



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
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VUSAC MEETING MINUTES

February 1st, at 5:00 PM in the Goldring Student Center
MINUTES

In Attendance

Judiciary

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

Assessor Members

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

Commissioners and Councillors

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

Co-Chairs

EQUITY CO-CHAIR: Vibhuti Kacholia
SUSTAINABILITY CO-CHAIR: Victoria Silva

Councillors

James Cassady
Jenny Zhang
Gabrielle daSilva
Genevieve Crispin-Frei
Angela Medina

Katie Marsland

Guests

Cricket Cheng

LEAP U OF T: Julia DaSilva

LEAP U OF T: Elsa Bornhoft

VARSAITY REPORTER: Kathryn Mannie

Regrets

CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR: Christina Alcena

FINANCE: Tiger Fu

COUNCILLOR: Jai Kakkar

COMMUTER CO-CHAIR: Tabina Ahmed

Land Recognition: Georgia (1 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...]

Motion: Lucy moves to approve the minutes from January 18th, 2019 as it stands. Angela seconds.

Motion passes.

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

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

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

Jayde: Can I just make a point of personal privilege? It just seems to be not great hearing conditions in the room, can everyone just speak up a little bit?

EX-OFFICIO UPDATES

- Dean's Office Update
 - [No Update]
- Dean of Students
 - [No Update]
- President of Victoria University
 - [No Update]
- UTSU Directors Update - Haleema and Usman
 - [No Update]

ACTION ITEMS

- Jayde - On CPI Increase Motion (5 minutes)

[Summary] So I'm going to speak loudly, and anyone, especially Emma, let me know if you can't hear me right now. Essentially, as Alexa mentioned, CPI stands for Consumer Price Index. If you took economics, you know that the idea is that if you had a basket of goods and you try to buy one year, because of inflation, it costs a different price to buy the same goods the next year. We've been using a different CPI every year, but as of 2014 VUSAC is able (instead of running a referendum each time) to update according to cost building. This year the CPI chosen was the one used for North American universities and the administrations in those universities to determine how much they should increase costs, and that is 2.8%. The reason that we are voting on it today is because university budget cycles are happening right now, determining things for next year. They need to know sooner, rather than later. It is a pretty simple motion, and I will open the floor to questions. I didn't mean simple in terms of concept but in terms of procedure.

Motion: Jayde moves to ratify the CPI increase (of 2.8%) to the VUSAC fees for the 2019-2020 academic school year. Cameron seconds. Motion passes.

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

- Jayde - On Reallocation Motion (5 minutes)

[Summary] Again, this is a procedurally simple motion, and I will give a little context. We about have \$594 in outstanding invoices from Grand and Toy. Essentially, this was just a transition error from our previous Office Manager to our current Office Manager. We do owe Grand and Toy this money. We are fortunate to have it in the contingency fund, so we are asking for \$600 as a result of that. \$710 dollars for the Communications Portfolio website fees is similar. Last year's Communications Coordinator 2017-2018, was still being billed for the website but hadn't had an opportunity to let us know. This was complicated because one of use was also being billed. But because we weren't aware that we were being charged for these fees, all of the billing for the year was charged to someone's credit card who is not on council and we didn't budget for it because we thought that it had already been paid. We are hoping, given the money we have in the contingency fund, to pay for all of these items. Those are the two different motions that we've combined together.

Motion: Jayde to reallocate \$600 from the contingency fund to budget line 'Office Supplies' in the Office Manager's portfolio and \$710 from the contingency fund to a new line item 'website fees' in the Communications portfolio. Nick seconds. Motion passes.

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

- Leora Nash - Student Projects Motion (10 minutes)

[Summary] Hi everybody. I have prepared in Appendix A all the materials for council to see for the grants. I will not go through them all. Because of reduced time, I will not go through them all but if people have questions. I will talk about the grants that need to be ratified. So the first grant that we need to ratify is for \$3000 for VOCA to print custom tote bags to sell slightly below cost so that it is accessible for students to purchase them. The second grant is for \$4600 for the EVMFS to allow them to have Harthouse catering, to provide options for gluten free/vegan people and also to allow them to increase

designers budget by \$100. They mentioned in the meeting that their designer's budget hasn't been raised in 5 years, even with inflation. And they want more money because they want to add multicultural fashion through the designers' ethnic backgrounds. Some of the material, such as kimonos are more expensive, even second hand. And the third grant is for \$4500 for the Women's Circle, a club here at Vic for their Winter Retreat during Reading Week for their members to experience Canadian winter, as a lot of their members are immigrants, and to experience a spiritual experience. The Student Projects committee wanted to give them a grant to reduce the cost of registration. The cost of registration is \$350, and with this grant it would be greatly subsidized. That was a quick summary, are there any questions about specific grants?

Jayde: Leora, was just wondering, in case folks haven't had time to read through. Can you please read out the stipulations attached to the Women's Circle strand?

Leora: Absolutely. It is a little more complex. I have spent many hours talking with their club about ways to apply to Student Projects. The majority of the meeting time was dedicated to discuss how this is appropriate for student projects. In the end it was a unanimous vote to support it.

[Reads Stipulations]

Basically, if ten students benefit from this grant they'll use that money and the rest will not be released to them. If 20, then that would be the cap and they would be using the full amount. Does that clear that up?

Vibhuti: And if there are more students than 20, then the club can decide to subsidize to help those students go.

Leora: The club and Executive reserve the right to decide how much they are going to subsidize with our caps.

Jared: I have a question about the tote bag grant. Maybe Emilia, can help this. I know it's designed to be environmentally conscience, but I think it will be the opposite. Given that you have to use a tote bag 150 times for it to be actually a sustainable choice and I'm kind of worried about buying 200. The cost of cotton is one of the worst things for the environment. It takes so much water and has to be grown in hot places. For me, I see it as unsustainable given that there are already tote bags you can buy. So I'm not really comfortable approving it and I'm not sure if it is something that has been considered.

Leroa: We did not consider that. Based on the application and endorsements, the product seemed to appeal to a lot of students. Emilia, can you speak a bit more as to why your commission wants to make the tote bags?

Emilia: Is Tabina here? Yeah, I can speak to that in a moment. Sorry, I just came in and I wasn't prepared to answer a question.

Motion: Jayde moves to extend by 4 minutes. Zoe seconds. Motion passes.

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

Leora: Jared is concerned that ordering 200 tote bags is not sustainable, that there are already lots of tote bags on campus and it would not be a good choice from a sustainability aspect.

Emilia: Okay, 200 is a number I got from Caffiends from when they first ordered them. The price of tote bags differs from how much they purchase. That's an option we can consider ... reducing

the number that we order. But it would change how much money we get from the fund and also how much .. money that ... I'm sorry, can I just take a second?

Leora: I think that what Emilia is trying to say is that the reason that that number was set at 200 was because it would be too much money for each person to buy a tote bags. So it was the number suggested on the website.

Jayde: Having just spoken to some of the members on the Commuter Commission on project, I know that the goal is that commuters have the need for bags that is practical for their commute. Typically we do tote bags at Commuter Orientation, but they are such low quality that they don't really add anything meaningful in the commuter's life. And we didn't do it this year. I know that they chose the same brand that Caffiends chose, because they are (being a relatively unsustainable merch) at least more fair in their production process than other places. And then stepping outside of that into my own perspective, we absolutely should consider the outside outcomes of what kind of merch we want to produce. But I think at the end of the day we make a longer term sustainability impact through our advocacy and initiatives. The entirety of Orientation and things we do at the college as a net outcome will not be good for the environment. And then we decide if we are doing enough to offset that as an organization, if it is still something that is important to us. That is part of the consideration.

Leora: The committee also offered to support this grant because a lot of the endorsements wanted want to show that they love Vic because they are proud of their college and want a tote bag that recognizes that. A lot of people were asking for that.

Devon: Thank you Jared for that perspective, it wasn't one that I had before. But, I know that they've attempted to source from eco-bags, which has the option of purchasing tote bags from recycled cotton. My question for Jared is do you have a knowledge about recycled cotton and have an opinion on that? Would it improve the outcome of this grant? We should be trying to reduce our footprint any way possible. But we also bought all our merch last year that was all cotton and not recyclable. So, it may be a small impact, from my understanding of what recycled cotton means. To take end, it is at least something they consider.

Leroa: They did chose that option.

Devon: Sorry for wasting so much time.

Jared: Yeah okay. It says, wait is it recycled or organic?

Devon: I'm on the website and it says that they make both.

Jayde: We looked at the link for what they were going to be ordering and it was recycled cotton.

Leora: It was recycled and we talked about it being from an eco-friendly and sweatshop free place. We had considered that, because the other options were worse. I can speak from the chair's position.

Zoe: I would like to call the question.

Jayde: Can I motion to amend? We have to pull it out from all of the other student projects approvals to do that. First, we should vote on the other student projects grants and then focus and discuss individually. Because, if it is going to make a difference we should specify that they do have to order recycled cotton.

Motion: Cameron moves to extend by 5 minutes. Ali seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Jayde moves to pull the VOCA Tote bag proposal from the Student Projects Grant Application being considered during this meeting. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

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

Leora: Are there any remaining questions for me about student projects?

Devon: I notice that these are also VUSAC funded groups. An alternate option would of been for them to come and ask for more money from VUSAC. Considering the state of both budgets, do you feel it is appropriate for these budgets to receive Student Projects funds?

Leora: We do believe so. They were aware of the multiple resources. We mentioned that they could go to the contingency fund and gave them all that information. We recommended that, but I don't know if they did. The Fashion Show, said they were going to the contingency fund, but we decided that the gluten free and vegan option catering is a project in its own. Harthouse catering is expensive. And they only wanted to increase the designer budgets for this year, not every year so Student Projects believed these to both be appropriate. Otherwise I would not of put them on the table.

Zoe: For a bit of background, the Women's Circle originally came to me to get it into their budget but because it wasn't a fully formed idea I suggested they use the contingency fund after the budgeting grant. But then they wanted to subsidize instead of pay for and we tend to not do that as much. Then I made the recommendation to go to Student Projects, and I am glad to see that it is up here. It is a worthy cause.

Leroa: They are very passionate. And we are happy as a committee that we are going to be able to allow for more students to afford what they could not afford otherwise.

Motion: Leora Nash to ratify the Women's Circle and Environmental Fashion Show Student Projects Fund Grants presented in Appendix A. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

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

Jayde: I wanted to hear the answer, Jared, does recycled cotton make a difference?

Jared: Yes, I am comfortable with using recycled cotton. I was looking into it and on their website right now. It seems like it is just old cotton that otherwise would of gone to a landfill, I am comfortable with the motion. No new cotton is grown in the process. As long as it is stipulated that it is recycled.

Motion: Jayde moves to add stipulation a to the VOCA Tote Bag Student Projects Motion Grant that they must order tote bags made from recycled cotton. Devon seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Jayde moves to approve the VOCA Tote Bag Student Projects Grant as Amended in Meeting. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: None
- Jayde - Release Statement Motion (10 minutes)

[Summary] Fantastic! So basically, we spoke about this briefly at the meeting last week. We planned to host another meeting to address it, but life happens as it does and it didn't happen. I assume most of us know about the Provincial Government's announcement regarding tuition fees means to us as students. And this letter addresses the concerns that we've had and heard from each other as student leaders and the concerns that we represented at Queen's Park and the concerns that we've expressed in our internations with the administration here at Vic, across campus and throughout the province. And reaffirms our commitment to keeping students informed as we continue to get information. As well as worrying about student life and access to education for our students that are marginalized at the forefront of our work. I hope you've had a chance to read the statement. Our hope is to get VUSAC's endorsement as a whole so then we can release it as a council statement versus an executive statement. With that, are there any questions?

Alexa: First of all, I'd like to thank you for writing this. It is very well written and informative about the changes. I was wondering if we could change some of the wording of it?

Jayde: Totally.

Alexa: One thing that I've noticed, I will be nit picky and I'm sorry but I think that it is very important to be in a statement like this, in particular, "We adamantly oppose the restructuring of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and the planned 'Student Choice Initiative.'" Is there any why to change that explain? Because if you just read that sentence it sounds like you oppose student choice. For students not aware of what that means it might sound a bit off-putting.

Jayde: Could I make a point of personal privilege / point of order: Alexa, are you comfortable if we discuss your changes one-by-one going through?

Alexa: Yes.

Jayde: Do you have replacement language? Given it is my motion, I can accept that as a friendly amendment. And I will change that "and the plan changes to excenerentry fees."

Alexa: I wanted to know if you thought it would be worthwhile to have something about, like the lack of funding would be detrimental to student life? It's not explicitly said but might be worth saying. Just brainstorming, I'm sorry.

Jayde: I think, I mean in presenting the statement, that we have taken a joint approach -- that the paragraph does communicate that -- But because we are releasing this as a council we want to make sure that everyone feels that way. So if you have any language that you would prefer to see? But I don't know if we have the opportunity to sort of brainstorm in meeting.

Alexa: That's fair. I see that it does. I'm sorry.

Zoe: I agree with you. I thought of that when drafting. I think the challenge in we don't quite know what that is going to be yet. My recommendation is to leave it as it is now and then once we get more information to release another informational piece. Right now, the full policy has not been released. Victoria College has not told us what that is going to look like, so I worry about what we could expand on.

Alexa: I see your point. A follow-up could be beneficial after we get more information.

Devon: Zoe said almost everything, but this is not the end of VUSAC's work regarding this situation. This is the first statement. But this is a large part of the external portfolio for the rest of the year. It's important that we don't say how much students will be affected because we don't know. We don't know how much funding it will decrease. But clarify will come soon.

Alexa: It says in the last paragraph that, "We will keep Vic students updated as more information becomes available and advocate for student interests at every opportunity." Is there anyway to share in that statement what handles to follow? Through FB? Or...what are we deciding?

Jayde: It makes sense to say more broadly through social media or other channels because no one checks our website, but hopefully we can kind of keep it an open channel of information.

[Cricket: "I look at the website."]

Jayde: I would like the record to show that one person looks at our website. We will keep students updated through various forms of social media and other forms of social media and advocate... The other thing I would like to change in light of the change to first paragraph is that the third paragraph doesn't start with "The 'Student Choice Initiative,'" because then there is no context for it. Instead says, "Plans changes..."

Devon: Can I suggest something? What if you leave that sentence the same. But fix first paragraph, to say "and the planned Student Choice Initiative [...] and ancillary fees options [...]"
[Crosstalk]

Jayde: The first sentence would read "In particular, we adamantly oppose the restructuring of OSAP and the planned changes to ancillary fees in the Student Choice Initiative." Does that make sense? And then, the language would remain the same outside of the third paragraph.

Ali: This might seem pedantic, but in the last sentence, it just says Jayde. "Please email Jayde." But maybe saying "VUSAC President Jayde Jones," just in case someone has never had an interaction with you?

Jayde: How about, "Please email VUSAC President, Jayde Jones, at president@vusac.ca"

Ali: Yeah, yeah.

Zoe: Thank you for your comments, everyone. I know that we write these as an exec and then give them to you and maybe it seems fully formed, but we are here for the purpose of hearing your comments and they are always helpful. Little grammar things and bigger things.

Nick: *[enters room]* What statement is this?

Motion: Jayde moves to extend by 3 minutes. Jenny seconds. Motion passes.

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

Alexa Br: Just to let you know we are voting right now on the rewording of the provincial government's announcement on post-secondary education presented in Appendix B Provincial, brought by Jayde. Jayde will read the amendments.

Jayde: *[reviews the amendments for VUSAC members absent from the room]*

Motion: Jayde Jones for VUSAC to release the statement regarding the provincial government's announcement on post-secondary education presented in Appendix B. seconds. Cameron Motion passes.

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

- Devon - On ratifying Orientation Co-Chair (5 minutes)

[Summary] So the Arts and Science Student Union represents Arts and Science students at U of T and that is 27,000 of us. They fund 62 course unions, do a lot of advocacy work. In wake of the Provincial Government's statement, they have done a lot of work in organizing a student led response. In this referendum they are requesting a \$1.50 levy increase to continue to fund student unions, such as the

Equity Students Union. For unions that also do important work. ASSU has asked other student unions, such as ourself, to endorse this referendum. It does not mean that we are giving them the money, just saying we support their request for more. This does not include any advertising, but I think that it benefits us all to benefit the course of student unions. And, the huge proportion of Victoria College students that are Arts and Science students.

Jayde: Actually, one hundred percent of Vic students are Arts and Science Students.

Devon: Cheers.

Jayde: *[crosstalk]* ASSU has direct links to the faculty of Arts and Science that we don't have. So we rely on their advocacy efforts in order to better all of our student lives. Despite the fact that they already support 62 course unions, they have had to turn down applications for other course unions. Including Zoe's beloved bio-ethics course union. Simply, because they don't have funding. You may have seen my full support on my personal FB, but now I want to show my professional support as well.

Motion: Devon Wilton moves for VUSAC to endorse the Arts and Science Students' Union's fee increase referendum, to be held February 13 & 14. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

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

Zoe: Point of Privilege: is the sign up sheet making its way around? Has it stalled? No worries. I just like to sign my name.

- Devon - Renaming Ryerson Motion (20 minutes)

[Summary] Thanks. So I've spoken about this project numerous times during meetings. You have in your package the most recent draft of the proposal. We have used this draft to solicit support from other student groups and faculty and community members. This is an opportunity for VUSAC to formally endorse the project that I've been working on with Jayde throughout the term. Now we will have the official mandate of council to finish the job. We hope that the final copy, or the first published copy will be prepared to be launched on Monday and a petition that will be available as a google form for students and alumni members. Then we can use all of this input to speak to the Board of Regents and the Senate as we ask for them to make this change. [...] The proposal will be revised in the coming days and also potentially after that. But the goals of the proposal is the same and will not change. It is also a motion to release a letter of support, which was drafted with the Executive. It is available in Appendix C and is a motion to support the project along with the other letters of support included. A short note on names at the end. VUSAC can move to support this with a simple majority to release the letter but I thought that it would be valuable to include all of our names at the end as well. To show our hand on the project. That said, if there is anyone absent from this meeting or if you want your number excluded, I will take it out. But, otherwise I will take a voted yes as I want my name to be included, and if you vote no then I want my name excluded. Unless expressed otherwise. I will reach out to those absent. Just because it is a letter, other than a statement.

Jayde: The first thing, I know that staff and co-chairs don't see your names here. And you might be wondering how your names can get involved. When we vote on things they come from voting members. But maybe you can release a VUSAC staff motion? The other thing I want to note, I think it's worth knowing the path through governance that this proposal has taken. It has gone through administrative meetings and meetings with the Senate, the VCC, and the Board of Regents, and Senior Admin, but its path at the moment, it has just been brought to the formal

meeting at the Board of Regents and then it is in a final presentation when the Board votes on it. At the April 1st Meeting. The petition will run likely for ... the continuing through that process. Now that we are almost at the stage of having a public document, if you are interested in soliciting members for letters of support with respect to the name of Ryerson house [...] The name of the Senate has delegated the right for naming to the Principal. It wouldn't be a naming vote at the Senate, it is just the body where the stream name of this process will be process. We will keep you updated. She is moving.

Devon: Since last we spoke, this project has received the support of Acta Victoriana, a Victoria College levy, and many Faculty.

Jared: I have a few questions/comments. We would be voting today to support the letter? If we are not 100% with the state the report is in right now, prior to changes, we should vote no?

Jayde: So VUSAC is voting to release the letter of support. Also to endorse the project formally. The report is a document Devon and I have been working on, and through the different government cycles as been getting feedback which is why we are incorporating the feedback in ways that are appropriate. This is why we wouldn't want to limit the process of the report. So we aren't constantly releasing "official versions" of the proposal and then re-releasing and re-releasing. Because that would be a waste of everyone's time and it makes more sense to see whether we have a true full council wide democratic mandate to pursue name changes.

Jared: Is this meeting a setting you would like recommendations on changes to the report?

Devon: Comments on the report are always welcome, but unless you think it is imperative to the discussion and might influence other people then maybe you can come to me individually to make a better use of council time.

Jared: I think, my one comment, I think would be valuable for council to hear it. I have not been through the process, you might be like "oh no, you're stupid, that's dumb." But, I talked to Devon about this, but at the top we spoke very briefly about renaming and expressed discomfort in renaming things, because renaming can mean forgetting. With that, I would be more comfortable, I'd rather than having at the end having a plaque. But demanding a plaque. If it is to be renamed. And then my only other concern there is, what would happen with the Ryerson stream? Not a physical space. I feel uncomfortable voting to sign a letter of support... but I *do* like it.

Devon: We did have a brief discussion. I was so sad to miss this idea that it is wrong to forget Ryerson and his impact at the university and the country and it is central in our moving forward. It is not our place to say who it should be named after. It is important to say that this is the call for the beginning of a process, that will include many more people. In the proposal section we recommend a plaque and a mural. I am happy to take a look at that language again. To make it stronger. To directly tie it to the idea that forgetting is wrong. That said, I feel like that letter of support for the initiative doesn't necessarily go into the specifics of what the meeting will look like. In the call of action, will look like when that happens, but I can't know. VUSAC's role in the specifics will come then. Our role in endorsing it more broadly is where we are at right now. But I am happy to take that note.

Jayde: Add on to that, I think that the idea has developed to be the fact that this is a call to action to begin the process. The idea of forgetting, is detrimental to the idea of reconciliation, particularly as name changes related to university places and spaces. We can pull on some of that language and move that into the section about visioning. An important point to note is that whenever possible we tried to remove ourselves from that section and our goals and focus on what others had to say. Shining light about what others could do. Making space in that second to say more strongly that a plaque would be great and that this section is visioning and not something that we should do. Forgetting versus healing is something that can absolutely be done. If that makes sense. That was a comment and a how do you feel about this?

Jared: I feel much more comfortable about the letter. It is hard to vote on something that is changing. That makes more sense. But I think that I would still recommend making the language more strong.

Motion: Devon Wilton moves for VUSAC to endorse the proposal entitled Renaming Ryerson prepared by Devon Wilton and Jayde Jones, and that the letter of support presented in Appendix D be released on behalf of the VUSAC. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
 - Abstained: Georgia [Due to absence from the room]
 - Opposed: None
- Nick - Amendments to the Elections and Referenda Code Motion (10 minutes)

[Summary] I would like to give my time to Molly.

Molly: Hi. I won't talk too much because we had an entire discussion last week. These amendments need to be passed today in order to come into effect during the election. Keep that in mind. And thank you for the committee for all the time you've dedicated to this. Maybe someone can omnibus it?

Alexa: It is already is one motion.

Molly: Love that.

Jayde: I just want to address one thing. Could you preempt discussion on it, one thing that Molly will add into the nominations package is that FaceBook events won't be allowed. Ali is looking at me funny. I mean like, you can't say "Vote for Jayde" in 18 days and you get a notification everyday. That was one of the reasons why FaceBook was restricted in the past. But if that is something that occurred to you last meeting, it will be dealt with. We can workshop language around that moving forward.

Devon: Preference of the CRO and the [...]

Molly: Two things, I can't make it a friendly amendment. I may propose a couple more amendments before my term is up. I am comfortable with it just existing in the nominations package, as elections begin two weeks from now. Provided that the Exec approve, I am comfortable.

Motion: Nick moves to ratify the amendments to the Elections and Referenda Code as presented in Appendix E. Jayde seconds. Motion passes.

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

[Applause]

Motion: Katie moves to take a 10 minute recess. Georgia seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
 - Abstained: None
 - Opposed: None
- Jared - Support Council's Call on the Board of Regents Motion (15 minutes)

[Summary] Hello everyone. That is the motion and I have with me ...

Julia: Hi! I'm Julia. And this is Elsa, and Cricket. We are from Leap U of T which is a student climate justice group that focuses on divestment climate in Vic's endowments. Vic is currently not divested in investments from the climate industry. We want to request to call on the Board of Regents with the letter that we wrote last year.

Cricket: So, I'm not sure how familiar folks in the room are with the cost of fossil fuel divestment. But basically, divestment is the opposite of investment. They are pulling money out of a company and industry. There is currently a global movement to remove money out of the fossil fuel industry. Over 6 trillion has already been divested and a huge collection of universities churches, and other religious institutions, have already contributed to this project. Ireland has divested all of their public money. This is a great chance for Vic to step up. For a little bit of context: three years ago the U of T President had the opportunity to divest from fossil fuels after years and years of Board meeting and endless campaigning, even Margaret Atwood voiced in. Then he called a Committee meeting and was like, "What should I do?" And they said, "Hey, you should divest!" And the President was like "Ugghhhhh!" *[laughter] [crosstalk]*

Julia: So far we have had discussion with the admin over this this past fall. It is raising action. We met with the Board of Regents Divestment Committee. The problem that we are facing, is that Vic has no formal procedure to submit a divestment application. Right now, all we can do is pressure. So given that, we need lots of constitutional support. Such a written endorsement by VUSAC.

Zoe: Hi. First of all you're doing great work. But, I wondering if you can speak about the progress, comparing this year vs last year. What might be different? How will our endorsement further that or how can we actively support you? I was just wondering if there is a gap you see?

Julia: Yes, so we have made a lot of individual admin contact, but not one with the entire admin. We have escalated the scale of actions. Action outside of the Board or Regents meetings. We drew chalk on the ground which they had to walk by on the way to their meeting. We are continuing to evaluate the level of action that we are able to achieve. It would be incredibly helpful to have promotional support from VUSAC. Anything that would help us reach out to students and fill the gaps about making the campaign visual.

Cricket: We are definitely looking to expand, and we are also reinforcing the campaign by targeting faculty. We are targeting the fellows of Victoria College aggressively to get their signatures.

Cameron: Just wanted to thank you for being here today. For some context last year, they were the singular group that brought fuel divestment to the table. They started an initiative and started a club are doing amazing work.

Jayde: First I want to provide some context, then ask a question. First, we have student representation on every Student Board on the Board of Regents expect for divestment. We don't have the direct ability to bring divestment into context. Jared, from the experience I've gained over the year, I think it would be more impactful to have a new letter released. If the Sustainability Commission were to draft and approve it that would have a lot more weight. We are currently developing a social development policy. Leap U of T has been incredible with engaging with the Admin directly. But if we are able to get formal letters of support from elected groups and representatives, that would go very far. Old people love that. Having the ability for that to be a public letter versus a private email letter would mean more accountability. I would recommend, based on my experiences, that it be a newer letter that has VUSAC's support, and has some kind of democratic influence like, Kelly Battle. A side note that doesn't need to be in the minutes, Kelly Battle and Kelley Castle are such similar names.

Jared: It was always going to be a new letter. The letter needs to emphasize that this is the second year, this is happening again. I like the idea of releasing it publically and addressing this battle.

Zoe: Also, one more recommendation and offer: there are lots of clubs and levies at Vic that are passionate about this. I would be happy to affiliate conversation with those groups to get their support.

Jared: I would be happy to do that. By next Wednesday or the Wednesday following.

Devon: If the motion is to...I'm sorry I'm just confused about what we are voting on right now. If it is your wish, on the letter as well as other clubs and groups for support, would that be an email vote or should we do that at the next meeting? Is this a motion to endorse to renew the letter and endorse Leap's goal, or just to endorse a letter that hasn't been written?

Jared: The reason I did that was just because that's what I did last year.

Jayde: I heard kind of two things in there Devon, and let me express my comfort level with each. If it were to be like VUSAC signing onto a same letter as other clubs and levies, my recommendation in timeline would be to submit a letter independently from a letter for clubs and levies. If you wanted the timeline of VUSAC's support to not be held up on the timeline of getting support from other groups. [...] Then the wording would have the change. But for the Sustainability Commission to agree that this letter is rewarded in the way... then it functions as a pre-approved the letter.

Motion: Jayde moves to extend the discussion by 5 minutes. Katie seconds. Motion passes.

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

Just because I am comfortable with the work that your committee does. I'm cool with that. If what you're looking for instead is the other part of Devon's suggestion, then I would want to wait on that.

Jared: I am comfortable with that. And I think that in terms of the letter nothing would be mentioned that wasn't stated today.

Zoe: My apologies for confusion. I meant that, but I guess my wording could of been different.

Jared: Can I accept what Jayde said as a friendly motion?

Motion: Jared moves for VUSAC to endorse a letter to be drafted by VUSAC's sustainability Commission addressed to the chair of the Board or Regents Lisa Khoo and Kelly Battle which directs the board to divest its holdings from the 200 companies with the largest fossil fuel reserves so long as this letter received unanimous support from the Sustainability Commission once written. Genevieve seconds. Motion passes.

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

Devon: That would mean, that VUSAC would not be a signatory but it would be written by the Sustainability, and that VUSAC endorses it. What I was originally uncomfortable with was that someone else was writing the letter and then VUSAC was signing it.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- [No Report]

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

- Update - (five minutes)

[Summary] Hi. Thank you. So its brief, we are two weeks out today from nominations. Exciting! Please make sure to be reminding people and telling people on office hours. There is a lot of promotional stuff to share. I am looking for two councillor Assistant CROs. But that means that you can't run in the elections. The role would include helping with Town Hall, catering, takedown, and set up. Spring Elections get busy so I need someone to help me with the administration tasks. It is a big-ish workload. Keep an eye out for the nomination package and we will talk more tomorrow about office culture during elections.

[Applause]

Jayde: I just wanted to make sure it was really clear, because I didn't know this when I was running in my second year, that when I was running for Vic Director I thought that I couldn't be an Assistant CRO at the same time. But you can!

Ali: What happens if no one volunteers to do your thing? Can someone graduating help you?

Molly: We talked about this. Those graduating would be expected to help. But as for being an Assistant CRO, if no councillors come up it will be a combination of Nick and Jayde picking up the slack. Bang the Gavel, we are not doing a commission. It will be the Graduating Exec team picking up some work. You guys are so busy.

Vibhuti: Are stickers happening?

Molly: Yes, I will be looking into a distributor this weekend in the next couple of days. But rest assured, “I voted in Vic Election” stickers are coming.

Communications Director - Rehan Vishwanath

- Update - (five minutes)

[Summary] Sweaters are coming in. Names are in. Sizes are in. The order should be placed by next Wednesday, and we should have them hopefully before reading week. But no promises. As for the communications forms. Some have messaged me. But if you sent me the blurb on messenger, you will be at the back of the line because there are some people who used the form. James has done a great job with Member Monday. Expect in the next little while to be asked for pictures. Commissioners, feel free to plug what you want in your blurb. Also: so, Nick and I came up with an idea to remind the VCU of the services that we offer using Instagram, but just stories. We will be highlighting services such as free printing and menstrual projects. Just kidding printing isn't free. We will keep repeating them just so they know where their money is going. Suggestions? Questions? Compliments?

[one slow clap]

Finance Chair - Tiger Fu

- [No Update]

Office Manager - Emma Lailey

- [No Update]

Chair - Alexa Breininger

- [No Update]

COMMISSION UPDATES

Academic & Professional Development - Cameron Davies

- [No Update]

Arts and Culture - Carleigh Campbell

- Update - (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hello it me. The first update is that the Gardiner Gala happened *[applause]* Thank you to everyone who helped out. I really really had a great time. I don't want to cry right now. I cry at everything. It was a stressful week and we got through it. What's coming up: I emailed the ROM about Friday Night live and their next exhibit is “Love” which is my favorite. I'm trying to get tickets but their website doesn't say anything right now about group pricing. I am meeting with the Commission next week to discuss the next upcoming event, which is a Sound of Music sing-a-long. It is scheduled for March, but we might move it up because it's cold and what's better than sitting in the Cat's Eye eating snacks and watching the Sound of Music. Thank you love you.

Commuter Commissioner - Emilia De Fabritiis and Tabina Ahmed

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] So, I actually have no updates.

Equity Commissioner - Georgia Line and Vibhuti Kacholia

- Update - (5 minutes)

[Summary] I have sent you all an email this morning. Art at the Intersections is happening from the 4th to the 8th. Help please help. The showcase is on Thursday. When you are on office hours, please keep an eye on the artwork, just in case it gets stolen or is damaged, such as being knocked down. Everything is in the email, but I would love your help. It is the biggest project of the year, and we want to see your faces! It is going to happen in the Bader. On Monday the 4th is the Lunar New Year. There will be free dimsum. Well, free for VCU. As well as red bean pancakes, fruit, and milk tea. It's going to be outside the VUSAC office from 2-5pm. I will also be there to discuss and display Chinese culture if you so care. We have a collab with the Multifaith Centre Interns tonight, it is an Open Mic to remember the 2nd year anniversary of the Montreal Mosque shootings till 9pm. The Sustainability-Equity week went really well. Great events and great turn out.

Vibhuti: Black history month started today! Today is a Harthouse production of Ugly Black Woman, happening after the meeting. [...] Our Commission member Emma is a super star.

Georgia: I believe there are two tickets still available.

Vibhuti: On the 7th we have a collab with Vic Black, and we are doing a little food giveaway from different African cultures and Vic Black will be sitting there to talk about African culture. They will also be Auctioning off Michelle Obama's book and *The Hate You Give*. You can put name into raffle and win a book! On the 14th, we have a Doc and Talk with Vic Black, or we are providing support to Vic Black for their event. We are basically helping them get food. Other than that, we are running online programing. Every week we will be highlighting different industries and showcasing important black Canadians and what they have done.

Georgia: We have a lot of collabs. We are having an Open Mic night with LGBTQTOUT on March 7th for 2QTBPOC folks in the Cat's Eye.

Jayde: Point of personal privilege, what does 2qt IBOC stand for?

Motion: Georgia moves to extend discussion by 2 minutes. Genevieve seconds. Motion passes.

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

Georgia: 2QTBPOC stands for 2-spirit, queer, trans, Black, Indigenous people of colour. They have additional barriers. Specifically for that group.

Vibhuti: The Cat's Eye is booked for that. Then there is a Trans Remembrance Day with Vic Pride at the end of March. Oh, we are also working with Christina in the Dean's office for a sort of career workshop and bringing in marginalized alumni and seeing how they have managed their career paths.

Georgia: I know I've already stated this, but I need your help at Art at the Intersections. It is the biggest event of the year and we don't have enough people to support everyone. Even if it is just to come to the art show. Even if it is just for an hour. Thank you.

Mental Wellness - Ali Kehl

- Update - (3 minutes)

[Summary] Hi. It's me. We don't have too many updates. We had our first Commission meeting! We now have 16 members, because we got some late applications. About nine people showed up due to the weather and closures, but the meeting honestly went so well! They had an animated 20 minute discussion on ideas they want to start. And some of these people have *mad* connections. There is one thing: me, Gabby and Angela are all busy on Feb. 11th. Which is the date of the Women Leadership Conference in York. If anyone is interested in going to it we have purchased 20 tokens for people. Gabby, because she is

a whiz, has posters coming your way to advertise for it. Gabby and Angela are amazing, and much better in skills than I am.

Jayde: Ali, did something exciting arrive at the office this week?

Ali: Sad lamps! I am very exciting -- wait, *we* are very exciting is what I meant to say. We're still working on the sign-out material, but you don't have to pay, just sign a waiver. Devon has already sent me a snapchat and the lights look great!

Devon: They are bright.

Ali: That makes sense.

Vibhuti: The information sheet to go over how to use the sad lamps is in Appendix A.

Scarlet & Gold - Alexa Ballis

- Update - (3 minutes)

[Summary] Hello! We have announcement. After many Highball Committee Meetings we have finally decided on our Highball location! *[drum roll]* The Windsor Arms Hotel! It's literally just a minute away.

Ali: Where? Wait, over there?

Alexa: Yes! We walked in, and we just knew it was the one. It's very beautiful. And it is under our budget. It's perfect. The theme is still to be decided. We are down to two options. And both of them are musical references! Which just makes me happy. Will be announcing either Monday or Tuesday, depending on when the Ryerson Proposal is announced, because I wouldn't want to take away from that announcement. Katie is on the communications team and has been preparing cool posters, and has been working hard on that. Other than that, the Grad Banquet Committee met for the first time and the venue will be announced next week. The theme relates to Orientation!

[Ali screams]

Nick: What's the date for Highball?

Alexa: March 29th at 7pm. We get the venue as of 4pm to set up. I will send out a volunteer sign-up sheet when we get closer to the date. If you're available, I'd love it if you could volunteer and sign up! Plus you get a discounted rate for helping out.

Cameron: Are we allowed to tell the Highball date to people?

Alexa: Please do! I've already been in conversation with clubs and levies to coordinate dates, to ensure that March 29th doesn't conflict with any of their events. So please share!

Sustainability Commissioner - Jared Connoy and Victoria Silva

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hello everyone. So last week was the Sustainability and Equity. Wait, here I'll sit up. The week was awesome and so fulfilling. No offense to last year, but we blew last week out of the water. The diva cup sale went really, really well. All the diva cups all sold out. More diva cups are coming. So have no fear. Other than that, the commission is in planning mode, we have a Doc and Talk coming up on minimalism. It's not Marie Condo, but still good. And Victoria and I have just drafted a Mission Statement and you can tell me if you hate it or whatever.

[reads statement]

That's that and our awesome Commission Member has designed a website. Apparently there has been one this entire time that I had no idea about. So that is in the works. The last thing I have is the Sustainability

Roundtable. I honestly had no idea how hard it was to coordinate ten people's schedules for a simple meeting. People are *something* on our campus. It might just have to be a meeting with smaller groups of people because people are busy and that's that.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

VP External - Devon Wilton

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] Oh. Caucus is happening again! Like it has been happening every semester before. The date is Feb. 28th, 2019. It is another one of these mandatory situations. It is important that you reach out if you can't make it. As it gets closer there will be more to share on the Caucus situation. In the meantime, if you have any ideas on how Caucus can be improved, let me know. I know that one of my ideas is to have more written reports and less oral reports. Even if you have a favourite restaurant you like to cater from, let me know! It is going to be at 6pm. The next thing coming up are Crescams! The nominations are open right now. To talk more about the awards: Crescams are awarded to students who have given back to Victoria College community and significantly improved or helped student life. So it's a great time to recognize the hard work of members of the VCU. If you have any questions or want to submit a nomination just submit it to my email or Christina's before the 14th. The banquet is going to be on March 25th. And finally, just a small update on the donations at the front desk. The donations are going well! There are some dollars in there. At least, more than five because there is a bill in there. Does anyone have any questions?

Ali: What time is Crescam at on the 25th?

Devon: Everyone will get an email on that soon...but, give me a second and I'll put it up.
6-8:30pm!

Ali: If I'm allowed to plug the event? I think that everyone should go. Every year I sit there balling because everyone is amazing. Plus it's a free dinner!

Zoe: Who is invited?

Devon: It is an RSVP situation. But generally, students are invited. But especially people related to the nominees. Emails are sent out to the nominees specifically just to make sure that the people who are nominated to win are there to accept the award.

Alexa: I have a somewhat annoying question: But why doesn't March 21st work? It's just that the 25th is the day of UTSU's social.

Devon: Yeah, I can speak to that. I believe we picked the 25th because there is a VUSAC meeting on the 21st. And meetings at that time of the year are crucial. So because that meeting is important, it would be preferential to hold it on a Thursday.

Jayde: If I could follow up on the Crescam update first: The Semi-Annual Report will be released earlier that week, so it's good for #accountability. On a personal note, I would like to encourage everyone to reach outside of the VUSAC circle when we are considering nominees. We on VUSAC are usually recognized, even if just verbally, and I want to see people winning the award who are not normally recognized being recognized for their great work. That's my call out. I would give you all a Crescam if I could.

VP Internal - Nick Shyshkin

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hey everybody. Retreat 2.0 is tomorrow from 2-5pm. It is imperative that we are there by 2pm, we have a lot to get through. We will have Salad King for dinner! Okay, so on the agenda we will go through council workshops, talk about equitable event planning, navigating office spaces, and go over

some things that we could improve on. We will also do office tours with Emma because she has reorganized the entire space, and then go over Elections edicate with Molly. And it's Groundhog Day. Then, we will go over the new front desk policy with the SAD lamps sign out and the point of sale system. We can accept debit and credit if we need to! We are still figuring out the extra transaction cost, but for now, the minimum charge is going to be \$1.10. So if they pay .80 they will have to pay the minimum \$1.10. Once we get more items, it will be a full fledged system! Rehan has ordered merchandise that we can use the system for and potentially Highball tickets and diva cups. We actually made a diva cup sale and it works! That is my update.

VPSO - Zoe Ritchie

- [No Update]

President - Jayde Jones

- Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] Hello, hello. So, the two things that have adopted more hours of my week than anything else are responding to the Provincial Government's Announcement and propelling the Ryerson Renaming initiative forward. You will hear more about these things on various situations as they continue to develop, as they involve many different collations of groups. It is important during this time to remain conversationally involved. But even more so, it is important to choose how we respond and to take the time to ensure that what we're saying is most effective. Which is why the process is slow, and why we meet with admin. To show that we are taking it seriously. In the tuition fees standpoint that is included in the proposal there is a cut by 10%, but it also means no more provincial support for universities. But, Vic gets its tuition from a block grant. So that 10% impact of tuition cut wouldn't affect Vic, so our concerns can rely mainly around OSAP and auxiliary fees. So, that is one small positive thing that isn't really positive because it just means that we are okay and others aren't. As a result of this, it is the University's goal to increase international access to education. It's complex and a little concerning, because Victoria College is potentially being a leader in increasing international student numbers but also concerning if it is just to increase fees paid to Vic. [...] I want to see Vic grow internationally for the right reasons.

More on the free menstrual product project: we are currently in the ordering stage of getting more! It is a slower process because it is a finance thing. We have to go through the Dean's Office so we are working on the Dean's Office timeline.

Okay, the Semi annual report! I'm going to pass the mike to Rehan to talk about the Semi-Annual reports, because we just want to clarify that commissioners and co-chairs should co-author their reports and not write 500 words each.

Rehan: Only three people have submitted their Semi-Annual Reports so far. I just wanted to address the email I sent and the word counts. I just made the 500 word limit mistake Commissioners and Co-Chairs. It is perfectly okay if you're below the word count, 450 out of 500 words is totally fine. Please make sure to send the reports in by next Wednesday, before reading week, because I need time to make sure there are no errors.

Vibhuti: I really like this *[indicates towards the giant timer]*

Ali: Will there still be a VUSAC meeting on the date of Highball? And then are all the meeting dates changing after reading week?

Zoe: I just wanted to say sorry I didn't make an update, I knew that this would be a packed meeting. But I am happy to share what I've been working on with anyone interested after.

Additions:

Motion: Katie moves to adjourn meeting. Gabby seconds. Motion passes.

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