



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
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VUSAC MEETING MINUTES

January 18th, at 5:52 PM in the Goldring Student Center
MINUTES

In Attendance

Judiciary

PRESIDENT: Jayde Jones
VPI: Nickolas Shyshkin
VPE: Devon Wilton
VPSO: Zoe Ritchie

Assessor Members

CHAIR: Alexa Breininger
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Molly Simpson
OFFICE MANAGER: Emma Lailey
COMMUNICATIONS: Rehan Vishwanath

Commissioners and Councillors

SUSTAINABILITY: Jared Connoy
COMMUTER: Emilia De Fabritiis
ARTS AND CULTURE: Carleigh Campbell
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Cameron Davies
EQUITY: Georgia Lin
MENTAL WELLNESS COMMISSIONER: Ali Kehl
SCARLET AND GOLD: Alexa Ballis

Co-Chairs

COMMUTER CO-CHAIR: Tabina Ahmed
EQUITY CO-CHAIR: Vibhuti Kacholia
SUSTAINABILITY CO-CHAIR: Victoria Silva

Councillors

James Cassady
Jenny Zhang
Gabrielle daSilva
Genevieve Crispin-Frei

Angela Medina
Katie Marsland

Guests

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR: Christina Alcena
UTSU DIRECTOR: Haleema Khan
UTSU DIRECTOR: Usman Sadiq
REPRESENT CHAIR: Jonah Toth
HOTAKE/CE TECH/VICXPOSURE: Kevin Yue
SENATE: Thomas Siddall

Regrets

COUNCILLOR: Jai Kakkar
FINANCE: Tiger Fu

Land Recognition: Jared (1 minute)

Disclaimer: that my brain feels like pudding, but I will articulate this as smoothly as possible. I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto and Victoria College operate on. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years [continued...]

Additions to the Agenda (maximum 3 minutes per addition)

- Jayde to add (5 minutes) for a pressing Executive Committee Update
- Jayde to add (3 minutes) to approval Student Projects motion; that Nick will put on the screen when the time comes because this is an action item it would require council consent. In will read the wording : “Motion that Hotake Theatre be granted \$5,175 from Student Projects to rent the technical equipment listed in their application and to purchase a block of 120 tickets to be distributed to VCU members for free, through a method developed to the approval of the VUSAC executive.” This is coming and recommended from Student Projects executive as we are unable to give the Hotake Theatre \$5,175 because it is for the salary of a service.

Alexa: I also just want to say that usually we can't add something like this to the agenda last minute. However, due to timing issues and the fact that there was a health issue with someone on Student Projects and there were just many balls in the air at the time that it didn't make it to the Friday meeting in time but for this is actually happen Hotake does need this to happen by tomorrow.

Jayde: I'm happy to extend time on discussion and Nick will pull up the application so that we can look at it. I would love to see it on the agenda.

- Carleigh to add (three minutes) for Arts and Culture Update
- Alexa to add (three minutes) for Scarlet and Gold Update
- Thomas to add (three minutes) for Senate Update
- Thomas to add (three minutes) for Phase Shift Update
- Cameron to add (3 minutes) Action Item motion in to ratify James Mangaliman as 2019 Grand Banquet Chair

Jayde: The addition of Action Items need to be voted on, so that would include the Grad Banquet Chair and the Student Projects motion.

Motion: Katie moves to add the ratification of the Grad Banquet Chair and the Student Projects application into one motion on the the agenda (3 minutes). Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: Jared
- Opposed: None

Devon: Question of clarification: Are all the new items now at the end of the agenda?

Alexa: The Executive Update is a Pressing Issue, so it will be the very first thing we discuss.

Action items will go into the Action Item section. And all the remaining updates will be in the Addition section of the agenda, at the end.

Devon: Thank you.

Motion: Georgia moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Carleigh seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Pressing Items:

- Jayde - Executive Update (3 minutes)

[Summary] I'd like to start my motioning to increase time. We have three minutes I would like to add five minutes for a total of eight minutes of discussion time.

Motion: Jayde moves to add (5 minutes) discussion time to pressing "Executive Update." Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[Jayde continued:] So this is an announcement (for the most part) and a request (in part). Many of us have heard about recent news coming from the provincial government about changes to OSAP, as well as to student fees, and in particular as a student group, to accelerate fees. I know that these have been concerning for people and that there is a bunch of different information floating around and as this is a certainly pressing issue the executive has had the opportunity to chat and we wanted to let you know that we have called an emergency meeting and that meeting will be called next Friday, at the normal meeting time and it will explicitly for the purpose of addressing this issue. That is the notice part thing. Congrats! You have one more meeting. The request, is that in light of this and in particular in recognition of that fact that we do have this very scary news, that we also don't have a lot of information about direct ways that it will be implicated and a lot of those things do affect our organizing strategy and around it as well as what VUSAC is realistically able to do and what we can expect which is why we've built a timeline of hosting this emergency meeting which will put us in a better place to host a discussion of what we can actually do and what information we actually have. So that being the request we (as much as possible) ask that this item is left off of today's packed agenda (not to say we will not be talking about it) but we will have an entire meeting dedicated to it and we will keep people very well informed in the meantime. If you have any questions we want to be answering and engaging with those and while that means that VUSAC does not have an official organizational position because we are not discussing it this meeting, we did as an Executive ask the discussion to go on as a co-organizer of the rally today so you are very welcome to organize in whatever way suits your personal morals and we are not ignoring this but as of now it doesn

not make sense in this meeting to address this issue. Again, we have called an emergency meeting and we request that we not eat up this meeting with talking about it.

Zoe: One thing we also talked about as an Executive, is that Education policy is very complicated. You are not elected here to get up to speed quickly. We just wanted to offer -- I especially worked in the Ministry of Advanced Education -- so I know my way all around this. If anyone wants to get coffee and chat a bit about what the policy looked like before versus what it looks like now if you think it will help you understand it better, please reach out to us, because we have quickly got ourselves up to speed. If you would like to speak one-on-one before the Emergency meeting, in particular about what our response is going to be and what the policy looks like, we are happy to reach out and have those conversations. It can be a lot of pressure when members of the VCU come up to you and say "explain this to me." I know that even for myself (who is confident in the material) that it is a lot to taken on. So if you want support we are here for you. If this isn't your area of interest, feel free to direct questions to the Executive or to stop by the office. The pressure is off. That being said, it is an important issue and we will be talking about it in order to decide what our response will be.

Georgia: What is the meeting time?

Jayde: Friday January 25th at 5pm.

Georgia: To an unspecified time?

Jayde: You'll get an email as you would for another meeting. Estimated about three hours, but it will last as long as it needs to.

Georgia: I've gotten some requests to know whether or not we are releasing a statement?

Jayde: There are always a few options with statements, the Executive has not passed an Executive Statement yet (which is when we all sit down together and determine there is something we all individually support). We will not release a statement on behalf of VUSAC until we've all had the chance to vote. Depending on timelines, there could be an Executive Statement or a VUSAC Council Statement and we do have the option of addressing a Council Statement at our meeting next Friday or at any meeting, as well as an email vote in the future. You can expect a response from VUSAC, but trying to assemble something together in this meeting did not seem appropriate.

Devon: Adding on to that, this is the perfect time to remind people that if you receive any media requests for comment or for your take that you are free to give to response and give your take on it as an individual, but not as a member of VUSAC. If someone asks for a quote please ask that you be quoted as a individual—especially at such time until we've discussed our stance as a council—and not a member of VUSAC.

Jayde: We love you and it's going to be okay.

EX-OFFICIO UPDATES

- Dean's Office Update - Christina (3 minutes)

[Summary] Thank you everyone for having me back for another semester. We have hired our Orientation Co-Chair, Cynthia Wong. We do have a motion to ratify that afterwards. We are also hiring for Execs as well as Leaders for Orientation. All of that information is available in the email I sent out this morning. Please approach me if you do have questions though or feel free to approach our Co-Chair, Cynthia. The transition mentor applications will be available at the beginning of February and due the beginning of March. Ideas for the World programming has started, including Theatre for Thought and Cultural Concepts. Information is provided in the meeting package as well.

Megan Junke, who works at the front desk of our office, as the Ideas for the World Coordinator and Kelley's EA, is open to talk to anyone who has questions about those programs. Gardiner Gala, just a note, that we have been working collaboratively with the Arts and Culture Commission to deliver the Gala which is next Thursday. I will be there during the entirety of the event, so if you have any questions, I'll be there. As well, I am available through office hours as you know by email or stopping in and popping by. I just wanted to ensure that it was on record in case people are thinking about future programming that I will be away from March 1st-10th, so in terms of looking ahead in your schedules and figuring out what that looks like in your portfolios, I am happy to support any initiatives before and after. I just wanted to let everyone know now rather than the 28th of February! And on a personal note, this will mark my first year here!

[applause]

[Christina continued:] I am so excited to spend another year here with you and this past year has been wonderful getting to know all of you and many of you will be graduating, so I just wanted to say thank you and I'm lucky to have worked with all of you. You've made my first year at Vic very great, thank you!

Alexa: Let the record show that Ali is crying.

[Ali is crying]

Devon: I just wanted to say congratulations on the anniversary. We love working with you and we thank you for your support all the time.

Christina: Let the record show that Ali and I are both crying.

[Christiana and Ali are both crying]

- Dean of Students
 - [No Update]
- President of Victoria University
 - [No Update]
- UTSU Directors Update - Haleema and Usman (3 minutes)
 - General Update

[Summary] Hi guys! We only have a quick update, because we know that this meeting has run long. Our full January Update is coming in the next couple weeks. If you remember our full October update? Our January one is coming soon. For now, we only have updates on a few key things: We had a Campaign today. Some of you remember that I am on the Campaign Committee for the UTSU, and so I was informed by an Executive that there is a lot of unused money on the Campaigns Committee. So, if you have a lot of big ideas that you need funding for, talk to one of us and we can likely help you out! Also, we wanted to ask about accessibility. We had a Board meeting earlier this week and one of the members of the Board was asking about Accessibility Programing that individual colleges are doing. So, I was curious if you guys had any initiatives or ideas that you use for your events to make things accessible? This doesn't have to be a discussion for now, but if you want to email us that would be great. We want to take your ideas back to the Board to help our other committees and colleges. Also, Alexa has shared the strategic plan survey on the UTSU Facebook page. So, we also discussed at our last board meeting how

the UTSU is undertaking a longer term plan to figure out what constructs work best for board members and for the students that represent. We posted a survey on our Facebook page to gain insight on what the UTSU is doing well/not well, and we hope that this strategic plan carries over onto future years of UTSU, to allow for continuity with the strategic plan, and we would love to hear your opinions on that.

Usman: We also just want to add a quick note about the announcement made yesterday about education fees and student fees that the UTSU is working on releasing an official statement. We do not support that in general, but we also have a Board meeting on Thursday to construct our official statement and decide our official stance. If anyone has opinions/thoughts, please email us and we will voice these concerns at the meeting on the 24th.

Haleema: Thank you very much!

Jayde: Can you share by email to either Emma or Alexa or to anyone on the Exec the information of the board meeting and just to remind council of your email so they can contact you?

Haleema: For sure! I can send all of that information by email so that you have both.

Alexa: Out of time!

Motion: Alexa Ballis moves to extend discussion time of “UTSU Directors Update” by 1 minute. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Alexa Ballis: Thank you for that. I just wanted to expand. We have three different surveys. One is on advocacy, the other on outreach and then one on student services, which are funded on by student fees! So if you could please fill those out and share them. There is a contest for free cineplex tickets as well.

If you have more general feedback or want to share your experiences, just email feedback@utsu.ca!

Zoe: Alexa, I was wondering if maybe you had the chance to talk to Rehan and if this information could be posted on our media outlets, at least for the internal page because it can be hard to hunt for this information. And then if we want external maybe, as well.

Alexa: I am totally happy to do that.

ACTION ITEMS

- Devon - On Wet'suwet'en Territory (10 minutes)

[Summary] Under Appendix A in the agenda package we have received is my proposed motion of support, so you can read along while I explain:

<file:///Users/orchid/Downloads/motion%20of%20support.pdf>

The Indigenous Student Union (which is a department student union at Vic) has released a statement on Jan 8th and it regards the action of the Royal Canadian Mountain police on the territory of the Wet'suwet'en First Nations People in British Columbia. In which they mobilized and crossed the barricades set up by the Wet'suwet'en First Nation to protect their territory from a court injunction which would allow for the beginning of the construction of the Trans Canada Pipeline. This is not consented by the Wet'suwet'en chiefs of the First Nations. If you haven't seen the issue statement that is my oversight that I didn't include it in the Appendix, I did just share it to the Facebook group

(<https://www.facebook.com/ISSU.UofT/photos/a.538542586298715/1212518628901104/?type=3&theater>). The public statement is also on the Indigenous Student Union's Facebook page if anyone wants to, I

would be happy to allow for a short recess to read the statement. This motion is to formally endorse that statement, so I want to ensure that we are all well and equally informed. The full text of my motion is in the Appendix and I included a preamble in which I referenced VUSAC's mission statement which directly relates to compacting systems of oppression and a land acknowledgement and a bit of detail about the event. If you just read that hopefully you have enough background, but also the motion is to condemn the action which is the application to endorse the issue statement and to share it most importantly because the organization has asked that we do share it and not keep silent on the issue. And to use our platform now to stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. If anyone has any questions? I have just shared this statement in our Facebook group.

Georgia: The Equity Commission has also shared this document and strongly endorses that VUSAC does the same.

Jayde: I would like to poll the room to see if we want time to go right into discussion time or take a short recess to read the document.

Devon: I would like to comment before the recess. I know that this is a lot without the three minutes, but the next thing I want to talk about is the idea of having a collections jar for the Wet'suwet'en First Nation fund for food, and legal supplies for their campaign and their fight. The idea that (Jayde had actually) we have a jar at the front desk for a certain amount of time (a month or two) and people can donate their printing change or whatever they want. If you want to think about that, that is also a discussion I am open to have! It is separate from the motion, but please also reflect on that idea while reading the statement.

Motion: Jayde moves to take a (5 minute) recess in order to read the statement presented by Devon Wilton for "On Wet'suwet'en Territory." Devon seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Jayde: Thank you for taking the time to read through it. I would first like to voice support of the letter and the idea to officially endorse this statement and to share it through our various social media channels. I would like to see that happen. I express the support to the idea of raising fund. Initially, Devon had the fantastic idea of asking VUSAC to allocate some of its money to the campaign however we can't make direct donations as a part of our mandate. Or else I would probably give it all away. I want to advocate for the idea of having a donation jar. We could link to the website providing people with more information should they need it. It is important as we are in privileged positions on campus and we have the opportunity to boost the message and do something concrete -- especially since this is a campaign that Indigenous students and the body that supports indigenous students says it is affecting them and asked us for support. I will not speak for the Equity or Sustainability teams, but maybe having the jar present at Equity and Sustainability events throughout the next couple weeks as it is very relevant timing and it would be a good idea as the campaign deals directly with human rights and pipelines. Thus, I express my support and my belief that this is the right thing to do and the sort of thing that we should be doing in our positions of power on campus.

Jared: I like your idea.

Jayde: Devon, what is the name of the organization being donated to?

Devon: The website name is Wet'suwet'en camp. There are three funds that you can donate, as well as a General fund that goes to support food for the people of the camps and equipment for them for their legal representation.

Jayde: In light of that, I would like to make an amendment to add a clause: “additionally that charitable donations be collected at VUSAC’s front desk and at all environmental and equity weeks, for camp Wet’suwet’en.”

Devon: I am really happy that it seems that there is a lot of support for this. Another note is that the President Josh has been an indispensable resource in the Ryerson initiative that I’ve been working on. And I would really like to read aloud the preamble for the motion before we vote on it:

Motion: Devon moves to extend discussion for “On Wet’suwet’en Territory” by 5 minutes. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[Devon continues:] “WHEREAS the VUSAC’s mission statement, as set out in Chapter I of the constitution, commits us to combating systems of oppression in which inequitable practices are rooted; and, WHEREAS the Canadian Government has mobilized the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on the unceded territory of the Wet’suwet’en First Nation to promote the construction of a pipeline without the consent of the people, in violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), contrary to principles of reconciliation and responsible environmental policy; and, WHEREAS the Indigenous Studies Students’ Union (ISSU) have released a statement on January 8th, 2018 regarding the occupation, and have requested that other student groups on our campus not remain silent...” And the rest is a part of the motion which you have already heard.

Katie: I just wanted to clarify if this is for January 2018 or 2019?

Devon: Ha! *Right?* Can I please amend the motion?

Alexa: There is no date in the motion.

Devon: Right, then that is just in the preamble. So we’re fine! But thank you.

Motion: Devon moves for the Victoria University Students’ Administrative Council to condemn in the strongest terms the Canadian Government’s occupation of Wet’suwet’en Territory; and, that to endorse the Indigenous Studies Students’ Union statement regarding the Canadian Government’s occupation of Wet’suwet’en Territory and to direct that it be shared through VUSAC’s social media, donations and other communications channels, and additionally that charitable donations for camp Wet’suwet’en be collected at VUSAC’s front desk and at all environmental and equity week events. Georgia seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

- Nick - On Releasing \$275 honorarium to Karen Mao for her term as Office Manager (3 minutes)

[Summary] As Karen stepped down from her position as Office Manager at the end of first semester and Emma Lailey has taken her place, it is time to release her honorarium. The honorarium for the whole year was \$500, and it is split now between two people, the split was done in order to reflect the total amount of meetings that she took minutes for, thus the split is \$275 from the original \$500 as agreed upon by Karen, Jayde and I. Jayde, anything else to add?

Jayde: I would just add that the new position, when it was offered to Emma the amount of \$225 was agreed upon and it was communicated to the applicants that that is the new amount. It is not fifty-fifty but Karen did work during the summer.

Jared: I may have misheard something, but what was the total honoraria?

Nick: 500!

Jared: 500?

Nick: 500.

Alexa: It was based on the number of meetings, and agreed upon so everyone is happy.

Motion: Nick moves to release \$275 from the Office Manager honorarium to Karen Mao for her term as Office Manager from May 2018 to December 2018. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

- Nick - On ratifying Orientation Co-Chair (3 minutes)

[Summary]

Kaite: Cynthia isn't here, but may I film this for her?

Devon: Before we start voting, Christina, I just wanted to ask the basic question as to how many applicants there were and how the hiring process went?

Christina: Just because it was an application that was done within our office in conjunction with VUSAC (with the President, VPI, Equity Commissioner, and two VCU numbers). We would like to keep the process, in terms of minutes, private on our end in terms of the hiring number of applicants. I am happy to talk about this individually on a one-on-one basis because that is our open door policy, but just in terms of respect to the candidates and to the hiring process, we will keep it on our end. But we are open to chat individually. I will tell you that we had a robust application period followed by an interview process and hiring, prior to December. Hopefully ratified tonight. Then we have an exec hiring process that will mirror the Co-Chair hiring process in terms of having VUSAC representatives and keeping the process open to VCU members as well.

Jayde: I just wanted to clarify, because I know that when we do hirings through VUSAC that we have a different hiring process which we will say, "this many people applied, this many interviews were held, etc" but, we don't have HR laws to follow, so I just want to fully support Christina knowing that she has offered to sit down with people individually. But it is not something to discuss at this meeting at this time.

[VUSAC stages video for Cynthia pretending the voting didn't happen]

[Applause]

Motion: Nick moves to ratify Cynthia Wong as Orientation 2019 Co-Chair. Ali seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

- Cameron - Grad Banquet co-chair ratification (3 minutes)

[Summary] In terms of hiring, it was conducted in conjunction with the Dean's office. We had a number of representatives (six students) and Bergita on the hiring committee. As the Chair of the committee, we

did have two applications, both very talented and we were amazed by their applications, and we chose James Mangaliman as our Grad Banquet Chair. I am here to get that ratified by council and to answer questions if you have questions or know of anyone with questions, please direct them to myself at academic@vusac.ca or to Bergita.

Motion: Cameron moves to ratify James Mangaliman as 2019 Grad Banquet Co-Chair. Emilia seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[Applause]

- Jayde - to Approval Student Projects motion; Hotake Theatre (3 minutes)
(On behalf of Leora Nash:)

Motion: Leora moves that Hotake Theatre be granted \$5,175 from Student Projects to rent the technical equipment listed in their application and to purchase a block of 120 tickets to be distributed to VCU members for free, through a method developed to the approval of the VUSAC executive. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Jayde: I want to elaborate very quickly. This is all technical equipment. We are very lucky to have Alyssa Dibattista on the Student Projects Committee as she was a Co-Producer of VCDS last year, as was Leora Nash, and they were useful in helping us determine what putting on a production costs at the professional and student level. We talked about this application for an hour (of our two hour meeting). Kevin and Nam (playwright, artistic director) were there to basically defend their application, and Student Projects was very robust, and we decided that all of this equipment was worth funding. As well as the tickets. Initially, you requested far fewer tickets but we decided that it was so worthy a cause that we wanted to give more people (120) the opportunity to see it for free. The only request not funded was the audio-engineer salary of the unionized technical person, and Student Projects is unable to fund salary. Which is why we recommended they apply to VUSAC. If VUSAC agrees with Student Project's line of reasoning -- it was again very robust and I am very proud -- then the show will be entirely funded by the end of the day and they will be good to go. They definitely did their due diligence in terms of seeking funding and I am confidence in saying that this process was accountable and transparent.

Motion: Jayde (Point of Order) moves to amend the agenda to move up Carleigh's "Arts and Culture Update" (3 minutes) as the next item on the agenda. Devon seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Arts & Culture - Carleigh Campbell

- Update - (3 minutes)

[Summary] Okay super quick. Next week is Gardiner Gala, next Thursday at 7pm in the Gardiner Museum. We have set up at 4pm, I have class until 5pm, so Katie is going to be out there. Basically, I don't need a lot of people for set up because there is not a lot to set up. Vic eXposure will set up their exhibit, and there are not a lot of decorations. But I do need a lot of floaters. We need people to float around food, bars, washrooms, stairs, elevators. Please come and float and let me know if you can come. If I get a lot of floaters than not everyone has to float the whole time. We can mix up the floating so you don't have to float a lot. I've said float a lot. Comment on that if you haven't, and if you can't make it that's cool too. But it would be cooler if you did. Classic the Band will be there. Classic. Band. And, that is my update. Any questions?

Kevin: I have a specific question about tech from the band...but I will ask my question later.

Jayde: Cheers.

Alexa: That is a good call. (I love you Kevin)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Represent Student Leadership Conference (10 minutes) - Jonah

[Summary] Hi! The Represent Student Leadership Conference is one of the conferences that clubs and leadership development in the division of Student Life puts on for specifically for elected leaders like yourself. The conference recognizes your specific skills sets and challenges that you face in an elected role versus in a leadership role in a club. So essentially, every few years we undergo a process in order to ensure that the conference is meeting the needs of students. So, this year we have really gone back and looked at previous feedback on the conference and I have put together a proposal based on the feedback which should be in your meeting package. It outlines the plan for 2019. The proposed dates are Wednesday May 1st and Thursday May 2nd, at the end of the final exam season. The first day is an intensive day on topics specific to elected student leadership roles. For example, financial management and auditing, demographic engagements, and also on collaboration and navigating relationships such as with Simcoe Hall and other student unions. The second day is more focused on the strategic aims of the university. A of feedback asks that we see the aims of larger focus on student groups on campus, looking at things like Truth and Reconciliation, Accessibility, Sexual Violence, and Mental Health. So having those conversations in addition to a more practical workshop to gain skills on innovative programs and communicative strategies from the U of T Communications Department, and things like that. The idea is to have as many high level individuals from Simcoe Hall as possible. As well as an opportunity for you to connect with those folk. I don't want to take up too much of your time, but I will accept feedback from your end on the conference this year and the proposal, and what you would like to see at a conference like this.

Jayde: Thank you for being here, I know that we have been in meetings for a long time but that it is our job. I have attended countless conferences by the Office of Student Life, and The Represent Student Leadership Conference is one of my favourite. I make the most valuable connections and I wouldn't of been able to do half the work I do on campus without it. So thank you for being involved. I do have one thing to suggest that might be too niche, but there are a lot of difference with respect to advocacy being a part of a federated college versus non-federated. There is typically a strong Vic contingent that shows up to his conference, sometimes St. Mikes, Trin is hit or miss--

Johna: Trin is never there.

Jayde: But basically, in some of the conversations we have at these conferences at round table we have "okay, this doesn't apply to the feds" and you're sitting there and then you're having those

conversations offline between those colleges, so that can be something to fix once you have some indication of who's attending to keep in mind. The only other things is that I did not know how important it was to the ability of a student group to work effectively until I took on the role I currently have, and that is definitely team management. In particular, ongoing maintenance of team dynamics. Upkeep of team dynamics? It is easy to start, and be driven from the gecko but that momentum can easily get lost as things get busy. We all have a lot going on and it is something that I would be interested in seeing. As well as, for general feedback, time management is always hard at conferences. And it is better if a few key themes are selected and you get less but more focus work done. Then the event isn't running overtime.

Jonah: Yes! It is a 10-3 both day. Which is cutting down the hours because no one likes to spend nine hours in a room.

Jayde: One last thing, for the last 3 years, it's been on the date of the joint Incoming and Outgoing UTSU Board Meeting which makes it hard for the UTSU to show up. So if you could check with their Board dates then maybe clarify with them on dates.

Zoe: I'm seeing financial management and auditing, I know a big part of that especially in my role working with clubs and levies and I know that there are mes everywhere, is also the idea of financial accountability. The idea of every dollar we approve effects our wider community. That certainly wasn't on my mind until I took over this role and I wish that when I was a commissioner--not that I wasted money please don't put that in the minutes--that, it is now something that I have a deeper appreciation for and I think that it would be valuable to know about the purpose of all our money.

Georgia: Hi!

Jonah: Hi!

Georgia: So I don't know how specific you've gotten into breaking down the budgets for the second day but what I was thinking, about the accessibility, equity, diversity part is how to work in white spaces and U of T so often is, especially at the federated colleges, and how do student leaders navigate that because sometimes it can be very isolating in spirit and if we wanted to get more marginalized student leaders into these elected positions, it is important to try and understand the barriers that we face beyond your typical equity training. If you do get into those spaces, how do you navigate those relationships. This would be important in order to ensure that these relationships are maintained and well established when they are first made.

Devon: I just wanted to thank you for coming. I went to Represent last year and one of the things I thought was cool was being around other student leaders and being able to connect with them. One idea that you might want to consider is dedicating structured time to talk about goals and priorities for your term? That way you can have conversations with other students and get to discuss your ideas. I came into term with a lot of goals and would of loved time to talk that out.

Jonah: I will quickly say that the second day at lunch includes a dedicated networking time for student leaders and following the first day at the faculty club hopefully there will be a networking session among leaders and we will be inviting people from Simcoe Hall too.

Zoe: Thank you again for coming. I know Jonah personally and I respect his work so much. I wish that I could be there for the conference but unfortunately I can't, cause I'm graduating (sad) but if anyone has additional thoughts I can get you in touch with Jonah and I am happy to share your email, because I know that this will be an ongoing process.

[applause]

- Amendments to the Elections and Referenda Code as presented in Appendix B (45 minutes)

[Discussion]

Alexa: The Amendments have been put together by Molly and the ERC Committee. I hope that you have taken some time to go through them and the changes. They are in Appendix B.

Molly: The Committee formed in early December, we met five times. Three to go over the existing ERC and changes and twice this past weekend to work on the amendments that I drafted over the break. The reason I am presenting these so early is that they have to be discussed at this meeting and then voted on next meeting in order to come fit with when the elections start, because our meeting on February 1st will take two weeks to come into action and then Elections are on the 15th of February (very exciting!). There are some grammar corrections and then lots of substantial stuff so I hope that you took time to go through them. Keep in mind that we worked very hard on them and I hope to hear your thoughts.

Jayde: I know sometimes we can have all of these wonderful ideas that we think the committee hasn't discussed and really want to dive into discussion about them here, but I will remind people that this Committee has met five times, two hours minimum each time, and the opportunity is open to everyone to sit on the Committee. That is not to discourage conversation now, but I will ask that we first direct our questions to Molly, "Did the Committee consider?" Because I find 9/10 times the Committee did consider and it is a shorter conversation if Molly or someone on the Committee is able to explain the reasoning and then engage with the reasoning versus if we all re-engage in a conversation that has already been had. In order to keep things as productive as possible, we want to hear absolutely everything everyone has to say, but we also want to provide Molly as Chair to present the work of the Committee in respect to the work that the Committee did do, but also out of the acknowledgement that this meeting in this giant room isn't the most productive place for the nitty gritty work. The nitty gritty work has happened, and that is the reason why this Committee met. So if we can first see what the Committee had to say on something and then bring to light what we have, so then we can see perspectives we hadn't even considered. Because I promise that the conversations were lively! At the beginning at least, please direct your comments in this manner, as always through the Chair.

Alexa: Don't forget me.

Molly: If there are a bunch of comments, we can pull to discuss. If not, then we can discuss.

Jayde: On the appearance that I've scared people out of talking at all. I would like to pull Amendments 22 and 23, regarding referenda. I hope I didn't scare you away.

Devon: I wanted to suggest if people have opinions on online campaigning and Facebook campaigning, to ask as we made substantial changes to that. I'm not pulling anything, but if you want to talk about Facebook let's have a conversation.

Jayde: To follow up, if the idea is that we take any final amendments to these amendments that -- you can also comment on something in the ERC that the Committee didn't look at -- so that when the amendments come to a final vote next week we can incorporate any changes that the full council decides is appropriate today. Again, don't let me scare you. I feel mean.

Cameron: A point of clarification: Is this coming up for vote next meeting or on Feb. 1st?

Jayde: At our next scheduled meeting, on February 1st.

Vibhuti: Hey Molly.

Molly: Hi Vibhuti.

Vibhuti: I think that you did a great job with all of this, in particular with the online campaigning amendments I think that you stated them very well from what the committee talked about. So, great job! I mean that so sincerely.

Jayde: I know it's been really a busy week. And I don't want to call anyone out. But I want to do a heads down straw poll in order to show Alexa who has read through the ERC and the amendments. Not as a shame thing, but I just want to know. At what level we are coming to this conversation --

Are we comfortable doing that straw poll? No one knows, heads are down, but just to ensure that the only people who have read through it are not members of the ERC.

Alexa: We don't want to waste time.

[blind straw poll]

Alexa: So, a large number of you have read it. It is just so good that no one has further suggestions.

Gabby: I have one question. I might be missing it, but for the last Election we were allowed to limit a personal post one time, like a one time share our page. Sorry, this is Amendment number 13, page 14. So, under Section 1 in the original line is says that we were allowed to "share once on our page and invite friends" and in the second, it doesn't. So I'm just wondering the rational?

Jayde: That is the whole purpose of this conversation. You are perfect.

Molly: What we did, is there was a consensus among the Committee that the current changes to Facebook pages wasn't working. So instead we decided that you could submit one social media page to the VUSAC page and as your Facebook page was in the Fall Elections and then you could Facebook campaign as it was previously done in last year Spring's Election. As such, we are not putting restrictions on sharing social media pages, instead of tagging the CRO on Facebook you hashtag. Now there are not as strict rules about what you can do on Facebook as we decided this would be the best way to do that.

Jayde: As the original Architect of Evil I stand humbly before you. As the person who suggested Facebook pages from the gecko, this is one of those instances that we swerved very far in previous Elections and are now trying to balance it out. So in many ways campaigning is easier, there is no tagging. I want to reiterate, that after some whiteboard brainstorming we elected that any media, link to anything, that you created solely for the purpose of elections (not your personal Facebook page or Instagram page). So that is the vibe. In my mind it preserves the ability for voters to get information about each candidate and gives more flexibility to candidates to determine what that avenue looks like. You could link to a document, you could choose not to do a website or media platform and just link to the pdf. That came as one of the equalizing methods, as the practicality of having everyone use the same media platform for campaigning just didn't come through. And CRO facilitating Facebook page workshops ended up being unnecessary.

Gabby: I'm sorry, I don't want to be this person who keeps asking, but my question is more just like, it seems as it is this way that the only way people can access your page is if they liked the VUSAC page? So is it just basically that if you are running in the election, you can't put it on your personal? You're saying like the VUSAC page, my page is there? Is that where you're going? Just cause it's not said anywhere in here. I'm sorry, I'm just confused.

Jayde: Don't apologize! Don't put any apologize into the minutes!

Emma: I legally have to.

[overlap chatter]

Alexa: This is out of order!! *[bang bang]*

Jayde: This is one section that is probably best described with the full context of the ERC. So the Section 2 on Facebook is basically, what it says, that it is a lot more easier determined in the context of the full Section, is that you can go "buckwild" as the kids would say on Facebook.

Zoe: Kids don't say that.

[laughter]

Jayde: As your votes are #VUSACElections. You can post as many times on your personal Facebook as you would like. It is not mandatory that you submit a link on VUSAC to be valid, the idea is that there is a competitive edge, and also the opportunity if you don't have the same reach

for voters to still be able to engage with your content. Because VUSAC will have a list of all the candidates that chose to submit a link to something. Otherwise, it is basically levels out the Facebook playing field to be the same as the Instagram or the Twitter. You don't have to make a page or website, but you still can. Previously you weren't allowed to make Facebook pages but now you can. If you want! And now that link can be provided to VUSAC. It still doesn't have to, but it is optional and I'm assuming most candidates would want to.

Gabby: Thank you. It was scary before on how many times you could share your things. This is a good thing and I just wanted to clarify, so thank you.

Jayde: Yes! That is what this is for. Thank you.

Ally: Gabby answered my questions.

Nick: I have a question about Amendment Number 9: "Only one poster may be placed on the fall facing the east Burwash Dining Hall." Does that mean that the wall and North House are now separated?

Molly: Yes, they are now seperated.

Nick: Wow.

Molly: This was actually in the Fall Nominations Package that was approved in September.

Nick: Also "wall" is spelt incorrectly here.

Devon: It's a tough one.

[laughter]

Alexa: Alright, alright, alright!

Kevin: Am I allowed to talk? Amendment 11, remembering from first year I know that 2-3 floors of Marg Ad have half music students. I was wondering if you were going to stipulate that the Faculty of Music also be a neutral zone? I have seen VUSAC posters in the Faculty of Music in every stairwell and I was wondering if people considered that or if it is not a consideration? Cause you know, Caffiends, Cat's Eye, etc. But a lot of Vic students are at the Faculty of Music as well.

Molly: So the purpose of neutral zones is not to limit where people are going. The reason Caffiends and Cat's Eye are up there is because there are non-levy offices in the Goldring Center. The Cat's Eye office is specifically mentioned here because if someone really wanted to target Zack and Rachel specifically, they couldn't actually do that. And then, with regards to libraries and dining halls that is just to give people reprieve from when they are studying and eating. Sydney Smith or Baden. There are a lot of Faculty students who participate in elections and if they wanted to advertise to them then they can do so.

Kevin: Thank you.

Alexa: Anything else?

Jayde: I know it is 7:16 pm, but I will note that if we are totally silent (which is totally cool because the Committee worked very hard and the Amendments are presented very well by Molly) then we are comfortable to vote on it. Pending any thoughts we have when we leave the room. But it's kind of like, I feel like I understand these Amendments so well that I can definitively say that yes I like them or no I don't. So this is where we leave things if we don't have further questions. Which is a good thing.

Alexa: Then when we vote on this in the next meeting there won't be a ton of discussion. If we don't have anything else right now, we will move on. If you do just email Molly.

Ali: I just wanted to thank you to Molly!

[Applause]

Jayde: Point of Order: is anyone is interested in leaving the meeting to go down and support Carleigh? She has asked for one person to act as backup. Anyone on her commission, perhaps?

Zoe: I can?

Kaite: That's me. I'll go!

Zoe: Apologies if it seemed that I was skirting responsibility!

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- Acta Victoriana - [No Report]
- Caffiends - [No Report]
- Cat's Eye - [No Report]
- Student Projects - [No Report]
- The Strand - [No Report]
- VicPride! - [No Report]
- VCAA - [No Report]
- VCDS - [No Report]

GOVERNING BODIES

- BoR - [No Report]
- VCC - [No Report]
- VUS - [No Report]

STAFF MEMBER UPDATES

Chief Returning Officer - Molly Simpson

- [No Update]

Communications Director - Rehan Vishwanath

- [No Update]

Finance Chair - Tiger Fu

- [No Update]

Office Manager - Emma Lailey

- Update (five minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone! I just wanted to officially introduce myself, as I know most of you but not all of you. My name is Emma Lailey and for the remainder of our term I will be your Office Manager!

[applause]

I'm sure that some of you have noticed tables and fridges being moved and wondered: "does this girl even know what she's doing?" For a little background, I was on VUSAC last year as Office Manager (or

“Secretary” as it was formerly called) so I do come from a little experience. Because I missed the first retreat and all the get to know you games, here are some fun facts about Emma: I study English and Art History (just so I’m fully unemployable), I have an American Cocker Spaniel named Obi wan Kenobi (pictures available upon request), I love apples, I can not snap, and I am that friend that says, “we can walk it.”

In my transition meetings with Nick and Jayde throughout December and the past few weeks, I have been brought up to speed with all of council’s accomplishments last semester (congratulations!), new projects and additions to the team, as well as bad habits we’ve developed over time -- in particular with regards to office space.

Here is the important bit: It is my goal as Office Manager to ensure that VUSAC space is well-maintained and utilized mindfully in order to provide reliable and accessible services for students.

For most of us, this means not taking up student space with personal or commission related supplies. From your first step into VUSAC, everything you see should be completely accessible for students. The Boardroom, the couches, the tables, the computers -- the Front Desk -- walking into VUSAC space should not feel intimidating when you have to interrupt three people at the front desk to ask about printing, nor should it feel awkward when you have to move abandoned lunches or commission supplies from the couches to study.

The reason the Back Room was transformed into a study space for students last year instead of a Pandora’s box of Commission supplies, is because social space has power and how we use it communicates what we value.

[snap-applause]

The addition of services such as online booking, a Caffiends Mug drop-off bin, and Cafe VUSAC, all show that VUSAC cares about the Victoria College community. But when meetings are conducted in dirty boardrooms, stained mugs are left around, and Cafe VUSAC is showered in coffee grounds -- that communicates something entirely different.

In an effort to “ensure that VUSAC space is well-maintained and utilized mindfully in order to provide reliable and accessible services for students,” I would like to introduce some new house rules and changes to VUSAC space:

1. The fridge, affectionately labelled “Gail,” has been moved to the back room beside the sink. As it is a VUSAC Fridge, it should not take up student space in the front. All expired food and drink will be thrown out of the fridge by Monday evening if it does not have a on label it.
2. The Lost and Found bin is now located in the Back Room. By the end of the week, everything not claimed in the Lost and Found bin will be donated.
3. Scissors, hot glue guns, sharipes, masking tape, duct tape, pens, white board markers -- precious gold. These items -- at one time abundant in the coloured bins outside of the printing room -- have disappeared. That being said, I recognize that these high-theft items (accidental or purposeful) are in a very accessible location. I have ordered more of these precious gold items. From now on, there will be two locations for office supplies.

Motion: Cameron moves to extend discussion for “Office Manager Update” by 5 minutes. Emilia seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None

- Opposed: None

One, the public supply in the colourful bins outside of the printing room. And two, the VUSAC supply, in the grey cabinet in the Backroom. These supplies including scissors, hot glue guns, glue, sharipes, masking tape, duct tape, pens, white board markers, post-it notes, staples, paper clips, labels, etc, are at your disposal. Return when finished.

- a. In addition to this, a new heavy duty hole puncher was ordered for the Finance Chair as requested. The old hole puncher is located in the grey cabinet but if anyone ever needs a heavy duty one (thirty pages max) it is in the President's office.
4. The Back Storage Room has been restored, please attempt to maintain it. Extra sex ed material is located on the "Material" shelf. Please shoot me an email if you take anything from the "Decorations" shelf.
5. The Appreciation Wall: Please utilize! Recognize members of your team, fill it up! The theme will change once a month.
6. The New Years Resolution Board: please fill in your resolution before you leave (if you have not)!

The next two rules are likely going to be the biggest change. After speaking with Nick and Jayde, these seemed like the easiest solution to some of our shortcomings:

7. When you are on office hours, you should be the only person sitting behind the desk.
8. The office has become a mug mine-field. Abandoned mugs about the office will be donated to Caffiends!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not be afraid to ask.

In addition to all this: before I started re-organizing I did a complete inventory of all office supplies. I am well-equipped to assist anyone looking for anything, and can tell you exactly if it is located on the right or left hand side of whatever shelf. I am also well familiar with Club Storage. If you need any assistance, please message me. I am here to help.

I will be available to provide "Office Tours" for anyone interested throughout the week. As I've moved things around, it might be a good idea to reorient yourself. This should just take five minutes.

Does anyone have any questions?

[applause]

Nick: That ten minute speech by Emma made me so happy because she has transformed the office from a minefield into something so much better. She has worked so hard. I appreciate her work. You don't have to type this out Emma.

Emma: Oh, I do.

Nick: Ohmygod. I hope that you all help her in her journey into making the office more accessible and looking over space, and cleaning up after yourself.

Jayde: Doing your office tasks! (love you)

Nick: Also, Emma's top love language is Words of Affirmation. She scores a perfect ten. So the way to appreciate Emma the most I guess, unless she has another love language that she is keeping from us, tell her that she is doing a great job because she is doing a great job.

Chair - Alexa Breininger

- [No Update]

COMMISSION UPDATES

Academic & Professional Development - Cameron Davies

- Update (10 minutes)

[Summary] Hello! Just in case there are new people in the room that I haven't met before, my name is Cameron. I'm the Academic Commissioner on VUSAC. First of all, thank you very much Emma for doing an amazing job and taking care of Gail, who was originally my fridge. She is happy to be with you. The Academic Commission has been doing a lot of events recently and I will go over those events and discuss them: First of all, we participated in Exam Jam with the Commuter Dons (many options) it was very successful. We spent about \$100 on healthy snacks with gluten free, vegetarian, and vegan options and are excited to collab with the Commuter Dons again. Keep your eyes peeled for this semester's collab. The next idea is in regards to probably the most responded to Facebook event in recent VUSAC History: the Muji Pen Give-Away. During the December exam period, we bought about 60 pens and had 1000 responses on Facebook. There were lines out the door in Burwash, and everyone was very excited to get pens. On downside to the event is that there was a lot of (what some may call) chaotic energy. There were over 100 people in study space, and in terms of planning this event the Commission has definitely hit a nerve so thank you to Katie for the initial idea. If you have any ideas on how to improve the event or make it more accessible to students, please email at academic@vusac.ca or talk to me. My big event of the year happened on Wednesday, the Networking Dinner. There was a very good turnout. We had a physical ticket, which was different in comparison to previous years, and I believe that it was a success. Additionally, we had a lot of people on the waitlist who were able to attend. I saw lots of your faces and made amazing connections. We had about twenty-six alumni from various fields, everything from cancer researchers to entrepreneurs to communications to lawyers. Ultimately covering a fairly large cross section of the Vic alumni community. I am happy with how the event went. Jen from the Alumni office is very proud about how the event went. But there is always stuff that can be improved, and if you have any ideas please let me know. It is such a relief to know that this event happened and was so successful. And it would not of been possible without the amazing supports of Council, so thank you for supporting me and ensuring the event was a success.

[Applause]

Love you all. I promise I will stop talking eventually. But we also hired a Grad Banquet Chair. If you have any questions about the interview process you can direct questions to myself or Bergita, again at academic@vusac.ca. The fifth update is that I've been working with the registers/learning strategists office to host Study Hubs, as it was a great success last semester. Study Hub is a very effective way to study and is a very productive space. You get a lot more work done in Study Hub than chatting with your friends and all of you in the VUSAC office—I love you all, but you're distracting—Study Hubs will again be hosted this semester, we are thinking about Monday from 1-3pm, are there any objections?

Jayde: So long as it works with room booking.

Cameron: It does as of now. Another thing, both the Backroom and Boardroom are open that time. I work with Lulu who is the work study student running the Study Hub. She wants the Boardroom to be used. In my opinion there are some benefits and drawbacks to both the boardroom and the backroom. First, the Boardroom is a nicer environment (in comparison to the Backroom which when the blinds are drawn can be darker) and more people are aware of it but it is a much busier space and conversations need to be kept to a minimum in order to make it an effective space. I am leaning towards the Boardroom. If anyone has any feedback for the Boardroom or the Backroom? Again, I'm leaning towards the Boardroom because it is visible and accessible for students and might be a good way to break what it has been traditionally used for as a place of congregation for personal stuff and VUSAC conversation, but, as Emma said, it should be a space for the VCU to use. Any feedback on any of the things I've mentioned either bring them up now, later, in person or in email. I will now to yield the floor.

Gigi: Just a really quick question, has it ever been considered to have more than one Study Hub time for people who can't make it to the other time?

Cameron: I would love to, but because Lulu is a work study student and she has many other roles within the office she is very busy and only has a finite number of hours to work during the week. In order to have more study hub time they would need to hire another work study student.

Motion: Cameron moves to extend discussion for "Academic Update" by 3 minutes. Genevieve seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Jared: I think, I'm wondering, it would help my ability to give feedback, if articulate your goal of having a pen giveaway?

Cameron: We have a few different goals with the muji pen give away, the first is to raise awareness about the Academic Commission and the work we do. We had this event with one thousand people responded to which means that now whenever I post I know that one thousand people can see what I post (Networking dinner for example). Another thing we do is encourage people to take part advantage of Study Space and of the supports to the Vic community. It is a great way to encourage people to use Study Space and we will be in conversation with Scott from the Dean's Office and some other people to discuss that and the kinds of ways we can intertwine a little more instead of it being a massive group of people coming to gets pens and then leaving, trying to use the pens as an incentive to use the space and the service. The third thing is that it is a destressor during the exam period. Things get pretty stressy. And when things get stressy it's good to have someone give away little free things, it's not a plane ticket or whatever, but it makes people feel good to recieve something free that supports them during that stressful period. I take this idea from Katie who originally suggested we give free stuff. I hope that answers your question.

Jared: I think that I've had my fair share of hectic AF events, and I don't really see how you can advertise a free muji pen give away and still maintain Study Space as a tranquil space, which I think it is, so maybe a way to ensure that your other goals happen, only give the pens away to people who are there?

Alexa: I would recommend that we speak to this at a later time because I believe this is part of a larger conversation and as time has run out.

Motion: Cameron moves to extend discussion for “Academic Update” by 1 minute. Genevieve seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: Jayde

Cameron: One of the ideas discussed to improve this semester was provided by Jai, who suggested that we still make the public aware that we are giving pens away at study space but do not provide a particular time just to encourage people to be making the most use of study space as possible. Jai had the idea that pens maybe come out at midnight (I would do that, not make other people do that) to reward the students who are there making use of the space. More of a legitimate pop-up and less chaotic.

Motion: Devon moves to take a (5 minute) break. Georgia seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

Commuter Commissioner - Emilia De Fabritiis and Tabina Ahmed

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] This is arguably the best part because I get to hear myself speak. Going off of what Cameron said about reflecting on last semester, we just did our biggest event of the year, Home for the Holidays, and it was a really big success. There were 110 student spots not including the VUSAC people or VOCA Executives. A lot of people gave a lot positive feedback, at every event people have lots to say though, one person said, “The music was great. But there was too much Christmas, not enough box.” It be like that sometimes. I am very happy for everyone who came out to support. The past few years in which I’ve attended Home for the Holidays I can arguably say that this was one of the best ones. So that ran very well. Again, we are responsible for commuter student lockers in the basement of the Goldring Centre. so if anyone comes with locker concerns send them my way or Tabina’s way. Our first event of the semester was “Keeping up the the Kommutors” because I love trash reality TV. These are just facts. Next Wednesday the 23rd, myself and Hannah Green who is the Residence Don of Margaret Addison are doing a collaboration as part of my monthly residence collab we are doing a customized, DIY tea making. People can come and customize their own tea. Very fun and wholesome. Another collab we have coming up is with the Dean’s Office. It is an Off-Campus Housing Seminar. We recognize how hard it is for students in residence and out of residence to find housing, and it is easy to get overwhelmed by the pressure to live downtown. The housing market is a hot-ass mess. It can be very overwhelming for people not from the city or provinces, coming to live downtown and finding housing not accessible financially or close to campus. Hopefully sometime in February or March. The only other event coming is that myself and the Wordsworth Commuter Commissioner are going to be meeting with the Commissioners from Innis and News College about producing a campus wide commuter appreciation week and doing that on a wider U of T level. A lot of U of T students are commuters and it is important that we provide a space for them and make them feel welcome. Our tentative idea is that from Monday to Friday, there will be 2-3 programming events at each college. Details of what they are is TBA. Again, pancakes are on Wednesdays. With the help of Student projects we were able to supply vegan pancakes this year which is very exciting. Yay! It is something that hopefully will continue well beyond after I graduate.

Equity Commissioner - Georgia Line and Vibhuti Kacholia

- Update (12 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone I'm Georgia! So I'm going to give some updates about what the commission has been doing since the end of December until now. We have our ongoing Cultural Celebration series, and in December we celebrated Hanukkah, and the lovely Leora Nash who is a Jewish student came in for the entire time and gave a history of Hanukkah and the significance of Hanukkah in the Jewish community. We served latkes and they were all taken and everyone got a taste of what Hanukkah is about. Our next cultural celebration is the Lunar New Year which will happen on Feb. 4th we will be selling dumplings, fortune cookies, oranges, lots of other fun things. This semester we will do all Cultural celebrations outside of the VUSAC office to attract more students, this was presented by a Commission member, so that is lovely. This past Wednesday, as part of the UTSU Frost Week we collaborated with them on the SHADE Comedy show, with the SHADE Comedy group which specifically features people who belonged to marginalized communities and it was well attended at the Cat's eye, lots of people and not enough chairs. Everyone was every happy! Next, the Environmental Equity is next week. We had a photo walk on Monday the 14th with VicXposure, people came and had their photos taken which will be displayed at the Gardiner Gala. On Monday we have our DIY Tote Bag from T-Shirts Event, which Victoria is spearheading from 12-2pm Atrium. On Tuesday we have the Food Share Talk on Environment, Race and Food with the speaker Lou Boudreau she is the Coordinator with Food Share Toronto, she has a lot of activities planned in order for us to be engaged and we are also catering from Nish Dish which is an Indigenous Catering service in Toronto, happening in the Wymilwood Lounge from 5:30-7pm on Tuesday January 22nd. On Wednesday Lee Maracle is coming to come talk about indigeneity and violence against Indigenous women that colonialism has had. She will be bringing some of her books to sell and there are only two spots left on the sign up sheet. So if you do want to come to the talk, sign up! You can watch from inside the VUSAC office as well, as there are only forty spots available. Catering from Nish Dish again. Thursday is the Gardiner Gala. Friday is a Doc and Talk with Whisk we will be screening the documentary "Climate Refugees" with Hassan (on of the Commission members) and that will be happening in the Wymilwood lounge from 3-5pm also Caffiends will be catering because they are lovely. Next, Art and the Intersections is happening at Feb. 4th at 8pm. For those of you know don't know, this was my big project last year and it is an Art Show that showcases the works of trans/women of colour at U of T, students/faculty members/people involved in U of T life can submit the deadline Jan 28th 11:59 pm. Please encourage people to submit, it can be anything under the sun. We have four curators confirmed and we are hoping to get, maybe one more, the showcase night is on Thursday, Feb 7th 6-9pm we will be moving everything into the Bader, because that is where the event is happening, and catering from Vic events and Caffiends will be there. All art will be in the atrium after the event is done. You will all be receiving an invitation very soon.

Vibhuti: My portfolio in the Commission for the semester is Black History Month, which is very exciting. We have four big events that are going on right now. One which we got funding on for at the last meeting, which allows a group of students to go to Harthouse and see the Amazing Show. Number two will be a Doc and Talk sometime in the month. Number three is a collab with Victoria Black which we are very excited about. And Number Four is online programming and having graphics and showcasing important Canadian black people in general, excited about that. If you have any questions or suggests like us know.

Georgia: Christina is currently on our list.

Vibhuti: You made it. And then also we working with Bergita from the Dean's Office to put on an event that talks about marginalized experience and trajectory experience. It is in the early stages of being put on, so if you are interested in sitting on the committee it is a great opportunity to work with the Dean's Office and put on a great event. So yeah, that is it.

Georgia: Moreover, the commission is doing great. I love the commission.

Vibhuti: It's the best.

Georgia: You are all welcome to come to our commission meetings. We don't follow Robert's Rules. It is a very chill environment. We meet on Wednesdays in the Boardroom from 6-7pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome! I'm going to sing for Carleigh now and will be right back.
[leaves room]

Mental Wellness - Ali Kehl

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi. Okay, I have a lot of updates. But I feel like five minutes is actually perfect. Number one, Commission Applications opened up in the winter break. And I was like, okay if we get 5-6 that is phenomenal. And we got 14 applications. Me, Angela, Gabby on Facebook omg wild. Originally, in the first semester we said that a Commission of 5-6 would be great but when we were going through the applications we thought, why would we cut people who want to be apart of this? They all showed such passion and why not have more voices in the room. So we offered positions to everyone and now we all have 14 people. Now we are just trying to figure out time. We are hoping our first meeting will be the week after next week and they will be weekly meetings, so that we have as much time to talk as much as possible. We did our Winterfest collab. which went very well. Like Cameron said, sometimes getting something free can make your day so much better. All of the supplies were taken and everyone was sick, so we needed all the tissues and the goodies. We have a Blue Monday Event coming up next Monday. Blue Monday is described as the most melancholy day of the year. We all experience blues especially in the horrid weather outside. We are hoping to open up and appreciate our blues, because you have them regardless. We will have blue decorations, blue food, blue activities, and it will be in the Cat's Eye from 12-3pm. The next thing coming up is the Women's Mental Health and Leadership Conference. Thank you for the Budget Steering Committee, we have 20 tokens there and back, it is in York. Yesterday, we finished our resource list which has been updated for January. People will always find new resources and tell us new things and it is our responsibility to check in on ourselves. The next task is to send that to Jayde and Rehan to see if they have any comments and then putting that on the website. And I was talking with Mia and you know how The Strand does a mag/resource launch? We want to do that with our resources. And put the resource link on our page. Currently trying to find the best price for our resource pamphlets. In the works we are looking for a nutritionist for a Feeding the Soul Event because if you're not feeding your body right then you're not performing to the best of your abilities but it can be hard knowing what food you need to get in. Then, we are trying to provide workout tips for home exercises. It is nice to do a couple things at home to get your body working and sometimes the gym can be overwhelming. And then we are looking to get a compliment jar in the front of VUSAC so you can take one and give one when needed. It has been a long five hours, but it has been nice to spend with all of you. I just want to say one thing, in my class the other day we were talking about, my profession said, "Every hour you live you are one hour closer to death so make sure that hour counts" and I think these past five hours have been well spent. We aren't permanent, but if you are spending your life to the best of your ability then it is well spent and I consider this time well spent. Thank you!

Scarlet & Gold - Alexa Ballis

- [Refer to Additions]

Sustainability Commissioner - Jared Connoy and Victoria Silva

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] The only thing I want to talk about from the Environmental Equity update that Georgia touched on is a clarification of Please Talk, it is on the impact of colonialism on indigenous women in the environment. The other thing, is that we are looking for environmental NGOs or organizations, preferably

local, meaning Ontario and preferably small. To have a similar to Save Our Water. We have a couple ideas but if you have an organization that you love and want to feature let us know. Right now I am working on putting together an Intercollege Sustainability Roundtable because I have found that sustainability initiatives around campus are very separate on from each other and we have no idea what is going on around us. So I feel like this would be a good place to share best practices and collab on events. I've gotten a lot of interest and the meeting will hopefully take place in the next few weeks or so and no shade, but no other colleges have our 48 hour email response policy. So the process is slow. We have been attending Fridays for Future Climate Protests, outside of Queen's Park. It happens every Friday for the foreseeable future there will be a protest outside of Queen's Park, it will be a protest that features young voices. Young meaning 16 and below. It is awesome if you like kids and you like the climate. It is kind of chill and nice, I love it. It is normally around noon-12:30 on Fridays. There are lots of Doc and Talks coming up soon. I know you're all excited about our monthly Sustainability Doc and Talks and it will happen. That's that.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

VP External - Devon Wilton

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] I will start off by letting you know that the first two spots of your event (Georgia) have been filled by Victoria and Jayde.

Jayde: My I quickly interject an antidote?

Devon: Taking up my time.

Jayde: I erased Victoria's name on the sign-up document by accident and had to fix it.

Devon: I now realize that my update is always at the end and now I feel guilty for taking up everyone's time, but I will give quick update on the Ryerson situation. The re-naming of the Ryerson stream project that I've been working on throughout the year is ramping up and Jayde and I have been working on a document, a proposal, detailing the work and the development consultation related to this project and historical precedent for name changes like this and value in name change and how we want it to be changed, the document will show all of our work towards the project. In combination with all of the meetings we've been having, hopefully it happens sometime towards the end of year. The biggest part of the project that we are working on right now involves compiling letters of support so if you have people you love, or know, or faculty members you know, if you know anyone that would want to support this, please pass it on. But basically we are compiling letters of support for the initiative and we would really appreciate the support, even if it is one line or a detail account. Let me know, I can reach out. I have fill-in the blank letters and I also have descriptions of who Ryerson is and what he did, if you want to do some education while asking these people. We have Josh reaching out to lots of people and his connections in the Indigenous Studies Department.

Jayde: Point of Personal Privilege: Who is Josh?

Devon: Josh is the President of the Indigenous Student Union and he is also MC-ing the event in the Cat's Eye right now if you want to meet him. He has been a great partner and resource for us. Also, in the coming weeks there will likely be an email vote for you to officially lend your support to the proposal. And there will be a petition and yes. Anything else?

Jayde: I would add that VUSAC Commissions are welcome to submit their own letters of support if your Commission is in support and we encourage you to leverage your networks because those

are students who are not in elected positions and their voice is powerful and valuable.

Commissioners, work your magic.

Devon: Once this support is done, we will write a VUSAC document and we will welcome your comments and edits on the document.

Alexa: Out of time.

Devon: Can I extend by two minutes? I hate myself.

Motion: Devon moves to extend “VP External Update” by 2 minutes. Ali seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[Devon continued:] There is this thing with the government happening, and I remember saying at Caucus that the Ryerson project will be the last big thing on my term but maybe not anymore, which is exciting. All I want to see is that it is encouraging to see all the student support and all the students who want to talk about it, student groups and levies, already people are having emergency meetings. I just want you to know that Jayde and I will be working a lot with these organizations and that VUSAC will be a big part of the change.

Cameron: Have you thought to who we are going to rename the stream after?

Devon: We talked. And we don't feel like we are at a point where we have anyone specific we want the stream to be named after quite yet. We do have a section called “Visioning” which is a collection of suggestions as to who we might want it to be named after. This includes ideas of maybe naming it someone after an Indigenous Woman or about a concept or place or in an indigenous language. And how valuable that might be. The motion is to asked that is be renamed to something but that it be renamed in a consultative process that is open to student feedback and discussion.

Jayde: I will just add that it will come with a timeline. No matter how extensive our consultations they would likely have to be redone in their own right for them to make decisions. It is kind of a pregmantive thing.

Devon: Thank you for your support.

VP Internal - Nick Shyshkin

- [No Update]

VPSO - Zoe Ritchie

- [No Update]

President - Jayde Jones

- [No Update]

Additions:

- Thomas - Phase Shift Update (3 minutes)

[Summary] I will do the Phase Shift one really quick: Because you all approved my six new line items, \$275 extra dollars I can now hold this one day-long event and it is regarding student organizations coming together to meet with their constituents. We are inviting every single student organization and U of T student to a kind of inquiry process where we are going to align our views so that next year there is a

transparency process where students can begin to trust our organizations and to not opt out of our fees basically. I have a huge problem with that at U of T and I feel very strongly that we should be focusing on how we maintain this as student leaders and how we have organizations to continue this process. I will be emailing all of you about the date when we have decided that (but it will most likely in February).

- Thomas - Senate Update (3 minutes)

[Summary] On to the second stuff, the February meeting of the Senate was cancelled. So I can not present on the things I planned on, so I will have a bit of a longer time to get the ball rolling on stuff. Which means that I will have more consultations this semester, this includes renaming the Ryerson stream to something else. I do hope that the people in this room who have been working on this type of thing will reach out to me. I am going to be looking for ways to make scholarships more accessible. And this includes the one thousand dollar scholarship for the 3.5 GPA, I am looking to split that into two to make it a \$500 one per semester to make it more accessible to students. Also, I am looking at the Jackman Humanities Program, and I am looking for people who have participated in it because it is a month lost for people who also want to do a work program and the grant is not sufficient enough for students who want to return for a full semester in the fall. Though it is a great program. So we are looking at making that more accessible. And then the last thing that I am working on this year in Senate is the Bursary process, which we want to open up more. So what I would request VUSAC to do is when the Bursary process does open up this semester, it should be published on VUSAC social media and website, as well I am going to propose to the Bursary Senate to make the process a bit more longer, because while it is a long application period at Vic it is still not long enough for students to know that it is happening and it is always during the busiest time of the year. It could be longer and more accessible. So that is my update.

Jayde: Huge thank you to you for sticking it out since 3pm, this is five hours now. It is fantastic to see people not on VUSAC in the room. So thank you and thank you for all of the invitations, I'm sure you will be engaging with people in the room as the semester continues.

Thomas: Message me on anything. Or email me. You could email the Phase Shift email if you want because that ends up in my inbox. That's a thing! Questions/comments/concerns? I would like to link you to, Zoe, more about this later!

Devon: It's great to have you as one of the most energetic Senate representatives that we have and I would just like to encourage you to collab with Zoe because that is a great route to go through. Thank you for coming!

Thomas: Thank you, and the whole purpose of that was mostly to just--I will be showing up for more meetings in the future, it is mainly just to "Thomas have you one this?" because I tend to get a bit forgetful and this is an extra kind of push for me to make sure it gets done. I'm gonna go.

[Applause]

Scarlet & Gold - Alexa Ballis

- Update (3 minutes)

Motion: Alexa Ballis moves to extend "Scarlet and Gold Update" by 3 minutes. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[Summary] I will try to keep this as short as possible. Last week was Winterfest and I just wanted to say thank you to Aurore Dumesnil, who was an amazing co-Chair. For the Cat's Eye, for hosting a lot of our events, and Christina and Bergita for your support and all of VUSAC for helping execute our events. Specifically given the nature of Winterfest people dedicated their holiday to prepare for these events which I am grateful for. Everyone came up with their own individual budgets for their events which was ratified over email vote. (Thank you!) On Monday Night, we had our Sweet Start to the Semester, which was a fondue party with VicXposure's photo exhibit and people came in and out, attendance was pretty good. We also had a Board games and Biscuits Event in the Cat's Eye with Caffiends catering, with giveaways and raffles. On Tuesday, we had our athletic night including skating and a Raptors viewing in the Cat's Eye They won! There was also a raffle and we raffled off a lot of Raptors merch. On Wednesday we collabed with VOCA pancakes and had an Insta raffle winner (which was Haleema) who won a free ticket to Semi. Then we had a Frozen movie night and our Pub Night. The Pub Night, was supposed to be at Perkin but they kept rising up the price which made me uncomfortable to spend four thousand dollars on an event that approximately had one hundred people would attend. So we ended up doing the Duke of Gloucester, it was a beach pub night so thank you Nick for the very cool beach decorations. And a flamingo which was popular. That was Wednesday! Thursday, we did a Self Care collaboration with Ali. That was a good event to ease people into the semester, all the supplies ran out. Caffiends catered and gave us some additional muffins and scones which was very kind of them. On Friday, we had the milk bag project. So, Alexa and I went to Mississauga to pick up boxes of empty milk bags which was a very fun trek. We cut up the milk bags and tie them up to make mats for homeless people and people in third world countries sleeping on the ground, because bugs don't go through milk bags because they don't like the material it is made of. We have two full boxes of milk bags left (they are very heavy) and if there is anything you'd want milk bags for, let us know. Take our milk bags! Overall, it was amazing to see the committee members at our events and they did an incredible job, I am proud of everyone!

Semi Formal, thank you to everyone on council who volunteered. Specifically, thank you to Jen, Gabby, and Katie, who helped make the decorations the night before because we were locked out of VUSAC the entire break. We had a live band and it was very good they really added to the event. They played at a lower rate which I am grateful for. The DJ killed it to, I was happy. The turnout was better than I was anticipating. I don't know the exact number but it was over one hundred. Coat Check was overflowing. Thank you again for VicXposure for the photos, candids will be up soon. Thank you! Another thing I'm working on with Highball is the affordable formal wear initiative. Jenny has met with Suits you and they are willing to collaborate with us after reading week.

Motion: Alexa Ballis moves to extend "Scarlet and Gold Update" by 5 minutes. Georgia seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None

[Alexa Ballis continues:] We have Suits You coming to help out and are now looking for a place that supplies dresses and once we figure that out we will set a date and start promoting that to people that we have ways for people to find less expensive formal wear for Highball. The Highball Committee is working very hard on visiting venues and researching. I thought I had one but then they said 87K and I was like, absolutely not! But I think I have another one now that is close to campus. I am still looking though. I can almost safely say it will be March 29th. So mark that in your calendars. I would appreciate

VUSAC volunteers as well, as it is such a high-scale event and most of us have first-aid training. Also, I will be providing feedback on Winterfest and Semi this week and or early next week.

Kevin: Semi candid photos will be up this weekend at the latest, I am going to a Faculty of Music Formal and then I am going home to work on them later tonight, and then I will hopefully sleep.

Jayde: Don't not sleep for them. Everyone on council is prepared that if someone asks where the semi photos are we will explain that you are a student putting together a wonderful, free service. You have this entire room of people supporting you on whatever timeline you need.

Jayde: I want to eat the last thirty seconds of your time for something unrelated, I just want to formally put in the minutes that due to the time nature, and the number of things I have to update you on from my portfolio that I did not elect to do an update but I will send you all an email update and then include it as an appendix to the next meeting for transparency's sake. But you do not need to sit through fifteen minutes of me extending by five minutes so just for the public record, I do have an update and you will get it in a more reasonable fashion.

Alexa: We all appreciate your self awareness.

Motion: Kevin moves to adjourn meeting. Lucy seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None