



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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VUSAC MEETING MINUTES

March 23rd, 2018 at 2PM in the Goldring Student Center

In Attendance

Judiciary

PRESIDENT: Zahavah Kay
VP STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Nickolas Shyshkin
VP EXTERNAL: Katie Cohen

Assessor Members

SECRETARY: Emma Lailey
CHAIR: Sayeh Yousefi
COMMUNICATIONS: Jade Koh
FINANCE: Graham Allison

Commissioners

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Zoe Ritchie
SCARLET AND GOLD: Stephanie Spagnuolo
COMMUTER: Gabriel Calderon
EQUITY: Shailee Koranne
COMMUTER: Gabriel Calderon
SUSTAINABILITY: Jared Connoy
ARTS AND CULTURE: Blanaid McNally

Councillors

James Hannay
Alexa Ballis
Haleema Khan
Devon Wilton
Cynthia Wong
Cameron Davies
Vibhuti Kacholia
Ally Johnston

Guests

VOCA CO-CHAIR: Emilia De Fabritiis
ORIENTATION CO-CHAIR: Ali Kehl
CAT'S EYE CO-MANAGER: Maxwell Nisbeth
STUDENT PROJECTS CHAIR: Simon Lam
STRAND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Molly Kay
VICXPOSURE CO-PRESIDENT: Hana Nikcevic
BURSAR: Ray de Souza
DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL PLANT: Vikas Menta
CAMPUS LIFE COORDINATOR: Christina Alcena

Regrets

VP INTERNAL: Artimes Ghahremani (proxy to Devon)
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER: Stephanie Xu

Land Recognition: Sayeh (1 minute)

I would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

Sayeh: Before we get started, we have some special guests today.

Zahavah: So, our special guest number one here is Ray de Souza, our Bursar here, some of you have had the chance to work with Ray...

[Bursar] Ray de Souza: This is actually my first meeting with many of you, some of you I know very, very well. I'm glad to be here. I know why I'm employed, it's to service your needs. I've been a Bursar here for almost a decade. Initially I came here for three years, but I'm still here! In terms of my portfolio, I have several directors reporting to me, listing human resources, finance, physical plant, IT, and business services... all of whom we sometimes love to hate. Because they provide the services that we need and use and they need to be responsive to the needs of the biggest part of Vic, which is all of you; the students. I am glad to be here and I would love to be invited again. My other full time job is Secretary to the Board of Regents. Today, I'm here to talk about some else which is Vikas Menta. We have recently been able to recruit him to be our director of Physical Plant. He is a super important portfolio for us, given he is incharge of the care of the wonderful lands that you have acknowledged and the quality of this amazing campus. The board has given my team to be custodians for this wonderful asset, which we call Victoria University. The strategy of hiring the right director was so important for us. Here he is, he will tell you a little bit about himself and what his role entails.

[Director of Phys. Plant] Vikas Menta: Hello, my name is Vikas Menta. I'm the director of Physical Plant here at Vic. A little bit of my background: I've actually been here for the past 28 years, at the St. George campus from 89 to 2016, then in 2016 I went over to the Mississauga

Campus. In the meantime I had the opportunity to be the director at Victoria University, and here I am. I started my work on March 1st, so it is now my fourth week on the job. I've already had the chance to meet with some of you at the table and I am excited to work with the rest of you. I have two main things I want to focus on within my position: The first is acknowledging that anything the Physical Plant does touches the students, staff and faculty. On a daily basis. If we're repairing a wall, someone is going to hear it from the other side. If we turn up the air conditioning, someone is going to tell us about it. A lot of our work happens behind the scenes. My role is to ensure all services are functioning as best and as safely as they can. Another big part is sustainability. I'm big on greening. I was apart of the Toronto Campus Green Committee, that was dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint. I've been involved in sustainability for a long time. A lot of greening projects were done in my role on that committee. Grey water systems, solar panels, reducing energy usage, etcetera. More importantly, I enjoy doing what I'm doing and love working with students. It's been thirty years, and we'll just continue on.

Sayeh: Email questions directly please.

Motion: Zoe moves to approve the minutes from the VUSAC Meeting on February 9th, 2018 as it stands. Blanaid seconds. Motion passes.

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

Additions to the Agenda (maximum 3 minutes per addition)

- Katie to add 3 minutes for an update
- Nick to add 2 minute motion of the most recent Student Projects projects

Motion: Vibhuti moves to approve the agenda as it stands. James seconds. Motion passes.

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

Pressing Items:

- Announcements re: Email Votes - Sayeh

[Summary] From the email votes there were five student projects that needed to be ratified; four were successful and approved. The Cat's Eye vacuum was successful with 14 in favours, 4 abstained, 0 opposed, passed, the Cat's Eye beanbags, 14 in favours, 4 abstained, 0 opposed, also passed, the UTSG Smash Four Gaming System 13 in favour, 4 abstained, 1 opposed, also passed, the VUSAC Equity and Sustainability Events that were a week long, 12 in favour, 6 abstained, 0 opposed, also passed, the Indepth Conference failed with 3 in favour, 11 against, 4 abstained and the last was to create a budget for the spring elections and that passed with 13 favours, 5 abstained, 0 opposed. Questions regarding that?

- Ratification of The Strand's Editor-in-Chief elects, Ainsley Doell and Sabrina Papas

[Summary] So every year at the end of the second semester our mastheads votes on the new EIC. Elections were last week, and now we would like to ratify them. I also have a question (if I can ask): Does that mean that I am not incharge after this meeting?

Zahavah: The transition date is officially May 1st. April is a more of a transition month, so you are technically still the chief but you can start transitioning duties now.

Molly: Okay, so I'm still incharge.

Motion: Nick moves to ratify The Strand's Editor-in-Chief elects, Ainsley Doell and Sabrina Papas, for the 2018-2019 school year. Haleema seconds. Motion passes.

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

[applause]

Discussion Items:

- Student Projects is requesting a referendum to change its levy fee from \$5 per semester (full-time students) and \$2.5 per semester (part-time students) to \$3 and \$1.5, respectively. Motion that this be included in the VUSAC Spring Elections form - Simon Lam (10 minutes)

[Summary] So basically Student Projects receives roughly ten dollars per student per year and within recent years we've consistently not spent the entire \$33,000 yearly levy budget, which resulted in an accumulated \$115,000 for this year's total budget. Because we've noticed we haven't been able to spend all the money we've been receiving we've decided to reduce the amount. We want to reduce the numbers to \$5 per semester (for full-time students) and \$2.5 per semester (for part-time students) to \$3 and \$1.5, respectively. We would like this motion to be included in the VUSAC Spring Elections form so that it can take effect as soon as possible.

Jayde: My big concern about this is that voting opens at 12pm tonight. I appreciate you bringing forward that concern but it is not really fair for people to hear about it right now. It is not really democratic to give students this much time to mobilize. I think it's a good idea, but it shouldn't be a part of this election process.

Sayeh: Constitutionally, we've done everything required. People knew about the proposal a week ahead of time.

Zoe: I think that if it was an increase I'd be concerned about the timing of it. But since it's a decrease, and I think very few people would be against, I'd be comfortable putting it on there. For people interested, the information has been out there for a while.

Zahavah: I agree, to further clarify, the constitution only says that we have to hold a referendum for increases. I have chosen to interpret the constitution so that no fee can change without a referendum. But it is a valid reading of the constitution to only hold referendum for increases.

Nick: Also, being to delay the referendum further as, we like don't have this ten dollar five dollar increase sit and then have to be added onto the next bodies to-do list. If we do it now we have the chance to decrease it. It makes sense.

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve referendum to change Student Projects levy fee to \$3 (full-time students) and \$1.5 (part-time students) to be included in the March 2018 VUSAC Elections to include it on the ballot. Stephanie seconds. Motion passes.

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

- Constitutional Amendments - Zahavah (15 minutes)

[Summary] Okay! So, a little introduction: I mean, I don't really need to introduce these because I have talked about them literally to exhaustion. But I want to talk a bit about how I want this process to go. Hopefully, ratifying them or at least discussing and voting on them. So I want to motion to vote on them as an omnibus, and before we do that I would like anyone who wants to pull specific items out of that omnibus to vote on them separately. Once we are done the discussion we will vote to omnibus the ones that were not initially omnibused, and then approve them all together. Does that make sense?

Motion: Zahavah moves to omnibus all of the Constitutional Amendments. Blanaid seconds.

Zahavah [continued]: Which amendments would people like to pull?

Pulled Amendments:

- Katie: article 21 on page 19, amendment 14
- Jayde: page 20, article 21 on Elections, with the amendment being "Elections are to be completed by the end of March." Another one on page 16, article 15, section 6, it's on sustainability. Steve motioned to strike Amendment c and d; "Shall be co-chair of the Victoria Working Group on Sustainability with the Director of Physical Plant Services" and "Shall be responsible for the annual review of VUSAC's sustainability policy"
- Steph: pull amendment number 12 on page 15
- Shailee: number 7 on page 9
- Devon: amendment 3 and 17

Zahavah [continued]: We can continue to pull throughout the discussion because we have not approved to omnibus all of them yet. So maybe we can start with those ones.

Zahavah [continued]: Okay, so going in chronological order, let's start with amendment number 3, on page 5. So this is the in-camera meeting constitutional amendment. Before we discuss it, can I reason it? The reasoning behind this amendment is; it is not a perfect amendment, at all. So, the Board of Regents is coming up with an official board in-camera meeting procedure. And I wanted us to take a look at that, modify it if we have to and adopt theirs, so that we have cohesion across the board and VUSAC. However due to an injury of the chair of this committee, they had to cancel the meeting to write this procedure. So, my idea here is that this amendment is to act as a bit of a placeholder, because it is better to have something than nothing, and then once we get a procedure from the board hopefully we can then replace this or base a new amendment on it.

Devon: I just had one suggestion for section 2aiv, which is "Confidentiality must be ensured for a reason not stated above, at the discretion of council on a case-by-case basis" I just want it to be more clear, rather than saying "for the discretion of council" maybe just adding that it should be a majority vote to go in-camera.

Zahavah: Well, it requires a majority vote anyway because it is a motion. No matter what.

Devon: I guess it would just be more clear for the context of the reader.

Zahavah: But I can add that. We can add a section B that reads, "this must be voted on by a simple majority, 50% +1"

Devon: That would be fair.

Zahavah: Okay, so the next one is amendment number 7, on page 9.

Shailee: In the amendment it says to “Submit a detailed transition report to the VPI before May 15.” I might be wrong about this, but the term ends on April 30th, right? So then, which VPI would that be?

Zahavah: That is a good point. It would be the new VPI. It is a bit confusing because then the new VPI would have to hunt down old council members to get their transition reports. Ideally, everyone would hand in their transition reports in April, but I put May 15th because that just hasn’t been happening. Perhaps I can put April 30th, because then the current VPI would be in charge of getting transition reports from the current council. That might be easier?

Devon: I just want to know if it is your intention that the councillors also submit transition reports?

Zahavah: It has been optional in the past. I want the councillors as a group to collectively write one. But it would be expected that there would be some form of transition report from the councillors.

Graham: I think that May 15th is a good date. Personally, I have exams until the 30th and can not write a transition report during that time. The gap between the end of exams is good.

Vibhuti: If it is May 15th, could it be written in that it is directed to the old VPI?

Zahavah: Well, the thing is that they are going to be emailed to the VPI email, so it will be going to the same place no matter what. The thing is that it would be easier for the old VPI to hunt down the former council members if someone doesn’t hand their report in than the new VPI.

Shailee: Just a question, for part D, which reads, “attend a minimum of three events hosted by VUSAC Commissions, Levies, and/or Clubs per semester,” I was wondering what the method of tracking this would be?

Zahavah: Right now it is done by sending in an email with the events you attended once a term. It is not a secure method, but it is meant to ensure that you are doing it. We can’t strictly enforce it but the idea is that it is in the constitution and it is required. As for the date May 15th, I just realized that that date definitely doesn’t work because technically none of us are VUSAC council members then. It has to be April 30th, because to fulfill your VUSAC duties it must happen during your term and after April 30th I am not longer a VUSAC council member.

Sayeh: We could change the working title to “exofficio.” Because I agree with May 15th as a VCU--not a chair.

Zahavah: I think it makes the most sense to have it be April 30th, but for those who have to hand it in late, May 15th.

Zoe: As someone who never got a transition report, I agree with April 30th. Also, members can be working on their report throughout the year. It is appropriate. On the occasion that it does not happen, I think that that is an exception and not a rule.

Zahavah: Artimes and I also have a draft report which we will be sending out after this meeting to make the process easier for you. You literally have to fill in the blanks.

Jared: If someone is reelected would they still write one?

Zahavah: There should be some form of an end of the year report. Something to the effect that this is a summary of what happened, so that it is a transition report for someone who comes after. Then you can give them a two year transition report. So yes, it is still expected. So that is changing to April 30th.

Stephanie: May I make a suggestion for section 3d, instead having them email to the VPI maybe they can set up a google doc to track what events they go to, so that members who feel uncomfortable about going to events by themselves can see who is going.

Zahavah: I would leave that up to the discretion of the VPI of that year.

Sayeh: Onto the next amendment.

Zahavah: The next amendment is number 11 on page 16. This was Steve's amendment but it was removed because that doesn't happen. VUSAC doesn't have a sustainability policy.

Jayde: I think what I was concerned about was the sustainability policy not being a specific policy, but maybe taking this opportunity to "shall be responsible for the annual review of VUSAC's sustainability practices." Because I think that it is a good idea to have in some way to be mandated as part of the role, in the same way that it is for the equity commissioner. So yah, they don't have to chair a group that doesn't exist but it might be a good chance for VUSAC to do that.

Zahavah: So, to clarify, we would continue with removing removing E but update D. I am good with that.

Katie: Can I just ask Jared what he thinks of that?

Jared: I agree with Jayde. Obviously these lines shouldn't be in here because it doesn't exist, but it is important. It's difficult because sustainability within VUSAC isn't well defined as a good concept to evaluate. In my mind, that is a part of my job. That is something inherent to the role. But I guess it is important to also have it as a responsibility to ensure other commissioners follow it.

Zahavah: Okay, the next amendment is number 12.

Stephanie: I wanted to look at E, in section 2E, just how instead of changing the four events from open mics and talent shows to simply Arts and Culture related events to give that commissioner more freedom to do more than just open mics. Because I feel like that steps on the toes of other clubs and levies when they want to host open mics. Maybe like, "art show."

Blanaid: I would prefer if, I found four shows to be a lot. Obviously a lot of other groups are interested in planning open mics. We have a lot of talent at Victoria of course, but not a lot of people are signing up. I had a lot of difficulty getting the resources for that. I don't know if you could mandate an open mic to happen during Winter Fest, so that it could be integrated into an already week when people are interested. If you could add that, because there was confusion this year about that. I think it should be in the constitution.

Zahavah: So, what if we were to change it to say "shall be responsible for hosting [commission appropriate events at Victoria College] with the minimum of four events per year, two per semester, [subsection] including an event during Winter fest." That is not greatly worded and I want to word it the way we want it to stay. "Shall be responsible for hosting a minimum of four events per year, with two per semester recommended, [subsection] including one event during Winter fest."

Blanaid: I would be happy if it said "events" instead of open mics to allow more creative freedom and its not what Arts and Culture is all about.

Zahavah: Events and talent shows or just events?

Blanaid: With a minimum of four events instead of four shows?

Zahavah: "Shall be responsible for hosting a minimum of four events per year, with two per semester recommended, [subsection] including one event during Winter fest." I think we can get away without saying with "two per semester recommended." Is someone going to do four in September? "Shall be responsible for hosting a minimum of four events per year [subsection] including one event during Winter fest."

Katie: I'd find it a little weird if it were that general. Because the APD commission doesn't have four mandated for year. This was a very specific event that was mandated. I don't know why the Arts and Culture has their events so specified in the constitution that are so general, in comparison to other commissioners.

Nick: I think "events" is also very vague in terms of when it comes down to promoting events.

Jayde: The one thing with respect to Winterfest; Winterfest is not specifically defined by how it is supposed to run, or who is supposed to sit on the committee, in neither of the policies or in the constitution. So it might be advisable that before referencing something that doesn't have a formal structure or exists in the constitution, we should define that. I think that if people are unsure about the word "event" you could add "artistic or cultural" event or "artistic talent show" or "artistically minded programming." You could make it more specific or you could strike it entirely.

Katie: I would motion to strike it entirely if we're going to be this general. Because then we should go back to every other commission to specify the number of their events. I don't know why we would have something so general for one commission and not others.

Zahavah: The other commissions have more specifically outlined events. A pub night, semi formal, highball, etc. Right now this would leave the Arts and Culture commissioner constitutionally with a only couple of outlined events. I think that this specific section E is trying to enforce chances for students to showcase art. With the wording saying "events," we can count pottery classes or other events which is not I believe is the meaning of this clause. If we can think of a better word than "event" such as "showcases?"

Stephanie: Maybe, "artistic showcases" would be a nice.

Sayeh: I feel like the issue is the number requirement. (As VCU not chair)

Zoe: I think that we should be careful to not compare to Arts and Culture to APD, because right now APD is not a great part of our constitution. According to it I barely had anything to do this year and I was very busy. That being said, it is important to have some specificity at least for us with less well defined constitutions so that we could step into our role without a transition report. I think the number is important. I don't think four events is crazy. Especially when we consider collaborations as events. And I like the word "showcase."

Blanaid: I want to keep the numbering. I think that is important to keep people from loopholing. I like showcase too, but I don't know if that encompasses what I want to do with the Vic Variety show. I wanted to have more stationing for different types of crafts and relaxed programming. But it doesn't fall under artistic showcase if people are participating in set up stations.

Devon: I want to agree with Zahavah, that the purpose of this proposed change is to provide students with an opportunity to showcase their talents whatever that may be. So my proposed change is: "shall be responsible for four events per year, two of which allow VCU students to showcase their artistic talent."

Zahavah: Small change: "Shall be responsible for the production of a minimum of four events per year designed to showcase or enhance the artistic talents of VCU members."

Devon: I have another comment about the same amendment but a different section. My question was because it looks like Section 2A and D are possibly, could be interpreted to be conflicting. It makes it sound like the Arts and Culture Commissioner just picks The Bob directors by themselves. My suggestion is to make Section A, "shall be responsible for producing The Bob Review" and then allow Section B to cover the selection of directors.

Zahavah: Get rid of the part of Section A that says "and selecting its directors" and move Section D up to be section B.

Sayeh: Next amendment is 14.

Katie: I just have one change, the amendment section 4B, I'd like to change it to "five upper year councillors must be returning students to Victoria College." The factor with this amendment was less about the age of the people coming in but about knowledge of Victoria College. If someone is a transfer student into their third year they could also be a third year councillor which would make sense in the system we just set up. And that's how we phrased it for all of the changes to the executive positions, that they must be returning students to Victoria College.

Zahavah: My issue with that is that not all VCU members are Victoria College students. Ex. Music students who live in Marg Add and pay VCU fees. We can say “must be returning VCU members”?

Katie: Perfect.

Vibhuti: So, for the three and the five...Is the vision to run two different elections for upper and first years? Or one election, with division?

Zahavah: The idea is that there are two separate elections. Upper year and first year ballots. Within the same election, separate votes on the ballot. They are now written in as separate positions rather than just as having two spots reserved for first years, now in the constitution.

Devon: Was it that upper year councillors would of had to be VCU members in the year they are running and before the year they were running? Is that what that means?

Zahavah: It means that while you serving in the position you are a returning student.

Devon: The hypothetical, is a St. Mike student transferring to Vic, a VCU student at the start of September but is in their third or fourth year of study, what would they run for? First year councillor or upper year councillor?

Zahavah: I don't think it's as important, in terms of, the idea I had behind this was not that the first years would have more knowledge of Vic, but that they are representing first year interests and upper years are representing upper year interests. If we do have the case if we do have a transfer student, they should be able to be so long as they are representing upper year interests.

Nick: In this section, there are no contingency plans should there not be three first year students elected and maybe I would leave it saying seven or just six councillors as a whole instead of eight. Not sure if there is some way...

Zahavah: It would be the same process as last year when there aren't enough councillors elected. There would be by-elections to fill vacancies, as with other vacant positions.

Cameron: Small worries: This amendment basically seems to limit the number of first years allowed on VUSAC to only three. This year there were only 2 first years, but in other years there have been more. This amendment does limit the number of first years to three respectively.

Zahavah: It does. However, it has not been the case where we've had more than two for a while. But it does limit them to three. If we look at proportional representation then four would be the right amount, but we don't usually get four. I originally had four and four, but through our discussions moved it to be three and five.

Cameron: I've noticed that a lot of people who are involved in VUSAC were already involved in Vic community so I'm not too worried about restricting this.

Zahavah: So I'm going to propose that we keep it the way it is. Is that okay?

Sayeh: Okay, on to amendment 15.

Jared: I just want to suggest something to add which--I feel like one of my most important roles has been the development of initiatives here at Vic, not necessarily events. I feel like in the past sustainability commissioners have not pursued initiatives as much as programing. But I feel like Vic is a physical space and the commissioner should pursue initiatives over programing. Or at least Pursue one initiative. I would recommend something along the lines of, “the commissioner should be responsible for pursuing the expansion or implementation of one initiative.” I think it is important that is it a part of their role.

Zahavah: How about “shall pursue initiatives that promote sustainable behaviors and practices within the Victoria College community”?

Jared: Yes, I like that. And you know, what does promote even mean? You know, like you should do this!

Zahavah: Yes, initiatives is more of an action word.

Sayeh: Okay, moving onto constitutional amendment number 15, which is elections. Page 20. Article 21, elections.

Jayde: So this is the one changing it from being super specific, from when elections open and close to just saying must be completed by the end of March. What I'm a bit worried about with this is that as you said, April is a very important transition month and as Graham said, April is also a very busy month with school. So I think part of the reason why the elections are supposed to be held before the third Friday of March is the understanding being that within a week of them the results will be out. To ensure a more successful transition period. It's not like I'm married to the idea of this not saying elections are to be completed by the end of March I just don't think it was mentioned the last time you were discussing constitutional amendments and it is something that I wanted to flag. Because the later and later you must elections, particularly when members of council are graduating or moving on, or frankly just done with the commitment that they made because it's already been a year, the worse the quality of transition gets and the bigger of a rocky start it is for the next council. But that's all!

Motion: Zahavah moves extend discussion time on "Constitutional Amendments" by 15 minutes. Devon seconds. Motion passes.

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

Zahavah: So, the reason that I recommend this change is because March is an unbelievably busy month and for it to be that specific a timeline is impossible. And it hasn't been for a few years to follow this strict a timeline because meetings and townhall have to be on Fridays when people are done class. And Fridays are booked up so far in advance that that stretch of a timeline is not really possible. And moving it earlier brings it into conflict with a whole host of VUSAC events, which is an unfair advantage. So we push them into March when VUSAC events are winding down in order to limit that. So, I would prefer to stay near the end of March.

Jayde: I would kind of suggest then, saying that elections should be held and completed before the end of the third week of March. And I respect the thing about VUSAC events. I mean, elections have began during Highball and had VUSAC events taken place during them before... I think that it will knock up against events regardless. But if you have a set date within the constitution then VUSAC knows a bit more about it's programming and what those weeks are going to be before other events take those dates. It might make it easier for that not to happen, because I do agree it is less than ideal. But that is the last thing I am going to say because it is not the biggest thing on today's to-do-list I just think that it is something to flag.

Zahavah: [straw poll] Third week of March vs. Keeping it at the end of March. Okay, so we will keep it at the end of March. I agree that it is better in practice, but it may be something for the CRO to recommend. It is just so hard to make happen.

Zahavah: Okay, the last one amendment 17 (final page) addition of suspension of council policies clause.

Devon: I just wanted to ask you to explain this, it was a confusing and weird thing.

Zahavah: Oh it absolutely is weird I didn't write this. But I did put it in this document because I do think it is important. The idea behind this, which is not a perfect idea, but that the Council Policies Document is also a mess, and people don't follow it exactly. So, we need to have a mechanism of suspending council policies should we not follow it exactly. I don't think it's a terrible idea to have this clause, because what happens is always not always what happens in writing. And the idea of a constitution is that it is supposed to be the rules set in stone. Council

policies outlines how the things we are supposed to do should be run, as potentially we are not always able to do it that way. I do support this, but it also only here because the council policies document is a mess.

[Amendments 15 and 17 experience no changes]

Motion: Zahavah moves to omnibus all of the Constitutional Amendments except for numbers 3, 7, 11, 12, and 14. Devon seconds. Motion passes.

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

Cameron: For amendment 4, when does that change take effect?

Zahavah: Amendments come into effect 14 days after the vote. So yeah, two weeks--which is 14 days. In summary, a fortnight.

Motion: Zahavah moves to ratify all of the omnibus Constitutional Amendments (excluding numbers 3, 7, 11, 12, and 14). James seconds. Motion passes.

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

[applause]

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the change to Constitutional Amendment number 3, the addition of subsection B “Motions to go in camera must be approved by council with a simple majority (50% + 1).” Ally seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to ratify the change to Constitutional Amendment number 3, the addition of subsection B “Motions to go in camera must be approved by council with a simple majority (50% + 1).” Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the change to Constitutional Amendment number 7, to change subsection ‘E’ to say “Submit a detailed transition report to the VPI before April 30” instead of “May 15.” Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to ratify the change to Constitutional Amendment number 7, to change subsection ‘E’ to say “Submit a detailed transition report to the VPI before April 30” instead of “May 15.” Zoe seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the change to Constitutional Amendment number 11, to keep subsection 'd' rather than remove it, but change the word 'policy' to 'practices.' Vibhuti seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to ratify the change to Constitutional Amendment number 11, to keep subsection 'd' rather than remove it, but change the word 'policy' to 'practices.' Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the change to Constitutional Amendment number 12, "Shall be responsible for the production of a minimum of four (4) events per year (with two (2) per semester recommended) designed to showcase and enhance the artistic talents of VCU members," and Section D will become Section B. Stephanie seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to ratify the change to Constitutional Amendment number 12, "Shall be responsible for the production of a minimum of four (4) events per year (with two (2) per semester recommended) designed to showcase and enhance the artistic talents of VCU members," and Section D will become Section B. Devon seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to approve the change to Constitutional Amendment number 14, with the addition that "Five (5) Upper Year Councillors (must be returning VCU members)." Stephanie seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Zahavah moves to ratify the change to Constitutional Amendment number 14, with the addition that "Five (5) Upper Year Councillors (must be returning VCU members)." Stephanie seconds. Motion passes.

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

[applause]

[Zahavah chucks the Constitution]

EX-OFFICIO UPDATES

- UTSU Update - Jayde (5 minutes)
 - U-Commute Referendum Update

[Summary] Hi! Okay, so I am going to take hopefully two minutes of your time. I would hope that you know that the U-Commute U Pass has been approved by the TTC's board for a fee of 70\$/month which works out to 280\$/semester. A big thanks to VOCA for formally endorsing the U-Commute. I'm not of that of VUSAC today, because I think that that involves a longer conversation, than you all have time for at the moment. But what I am asking is for you as individuals, and as a council presence, make sure that people know that the referendum is happening and that they have the opportunity to vote from March 26th to March 28th. The campaign period is on now and continues while the referendum is live. You have until the 28th to do your own research and vote. This is a very incredible thing. The last time negotiations with the TTC got this far was a decade ago and they are not messing around in the sense that if the U-Pass is something that would benefit all students then this is sort of your last chance at the UTSG to get that opportunity at least for another decade or so and maybe longer because the TTC has a way longer memory of student politics. Basically, it is a big deal. Please help spread it around. It would be awesome if the VUSAC page could share something about it. If you need resources, hit me up.

Katie: There is a file in the VUSAC group with a breakdown of frequently asked questions, please take a look.

- Dean's Office Update - Christina (3 minutes)

[Summary] I just want to say thank you for those of you who came to out to Crescam, it was great to see you there. And a special thank you to Katie, for all of your work done and great organization skills. I will now pass it over to Ali.

Ali: HI VUSAC I'm Ali. We just hired our exec team, which is very exciting. I am very proud. We are working together for the first time tomorrow, we have 123 leaders, it's a good number. My favourite in fact. Transition Mentor Carrossel is happening tomorrow and we have 30 mentors, which is another one of my favourite numbers. Christina and I are enjoying our lives together.

LEVY UPDATES

- Cat's Eye Update (2 minutes) - Max

[Summary] Just a couple things we've been working on: We've been meeting with the Dean's office to formalize our booking process and doing risk assessment, and we've just formalized that only groups that can book the space are either VUSAC recognized clubs or those collabing with those clubs. I just want to bring to everyone's attention that the Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Department runs and hosts an initiative group that runs workshops with Syrian Refugees on Saturdays, and they are currently not VUSAC recognized. I have confirmed with Berguita and Christina that this is okay, that Vic supports this, and this is an exception to this rule.

Stephanie: Just clarifying, the space can be booked by recognized clubs *and* levies?

Max: Yes!

- The Strand - Constitution update (3 minutes) - Molly Kay

[Summary] So I sent an email to the CRO. So we are currently conducting interviews with people who are campaigning for the VUSAC elections. As I was reviewing the VUSAC nomination package I came across the part that said, “Candidates are not permitted to get endorsement from current VUSAC members, Dons, Assessor members to VUSAC including levy heads, orientation co-chairs or governing council, Building presidents, UTSU directors or staff members including food services employees or custodial staff. None of the above may appear in campaign literature, posters or other promotional material, any candidate found in violation of this rule will be severely penalized.” My first question to that, is that I was once told that I’m not allowed to like any posts online by people who are running as a levy head. I’ve seen a lot of levy heads doing that. I’m wondering if that is a rule? I think that that should be enforced. It was brought up to me a couple years ago and I’m a little alarmed that we are not adhering to that so I wanted to bring it up to council. As well, in conflict with the Strand, I think that none of these people should not be allowed to interview any potential candidates. It is not currently in my constitution, nor it is actively stated in the campaign instructions, neither is the liking thing. But to me it’s kind of a grey area I would like to specify. I consider The Strand as literature. I know that I run that paper and therefore may cause people to think at what point does it mean that because I published something am I endorsing it? I have not been involved with this at all and have encouraged my news editors to not allow any person on this list because I think it is a violation of these rules. So, the reason I emailed the CRO was because I want a static rule so that I can apply it to my own constitution before I make any amendments. So basically, my question is where can I find this and what does council think of this?

Zahavah: To clarify, about the interview thing, the rule is that you can’t endorse a candidate. For example, if you were to interview one presidential candidate and not another. That would be different. So the Strand can’t endorse a candidate. But providing an interview with all the candidates from one position is not endorsing or campaigning. It is different than saying “vote for this person.”

Molly: I disagree, because I think that if I were to write something and people knew that I was writing about one position and have chosen those questions of my own volition, then I do feel like it is me endorsing. I don’t think that it is appropriate for anyone on this list to engage with this practice. I believe it is unethical as a journalist. Which is why I want to include it into my constitution. This is how I feel about the matter, and I’ve spoken with several VCU members who agree.

Motion: Katie moves extend discussion time on “The Strand’s Constitution Update” by five minutes.

Nick seconds. Motion passes.

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

James: So, liking FB posts is not considered endorsement, so that is okay to do. I’m talking to the CRO right now. Steph says interviews are not considered endorsement if everyone in the position was interviewed. And no comments or shares.

Zahavah: That’s at the discretion of the CRO every year. Past year, they have said no liking. In our constitution, the CRO is allowed to interpret and enforce the specific election rules. This year she decided that likes are really hard to enforce so you can like, but not comment or share. Also, in terms of the interviewing being endorsement, I think that that is an area that we trust you as the newspaper ensures you don’t endorse. I think there are other ways we can ensure, for example

making sure that the same questions are asked to people running for the same position or having the same people interviewed. But I do think that we trust that when you do these interviews that you are keeping in mind that they shouldn't be showcasing one candidate. We leave that to your discretion.

Jayde: I just have a question Molly, are you asking whether interviews as a whole are a no go or if you have to get someone not from the Strand's masthead to conduct the interviews?

Molly: So what I read from the VUSAC instruction package from the candidate information. I will not be including people in the interview process on this list. I'm also concerned because this was not made widely available in my opinion, and therefore the fact that I had to get this information myself, I find that not good practice. And the liking thing is a bit shady for it every year to be different. I know that this is not my job, but I think it is important that this information is being made available to levy heads. I'm not opposing interviews, just the people who conduct the interviews (that they are not levy heads). For example, I'm being paid and that might incentivise me to ask a specific candidate a specific question. Whereas my staff is not.

Zoe: I agree with you. But I'm not sure if that is something that should not be in the VUSAC's constitution, I think that that is The Strand's decision to be as ethical as you can--which I really respect. Thank you for taking the time to look through our stuff. You're right, it should of been widely distributed. But that is something not constitutionally in our mandate, and I don't want to overextend our constitutional power on the next editor in chief.

Molly: The reason I brought it to council is because this rule book is from 2018, and I want to cite it into my constitution. But I want to be clear as to what the rules are?

Sayeh: According to the CRO it is considered endorsement if the person conducting the interview is a levy head.

Molly: Does that include that everyone on the list. Dons? Food services? Everyone?

Sayeh: Yes.

Molly: Is that a static rule? Is there somewhere I can find that to cite it?

Zahavah: So the rules about endorsement are static rules. However, as with every member in our constitution, it is up to interpretation by the person in that position every year. We empower the CRO to interpret that rule how they see fit. I think this depends on how you interpret endorsement and whether you believe or don't believe that publishing an article is endorsement. And that is at the discretion of the CRO and you. That could maybe be a conversation for the next year CRO and Levy head to have.

Motion: Zahavah moves extend discussion time on "The Strand's Constitution Update" by five minutes.

Devon seconds. Motion passes.

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

Molly: Am I able to cite the 2018 Victoria College Nomination Package? And what happens if that is not the same document as next year?

Sayeh: The basis of it is more about what constitutes as an endorsement. Regardless, levy heads aren't supposed to be endorsing but what constitutes as endorsing is to the discretion of the CRO and yourself.

Katie: Just don't include the 2018 part.

STAFF MEMBER UPDATES

Chief Returning Officer - Stephanie Xu

- Update

[Summary] “Hi all! So sorry I couldn’t be here but had a class I couldn’t miss. Just wanted to thank all of you for keeping an eye out and giving so much love and support during this busy election season. We’ve had great questions on the forum and tons of contested positions so yayy! Special shout out to Jade for all the amazing visuals and being so on top of the ball, and to James and Vibhuti for being amazing vice cros and chipping in when needed. Just a reminder that all campaigning will stop at 11:59 tonight.as with midterms and everything, it’s less stressful for candidates to balance both studying and trying to campaign. This means that all materials will be taken down (we’re going after town hall to personally remove it so it’s more fair) and no more sharing or posting online either. Candidatas can keep what they had already posted though. Candidates are aware of this rule! Other than that, remember to get people to vote! Candidates are allowed to post general election things such as “voting is blah blah blah) but nothing personal. We’ll be doing gift card draws again so hopefully we meet our numbers for voting. Ok! See you all at town hall! THERE WILL BE TACOS! Woottt Thank you!! Steph”

Sayeh: Non-VUSAC candidates interested in signing up for tabelling let me know.

Vibhuti: For reference, it will be me, Christina, and Stephanie who are the ones taking down all posters

Alexa: Can candidates keep what they’ve already posted?

Jayde: You have to change profile picture and cover photo, but can keep everything else.

Sayeh: From Steph X.: they can either be altered to only promote general voting, or changed.

Zoe: What time is the deadline?

Sayeh: Midnight.

Communications Director - Jade Koh

- [No Update]

Finance Chair - Graham Allison

- Discussion/Vote on increasing the VUSAC incidental fee to reflect the increase of CPI (8 minutes)

[Summary] So, I emailed everyone this morning with an updated and increased VUSAC fee to reflect inflation. I’ve made a handout. There is a council policy that lets VUSAC increase the VUSAC portion of the student incidental fee but it is capped at the annual amount and the last academic and calendar year, I threw in an average, also all other vic fees will be increasing by 1.7 percent. Scott at the told me that. Increase VUSAC fee by the same percentage, 40 cents, questions? Comments?

Jared: You decided to increase by the same amount that other , not by CPI? 1.7% is less that what the CPI amount was.

Motion: Graham moves increase VUSAC fees by 1.7% as per the CPI Index. Jared seconds. Motion passes.

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

- Voting Incentive Event and Current State of the Budget (5 minutes)

[Summary] <I am now Artimes> “Hi everyone! Sorry for missing this meeting - I know you all miss me dearly! Zahavah and I are hoping to host a voting event on Monday to encourage members of the VCU to participate in the upcoming election.

We are asking for about \$600-\$1000 to spend on burritos. The idea is to set up a station in the atrium and give them away, but with the condition that people must vote or show proof of having voted in order to get one.

I think this is an important event for us to invest in because it's a step towards improving voter turnout, which is beneficial to us and to the rest of the VCU. The \$600 estimate is based on a turnout of 60 people at about \$10 per person (chipotle pricing). We are hoping to advertise this event as heavily as we can, so we can have a turnout similar to that which we had for the iconic fondue party of 2017. We leave it to the discretion of council to decide what amount of money between 600-1000 they are comfortable with - but we'd love to provide a warm meal to as many people as possible!

Thanks a million! Besitos, Artimes”

Katie: Conflict of interest, as a candidate?

Graham: I thought it would be best that Candidates couldn't receive a burrito?

Katie: Can we vote in favour to something that encourages people to vote?

Zoe: That seems like an excessive use of money for me. 10\$ per note is so pricey.

Shailee: That's a lot of money. I get the idea. But, we can do something cheaper.

Jayde: The same thing. Also, VUSAC members are not allowed to be at voting tables. Not a smart way to spend money and not fair for electoria.

Zahavah: If it helps, since that was sent we have found a cheaper burrito company. It is better to spend money on election voting than have it sit and wait for next year. If we want non-VUSAC members at the door, we can do that.

Jared: Where would they be given out?

Zahavah: Wymilwood.

Shailee: I want to add, doing this event in Wymilwood is not a good location.

Zoe: Voting is something that should be taken seriously. I would be uncomfortable with this because I feel like people who randomly vote just to get a free burrito.

Zahavah: Shailee, clarify?

Shailee: Happening once during the election period, during a specific time, not accessible for students in class.

Zahavah: Okay, but that's an issue with all events.

Motion: Zahavah moves to invest \$600-1000 of council money in Election Voting Burrito give-away promotion. Cameron seconds. Motion does not pass.

- Favour: Artimes and Zahavah
- Abstained: None
- Opposed: 14

COMMISSION UPDATES

Academic & Professional Development - Zoe Ritchie

- [No Update]

Arts & Culture -Blanaid McNally

- General Update (5 minutes)

[Summary] This week I met with VicPride--and just to plug their event, Bodies of Knowledge--I encourage everyone to check it out because it is a great initiative. They are also asking that if anyone wants to volunteer their time to help out on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, they would really appreciate it. Second, the Vic Variety Night. I have talked to Artimes about this, because my biggest concern about hosting another Open Mic Night is that Vic for a Cure is hosting their benefit event the same week and I don't want to host another like-minded event. I've decided to push the variety show into the exam period, with the option to perform or not. I will be using more arts based options in order to make it more of a drop in, drop by style event.

Commuter Commissioner - Gabriel Calderon (10 minutes)

- Final events: Cupcake social & Movie night

[Summary] We are hosting a cupcake social this Tuesday at 12pm in the Cat's Eye. Also, our last formal event is a Rush Hour movie night on April 2nd--be there. And our last pancake event is March 29th, this Thursday. I hope that I've earned my title as Pancake Papi and I've fulfilled by first year goal to be the guy who flips pancakes.

- U-Pass Referendum next week + info

[Summary] Also, more on the U-Pass on top of the dates, prices, and information that Katie posted: There is a TTC Policy Framework Report document that is available for viewing. Emilia and I endorse this because it is more beneficial to more students that is not. Secondly, it is at an intersection of sustainable and equitable needs. I believe those students are more capable of shouldering their financial burdens. Some people have to give a bit more to make everyone's lives easier. It will help incentivize people to come to campus more. It could also help academically and encourage students to take classes on more than three days a week because they can afford the commute now. This is an opportunity to change and alter transportation policy in the years to come. I will post the TTC document in the FB group. But, as I believe most are in favour, I would also like to put forth a motion.

Motion: Gabe moves that VUSAC approves to endorse the U-Pass Referendum. Alexa seconds. Motion passes.

- Favour: ALL
- Abstained: Zoe, Gabe
- Opposed: None

Equity Commissioner - Shailee Koranne

- Update
 - Semester Two Caucus Anonymous Form (5 minutes)

[Summary] Katie and I have brought back the Caucus form last year though we have reworked the form since then to make it better. Katie and I added a section for the person presenting the question to choose how they want the question to be presented. For example, they can decide if they want the person who the question is about to know about the question in advance or not. This is not about making blanket decisions for the people about how they want the question to be read. Is open now, and will close at noon the day before Caucus. That's the most important thing, and if you have any questions please let us know. It is hard to be the person asking questions on behalf of people, but it is so important.

Scarlet & Gold - Stephanie Spagnuolo

- Update

[Summary] Thank you for everyone for coming to Highball and helping me out. It was a great evening and I couldn't have done it without my team. If there is anything I can help with, if you have questions? Oh, if you were on the buses and are not an executive, raise your hand. Okay. I'll be adding you to a group chat because the bus people want to ask me questions about their service. Anything else? Nothing. Thank you. I think we're good on finances. Right? Yup.

Sustainability Commissioner - Jared Connoy

- Update (15 minutes)

[Summary] Hello, just very quickly: We sent our letter to President Robins. He responded, thank you all for your feedback. For those of you who don't know I went to the Varsity and gave them a copy of the letter to publish. Robins conveniently sent me a response to my letter afterward the article went out. The article is currently published and I encourage you to take a look at it. If you have any questions, ask me after.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

VPSO - Nickolas Shyshkin

- [No Update]

VP Internal - Artimes G

- [No Update]

VP External - Katie C

- [No Update]

President - Zahavah K

- [No Update]

Additions:

- VP External - Katie (3 minutes)

[Summary] Caucus is on Thursday. You must be there. You have to, it is very important. The agenda and related documents will go up on Monday.

- Student Projects Ratification of Two Projects - Simon Lam

[Summary] The two projects are: Cat's Eye tech upgrade: total \$11,187 and Club storage shelves: total \$2,175.16. The breakdown is in the provided documents.

Motion: Nick moves to omnibus the two projects, the Cat's Eye tech upgrade and Club Storage shelves, into one motion. Zoe seconds. Motion passes.

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

Motion: Haleema moves to approve the two projects, the Cat's Eye tech upgrade and Club Storage shelves. Ally seconds. Motion passes.

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

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

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