



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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VUSAC MEETING MINUTES

February 28th, at 6:10 PM in the Cat's Eye Lounge, Goldring Student Center
MINUTES

(Alexa Breininger) **CALL TO ORDER: 6:10pm**

Land Recognition: Jayde Jones (2 minutes)

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...]

Motion: Devon Wilton moves to approve the minutes from Fall Caucus. Ali Kehl seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Devon Wilton overview of business and move to approve the agenda as it stands. Katie Marsland seconds. Motion passes.

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

Devon Wilton: Hi everyone! Welcome. Before we get into it I want to do a quick crash course on Caucus. So Caucus functions as the VCU's (Victoria College Union's) annual, or bi-annual, general meeting. Anyone and everyone is invited, and members of the VCU, and commissions, levies and clubs are invited to talk about how their money is being spent and issues in the community. Thank you for following along with the two motions we just passed, because they serve as an example of how motions work here at Caucus. Every member of the VCU has voting rights. Feel free to join in when appropriate. Someone will move and then someone is asked to second. Then it needs to pass by a simple majority. It will happen a couple more times tonight, and if you have any questions just ask. We will begin with each levy giving a brief report on their business. Some questions have been asked on the advanced question form and it will be read by myself, but if you have a question here and now just come up to the mic and say your name. In the case that someone is absent their reports have been provided. Then, there will be dinner followed by some reports from a few members from VUSAC. The agenda is set up through the URL sent in the email. I am really proud of myself for figuring out how to do that. As well as our budget. Everything is available online. Please sign in at the door, for our official capacities and for the minutes so you have an opportunity to comment on the minutes. After the VUSAC reports

we have our Ex-officio reports and a few discussion items. If at any point you feel uncomfortable or you are unable to hear or don't understand something, you can raise a Point of Personal Privilege concern. We will follow the agenda which is on the screen as well. Please come up to the mic and say your name so that Emma can record it accurately into the minutes because it is a public record. And then we get food!

[Ali whoos]

Alexa Breininger: We do have specific times allotted for each report, and I will tap the gavel to let you know when you're coming to the end to your time. It will not be super, super strict with the timing, but we do have a lot to get through tonight so please try to be conscious of that. Now let's get started!

<MID-YEAR REPORT, WINTER BUDGET>

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS

- VCAA: Sophia Hsiao - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone! I am Sophia the vice-president external acting as co-president for this semester. As you can see, most of our budget goes to Banquet (in red) and that is coming up in three weeks. That is because we use Burwash catering and that is expensive. Then, the other big stuff goes to our jerseys which we reorder every year for new students and new athletics. We get some funds from Webster. The events in blue, like for Skating and the Harbour Front Center, which went really well. Our next upcoming event, we are going to see the Raptors on March 18th. A lot of money is going towards that. And, I don't have anything else to add. There is some admin stuff and intramural bonds, but that's about it. Does anyone have any questions?

Jared Connoy: I definitely don't play sports, so this might be a tough question, but I'm wondering how necessary it is to have new jerseys every single year? Especially for intramurals?

Sophia Hsiao: We just had a new design two years ago. The new jerseys go to first years and we have a large number of first years every year, which are around 150-200 students. I've had the same jersey for a couple years because upper years don't get new jerseys.

Jared Connoy: Okay, so it's not like if you play a different sport...

Sophia Hsiao: Oh, no. It's one jersey for all Vic sports. Thank you.

Jayde Jones: Hi, I'm Jayde. My question is, which I will ask towards every levy, if you know what percentage of the levy you've been allotted this year has been used so far? Or are on tract to use. Like, how much of the money given to you are you spending?

Sophia Hsiao: I can see from here that we got 11k, and the Banquet will take up \$7,000-7,500.

We are trying to cut down the cost by limiting wine and stuff, but based on that I would estimate that we will be using 70-80% of our funds. Any other questions?

Anonymous Form Question (read by Devon Wilton): "The Athletic Banquet costs \$7,400 annually (higher than a year's cost of tuition) and almost 40% of your levy fee. VCAA is an athletic association that supports sports and athletic activities at Vic, and as much as it's important to recognize student athletes, an event annually that costs \$7,400 and caters to a small group of Vic students (and has nothing directly to do with athletics) seems like an inefficient use of funds. This money could be put towards pop-up sports activities around Vic to encourage activeness, to bring more sports to VCAA or even just

be decreased from the levy fee to save students' fees. So my question is what is the justification behind spending so much money on one event that doesn't even involve athleticism directly?"

Sophia Hsiao: Sorry, how does that not involve athleticism directly? Okay, intramural takes up--it is a year long sport from fall to winter semester and it is nice to acknowledge our athletes for winning championships in the name of Vic. There is also the intramural banquet that reps and myself will go to at the end of the year. As Vic, we get recognized for awards on a larger scale because of the Vic athletes. It is the one time that we don't have the wear sweaty jerseys and dress up and treat our athletes. We also give colour awards and everyone is eligible for that. It's really just a nice way to reward our athletes for participation and overall.

Lim Comsa: My name is Lim and I want to follow up that question. By asking, that as much as, it is very important to recognize athletes for what they've done, I think that the real concern of this question is that most of the money is spent on Burwash catering and it is money taken out of all student fees and given the current state of our finances, I think that the person is wondering whether it is fair to pull out that much money via levy fee for an event that doesn't serve everyone, or to that effect, *directly* relate to athletics in the way that it is not necessarily an athletic event. It is mainly burwash catering which is extremely expensive.

Sophia Hsiao: Right.

Lim Comsa: I just wanted to bring that up as an event to think about more critically.

Sophia Hsiao: I understand. We will definitely think about this for the next year, however it is a little late to make any changes at this point. The reason we continue to use Burwash despite the cost is that it is a tradition, for years now. We didn't think about the funds and stuff because of a council issue--presidency and everything--but we will definitely bring this up with the council and everything. Thank you.

Lim Comsa: Thank you.

- VicXposure: Laura Canales (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi! I'm Laura. I'm currently subbing in for co-presidents Al and Kevin who couldn't be here at this time, but will try to make an appearance later tonight. I have a general update and then I'll talk about our finances. So, first I want to begin by thanking Student Projects. I don't know how many of you were at Gardiner Gala, but you might have seen Al going around with a giant lens. We got that from Student Projects and the pictures look great. There are slightly less than half of the funds left, so if you have any ideas please message us since it is from Student Projects. Moving onto Event Photography: We've been getting a lot of event requests for photographers, but sometimes it is a last minute thing and we can't cover it. Basically, what happens is we have a FaceBook group specifically for club members who want to cover events. When someone requests a photographer, we post in the group and then people can pick that event up. For picking up events, we've decided just this year (as an incentive) to give an honorarium of sorts of \$25 dollars for volunteering. This is most often specifically for Vic student groups. We've started this recently, we don't know the effects it has but we will update in the future. Photo exhibits are done for the year! They can be picked up in our mailbox in VUSAC. Moving on to workshops: We have one tomorrow! It is going to be here in the Cat's Eye from 6-10pm, and it is a collab with Jam for Justice, a Battle of the Bands Event. There is also a Portrait Photography Workshop coming up and we hope to put on a Darkroom Workshop before the end of the semester. Our photo event with VOCA date and details is yet to be decided. And now for the Budget Update: We will receive for the winter semester \$1,195. We had a surplus of \$2,863 from last semester. The total is \$4,807. We have an exact break down in the package. Currently, we've spent the most on printing which has gone primarily to the Gardiner Gala exhibit. Including tomorrow we will have spent \$564. Which means that the remaining

amount is \$4,247. Estimated to end up with the total amount of \$3,064. With a surplus of \$1,483. Questions? I will try to answer them to the best of my ability.

- Vic Pride!: Ash Kumar (President) Benton Tinkler (Finance Chair) - (5 minutes)

Ash Kumar: Hello everyone! My name is Ash and I am the president of VicPride!

Benton Tinkler: And I'm Benton, I'm the Finance Chair.

Ash Kumar: Before we get into the budget, we would like to talk about our general set up: Due to a number of factors--including a number of organizational and space restructuring--most of our events have been pushed back and now we are completely back loaded into March! It's going to be an Informal Pride month with events each week. Infact, our first event is tomorrow, a social, from 2-5pm in the Cat's Eye. We will also have our Queer and Trans-Person-of-colour- social with the title pending, and our annual Queer text, or Quest, open mic event and poetry reading event. And a LGBT Disability social which will be home to partner with number of other commissions and the Addiction and LGBT Community Workshop. Also our second Clothing Swap is coming up! We have informal office hour events throughout April. And our annual Drag Night in the first week of April. *[reference to slide]* This is just a number of our ongoing projects and continuing ongoing projects improving. We are looking into getting more books and harm reduction kits and safer sex equipment. We have finished the revamp on our blog and it looks really nice. Please contact us if you're interested in submitting. I will now pass the mic to Benton so she can discuss finances.

Benton Tinkler: This is the summary of our spending for the semester. We are currently on track to spend 100% of our budget. The focus is on food. \$90-\$200 then workshops which have as honoraria. For the clothing swap, we will be paying for binders through the Binders-Out which is about \$150 for food from Caffiends. For the Drag night, a lot of the money is going to food and also some to support our performers. We also host office hours and we have allotted \$30 for each member to host an office hour event. There are nine people, and then there is little money for books and organizational tools and stuff. Finally, we have some potential collabs with the Women and Trans People Social and things like that. And that is all of our money. Are there any questions?

- Acta Victoriana: Maia Kochan - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi, I'm Maia, one of the two Editors-in-chief of ACTA. Just to update you on what we've been up to since last Caucus, we had our journal launch party in December. It was beautiful. We received great reception from the broader Vic community and Vic students. This semester, the only money we've spent so far was \$100 for commissioned art work for our blog posts and we paid \$500 for the design editor honorarium. It is \$500 for two issues, and \$1000 for the whole year. The Journal cost is \$4000, and we budgeted almost perfectly only going \$0.20 over budget. This year, we tried very hard to make sure that we distribute all of our journals. And we did that. We only have 50 journals left in the office and we have also been able to distribute old copies of ACTA. We had a constitutional amendment so we are now paying both Editors-In-Chief (EIC) and our contributors. We also spent \$80 per food and drinks per meeting. So the constitutional amendment gives a \$500 honorarium per EIC. And \$20 per piece that we pay all of our artists. Journal printing (again) is \$4,000. The launch party cost was \$100. There is \$7,254 in our bank account and we will be leaving \$1,200 for the end of the year. Which means that we're using 92% of our budget. I covered everything. This slide is old, but I couldn't get keynote to work on my laptop.

Sayeh Yousefi: "You recently approved a \$20 honorarium for contributors as well as an honorarium for your co-editors. This was because you found a significant surplus in your budget

("we have a lot of extra funding, like \$7000 in our bank account" - from Feb. 15 VUSAC minutes), which you yourself attribute to the "the large amount of journals that just get left in the office". You're also one of the higher funded levies and get \$10,696.00 annually. My question is - if you have yourself noticed less demand for the physical copies of the journals (which is of course the bulk of your costs), and you have more funding than you need, why not just consider a levy fee decrease instead of paying contributors? I appreciate the principle of paying contributors for their work, however a \$20 contributor honorarium would not alleviate any financial barriers that would deter writers from contributing, and as much as it's a nice gesture, there's also no precedence for this at other student-led literary journals at UofT. So my follow-up question would be how does this decision function as an efficient use of student funds? I hope this didn't come off too antagonistic, I love Acta and think you do wonderful work, it just seems like a levy fee decrease should be considered given how much of a surplus you have :)"

Maia Kochan: It definitely does not seem antagonistic, so don't worry about that. This is something we talked about when the constitutional amendment happened in the VUSAC meeting. I will go into it a little bit, but a lot of it was addressed there, so if you want more insight look into those minutes. But, basically, ACTA is the oldest literary journal in Canada and very prominent in the literary community and paying artists for their work is something that more broadly, journals do. It is important to ACTA to recognize that artists deserve to be paid for their work. We hope that other journals will do that. As for the journal, we've reduced our numbers from 500 to 375 in order to include more pieces and distribute more. I envision that next year we will be able to further decrease to 300 to include more. Additionally, after adding and paying contributors we don't have as large a surplus in our budget. I don't know exactly how to answer the question in terms of rationale behind payment, but as an artist creating work, we have a lot of U of T and Vic students as contributors, so the money is really going back to Vic students but yeah. Feel free to follow up.

Sayeh Yousefi: In the 90% of your budget is that including paying the contributors for their work?

Maia Kochan: Yes. Yes it is.

Sayeh Yousefi: Thank you.

Maia Kochan: If you have anymore questions about that, feel free to reach out to us. In any form.

- Caffiends: Grace King and Helen Zhang - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Helen Zhang: Hi! My name is Helen Zhang.

Grace King: I'm Grace King.

Helen Zhang: And this is a breakdown of what we've received from levy funding: we received around \$840 which is not that much in comparison to how much we usually spend. Our main cost is covering internal costs like espresso machine repairs and grinder repairs and then getting volunteer shirts (the cost hasn't be calculated yet because they still need to give us the invoice). We subsidize the cost in part in order to make them more affordable for our volunteers. We also use this money to get new items, which includes oat milk and more food items. We will see! This slide is a simple, or an overwhelming breakdown of all of our revenue and expenditures and the next slide is a graphic to visualize that. This is our revenue, most of it comes from sales. Most of what we use comes directly from sales., a little bit from catering. Levy funding provides us with support for some items, we can't track down every expect purchase, but we do have this budget list and can provide a more concise breakdown if requested.

Grace King: Does anyone want us to revisit the last slide?

Helen Zhang: On the next slide, is breakdown of our expenses. Baked goods is the most. And the drinks. We haven't received any other inquiries for student projects, because those are in the works. We basically operate internally so most of costs come from ourselves.

Devon Wilton: I remember when I learned that the money that you make it so much greater than the levy money you receive, that it's only 3% of your budget. I thought that was incredible

Helen Zhang: Honestly, I didn't realize until I started working on this. And I found about 3%, like wow.

Devon Wilton: Are there any questions for Caffiends?

- Cat's Eye: Zachary Spataro - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi, I'm Zack from the Cat's Eye. I apologize for the mix up before. But this is what we did. So this semester we hired Rachel Bannerman. *[who!]* She is not here but she would appreciate that. Max is gone. *[sad ohh]* What else did we do... we had a social. We do that internally. We got Hernados. We haven't had time to have internal sub-committee meetings yet, but that's a good thing. We bought new ping pong balls, like 100 of them, and pool chalk. We had another social potluck for the sub-committee. March is our most packed month. And this has been the most packed year, so kudos to you. This is to everyone, as Cat's Eye is a student space, you can apply to student projects to improve our space if you feel we are not factoring in improvements. It's a win win to the community. We don't have enough people or drive to figure out everything. There are some important logistical things. One is the current format for booking the Cat's Eye. So, in the past we've told people to send an email or use the booking sheet. But if you only do one or the other it doesn't work. Both fill out the booking sheet and email us in order to ensure you get the space. Otherwise, you risk getting a booking conflict. It's tedious, but you have to do it. Also, it's not really appropriate to send us messages on FB and try to move your event up. Leveraging your position and Facebook for booking isn't fair. And I don't have a budget. I mean, we have a budget. But I don't have it ready for you. You can email us though at manager@thecatseye.

Ali Kehl: Hi Ali. Technically, I'm Mental Wellness Commissioner but I'm going to be speaking as the past Cat's Eye Manager. I understand the concern, but one easy thing is that you can connect your email to the spreadsheet (I don't know if this is the appropriate thing to say here but) and then you'll get notified when you get an email. Hopefully that would help you and the people sending in event requests.

Zachary Spataro: Sure. Can I respond?

Devon Wilton: Yes.

Ali Kehl: Should I stay here?

Devon Wilton: You go wherever you would like.

Ali Kehl: Okay.

Jayde Jones: Point of Personal Privilege/question to the chair. This conversation might be more appropriate to have offline.

Alexa Breininger: I would agree. Maybe have this conversation outside of Caucus because it is not finance related.

Zoe Ritchie: I know last semester there was booking conflicts, and some communication errors that were no one's fault but they were heard by clubs and levies. It sounds like you kind of developed a system, but I was wondering if you have given to thoughts or inquiry into alternative systems that might be more reliable and easier to manage?

Zachary Spataro: Yes. We have been looking into implementing a new system entirely. One that removes the booking form from the website. It just seems late in the year to introduce an entirely new system and to retrain people. Especially considering how busy it is. Right now, this is the fastest way to ensure there are no booking conflicts. It is our job as Managers to ensure these

things don't happen, but it helps everyone. Considering, when you book through our booking form we get a notification but it gives us no information about it and it doesn't tell us if there is a conflict. For the time being, it helps for the next month if it can be this way, that you book through both platforms. But there is a new support being considered.

Zoe Ritchie: Thanks and if you need help or support getting that off the ground let me know.

Zachary Spataro: Thanks.

Nick Freer: Are you going to make the funds available for everyone to see?

Zachary Spataro: Yes.

Nick Freer: When?

Zachary Spataro: I can make sure we have something available by next week. We have diagrams available, we just need to send them out.

Nick Freer: Okay. How do students get that information?

Jayde Jones: I think that it would make the sense, if we add it to the meeting package for this meeting and then we note that it was added after the fact as a separate document. I think that might be the best place just so then all the documents and information regarding levy and club finances from second semester is in one place on our website. So then if you were looking for that, you can go to vusac.ca/meetings or vusac.ca/docs. You can find it on either one of those places.

- The Strand: Sabrina Papas and Annsley Doell - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Annsley Doell: So, what we've had going on, we had a magazine launch in the winter. And we have an upcoming magazine, the launch is in the first week of April. Our Writing Workshop was this week. We have our Editors-in-Chief (EIC) Election coming up in March and the rest of our masthead hiring will follow that. For budgeting, we spent just under \$2000 on the magazine in the fall semester. We paid \$1,479 to our publisher for the two regular print issues. We spent \$260.67 for Bluehost to maintain the website and \$210 to our distribution manager. In terms of anticipated expenses coming up, we have our honorarium of \$1000 which is split between both EIC. Then allocated \$500 for sweatshirts. And about \$1,440 left for printing the remaining issues. It is \$2000 for mag, about \$500 to pay artists for illustration. The Magazine launch party will need about \$200 to secure a venue and to provide snacks. Overall our projected spending for the year is \$15,836. With a total budget of \$18,488.80. The discrepancy there is because we also had money worked into the budget to send people to a conference in Calgary, but we decided that was not financially responsible so we decided against it. We do also leave some money left over each year. As we all know, sometimes it takes levy cheques some time to get to us, so we want to make sure it's there. so we don't know the exact number yet, but as soon as we know that number we can add it to the slide.

- Student Projects: Jayde Jones - (5 minutes)

[Summary] How fast should I get the slides over? *[Slide addition]*

While the slides are pulling up, I'll introduce myself again: my name is Jayde. I am the President of VUSAC. I am not the chair of Student Projects. Leora Nash is. But I am presenting this today because she could unfortunately not be here but I do sit on the committee, and will be able to answer your questions.

In September, the Student Projects Fund contained \$96,635.84 as a result of several years of Levy surplus. Last Spring, a Levy referendum took place, decreasing the Levy fee from \$10 a year to \$6. The Fund has allocated \$37,298.08 for twelve Student Projects grants since September 2018. The overview is broken down into VUSAC Commissions, club projects and levy projects.

VUSAC Commissions and initiatives have received five grants for:

- Equity Commission Theatre Tickets \$338
- VOCA Vegan Pancakes \$458.74
- Mental Wellness Commission SAD Lamps \$654.80
- Free Menstrual Product Pilot Project \$9,000
- VOCA Recycled Cotton Printed Tote Bags \$3,000
- Office Updates - New computers for printing \$3,350 (pending VUSAC approval)

VUSAC Recognized Clubs that have received funding:

- The Boundary Sexual Health Initiative \$1,066
- Vic Records Studio Sessions \$525
- Ember Island Players Theatre technical equipment for production & free tickets for VCU students \$5,406
- VEFS vegan/gf catering & increased designer budget \$4,600
- Women's Circle Winter Retreat registration subsidy \$900

Victoria College Levies that have received funding:

- VicXposure camera equipment upgrades \$8,000.00

As of now, approximately \$59,337.76 remains in the Student Projects fund. Applications for funding will remain open until April 3rd. If organizations have project proposals for Fall 2018 I would suggest applying during this period All clubs, levies, and VCU students are encouraged to apply! No project idea is too big or too small for Student Projects! Help us bring meaningful projects to the VCU by sending us your proposals! She has invited her email for questions and comments.

Devon Wilton: Leora is committed to answering any questions that are presented in the recording, and in the minutes. So please ask away.

Lim Comsa: So, for the free menstrual project which bathrooms will they be accessible in?

Jayde Jones: All the washrooms in the Goldring center. All expect for the ones in the Dean's office, just because it didn't make sense for us to test out a pilot system in a office only for employees of the Dean. Although we definitely want them to have access to free menstrual products too.

Lim Comsa: Great!

Devon: I am now going to read and answer a question for Leora from the online form.

Jayde Jones: Can you please read them in different voices?

Devon Wilton: I won't. I won't be doing that.

Anonymous Form Question (read by Devon Wilton): "Have you considered a second levy fee decrease until the current Student Projects funds are exhausted? It seems like almost any project is approved for the sake of using the funds, so rather than just increasing grants have you considered a second fee decrease?"

Answer (read by Devon Wilton) by Leora Nash: "Hello and thank you for you question. Currently, we are not considering a further fee decrease referendum question. This concept was considered by our operating policy (our constitution, which can be found our website vicstudentprojects.com) steering committee in the autumn, but ultimately we decided to keep it at \$5 a year for this year. This question will

be reviewed again by the Student Projects Advisory Board in March, who will present their suggestion based on the committee's performance thus far.

The Student Projects Fund does not choose to fund projects based on our current financial situation, and does not fund any project simply because we are able to. It has been my goal as Chair to increase the awareness of the Fund and its unique ability to grant funds for proposals that are in the spirit of Student Projects, as outlined in our operating policy. I, as the Chair am comfortable rejecting project proposals that are not appropriate to The Fund, as is the committee to not grant funding to proposals that they do not believe will enhance the Vic community.

I am committed to helping students build proposals that are viable to The Fund, as I believe Student Projects is an extremely special resource that is available to the VCU. I am also lucky to work with a committee that shares this passion for enhancing the Vic community, resulting in their determination to help appropriate proposals that fit The Fund's mandate receive funding.

However, the committee is thoroughly aware of the surplus that we possess, and use this knowledge when reviewing proposals and interviewing applicants. It is through their suggestions and a strong understanding of the project's financial needs that form the amount of funding that is motioned and then, pending a two thirds vote in favour, that the is released as a grant.

In addition, the aforementioned amendments to the Student Projects Operating Policy that were ratified in September 2018 allow more varied applications to be submitted to The Fund such as furniture, equipment, and funding for new aspects of events that are reoccurring. These amendments were viewed as necessary to allow greater utilization of the Student Projects Fund, and to update the especially outdated Operating Policy, which did not reflect the current financial environment that clubs and levies operate under. These changes amount for some of the increase in applications, and thus the increased funding that the committee has granted this year.

Finally, with the proposed legislation changes to student fee structures, the future of student organizations at Vic and in Ontario remains uncertain. Several student leaders have approached me and asked about the future of The Fund, and have praised its support of special projects and upgrades that student organizations would not otherwise be able to entertain. To me, Student Projects plays an important role in the lives of Vic student organizations, and in this somewhat uncertain time for organizations, its funds and ability to enhance student life are more important than ever. Please feel free to email me at studentprojects@vusac.ca if you would like to discuss further or to share your ideas, thoughts, or concerns for Student Projects."

- VCDS: Marie Song - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi! I'm Marie, I'm one of the co-Producers of VCDS. Our slide looks very similar to the fall caucus slide, if you remember. We put out a full season of shows this semester, which is five, and four of those shows have passed. And they've been awesome! Yeah, Molly knows. Mamma Mia is our last show and that is from March 7th-9th in the Bader. (Molly that's not nice.) It's going to be great. Tickets are \$10 for student, and \$15 for adults. WE also we had one submission to the U of T Drama Festival, Honey Lemon Green Tea, and we are working on what a reround of that would work out. There is also a couple other little bits of programming are going on right now that we do throughout the year, some educational initiatives. There were plans to get further development from Student Projects and it has been a little difficult on that front, but it's a thought and we are still looking to see it happen, possibly next year. And we are also doing pre-show lectures. On the Saturday, Kyle Hunterson will come out and talk about

nostalgia and music theory. Also, just the bubbles! They show how we've been allocating funds so far. Mia is huge! Followed by Ernst. And most of that is the cost of the Bader. She is *very* expensive. It's \$8,000 to rent out the space for the week. For bigger shows, and musicals there are a lot of sound equipment. This year, we are set to get \$20,600 total, and we've gotten about \$12,500 thus far. There is a simplified master budget which shows our projected and planned expenses and revenue. The numbers might not line up completely and that is because we are chasing down cheque recs still and sometimes it's like that. Over there is a little description about what money goes into for each show. Looking at the total, we are set to spend all of the student fees, and we do have a surplus from previous years. And that is where the extra money is coming from, we are also doing well in terms of revenue this year. Fingers crossed it is going to work out.

- Victoria International Students Association: Sarah Clapperton - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hello, I'm Sarah. The Co-President of VISA. I'm so sorry about the slides, I can't get in contact with our finance person so I just made a quick slide. As many of you know, this year we have reformed our levy because of the Transition Mentor Program developed by the Dean's Office. We took off transitional mentorship from the international perspective and made our levy more event based. We also wanted to make it more open this year, so it is not just international, but if you're new to Toronto. We found that even if you aren't international, a lot of people still struggle being new to the city. So we've expanded to include those students. Some of our events this year, our biggest was the latte workshop with Caffiends. It was a lot on the budget. Very fun! Another big budget item event was our International Potluck. And then we had a pumpkin carving event with the Commuter Dons. We did an off campus event to Kensington Market and the Dean's office was able to fund that, so as you can see we have a big budget left. This is also because we had to cancel two events due to weather. We planned to go to the AGO. And we also had an event planned on the day the school closed at 4pm. So, two events gone means a lot of money still. Today, we had a box-a-lunch event, and we spent roughly \$200 for students to do that. That is most of our budget. We have roughly half of our budget left and two more events coming. We want to leave some of our budget for next year, because a lot of it was on our own cards because we couldn't get the levy cheques. Any questions?

- World University Service of Canada - [No Update]

Devon Wilton: I apologize that WUSC is not here to report. All levies are required to report at Caucus, so I will be following up with them.

- The Victoriad (inactive): Zoe Ritchie - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone, my name is Zoe and I'm the VPSO on VUSAC. I'm giving you a report on the Victoriad and our thoughts moving forward because it has actually been an inactive levy for the past few years. After consultation after members with the VCU, the Executive as decided to go forward moving a referendum question on this year's ballot to dissolve the Victoriad. We feel it is in the best interest in view of the lack of interest in the past couple years. We also consulted with the previous co-editors and they shared a similar sentiment that although they worked hard and were proud of their work that there was little interest in the yearbook. The sentiment I've heard quite a bit, is that yearbooks are valuable in the high school setting, but at the university level only a small number of people make it on the pages and that kind of solidifies the Vic Bubble which is something we are not trying to do. I thank you for your comments and suggestions and if you have any right now, please raise them. This is perhaps not the best place for a more robust conversation, but if you have questions or comments I am happy to take them. I also drank a lot of coffee today so I'm a little shaky. But I'm not nervous, so ask me your questions.

[laugh]

Annesley Doell: My question is, what will happen to the surplus of funds? To my understanding, people have still been paying to the Victoriad so what happens to that money should it be dissolved?

Zoe Ritchie: Yeah, I will answer that question as best I can. We've been retroactively using those funds and factoring them into the budget that they won't be used. There is currently about \$500 and it will just be reallocated into the general budget.

Tiger Fu: Just to add on to that, Zoe is mostly right. There is only \$500 in the bank account so that is not a large surplus. In the time they have remained inactive, that money has remained in VUSAC bank account. The funds have not been touched, because they are technically for Victoriad. But, in this case we have probably absorbed them into our bank account and funds in the case that it is dissolved.

Zoe Ritchie: Thanks Tiger. Mostly right is all I try to do with finance questions. Are there any other questions? On this note I want to thank the publications we already have, levies like VicXposure who do a great job of holding on to memories of us and of different years. I love going back and seeing those things in ACTA and things like that. I think although the Victoriad may or may not be active in the coming years, our memories are stored in other places. This will come up at a VUSAC meeting, and I encourage you to come there for a more robust conversation. When the question is called I hope that you vote and chat about it with your friends. Are there any other questions?

Motion: Devon Wilton moves for a 20 minutes recess for dinner. Stephanie Spagnuolo seconds. Motion passes.

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

VUSAC REPORTS

Devon: The next section is the VUSAC Reports. Please continue to eat. Our VUSAC Reports will begin with our President, Jayde Jones, VUSAC's Semi-Annual Report is public. There are copies available on paper on the table and it is also online. If you have any questions, we are going to answer all of them at the end of the VUSAC Reports.

[Ali whoos]

President - Jayde Jones

- Update - (20 minutes)

[Summary] Thank you so much. My name is Jayde. I think I know most of you here which is great. It's great to be here! I will add the caveat on the Semi-Annual Report that there are a few reports yet to be added, including mine, which will be added before it is officially published on the website. For the time being, almost everyone's report are up here. We tried to cut down on VUSAC people talking based on fall Caucus, and to that end I will try to be brief. Because we are not going into every commissioner's updates I will speak about a couple of the big events before diving into the me-specific part. We came back to school and began with Winterfest, as part of Winterfest we had a semi-formal, shortly following that we had Art at the Intersections, then Black History month, and the Mental Wellness Commission hosted Blue Monday, which I thought was very cool, the Arts and Culture commission did the Gardiner Gala and a collab Coffee House with ASSU, the Academic Commission did the Networking Dinner, and the

Commuter Commission is out here every week with Pancakes, all year long, and they host many other events throughout the year as well. I don't think I missed any major events. As a brief reminder, I represent VUSAC and Victoria College on the Board of Regent, Victoria College Council and the Senate. As well as the Probos Undergraduate Student Advisory Group, a consultation group, and the St. George Round Table. Those are the regular external bodies I continue to meet with. Also checking in with our Dean, our President, our Bursar, and our Registrar every now and then. Those happened on the roster and I keep you updated on those things. We have a winter budget. You are operating on that winter budget. Thanks! I'm glad we could give you money and that everyone has funding. Tiger is here to answer lots of questions about it. That is the first week back. We had a second round of elections and referenda code review, led by Molly Simpson, our CRO. She will speak more about that. That is the one piece of policy review that has happened. We have also been in Consultation and Constitutional Policy Review since November. We will on March 8th, have a slew of policy proposals that we've been talking about for months and months, and there is still lots of work to do on those. We will be voting on those... I do apologize, it's not my finest hour. ...Not our next meeting, not our next meeting, on March 22nd! Lots of policy work happening, which can sound not exciting, but the existence of Ali's position was a result of policy working during the summer. As part of my job on the St. George Round Table, Vic hosted a charity drag night for Winterfest, in the CAT's Eye and we raised \$113 for the 519. It might not sound like a lot, but if you've ever tried to do fundraising at the university level, it is a fair bit and we are excited about that. Nick, our VPI, is not giving a report in order to not take up too much time. I am absorbing his information, which is we had Retreat 2.0. Retreat is the word we use to make VUSAC feel better about the fact that they have mandatory training. We did two days last fall. We did a half day this calendar year as a refresher on internal council stuff and making sure we have our equity lens going as we plan events of advocacy. As well, the Dean's Office is under external review which happens every 5 years. It is not run by students, but they are brought into the review process. We have concerns about the way the process works. I shared those concerns. We are in conversation with the President's Office in order to meaningfully incorporate students in the process and to have more accountability for after the review is done. The review is ongoing. I spoke a little about free menstrual products, but basically the student projects grant came through which is very exciting. We have a purchase order that has been placed and we are waiting on the fun, fancy machines. They will be in bathrooms for all genders. This is happening while VUSAC continues to be involved with the Vice Probos Undergraduate Students to pilot for wider distribution. Vibhuti is now the led on those conversations. It is a little slower than working with our own people because there are many moving pieces. Aside from that, the Renaming Ryerson proposal (Devon will talk about in this report) but that has occupied a significant amount of my time. And responding to our lovely provincial government who I hate so so much. The announcement regarding post-secondary tuition changes, we will have to opportunity to have that as a discussion item. But yes, that has also occupied a huge chunk of our time. I apologize for the no slideshow. But I do have a written report coming to screens near you shortly.

Lim Comsa: Hello again. You mentioned that the Dean's Board was under review. And the process has some things that people don't like...I was wondering if you could give more details about what the process currently is and what direction you hope it will go in?

Jayde Jones: Sure! So, every 5 years the Dean's Office is reviewed, the Office of Librarians, the Principal's Office, the President's Office, and that is mandated by the Board of Regents. We were notified that a review would be happening this year and different members of our team and members of the VCU were asked to meet with external reviews. This included VPE Devon and VPSO Zoe, and we chatted with the reviewers for 30 minutes. There were no prepared questions, it was really self guided. And it was not a real opportunity for us to have a fully rounded conversation about the Dean's Office. No matter how prepared, it would be hard to get through a

list of anything good or bad to say because it was a short time frame and you weren't in the driver's seat. We were not super informed of what goes into the review process of how the external reviewers are chosen. However, my main concern was that the bindings of these reviews remain in the office and aren't made public. The idea is that they guide the direction the office will take. But we don't get to know what form those results take or who looks at them. The senior admin discusses them at our management meeting, but I like to see things on paper.

Lim Comsa: How are students chosen for that?

Jayde Jones: I asked that question and didn't get a good answer. But I don't want to pin that on any one person. Not because there is someone accountable, but because there was a staffing change in the office this year. I think that not knowing the answer to that question was a result of that staffing change. But I am looking forward to getting an answer to that question before my term ends, and I will follow up with you.

Lim Comsa: I guess, because I just wanted to say that it puzzles me that it isn't more of an open review process, that if people want to submit complaints they can.

Jayde Jones: I share that. Cheers, Thank you.

VP External - Devon Wilton

- Update - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Now it's me. Hi everyone my name is Devon. I'm the Vice-President External. Thank you for coming to Caucus, even though you have to be here. It's nice to see you and share what's been going on. I'm making this short and sweet to get everyone home soon hopefully. My report is available in the meeting package. But, I want to first talk about Crescam Serviendo Awards. Which is a joint project between VUSAC, through me, and the Dean's Office, through Christina. Just by being here, this is my invitation to you to come and join us on March 25th, 6-8:30pm. I will be sending an email through the caucus list to RSVP. It's a free meal and opportunity to celebrate students who give back to the community. In the last Caucus, I said that my main focus would be the Renaming Ryerson stream and house initiative. It certainly has been. Jayde and I have put in hours and hours of work to create a proposal document and you can go there (in the meeting package) to read the document in full. Sign the petition. It is open to anyone and everyone. There is also an opportunity to indicate how you connect to Vic and share comments on how you share that opinion and what this change means to the community at Vic and much broader community. A number of individuals have also decided to write letters of support. Everyone from dons, members of the community, faculty, staff. We received numerous letters of support from VUSAC, our VUSAC staff team, VUSAC Equity Commission, ACTA, LGBT-out and other organizations. So thank you. Other organizations like the Equity Studies Student Union, UTSU, the Innis College Student Society, and the Woodsworth Student Association Things are snowballing and going into the next month we hope to continue to collect support and bring that forward back to the Board and hopefully, they will see that this ia change we want to see happen. That is the goal. The Strand covered the story and the Varsity and the Eye Opener. Go to vusac.ca/renamingryersonproposal to sign the petition. And, aside from that as a brief overview of external relations, there has been more work on the provincial changes to tuition, OSAP and incliery fees. I don't have a concrete message to say about that but feel free to talk to Jayde or myself after. That is some of my work this semester. As well, I will recap the information VUSAC is sharing publicly. This includes statements on the Mandatory leave of absence policy from the summer, statements regarding the ASSU fee increase referendum which passed, the Ryerson initiative, the Indigenous Studies Student Union regarding the occupation on the territory statement. All statements were considered by the council and passed. In response to the last statement, we've started a small initiative to collect cash donations at the front desk which has been successful. It will be donated to the camp funds. Aside from that, this is my last caucus as VPE. I hope that you enjoyed your time and the food and the coffee. It means a lot to me and the community, I am honoured to be in

this position. It is important that we have these conversations and engage with each other. It is important to all of us. So, thank you very much.

Anonymous Form Question (read by Jayde Jones): "How likely do you think the Ryerson House name change is to happen based off admin and BoR response?"

Devon Wilton: We have had some response from the administration and the Board of Regents. The general gist is that it would be inappropriate to make assumptions or generalizations of what to expect. Even by me. Even if the Board decides to support this, it is the beginning of a consultative process that could go in any direction. The answer is no for right now, but hopefully we will hear back soon. I can't make a prediction, but I am positive. It is a constitutional process and our learning is best.

Jayde Jones: As someone who sits on the Board of Regents Executive Committee, what we've done is drawn a sub committee. The Chair of the Board has been instrumental, including President Robins and Dean Kelly Castle to find the correct governance path for these proposals. And making sure the documents land in the right place. We have struck a sub committee of the Exec to discuss the proposal specifically. As well as how the Board is responding to the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee more broadly. Details on how, of action of the work plan are forthcoming. The Chair is putting the final proposal, because executives saw a draft, on each of the following committee's meetings. Where all of the small in depth work happens, it is happening separately in each of the small committees which is exciting because that is where it is sort of the only way any action would come from anything.

Devon Wilton: Thank you for clarifying that. I didn't mean to imply that no response has happened. There has been movement. And if it's going to happen, this is exactly what it is going to look like at this stage, so thank you.

Jayde Jones: I realize that I should mention that the reason I mentioned the Board is because it is about the house and the stream. The Senate's Executive Committee has accepted the report on behalf of the Senate, but it is a matter--the name of stream--for the Principal not for the Board. Then it follows suit with whatever decision happens on the Board's side in terms of governance process of coming to a decision. With the experience of working with the Administration for a year, it is exciting that they are as committed as we are to seeing progress happen on this. As Devon said if ever, it were to happen, this is what it would look like.

VPSO - Zoe Ritchie

- Update - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi all, I will keep this brief. There have been no new club applications this semester. You are welcome to share with people that they are still welcome to apply and I will do my best to help them get that started. I am mandated to hold a club and levy meeting each semester. But I have heard your feedback that meeting is valuable during first semester, and not during second and more of a thing that you have to do. I respect that. In response, I've decided that I will hold a four hour drop-in with tea and coffee for students in clubs and levies to chat with me. I will pick a space, TBD. I want to reiterate that transition reports are an important thing to get started at this time of year. It is not the most fun, maybe, but it is important for your successors and I often have to pull transition reports from years ago in order to give leaders proper information. The sooner you start them, the easier they are to finish. I will publish the drop-in hour time in the next two weeks. Other than that, I am always available over email and during my office hours are from Monday 3:30-5:30pm. My favourite kind of tea is English Breakfast, two milk. Thanks. Otherwise, it is my last Caucus ever and I love my job, I remember running for VUSAC in my first year and being crushed at the first Caucus, thinking "this is so cool! Why can't I be on stage?" But

everything works out because now I am and I love it. This is my last one. You will all miss you voice. People that say my voice is really relaxing. Yeah, I actually really deeply appreciate that, um..

[aggressive gavel banging]

Alexa Breininger: Stop it!

Devon Wilton: It's not an open mic Zoe.

Zoe Ritchie: Please come to the drop in and chat with me I would love to hear your feedback and discuss your year or if there is anything you want to see in my role for next year I can pass that on. If anything has any questions? I am happy to take them. My email inbox is always open.

Alexa Breininger: Sorry to bang the gavel at you.

Zoe Ritchie: No, I needed it.

Finance Chair - Tiger Fu

- Update - (10 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everyone. I'm Tiger. This is the event you've all be waiting for. An overview of our financial situation. What more could you want.

[Ali Kehl aggressively whoos]

Okay, I'm going to be talking about a few things today but primarily an overview of what we've been spending and budgeting. With that, this is the overview. We've budgeted to spend 117k for this semester, which is a lot of money. Historically, our utilization has been low especially with clubs. Out of that number, 50k has been spent so far. We have 27.5k in the bank. The semester cheques (that I just received) should boost our bank account very drastically. Which means that levy distributions should also come very soon, but I will talk about that in a second. In terms of Internal budgets, about 94k and 23k for clubs. So that makes up the 117k in the beginning. So far, our internal utilization is 50% and clubs is at 14%. But that number should come up very quickly as more events are hosted. Onto the specifics, on the left is the detailed financial numbers on what we've budgeted for each commission and how much they've spent so far. A couple things to note on communications is that VUSAC merch was just ordered and that wasn't originally budgeted for, but we have since made amends and it should now be accounted for. That will also bring in revenue. The pie chart, you can see that Scarlet and Gold is by far the biggest spender. The reason it is so high is obviously because of Highball. We just paid 20k in the deposit for the venue, whereas a lot of the other commissions still have events coming up.

Jayde Jones: Sorry Tiger, a Point of Personal Privilege, just because I am not very math literate (don't tell my parents they will be devastated) This is 54% and this is 67%, but that is out of two different numbers. Just in case anyone is thinking, "Whaat? Scarlet and Gold spent moore than what was budgeted for??" This is out of the money that has been paid out so far. I was just like, smelling a scandal.

[crosstalk]

Tiger Fu: Yes, so the top is for our budgeted amount, the 93k, the 54% is from the 93k. And the bottom is for 46k that we've currently spent so far. Hope that clears things up. Then, onto the clubs, the top pie chart is how we budgeted and the bottom is what they've spent so far. The Hotake is the most significant because they just put on a play and have another one coming up. Other clubs will spent more soon as their final events wrap up. We can come back to this for questions. What's to come: first, the levy funds distribution. We just received the cheque from the Finance Office, and we will be handing that out in accordance, after the levy audits. I will send

out an email about how that is supposed to work and then schedule a time with all the levies to meet one-on-one and during that meeting I will likely be able to hand out the cheques as well. Second thing, as a point, of course, the provincial government thing, and the non mandatory student fee thing, is happening next year so I will have to do some financial modelling, with the Dean's Office. So that's also going to be happen. It might be better for us to keep a little bit of surplus given the situation. But we will talk more about that. That's mostly what's coming up. Does anyone have any questions.

Sayeh Yousefi: Could you go back to the internal funding page? Was there a reason why the communications total budget is so much higher than the projected budget?

Tiger Fu: Yes. Like I said before, it is because we ordered VUSAC merch. Originally, when Communications budgeted for the term he didn't think that the VUSAC merch would come out of his budget, there was a bit of miscommunication there, but since then we have passed the motion ...

Jayde Jones: This is fun, because when we're all students we learn many things together. The money budgeted for merch is in my term one budget, about \$6,000 set aside for merch. What's coming from the Communications budget should of been credited from my budget from last semester. It is still under that. That doesn't look right on the pie chart. We will make sure it looks right before it hits the books. But no money has been spent that hasn't been accounted for. It just wasn't accounted for there, but it was accounted for on line item 1-4 on the fall budget on my budget, and you can find that at vusac.ca/docs if you are curious.

Tiger Fu: Just to add onto that, making this chart was difficult because a lot of clubs spent money from their first term budget. And of course, we only included the budgeting spending for this term. So some of the percentage is off, but it is all allocated for. It is actually good that they are using money from their first term budget because that gives them more opportunities for this semester's budget.

Jared Connoy: I was wondering, for Arts and Culture, is Gardner Gala included in that number? Or what's going on there.

Tiger Fu: I think, I'm not quite sure. I pulled this from the accounting software. But, we might not of paid some of those fees yet. If those invoices haven't been sent to us then it wasn't spent already, and we haven't paid it. I know that revenue is still coming in from that event. This is what is currently on the books, but if we haven't paid the invoices than that will probably flow in as well. It's not 100% accurate because things are still coming in and invoices haven't been paid because it takes a while for places to send us their invoices and stuff like that. Thank you.

Chief Returning Officer - Molly Simpson

- Update - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hello. My name is Molly. I run VUSAC's Fall and Spring Elections and any referenda that happens along the way. A big thing happening right now is our elections are open. They opened on February 15th and are open until March 8th till noon. We elongated the nomination period. Running is a big decision. This spring is a big election because we are electing new presidents (President, VPI, VPE, VPSO), all seven commissioners, ten members of Victoria College Council, four members of Board of Regents, two members of Vic Senate, and new this year, we are doing our UTSU Directors internally. This summer, we did a big overhaul of our policy. We recodified everything. Some big things that happened this summer is if you're a student on a LOA or travelling abroad and you are returning next year, you can run in our spring elections. If elections are uncontested or no one runs for a position we will reopen elections. If two VPs only have one person running, we re-open those. That is something we did in the fall elections as well and that was really successful. Also, doing the UTSU direction elections internally is really exciting, and if you are interested get in contact with me. We also did an overhaul on

referenda and how to make referenda more accessible. Now, any member of the VCU can hold a referenda on anything--or anything a referenda can do--which is altering student levy, make a new levy, or alter VUSAC fees. You would need an opinion poll, for example: "How does the VCU feel about the Renaming Ryerson Proposal?" We would put out an opinion poll, that we then try to abide by. In addition, we made more changes to social media rules. The biggest of which that VUSAC will now put candidate web pages on the ballot. So that it is all in one place to make it clearer. We are not mandating Facebook pages. In addition to that, Town Hall is in here on March 15th, from 5:30-7:30pm. That is the time to ask any questions you have to your candidates. There will be food and there will be singing. Which I know nobody else wants, but I love it! And then voting from the 16th-20th, online only, and the results go live on the 23rd. If you are interested in holding a referenda, you can bring that for ratification at our March 8th meeting, which is the latest you can do it, just email the Chair at chair@vusac.ca. I sent all the clubs and levies an FAQ about the referenda. If you have any questions, ask, or shoot me an email at cro@vusac.ca. Thank you!

General VUSAC Question Period (10 minutes):

Devon: There will be no voices.

Anonymous Form Question (read by Devon Wilton): "It seems to me that between MUJI pen giveaways and constant free food events that often have a lot of waste are a waste of money. Why do the committees choose to pursue those events when they could be doing important advocacy work? I'm concerned about the waste of money especially with the new food policy money will be tighter. I'd like to know why my money is being spent this way?"

Anonymous Form Response by Cameron Davis (read by Devon Wilton): "1. Low income students may not be able to otherwise access muji/food on campus 2. Promotes the scope of the commission so that more people come to our other events, which we host plenty of 3. VUSAC was left a surplus from last year. Additionally, we do do advocacy work! We have had a voice at distinguished alumni award selection, within the Alumni community, and we give feedback to the DO on their programming. We're also working on academic resources cards to be distributed at study space. Advocacy doesn't cost much money, but VUSAC has a lot so events and when it comes to events, we like to return student fees to students"

Anonymous Form Response by Emilia De Fabritiis (read by Devon Wilton): "Hi there, thanks for your question. I will only answer this question as it pertains to my commission. VOCA aka the Commuter Commission's main goal is meant to create events that are specifically for commuter students to make them feel at home at the university. This might be getting a bit personal but I am currently in my last semester of undergrad, taking 6 courses, work 20 hours a week at a part time job and juggle VUSAC on top of a lot of other extracurriculars all while commuting 1.5 each way from Mississauga. I know I'm not the only commuter on this boat. With that being said, I, as well as the many commuters I've spoken too are left unable to perhaps pack enough food for their full day, especially if you're on campus all day while I know I usually am. Also, I am not fortunate enough to have parents I live with who pack my lunches and often spend probably \$100 a week on food for myself. With that being said, free food events are crucial in helping assist commuters in this struggle. In response to food waste, VOCA usually has large turnouts to our events and usually food is gone quite quickly. However, I believe it should be up to the organizer of an event to be realistic about event turnout and buy food accordingly based on previous turnouts.

Furthermore, free food events are a great way to spark community involvement and usually have the best turnout, if you have any experience with event planning. VOCA has hosted a number of advocacy related events, such as how to budget as a commuter which unfortunately only 7 people showed up but as much

as you advertise there's so much you can do if not a lot of people show up. In my personal opinion, I think it should be a commuter don responsibility to be in charge of majority of the advocacy related events since they are often more trained than we are and create events that are targeted towards advocacy. From my knowledge of being involved in this commission for 4 years, VOCA has never been a commission like equity or sustainability to advocate social issues because that is not what the commission is for. We are mainly to host events for commuter students and the theme of these events often differ with the creativity of a commissioner. Also, there is so much one commission can do in a year. Each commissioner has personal goals they want to set and my personal goal was to create advocacy related events which also had free food. I've hosted a residence/commuter collab every month since September and turn out as been amazing with very little food waste. Again, thank for you for the question and sorry for the lengthy response. If you have anymore questions, VOCA has a Advocacy Director named Jada Charles who is able to be contacted if you have any advocacy events voca can peruse next year. Cheers, Emilia"

Jared Connoy: Hello! It's more of a comment, and I know that Cameron is not here so he can't answer. But just in regards to the response, um, I get what Emilia is saying when she's talking about how it is particular to commuters. But I have a hard time seeing how Cameron's response kind of advances his portfolio as Academic Commissioner. Um, so I'd be interested in hearing what he says to that. Would that comment go to him?

Devon Wilton: Yes, thank you for commenting. The agreement with people who send regrets is that comments will be taken down by Emma and sent to Cameron and a response will be sent to your email. Yes, thank you for your comment.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

- UTSU Directors Report - Haleema and Usman (5 minutes)

(read by Devon Wilton): "Hello everyone. We are sorry we couldn't make it to today's caucus; we have Unity Ball, UTSU's formal, today. First of all, we have excess funds for student-run campaigns, so if any of you have campaign ideas please reach out to the campaigns committee or either one of us. Secondly, the nomination period for elections for the upcoming year is from March 11-15. It's a great way to get involved in student life so we would strongly suggest running in the elections. If you have any further questions about anything, feel free to reach out to us through Facebook or email us at haleema.khan@utsu.ca or usman.sadiq@utsu.ca. Thank you so much for a great year and hope to see you all soon!"

- Office of the Dean of Students Report - Christina Alcena (5 minutes)

Motion: Devon Wilton moves to grant Campus Life Coordinator Christina Alcena speaking rights. Lim Comsa seconds. Motion passes.

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

[Summary] Thank you. I really appreciate that and I will keep this brief. All of you know how to contact me or I have met all of you. I am honoured to be in the presence of all you wonderful student leaders and advocacy members of the community. Let me know if there is anything else my portfolio can support you and your inquiries. My office is always open. I just wanted to highlight some upcoming events and programming: Come to Crescams! It is my second Crescams and it is an excellent opportunity to

celebrate your successes. We also had a few events happen, our High Education event, it was a great event with good conversation on how to support students here on our campus. Inclusivity and Tech is coming up on March 15th as well as Diversity, Equity in Careers on March 19th, we are working directly with Vibhuti, and the equity portfolio. Thank you so much. Student Leader Day is coming up on April 6th, which will be held in this building. I hope to see you all attend! You do not have to hold an elected position to take part of that. We are in the process of hiring leaders, which closed yesterday. We had over 100 applicants which is so exciting. I hope to see you in those roles and participate. As well as transition mentors will be hired in the next couple weeks. I have told everyone this information, but maybe just one more time: I will be away for the next 10 days and I will return on March 11th. In my absence, if you need support please contact vic.dean or contact Berguita who is the Assistant Dean International and Upper Year Student in the Office of the Dean of Students, if you have any questions. I value that I get to meet with you all one on one in my role, and let me know if there is anything else I can do.

Stephanie Spagnuolo: There are a lot of chairs, listed as Chair One, Two, and Three in the Dean's Office. What is that about?

Christina Alcena: We are going through a chair competition! So come visit the office and sit on chairs and choose which one is most comfy. For clarification, the chairs are for residences, it's for the students. These will be *your* chairs.

Stephanie Spagnuolo: ~~Chair four!~~

Christina Alcena: Can we please strike that from the minutes?

Jayde Jones: I have a question about the transition mentor program, just because I know that having been involved in Orientation for the first two years and noting that there are a lot of changes and cognizant of critics that have been noted by people who have participated at mentees or mentors or externally involved, I was wondering how is the Dean's Office is responding to our feedback and in what ways it has been incorporated into the hiring process of the transition leaders this year and if there are many fun surprises you can tell me about the program, I would love that.

Christina Alcena: Of course! Yes, and if anyone else needs further support in going through the process, that is always an option. Because I am in a great position, having done this role for a year, I can make changes that I feel necessary based on responses and critics. I have been meeting with mentors and senior mentors, and some members of the VCU and former exec orientation members. As well as my own reflections and talking to first year students about how to best engage students in this model. We are working on that. This year we will be hiring Senior Transition Mentors and Transition Mentors, responding to the feedback based on the position, and they will be working towards supporting students in a similar fashion. But throughout orientation, making a lot of changes in order to ensure that the roles are insync with the goals of orientation and the leaders and myself and the whole exec. We will be making some significant changes based on feedback. I love feedback because that means there is always something to improve upon and try out things out.

Zoe Ritchie: There was a commitment made at the last caucus meeting that naloxone kits would be provided for dons. By January, from my discussions with dons this hasn't happened and I was wondering why.

Christina Alcena: I can try to speak to that, my portfolio is not Residence, but I am happy to figure out what the status of that is and then add that to the minutes after as an amendment. If that is okay with you?

Zoe Ritchie: Yes, thank you.

Jayde Jones: We love Christina.

- Board of Regents - Jayde Jones, Graham Allison - (5 minutes)

Jayde Jones: As Graham comes to join me, again, I am Jayde. I sit on the Board of Regents as a student representative. This is external to your four elected Student representatives. Specifically, to sit on the board. So that is Alexa, Ally Johnston, Graham Allison. We collectively sit on different committees on the Board. The entire Board meets for updates and a rubber stamping kind of thing. I sit on the property committee, the governance of student affairs committee, and the executive committee. Alexa is on governance and property committee. And Hannah (a student rep I didn't mention) is also on property. And Ally and Graham are on finance. So he is here to talk about Finances, but only the information shared at board wide meetings because everything else happens in-camera.

Graham Allison: I am on the financial pension and audit committee. I will go over what has happened since last caucus, because the committee has only met twice and one we've had one board meeting. It is a large body, and not a lot gets done. Most recently, student fees for the academic year 2019-2020 have been approved so the fees include residence, meal plans, government, levies, student services, orientation, and Vic commuter fee. Every year the Board and finance committee approve an annual increase and this is so keep the value of the money the universities receives even with inflation. A few years ago, students had a referendum, that allowed the university to change...or to increase fees by inflation plus 2% without student consultation. If students want to increase beyond that threshold then they need to consult students. They didn't, they followed the formula, and student fees are increasing by 4.7%. That's that.

Jayde Jones: Just to clarify, there wasn't a referenda run. But something to the effect, 5-6 years ago the Campus Life Committee of the Board of Regents (which no longer exists) was responsible for year to year voting and delivering a number. And before our time the decision that was made was that the Board would possess the ability to...actually, Lucinda might know this. I'm like, who has the longest institutional memory in the room?

Lucinda Qu: Yes, I am old. Hear me roar.

Jayde Jones: [continued] they decided the process could be done by a simple vote by council to increase our fees by CPI plus 2 percent instead of having to have back and forth conversation. That is the way the cookie crumbles, now.

Graham Allison: The inliary budget was also approved. It is not very interesting, but it's the budget that runs the university and has everything to do with non-academics. Again: Residence, food services, etc. A sub part of that is the capital budget which is the budget for improving the university's buildings so that budget was approved. Including making improvement in systems to improving desktop chairs and changing water heaters. Finally, on concerns about the government's changes to OSAP and tuition. Essentially, President Robins brought it up and he is working through the Senate and he is trying to find ways to make financial assistance more accessible and as the changes are not finalized, the Board is waiting to see what is going to happen before they make decisions.

Motion: Jayde Jones moves to extend discussion time by 2.5 minutes. Alexa Ballis seconds. Motion passes.

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

Jayde Jones: This is going to be lightning round about what the other committees have been up to with a note that we will touch on the Provincial Government issue later but there has been a fantastic commitment on behalf of the committee to keeping our students access to education. So, with respect to what Graham said about President Robins we will chat about that afterwards. But, we ... You know that U of T has passed its own smoke free policy and Vic has not done so. We looked at U of Ts, saw a whole host of problems, so it is back at the senior administration table where they will work on a few key issues before bringing it back on the Board. One was considered. We did adopt U of T's Freedom of Speech policy. Because Vic is its own university and we technically didn't have one, we are now going along with that policy. Nothing materially changed, but we do have that now. In terms of property, U of T's Secondary Plan (brief context:) U of T is submitting plan to the city, about building development. After they submit this plan there will be a two year moratorium, where no more applications are going to be considered. The Northrop Frye building was supposed to last 50 years, it's now 52 years old and needs to be replaced. It became a moment for us to go over every spot of development at Vic and our Vic proposal has been submitted. Called "The Secondary Plan", you can google. The Board will have a final moment of an official update of the remaining official VUSAC meetings, likely the second last one, because it doesn't seem like there is enough time to dive into this properly, here, today.

- VUS - Zoe Ritchie - (5 minutes)

[Summary] I sit on the Senate with Thomas Siddall and we are your student reps. We've only had one meeting, and it was not sufficient time to bring up most of our concerns. The next meeting was scheduled and cancelled and not rescheduled. I expressed my frustration that that did not allow us to represent students. I did not receive an acknowledgement of my frustration. The next meeting is in June, and as such I may not be able to attend. But, I do hope to meet with the people in order to express that unfortunately I wasn't able to bring student concerns to the table because of the Senate. If you want to give me feedback if you have ideas on how to improve their system, my email is vpsa@vusac.ca, there is no Senate email. I can also credit your name.

Vibhuti Kacholia: How many constitutional members are there on the senate?

Zoe Ritchie: Two. They are elected in the spring elections cycle.

- VCC - Cynthia Wong - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hi! My name is Cynthia. I'm the student representative on the VCC, there are ten of us. We had two meetings last semester, and one this semester. There are two committees, one for student life, and one for academic. There has been one meeting for academic, two for the other. We are looking to evaluate its purpose in terms of the new Dean's Advisory Committee. What VCC does, is we receive reports from various offices, the President, the Principle, the Chief Librarian, the Dean of Students, the NF Center and the Center for Information and Renaissance Studies. In the past meeting, we have had presentations from the Center of International Experience, the Center for Community Partnerships, and the President's Office is working on a presentation regarding transitioning out of university and the Academic Committee has submitted two new fourth year Vic courses for approval by the faculty of Arts and Science.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Renaming Ryerson: Devon Wilton (10 minutes)
 - Appendix B: Renaming Ryerson

[Summary] It would mean a lot to the success of the initiative if there was a motion at Caucus to support the Renaming Ryerson Initiative. I talk about this already during my update, I talk about this at VUSAC meetings, and I talked about it...I talk about it a lot. Instead of just repeating myself, I just want to share some comments that we have received from the online petition and in some letters as motivation to sign your own name. We've received 157 signatures. And the vast majority of them are current Vic students. Two quick comments: one is "As a black woman who was a student of the Vic One program, I support this wholeheartedly and it is an action that must be taken to further the project of decolonization of the eurocentric violence that continues to occur at U of T and Vic." Another comment is "Residential schools and their legacies are a paramount among Canada's national shames and to honour Ryerson despite his influential role is to choose to ignore this." As I said, we've also received letters of support from numerous organizations at the university. ACTA wrote a letter and to quote ACTA, they said, "We believe this strongly that this initiative will have a healthy and positive impact on the community, especially for indigenous students and allies." And in a letter from a faculty member, which really sums up a lot of my feelings on it, to quote her: "this civil, symbolic act is quite literally the least an institution can do to address the call for all of us to take part in reconciliation." At this point, I would like to invite anyone who has comments, for or against the initiative, to talk about it. If not, then I would like to formally endorse this initiative. I would like to put it on the table.

Motion: Devon Wilton moves to endorse the Renaming Ryerson Initiative of the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council. Stephanie Spagnuolo seconds. Motion passes.

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

Ali Kehl: I just want to say a big thank you to Devon, because I know that you've put in countless hours of work. On the minutes, you should get the recognition. Thank you.

Devon Wilton: Thank you for saying that.

- On the provincial government announcement regarding post-secondary education: Jayde Jones (10 minutes)
 - Appendix C: VUSAC statement re: changes
 - Appendix C: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities press release

[Summary] Hiya! I see a lot of VUSAC faces in the room. And a few non-VUSAC faces. Who are at the moment my favourite faces. Not that I don't love you VUSAC, but we are not what Caucus is about. And that is just to say that it is 9:03pm and while this is important, we have had conversations about this around the VUSAC table, I'm wondering if this is something people want to continue to speak about? I see a nod, so we will talk about it. Show of hands who have read/heard about the government's announcement and position? Okay, so we are going to start by bringing everyone up to the same speed. Essentially, on Jan 17th Doug Ford tried to ruin my life. I'm kidding! But on Jan 17th, the Ford government released a proposal outlining changes to OSAP and to incilery fees, or non academic fees, that are paid at postsecondary institutions. With respect to OSAP, essentially: it sucks. The rouse of this all is that they're cutting tuition by 10%, but realistically that means less people are getting grants, more are getting loans, and as soon as you graduate you have to pay interest right off the bat. It's just garbage with respect to students who have access to OSAP or will need to in the future. Lucinda Qu has been involved in many events and organizations about this off campus, would you like to say a few words about it?

Lucinda Qu: I guess I would just love to add that there are a lot of insidious things at play here as well. The government has made transparency around specificities almost non-existent. We have to clarify things. Like, will OSAP cover student levies fees, or equity groups? Recent clarification, says no! It will not be available to cover fees that are necessary for student life. Also, there is a lack of clarity as to whether it is opt in or opt out, and increasingly, students are worried that this is opt-in. That means that all student led government bodies and levies will have to be opted into. Starting next year. And they are already looking into how these changes will be implemented at various institutions across Ontario. It will result in unimaginable cuts to funding. We are seeing potential numbers as low as 30% and around as high as 70% - 80% budget cuts. If we don't fight this, we completely demolish our abilities to fight against other issues that are salient to our health and wellbeing and academic success in the future.

Jayde Jones: You're awesome. Thank you. As you all know at this point, I'm not having a great speaking night tonight but Lucinda always has great speaking nights, and I saw her there. That distinction between academic and nonacademic fees, the Ford Government has said, that essential fees that are mandatory fees are athletic, recreation, career services, and student health and dental fees. That is the extent. So, aside from OSAP impacting access to education it is also an impact to the quality of life on students with regards to health and counseling, transcripts, equity related events and others. I'll leave it if anyone has questions they want to raise?

Lucinda Qu: I wanted to clarify, that the 10% tuition cut is also not being made up for by our government. This is just ...oh wow. It means that a lot of what is optional within university admin is also going to be cut. Student life funding is just being turned off. Nothing new is happening. If folks want to be working on primer materials to help average students catch up on what's happening, I am a part of a couple student groups working on initiatives to help spread the word and that help educate. I am also organizing a Summit on March 17th. I know it is St. Paddy's and people might not be in the best headspace, but Sunday, March 17th it will be all day. Even if you can only come on the afternoon. Give your feedback and talk about strategies and hear from other people. We are in for a ride for the next couple years and probably beyond. This summit is meant to be an accessible and open space for as many invested students as possible. And you can find more information at bit.ly/2020-fb and bit.ly/2020-reg. Feel free to find me or other people for more information, especially to get involved.

Lim Comsa: I thought, these two things should go on the record so that they are there. The first of these two things is that I, as a student, do not receive OSAP, so I would stand to benefit from these cuts and I do *not* endorse them. I think that when those who have the most privilege are the ones that can reap benefits and those who have the least are those who suffer, that that is an issue and should not happen. The second thing, is that I would like to make a statement that the Senate should reconsider (something we discussed last caucus) which is their change to the rules of the \$1000 in-course scholarship that is awarded every year to students taking 5 course credits. It was changed so that it does not include any exchange or transfer credits, in calculating how many credits a student has earned. Which means that they are basically saying, among other things, that U of T credits are more worthy than external credits. And that means that student will suffer even more especially now that these cuts are being made.

Jayde Jones: Thank you, for the two Caucus that I have been on stage, I appreciate everyone who has come up to stage and you have asked many thoughtful ones. With those two comments, good news on the Senate front: There can be no official updates because the Senate Executive Meeting was cancelled. But, Devon and I did meet to talk to the registrar about how it will be responding to students. In light of these changes, and they are doing some creative thinking about scholarships and bursaries and timings and who can qualify for what, the registrar has made herself available for students for two full afternoons to help with bursaries in order to connect

students with money. As a way to connect students with money in the short term. The reality at Vic is there is a lot of money that people don't access. Your concern is going to be addressed. One good thing is that other good stuff is happening at the same time.

Final Remarks (Devon Wilton): I will quickly say thank you for all the work that you do as student leaders. This is a part of the work you do. I appreciate each one of you. It is a marathon, not a sprint. We are here at the end!

Alexa Breininger: Thank you Devon. And for organizing a great Caucus.

[applause]

Motion: Devon Wilton moves to adjourn meeting. Jai Kakkar seconds. Motion passes.

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