



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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## **VUSAC MEETING MINUTES**

March 8th, at 5:10 PM in the Goldring Student Center  
MINUTES

### **In Attendance**

#### **Judiciary**

PRESIDENT: Jayde Jones (Chair 7pm onward)  
VPI: Nickolas Shyshkin  
VPE: Devon Wilton  
VPSO: Zoe Ritchie

#### **Assessor Members**

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Molly Simpson (Chair until 7pm)  
OFFICE MANAGER: Emma Lailey  
COMMUNICATIONS: Rehan Vishwanath  
FINANCE: Tiger Fu

#### **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  
Jai Kakkar

### **Guests**

VCU MEMBER: Sepi Mortazavi  
VCU MEMBER: Aminah Attar  
VCU MEMBER: Sayeh Yousefi  
UTEA PRESIDENT: Alienor Rouged-Maronies

### **Regrets**

CHAIR: Alexa Breininger

### Land Recognition: Jayde (3 minute)

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)

- Jared to add (3 minutes) for a Update
- Sayeh to add (3 minutes) for a Reflections on Caucus On Student Fee Spending
- Zoe to add (3 minutes) discussion item on the University of Toronto Exchange Association end of year gala

Jayde: Point of Order: Student Projects just granted them that funding today. It still needs to be ratified over email vote by VUSAC. But, you have the money! Zoe, you can run through what the event is but it will also be in the package for next week.

### Motion: Jayde moves to move Zoe's additional discussion item to beginning of the agenda. Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

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

### Motion: Devon moves to approve the agenda as it stands. Ali seconds. Motion passes.

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

### Motion: Georgia moves to approve the minutes from March 1st, 2019 as it stands. Emilia seconds. Motion passes.

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

### Pressing Items:

- On the University of Toronto Exchange Association end of year gala - Zoe (3 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone, before I begin I want to say that today I have a sister with me to hear about a cool event that I hope you will all support. I love bring your sister to work day. That being said, I want to give my time to Alienor, who is the UTEA President.

Ali: Hi everyone! My name is Ali, I am the President of the U of T Exchange Association. The UTEA was created last year by exchange students because U of T wasn't catering to the special needs of International and Exchange students. A lot of exchange students come to Vic, because Vic usually gets mentioned first in the advertisements, so we have a lot of students. At all of our events the turnout has been around 150 students, which feels huge for a second year-old association. Our team has worked very hard, and as a way to reward that we wanted to get sweaters in order to also feel more like a community before we go back. Also, we thought that a gala would be a fantastic and the most appropriate final bash to end the year and celebrate our success by dressing up, and having it in Old Vic (because it is so beautiful and our students know the space). Obviously, the reasoning why it is more expensive than expected is because of Vic catering. Originally we were thinking of doing a pub night, but because we are made up of kind of a lot of European students, we thought maybe not. Also, for those non European students alcohol is not something most of them want to engage in or feel comfortable engaging in. A gala on Vic property is the best way to ensure that there will be no strangers from the streets at the event, which would deteriorate some students from coming, which is why we want it here.

*[Ali whoos]*

Zoe: If anyone has questions now is the time to ask because this will be going through email vote.

## **EX-OFFICIO UPDATES**

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Motion by Leora Nash ratify a grant of \$2800 for the Equity Studies Students' Union 2020 summit with the following stipulation: that the organization encourages Vic students to attend and offer promotional material at Vic (See Appendix A) (5 minutes)

[Summary]

Jayde: Point of Personal Privilege: Appendix A is accessible in the email.

Devon: Point of Personal Privilege: can Leora move this motion if she is not here?

Jayde: Yes. If she had submitted after noon on Wednesday, no. But I can also motion to get someone else to move the action item if you prefer?

Devon: I'm fine.

Vibhuti: So, Lucinda came to Student Projects to ask funding for the 2020 summit for the ESSU, which is a space for student leaders to come together and celebrate the 20 years of the Equity Studies program and also discuss how to mobilize with regards to Ford's policies on OSAP and Education in order to support students the way they need to be supported. We thought this was an important proposal to support because we want our students to have a safe space to talk. The event will be in Hart house. The grant will cover food and the cost of two anti-oppression officers. The committee felt that this was an important project to fund and that it was benefiting to Vic students because a lot of Vic students are registered to attend the event and it's important to support students as they come together to discuss the quality of their education and the barriers to that.

Devon: To remind those who perhaps weren't present, I asked for a straw poll concerning our support of this summit at Caucus and everyone seemed very interested. VUSAC is currently listed as a collab on the Summit and we are advertising that on our social media platforms.

Vibhuti: Also the VUSAC Equity Commission is a co-host and we obviously have ties to the Vic community, so this proposal would definitely be benefiting to Vic students.

Rehan: I have a question, I'm not that well educated on what oppression officers are. Could you explain what they do?

Vibhuti: Absolutely! They are people there to make sure the attendees in the Summit have a comfortable space to speak and they control people perhaps trying to disrupt the Summit. Due to the nature of the Summit, the organizers are expecting people to get heated and the oppression officers are just there to make sure that people are safe.

Rehan: Thank you.

Motion: Leora Nash moves to ratify a grant of \$2800 for the Equity Studies Students' Union 2020 summit with the following stipulation: that the organization encourages Vic students to attend and offer promotional material at Vic. Jayde Jones seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None
  
- Motion by Alexa Ballis to reallocate \$1700 from the contingency fund to the Scarlet and Gold budget for Grad Banquet gifts. (See Appendix B) (5 minutes)

[Summary] Because I am like this...

*[Context: Alexa is sick and has no voice]*

Cameron: The Grad Banquet Committee has been meeting and discussing various gifts to give to the graduating class. Last year we gave blankets. This year we are thinking of giving reusable straws because they are very popular. We are thinking of purchasing 200 straws, about \$5 each. We are waiting on a quote. The extra units will be donated back to VUSAC or to the Sustainability Committee to have that fun straw thing again. We do have a budget from the Dean's Office, but it is not a huge budget. We are looking to get \$1,700 from Council. The reason I, myself, and the Grad Banquet Committee support this is because a lot of us feel that we try our best to return our money to students before they graduate, and sometimes we don't succeed, but this is a good way to ensure that the graduating class have their fees going back to them in a fun, sustainable gift.

Emilia: So, just so everyone is aware, the gift is not just a single \$5 straw. It is a package. I will post a picture on the VUSAC page. When Cameron says straws he means two straws, a metal sweeper and a bag. Just so people know its not a 5\$ straw. Because oof. I just posted it.

Jayde: I think that it is important to recognize that we came into this year very strong financially speaking and encouraged everyone to spend our surplus. As we know, well you know--January 17th--life ruined. It is my brand now. But this does change our financial outlook and spending habits. Luckily our utilization rates are up. In past, it's been around 30-40%. Tiger, can you quickly shout out the number?

Tiger: Based on our numbers right now, but obviously depending on the situation, it should be around 60%.

Jayde: We were budgeting from a position of strength that we no longer have. With that, I have a question for Alexa. Has the Grad Banquet Committee considered taking that money from the Highball Fund (surplus) and what was the situation there?

Motion: Jai moves to extend discussion time by 10 minutes. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

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

Alexa: I thought about that but, right now, the exact price of the venue has been gone up because we had to pay for an additional hour of security. Because it was originally scheduled until midnight but now it's for 1AM. If that is preferred (going into the Highball fund), I can do that instead. Any amount that we can contribute to the Grad Banquet Committee is good and will be useful.

Jayde: Thank you for speaking through your situation [loss of voice]. I think that I would motion to change that outsource from the contingency fund to your budget.

Motion: Jayde moves to amend the Alexa Ballis' motion to reallocate \$1700 from the contingency fund to the Scarlet and Gold budget for Grad Banquet gifts to reallocate \$1700 front the Scarlet and Gold budget "Highball and Venue" line, and for the new line to be titled "Grad Banquet Gifts." Alexa seconds.

Vibhuti: I was wondering, did the Dean's Office pay for grad gifts in full last year? If so, why are they not covering it all this year?

Alexa: In the past, Student Projects has assisted. I do not know 100%, but I do know that almost all of the budget is going entirely to the venue this year, because venues are expensive.

Tiger: I wanted to echo what Jayde said. We can afford the 700 but we are in a different position financially than we were at the beginning of the year. A lot of clubs, levies, and people are reallocating to other events that they want to host because they want to spend that money. We are projected to spend most of our money and we will likely leave a minor surplus next year.

That surplus will be needed next year, but I would take a cautious approach in spending our money. I am hesitant to give that money, given our financial situation, or at least for that money to come from us. Given that the Dean's Office has a more stable fund and they are not as affected by Ford's cuts, I would try to insist that the money comes from their budget. Or maybe the venue could be switched. The main solutions are whether the Dean's Office could cover this or if Student Projects could support this. That's the gist of it. We just have to be more careful about our spending. Overall from a Finance perspective, there is not real difference if it comes out of the highball money or the contingency fund. It will be VUSAC money anyways. The main

question we should be asking is if spending this amount of money makes sense given our current situation and with respect to the group of people the money is servicing.

Alexa: I did bring this up to Student Projects and I was recommended to come here.

Devon: Thank you. I was on the Grad Banquet Committee last year and last year VUSAC did not spend money on this, just the Dean's Office and Alumni Committee. There may of been a Student Projects contribution. I am concerned with VUSAC spending this type of money on this type of event. There is a historical trend in the Dean's Office to ask VUSAC to spend money on events that cater to Student Life when that is really their prerogative. For example, during orientation there was a discrepancy about who should pay for orientation mugs because they had the VUSAC logo on them, and we ended up paying. I think that if we contribute money we should be getting something out of it. I am hesitant to dedicate student money, VUSAC money, on this because our money will be less resourceful next year.

Cameron: We did discuss the possibility of the Dean's Office contributing more to the grad gift and they weren't able to provide. Also, at this point (to return to Tiger's comment) a venue change is not possible because we have already started advertising. In addition, the Alumni budget is not as healthy this year and they can not fund as much as they have been able to in past years. Basically, we have exhausted other venues which is why we are here.

Motion: Emilia moves to extend discussion time by 5 minutes. Gabby seconds. Motion passes.

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

Ali: First, I just want to say that it's not accurate that the Dean's Office made VUSAC pay for their initiatives during Orientation. What happened was that VUSAC always has a Lunch with VUSAC but we weren't able to do that this year so we allocated a certain amount of money for mugs. To be clear, it is the same amount of money used every year. But, I do agree that it is a lot of money that only benefits a certain group of people. I wanted to ask, were the blankets last year around the same amount or were they less money?

Emilia: We are looking at other options for gifts, but the straws bag was the one that, to my knowledge, was one of the cheapest. Also, it was important to the Committee to look into the practicality of it. I can double check with James, I can ask him that and to bring this conversation back with him present. I don't know what's going on in his head.

Alexa: Blankets were \$4000, so they were a lot more expensive.

Jayde: I am listening to the conversation, and first I want to extend James' regrets and he apologizes that he couldn't be here. The next Student Projects meeting is on March 22nd, so if we were to table this item we could respond via email vote and have this project ratified by March 25th, which is a month before Grad Banquet. I won't call the question nor will I be voting in favour because I would strongly encourage the Grad Banquet Committee to apply to Student Projects.

Devon: I apologize for my remark about the Dean's office funding. It was just an example about how VUSAC money is kicked in when those kinds of situations arise. We should still be cautious.

Alexa: I want to thank everyone for the discussion. I also had concerns about this motion knowing our funding. I do think that Student Projects will be the best option moving forward. I am glad we are all on the same page. Sorry that I sound like a dying animal.

Jayde: You do not, you sound beautiful.

[Alexa retracts motion]

- Introduction of “HerVoice U of T budget” Tiger

Motion: Jayde Jones moves to reallocate \$100 from the contingency fund to the HerVoice U of T budget for a new line item “Food for fundraiser.” Lucy seconds. Motion passes. (5 minutes)

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

[Summary] I will set this up that I wanted to raise this to the floor because discussion should be had about this motion. I am not necessarily in support of this motion and that being said I will let Tiger speak.

Tiger: I will explain the situation and then give my personal opinion. Basically, HerVoice Execs have asked for more funding for an event on March 15th. Initially, I was confused given that it was not in their original budget. They want to combine both of their previous events (that did not happen) to create a new event. Specifically, because of the response on their FaceBook page, they want more funding. Technically, this is a combination concern of whether or not we approve an additional \$100 and if we approve to reallocate that money. That is just the context. Why they want the money, is because on their FaceBook page there are 40 people who say they are going and 603 people who say they are interested. My personal opinion is that this new event is different from their other two scheduled events, and it seemed rushed because a couple days ago I didn’t even know it existed. Also, the event, in itself, is at Syd Smith and a lot of cheesecake will be given away to non-Vic students. No amount of funding would match demand and it is not money specifically being spent to the benefit of Vic students. An alternative idea is that they could either host the event on Vic campus or we can not approve this and ask them to change the event. My current opinion is that I don’t feel comfortable giving them the additional money nor is the reallocation well advised.

Zoe: I think that we have had similar conversations in the past with regard to free food events. Free food is good for community building. But, a pop-up shop in Syd Smith does not seem like it would build community. It does not seem in line with the spirit of the club as, realistically, it would be a grab and go event. Also, the majority of students will likely not be Vic students. We should be cognisant of these factors when we spend our money and, that being said, I am happy to work with them and figure out a different event.

Motion: Jayde moves to extend discussion time by 3 minutes. Gabby seconds. Motion passes.

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

Tiger: For some more context, I just wanted to share that their previous events were a self defense class for women and a Valentine’s day sale for roses. Despite the goal of making a profit at the rose sale, those events totaled \$150 dollars is the expense

Jared: I was confused about “the food for donation drive” bit in the description on the agenda?

Jayde: I just forgot what it was called when I emailed Alexa.

Jared: So, just to be clear, they are giving away cheesecake?

Tiger: Yes. The event is a cheesecake and tea give away and they are accepting donations for that.

Jared: Then, I go with what Zoe and Tiger said.

Devon: Although it is a bit sketchy how this went around, I'm not sure if we should fault them on not knowing what to do in terms of procedure when two of their events fall through. We can't say on principle that we disagree with giving away free food with donations. This is a common practice for clubs and organizations that want to get their name out there. We don't check that the students we service are all Vic students. I wish there was more detail, and I would prefer to have a description in the event page, but there is nothing I would object about this event on principle.

Motion: Zoe moves to call the question. Jenny seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Jayde Jones moves to reallocate \$100 from the contingency fund to the HerVoice U of T budget for a new line item "Food for fundraiser." Lucy seconds. Motion fails.

- Favour: James, Devon, Ali
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: ALL

Motion: Devon moves to for a 5 minute recess. Emilia seconds. Motion passes.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Governing document review - Jayde Jones (30 minutes)

Motion: Jayde moves to extend discussion time by 3 minutes. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

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

[Summary] Let's talk Constitution. Today we are going to talk about three bigger changes that have had conflicting ideas on the committee. We are going to have a discussion and rehash the ideas that the committee have had. These issues are some about The Bob, Co-Chairs, and first year councillors. The chairs, Katie ... I hate Robert. We have a timeline. Due to the Constitution, the Exec will review a full package of amendments (including the hiring policy and budget steering guidelines) and once we've approved those amendments we will release them to Council and to the public on Monday 22nd, on our meeting when it will be presented as an official discussion item. Then we will vote about it all on April 5th. Preferably, this will not happen at the joint council meeting. Here is a Jayde Idea, that still needs to be discussed with the Exec, we might have a one hour out-going VUSAC meeting and a one hour in-coming VUSAC meeting. We will wrap that up on whatever note we feel is best. Nick and Katie on the 18th and 20th will open up the Constitutional Review meetings to all of council in order to chat about all amendments. We hope everyone has had the time to get their voices heard. You are still welcome to propose changes yourself, but we do need council consensus. It will be a long doc and you won't agree with everything. I love us for that. We will have 10 minutes per each of these discussion items and approximately 1 minute of discussion per person. Just to keep the conversation moving.

Nick: Yes, before we begin discuss here are some basic rules. Do not repeat other people. Do not disrespect other people's ideas. Do not make jokes or tell stories. We don't have time for that. We will be going in order of least spicy to most spicy. Starting with elections. Our first conflicting amendment to elections was that we were thinking of removing the first and upper year distinction.

Jayde: A small point of clarification, it might of been my poor wording. But the concern was to remove the cap on first and second year councillors.

Nick: Also, right now we have spring elections. We have been discussing the idea of having it in the Constitution that council members not running for elections should have to help at elections. For example, this year half the council not running, so then everyone would be helping out with the elections. And the other issue is whether the CRO should be allowed to hire an external ACRO (Assistant Chief Returning Officer). But yes, these suggestions come from everyone. Let's start with the first year councillor cap. I would encourage first and second year councillors to speak on that.

Jayde: I made a mistake, whether the ACRU has to be a member of council or if they can hire a non-VUSAC CRO.

Molly: I will say, that trying to get upper year councillors to run made my life very difficult in the spring elections. I made a big push to remove the distinction. We had 8 first years and 5 second years run in this spring election and everyone was terrified. I would suggest that they campaign separately, and that we ask specific questions geared towards each year. Limiting the number honestly felt undemocratic.

Devon: I agree. It was an unintended messy situation. One problem I foresee though is that, if their elections are held separately, then there is an issue because each category might get more votes because you can spoil your votes in each one. Basically this is a technical question.

Jayde: I think what Molly meant to communicate, is that the campaigning is the only distinction between first and second years. They would still run at the same time, but the main difference would be Town Hall. It is not practical to be asking the same questions to both years. You'd be picking form one list and the only requirement would be to have a minimum of three are first years, but there would not be a cap.

Alexa: I don't know where I stand, but the initial idea for splitting the upper and first years was that the upper years would be elected in the spring elections and first years in the fall. This upcoming year was the first year since we had this idea so then it had to happen all at once. Just an idea.

Jared: I agree. It does feel undemocratic. At the same time, this was probably something discussed at the different meeting. What if we added a minimum of three to both upper and lower years, and then just let the numbers work themselves out.

Katie: The problem with that is that you have that upper year representation in the council already. The minimum requirement is just to make sure the representation is available for first years.

Jared: I would still maintain it is important for councillors because they obtain specific duties that require upper and first year representation. Second years have a lot of skills that council benefits from.

Vibhuti: I do not like the idea of upper years being elected in the spring. Coming in as a first year last year, it is very easy for the situation to feel very isolating. As someone who was a first year councillors last year, it was comforting to know that I had upper years with me that were starting at the same level. Everyone should be at the same level when it comes to being a councillor.

Angela: To comment on the cap, I think that having a cap was very difficult. It felt that the first years were being divided instead of being included. When you won, it was more like congratulations you beat those people versus welcoming.

Molly: We have one minute. I just want to add a final note that if there is any fear that more than 8 councillors will run I can tell you that that will statistically never happen.

Nick: Time for the straw poll: raise your hand if you are in favour of having a minimum of 3 first years without a cap. [Majority in-favour]

Jayde: Are you amenable to going through the options to read?

Nick: Is anyone not for that? [no one]

Katie: Cheers.

Nick: Cheers.

Jayde: Cheers.

Jayde: To clarify once again, we are not officially voting right now. This is just a straw poll in order to see where people stand. So, non-voting members can also vote on this.

Nick: **Straw Poll:** To removing first year councillor cap? [Majority in-favour]

Nick: The next issue is whether the CRO should be allowed to hire their ACRO external to council.

Molly: This summer I hired a ACRO externally, but then Jayde pointed out it is not constitutional. It is not technically in the constitution. I think that for the fall it is useful, and for the spring it is not useful. Anyone can be ACRO because it is administrative work. They don't need to be on VUSAC. I don't even think that the CRO should be a Vic student period, but that is a whole other can of worms.

Emilia: I was the ACRO for two weeks in my second year and didn't know what was going on. If the CRO allows everyone to understand, then that's fine. Education in their role is most important.

Lucy: I like the idea of having an external CRO as an option. The CRO can exhaust council options first, and then maybe use that as an alternative resource. I don't see a con to this idea.

Jayde: I will ask if we can do a straw poll. We will use Molly's idea. The ACRO should be a councillor unless no councillors are available, then it can be someone external with the discretion of the CRO and approval of the Executive.

Cameron: I would feel comfortable leaving this up to the discretion of the CRO.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** In favour of the ACRO first being a councillor, and if no councillors are available then it comes from someone external with the discretion of the CRO and the Executive?

[Majority: in favour]

Nick: Also, in favour of non-running VUSAC members being mandated to support helping the election process? [Majority in-favour]

Motion: Jayde moves to extend discussion time by 15 minutes. James seconds. Motion passes.

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

Jared: I acknowledge that 8 first years running and being elected won't likely happen. That being said, I don't see an issue if we do believe in this being a good thing as a safety net.

Molly: It is difficult as CRO to get first years to run in elections. My concern about the cap is that then we would always have to reopen elections. That time of year was very stressful because I also had my show going on. Not every CRO will be directing a VCDS show but that is my incentive for removing the cap.

Jared: In the past you've been trying to each 5?

Molly: We had 4, then we got up to 6? A lot of upper years typically drop out.

Jared: Would 3 be a challenge?

Molly: It really varies by the year. But getting 5 to run was very difficult. There was a lot of frantic texting between myself and Nick. Removing the cap will alleviate which is a very stressful time for the CRO.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** For having a minimum of 3 upper years in the constitution? [11 in favour]  
Opposed? [11 opposed]

Nick: On to Orientation! Basically, the question we have here is whether the orientation co-chair should be able to run in the fall elections? In order for Ali to run in the elections this year she had to formally give up her position as Orientation co-chair. So the question is whether Ali should be eligible or ineligible to run in fall elections? Not this Ali, but a future Ali.

Ali: There is no other Ali.

Nick: [continued] Secondly, whether VUSAC members could apply to co-chair.

Ali: One, I 100% believe that no one should be co-chair and run in the spring elections. The workload between being on VUSAC and orientation co-chair (the work I did over the summer) was very difficult. But, most of the responsibilities of the co-chair are over by fall elections. Having to drop the co-chair title was kind of just a formality. It wasn't the Dean's Office's call, it was just the one line in our constitution.

Devon: The one thing that it says is that you can't hold multiple spots on VUSAC. This is what we have to consider. Including other positions like the UTSU Victoria College Representatives. This is a huge thing. What is being considered is whether you can hold these ex-officio spots and an official VUSAC position. The issue becomes one of whether we are restricting the passion of specific students who are capable of handling both or if we are restricting the possibility of including other people in VUSAC.

Jayde: I will just note one difference between the comparison between the USTU director and Orientation Exec, because one is an assessor position. But you can be on the Board and on council. And as we know, you can still be on the Senate and VCC. But you can not be William Robins and run in VUSAC elections. I would suggest that we take a couple more hot takes, then move on. Then we can move onto The Bob which is the juiciest.

Alexa: I believe that current VUSAC members should be allowed to apply to co-chair positions because their term would be over by the time the bulk of the work begins. As well as levy heads.

Ali: I second Alexa. If Cynthia had been on spring elections, there would have been zero people on exec that were qualified. Because the people who apply to be exec usually already hold positions of power.

Zoe: I think that the distinction in the policy is that they need to finish their positions. I honestly don't think those two workloads can co-exist.

Devon: My proposition for the amendment is that it should address the issue of ex-officio members, which I brought up earlier, in order to clean up the line.

Jayde: That is being clarified in other discussions.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** In favour of orientation co-chairs being eligible to run in fall elections  
[Majority: in favour]

Katie: **Straw Poll:** In favour of allowing current VUSAC members to apply if they don't run in spring elections? [Majority: in favour]

Ali: Point of order: Can we include club and levy heads in that?

Katie: Currently, club heads are not affected by this but levy heads are. That being said...

Jayde: There is no issue right now. The reason we split it up to make it more clear about what we're voting on in this context.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** In favour of allowing levy heads to apply if they don't run in spring elections? [Majority: in favour]

Nick: Now onto The Bob! This is going to be a lot of things. We are going to go from easiest to most difficult. The first issue is about hiring earlier.

Jayde: The hiring process right now states is that it must be completed before spring elections end. This hasn't happened over the past few years and it makes it harder to be engaged in the process. Hiring should not happen in the summertime. We have been brainstorming that the hiring process should begin before the conclusion of the exam period.

Devon: What are the restrictions on how early it can be?

Kaite: Before elections and the end of exams.

Devon: I feel it should be after elections.

Vibhuti: Isn't the Bob director application out right now?

Jayde: Yes.

Vibhuti: And that's okay? With these changes to the constitution on the table?

Jayde: Yes.

Nick: The goal is basically to have a better hiring committee structure. Having a more firm structure created in order to help the director schedule their time better and allow more access to students who want to be apart of it.

Jayde: Currently, the hiring panel consists of the previous and current Arts and Culture Commissioner, the previous and current Bob director, a previous member of cast and the stage manager. As well as a representative from the Equity Commission.

Ali: Why are we doing it one by one and not all together?

Jayde: Because a lot of people feel strongly about specific people being on it and others not.

Molly: Let's start with the first one: should the previous director be on the committee?

Vibhuti: I don't think that's a great idea, because there can be a lot of biases that come along with that. Every team, every year is different and I'm not sure how productive it would be to have the director of the past year involved in the building of the new team.

Jared: Point of personal privilege: I have no idea how to vote about any of these. And I'm not sure how productive this conversation is if we are just hearing one or two voices comment on this...I don't know.

Jayde: Abstain for now, don't feel like you have to vote one way or another.

Alexa: I think that have a tech or stage manager representative is very important. They need to have a director who is competent in all areas of theatre.

Devon: I agree. Someone in the position should be on the hiring committee, or else no one else on the committee has held that kind of role. It adds a lot of value and perspective onto the committee. I would oppose having a previous cast member because of Vibhuti's point about bias. Personal feelings could cloud judgements and it's not really necessary.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** For having a previous director on The Bob's hiring committee? [Majority in-favour]

Molly: I agree that you need to have someone who knows the technical aspects of the director role. In that position you will be working in a very expensive and incredible theatre. I would note that it is important to have a stage manager or tech rep, but you don't need both.

Devon: I have an amendment to this as well: I want to propose the idea of hiring an additional person to help in the process as Producer or Assistant Stage Manager as an affiliate with the staff on The Bob.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** For having a previous tech and stage manager on The Bob's hiring committee? [Majority in-favour]

Alexa: It just needs to be one of them.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** For having a one, either a previous tech and stage manager, on The Bob's hiring committee? [Majority in-favour]

Nick: And how do we feel about having an Equity representative on the committee?

Georgia: So this year Carleigh asked me to be on the selection committee, then when we overhauled, there was a giant list. Having an equity rep is a good thing to have on any hiring committee, but especially good to have on a comedy show just based on the nature of comedy shows.

Devon: I think that it is problematic to throw an equity rep on every committee just for the fact that it is equity. This one person has a huge say in who is hired for a production they are not even a part of. I don't think they are required to be in the room in order for the process to be equitable.

Georgia: I don't believe that everyone would follow a equitable hiring process. Even if we did have a doc that would outline what equitable hiring looks like, I don't think that it would happen. Having an equity background is very important. Equity is not an afterthought. Hiring anyone to lead a student group that would consist of potentially marginalized students is important.

Jenny: From the point of view of someone who was on The Bob last year, I just want to share that I am obviously not white. And there were times when I was uncomfortable because a lot of what we wrote was about white culture. I would feel a lot more comfortable with someone like Georgia in the room.

Molly: One thing to mitigate: I know that Devon and Leora (the directors) went through equity training, but maybe there can be something in the constitution that The Bob directors must go through equity training. I don't have a strong opinion on this. I think that there is a larger issue about equity in The Bob's actual show. I don't think that this would necessarily solve the larger issues in The Bob.

Georgia: I agree, but is that what we are voting on? Just because if we are saying that we don't feel like parts of The Bob are equitable, then this seems like an appropriate step in one way of getting there.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** For having an equity rep on The Bob's hiring committee? [Majority in-favour]

Motion: Zoe moves to for a 10 minute recess. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

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

**Call to order: 7:09pm**

[Georgia is Gabby's proxy, Jared is Jenny's proxy]

Jayde: Next, we are on having a past cast member on committee?

Georgia: I have a question, does that mean that they will not be on next years cast?

Katie: Great question.

Devon: Point of Order: I would like to move to discontinue discussion.

Jayde: I am going to rule that out of order. But, if you would like to conduct a straw poll you may.

Devon: **Straw Poll:** to discontinue from the discussion item “Governing document review.” [majority opposed]

Nick: The next issue is whether we should hire a co-producer along with the Arts and Culture Commissioner, in order to have someone with more experience with The Bob. Molly suggested hiring a stage manager or production manager or someone who deals with space booking and rehearsals and operations, in order to help with the main organizing of The Bob.

Alexa: I like the idea of hiring a stage manager, but I think it would be most effect and good to hire earlier on in the process,so they can deal with all the bookings. It is a weird stage managing situation right now where they are hired in the midst of all the craziness, instead of at the beginning.

Nick: So this would be to hire a stage manager before the directors are being hired. They would deal with space bookings and hirings early on in order to alleviate the stress that comes at the end of their timeline.

Devon: With Carleigh and Leora this year I definitely felt that there should be another person hired to be a co-producer for The Bob. The Arts and Culture Commissioner should remain a co-producer of The Bob. But it would benefit everyone to have stage managers to plan rehearsals, do bookings, and stuff like that. They could be called the Production Manager or Co-Producer. They would then be hired by the directors and the Arts and Culture Commissioner to work with them as a team to put The Bob together.

Alexa: There should be a distinction between the role of hiring a co-producer and manager later, that is important.

Genevieve: Sorry, point of personal privilege, are we hiring two more people or one?

Jayde: If we hire a co-producer do we still need a stage manager?

Devon: We will need a stage manager no matter what, and then they have the option to hire assistant stage managers. There is a whole team of people. The issue is that right now the responsibility to hire the stage manager is floating around which is why it happens so late in the process. But, that should be a responsibility of the co-producer. There job would be to call the show, deal with props, and assist in production.

Katie: I’m going to call the straw poll.

Jayde: I am going to set out the two options. The first option is if you are in favour of hiring the co-producers, then they have the responsibilities as set out by Devon to hire the stage managing team. The second option is to just have the co-producer. The third option is to just have the stage manager.

Kaite: You will need a stage manager no matter what.

Jayde: Cheers. **Straw Poll:** Hiring of the co-producer with responsibilities as set out by Devon? [Majority in-favour]

Georgia: Will they go through the same hiring process?

Katie: Yes. It will still be a panel, it’s more just about voting in the spring or fall elections.

Devon: It’s important that the current directors of The Bob are involved and that in the past the stage manager hasn’t been hired in the same way, a panel, because it is the directors who are incharge and it's hard to get people interested in that kind of thing.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** In favour of hiring the stage managers after the co-producers are hired? [Majority in-favour]

Nick: Next, should The Bob directors/co-directors and co-producers be ex-officio members?

Devon: Talking for Leora and myself, a big benefit to this is to have their role and authority in the constitution and so that their authority is recognized in the constitution. And to differentiate their responsibility from the roles of the producers and stage managers. This is just so there is a place to point out their responsibilities and to have their roles defined.

Vibhuti: If they are made ex-officio, then can VUSAC members not apply to be in that position?

Jayde: Yes.

Devon: The Board of Regents said that those positions can be held by voting members.

Jayde: The intention is that they would hold the position in the elections akin to UTSU Victoria College Representatives hiring, and they are not on VUSAC. The idea that you could be taking away the responsibility of other students that are interested in being involved. I promised to advocate on that front.

Katie: **Straw Poll:** Hiring The Bob directors as ex-officio members? [Favour: 7; Opposed: 2; Abstained: 6]

Motion: Jayde moves to for a 1 minute recess. Genevieve seconds. Motion passes.

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

### **[VUSAC MEETING NO LONGER HAS QUORUM]**

- Levy/club apparel - Angela Medina (15 minutes)

[Summary] Hello! I just wanted to start with a shoutout to Rehan about the sweaters. I've been receiving a lot of general comments and feedback from the Vic community and club members about when clubs are rejected for apparel when VUSAC is allowed and I wanted to bring it up to council. I know that some groups like VicforCure were cut from sweaters to shirts due to cost, and I want to do my best as a councillor trying to serve the Vic community to be the best informed of the situation.

Cameron: Thank you Angela for bringing this up. I want to see sweaters ordered earlier in the year. If they're there in time for events like Falling for Vic it is easier to distinguish VUSAC people from non VUSAC and then the practicality of the sweaters might be more evident to the Vic community. It is worth considering that when future VUSAC goes to consider putting money towards our sweaters.

Rehan: I'm confused by clubs and levies sweaters, could someone explain that please?

Georgia: Yes, so the Budget Steering Committee (comprised of myself, Jayde, Zoe, one club representative, one levy representative and Tiger) decide the budget. We don't allote money to clubs to buy their own sweaters because that creates an idea of exclusivity. But VUSAC is not perfect and I think there might be a discrepancy between some of our projects that don't always benefit all students.

Jayde: To clarify, levies are allowed sweaters because they serve functional purposes like the Cat's Eye sweaters that identify members of the Cat's Eye. Also because of levy autonomy we can only interfere with their budgeting if something is deemed as "financial mismanagement." That is the reason they have those funds available to them. But we can intrude (which is a harsh word) on the budget of ourselves and of clubs. But I agree, that is pointing out an incongruence between our budgeting and clubs.

Georgia: I agree that VUSAC incongruence is an issue. But sweaters also highlight the fact that the majority of us are not getting paid and it is a nice way to recognize the work we do. This is a policy that we can perhaps revisit in the future.

Rehan: I definitely think that the sweaters should've come in earlier. Maybe, in writing, it is possible to add that the VUSAC sweaters should come in by the fall semester. It would be more useful to have them to use at events, instead of just wearing them just because they're cool. They are also cool, but whatever.

Jayde: This was a discussion that was raised by the 2016-2017 Communications Coordinator

*[Georgia sings "Shailee"]*

[continued:] when at the time the council was doing a lot of Syrian Refugee advocacy. The idea was why are we spending \$400 on VUSAC sweaters when the Syrian Refugee Crisis is happening and we could use this money to support them? This issue comes up once in while and should be addressed. It is thoughtful that we have brought it up with three weeks to go in the seester and now we can have discussion about it. I will point out that it is not a new issue and it has not been adequately addressed.

Cameron: I like the idea of including it as an amendment in the duties of the Communications Director (we love you Rehan) that after fall elections the sweaters be ordered. But there may be a snag when people like Emma (hired in between semesters) might not be able to get sweaters.

Genevieve: Point of personal privilege, I'm so sorry, but can we please enunciate more?

Alexa: Thank you for bringing this up. This will definitely need to be discussed in future conversation, especially with regard to budget cuts. It might not even be possible for future VUSAC.

Jayde: Cameron asked about adding this to the Communications Coordinator's responsibilities. Should we straw poll to add it?

Cameron: To clarify before we do, I'm realizing that my wording makes it sound like the Communications Coordinator has to do it, but instead it should be that if there are going to be sweaters then the Communications Coordinator should do that job. It will be a tough decision for next year's VUSAC.

Jayde: Because this is your thought, it would live in Council Policies and not the Constitution, so let's straw poll [Majority in favour]

## **ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS**

- Acta Victoriana - [No Report]
- Caffiends - [No Report]
- Cat's Eye - [No Report]
- Student Projects - [No Report]
- The Strand - [No Report]
- Vic Pride! - [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

- [No Update]

### Chair - Alexa Breininger

- [No Update]

## COMMISSION UPDATES

### Academic & Professional Development - Cameron Davies

- Update (3 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone! We had an event today with Diana Michelle. Rehan was there, he is amazing, we love Rehan. We had four members there. We repurposed the food. If you know of any people interested in these events please take it upon yourself to promote the events. We struggle with outreach. Please promote the events, the work we do is not sexy but it is important and good work. Also, we are collabing on March 13th with VOCA Pancakes, so tell your friends. We will be making a FaceBook event at some point. Next week on Friday we have our learning strategist session. I would highly recommend checking it out, I've met with Ben and he seems cool. It is from 3-4pm! Tell your friends and your family...if they go to Vic.

Jayde: There will be another Academic sponsored event about bursaries coming up soon. Also, just a formal thank you to the Academic Commission for all the work you do.

Rehan: I think this was my second academic commission event and I thought it was very good. I found out about a lot of stuff that I didn't know. I guess I am wondering, like why don't you go to these events?

### Motion: Emilia moves to extend discussion time by 3 minutes. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

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

Emilia: There are a lot of factors as to why people don't go to events. Work, class, other events. It doesn't pertain to just Academic Commission events, but to all events. The nature of the academic schedule makes March a hard month to plan events in. Maybe more people are interested in literature than having that communication side to things with the Academic Commission. That is my opinion. But there are a lot of different factors.

Tabina: For me personally I am very interested in the Academic Commission events and I really want to go to those events. I want to know more and learn more. But because of my personal commitments, such as labs, tutorials, classes, VOCA, here, etc. I am not able to make it.

Sepi: I've enjoyed the Academic Commissions events that I've been to. Especially the Ira Wells one. On top of students being busy, on some days I only have a one hour block where, to be completely honest, I am just too tired to walk in the snow across campus.

Cameron: Thank you all. To clarify: I'm busy to. I also don't go to other people's events sometimes. It happens.

Jayde: We love you.

#### Commuter Commissioner - Emilia De Fabritiis and Tabina Ahmed

- Update (10 minutes)

[Summary] I will save what I really wanted to say for the next meeting. But as a heads up about specifically the graduates in the room--Me and Nick--grad awards are open! So if you have an ideas of students that want to see recognized, just vote! I think that the nominations also need to be put forth by grads, but I can clarify. Also, our tote bags have been ordered! They are recycled organic tote bags, so Jared is happy, and I am happy. We are selling them for \$5 each and all the money will go back into the fund. They will be available through the square system or cash. Like the Highball tickets, we will give a full list of instructions hopefully by the end of next week!

Also, we just had our Commuter Appreciation Week! It was a U of T wide event and went really well. I am happy with everything and every event was well attended. The St. Mikes goons even had a taco bar.

Jayde: Shoutout to Breakfast for Dinner because that was lit! You've done so much hard work and we really appreciate you both.

*[applause]*

#### Equity Commissioner - Georgia Line and Vibhuti Kacholia

- [No Update]

#### Mental Wellness - Ali Kehl

- [No Update]

#### Scarlet & Gold - Alexa Ballis

- [No Update]

#### Sustainability Commissioner - Jared Connoy and Victoria Silva

- Update

[Summary] Thank you to everyone for coming to my event.

#### Arts and Culture - Carleigh Campbell

- [No Update]

## EXECUTIVE UPDATES

### VP External - Devon Wilton

- [No Update]

### VP Internal - Nick Shyshkin

- [No Update]

### VPSO - Zoe Ritchie

- [No Update]

### President - Jayde Jones

- Update (8 minutes)

[Summary] First, the SAD lamps are available for rental as of Monday. Ali, Angela, and Gabby have been great throughout this process and they deserve a huge shoutout. The second thing is that we are still in the purchase order phase for menstrual products.

### **Additions:**

- Sayeh - Update (3 minutes)

Jayde: Because Sayeh is no longer here, I will just open the floor for discussion on winter caucus. Does anyone have anything they'd like to say?

Sepi: Hello. My name is Sepi, I'm so sorry for wasting your time but I'm here because--

Jayde: I am ruling you wasting time out of order.

Sepi: I just wanted to share that I really enjoyed winter caucus. I thought that the set up was great and I learned a lot. I did have one concern though that I was reflecting on after it ended. I was concerned with the VCCA budget. The VCCA funds allocated \$7000 out of their total \$11,000 to being spent on their banquet. And while I understand the importance of showing Vic athletes that they are appreciated, I think it is a very large use of student fees being used to service only a small proportion of the community. I have some questions about the event with follow-up questions based on those answers. Is the event public, or open to all Vic athletes?

Motion: Genevieve moves to extend discussion time by 10 minutes. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

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

Genevieve: I will address one of your questions. The only athletes that are able to go to the banquet are those who partake in Vic intramurals. I dedicate a lot of my time to dance here at Vic but I can't go because it is not an intramural.

Sepi: I am sorry to hear that.

Georgia: I also had a problem with their funding, and I have for a long time (being on the Budget Steering Committee). But we can not touch levy funding. Even though VCCA underscores that it is a "tradition" it is an unreasonable way to spend money, to buy things like trophies and decorations. Not to mention it is a very exclusive group and the outreach is not so good either.

The event is not an ongoing thing, but a one time event that I'm sure even members of their intramural teams can't all attend. Tiger is doing levy audits right now but I don't know how much consultation we will be able to give based on levy autonomy. Overall, I think that it is inequitable spending.

Emilia: I agree with Georgia, especially in light of budget cuts. It is their responsibility to be cautious of the money being spent and I think that they can reduce the price. Having hosted a semi formal like Home for the Holidays, I know that that kind of event does not require \$7000 to run successfully. Yes, Burwash catering is expensive and it allocated for half of our budget, but that is the case. It is the responsibility of the levy to focus on the mandate of the levy, and for the VCCA that is to provide intramural sports for Vic students. Not to spend \$7000 of Vic student fees on such an exclusive event.

Jayde: Out of curiosity, what was the Home for the Holidays budget?

Emilia: For food and booking, it was more or less around \$3000. I only spent \$150 on decorations. I do a lot of DIY and dollarama. All you need is pinterest and creativity. There are many ways of finding hacks to make events more accessible.

Jayde: I would just like to add that they do not charge their athletes to attend the banquet.

Angela: I don't understand the full complexity of student politics but to my understanding VUSAC can not touch levy fees. Does that mean that if we want to see a change a Vic student would have to hold a referendum so then VUSAC would be bound to implement this and have a conversation with levy?

Jayde: We can run a referenda. But not about how a levy should budget. We could say, I would like to decrease the VCCA levy by \$[however many dollar] because this money is being spent on [for example] an inaccessible banquet. A VCU member or anyone on council can do that by March 22nd. Or the deadline might of been today. We should look into that quickly.

Motion: Emilia moves to extend discussion time by 2 minutes. James seconds. Motion passes.

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

Alexa: As someone who plans large scale banquet events, I think an important distinction is that Highball is open to all Vic students but VCCA is a very select group of students that services a very select group of students. It is possible do an event of that spirit with far less money.

Sepi: Can I share an event that my highschool did? In my high school, our Athletic Banquet was open to everyone. What they did, was each team made their own cake as part of a cake potluck/competition and the food was ordered to the event, and everyone was required to pay, but then dessert was free and it was open to all students. Maybe someone could mention this as an idea to the VCCA. I would also be happy to take part in the referendum. Thank you for being clear with me and helping me understand. I am just worried about the accessibility needs of our students and it hurts to know that people (who want to be a part of it) can't be a part of it.

Jayde: That point is well taken. We are appreciative of you being here. It is fantastic that you are here and have brought that up. There are three ways that we can move forward. I can certainly involve you in the process and we could do a referendum, We can also talk to the VCCA about their budget. Third, I could pass this onto the next president as something to discuss And four--wow, I guess there are four points--we can clarify about the referendum process.

Cameron: So, the referneda would of had to have been submitted by this meeting. But, to my knowledge, a referenda can also be introduced during the fall elections.

Jayde: The Exec may have to do a real rapid fire vote. We have about two minutes left, is there anything anyone would like to add?

Motion: Emma moves to adjourn meeting. Sei seconds. Motion passes.

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