



VUSAC Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 5:30 PM, February 12th 2021

Land Acknowledgement: Nathan Ching

Nathan: We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Official Regrets: Maggie Zhang (Proxy: Michelle Zhao), Cathy Guan, Vedika Jha (Proxy: Tran Thai)

Approval of minutes: *Motion by Nerija to approve the minutes from January 29th, seconded by Nathan. Motion passes.*

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Additions to the agenda:

Approval of the agenda: *Motion by Nerija to approve the agenda for February 12th, seconded by Max. Motion passes.*

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Meeting link: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/97176254249>

Meeting ID: 971 7625 4249

[Meeting Procedures Infographic](#)

[VUSAC's Guide to Robert's Rules](#)

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

President of Victoria University:

Dean's Office:

Board of Regents:

Vibhuti: The FPA committee met a few weeks ago and most of the conversation was around contingency planning for COVID and approving some of the bigger budgets for the upcoming year. We flagged some items that we thought were a little funny around student fees and food plans. We had a board meeting yesterday and most of it was about the budget and some investment amendments that they made to their governing documents. The GUA is doing their normal COVID deliberations and have been continuing to work towards the strategic plan. If you want to be more involved with the BoR, you can like us on Facebook! Also, all 4 seats of the BoR will be up for

elections in the spring and Ray de Souza said that he would be willing to host an info session on the BoR for anybody interested in that.

Victoria College Council:

Victoria University Senate:

Campus Life Coordinator (Alero): 10 minutes

Alero: We have been experiencing a lot more Zoom bombing and a lot of them have been racially targeted so please make sure that you are looking over the document that Tran shared at retreat. We had our first Orientation Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday and one of the things that we talked about was that it sounds like it might be a hybrid format this year for orientation. Emphasis on might. If you have any questions about this, you can talk to Michelle or Max! The International Student Experience Advisory Council is looking for members so if you're an international student hoping to give some more feedback to UofT, this would be a great thing to be involved with. Also, please fill out the Student Experience Survey or attend the survey session which is giving out \$10 gift cards just for attending! Almost all of the orientation positions are hiring at the moment so keep an eye out for that! We have an annual equity student experiences event coming up called Pride and Prejudice and it's going to be an opportunity to talk about what it looks like/feels like to be a person of colour and going into the professional world. You can find more information for that event on the Careers and Transition Out Quercus page!

Tran: I have made a document to teach people how to deal with Zoom bombing so if your club or levy would like that, please let me know!

Alero: Tran, I sent your version off to Communications so they might have edited that document, but I will let you know.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Nerija Gray to ratify the ERC Amendments, seconded by Tran Thai (5 minutes) [Appendix to come]. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Nerija: The ERC was brought forward last week, and we made those edits that were made last meeting. There were some minor changes, but they're all included now. If anyone has any last-minute comments, they can bring them up now!

Motion by Alexander Bogatch to strike and reallocate the Cat's Eye's budget lines (from the detailed budget) 171, 172, and 173 (drum kit, left-handed electric guitar, left-handed bass guitar) into a new budget line Neon Sign for \$2,237.37 under Expenses, seconded by Alexandra. (2 minutes). Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Alexander: We had a project that was going to happen in the fall but because of the second lock down we had to cancel it. The contractor we were going to be working with is starting up again and so we just moved some funds around so that we can do this project. We basically just needed to reallocate quickly, and these are the things that we chose to move around.

Motion by Michelle Zhao to ratify the VCDC budget, seconded by Jaiden (5 minutes) [Appendix B]. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Faye: VCDS recently got back to us with their budget. I have some questions that were already addressed but they've been incorporated into their final budget which is great.

Alexa: I want to clarify why our budget was so late. Since we thought that we would be able to have some of our shows in-person—but then everything was canceled because of COVID—we had to rethink our budget due to the changes that needed to be made there. I can speak to any questions that people have.

Motion by Faye Tan to reallocate the \$100.00 from line 124 of the Winter 2021 budget from The Victoria Black Student Network (BLVCK) budget to a black-author book exchange and raffle, seconded by Alexandra.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Faye: Previously they had a line that said photographer, but since they can't have an in-person event, they've changed the event to a book exchange and raffle. It's the same amount, just the titles of the events have changed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

VicXposure Constitutional Amendments, put forth by Spandan Sengupta (10 minutes) [Appendix C]

Spandan: The basic idea behind doing this is to stagger the terms of Co-President and Dark Room Manager. As of now, we have both presidents elected in April, but we want to have one elected in April and the other in January. For the transition period, we are going to elect one president in April and another in January but in the period where we don't have two, we would hire a person to fulfil that role. In the past when we haven't had a position filled during elections, we have hired a person and the constitution details how we have done that. The next amendments are about elections and moving a few positions for election in January instead of April and details which positions are going to be elected then.

Proposal for Referendum regarding an increase in VicXposure levy, put forth by Spandan Sengupta (10 minutes) [Appendix D]

Spandan: As of now, the VicXposure levy is a dollar for full time students and 25 cents for part time students each semester. The proposal for the referendum is to increase the fund to \$1.50 for full time students and 50 cents for part time students. The rationale is that we don't have enough money to keep our inventory updated and we feel like the best way to serve our community is to update our inventory. The other reason we want to increase the levy is because we want to have a system where every VicXposure exec gets an honorarium. Our Co-Presidents currently have \$1000 each in honorarium but we want to reduce that to \$800 each and add a \$200 honorarium for each member. If the referendum gets passed, we would like to add the details for the honorarium increase into our constitution.

Jaiden: Every referendum needs to reference how exactly the overall VUSAC fee is going to increase. I think we need to make sure that it's written out correctly in order to vote on it.

Spandan: By overall fee, do you mean the amount of the levy cheque that we would get each semester?

Jaiden: I mean like the total fees that Vic students will be paying for VUSAC fees.

Spandan: Awesome, I'll change that then.

Michelle: I wanted to ask who you consulted with before making the decision to increase fees and if you think that an increase in fees will be reflected in an increase in programming if we are allowed to move into a hybrid format in the fall?

Spandan: We didn't consult with students about increasing the honorarium. As for next year's programming, we were able to spend a lot of our money on equipment this year because of COVID. Even in a hybrid model, we would be spending more on programming in the future than we did last year which is why a levy increase would help us both get better equipment and increase programming.

Tran: I'm not sure who's in charge of distributing honorarium and deciding whether or not an exec has fulfilled their duties, but I wanted to know how execs are being held accountable to make sure that they are deserving of their honorarium

Spandan: I think that would be up to the Co-President's discretion.

Mehr: I have a similar question to Tran, but are the duties for the VicXposure execs clearly laid out in the constitution?

Spandan: Under Section 4 of the Constitution, we have our exec positions written out in detail.

ASSESSOR MEMBER REPORTS:

Vic UTSU Directors (Ava & Radhika):

Orientation Co-Chairs:

Victoria College Dons:

Constituent Organizations:

Cat's Eye: no report

Acta Victoriana: no report

Caffiends: no report

Student Projects: no report

The Strand: no report

VicXposure: no report

VicPride!: no report

VISA: no report

VCAA: no report

VCDS: no report

WUSC: no report

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Returning Officer (Tabina):

Communications (Veronica): 2 minutes

Veronica: This is a quick reminder about the Semi-Annual reports coming up. Winter Caucus is coming up on the 26th and I will be collecting everyone's reports and compiling them into one big report. I sent out the email with all the info about 2 weeks ago but if you have any questions, please let me know!

Finance (Faye):

Office Manager (Holly):

Chair (Zoe):

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Academic (Nerija & Cathy): 3 minutes

Nerija: The Academic Commission has been working on a career development workshop recently and we had a really great session today. We are also going to be posting resources to help you all get jobs this summer on Instagram. We've got a whole bunch of information coming out on our social media so keep an eye out for that. You also need to sign up for the BIPOC academic panel because we want to limit the possibility of Zoom bombing. We are working on making some program roundtables for March for students to explore program options, so if you think that you're in a niche program that you want to plug, please send me a message!

Alexandra: Please register for the BIPOC panel and follow Vic Academics on our Instagram! We will be posting bios in the next couple weeks for our participants so keep an eye out for that.

Arts & Culture (Jenny):

Equity (Lulu & Sooyeon):

Mental Wellness (Dorian & Rachel):

Scarlet & Gold (Fatima):

Sustainability (Leila & Jerico): 5 minutes

Leila: Last week we had our joint event with Emmanuel. It went really well which was awesome. In terms of Vic Zero updates, we have now met with the chair of the Sustainability Committee and we made sure that they will talk about the report at the upcoming Sustainability meeting. We've talked to President Robins, but we are mainly just waiting on that meeting with the Sustainability Committee which will be happening after reading week. Environmental Equity Week is also coming up soon. We are running 5 events across two weeks which include a divestment workshop, a Vic alum speaking about conservation, a panel with speakers on the intersection of policing and housing, a panel about food justice and sovereignty, and a documentary screening.

Commuter (Rheannon & Aya): 5 minutes

Rheannon: We started doing VOCA's collaborative playlists every Monday which are curated by our first-year execs and our counsellors. You can also fill out a form and have a song added. We're also hosting the Vic Virtual Art Gallery—headed by Elaine—and you can submit anything you want to that before February 24th. We will be posting the submissions on our social media and anyone who enters has the chance to win one of 5 \$25 Uber Eats gift cards. We also just had a Valentine's Day TTC themed-card event that we got a lot of signups for which is awesome. We're also having a colouring book event over reading break and anyone who attends will be entered into a draw to win one of 2 \$10 gift cards.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

VP External (Mehr): 5 minutes

Mehr: Nominations for Crescams are open until February 28th and you can find the details on the Victoria College website! Caucus is on the 26th so please send in your semi-annual reports. If you won't be able to make it to Caucus, please email me by the Monday before. We had a little chat with the CLC and VPE event yesterday and we didn't get an awesome turnout, but hopefully next month's event will be better attended. Also, fundraising for the BIPOC award is still open! I met with Reed Barry and they talked to me about the Internal VUSAC Equity Survey which should be done by the next meeting. I'm going to try and circulate this to you before the next meeting so please fill it out! If you have any questions, I can answer them now!

VP Internal (Tran):

VP Student Organizations (Jay):

President (Michelle): 10 minutes

President: We are starting the SLH process now. The whole idea of the handbook is giving a strong overview of how student government works at Vic. The point is to make these positions more accessible to students who are concerned that they might not know enough to get involved. If you're interested in getting involved with pulling this handbook together, please let me know and we can get you working on it. The BIPOC student leader awards page is still open so please share with your friends and family. We have been pulling in donations every week which is awesome. We have a very exciting fundraiser coming up that will be released next week so keep an ear out for that! We had a meeting with the Provost Student Advisory Group. and we talked about the Student Equity Census that came out in the fall. It's important to be collecting information on racialized students on campus since it helps the university make policy to assist those students.

They don't have many responses at the moment so please fill it out! They have a program and roundtable set up for how they are going to be using the Equity Survey once it is completed. I got an email about an exciting conference coming up that's called the 2021 Working for Change Conference happening on February 26th. Please come out if you're interested! I got an email from the VP of Public and University Affairs at the UTSU and they have been working on a report for online proctoring services. They've come up with some feedback and recommendations for the university so be sure to check that out. Elections are coming soon, and we have a number of elections Q'n'A sessions coming up after reading week! Any student at Vic: please get involved! VUSAC is a great place to develop soft skills and gives people the qualities they need in the workplace and to grow as a student leader. Anyone who is interested can talk to me and I will give them my honest opinion on VUSAC and student governance!

Tabina: We have elections Q'n'A sessions coming up this week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday so please come out to those if you're interested in running in the elections this year! Information for that is available on our social media pages so go check them out!

Alexandra: Once the fundraising period for the BIPOC fundraiser ends, is there a possibility to extend it until we get the amount?

Michelle: So there are two different ways that you can establish an award at Vic: one is to create an endowment so you take the money and then you invest it and then the returns from that investment pay for the award every single year, and in order to do to do that, you need to invest \$25,000. However, after further consideration, we didn't want to invest in fossil fuels to support BIPOC students, so we decided to make the award an expendable gift meaning that we aren't investing the money. We are going to collect \$25,000 and every year \$1,000 will be taken out and given to a student. Hopefully, VUSAC will continue to fundraise for this award and alumni will still donate so that money will still be collected. However, that money won't be invested so we won't be getting a return on it.

Motion by Tran to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate. Motion passes.

- Favour: all
- Opposed: none
- Abstained: none

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.