



MINUTES

Victoria College Council Meeting

April 9, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Alumni Hall

Attendance: D. Wright, A. Mortiz, J. Duncan, E. Kavalier, G. Kim, A. Esterhammer, M. Cichosz, E. Istrate, J. Hamilton-Diabo, S. Joy, R. Davidson, K. Bartlett, K. Castle, I. Williams, A. Sol, S. Lee, C. Lewis, H. Barseghyan, J. DeSilva, I. Mather, S. Mutch, I. Wells, A. Urbancic, A. Keith, J. Papayiannis, L. Ingallinella, L. Somigli, W. Robins, C. Murphy, J. Yun, K. Mochina, M. Barath, E. Jagoe, M. Kavalier,

Regrets: L. Dacome, J. Forgie, I. Kalmar, A. Motsch, M. Scarci, L. Sherlock

Guest: D. Michaud

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by the Chair, A. Esterhammer.

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

Principal Esterhammer greeted VCC members and began the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2024 (attached)

MOTION: To accept the minutes without changes.

The motion was moved by A. Urbancic and seconded by E. Istrate. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

3. Report of the President (R. McEwen)

President McEwen had items to report regarding space and construction on campus, the Victoria College Principals Search, and thanks for a productive year at Victoria University. Construction on the Goldring Centre has started and is expected to be completed in the late summer of 2024. The Office of the Registrar and the Writing Centre will join Dean of Students in the Goldring Centre in time for the fall semester. The Vic Chapel and Birge-Carnegie Library will begin renovations in the summer of 2024. President McEwen extends gratitude all staff and faculty for their efforts to accommodate the much-needed renovations by finding alternative spaces for events, activities, and classes in the coming academic years. The Vic Chapel should be finished in 12 months, while Birge-Carnegie Library is anticipated to take up to 2 years to complete. The Communications team will start a website to keep the community updated on the progress of the projects. President McEwen again extends thanks to those who have shown flexibility in the face of disruptions to both shared and personal space. President McEwen reported that the Victoria College Principal's search continues steadily. The position generated a huge amount of interest, and the applicant pool is incredibly strong. The committee has shortened the list to ensure the new position will be hired by June of 2024. This is an incredibly difficult process as there are so many excellent candidates. President McEwen extended thanks to the community for a wonderful ramp up and operational recovery after the pandemic. This was a successful winter term, as well, with record Scholars-in-Residence participants and a well-attended Research Day. These are only a few of the events that have stood out, as it has been a generative year. Finally, President McEwen recognized A. Esterhammer's final Victoria College Council meeting and last session as the Council Chair. She spoke to Angela's passion for the students and place of Victoria College. She remarked that A. Esterhammer is a tremendous leader who carries

on and expands a tradition of excellence at Victoria College. A final reception celebrating A. Esterhammer will take place on June 4, 2024 at 4:00pm. President McEwen also extended thanks to A. Urbancic for all her service for Victoria College and the Victoria College Council as it was also her last meeting before retirement. A. Urbancic led the Research Committee and served previously as the Academic Programs Director and is a distinguished professor.

4. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)

Principal Esterhammer provided the following report:

1. **Year-end academic events:** Highlights since the last VCC meeting include Research Day held on March 25, which showcased the research achievements of students in all fields in poster sessions, talks, and panel discussions, and the Vic One Year-End Dinner on March 27, which filled Burwash Hall with over 200 Vic One students, professors, and staff celebrating their experience in Vic One.
2. **UTQAP review of the Literature and Critical Theory:** External assessors visited in early February to review LCT together with the graduate Centre for Comparative Literature. The external review report is expected to be finalized soon and the programs will have a chance to discuss its recommendations.
3. **CLTA appointment in Education & Society (Social Justice Education):** Four campus interviews were held with short-list candidates last month. Due to a confluence of circumstances, the decision was made to defer a full-time appointment to next academic year. Nevertheless, it was a very positive process thanks to the conscientious work of the advisory committee, the intensive involvement of students, and the tremendous coordination work by Grase Kim. We are confident that the experience will help us staff E&S courses with excellent instructors next year in anticipation of a full-time appointment effective 2025.
4. **Centre for Creativity:** The Victoria University Centre for Creativity is set to launch in May as a hub for events, conferences, and research projects that highlight creativity in the arts, media, technology, and society. Prof. Adam Sol, who has agreed to serve as Launch Director, is taking the lead in planning a launch event called “Art, Technology, and the Body: A Convergence” on May 9-10. The event will include sample work from a variety of contributors and fields, and a panel with a scientist, an artist/writer, and a performer discussing creativity from the perspective of their various disciplines. It will involve this year’s Scholars-in-Residence from all three campuses; all faculty, students, and staff are welcome to take part. A second launch event is planned for the last week of June, during the Toronto Jazz Festival which will again take place on the Vic campus. This will be an opportunity for an outward-facing announcement to the wider community.

5. Report of the Dean of Students (K. Castle) | *Last minute addition*

K. Castle announced that the Dean’s Advisory Committee has set up a lunch event on April 24, 2024 from 11:00am - 1:00pm in Alumni Hall to discuss the recent signing of the Okanagan Charter. K. Castle passed around a sign-up sheet for Victoria College Council members to sign up.

6. Interim Report of the EDI Working Group (S. Joy, G. Kim, J. Hamilton-Diabo)

G. Kim reported that this is the second year of the EDI Working Group. After planning meetings in June, August, and September, an open call for students to nominate themselves for the Working Group (through VUSAC, Program Coordinators, Strand Articles) was sent out in October. S. Joy reported that the membership of the resulting Working Group consisted of 14 students representing Victoria College programs and VUSAC, 4 co-chairs (Director of Administration, VUSAC President, Special Advisor on Indigenous Issues, and Director of Equity, Inclusion & Transformative Practices). J. Hamilton-Diabo reported that discussions included drafting a Terms of Reference document, having program EDI information more visible on the website, and interest in a

dialogue with Program Coordinators to hear program updates to ask questions. The final wrap-up meeting will be on April 15, 2024 with the co-chairs.

7. Report of the VUSAC (S. Joy)

S. Joy reported VUSAC has been working diligently to bring a strong finish to the semester. After several hours of meetings to discuss amendments to the Constitution, Council Policies, Elections and Referenda Code, and Budget Steering Policy, VUSAC was finally able to complete its annual governing document review process in March. Eat After Eight, VUSAC's partnership to divert leftover meals from Burwash Dining Hall, continues to go well. Representatives from VUSAC and the Emmanuel College Student Society are meeting on a monthly basis to share knowledge concerning events on campus. Very recently, VUSAC, VOICES, and VicPride! submitted the proposal for an award that we hope to establish for students in the 2SLGBTIAQ+ community. S. Joy reported that VUSAC's end-of-semester budget utilization rate was 85.9%. VUSAC's events this semester have also been very successful. VUSAC hosted its Joint Council Meeting to ratify the results of the Spring 2024 Election cycle; the overall vote count was 462 out of 4,225 voters, which is 10.93% of the student body. As VUSAC finishes up the month of April, S. Joy reports that he will be working on writing a transition report and transitioning his successor, J. Wu, into her role as the President for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Discussion: A. Esterhammer extends thanks to S. Joy for his services as VUSAC President. She commented that he demonstrated great advocacy for students and extends best wishes for her his future endeavours.

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

I. Wells provided an update from the Academic Committee, which entailed changes that were approved in the 2023-24 governance cycle. These changes included the creation of the following courses across the Winter and Spring Governance term:

- CRE272H1: Song, Lyrics and Songwriting
- MCS226H1: The Materiality of Magic: Sorcery, Spells, Devotion and Divination
- MCS331H1: The Materiality of Information
- REN240H1: The Renaissance in Italy (re-coded version of REN240Y1 The Civilization of Renaissance Europe)
- REN244H1: The Renaissance in Europe and the World (re-coded version of REN240Y1 The Civilization of Renaissance Europe)
- VIC150H1: Theory and Practice of Teaching: Theoretical Perspectives
- VIC151H1: Theory and Practice of Teaching: Professional Practices
- VIC152H1: School and Society: Historical and Contemporary Contexts
- VIC153H1: School and Society: Equity and Social Justice in Education (Recoded versions of VIC150Y1 and VIC151Y1, which have been retired)

In addition, I. Wells extended thanks to members of the Academic Committee for their work this academic year. He reported confidence that the new courses will serve students well and the recoded courses will allow for greater staffing flexibility, while also making courses more accessible for students.

9. Report of the Fellows Committee (A. Urbancic) (on behalf of the A. Komaromi)

A. Urbancic thanked all the Fellows who participated in Victoria College events this academic year.

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.

Nomination to be Fellows (5-year term):

Maria Cichosz, Jennifer DeSilva, Robert McGill, Noor Naga, and Joanna Papayiannis

Renewal of Fellows for a 5-year term:

Willi Goetschel, Cara Krmpotich

Renewal of Fellows with Permanent Fellow Status:

Susan Antebi, Arti Dhand, Sarah Dowling, Sherry Lee, Paul Stevens, Shaun Ross, Ira Wells

The motion was moved by A. Urbancic and seconded by E. Istrate. The motion was passed *nem. Con.* Abstention from E. Jagoe.

Nomination to be Associates (5-year term):

David Chariandy, Lindsay Montgomery, John Stinchcombe and Imre Szeman

Renewal of Associates (5-year term):

Ken Derry, Ivan Fernandez, Adam Hammond, Alex Hernandez, John Noyes, Trevor Moraes, Justin Nodwell, Alexander Palazzo, Matthew Sergi, Misha Teramura, Cathie Sutton

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

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

Discussion: A. Esterhammer says that the Fellows Committee conscientiously looked at the renewed and permanently appointed Fellows. D. Wright asked why Fellows' tenures are voted on if they are designated as permanent. A. Esterhammer clarified that the motion allows for termed-Fellows to move to Permanent Fellow Status.

10. Report of the Striking Committee (J. Hamilton-Diabo)

J. Hamilton-Diabo presented the slate of VCC committee members from the Striking Committee (attached). The committee met on March 25, 2024, to review faculty's committee preferences.

MOTION to accept the 2024-2025 slate for Victoria College Council Committee nominees as presented.

The motion was moved by J. Hamilton-Diabo and seconded by M. Kavalier. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

11. Report of the Research Committee (A. Urbancic)

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

Victoria College Grants - VCC - April 2024

Fall Term

Conference Travel Grants	
Grants Requested	9
Grants Awarded	8
Amount Requested	\$ 12,962.54
Amount Awarded	\$ 11,462.54

Research Grants	
Grants Requested	7
Grants Awarded	3
Amount Requested	\$ 19,331.76
Amount Awarded	\$ 8,131.76

Publication Grants	
Grants Requested	5
Grants Awarded	4
Amount Requested	\$ 32,404.81
Amount Awarded	\$ 27,424.81

TOTAL GRANTS Fall 2023	
Grants Requested	21
Grants Awarded	15
Amount Requested	\$ 64,699.11
Amount Awarded	\$ 47,019.11

TOTAL GRANTS Remaining 2023-2024	
Conference and Research Grants	
Amount Available	\$ 45,000.00
Amount (Special Allocation)	\$ 2,000.00
Amount Granted (Fall)	\$ 19,594.30
Amount Granted (Winter)	\$ 27,314.73
Amount Remaining	\$ 90.97
Publication Grants	
Amount Available	\$ 50,000.00
Amount Granted (Fall)	\$ 27,424.81
Amount Granted (Winter)	\$ 22,313.00
Amount Remaining	\$ 262.19

Winter Term

Conference Travel Grants	
Grants Requested	15
Grants Awarded	8
Amount Requested	\$ 22,016.56
Amount Awarded	\$ 10,594.73

Research Grants	
Grants Requested	9
Grants Awarded	7
Amount Requested	\$ 26,640.00
Amount Awarded	\$ 16,720.00

Publication Grants	
Grants Requested	7
Grants Awarded	5
Amount Requested	\$ 36,130.00
Amount Awarded	\$ 22,313.00

TOTAL GRANTS Spring 2024	
Grants Requested	31
Grants Awarded	20
Amount Requested	\$ 84,786.56
Amount Awarded	\$ 49,627.73

Academic Year

Conference Travel Grants	
Grants Requested	24
Grants Awarded	16
Amount Requested	\$ 34,979.10
Amount Awarded	\$ 22,057.27

Research Grants	
Grants Requested	16
Grants Awarded	10
Amount Requested	\$ 45,971.76
Amount Awarded	\$ 24,851.76

Publication Grants	
Grants Requested	12
Grants Awarded	9
Amount Requested	\$ 68,534.81
Amount Awarded	\$ 49,737.81

TOTAL GRANTS 2023-2024	
Grants Requested	52
Grants Awarded	35
Amount Requested	\$ 149,485.67
Amount Awarded	\$ 96,646.84

In addition, A. Urbancic thanked faculty members of this year's Research Committee and administrative staff in the Principal's Office for their support.

Discussion: A. Esterhammer extended gratitude to A. Urbancic and reflected that this is an impressive amount of grants.

12. Report of the Registrar's Office (Y. Ali)

To begin, Y. Ali spoke to the search for an EDI Academic Advisor. This role will provide holistic support addressing academic, financial, and other issues impacting student success. The EDI Academic Advisor will develop, implement, and assess the VOLTS (Victoria Opportunities for Leaders in STEM) program. She explained that VOLTS is a program intended to recruit and support underrepresented students with a focus on Black and Indigenous communities, in pursuing STEM education and careers. VOLTS has partnered with Lifelong Learning Institute (60 students involved), Success Beyond Limits (70 students involved), Vision of Science (50 students involved), Temerty Faculty of Medicine Discover Program (80 students involved), and UofT BIPOC Recruitment Event (45 students involved). Y. Ali also reported events for BIPOC students had gone well during the 2023-2024 academic year. She also reported that the Registrar's Office recorded 552 Transition Out appointments. She finished by explaining that Transition Out appointments are part of VIC Ready, a partnership program with

the Office of the Dean of Students meant to empower students for life after Vic through reflection, exploration, and skill development. Transition Out appointments also have Law School Intensive and Med School Intensive streams.

13. Report of the Northrop Frye Centre (R. Davidson)

R. Davidson reported a record year for the Northrop Frye Centre. Overall, more community members are engaged with the Centre, use the space, and recognize the brand of the Centre. He highlighted two particularly successful events from the Winter term: Mary Chapman’s lecture, which saw a record number of community attendees; and the inaugural Sally Katary Memorial Lecture delivered by Alison Kieth. R. Davidson extended gratitude to A. Esterhammer for reactivating the Northrop Frye Centre at the beginning of her tenure. Gratitude was also extended to H. Birss and W. Thorne from the Principal’s Office for their support of the Northrop Frye Centre throughout this academic year.

14. Report of Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies (E. Kavalier)

E. Kavalier began his report by promoting two upcoming events: a Working Group Colloquium titled “The Arts in the Post-Tridentine Era: Histories and Historiographies in Transition” on Friday, April 12, 2024 from 8:30am – 4:30pm in Alumni Hall; and a conference titled “Craft and Crafting in the Early Modern World” co-hosted by the CRRS and Yale’s USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute on May 3 and 4, 2024. E. Kavalier expressed enthusiasm for the success of both the graduate and undergraduate Renaissance studies conferences in 2023-2024. In addition, he presented new acquisitions, including *Büchsenmeisterey* (a book focused on artillery) and a bound set of three books which featured copper plate engravings.

15. 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 adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Adam Sol motioned to adjourn.