

Victoria College Council
Minutes of meeting of April 29 2019
2-4pm in VC304

Attendance: A. Esterhammer (Chair), W. Robins, Y. Ali, K. Bartlett, K. Castle, D. Cook, R. Davidson, P. Gooch, E. Istrate, J. LeBlanc, A. Moritz, S. Rupp, L. Sherlock, M. Solovey, A. Urbancic, M. Vicedo, I. Wells, C. Bruun, S. Ross, A. Philips, L. Faria, A. Ballis, K. Samsel, and P. Kutasi

Regrets: D. Wright, B. Baigrie, R. Sarabia, Y. Cleovoulou, R. Le Huenen, A. Hood, J. Zilcosky, B. Havercroft, D. Benjamin, L. Dacome, H. Murray, S. Nigosian, N. Terpstra, A. Perez-Leroux, A. Keith, and C. Davies

Guests: E. Greenleaf

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Chair, A. Esterhammer

1. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of February 29, 2019 (attached)

The minutes of February 29, 2019 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 – Office of the Registrar at Victoria University - Yvette Ali, Registrar; Emily Greenleaf, Associate Registrar

The Registrar gave a presentation to the Council outlining their services. Serving 3,500 Arts & Science students, the Office is a touchpoint during their time at Vic from recruitment, to graduation, and beyond. The Office is focused on supporting students as they navigate their academic experiences. The Office provides proactive, integrated, holistic, and developmental support for the whole student. We assist students with all facets of their academic experience, whether that involves course selection, financial planning, or personal issues that affect their time at university.

Recruitment and Admissions

- Events and outreach so that students, parents and guidance counselors know what Vic has to offer
- Tours to showcase campus
- Particular focus, in line with Presidential Priorities, to reach out to students currently underrepresented at Vic. For example, this year we launched the City Scholars program, which provides a scholarship and a range of additional supports to graduates of the Pathways to Education program. Pathways supports students in Toronto's priority neighbourhoods to complete high school and make the transition to university.

Academic Pursuits

- **Academic:** At Vic we have 1,150 one-on-one academic advising appointments to help students choose courses and programs, identify exciting academic opportunities, address academic difficulties, find support for other life events affecting their time at university, and plan their next steps after undergrad
- **Financial:** disburse hundreds of bursaries for students in financial need per year. Handing out close to 1,000 scholarships, including admissions, in course, grad, and waivers. An effort well spent as it has a significant impact and enables some students to be involved in extracurricular and study abroad.
 - Vic has the highest proportion of students in A&S who complete an international experience.
- **Learning support:** Manage a team of close to 15 learning support staff, including peer tutors, writing instructors, learning strategists, and an accessibility advisor. We work to provide integrated learning support that builds skills to prepare students to succeed in and after university. We share a lot of professional development and advice across the different kinds of expertise on our team.
- **Graduation:** Assess eligibility for graduation, and counsel students on meeting requirements if they're close
 - We arrange both graduation ceremonies as well as making arrangements for our honorary doctorates recipients

- Advising related to post-graduate studies and career-related pathways; developing a new position in this area

Case study: Emmanuel - a student with mental health issues was very anxious.

- Dean's Office connected him with counselling support and referred him to the Registrar's Office for academic support.
- Emmanuel's anxiety was focused on a couple of issues: though he'd been an excellent student in high school his marks weren't great, and that was getting in the way of his admission to a program he was really interested in, and he was concerned about his finances.
- As a first generation university student, Emmanuel didn't always know when and where to seek help with his courses and other concerns. I referred him to a Learning Strategist to discuss the problem of managing his academic workload and for support with notetaking and studying.
- We also talked about how to talk to his TAs and professors during office hours when he had questions about course material.
- We explore potential programs of study together and confirmed that several different options would allow him to obtain the necessary preparation for the graduate programs he is interested in.
- On the financial front, I helped Emmanuel put together a bursary application for his immediate needs. We also talked about opportunities to work on-campus so that he would spend less time commuting to and from work, and put together a plan to help him use the summer to build some key professional skills and earn enough for the next year.

Case Study Victoria - Victoria received a Vic admissions scholarship.

- The Registrar's Office hired Victoria to be a leader in a First-Year Learning Community (FLC).
- Victoria is an excellent student, she received the in-course scholarship every year, and great at explaining concepts to we hired her to be one of our Chemistry peer tutors. Victoria sorts our advice on options for studying abroad and research courses and opportunities.
- She was interested in lots of different potential pathways and opportunities, so we referred her to Vic's career educator in the Dean's Office to help her reflect on her priorities and connect her interests to different opportunities after university.
- She sought our advice on applying to grad school. Victoria was worried that her grades in her 2nd year, which were lower because her grandmother died would hurt her chances of admission. We gave Victoria advice on grad schools to consider and on preparing her application, helping her review admissions websites and draft a personal statement.

Upcoming initiatives

Advising Map:

- to capture the things for which students come to Registrar's office at different stages of their career
- prompt students to start thinking about issues or opportunities at different phases of their degree
- push to come into the office at various times to develop early and sustained relationship
- different things to consider in different phases of the student's career, giving students key resources and links

The Office is hiring for a new advising position: Assistant Registrar, Transition Out

- Targeted one-on-one and group advising on career and further education options and planning
- Professional development for the Registrar's Office team
- Collaboration on the transition-out projects across Vic

4. Report of the President (W. Robins)

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

- The President discussed the current state of Provincial cuts to student fees, with some focus on the Student Choice Initiative. The Vic leadership are in constant discussion with UofT leadership on developing a strategy to deal with the cuts.
- The settlement with CUPE collective bargaining for sessional staff, ratified by Board and by the CUPE unit
- Board of Regents Property Committee continued discussions with what can be done with the Northrop Frye building
- The new Director of Ancillary Services, Lyndon Nobre, starts May 1.

- Currently hiring for a new Director of Human Resources and Director of Communications for the University (new position)
- Hiring of Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo; he will teach in Emmanuel and Victoria, and advise the President on Indigenous issues
- President trips to Hong Kong and Beijing, renewal of Education and Society Program exchange agreement, meeting alumni and prospective students; Edmonton: meeting with Alumni and one prospective student
- May 9 - Emmanuel College Convocation, Honorary Doctorate to Mary Joe Leddy (Romero House/ Refugee rights)
- June 10 - Victoria College Convocation

D Cook asked the President about Isabelle Crook? The President visited Isabelle Crook in China. She is 103 years old and a retired faculty member. She is splitting her archives between Beijing Foreign Studies University and Vic.

The President Introduced the student representatives present at the meeting:

- Alexa Ballis, Incoming VUSAC president
- Outgoing student rep: Amara Phillips, VCC 2018-2019
- Returning student rep: Lucy Faria, VCC 2018-2019, 2019-2020
- Incoming student rep: Konrad Samsel, VCC 2019-2020

5. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)

The Principal reported to the Council:

UTQAP reviews of the Education & Society, Material Culture, Creative Expression & Society, and Semiotics programs: The first steps of the UTQAP process, including meetings with program faculty and surveys of students' experience in the programs, are going well and have been very informative. Together with program coordinators, we are starting to prepare the self-study documents.

Vic Research Day, where undergraduate students presented their research in conference talks and posters, was held on April 1 with Prof. Shaun Ross, Undergraduate Research Coordinator, as the lead organizer. On April 3 we held the **Victoria University Book Launch**, where faculty and Fellows displayed their book publications from the past two years. Thanks to everyone who participated in these stimulating events. We welcome feedback in preparation for next year.

Scholars-in-Residence will be starting a week from today, with 50 students participating in faculty-led research projects in humanities and social science on the Vic campus; 25 Scholars will be working at each of UTM and UTSC.

Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo will join Victoria University as of July 1, 2019 as June Callwood Professor in Social Justice at Victoria College and Assistant Professor of Theology at Emmanuel College. He will also serve as special advisor to the president on Indigenous issues. Jonathan comes from the role of Director of Indigenous Initiatives at the University of Toronto and Director of First Nations House; he also co-chaired U of T's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Steering Committee in 2016. He holds degrees in Education and Business Administration in addition to a Master's in Pastoral Studies from Emmanuel College. Jonathan is excited to be joining the Victoria University community and engaging with students in the classroom, and we are equally excited to work with him. At Victoria College, he will pilot a 400-level course on Community-Engaged Research.

A free workshop on **CBRET (Community Based Research Excellence Tool)** will be offered by Community Based Research Canada via the Centre for Community Partnerships on June 6, 10:00-4:00. It is intended primarily for faculty and community partners; anyone interested in attending should e-mail isabelle.kim@utoronto.ca at the CCP.

Education & Society program updates: This program is seeing some exciting changes. Yiola Cleovoulou has been serving as program coordinator while sharing her time between OISE and Vic; as of July, Yiola has been appointed to a full-time continuing position at OISE. We are in the process of making a full-time CLTA appointment of a new Teaching Stream professor and program coordinator. In addition, Dr. Rie Kijima, a specialist in International Education, will be joining U of T from Stanford University; she will hold an appointment based in the Munk School, and will also be available to teach in Education & Society. At the same time as we welcome these new faculty, the Combined Bachelor's/ Master's program with OISE is being implemented and the first candidate will graduate from

Education & Society and progress to graduate studies at OISE this June. A process of reviewing and expanding the Education & Society curriculum will continue next year as this is one of the programs undergoing a UTQAP review.

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

The Chief Librarian reported to Council

Library Acquisitions

Ann Saddlemeyer, former Master of Massey College, has donated her correspondence with the Irish poet Seamus Heaney, with whom she formed a friendship in 1972 which lasted until Heaney's death in 2013. The collection consists of letters from Heaney as well as from his wife Marie, photographs, special editions of his works and materials related to Heaney. This collection has now been processed and is ready to be used. It is part of the Library's Special Collections and is described as the Ann Saddlemeyer collection.

For the Bentley/Blake collection, the Library acquired two books that were once owned by William Blake. The first is a political and satirical chronicle of events that occurred in 1757, the year Blake was born. The second book is a collection of etched drawings of Raphael's biblical paintings. Both books are annotated by Blake, and the book of etchings, in particular, was used by Blake for study and to copy. Both books are formative to Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience.

The Library is in the process of acquiring the archive of Ken Taylor, former Canadian diplomat notably to Iran during the American hostage taking in late 1979. Taylor ensured the safety of six American consular staff during the takeover by militants of the US embassy by hiding them in the Canadian embassy in Tehran and getting them out of the country in early 1980. The collection contains a large number of citations and awards to Taylor in recognition of his efforts and to honour his bravery. Later, Taylor became Vic's Chancellor from 1998 to 2004. An exhibition of materials from the archive will open in May.

The Library has, as well, received additions to the papers of Al Moritz, John Reibetanz, and Paul Bouissac and a substantial collection of audio interviews with Canadian and international writers donated by broadcaster Earl Toppings which we will be transferred to our digital library.

Library Instruction

Librarians at Pratt have been busy with instructional activities, providing 58 research consultations since the beginning of the academic year in September.

Our instruction librarians have given 20 in-class and extracurricular sessions this year with 440 students attending in total.

The Library's writing and research seminars hit an all-time high with 102 in attendance this year, a 16% increase over last year.

Staff Additions

We also welcomed a new librarian to our staff in January. Diane Michaud has joined the staff at Pratt Library as a Reference and Instructional Librarian following the retirement of Gabbi Zaldin in December.

Diane Michaud comes to us from UTM where she worked as an e-learning librarian; Diane also worked at Laurentian University's library and at the library at Ryerson University.

R. Davidson admired the Library's French poster exhibit. L. Sherlock said there are 14 new posters this year.

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

K. Castle gave an update to the Council:

- Currently, the Dean's office is managing ancillary fees issues on the Student Choice Initiative (the ability for students to opt out of some student fees). This hinders the ability to plan, students trying to opt in/out of.
- Challenges with residence this year: wanting to guarantee Vic students, how to cultivate a relationship with Music, welcoming more international students

Operations/Events

- The last Theatre for Thought event just occurred. Next year will be the 10 year anniversary!

Hiring for an Associate Dean of Student Success (new position). This role will look into:

- new programming and new ways of approaching student experience
- Working on Victoria University approach to delivering Student Services. This is a program divided into four sections (Academic and personal development; skills development; experiential learning; career and future readiness), incorporating Presidential Priorities: inclusive excellence, diversity, continuing experience for first-generation students, tailored year by year, specific career and academic advising; how to recognize and seize opportunities for success

We had student focus groups to help find out what they need/ want, and this is one of the results.

Y. Ali added they are excited about working collaboratively with the new roles. Finding ways to integrate Alumni

M. Solovey asked if Vic has upper year students be peers/ mentors for lower year students. K. Castle said Vic has a wide variety of upper year students mentoring others, including Transition Mentors, International Mentors, and Commuter Dons (about 120). Y. Ali added there are Peer tutors, FLIC mentors.

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

The final Faculty of Arts and Science Curriculum Committee meeting of the year took place in early April. This was a particularly eventful year at Arts & Science, especially in light of the new First Year Foundations initiative which is set to launch in Fall 2019:

- Over the course the 2018-19 governance cycle, Victoria College introduced 10 new courses:
- At the first year level, we introduced:
- VIC199: Thinking With Things, a first year foundations course that creates a new pathway to our Material Culture Program.
- Two new VIC100 courses (VIC121H1F Evaluating Healthcare: Problems and Solutions, and VIC122H1S Scientific Evidence in Public Policy) at the intersection of scientific evidence, healthcare and public policy, to diversify our offerings in these areas and respond to student interest.
- At the second-year level, we've introduced VIC242: The Scientific Worldviews of the Renaissance, adding to both Renaissance Studies and Science and Society
- At the third-year level we introduced VIC373 Materialities of Music, which strengthens the partnership between Music and our Creative Expression and Society program – and introduces a dynamic new instructor from the Faculty of Music into the Vic community.
- We introduced two new Education and Society Special Topics courses, which will provide new faculty members with some flexibility within an evolving program.
- Finally, as I've previously reported, we added three new courses in the innovation space, including the 200-level "Innovation and Society," the 300-level "Ethical Enterprise," and the 400-level Capstone on Community-Engaged Research.

I would like to thank members of the Academic Committee, as well as the many faculty and students who contributed their ideas and expertise on all of these new courses – and we can all look forward to seeing these courses in action next year.

9. Report of the Fellows Committee (A. Esterhammer on behalf of N. Rodriguez)

New Fellows and new nominees for Associate status and renewals to be approved.

A. Esterhammer presented the slate of nominations from the Fellows Committee to the Council for approval.

MOTION – to accept the following members as Fellows or Associates of Victoria College on a permanent basis, moved by A. Esterhammer and seconded by R. Davidson. Passed *nem con*.

Ann Komaromi	Manuela Scarci
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Nominated as permanent fellows, the most intensive fellow status we have, on the basis of their thorough involvement in teaching, program coordination, and service to Vic.

MOTION – to accept the following members as Fellows of Victoria College for a five year term, moved by A. Esterhammer and seconded by E Istrate. Passed *nem con*.

Susan Antebi	Willi Goetschel	Sherry Lee	Paul Stevens
Arti Dhand	Cara Krmpotich	Shaun Ross	Ira Wells

MOTION – to accept the following Associates of Victoria College for a five year term, moved by A Esterhammer and seconded by M. Solovey. Passed *nem con*.

John Noyes	Cathie Sutton	Alex Hernandez	Justin Nodwell
Iván Fernández	Misha Teramura	Adam Hammond	Trevor Moraes
Joanna Papayiannis	Matt Sergi	Alexander Palazzo	Wen-Ching Sung

R Davidson asked if Paul Stevens, who is an Associate, is able to nominate more associates. A. Esterhammer said yes and backs these nominations

A. Urbancic noted that Misha Teramura was the first Vic One graduate to become an Associate.

Junior Fellowship nominations still open, until end of the summer. S Ross asked about the length of the Junior Fellowship term? A. Esterhammer said it is 1 year renewable.

A. Moritz asked if people whose association with Vic is Vic One but who are not teaching at U of T or Vic could be nominated. A. Esterhammer said that is something that would have to be taken up with the Fellows Committee, but encouraged to nominate

Fellows Lunch Colloquium: Timing of Fellows Colloquia? Welcome feedback and suggestions.

10. Report of the Striking Committee (A. Esterhammer on behalf of B. Baigrie)

A. Esterhammer presented the slate of VCC Committee members from the Striking Committee (attached). These nominees are ready to serve and are not on leave. Other nominations are possible from the floor.

MOTION to accept the 2019-2020 slate for Victoria College Council Committee nominees as presented, moved by A. Esterhammer and seconded by A. Urbancic. Passed *nem con*.

There is a vacancy for a teaching representative to the Board of Regents.

W. Robins said the Board of Regents is highest governance body where fiduciary matters are discussed. The Board is the equivalent of U of T’s Governing Council. Over the next four years the faculty representatives will be important as we think about the planning of the campus over the next 5 year period.

E. Istrate volunteered for the nomination

MOTION to accept Emanuel Istrate to a 4-year term to the Board of Regents, moved by A. Esterhammer and seconded by K. Bartlett. Passed *nem con*.

11. Report of the Research Committee (M. Vicedo)

M Vicedo presented the following statistics for the April round of grant funding for Victoria College faculty.

WINTER TERM

Conference Travel Grants	
Grants Requested	9
Grants Awarded	6
Amount Requested	\$ 12,794.00
Amount Awarded	\$ 7,594.00

ACADEMIC YEAR

Conference Travel Grants	
Grants Requested	17
Grants Awarded	13
Amount Requested	\$ 24,144.00
Amount Awarded	\$ 17,444.00

Research Grants	
Grants Requested	8
Grants Awarded	8
Amount Requested	\$ 18,709.80
Amount Awarded	\$ 18,515.00

Research Grants	
Grants Requested	12
Grants Awarded	11
Amount Requested	\$ 30,395.80
Amount Awarded	\$ 27,515.00

Research Publication Grants	
Grants Requested	2
Grants Awarded	1
Amount Requested	\$ 15,000.00
Amount Awarded	\$ 5,000.00

Research Publication Grants	
Grants Requested	8
Grants Awarded	6
Amount Requested	\$ 56,251.00
Amount Awarded	\$ 29,771.00

TOTAL Grants	
Total Requested	19
Total Awarded	15
Total \$ Requested	\$46,503.80
Total \$ Awarded	\$ 31,109.00

TOTAL Grants	
Total Requested	37
Total Awarded	30
Total \$ Requested	\$ 110,790.80
Total \$ Awarded	\$ 74,730.00

Remaining amounts

2018-2019		
Conference & Research Grants	Amount available	\$45,000.00
	Funded	44,959.00
	Remaining	\$ 41.00
Research Publication Grants	Amount available	\$50,000.00
	Funded	\$29,771.00
	Remaining	20,229.00

M Vicedo presented the revised guidelines and application form for information purposes.

Thank the members of the committee. Reviewed the guidelines, small changes to clarify. Exciting to see all the great projects for research, conferences, publications and the range of interesting and exciting projects that Vic has. Thank you to Paul Kutasi for all your work on the Committee.

12. Northrop Frye Centre update (R. Davidson)

R. Davidson updated the Council:

- Amelia Bailey and Jamie Quadros thanked. Year End Report at the end of the summer.
- Daniel Gallimore and Nandi Bhatia were this year's visiting scholars.
- In the process of selecting the NFC Doctoral Fellows for next year.

Echoes of Northrop Frye, May 31, 5-7pm, Hart House. The Hart House Warden John Monahan moderates.

W. Robins noted that the Northrop Frye Statue has been moved in front of the Pratt library because of planned work around the Northrop Frye Building.

13. VUSAC activities and initiatives update (A. Ballis)

The new VUSAC President Alexa Ballis give an update.

- The election in March for Commissioners and Executives. Highest voter turnout of all colleges.
- Sustainability Commissioner will be elected in the fall.
- The Council will be continuing the conversation with renaming Ryerson.
- Working with Dean's Office to work out which fees are essential and which are opt-out.

14. Other Business

The meeting ended at 3:35pm. Moved by E. Istrate; adjourned.