming?
* Thomas: In regards to programming, I think it’s incorrect to think that we can do everything at Vic, UTSU does have programming that we all have access to.
* Benjamin: On that subject, could you speak to complaints of the Cat’s Eye’s booking policy?
* Thomas: We are looking into the policy and we are going to seek to revise it, to see if anything can be done to include other groups.
* Auni: I would like to note that we should have more cross campus collaboration. I really encourage that.

Auni moves to move the campus bulletin update to the next item, Steven seconds. Motion passes, with one opposed, 5 abstaining.

* Lucinda: Now, is there anything missing at Victoria College? I would especially like to hear from first years.
* Cricket: I know my friends and I were talking about increased bike parking on campus, I would like to reach out for that. To make Vic more bike friendly.
* Watson: After the Pan Am games, UTSC got a new athletic facility, and they get access to that facility without fees. Would there be a way for that to be available to us?
* Lucinda: You should send your concerns like this to your UTSU directors, they are readily available for that.
* Aidan: I would like to add my voice to the bike issue, this would really help Vic students.
* Benjamin: VUSAC does fund betty and dash, a bike co-op. There goal is to rent out bikes for a very small fee to Vic students. They are a very cost effective way of getting around. It is a deposit.
* **Campus bulletin**
* Auni: So I brought Jonathan here today. He has been developing a new campus bulletin that he is going to demonstrate for you guys for the first time. It is for every single group that wants to have an event up here.
* Jonathan: The campus bulletin was one of the campaign points for the current UTSU. The idea of this is to aggregate across campus events. It takes zero effort to get your event on here. Whenever you create an event on Facebook it will be on here automatically. We plan to eventually have a mobile app too.
* Claire: How is priority for large and small bulletins up here?
* Jonathan: Things considered are how many people are going to your event, things like that. We aim to also show a wide diversity.
* William: Is there any way that this becomes more organized?
* Jonathan: There are a lot of factors in that. The idea was for it to not be completely organized, like a real bulletin board.
* Bergita: Is it only U of T or is it the larger community?
* Jonathan: Hypothetically any event can.
* Auni: If you are a club and interested you should contact Lucinda or me or Steven. It should be released by the end of September. This will also eventually be tag-able.
* Alex: I think I will suggest that commissioners go to the club and levy heads and for students unaffiliated then we can all keep talking if you’d like.

Brennan moves to adjourn. Lavi seconds. Motion passes, with one opposed, one abstaining.