



VICTORIA COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## MINUTES

### Victoria College Council Meeting

April 24, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

VC 304

**Attendance:** A. Esterhammer (Chair), K. Bartlett, C. Battershill, M. Cichosz, A. Dhand, R. McEwen (President), P. Gooch, J. Hamilton-Diabo, E. Jagoe, S. Joy, G. Kim, A. Komaromi, S. (Sooyeon) Lee, A. Moritz, J. Papayiannis, S. Ross, C. Sa Carvalho, M. Scarci, A. Sol, C. Sutton, H. Ulfig, A. Urbancic, I. Wells, I. Williams

**Regrets:** K. Castle, W. Cecil, L. Colantoni, J. Forgie, B. Havercroft, R. Kanga Fonseca, M. Kavalier, S. (Sherry) Lee, D. Wright

**Guest:** S. Johnston (from the Office of the Dean of Students)

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m. by the Chair, A. Esterhammer.

#### 1. Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks (A. Esterhammer)

Principal Esterhammer thanked members for attending and began with a land acknowledgement.

#### 2. Minutes of the Meeting of February 14, 2023 (attached)

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes without changes.

The motion was moved by A. Urbancic and seconded by S. Joy. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

A. Esterhammer addressed a question that was raised at an earlier VCC meeting regarding space and infrastructure. For matters related to the physical campus or ancillary services, individuals can contact Lindy Chan (lindy.chan@utoronto.ca), Director of the President's Office, who can triage inquiries and direct them to the appropriate members of the senior administration.

#### 3. Report of the President (R. McEwen)

President McEwen commended faculty, students, and staff on this year's excellent return to campus. She acknowledged everyone for their efforts to ensure students felt welcomed and supported as they came back to campus for in-person classes. Victoria University's new operating and ancillary budgets were approved through all governance levels. Recent new hires included Mayes Rihani, Capitals Projects Manager, who is an architect by training and worked previously at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. Discussions related to renewing the federated block grant agreement between the University of Toronto and federated colleges (Victoria, St. Michael's, and Trinity) have started and R. McEwen thanked A. Esterhammer for agreeing to work on the academic plan. The Vic One 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was held on April 12 and April 13 and both days were well attended. Also on April 13, the Board of Regents approved a motion to divest the university's endowment portfolio from fossil fuel companies by 2030.

**Discussion:** President McEwen was asked if she could share more specifics on any changes she hopes will be achieved with the renewal of the federated agreement. R. McEwen indicated that the pandemic highlighted a need for stronger channels for information to flow across federated colleges. She also shared she would like to see more funding for student supports, especially mental health supports. She indicated that colleges should be compensated for the supports provided to students, including infrastructure support for student services. R. McEwen also stated the processes for approving new academic programs could be reviewed.

#### **4. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)**

A. Esterhammer provided the following report:

##### **Faculty Status Updates**

Four Victoria College faculty members were congratulated on their successful reviews and status changes:

- Shaun Ross and Ira Wells – continuing full-time appointments and promotion to Associate Professor, Teaching Stream as of July 1, 2023;
- Joanna Papayiannis and Cathie Sutton – continuing part-time appointments as of July 1, 2023.

It was noted that Prof. Ira Wells will be on research and study leave from July 1 to December 31, 2023, and Prof. Emanuel Istrate will be Acting Academic Programs Director during this period.

Updates on joint appointments with other academic units included:

- Nkem Ike will join the University of Toronto as Assistant Professor cross-appointed between Anthropology and Victoria College. Her area of expertise is anti-racist archaeology and archaeology of the African diaspora. She will begin teaching a course in Material Culture and Semiotics in the coming year.
- A joint appointment in Creative Writing with the Department of English is in the final stages of negotiation and we will share news as soon as it is available.
- Cory Lewis, a philosopher of science who is already teaching in the Vic One Stowe-Gullen stream, will begin a full-time CLTA appointment, joint between Vic and IHPST, July 1, 2023.

##### **Working Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Victoria College Academic Programs**

The group held four productive meetings in the Winter 2023 semester. J. Hamilton-Diabo (Special Advisor on Indigenous Issues) and Program Coordinators joined some of the meetings. Discussions foregrounded students' lived experiences and ideas about how to achieve inclusivity, accessibility, and diversity of perspectives in academic programs. This phase of discussion was oriented toward exploring how a working group with a focus on students and Vic's academic programs can best liaise with and contribute to the range of EDI initiatives at Vic.

Recommendations included:

- Fostering explicit discussion of EDI principles among program faculty (already instigated by the Program Coordinators' meeting with the Working Group);
- Reporting on EDI initiatives and issues on the Vic academic programs website;
- Possible other platforms for presenting the findings of WG discussions (e.g., presentations to VCC, town halls);
- Continuing the Working Group in 2023-2024, adapting its membership and organization.

##### **University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) Awards**

Congratulations to Fabiola Cruz Li, who was awarded the University of Toronto's 2023 John H. Moss Scholarship, and three Vic students who have been named University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) Scholars: Iakoiehwáththa Patton, Chan-Min Roh, and Li Wan.

### **Vic Global**

Many Vic students and students in Vic-sponsored programs were supported for international experiential learning opportunities with Vic Global funds to go to various destinations (South Korea, Japan, England, Germany, France, and Greece). Thanks to Maral Attar-Zadeh in the Office of the Principal for her work coordinating Vic Global this year and publicizing it effectively to students, so that the available funding supported students who might otherwise not have been able to go on an international internship, and also raised awareness of international opportunities for Vic students.

### **Jackman Scholars-in-Residence**

A. Esterhammer reported the Scholars-in-Residence (SiR) program for 2023 saw its largest program to date, with 140 students working as RAs on 28 projects (22 of them in-person and six online). Students were arriving on May 1 for the 4-week paid research fellowship.

## **5. Report of VUSAC**

S. (Sooyeon) Lee reported VUSAC had a successful year hosting events under unique circumstances. Almost every member of VUSAC was putting on events they themselves never experienced due to the pandemic. Events included a semi-formal, Highball year-end formal, and winter caucus. It was rewarding to see incredible student engagement. Approximately 60-70 students attended the last VUSAC meeting and 831 students voted in VUSAC elections. VUSAC worked with the Dean of Students Office to open the Goldring Student Centre on weekends and collaborated with the Office of the Principal to initiate a new EDI working group. Next year, there will be nine new student members. S. Lee thanked A. Esterhammer, faculty, and staff for their time and efforts for a great year.

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

I. Wells provided an update from the Academic Committee, which entailed changes that were approved in the 2022-23 governance cycle. These changes included:

seven new courses in four Victoria College programs –

CRE201H1 Introduction to Creativity and Society;

CRE349H1 Special Topics in Creativity;

CRE375H1 Histories of Creativity;

REN340H1 The Global Renaissance;

VIC196H1 Renaissance Queens;

VIC248H1 Genetics in the Movies: Mad Scientists, Clones, Superhumans and Designer Babies;

VIC396H0 International Internship Opportunity – a course which was brought online ahead of schedule to satisfy student demand during the upcoming summer session.

In addition, after consulting with students and stakeholders across the faculty, the College renamed our successful Creative Expression and Society program to Creativity and Society, in alignment with the name of our proposed new Major HBA Program. This proposal was approved by Victoria College Council in April of 2022 and is currently with the University of Toronto's Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs.

Overall, the enrollment outlook in Victoria College programs remains positive. We continue to see enrollment gains in Creative Expression and Society, Education and Society, and Science, Technology and Society. The total number of enrollments continues to rise year over year.

I. Wells ended with a note of thanks to colleagues whose time and effort made this work possible – particularly our Program Coordinators, for their effective review of course offerings and curriculum, and to L. Ingallinella, M. Vicedo, A. Sol, and A. Esterhammer for their work on making these exciting new course offerings available to students.

**7. Report of the Fellows Committee (A. Komaromi)**

A. Komaromi thanked all the Fellows who came to events throughout the year – the book launch and the Fellows lunch colloquia showcased the creativity and scholarship of Victoria Fellows.

The Fellows Committee recommended renewals and nominations for new fellows and associates.

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

*Renewal (5-year term):*

David Wright (Victoria College)

*New nomination (5-year term):*

Ian Williams (English)

The motion was moved by A. Komaromi and seconded by A. Dhand. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

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

*Renewal (5-year term):*

John Duncan (Centre for Ethics)

Angus McQuibban (Biochemistry)

Mary Nyquist (English)

*New nominations (5-year term):*

Joseph Clarke (Art History)

Lee Emrich (Victoria College)

Rebecca Hogue (English)

Cory Lewis (IHPST, Victoria College)

Nick Mount (English)

Sebastian Sobecki (English / Centre for Medieval Studies)

The motion was moved by A. Komaromi and seconded by S. Joy. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

Nominations for 2023-2024 Junior Fellows will be accepted until August 15, 2023. Nominations should be submitted to [vic.principal@utoronto.ca](mailto:vic.principal@utoronto.ca) by August 15, 2023.

A. Komaromi thanked Fellows Committee members – A. Esterhammer, I. Wells, A. Urbancic, B. Havercroft, C. James, S. Dowling, A. Motsch, M. Solovey, and S. (Sherry) Lee – for their work during the past year.

**Discussion:** A query was made regarding the difference between Fellows and Associates. It was explained that historically the distinction had to do with one's office location. The majority of Fellows have offices at Victoria College. Fellows tend to have fuller engagement and serve on committees.

**8. Report of the Striking Committee (A. Komaromi)**

A. Komaromi presented the slate of VCC committee members from the Striking Committee (attached). The committee met on March 28, 2023, to review faculty's committee preferences.

**MOTION** to accept the 2023-2024 slate for Victoria College Council Committee nominees as presented.

The motion was moved by A. Komaromi and seconded by S. Joy. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

A. Komaromi thanked members of the Striking Committee – J. Hamilton-Diabo, S. (Sooyeon) Lee, A. Esterhammer, and G. Kim.

**Discussion:** A question was asked if there could be more student representatives on the Academic Committee. A. Esterhammer responded that this was discussed at the last Striking Committee meeting. It was suggested that additional students could be added as co-opted members as alternatives when elected student members are unavailable to attend a meeting. This would increase the likelihood of student representation at meetings.

**9. Report of the Research Committee (A. Urbancic)**

A. Urbancic reported the results of the winter round and year-end of Victoria College grants.

| Fall Term                       |              | Winter Term                     |              | Academic Year                   |               |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Conference Travel Grants</b> |              | <b>Conference Travel Grants</b> |              | <b>Conference Travel Grants</b> |               |
| Grants Requested                | 6            | Grants Requested                | 11           | Grants Requested                | 17            |
| Grants Awarded                  | 6            | Grants Awarded                  | 10           | Grants Awarded                  | 16            |
| Amount Requested                | \$ 7,734.00  | Amount Requested                | \$ 15,344.68 | Amount Requested                | \$ 23,078.68  |
| Amount Awarded                  | \$ 6,734.00  | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 13,844.68 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 20,578.68  |
| <b>Research Grants</b>          |              | <b>Research Grants</b>          |              | <b>Research Grants</b>          |               |
| Grants Requested                | 7            | Grants Requested                | 7            | Grants Requested                | 14            |
| Grants Awarded                  | 6            | Grants Awarded                  | 7            | Grants Awarded                  | 13            |
| Amount Requested                | \$ 20,500.00 | Amount Requested                | \$ 20,265.61 | Amount Requested                | \$ 40,765.61  |
| Amount Awarded                  | \$ 17,500.00 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 18,465.61 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 35,965.61  |
| <b>Publication Grants</b>       |              | <b>Publication Grants</b>       |              | <b>Publication Grants</b>       |               |
| Grants Requested                | 7            | Grants Requested                | 4            | Grants Requested                | 11            |
| Grants Awarded                  | 5            | Grants Awarded                  | 4            | Grants Awarded                  | 9             |
| Amount Requested                | \$ 32,805.83 | Amount Requested                | \$ 11,822.50 | Amount Requested                | \$ 44,628.33  |
| Amount Awarded                  | \$ 12,805.83 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 11,822.50 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 24,628.33  |
| <b>TOTAL GRANTS Fall 2022</b>   |              | <b>TOTAL GRANTS Winter 2023</b> |              | <b>TOTAL GRANTS 2022-2023</b>   |               |
| Grants Requested                | 20           | Grants Requested                | 22           | Grants Requested                | 42            |
| Grants Awarded                  | 17           | Grants Awarded                  | 21           | Grants Awarded                  | 38            |
| Amount Requested                | \$ 61,039.83 | Amount Requested                | \$ 47,432.79 | Amount Requested                | \$ 108,472.62 |
| Amount Awarded                  | \$ 37,039.83 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 44,132.79 | Amount Awarded                  | \$ 81,172.62  |

| TOTAL GRANTS Remaining 2022-2023      |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Conference and Research Grants</b> |              |
| Amount Available                      | \$ 45,000.00 |
| Amount (Special Allocation)           | \$ 11,550.00 |
| Amount Granted (Fall)                 | \$ 24,234.00 |
| Amount Granted (Winter)               | \$ 32,310.29 |
| Amount Remaining                      | \$ 5.71      |
| <b>Publication Grants</b>             |              |
| Amount Available                      | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Amount Granted (Fall)                 | \$ 12,805.83 |
| Amount Granted (Winter)               | \$ 11,822.50 |
| Amount Remaining                      | \$ 25,371.67 |

A. Urbancic explained that usually in each academic year \$45,000 is available for conference and travel. Due to a one-time-only special allocation from funds remaining during COVID, this year’s Research Committee was able to fund more grants. A total of 38 out of 42 grant applications were awarded.

A. Urbancic thanked faculty members of this year’s Research Committee and administrative staff in the Principal’s Office for their support – J. LeBlanc, C.P. Yeang, K. Vold, A. Esterhammer, G. Kim, and H. Ulfing.

**10. Report of the Office of the Registrar & Academic Advising (A. Esterhammer)**

R. Kanga Fonseca, Acting Registrar, was unable to attend the VCC meeting. A. Esterhammer read the report on behalf of the Office of the Registrar & Academic Advising (ORAA):

Two rounds of offers were released to applicants prior to April 24, 2023. The third round of offers were released on April 24, 2023. A small fourth round of offers is expected to go out mid-May. A post-offer online reception was hosted for newly admitted students featured information about Vic first-year programs and experiences. Over 200 newly admitted students participated in the event. The ORAA scheduled Open Vic for June 18, 2023, as a fully in-person event on campus. Newly admitted students and families can visit the campus, meet with current students, staff and faculty, and learn a bit more about what to expect in September. Winter 2023 and Summer 2023 advising appointments and drop-in sessions continued to be in demand, both virtually and in-person. Advisors were busy supporting students through petitions, final exam deferrals, summer plans, and assessing students for June graduation. Approximately 640 students are expected to graduate from Victoria College on June 14, 2023, with HBA, HBSc and BCom degrees. Students with financial need can speak with staff in ORAA. A number of merit-based awards are available.

**11. Report of the Office of the Dean of Student (R. McEwen)**

R. McEwen presented the Office of the Dean of Students report on behalf of K. Castle with S. Johnston as a guest of VCC to answer any questions. The report provided an overview of 2022-2023:

The Office of the Dean of Students supervised 219 student leaders (30 Residence and Commuter Dons, 46 Mentors including E-mentors, 70 Orientation Leaders, 70 Ideas for the World Mentors, and 3 Student Life Interns). There was high turnout at events (Minding our Minds conference, Campus (Re)conciliations: Indigenous Issues in Higher Education conference, Life-After-Vic, and Vic Ready Bootcamp). There was also high student engagement on social media with a 20% increase of Instagram followers from the year before and 8,000 likes or comments. VUSAC election results included S. Joy as the incoming President. Looking to involve more faculty in regular programming and mentorship. There will be a conference with a special theme for the fall regarding abilities/disabilities and access.

President McEwen added Iakoiehwáhtha (Iako) Patton Vic 2T3 also received a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University.

A. Esterhammer announced M. Kavalier and S. (Sherry) Lee sent their regrets and were unable to present their reports for the Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies and the Northrop Frye Centre, respectively.

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

Concluding Remarks: A. Esterhammer invited VCC members to the reception following the meeting to socialize and celebrate the end of the year.

The meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.