



**Victoria College Council
Minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2022
2 – 4 p.m. on Zoom**

Attendance: A. Esterhammer, Y. Ali, H. Barseghyan, K. Bartlett, C. Battershill, C. Bruun, D. Cook, B. Davidson, S. Dowling, J. Forgie, J. Hamilton-Diabo, E. Istrate, E. Jagoe, C. James, M. Kavaler, A. Keith, P. Kutasi, J. Leblanc, S. Lee, A. Moritz, J. Papayiannis, N. Rodriguez, S. Ross, L. Sherlock, A. Slater, A. Sol, M. Solovey, C. Sutton, M. Teramura, A. Urbancic, M. Vicedo, I. Wells, D. Wright

Regrets: K. Castle, L. Dacome, B. Havercroft, E. Jones-Imhotep, N. Nagy, J. Raguindin, W. Robins

Guests: A. Bailey, H. Ulfig

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by the Chair, A. Esterhammer.

1. Welcome and opening remarks (A. Esterhammer)

The Chair thanked everyone for joining the last Council meeting of this year. The Chair made a note of updates to the agenda since President Robins, the VUSAC President, and the Dean of Students sent in regrets.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of February 14, 2022 (attached)

The minutes of February 14, 2021, were accepted.

MOTION – Moved by A. Urbancic and seconded by E. Istrate. Passed *nem con*.

3. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)

The Principal reported the following to the Council:

1) Presidential transition: Dr. Rhonda McEwen has been appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University as of July 1, 2022. Dr. McEwen is currently [Vice-Principal Academic and Dean at the University of Toronto Mississauga](#). She holds a Canada Research Chair in emerging media, social media, and human-machine communication. Dr. McEwen is known at U of T as a champion of inclusion and an expert on anti-racism and equity, and she is well positioned to move forward the strategic plan for Victoria University that was spearheaded by our current president, in addition to new initiatives. Although President Robins was not able to be here for his last VCC meeting, resounding thanks are due to him for his seven years of outstanding leadership. There will be occasions and opportunities in the coming weeks to honour Will and say goodbye to him as president although he will continue to be part of the Vic community as a professor and Vic Fellow.

2) End-of-semester events: The semester has ended with a great deal of activity besides exams and final assignments, thanks to staff and students who have taken part in a plethora of research colloquia, guest lectures and panels, readings, and other celebrations of scholarly and creative achievement. Many events have been online but increasingly it has been possible to hold them in

person again, and the in-person events have had a special intensity for those in attendance. A red-letter week at the end of March included, on consecutive days: the annual Vic Research Day of student presentations co-ordinated by Shaun Ross; followed the next day by the Faculty Book Launch held in Alumni Hall, superbly organized by Amelia Bailey; followed the next day by the online Vic One Year-End Social, expertly facilitated by Carol Beattie; followed the next day by one of the stimulating “Cross-Currents” creative writing panels hosted by Shaftesbury Writer-in-Residence Canisia Lubrin.

3) Faculty updates and appointments: Liz Howard has been appointed as Shaftesbury Creative Writer-in-Residence for 2022-2023. Liz was born and raised on Treaty 9 territory in Northern Ontario; she is a graduate of U of T with a BSc in psychology as well as an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. Her first book, *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*, won the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2016, and her latest collection, *Letters in a Bruised Cosmos*, is a finalist for this year’s Griffin Prize. Special thanks to Adam Sol for his brilliant work chairing the Shaftesbury WiR selection committee, and for many other wonderful initiatives he has been involved with on behalf of the Creative Expression and Society program. Among other things, the annual Humber College writers’ workshop will be hosted on the Vic campus for the first time this summer and five full scholarships are being awarded to Vic students to attend the workshop. Congratulations are also due to Adam on his own achievement in poetry since his latest book *Broken Dawn Blessings* has been short-listed for the Raymond Souster Prize of the League of Canadian Poets.

Dr. Laura Ingallinella has been appointed in the Department of Italian Studies with an ongoing cross-appointment to the Renaissance Studies program at Vic. Dr. Ingallinella is a literary historian who focuses on cross-cultural exchanges between Renaissance Italy, Europe, and the Mediterranean. She will be joining U of T as of July 1, 2022.

We are also expecting to make a 2-year limited-term appointment in Literature and Creative Writing beginning July 1, 2022. Four excellent candidates were invited for virtual campus interviews; we are nearing the end of the appointments process and hope to have more news very soon.

4) Vic International Internships: This government-funded grant program provides generous financial support to Vic students who are undertaking international internships, placements, research-intensive experiences, fieldwork, and other types of experiential learning, with a special focus on enabling these experiences for students from underrepresented groups. At the last meeting it was announced that Diane Barbaric would be rejoining the Principal’s Office staff to help coordinate the program, but due to last-minute developments, our Events Coordinator Amelia Bailey has instead been seconded to this project for a longer period. A website has been launched with a growing database of information about U of T courses that qualify for this funding; Amelia is advising interested students on how to apply, and a few students will be drawing on this funding to go abroad later this summer.

5) Jackman Scholars-in-Residence is set to begin one week from today with 55 students working on faculty-led research projects on the Vic campus, as well as 79 other students working on projects hosted at UTM, UTSC, and a new session of online projects. It’s been exciting to plan for in-person research and community-building again, although there continue to be pandemic-related surprises that require minor adjustments. Many thanks to Program Manager Ira Wells for his indefatigable organizational talents. Thanks also to Hillary Walker, who has joined the team this year as SiR Program Assistant with special responsibility for the new online session.

6) Junior Fellows: Faculty are invited to nominate ABD doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows as Junior Fellows. The announcement in today’s *Albert Memo* provides more details; it will be repeated periodically over the summer until the nomination deadline of August 15.

Discussion:

D. Wright asked about the potential dates for the celebratory event for President Robins. A. Esterhammer will follow up with President’s office to circulate the save the dates soon.

4. Report of the Fellows Committee (B. Davidson)

The Chair reported the following to the Council:

B. Davidson thanked all attendees to the various events and acknowledged Amelia Bailey for all the efforts in organizing Fellows committee activities.

The committee recommended the following nominations enthusiastically for approval by Council.

Fellows

MOTION to accept the recommendation of the Fellows Committee for the appointment of Fellows as follows.

Renewal (5-year term):

Anabela Rato (Spanish and Portuguese)	Rebecca Woods (IHPST)
Juan Carlos Rocha Osornio (Spanish and Portuguese)	Chen-Pang Yeang (IHPST)

New nominations (5-year term):

Adrien Zakar (IHPST)	Rhonda McEwen (Victoria University as of July 1, 2022)
Carolina Sa Carvalho Pereira (Spanish and Portuguese)	Laura Ingallinella (Italian Studies)
Angelica Pesarini (Italian Studies / Diaspora and Transnational Studies)	

Moved by B. Davidson, and Seconded by E. Istrate. Passed *nem con*.

Associates

MOTION to accept the recommendation of the Fellows Committee for the appointment of Associates as follows.

Renewal (5-year terms):

Elisa Brilli (Italian Studies)	Karine Tsoumis (Gardiner Museum)
Girish Daswani (Anthropology, UTSC)	Suzi Lima (Linguistics)

Associates – new nominations:

Edward Swenson (Anthropology)	Andrea Walkden (English)
Josh Basseches (Royal Ontario Museum)	John Rogers (English)

Moved by B. Davidson, and seconded by H. Barseghyan. Passed *nem. con.*

Junior Fellows

The Junior Fellows nomination period is open until August 2022 and further nominations are welcome. Junior Fellows are postdoctoral candidates or ABD doctoral students with a Vic Fellow or Associate on their supervisory committee or as TA supervisor.

Fellows Emeriti as of 1 July 2022 (for information)

Craig Fraser	Stephen Rupp
Heather Murray	

B. Davidson thanked the members of the Fellows Committee – Professors Angela Esterhammer, Ira Wells, Kenneth Bartlett, Matt Kavaler, John Duncan, Marga Vicedo, Shaun Ross, Rebecca Woods and Sherry Lee – for their collegial work during the past year.

5. Report of the Striking Committee (J. LeBlanc)

The Chair reported the following to the Council:

J. LeBlanc presented the slate of VCC committee members from the Striking Committee (attached). The committee met on March 31 to select based on the committee preference survey filled by the faculty.

MOTION to accept the 2022-2023 slate for Victoria College Council Committee nominees as presented.

Moved by J. LeBlanc, and seconded by E. Istrate. Passed *nem con.*

6. Report of the Research Committee (M. Solovey)

The Chair reported the results of the Winter round and year-end of Victoria College grants to the Council.

Victoria College Grants 2022

Grants	Term	Grants Requested	Grants Awarded	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Amount Available	Amount Funded	Amount Remaining
Conference Travel	Fall	1	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$45,000.00	\$26,934.98	\$18,065.02
	Winter	4	3	\$5,003.98	\$3,734.98			
	Academic Year	5	4	\$6,503.98	\$5,234.98			
Research	Fall	8	4	\$23,600.00	\$12,000.00			
	Winter	4	4	\$9,700.00	\$9,700.00			
	Academic Year	12	8	\$33,300.00	\$21,700.00			
Publication	Fall	3	2	\$18,900.00	\$8,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$18,250.00	\$31,750.00
	Winter	5	4	\$15,750.00	\$10,250.00			
	Academic Year	8	6	\$34,650.00	\$18,250.00			
TOTAL	Fall	12	7	\$44,000.00	\$21,500.00			
	Winter	13	11	\$30,453.98	\$23,468.98			
	Academic Year	25	18	\$74,453.98	\$45,184.98			

7. Report of the Chief Librarian (L. Sherlock)

The Chief Librarian reported to following to the Council:

Instruction and Research support

As the Library and the rest of the University contended with the pandemic, we continued, over 2021-2022, to provide library instruction and research consultations virtually. We offered a record number of synchronous instruction sessions, reaching a larger than usual number of students.

We provided **64 instruction sessions**, a significant increase from the 53 we offered last year, and a few more than our previous record of 60 sessions in 2019-2020.

- We recorded the highest total attendance at our synchronous instruction sessions, with **1,783 students attending** our instruction classes, surpassing our previous high of 1,686 last year.
- Online delivery of instruction continued to dominate in 2021-2022, but our gradual return to campus is reflected in the growth of in-person instruction. 14 of the 64 instruction sessions (or 22%) were delivered in person.

Instructional librarians reach a broad range of student communities. While our instructional outreach is principally for courses and is course-specific, we also support Scholars in Residence each May and this year, a large contingency of extracurricular students in Vic’s GLAM club, a group of students interested in galleries, libraries, archives, and museums. They used our university archives and special collections to produce an online catalogue of archival resources and a virtual gallery tour.

PEFAL (Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners) Initiatives

Library staff have also been quite involved with several Indigenous initiatives prompted by the University’s strategic plan.

The Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) from the provincial government, which the President's office applied for and was granted, allowed our instructional librarians and archivists to arrange and paid for, honorariums for speakers from various Indigenous communities to engage with and provide their perspectives on historical documents and materials housed within the Library's collections. These talks and learning modules, one of which took place during the Dean of Student's Reconciliations conference on March 31st, 2022, have been excellent opportunities for all of the staff involved to establish connections and learn from individuals who may have different perspectives than those stemming from long established settler perspectives. The last two speaking events will take place this week. On April 26, Agatha Barc, a Reader Services and Instructional librarian and Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo, Assistant Professor Teaching Stream, Theology, and June Callwood Professor of Social Justice and Special Advisor of Indigenous Initiatives, will discuss Victoria University and the student missionary movement reflected in nineteenth and early twentieth century publications held in our collections. Following that, on April 29, we have two speakers, Carmen Miedema, currently a PhD candidate in archival studies at the University of Manitoba and Walter Strong, an assignment producer for CBC to discuss the Nehiyaw or Cree Syllabic Hymnbook, printed in 1841, three copies of which are held in the Library's James Evans collection. More information on these events appears on the Library's web page. Please join us.

Pausing the Library's Covid Restrictions

Finally, Pratt and Emmanuel libraries will be pausing some of the measures that have been in place over the pandemic. Beginning on May 2, those wishing access to the libraries will no longer have to present a green UCheck screen and a valid T-Card. This is in keeping with the lifting of restrictions at other federated college libraries and most libraries within the central library system at U of T. I understand that access to Robarts and Gerstein libraries will continue to require a T-card to access those spaces.

8. Report of the Academic Committee (I. Wells)

The Chair reported the following to the Council:

I. Wells thanked all the teaching staff for their creativity and flexibility during the challenging time.

New course proposals and courses in the calendar will include course modality indicators built in to make clear to students how their programs will be offered. Arts & Science is in planning to keep the current system of an absence declaration form.

University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Review of the Literature and Critical Theory (LCT) Specialists and Major and Minor Program is underway. Prof. Shaun Ross, the LCT program coordinator, and I. Wells worked with the Innovation Hub on a thorough interview process including focus groups and surveys of current LCT students. Feedback has been overall positive and helpful.

MOTION to accept the recommendation of the Academic Committee to approve the Major proposal for the Creativity and Society program and forward the proposal for the next governance step at the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Moved by I. Wells, seconded by S. Dowling. Passed *nem con*.

Discussion:

B. Davidson asked about any expected problems at the next level of governance for the Major proposal. I. Wells was confident with all the close consultations with Arts & Science that the new Major program will materialize.

A. Esterhammer agreed with I. Wells that all the signals are good. New Major program proposals at the U of T are a long process including external reviews. She thanked all the Academic Committee members for their hard work for the proposal.

9. VUSAC activities and initiatives update

Principal Esterhammer provided updates on VUSAC representation on Council, in lieu of a report from VUSAC. Three new student representatives were elected to VCC in the VUSAC spring elections: Cam Miranda-Radbord, David Zhang, and Daniel Mao. Thanks to this year's student representatives Kate Haberl, Mehr Mukhtar, Mi Li, and Rupert Wu, whose terms end today's Council meeting. Thanks in absentia to Jerico Raguindin for his committed service as VUSAC President in a challenging year. Sooyeon Lee, who was a VUSAC rep on Council this year, has been elected as the next VUSAC President, and we look forward to working with her in that role.

10. Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies update (M. Kavalier)

M. Kavalier reported to the Council:

CRRS had an active year despite the pandemic with the Graduate Research Forum and Friday workshop series.

M. Kavalier showcased new featured rare book acquisitions to CRRS library.

CRRS Conferences:

- The Miniature, March 10 – 12, 2022, online
- Canada Milton Seminar XVI, May 27 – 28, 2022, in-person
- Netherlandish Carved Altarpieces International Conference, May 12 – 14, 2022, online

E. Istrate asked whether these fragile rare books will be digitalized. M. Kavalier answered that all major collections will be digitalized, prioritizing the Erasmus collection with marginal notations first.

11. Northrop Frye Centre update (B. Davidson)

B. Davidson reported to the Council:

B. Davidson thanked Amelia Bailey for all her hard work during the challenging pandemic time while adjusting event formats. Finally, B. Davidson thanked everyone for coming out to all the events, especially for the Keynote NFC lecture with Prof. Ursula Heise held online and NFC undergraduate research presentation, the first in-person event since the pandemic.

Sherry Lee will be the Acting Director of Northrop Frye Centre next year.

12. Other Business

E. Istrate asked I. Wells whether Arts & Science will keep the flexibility with the deadline to submit grades after seven days from the last day of the classes for courses without the final exam.

I. Wells did not have the answer but commented that the faculty is going through a deliberate review of these policies and procedures for the post-pandemic mode.

The next year's council meeting dates will be circulated soon, and they will be in-person at the Alumni Hall with refreshments.

MOTION to adjourn – Moved by A. Sol. Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.