

Victoria College Council
Minutes of meeting of February 11 2019
4-6pm in Alumni Hall

Attendance: A. Esterhammer (Chair), W. Robins, Y. Ai, A. Baines, K. Castle, D. Cook, R. Davidson, E. Istrate, M. Kavaler, A. Moritz, N. Rodriguez, S. Rupp, A. Urbancic, M. Vicedo, R. Vipond, I, Wells, S. Ross, P. Kutasi, C. Davies, L, Faria, A. Wong

Regrets: S. Munjic, E. Istrate, H. Murray, B., Havercroft, A. Keith, A. Perez-Leroux, B. Stock, D. Benjamin, K. Bartlett, N. Terpstra, R. Le Huenen, R. Sarabia, M. Solovey, J. Ross, J. Zilcosky, E. Jennings, D. Wright. P. Gooch, A. Kothari, S. Kothari, D. Thakkar, C. Wong

The meeting was called to order at 4:13pm by Chair, A. Esterhammer

1. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of October 1, 2018 (attached)

The minutes of November 19, 2018 were accepted.

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

2. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

3. Guest speakers - Isabelle Kim (Director) and Katie Boomgaardt (Academic Initiatives Lead Coordinator), Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP)

- The mission of the CCP is to work in partnership with students, faculty, and community organizations to sustain socially-responsive community-engaged learning and research initiatives; work as active creators of knowledge and encourage student flourishing beyond university
- Community Engaged Learning: the community and university coming together so that there is mutual respect and reciprocity
 - Support and build capacity for students to engage in community-engaged research; e.g. classroom visit by community partner, student-initiated site visit, group projects, independent study, placements, community-based research projects
 - Victoria Co-curriculars are good examples of CEL in action
 - CCP implements initiatives that are not just action-based, but also conversation-based, because listening can sometimes be the doing
- Community Kitchens project: chefs and social change agents talk about difficult social issues over cooking a meal together in kitchen spaces on and off campus
- Co-curricular programs:
 - Community Action Project (with Story Planet) – students work with under-resourced communities in Toronto, to run actual programming for young people in these communities; unique opportunity to build experience working with community organization and know what’s going on in city in which they study
 - Community-Initiative Grants for students: recognize that students are doing great work in their community already; CCP provides support to allow students to work with community organizations to work on project of choice
 - Are You Ready to Map the System? – learn more about social/enviro problem and map out the landscape to solve the problem, identify gaps/missing opportunities that can be integrated into program for positive change; students provided with 90 workshops throughout term toward the end goal of a research paper and visual project on how they worked through the problem; competition, top universities will go to national competition, Oxford in June for finals; U of T has the highest number of students to register for this program
- Different approaches
 - Placement-based (traditional Service Learning) that is short-term, international/local, or long-term
 - Research-focused (individual or group) that is either independent study or community-based action participatory

- Upcoming community-campus engagement events and opportunities:
 - Issues of Governance event will be held in City of Toronto Council Chambers – issues of governance through an Indigenous lens.
 - Human Library type event hosted at OISE for faculty, community partners – gives the chance to share the expertise of a book.
 - Faculty Institute on Partnerships event: partnership focus at an event for faculty
 - New Community-engaged teaching fellowship program launching May 1, 2019: faculty provided with \$2000 to support putting together a course for community-building
 - CEL course design and student placement support.
 - Grants for faculty.
 - Library cards (and orientation for how to use them and the resources at the university) for community partners.
 - www.ccp.utoronto.ca

A. Esterhammer emphasized how Vic programs such as Ideas for the World and academic programs are very much oriented towards the same goals/values as CCP and there are many opportunities for faculty to use the CCP.

S. Ross asked in regards to the Fellowship program: when faculty are creating a course, how/where does that course exist after it is created? The CCP members stated:

- Being a CCP Fellow gives access to the process of development, finding partnership, \$2000 for a year via CCP
- The course is listed on the CCP website as an example but would belong to your faculty/department
- CCP reports to the Provost for undergrad academics and student life division
- If you want to sign up for faculty newsletter or podcast, find on their webpage; they will send out a call for applications through the newsletter
- Looking for 5-8 fellows; this is a pilot project with the idea that fellows become resources when they return to their programs; looking for start course from scratch OR someone who's looking to develop something further

W. Robins encouraged colleagues to make good use of CCP resources. This is the direction in which we want to move, but people often don't know how to do it.

4. Report of the President (W. Robins)

The President reported on a number of items for the Council:

Provincial University funding announcement

- Domestic tuition will be cut by 10% as of next year and frozen for a year after; cut from the current levels, not projected ones (\$80-90,000 this coming year, and another \$20 mil years after). Vic and UofT are figuring out how to deal with this.
- Changes to incidental fees are concerning: we don't have a good sense of how it will play out; we have some instruction from Ministry what fees will be mandatory and what will be optional, but the categories are unclear.
- We are having discussions with UofT about how they will handle that to see how Vic could handle that; having people opting out could ultimately be detrimental to the student experience.
- Waiting on details for OSAP changes: the policy regarding families with less than \$50,000 income has been removed; we don't know exact details yet, but a considerable amount of money will be taken out of OSAP system; we have been looking at admissions awards for possible adjustments.
- These are all worrisome for university access advocates

A. Baines asked if there a way to monitor the impact of these changes on students? W. Robins believed it is difficult for us to do that; there is no way of modeling how many students will opt out; hard to do budgeting in that regard. There will be ways of monitoring the overall impact of OSAP changes.

Y. Ali noted that the number of bursary applications went down this year because of the free tuition, but we expect to see that rebound back to its previous state.

D. Cook asked if the VUSAC fee under attack. W. Robins said it is very clear that student government fees have to be optional; student media fees (*The Varsity/Strand*), as well.

K. Castle mentioned that students will opt-out prior to paying fees, but students do not know enough about what they're missing prior to opting out. W Robins noted that Vic will work with U of T to clarify categorizations.

C. Davies asked if changes to scholarships and student loans may harm upper year students. W. Robins said that need is certainly not just for first-year students; we're still figuring it out, and we have to hear more about what the OSAP changes are.

Board issues

- Property Committee meeting about Northrop Frye Hall – we will have nothing new to report until we hear back from the city about what we're allowed to do on that site (work with an existing frame, or build something new?). This will take several months.

Report from VUSAC: "Renaming Ryerson"

- Proposal to change names of Ryerson House (Lower Burwash) and Ryerson Stream of Vic One (both named after Egerton Ryerson).
- Egerton Ryerson drafted a report in 1847 about Residential Schooling for Indigenous youth – because of that connection, proposed to change names.
- Name change of the House is being taken seriously by the Executive Committee, who are discussing the proper way of continuing the discussion; they will consult with Vic community on this issue.
- Name change of the Ryerson Stream does not fall under Board's review, but falls within Principal's authority – the Principal received the report last week, so over the next few weeks will consult with W. Robins and others.
- The VUSAC report is available on their website.

D. Cook asked if Queen Victoria's name came up for a possible change. W. Robins said no; the issue is more with the government than the Crown.

Reviews

- The Library received a very positive review in the Fall. The Board re-appointed Lisa Sherlock as the Chief Librarian for 5-year term
- Dean of Students Office – will get that review in a few weeks.
- Human Resources at Vic University – review just occurred.
- Finance Department – review will start in next month.

SSHRC applications

- We do not have a robust division of research services (W. Robins is the division); we encourage you to apply but give us ample time; happy to provide other kinds of support.
- A. Esterhammer says it would be helpful to have a group to review applications.
- Encourage you to write requests into SSHRC applications for undergraduate research.

"Vic Next"

- We previously discussed pilot programs to support student transitions out of university – hope to have such a program (called "Vic Next") by September 2019. We see an opportunity for mentorship, as well.
- It is being discussed by the Dean of Students, Registrar, Director of Alumni Affairs, and the Principal.

Joint recruitment events coming up

- The President will be going to Hong Kong in March, and Edmonton and Halifax in April.

March 15th – Conference in honour of Brian Stock

March 16th – Natalie Davis career celebration

March 17th – two sessions of Renaissance Society of America Conference, and one celebrating Konrad Eisenbichler

- All three events will be held in Vic

The President gave his congratulations to former Principal Sandy Johnsyon, who received Order of Canada.

Congratulations to Vic student Edil Ga'al, on winning a Rhodes scholarship.

5. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)

The Principal made her report to the Council:

Scholars-in-Residence: The student application period is now open for the May 2019 session of SiR; the deadline for applications is February 22. We are planning for 100 students who will take part in 20 faculty-led research projects at UTM, UTSC, and the St. George campus. This year's fascinating line-up of diverse research projects can be found on the website of the Jackman Humanities Institute that coordinates the application process. Although all Colleges as well as UTM and UTSC now participate in SiR, the program remains centered at Vic, with Ira Wells as the program manager working with me as program director. Ira has been publicizing SiR very widely. Please encourage students you think would be well suited to an intensive summer research residency in the humanities and social sciences to learn more about SiR and to apply. You may have received requests already to serve as a reference for applicants; this is not an onerous task, since referees will only be contacted for short-listed students and full reference letters are not required.

UTQAP program reviews. Four Victoria College Minor programs will be reviewed together in the 2019-2020 cycle: Creative Expression & Society, Education & Society, Material Culture, and Semiotics. The process begins very early and in fact it has already started. As Program Coordinators know, self-studies for these programs are due to the Faculty of Arts & Science by late summer, so the process is already underway to get input from program students and faculty before the end of the current semester. If you are teaching or studying in these programs, you'll soon receive some combination of student surveys, invitations to a faculty meeting to discuss input into the self-study, and requests to faculty for updated CVs. The UTQAP review process is mandatory university-wide and FAS is currently using it to orient all academic planning, so it is vital that we address these reviews conscientiously. They provide an opportunity for Victoria College to reflect on the programs, some of which are still quite new, and on the way we want them to evolve. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance with this important process.

Victoria College Fellows and VCC Committees: The Fellows Committee recently met; it will be working to bring a set of recommendations of new Fellows and Associates and renewal appointments to Council for approval at its next meeting on April 29.

We depend on Victoria College Fellows to steer the academic and co-curricular life of the College through service on VCC committees. Before the next Council meeting, the annual request will go out to Fellows to indicate which committees you are interested in serving on next year, and this information will help the Striking Committee prepare a list of nominations. Most VCC committees have met or will be meeting this semester for an informal review of their mandates. I would like to emphasize how important – and interesting – it is to take an active part in governance through working with VCC committees, and how much we depend on your help for such tasks as evaluating submissions for student awards and prizes on the Awards and Prizes Committee, or for faculty research grants on the Research Committee, or helping to plan activities for Fellows and Associates on the Fellows Committee, or representing Victoria College on the Board of Regents or Senate Executive. We look forward to receiving your enthusiastic replies when the call for committee preferences goes out next month.

In addition to events planned by the Northrop Frye Centre and the CRRS, there are events organized by the Fellows Committee coming up that I encourage you to attend: Fellows Lunch Colloquia; the Victoria University Book Launch on April 3; as well as Student Research Day on Monday, April 1. Further details about all these events will be circulated by e-mail.

S. Rupp asked if and why the program reviews being clustered with one another. A. Esterhammer said yes, we're hoping that it will make the process less labour-intensive.

A. Moritz asked what is this review's relation to external people vs. internal people. A. Esterhammer said faculty from other universities are coming to do a review (three reviewers this time because of the cluster). This is not for accreditation like a professional program, but it is for quality assurance and help us all think about program development.

S. Rupp clarified that the province requires these reviews, but does not worry about the details; delegates it to the universities. U of T Quality Assurance is internal because it reports to the Academic Board, but the process itself is monitored by the external council.

6. Report of the Dean of Students (K. Castle)

The Dean made her report to the Council:

- There is a Dean's Advisory Committee to the Board to Regents due to the reconfiguration of the Board's subcommittees.
- Moving towards student success conversations with Registrar's Office and in partnership with the Principal's Office – on CV writing, career opportunities, etc.
- Since last VCC meeting, the Dean went to do a training session of behavioural intervention teams (those with different backgrounds and deal with high-risk students); UofT would benefit from that structure to respond for high-risk.
- The tenth anniversary of Humanities for Humanities before the holidays was a great success.
- This time of year is a difficult time for students (stress, self-harm, depression, and anxiety) – Registrar's Office and Dean's Office have personal and career counsellors, accessibility advisor, writing centre – remind students about the services offered.
- Conference on Feb 28th: Loneliness and Anxiety – focus on first generation aboriginal students; keynote is Marissa Korda, founder for Loneliness Project.
- Changes in the office – Scott Johnston replaces Krista Steeves' role; lots of other office role changes.

A. Moritz asked if this is it a hard time of year rhythmically or this year in particular? K. Castle said this was rhythmically, because of midterms. Y. Ali added that October is also a difficult time, as is March. K. Castle added that we have received more cases than last year, but very anecdotal so couldn't say for sure. We frequently get phone calls from faculty about students missing from class or concerns about student behaviour; helps us be more pro-active in reaching out to students who aren't in the headspace to reach out to us. The Dean's Office have a lot more policies that direct students to us; e.g. mandatory withdrawal for mental health, which has had interesting effects – students were scared to talk to someone about mental health because afraid of being withdrawn from university.

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

The Academic Director reported to the Council:

- Over the past two weeks, the college has proposed 9 new courses through the appropriate FAS curriculum meetings.
- Just getting the course to the curriculum meeting phase represents a great deal of work from the Victoria College Academic Committee, and from many of our colleagues over the last several months – so thank you very much.

First Year Foundations (FYF)

- Just this afternoon, the College proposed 4 new courses as part of FYF program, a new, Faculty-wide initiative to bring small-seminar courses to every unit.
- Vic's four FYF courses are all VIC100 courses, and will listed under our existing VIC100 courses. Also advertised as part of the Faculty's broader FYF initiative.
 - **VIC196: Thinking With Things** – a gateway course to material culture program which includes experiential learning component with collections on and around the U of T.
 - **VIC197: Evaluating Healthcare: Problems and Solutions** – about how different methodologies impact how healthcare research is conceived, reported, and understood.
 - **VIC198: Scientific Evidence in Public Policy** - translation of scientific evidence for public consumption, including in the development of public policy and in confronting problems of social and global significance.
 - **VIC 199: Science, Pseudo-Science, and Non-Science: What's the Difference?** – topical course in our age of so-called fake news which explores epistemological questions rooted in the philosophy of science.

Two new Renaissance Studies courses were proposed:

VIC442: the Renaissance Book. This is offered in partnership with the CRRS; it has successfully been offered as Special Topics course.

VIC242: Scientific Worldviews of the Renaissance.

Three Innovation themed courses were proposed:

VIC235: Innovation and Society – provides students with critical frameworks for thinking about “innovation in social, scientific, and environmental challenges.

VIC335: Ethical Enterprise – aims to develop critical perspectives on enterprises and think about the limits of social responsibility in entrepreneurial creativity.

VIC435: Community Engaged Research Capstone - We hope to consult with CCP. Students develop research-based approaches to support their organization in assessed needs or impact, combined with the critical reflection and academic discussion employed in all of our existing Capstone courses.

These courses will diversify offerings in our Creative Expression and Society program, while attracting students from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds.

- These courses have been proposed through the Faculty. In some cases, we’ve had specific questions around prerequisites and in one case, breadth requirements – through we are confident that our course offerings next year will include these courses.
- Thanks to all faculty for their participation in the new Course Information System (CIS) Marking Scheme too. Victoria has been involved with a pilot project.
- The period to submit jobs through Summer Work Study – Due March 8th
- The deadline to submit applications for the UofT Excellence Awards (UETA) is Friday, March 15.

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

M Kavalier updated the Council:

- March is the busiest month for the CRRS
- CRRS is able to have more events than previously because of assistant to the director, Natalie Oeltjen, who has done a great job at community communications.

Events for CRRS

- March 15 conference arranged by undergrad students; grad students meet 4-5 times a year for their conferences; post-grad fellows have formed a colloquium and will meet in April.
- Working group (supported by Vic) is about Islam and the West, run by post-doc and a fellow.
- March 17-19 Renaissance Society of America Conference; CRRS involvement in their sessions, and will also organize their own sessions at Vic; grateful for Vic which will host many of these events
- March 20-22: Distinguished Visiting Scholar from King’s College London: speaking on travel and Early Modern Arctic Disaster
- April 26-27 Rulers on Display – in collaboration with a German university.

9. Northrop Frye Centre update (R. Davidson)

R. Davidson updated the Council:

- Doctoral fellows presentations are happening starting this week (Feb 13) on Wednesdays, 4-5pm (February 27, March 6, March 20)
- NFC Fellowship applications will be circulated in coming weeks, the deadline is mid-April
- We want to expand such that faculty research projects are affiliated with the centre; will be reaching out
- NFC was written into a research grant; Spring 2020 workshop/conference on taste

10. VUSAC activities and initiatives update (J. Jones)

C Davies (Academic Commissioner) delivered update in J Jones’ place:

- Student events: Winter Fest, annual semi-formal, comedy show, art at the intersections, Equity Committee organizing for Black History Month, Blue Monday event (students at York University conference today), Gardiner Gala, Networking dinner, recent summer opportunities session (grateful for collaboration with I. Wells and S. Ross), weekly brunches for Vic students

- SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder: depression during winter months); mental wellness commissioner organizing renting out lamps to students during coming weeks
- Free menstrual product distribution in Goldring Student Centre in coming weeks.
- Nominations for VUSAC elections Feb 15
- Over 30 clubs supported by finances
- VUSAC worked on Renaming Ryerson proposal since July, in response to student concerns about name closely associated with residential school system (find the report on vusac.ca/renamingryerson) – if interested in signing petition, it is on website.
- Senate also received proposal and directed it to Principal's Office.
- Grateful for Vic offices and community for being receptive.
- VUSAC released statement on vusac.ca/statements regarding the provincial government tuition announcement; VUSAC stands in opposition to changes in OSAP; involved in rally in Queen's Park.

W. Robins expressed worry about what the cuts will do to student life after hearing about all the events VUSAC organizes. There is a limit on how much money VUSAC can carry over one year to the next - is there flexibility to cushion for next year? C. Davies responded that VUSAC do sometimes carry over surplus (last year there was a \$30,000 carry-over). Since students in VUSAC are temporary, VUSAC tries to spend budget within the same year; but can speak to Finance because of the current special circumstances

11. Other Business

S. Rupp noted that Vic is now bargaining with CUPE units responsible for sessional lecturers and TAs employed by Vic University and is expected to be done by late March, early April.

R. Vipond asked in regard to the President's report, the recruitment itinerary, specifically Hong Kong – do we know the extent to which Canadian-Chinese relations will affect recruitment of international students. A. Esterhammer said Arts & Science deals with recruitment directly. There is a pattern of applications from Chinese students (not just in China, but also in Canada) and we have not seen any change so far. All of U of T has been aware of reliance on China for international students; attempt to diversify that pool is ongoing, but is all the more important now.

Y. Ali said there is concern that admitted students will not get their visas in time should something happen in the summer. This happened earlier this year to one group, including the Beijing Exchange.

The meeting ended at 5:45pm. Moved by S. Rupp and seconded by M. Kavalier; adjourned.