



Victoria University Students' Administrative Council

Club Ratification Council Meeting | 19 August 2018 | VUSAC Board Room

Called to Order: 14:15 **Adjourned:** 15:30

In Attendance

Executive

Jayde Jones, *President*

Nickolas Shyshkin, *Vice-President Internal*

Devon Wilton, *Vice-President External* (via Proxy)

Zoe Ritchie, *Vice-President Student Organizations* (via Skype)

Commissioners

Cameron Davies, *Academic Commissioner*

Carleigh Campbell, *Arts and Culture Commissioner* (via Proxy)

Emilia De Fabritiis, *Commuter Commissioner* (via Proxy)

Georgia Lin, *Equity Commissioner*

Alexa Ballis, *Scarlet and Gold Commissioner*

Councillors

N/A

Staff

Alexa Breininger, *Chair*

Vibhuti Kacholia, *Equity Co-Chair* (via Skype)

Ex-Officio Members

Aloysius Wong, *Co-President of VicXposure*

Guests

Cy Macikunas

Nam Nguyen

Molly Cong

Regrets

Karen Mao, *Office Manager*

Molly Simpson, *Chief Returning Officer*

Tabina Ahmed, *Commuter Co-Chair*

Rehan Vishwanath, *Communications Coordinator*



Opening Business

Land Recognition

Georgia explains their relationship to the land while reflecting on the fact that it is land which belongs to indigenous people. They invite everyone in the room to reflect similarly.

Additions to the Agenda

N/A

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Georgia Lin motions to approve the agenda as it stands.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Breininger: This motion passes

Action Items:



Council Policies Amendments

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to amend Chapter 13, Section 1, Part C, Item iii. “Have an executive at least 80% of which is composed of members of the VCU” to “Have an executive at least 70% of which is composed of members of the VCU”

Zoe: Hi, I apologize for not being here in person. The reason I want to make this amendment is because we have not been following it for a number of years, and through the consultation I’ve had with clubs, 80% is a really high number, especially when some clubs have to have external members to play certain roles. I believe that 70% is more realistic. I think that it reflects the practices that we’re already doing, and it would be good to have the policy reflect that. Let me know your thoughts!

Alexa Bre: Any questions or comments before we vote?

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to amend Chapter 13, Section 1, Part C, Item iii. “Have an executive at least 80% of which is composed of members of the VCU” to “Have an executive at least 70% of which is composed of members of the VCU”

SECONDED: Nick Shyshkin

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Bre.: This passes.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to strike Chapter 13, Section 1, Part C, Item iv. “Have a membership at least 60% of which is composed of members of the VCU” within Council Policies.

Zoe: I wanted to make this amendment because it’s something we already do in practice. It’s impossible to enforce general membership, and clubs fluctuate in regards to



what “membership” means. For instance, for Bachata at Vic, do you call somebody that comes out once a month a member? Do you not. It’s something that clubs have been expressing to me. We don’t enforce this rule, and giving clubs status is so that clubs can provide leadership opportunities to those students and meeting responsibilities. Clubs can do that without having a set membership quota. I just don’t think we need to be policing it, but I’m open to hearing all of your thoughts. It’s not the simplest solution, but the way we read this now is that we ignore it.

Jayde: As a general rule, especially with our Constitution and Council Policies, in this instance it makes sense, but just because we don’t follow something doesn’t mean we shouldn’t. Zoe has the right idea with this amendment. I’m hoping that when we ratify clubs, we take this seriously in the sense that you have access to Vic student fees, what do you bring to Vic? To benefit the Vic community, you don’t necessarily have to be Vic students, so I fully support this. A small thank you for all the work you’ve put into whipping this ratification process together.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to strike Chapter 13, Section 1, Part C, Item iv. “Have a membership at least 60% of which is composed of members of the VCU” within Council Policies.

SECONDED: Nick Shyshkin

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: Moving on to individual clubs ratification. Every club will be ratified in its own motion, so that Zoe or any clubs representatives can speak to their clubs before we vote to ratify.

Zoe: Before we start ratifying, I’m going to give a little preamble on what the process looked like this year. Great ratification season, tons of questions, and I hope I answer them all to the best of my ability, we received 26 applications for club status this year, and to qualify for status the following had to be submitted and confirmed: A name, purpose, type of club, club heads, dedicated email address, plans for the upcoming year, an executive membership, a logo, and an inventory. Interested parties had to confirm that 70% of their executive is comprised of Victoria College students, and those executive members would be required to attend equity training. The



following clubs that we will be motioning today, which is 25 out of the 26, met all of these requirements. It is my recommendation that we do ratify all of them, but please if you have any questions, let me know and I'll do my best to answer them. I don't have the full application in front of me, but if you have any specific questions I can pull it up and answer them. With that, we can start unless there are question.

Georgia: Is the application still online? So that we can take a look at it?

Zoe: It is, we accept applications at any point in the year so it will never be closed. The date we set was just a firmer date so we can allow time for the budgeting period. Any club who applies now may have delayed access to a budget. It's up and you can look at it. It's on the VUSAC page.

Jayde: Some people may notice that it's a bit earlier this year, we wanted to make it so that clubs can have a budget earlier, before October so that they are able to do things. In the past, the budget has been put together by the end of October or early November, we want to give clubs the opportunity to put on programming earlier in the year and start planning for the year, so that they know whether they need to apply for outside funding resources. Because of this, we will be putting up a larger contingency fund in the VPSO's budget this year. For clubs who've missed this ratification period of first year students who want to start clubs. We're going to account for more people applying after this deadline, but 26 clubs sounds like where we're usually at. At the end of the first budgeting period, if we have a larger amount of money left over in the contingency fund, usually there are two or three that apply in second semester, then we can reallocate that funding back towards clubs. The budget stuff is all Tiger, but we can talk about that when he's here or he can take questions by email. Zoe and I can try to answer your questions as best as we can. That's why we are doing this now, we've heard from clubs in the past that it's hard to plan out their first semester, especially with applying to Student Projects and the Performing Arts Endowment, it's easier if they know how much they're working with, but yeah, that's why we're here on the Sunday.

Alexa Br.: Very well, let's start with Bachata at Vic.

Zoe: I'll read the mission that they provided us, if you have questions, let me know. Bachata at Vic.

"Bachata at Vic is a club that teaches the traditional steps of the Dominican bachata dance. Our professional instructor builds upon the basic steps of the dance to teach us the more complex variations that you can do on your own or with a partner. This class is for everyone from beginners to intermediate and we strongly encourage everyone to come out and attend classes consistently! No experience is ever required and the classes are free for all students!"

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Bachata at Vic as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones

In Favor: All



Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Vic Dance.

Zoe: Here's the mission statement.

"Vic Dance is a casual dance team which seeks to bring a non-competitive dance atmosphere to the university. Through weekly dance rehearsals, we hope to reignite a passion for dance in our members and expose them to various styles of dance while working towards our year-end showcase. Vic Dance welcomes both new and experienced dancers to the team."

Jayde: You may not have the answer to this, but are they audition based? Or just coe as you are?

Zoe: I don't quite know, I'm guessing if they welcome new and experienced dancers, the auditions they hold would be quite open. I can double check if we want to hold off.

Jayde: No no I'm good, I just have a dance background which is why I'm asking. I know that auditions can be a barrier to audition, but it sounds like they're working to make things comfortable so I'm okay with that. Just in case you knew.

Zoe: I can check in with them after.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Vic Dance as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Georgia Lin.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is the University of Toronto Undergraduate Bioethics Society.

Zoe: I just want to make it clear that I do have a conflict of interest with this club, I hold a leadership position on it. I won't be voting on it. Here is the mission statement.

"The University of Toronto Undergraduate Bioethics Society seeks to examine societies most pressing social and ethical issues pertaining to health care, science and technology. We look for solutions and drive dialogue surrounding the challenges that emerge in our rapidly changing world."

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify the University of Toronto Undergraduate Bioethics Society. as a VUSAC-recognized club.



SECONDED: Cameron Davies.

In Favor: Alexa Ballis, Carleigh Campbell, Cameron Davies, Emilia De Fabritiis, Jayde Jones, Georgia Lin, Nick Shyshkin, Devon Wilton,

Opposed: None

Abstentions: Zoe Ritchie

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Hotake Theatre. I believe that there are representatives in the room who can speak if they would like.

Cy: Just to read what's on the document.

"To produce and facilitate the development of theatrical and musical works led by artists who identify with the Asian and Pacific Islander diaspora, with the aim of advancing API representation in these art forms at UofT."

Alexa Br.: Thanks so much, Zoe, would you like to add anything?

Zoe: I would strongly recommend ratification!

Georgia: Just curious, do you have a lineup for next year yet?

Cy: We have decided what we want to submit to the UofT Drama Festival, an annual event, and we're also currently in the middle of deciding which established production we would like to do for our first show.

Georgia: When would the first show be?

Cy: We're hoping for the first or third week of November. Before or after reading week.

Georgia: Would that be at Vic?

Cy: Yes.

Alexa Bal.: Do you know what dates you plan on having the show? I just want to know so that I don't have an event on that date.

Cy: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, either first or third week. We are leaning for the first week though because it will less likely to conflict with other events.

Alexa Bal.: Cool!

Georgia: Just curious, are you focusing on Canadian-Asian diaspora, or?

Nam: Not necessarily, just the general diaspora.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Hotake Theatre as a VUSAC-recognized club.



SECONDED: Alexa Ballis.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Goose Fiction.

Cy leaves

Zoe: Here is the mission statement.

“The Goose seeks to capture diverse voices of the University of Toronto by publishing student short fiction from a variety of genres and styles. As a publication, we value the Canadian literary tradition of short fiction and seek to share distinct views of the world from the perspective of students.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Goose Fiction as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Victoria College Cinema Society.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“VCCS strives to unite the student community through the understanding and appreciation of film, while highlighting the voices of some of cinema’s most important artists.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Victoria College Cinema Society as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Alexa Ballis.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Phase Shift.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.



“Phase Shift aims to provide a platform for students in the Victoria College and University of Toronto community to share their ideas and stories to inspire others among them. Phase Shift encourages individuals to spread knowledge to their surrounding community through platforms such as informal salons and formal conferences.”

Georgia: Their description isn't very clear. Do they have a theme? What is their goal?

Zoe: In talking with them, that was something that I brought up. In my conversations with them, sharing with you what they shared with me, they did express that it was similar to Tedx, like people sharing conversations. Their problem with Tedx is that it was not very inclusive, so they wanted to do something similar, but a lot more inclusive. They had not decided what kind of topics they wanted to do for a conference, so I leave it to your discretion whether you would like to ratify them today. They did seem well prepared to set things up, but I think they just wanted more time to set up and get their executive selected so that they can all decide what to do.

Jayde: I had the opportunity before to talk to an incoming executive before this ratification process, we chatted for a good hour or two. One of the reasons they haven't decided on topics is because they want it to be collaborative with what the community is interested in talking about, so I think they have a strong plan in place. This club operated outside of Vic, in a high school capacity, its led by a second year, but they were involved in their high school and it was successful, even to the greater Mississauga community where that high school is based. I personally would like to see them be ratified, and yeah. Those are my two cents.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Phase Shift as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is the K-pop Dance Club

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“To be able to exercise while dancing to K-pop and having fun!”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify K-pop Dance Club as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Alexa Ballis.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None



Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Vic iTeach.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“Vic iTeach is a social club designed to create a welcoming community among Victoria College students who are interested in education and teaching, providing opportunity for conversation about different aspects of education, networking and most importantly, building strong friendships among Victoria College students. Vic iTeach facilitates to the close-knit community of future teachers connecting and discussing issues prevalent to us all, where our members are each ambassadors of the academic teacher-training program here at Victoria College.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Vic iTeach as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Victoria College Chorus.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“Vic Chorus is a SATB open choir based at Victoria College, University of Toronto. To allow students an opportunity to come show their love of singing with people who love it just as much. Practices are held each Tuesday at 5:15pm in the Music Room at Goldring Student Center.”

Jayde: What is SATB?

Georgia: Soprano, tenor, alto, bass. It has all four vocal parts.

Jayde: Everyone can join no matter what your range is?

Georgia: As long as your range can fit into any of those four levels.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Victoria College Chorus as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Georgia Lin.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Hey, Teach!



Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“The name of our club is Hey, Teach! The Victoria College Education Magazine. The purpose of this club is to allow Victoria College students and the entire U of T community to share their thoughts, opinions, and philosophies about education through a student-run publication. As a magazine, Hey, Teach! is distributed among Victoria College students, offering our readers a number of thought-provoking and opinion-based articles written by their peers. The mission of the Victoria College Education Magazine is to provide an outlet for those who wish to speak to issues related to education, to provide scholarly opportunities for prospective education students, and to bring awareness to the Victoria College community as a whole in the field of education.”

Jayde: Did they publish last year? Physical publishing or?

Zoe: I believe so, not sure if it was just online or just physical. They're an active group so that's why I'm recommending them for ratification. As you can see, Vic has such a great education community and play a great role in fostering student engagement. I'm happy to get the information of their publishing last year.

Nick: I believe they published both online and with physical copies.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Hey, Teach! as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is bFriend Community Initiative.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“The bFriend Community Initiative's goal is to help foster friendships and connections throughout Victoria College. We host inclusive events meant to help all of us get to know our fellow students”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify bFriend Community Initiative as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Alexa Ballis.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None



Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Vic Life Drawing Club.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“The Vic Life Drawing club is a Victoria College organization intent on providing an artistic outlet for all U of T students and the further community. Based on our own passion for drawing, we want to create a safe, inclusive space that allows everyone to enjoy the practice of life drawing.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Vic Life Drawing Club as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is TBA Tunes Beats Awesome

Zoe: I love this name. Here is their mission statement.

“To provide an opportunity for singers interested in a cappella music to explore a variety of styles within a group setting, and to bring a cappella music into the U of T and Toronto communities.”

Alexa Br.: I have a question, is it auditions based? I know that it has been quite difficult to get into and quite selective, is it still like that?

Zoe: Not sure, I wasn't familiar with it and they checked all of our boxes, which is why I recommended ratification. If you'd like to hold off, I can look into it further and possibly recommend how to make auditions more equitable. I don't currently have the answer for that.

Georgia: They are audition based on my experience. They audition for the International Collegiate Chorus Acapella competition, and that is a very audition based and high intensive event, and they can only take a certain amount of people to go to the event as well. So it makes sense why they are an audition based group.

Jayde: I'm actually comfortable if there are some groups that are more auditions based. I think that we are allowing enough space in the Vic music community for people who want to sing but might not have the training, but at the same time, music can be very



elitist and there's a lot of things that come along with being able to have formal training. What I'm thinking, as somebody who does not sing and does not act, perhaps if we are mandating that clubs come to equity training when we're trying to get it more specialized, to help clubs do what they need when we're talking about theatre and music groups operating equitably, we can also talk about the audition process and what that looks like. When we think about equity, sometimes we push comfort out of the way, but what we can do do make all students feel comfortable walking into an audition room and feel like they have an equal shot whether they've had training or not. Me personally, I believe that this club is a valuable part of Vic, but when we're trying to provide our club heads with skills to have their club run better, I think that's something we can focus on for audition based groups, and think about what an audition space should look like. I think the clubs will have lots of insight for us. I don't want to speak for Georgia and Vibhuti who would be putting together specialized training, but I wanted to put that out there, and that'd be the ideal way I would see it of happening. That would be ratifying them today, and given the number of groups that would hold auditions, tackling that as a separate issue.

Georgia: I've been through the process. They do have open call, and call backs, and then they let you know if you got it. But it's the same panel and the same people who have been on it before in the previous years who are the panelists. I definitely think it can be better structured, but I agree with Jayde that it would make sense to ratify them today and figure out a solution moving forward. If they do not ratify today, they will not be able to start rehearsals or get their budgets in, and will create a problem for their overall function for the year.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify TBA Tunes Beats Awesome as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Vic Werewolf Club.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.



“Victoria College Werewolf Club aims to create a community for students on campus who are interested in the party game Ultimate Werewolf. As it is a social game, the goal is to allow students to meet and interact with others, as facilitated by the game, bringing together both students that commute and those that live on campus.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Vic Werewolf Club as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Alexa Ballis.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Her Voice

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“The purpose of our club is to promote awareness and raise funds for issues women face both locally and globally. “

Jayde: Does anybody know what kind of programming they did last year? I believe it’s a returning club, and when they said raising funds, where are those funds going? For which issues, and which organizations? That might be hyper-specific.

Alexa: They were at VOCA Pancakes last year, and they brought in a speaker. It had to do with women’s shelters, it was very informative from my experience.

Zoe: They were quite active last year and had a nice executive comprised of Victoria students. They did raise money for a women’s shelter, and held various cool events.

Jayde: I’m on their Facebook page, their VOCA pancake collaboration was with the Equity Collective, and then they raised funds for Women’s Habitat, a women’s shelter. It was talking about violence against women and domestic abuse, ad they did a Walk With Her in support of Women’s Habitat in November, and so it was in Queen’s Park, they met up in the Cat’s Eye for pancakes, and then they went on a walk for demonstration. That seemed to be their biggest programming of the year. They had a Bake Sale in Sid Smith, the charity of focus last year was Women’s Habitat. I’m not familiar with the charity, not sure if somebody has any thoughts on that. If they have given an idea of what they want to do next year, I’d love to hear that.

Alexa Br.: Sorry we need to extend time.



MOTION: Georgia Lin motions to extend the discussion by 30 minutes.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Jayde: One thing I was just interested in checking into, I know that sometimes women's based organizations can be trans-exclusive, it looks to me like they're making themselves to be an LGBTQ positive space in saying tht their programming is trans inclusive, so, that makes me feel more comfortable but just in moving charities forward, it's something we can keep an eye on.

Georgia: Zoe, is there a organization they hope to support this year, specifically?

Zoe: My internet is slow. Can we recess while it does?

MOTION: Jayde Jones motions for a two minute recess.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies seconds.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Zoe: The question is "what do you have planned for the upcoming year?". I'll read off of that.

"Last year we worked with one shelter in Ontario. This year we would like to expand our focus to working on raising awareness for not only violence women, but also other issues. We would like to work with more shelters locally and reach out to companies globally. Events such as more pancake breakfasts, fireside chats with strong and empowered women and a small scale conference are some of the events we have in store. These will allow us to not only promote awareness but also to raise donations (money, pads/tampons, baby food etc) for those in need locally and globally."

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Her Voice as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Alexa Ballis.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is The Boundary



Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“The Boundary is a satirical newspaper focused on news relevant to Victoria College students, as well as the broader University of Toronto community. The mission statement we have on our website is as follows: "The wily Boundary core is committed to making Victoria College - an anthill of the cynical and stoic - into a more relaxed, informed and happy collective. We provide a healthy, creative outlet for critique and are determined to do what the media should: afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted".”

Georgia: Zoe, are they a new club?

Zoe: I believe, that The Boundary operated last year in an unofficial status with a group of Victoria College students, and this is their first year looking for recognition as a club. Nick can maybe confirm, but I believe that is the case.

Nick: Yes, that is the case.

Georgia: Are they publishing physically or just online?

Zoe: I believe they have an online plan.

Nick: The way they operated last year is that they got some funding from Student Projects.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify The Boundary as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is DocU - UofT's Documentary Club

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“DocU aims to screen documentaries about current events, topics and issues on a monthly basis, and screenings are followed by a discussion period with relevant and knowledgeable guest speakers! If you like documentaries, debating controversies and eating popcorn, this is the club for you.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify DocU - UofT's Documentary Club as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies.



In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Vic Records.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“To bring the recording arts to the Vic community. There's a whole side to music no one understands, and our purpose as a recording-based club is to make this part of music accessible and engaging to everyone in ways that our normal conceptions of music could never do.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Vic Records as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Vic For a Cure

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“Vic For A Cure is a Victoria College based club dedicated to raising money and awareness for the fight against cancer. Our group is committed to engaging students in this fight, by organizing various programs, services, and events throughout the school year, including Cuts for Cancer, our Movember campaign, our Annual Benefit Concert, Annual Dodgeball Tournament, documentary screenings, bake sales, and more. Funds raised for these events are donated to various cancer fighting organizations, including the Canadian Cancer Society.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Vic For a Cure as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Georgia Lin.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Oddball Productions.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“To encourage student film making and storytelling on campus.”



Jayde: a) are they a returning club? b) did they give more context as to what their plans were? c) if you know would they be looking into needing equipment? Or borrowing from VicXposure?

Zoe: I'm pulling up their application. From what I recall in their application, they were more of an interest based group. They didn't explicitly ask for equipment, my recommendation to them should they ask for equipment would be to look at collaborations, Student Projects, etc. The form says that their plans for the year are: founding member recruitment campaign, clubhouse inauguration meet and greet, elections, formations of teams and scheduling to allow simultaneous filming with shared resources, screening, mid-year ceremony, applying for student academy award recognition, shortlist submissions for festivals, vote for best pictures, and screening of best club picture. They also listed some owned items in their owned inventory, and said they would use Hart House for some rentals.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Oddball Productions as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Victoria College Board Games Club.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

"Victoria College Board Games Club aims to bring people together and create community through board games. We hold weekly meetings for students to drop by and unwind by playing their favorite game with friends. We provide an opportunity for Vic students to meet new friends and try new games in a welcoming, informal environment."

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Victoria College Board Games Club as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None



Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The next club is Victoria College Equity Collective.

Zoe: Here is their mission statement.

“Victoria College Equity Collective is a club designed to act as a safe place for students to engage more directly with systems and discourses of gender, race, sexuality and class. While reflecting these social structures, VCEC will empower students to be active, self-reflective and engaged citizens. By integrating political, social and economic issues through this intersectional lens, VCEC’s mandate encourages greater diversity in Canadian institutions, by encouraging equity-informed participation in public life and fostering leadership skills in student leaders.”

Nick: Is there anything that sets them differently from VUSAC Equity?

Jayde: I know we’re interested that we don’t have clubs that do the same thing so that we can equally distribute funding, but I think it’s important that we don’t include VUSAC commissions in that, because there will always be students who for a myriad of reasons don’t feel comfortable or just do not want to engage with VUSAC. VUSAC isn’t the solution for everything, so ensuring there are equity opportunities outside VUSAC, and that’s something I support. I know their leadership has been mixed in terms of ability of executing programming, but it’s still important to have it.

Georgia: I agree, especially having been on the commission, a lot of the work on the commission was different from VCEC.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Victoria College Equity Collective as a VUSAC-recognized club.

SECONDED: Georgia Lin.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: That passes. The last one is Victoria College Jazz Ensemble.

Zoe: Here is the mission statement.

“The Vic Jazz Ensemble provides an opportunity for student musicians to keep up their hobby without the time commitment and competition of other U of T bands.”

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to ratify Victoria College Jazz Ensemble as a VUSAC-recognized club.



SECONDED: Jayde Jones.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Alexa Br.: We have one discussion item of a club that's applied for ratification, but has not been put forward in a motion to ratify. Zoe, if you want to speak to that, you can go ahead.

Jayde: Just hopping in, usually it's the VPSO motions to have a club be ratified, but if at the end of this conversation Zoe does not wish to ratify this application, but a voting member decides to, after hearing all sides, to put forward the motion to vote on ratification, it would require a seconder and then it can be put on the table. Please pay attention to the conversation.

Zoe: Thanks Jayde. I'd like to explain my reasoning, and I've received some testimonials from Vic students, some of whom would like to share my thoughts. I'll do that after Molly speaks.

During the application period, clubs are asked if they meet the requirement of 70% of their executive being Vic students, NAMUN checked this box on the form, but after due diligence was conducted on all clubs that applied, it was found NAMUN does not meet the 70% requirement falling far below it at around 15%.

In addition, various members of the Vic community have cited concerns with inequitable practices. In 2017/2018 school year NAMUN did not attend mandatory equity training nor did they submit a mandatory end of year report. Victoria College staff have also raised issue with mis-treatment and usage of Vic spaces.

A month prior to this meeting I felt it was my responsibility to inform NAMUN that we would be strictly adhering to policies this year and that they may want to speak to me further about what that would mean for their organization in its affiliation with Victoria College. I reached out over email and did not hear back.

It is for these reasons (1) NAMUN does not provide adequate opportunities for Victoria College students to hold leadership positions on their executive as demonstrated by the very slim number of students on their current executive at 15% falling far below our mandated 70% and (2) they have a history of not addressing concerns from Vic students on unequitable practices and not complying with mandatory equity training and end of year reporting that it is my recommendation that at this time VUSAC does not ratify NAMUN for the upcoming school year. But I am glad we have a representative from NAMUN to speak. I'll read some testimonials after, and hopefully we can engage in a discussion. This year it was one of my mandates to take our clubs seriously and treat them in a fair and equitable manner. All other applications were held to the same standard, and I know that NAMUN has a long history with Vic, but we also hold them to the same standard.

Alexa Br.: We'll just need to extend time, I don't want to cut Molly off.



MOTION: Jayde Jones motions to extend discussion by 30 minutes.

SECONDED: Cameron Davies.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Molly: I just want to address first some concerns, and then I'll get to the core arguments. A couple of things I wanted to clarify, we did actually complete the End of Year Report, I'm not sure if it was lost between different VPSOs, but I'd be happy to forward that email chain. We had a couple of VUSAC members on our secretariat last year, so the first email we received from Vic was that they encouraged last year's secretariat to attend equity training, but there would be no penalties if nobody attended equity training. Going forward, should we be ratified for club status, we would be more than happy to cooperate with that requirement. Also, I'm not familiar with the equity requirements are, but the two secretariat members who were on VUSAC last year expressed that they received equity training as a part of their VUSAC training, and not sure if they told the secretariat that that would suffice. In terms of the arrangement we had with VUSAC last year, we were told that we received special status, we were ratified at a later date. We have never requested funding from Vic, and we don't plan to because we understand that VUSAC is accountable for student funds and should be distributing funds in an appropriate manner. We did not fill all of your requirements, but what we are asking for is a special status where we are able to use rooms for our conference, and then not receive any of the other perks associated with club status. We don't want funding, we encourage Vic students to participate, the number of Vic students on our executive changes every year, it really depends on who applies and who is interested, we've always reached out to different students across campus to apply to the secretariat and as staff. If it would make VUSAC more comfortable, we would be more than happy to be ratified in a special capacity where we sign an agreement, saying that we won't use any Vic students fees or funding.

We also use Vic rooms only for four days during reading week from February 20th-23rd, and we use them during a low traffic time, and we work around academic obligations when there are still graduate level tutorials happening. Most clubs aren't meeting up during reading week. We have met with Devonnia, about room bookings, and making sure that we are booking them in a precise and specific manner so that we do not interfere with other student organizations who may want to use certain spaces. We know that it is a concern last year that we had been using a lot of rooms or overbooking rooms, and we definitely want to stay away from that this year. We've also always paid for other Vic services, catering, AV, equipment, and Isabel Bader. With regards to the communication issue, we do have a summer transition period. Unfortunately the person that was being emailed before is not on our secretariat anymore, and did not appropriately forward those messages to me. So I would like to apologize for that. We were not aware that there was a lot of important summer communication that happened, and now that Zoe has my email, I'm sure there will be no issues with communication. Apart from that, I don't



think there were ever issues of responsiveness before that. We really have had a long partnership with Vic, we would like to continue that, NAMUN usually hosts 500-550 collegiate students and faculty members from Canadian universities, and the States and internationally as well. Vic generally represents UofT very well, it's a relationship that goes two ways and leaves a good impression.

Jayde: Thank you for coming in, one thing I did want to clarify was that equity training was not mandatory last year, to that end, we encourage clubs to attend and we are hoping to make it mandatory this year, as we have done so via our application form and will hopefully add it to our Constitution this year, so yeah you're in line with whether this is a good thing or not, but equity training was not mandatory last year. It was the first time that our commissioner and co-chair put it on for student groups which is really great, and they did make a point of noting which groups took up that invitation so that students can be aware which organizations have equity training, but no fault on your end, or previous team's end for that. The other thing I wanted to mention, with regards to special status, something I campaigned on, was to bring back a club status that we used to have, called associate club status, which is essentially exactly what you're saying, you have space booking privileges but you don't have access to funding, it hasn't been super well received by Council, but I will be putting it forward when we have our Councillors, it was well received during the campaign period, but we'll see. I get where you're coming from, and there are lots of clubs in your position where it really does benefit Vic if we have you operating in our spaces, or the ability for your group to be here. But, with me and where I'm at right now, I don't think we have in place some system in which we could grant you special status. Until such time, if there is such time, where associate or affiliate club status were to return, which I don't have control over beyond putting the motion forward, to all of the reasons that you said, it can be valuable for not only NAMUN but for other clubs, so I, being up front, I would not be in support of giving NAMUN club status, largely just because of the executive number, being one of our biggest requirements, but I would be more than happy to support or put forward a motion later in the year to be ratified within this new club status, but that is contingent on that club status becoming a thing. I emphasize with the situation but I won't be able to support getting status that does not exist. The other thing, it's great that you talked to Devonnia and it's amazing to hear that you've been responding to concerns, especially coming in as a new team. It's great to see that you have taken that seriously, one thing that could be an option is putting those spaces on hold, this is like could be an option, I can't make promises, seeing whether this could be a status. If you have Ulife status or are a UTSU recognized club, you do have other space booking options. In January, the Student Commons will be open, a beautiful new building with lots of space for UTSU recognized clubs. I think that pursuing other options, and then seeing if this becomes an option, but that would be contingent on this club status being brought back, people voting in favour, and your club being in that status, but that's just what I wanted to say where the status you describe would be important and valuable for Vic, it just does not exist. Perhaps in the future, if my plans come to fruition, then I can see that relationship working, but mainly I'm appreciative of you coming here and addressing all of this.

Georgia: In regards to the equity training last year, you're right and Jayde is right, it was not mandatory. But I know that my predecessor worked very hard on promoting equity training and introducing its necessity to all club and levy heads. I think that the reasoning of having VUSAC



members on the executive who have gone through equity training because they had to go through equity training was not enough of a validation to not have the rest of your executive complete it. I know that you were not on it last year and it's not your choice, but I think that if that was the reasoning that NAMUN had last year, I also would about inequitable policies, I also wouldn't be able to vote to ratify a club unless there is an assurance that even if it's not constitutionally-mandated, as we hope it would be, that NAMUN executive members would attend equity training regardless.

Molly

Molly: Yeah so this year we are going to be having equity officers in each of our conference rooms, to address that. We will have secretariat members complete equity training, so that we can adequately train our equity officers.

Georgia: Would your secretariat train the equity officers?

Molly: All of our secretariat would get trained, but primarily one member will be the designated secretariat member to train the equity officers, who will hopefully we well equipped to deal with any equity concerns that arise.

Zoe: Just a couple points, I really do empathize with your situation, the last thing I want to be is a frustration to your organizations, because I've had some good interaction with NAMUN over the years. First, although you do not ask for funding, it is important to note that the maintenance of our spaces and the staffing of our spaces is done through student fees, so booking a great number of spaces of a couple of days, you are using a good amount of student fees. If we calculated, it would be a significant amount, so I think need to take that into account, and that student fees are not free to maintain or free to staff. The other point I want to make is that I have two students reach out to me and ask to read statements. I'm wondering, Alexa, whether I could go or it. Both have asked that I do use their names, and are VCU members.

Alexa Br.: Go ahead.

Zoe: Both have asked that I do use their names, they're both are VCU members. I'll start with Sayeh Yousefi.

"I'd like to first clarify that I'm writing this email as a member of the VCU and a former member of the secretariat for the North American Model United Nations (NAMUN) club. I'd also like to apologize for sending an email so late, it's been a hectic few weeks.

I just wanted to voice some concerns and criticisms (that can hopefully be constructive), based off my experience working with this organization over two years.

As I'm sure you're aware, there is a prevalent misogynistic and elitist culture that exists within the spheres of debate and Model UN in general, but these issues tend to be more systematic



than specific to a certain organization. I will be honest, I joined NAMUN with this understanding in mind, in hopes that there would be room for reform and growth to make the club, and conference more accessible. Please bear with me as I'll explain why this hope was quickly and continuously refuted.

I began the year proposing a financial aid plan to help alleviate the costs of the conference for students who were interested and may not have had the means to afford it. Though I did my research, had an extensive plan well thought out, and had offered to do all the work of bringing it to NAMUN myself, at our first core meeting it was not met very positively. The reaction, particularly from the Secretary General, was very much in the line of 'oh we don't have time or the resources to plan this', and 'maybe this is an idea for next year'. These sort of comments continued in varying degrees anytime myself or someone else from the secretariat or staff wanted to enact changes within the organization.

In the time leading up to the conference, myself and several other secretariat members were insistent on providing an equity training for all staff members, because we'd been made aware of inappropriate behaviours and comments being tolerated in the past. This was met with, again, the lack of time response. And there was no real effort made to include it in the weekly trainings, though it could have been fully possible. The eventual compromise was a 5-minute equity training presentation at the all-staff meeting, which as I'm sure you can imagine, does not even begin to encompass the many problems NAMUN needed to address. I also learned of some sexual harassment instances in the past that had been mishandled by leadership, though as far as I'm aware this wasn't the case with this year's conference (at least not to my knowledge). Essentially, the point I'm getting is that time and time again, when faced with equity-related problems, the solution was to brush it under the carpet and hush the situation as much as possible.

I can provide more specific examples if you think that would benefit your understanding of the situation, but for me, even as someone who tried to be open-minded of the limitations of equity-training and accessibility, I was constantly disappointed by the reluctance to take any proactive action to address the problems. It often felt, when we brought up equity-related problems, that we were being met with a 'but why do we need this' response. I don't mean to generalize, as by no means would this apply to everyone or all of the secretariat, but it was far from uncommon.

Again, I'd like to apologize for sending this to you so late, and I'd be happy to elaborate or expand on any point if you'd like me to. I fully trust your judgement and that you will be able to decide what the best path forward is for this club, but personally, with the passiveness and



reluctance to positive change I've experienced in the past, I do think NAMUN needs some serious restructuring of their core values. I'm not sure who that starts with or what that process looks like, but I think it's a necessity if we want NAMUN to be representative of the values and principles that Vic stands by."

The second one is from Stephanie, the Director of Crisis Committees for NAMUN 2019, and is a Victoria College student.

"Regrettably, as much as I would prefer to advocate on behalf of the North American Model United Nations to your assembly in person, I have a conflicting commitment to full time employment that prevents me from speaking at today's meeting. Please accept the following remarks as you deliberate NAMUN's club status for the 2018-2019 school year.

As a fifth-year student of Victoria University, I have always taken pride in the school's commitment to academic rigor, diversity, and student welfare. As a small college, it has the unique opportunity to foster a tight knit community at the University of Toronto. At a university where it is easy to be lost in a sea of students, Victoria University pulls together the right mix of academic, financial, and personal support to keep students at their best.

As someone who switched colleges in my second year from St. Michael's College, I have been grateful to have been provided the personal attention that made me feel like an individual as opposed to a number. VUSAC plays an integral part that process by hosting events, guaranteeing that the ethos of the college is implemented at every juncture, and fighting to ensure its students are treated fairly. Part of that process includes rigorously vetting student clubs, which brings us to the matter at hand.

NAMUN and VUSAC have enjoyed a long-standing relationship for many reasons, chiefly among them that NAMUN's staff is comprised of a significant number of students from Victoria University. Students from Victoria University not only shape the academic content produced by NAMUN and staff its annual flagship conference, but have played long standing institutional roles, writing our constitution, leading staff members, advising after graduation, and more. As a result, it follows that we have many shared interests as organizations. NAMUN provides the unique opportunity for students to flex academic muscle in an enjoyable environment, where they can make friends and develop networking and professional skills which are essential in the modern workforce. In addition, NAMUN is fully committed to diversity and inclusivity and encourages its members to speak their mind.

Despite these shared values and interests, the past Secretariat of NAMUN failed to uphold many of VUSAC's requirements for club status. On behalf of NAMUN 2019, I would like to



express my frustration at the past leadership and commit to renewing our partnership moving forward. Moreover, the actions of the past leadership does not reflect on the current secretariat, who I consider to be accountable, responsive, and responsible. I should know; I'm one of them. I fully stand behind Molly Cong, our secretary general, and Harsh Rughani, our Under-Secretary General for Academics, who is also a student at Victoria University.

Finally, I would like to make the case that revoking NAMUN's official club status would needlessly inflict significant long-term harm to our organization. We rely on Victoria University as a venue, because few other spaces on campus can accommodate a conference of our size. In truth, the beauty of our college also reflects well on the University of Toronto at large; I swell with pride at the privilege of hosting students who travel internationally to our University, and I'm always proud to say I study here.

Noting the benefits NAMUN membership confers to students and the significant shared interests VUSAC and NAMUN have, I ask that VUSAC reconsider the motion before the council, or at the very least delay the vote until I can address the council in person. In closing, I would like to reaffirm my commitment to Victoria University and NAMUN, and hope that my deep love for both will not come into conflict because of a misunderstanding, or my failure to address the council today."

Zoe: I really would like to have a conversation about this today, so please share your thoughts. There were quite a few equity issues last year, i had some students come to me individually to talk about how they were not addressed. That being said, there is a new secretariat this year and it's likely that they will have have a different approach. That being said, that is not my biggest concern, my biggest concern is meeting the 70% requirement for executive membership, and NAMUN hits around 15%. That's very low. If it was 60%, I think this conversation would be different, but it's not, and the reason we recognize clubs is because they provide strong leadership opportunities to Victoria College students, and when we have a club applying for status where most of its membership are from other colleges, I think we really need to think why we're making the exceptions for one organization, and holding all of the others to a higher standard. I think you can make the argument for a long history, I think that is fair, I think that at the same time, Victoria College and VUSAC has proven time and time again that history does not always dictate what we should be doing right now. When you do vote, just keep that in mind. It's a very large exception. We need to take into account these equity issues and take them seriously, but also taking our policy very seriously, which we have for a reason. We just made it easier for clubs to apply. I think those are all of my sentiments, I never want to influence you overtly, but being the VPSO I think that I do have the most information on the situation. I hope you do take into account what's been said. I want to thank the students who couldn't be with us today, who shared their thoughts. That being said, I would like to hear from other members.



Georgia: I agree with Zoe, as the Equity Commissioner, I am very concerned about the equity issues at hand here. As Zoe said, even though there is new leadership, equity can't be solved within the month you get equity training. Even if we pass the amendment to make equity training mandatory in October/end of October, not all of the equity issues are going to be solved for the end of the year by the time every single person on the executive has done equity training. If we were to ratify today, I wouldn't be able to trust the equity oversight that would go into the rest of the year.

Jayde: I know that Stephanie asked that we delay a vote until they can be here, and as Zoe said, there isn't a vote. But Molly - Stephanie would be welcome to come to a future meeting and if there is a motion on the table for club ratification today and that passes or fails, that's different, but if there is no such motion, then if we brought it up as a discussion item and motioned later, we can do that. I just want to put at ease that Stephanie not being here will not be to your detriment. It was great for them to send in a statement, and I'm glad it was read. But that's it from me.

Nick: Thank you for bringing this up. I do agree with many of the points that Zoe has brought up, and I say that as somebody who had been a member for the past three years. Especially with considering a special club status, which is something that I am more concerned about separately, but I think that this sort of status or a special agreement would open up the floodgates to other groups and conferences who would also want to use Vic space if it really was that easy. I know that in the past it has been that easy, and in my term as VPSO, I made it easy and that's more so the fault of myself and last year's council in regards to doing our due diligence with these sorts of matters.

Cameron: I agree with Jayde and Zoe that 15% exec membership isn't quite enough to qualify for clubs status as it currently stands, but would be interested in looking as to what that could look like with associate club status.

MOTION: Jayde Jones motions to extend the discussion by 15 minutes.

SECONDED: Georgia Lin

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Aloysius: Just wanted to ask, are there any other spaces that you can go to other than Victoria College?

Molly: On an average year, yes. But this year, UC is under renovation and that poses a problem with some safety concerns. But in the interest of efficiency and having our staff together, there



isn't really a space as large as Vic, typically in an average year we can do Hart House and UC combined, but UC renovations won't be complete until September 2019 so that is not really an option for us. We think Vic is our best option, especially considering the support from staff and students and the image it gives UofT to students from other schools.

Zoe: There are a lot of spaces on campus that I think can accommodate a conference of that size, the other option which is always open, but I don't want to speak for NAMUN, but I've heard from other members is that it runs a large profit every year, or has some flexibility with spending. Our space can always be paid for. As it stands now, a recognized club does not pay for our space, and the space is instead paid with the student fees. Students pay for that. For the future, the space can still be booked, but it would be booked through their own financial mans and not through student fees.

Alexa Bal.: The Student Commons that will be opening up, the fourth floor does have a lot of conference spaces, and it will be pretty if it's not under construction.

Cameron: There are other buildings close to the student commons that may not be considered as typical conference venues, but places like Bahen do have quite a few good small rooms for these sorts of bookings.

Alexa Br.: In the interest of time, let's keep the discussion on the topic of NAMUN as a Vic club.

Molly: I think I'm getting the sense of the tone in the room about club status, however I wanted to know when the discussion of associate club status would come up during the year?

Jayde: I'm happy to move offline for talking about my plans for that with you, I would say if status isn't granted today, which I couldn't support, but I would operate under the assumption that Vic isn't a space that you could access for free because of timelines, the associate club status not happening, and things like that. I'd be happy to talk to you about more generally my ideas about that afterwards, if that's okay with you.

Alexa Br.: Any motions to put forward to ratify? If not, we can motion to adjourn.

Zoe: Thank you all for your time, it's been a lot of talking, but it's an exciting day because we ratified a lot of clubs. Just wanted to take a moment to appreciate how much work members of our community have done to make these ideas a reality. I think the conclusion of today is a happy one.

MOTION: Zoe Ritchie motions to adjourn.

SECONDED: Georgia Lin

In Favor: All

Opposed: None



Abstentions: None