



**Victoria College Council
Minutes of the meeting of Nov. 29, 2021
4 – 6 p.m. on Zoom**

Attendance: A. Esterhammer, Y. Ali, K. Bartlett, C. Battershill, J. Berkovitz, G. Bizi, C. Bruun, D. Cook, L. Dacome, B. Davidson, K. Derry, J. Duncan, J. Forgie, P. Gooch, K. Haberl, J. Hamilton-Diabo, E. Istrate, E. Jia, E. Jones-Imhotep, M. Kavaler, A. Keith, P. Kutasi, J. Leblanc, S. Lee, R. McGill, B. Meyer, H. Murray, N. Nagy, J. Raguindin, W. Robins, L. Sherlock, A. Sol, M. Solovey, C. Sutton, A. Urbancic, M. Vicedo, I. Wells, D. Wright, R. Wu

Regrets: Y. Fehige, C. Fraser, B. Havercroft, E. Jagoe, P. Klassen, C. Krmpotich, S. Lee, S. Munjic, J. Papayannis, N. Rodriguez, L. Somigli

Guests: A. Bailey, V. Lowes, C. McMahon, D. Moed, F. Taverna, H. Ulfig

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by the Chair, A. Esterhammer.

1. Welcome and opening remarks (A. Esterhammer)

The Chair welcomed two student representatives, Elsa Jia and Robert Wu, as newly elected student members of the Council.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of September 27, 2021 (attached)

W. Robins requested that his report be changed to third-person writing. This will be updated.

The minutes of September 27, 2021, were accepted.

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

3. Guest speakers: Experiential Learning at UofT

V. Lowes, Director, Experiential Learning and Outreach Support (ELOS) introduced her team to the Council and gave an overview of ELOS's major initiatives for 2021-22. V. Lowes also outlined the ELOS priorities in course-based experiential learning (EL) that included sharing the goal to build a network of EL coordinators with sector-specific knowledge to support numerous EL courses.

F. Taverna was introduced as the EL faculty advisor providing strategic guidance, and he shared his enriching experiences with students through the EL program.

V. Lowes highlighted Research and International Program Initiatives and gave updates on professional work term opportunities including Arts & Science Internship Program (ASIP) and Tri-Campus Co-op Partnership, both launched Fall 2021.

ELOS will have a new physical location called Experiential Learning Commons at 255 Beverley Street in mid-2022.

The ELOS team wants to expand into humanities and social sciences and is open to feedback and supporting more faculty to facilitate EL courses since student demand and funds are available.

Discussion:

A. Esterhammer shared positive experiences working with ELOS and encouraged any faculty member to reach out.

In response to a question about ASIP, V. Lowes explained that Tri-campus co-op partnership is an intentional effort to support each other to connect on employer outreach and streamline the experience for employers trying to recruit students. However, each campus is happy to keep the differentiation. ASIP offers 8-10 different versions of completing the programs.

4. Report of the President (W. Robins)

The President reported the following to the Council:

COVID-19 update: UofT has revised general guidelines for space usage, but there are no significant changes going into the Winter term. More students will have in-person classes on campus, meaning more operational needs and staff on-site. The requirements for social distancing, wearing masks, and UCheck will remain the same. The province is anticipating lifting the public health restrictions in March. The local public health directive will follow, and the university will adjust accordingly. The university plans to expand its on-site operation gradually.

Northrop Frye Hall Redevelopment: The process is on hold as the rezoning application is going through the approval process by the City of Toronto. The Board of Regents Property Committee will review the possible options for the building upgrades.

New Principal Search at Emmanuel College is in process. W. Robins is looking forward to welcoming the new Principal starting in the new academic year.

Discussion:

Services available for the fellows: W. Robins confirmed there is no dining at the Burwash Hall and the Common Room, but there is take-out only at Ned's Café and beverages at Caffiends.

Conference Space: W. Robins mentioned there are no external events planned currently. Alumni Hall is reserved for student study space, but the Chapel is available for smaller meetings.

5. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)

The Principal provided updates on ongoing projects:

Winter 2022 semester: The Faculty of Arts & Science is planning for a regular start to in-person classes on January 10, with no 2-week “hybrid” period as there was this semester.

Major in Creativity and Society: This new program proposal continues to be a major priority for Victoria College. We are making our way through the stages that are involved in introducing a new program at the University of Toronto: writing and revising the formal proposal; meeting with all levels of the administration who oversee and approve academic programs; consulting with students in the Creative Expression & Society Minor and preparing for a site visit by external assessors in the

coming year. Since this is a highly interdisciplinary College-based program, it also involves many discussions with cognate academic units whose faculty will be partnering with Victoria College faculty to deliver the program. These units include the Faculty of Music, the Centre for Comparative Literature, and the Departments of English and Art History. Although there is still a long way to go before the Major program becomes a reality (provisionally in September 2023), it is good to see the high level of enthusiasm among students and participating faculty.

Vic International: Work-Integrated Learning Abroad: At the last VCC meeting, I reported that Victoria University was successful in obtaining a major, four-year, government-funded grant to facilitate outbound mobility for undergraduate students, especially for underrepresented groups of students who might not otherwise have access to international opportunities for financial reasons or because of other barriers. Our project, which is called **Vic International**, will provide funding for Vic students and students in Vic academic programs to take part in experiential learning abroad. Many kinds of experiential learning qualify, such as internships, placements, research-intensive experiences, or fieldwork, and the trip can range in length from a week to an academic year. Currently we are building relationships with external and internal partners including the Centre for International Experience and the Experiential Learning Office to help publicize this opportunity and also to identify barriers to student access in the hope of being able to mitigate or remove them. We are putting together a database of information about existing opportunities at Vic and U of T for international experiential learning and developing a website where students can easily access that information. Please feel free to get in touch with me directly if you have any ideas or questions about this initiative, and keep your fingers crossed that travel will be able to resume in the spring/summer of 2022.

Jackman Scholars-in-Residence: The Scholars-in-Residence (SiR) program is preparing for its May 2022 session. SiR is a tri-campus program with many partners but it has always been centered at Victoria College, where I serve as Program Director and work with Prof. Ira Wells as Program Manager. SiR gives undergraduates an opportunity to work as paid Research Assistants for 4 weeks on faculty-led projects in the humanities and social sciences. Participating students live in residence, work in small teams with their supervisor in the mornings and take part in workshops, panel discussions, and field trips in the afternoons. We are planning for an in-person, really “in-residence” session in 2022; in addition, we are also hoping to offer a pilot program consisting of a few online-only research projects that will make it possible for those projects to have an international scope and international participants. In other words, hopefully there will be the option of either fully in-person or fully online projects for students to choose in May 2022. Currently the Advisory Committee is selecting a slate of projects for SiR 2022 based on proposals submitted by faculty; the selected projects will be announced at the beginning of the new year and student applications will be open as usual in January and February.

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

The Chair reported the following to the Council:

Victoria College will be introducing two versions of a new shell course called **International Internship Opportunity, VIC396H0 and VIC396Y0** (“0” designates that the courses will be taking place internationally). The course allows faculty members to devise international opportunities for our students, and in turn our students to receive course credit for those experiences.

A variety of **minor program modifications**, including revisions to calendar descriptions and program requirements, were successfully submitted with feedback from the Academic Committee and the Program Coordinators ensuring that cognate courses are up to date and those program requirements are reflected accurately for our students.

I. Wells reminded instructors to expect the invitation from eMarks to upload their grades, and F term instructors are free to grant extensions without any formal petition process up until January 14, 2022.

The Learning Space Management office expects a high demand on space in the Winter term since more courses will be moving into the in-person modality. I. Wells encouraged instructors to visit their S term classrooms and let the Principal's Office know of any potential concerns.

Discussion:

The deadline to submit grades to Arts & Science without the extension is Jan. 11, 2022. I. Wells encouraged instructors to submit early or at least couple of days before the deadline for final grades approval.

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

The Chair reported the results of the Fall round of Victoria College grants to the Council, noting that some of the Research Grants were awarded under Victoria University's grants and freed up some Victoria College research funds for the Winter round.

Victoria College Grants Fall 2021

Grants	Conference Travel	Research	Publication	TOTAL
Grants Requested	1	8	3	12
Grants Awarded	1	4	2	7
Amount Requested	\$1,500	\$23,600	\$18,900	\$44,000
Amount Awarded	\$1,500	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$21,500
Amount Available		\$45,000	\$50,000	
Amount Granted		\$13,500	\$8,000	
Amount Remaining		\$31,500	\$42,000	

M. Solovey encouraged eligible members to submit applications for the next round.

8. VUSAC activities and initiatives update (J. Raguindin)

J. Raguindin reported to the Council:

VUSAC held both in-person and online events collaborating with students and building the Vic community this fall, and all were well received and participated.

Highlighted events:

- Vic Paints a Mural, a communal painting event
- Holiday event at Alumni Hall with apple ciders and prizes
- Music event to Supermarket in association with Vic Records
- Museum visits hosted by Glam and Equity Commission

- Sustainability Career Spotlight online
- Listening parties hosted by Scarlet & Gold and Vic Records

Cat's Eye will reopen soon, and the VUSAC office should be reopening next semester.

VUSAC held its semi-annual Caucus meeting on November 26, an important event to hold student leaders and administrators accountable. The meeting fostered a healthy sense of dialogue with questions and important information for students. Some discussion items included:

- university politics regarding the recent announcement by President Gertler,
- Burwash Dining Hall ticket system is raising concerns, including eating disorders, food portion sizes, culturally specific food labels, food quality, and waste issues,
- David Gilmour's employment at Victoria College, which students are demanding an acknowledgement of the situation and apology with a plan for change,
- The Campus Police presence on the campus affecting some students' mental health,
- decolonization of our space and communities, and
- diversity in Vic programs

9. Report of the Registrar (Y. Ali)

Y. Ali reviewed the November Enrollment Status report with the Council:

The enrollment continues to be consistent and robust. Highlights from the report included:

- Enrollment has increased this year as
 - 1) the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) admitted more students than usual and,
 - 2) the Principal and the Registrar agreed to take on additional 35 domestic students who were academically strong.
- Compared to last year, the proportion of male students in the college has increased by a few percentage points.
- There is an increase in part-time, non-degree students because many more students want to complete their courses online.
- The Registrar's Office has been trying to increase the proportion of international students, and we are currently at 27%.
- Study Abroad participation declined as many of the study abroad opportunities were cancelled last year.
- Out-of-province student enrolment was consistent with previous years, except for a higher number of students from Alberta.
- Victoria College has higher than the FAS average in terms of humanities and life sciences students and slightly lower in commerce students.
- The number of transfer students from other colleges has been purposely reduced because of the larger incoming class.
- Vic College programs' enrolment showed healthy growth in Creative Expression & Society and Education & Society programs.

Discussion:

Y. Ali encouraged instructors to refer any students with intercollege transfer inquiries to the Registrar's Office as there is an intake process every year around May. Students should demonstrate in the application how they are active and make positive contribution to the Vic community.

10. Report of the Dean of Students

W. Robins reported on behalf of K. Castle:

One hundred twenty students are engaging in the **Vic Ready** program, including 21 students in the first Vic Ready boot camp, released in September. In addition, the Upper-Year Vic Ready communities are going strong with the alumni mentorship component.

The **Minding Our Minds conference** was offered as a micro-conference in September during the return to campus programming. The **5th annual Campus Reconciliations Conference** will be on March 31, 2022, working with Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo and with the University of Toronto Office of Indigenous Initiatives and First Nations House. The keynote speakers will be Dr. James Makokis and Anthony Johnson, experts on Indigenous health and winners of the *Amazing Race Canada*.

Humanities for Humanity has excellent attendance with over 60 people every week, including community participants and students.

Limited in-person events are taking place on the campus for **student programming** such as international mentor walking events, commuter dons office hours, active peer leaders, transition mentors and international mentors with outdoor office hours. Indoor student events and study spaces are available, and student run spaces are slowly reopening with plans to redesign student event booking process to include COVID protocols and risk assessments measure

The dean of students welcomed **new staff members**: Ali Kehl, Campus Life Coordinator and Elena Ferranti, Communications and Ideas for the World Coordinator.

COVID-19 measures: A large team of student staff monitors UCheck at the Goldring Student Centre from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m and ensuring distancing and mask wearing is maintained. The residences are at 78% capacity and 100% for first-year student capacity. In January, more in-person activities for students are expected, and study space access will also increase.

11. CRRS Update (M. Kalaver)

M. Kavaler reported to the Council:

Despite the pandemic, CRRS had an engaging term:

- CRRS Erasmus Lecture — Cécile Fromont: “Penned by Encounter: Central Africans, Capuchin Friars and their Images in Early Modern Congo and Angola”
- “Rethinking Language and Eloquence” - A colloquium in collaboration with the Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, University of Southern California
- The Early Modern Interdisciplinary Graduate Forum every Friday

Upcoming events include:

- Distinguished Visiting Scholar Kathryn Rudy
- A conference on miniatures as narrative
- A conference on metal and carved altarpieces
- The Canada Milton Seminar

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M. Kavaler showcased new featured acquisitions to the CRRS library, including books and original printing tools for Erasmus collections.

12. Northrop Frye Centre update (B. Davidson)

R. Davidson reported to the Council:

NFC acquired Northrop Frye's office hours sign and a handwritten note recently.

NFC had a reduced schedule this semester hosting great events including:

- **NFC Doctoral Fellow Lectures:**
 - Dur-e-Aden "The Recruitment of Individuals Within Radical Right-wing Groups in Canada"
 - Marina Dumont-Gauthier "Transatlantic Exposures: German Photographers in Buenos Aires and the Female Lens"
- **2021 Brian Merrilees lecture** by John McClelland on "The Anatomy of Writing Sport".

Few notes on upcoming events included:

- Ursula Heise (UCLA) for Northrop Frye Centre Lecture in March
- Dr. Yairen Jerez Columbié for a lecture on her research in hurricanes

13. Other Business

None.

MOTION to adjourn – Moved by E. Istrate and seconded by M. Kavaler.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.