

Victoria College Council
Minutes of meeting of February 10, 2020
4-6pm in Alumni Hall

Attendance: A. Esterhammer (Chair), W. Robins, Y. Ali, S. Antebi, D. Cook, R. Davidson, P. Gooch, E. Istrate, M. Kavalier, A. Moritz, C. Socknat, N. Terpstra, A. Urbancic, I. Wells, D. Wright, J. Forgie, P. Kutasi, A. Ballis, L. Faria, A. Kothari, A. Wong, J. Zhu, and M. Mukhtar

Regrets: E. Jennings, A. Keith, E. Jagoe, L. Magnusson, L. Dacome, C. Fraser, A. Komaromi, B. Havercroft, L. Colantoni, N. Rodriguez, J. Zilcosky, H. Murray, M. Solovey, M. Vicedo, P. Klassen, C. Bruun, J. Hamilton-Diabo, K. Bartlett, R. Sarabia, and A. Kurtesi

Guests: V. Lowes, A. Goldman

The meeting was called to order at 4:12pm by Chair, A. Esterhammer

1. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of November 25, 2019 (attached)

The minutes of November 25, 2019 were accepted.

MOTION – Moved by A. Urbancic, and seconded by M. Kavalier. Passed *nem con*.

2. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

A. Esterhammer noted an error in the table for grants in the last meeting, which will be corrected.

3. Guest Presentation – Dr. Vicki Lowes, Director, Experiential Learning and Outreach Support, Faculty of Arts & Science & Ainsley Goldman, Experiential Learning Educational Developer

V. Lowes and A. Goldman spoke to the Council about experiential learning at UofT.

Definition of experiential learning: A theory of learning that conceptualizes the process of learning by doing. There are four components:

- 1) Hands-on experience
- 2) Reflection
- 3) Connection to previous learning
- 4) Experimentation/trying new things

There are experiential learning examples at Victoria College: Material Culture internship, Jackman Scholars-in-Residence Program. Other UofT examples are Urban Communities and Neighbourhoods Case Study (UTSC).
Experiential, not necessarily experiential learning: Varsity Sports, field trips, and working in a library.

- Experiential Learning has been in the UofT News.
 - Past Examples: UofT has expressed a focus on experiential learning.
 - In the last provincial budget, experiential learning will be considered by the government.
- Overview of the Experiential Learning and Outreach Support (ELOS) Office
 - Current Location: Sidney Smith Café, but open to coming to do presentations.
 - ELOS Goal: Every interested student should have an experiential learning opportunity.
 - Conducted consultations across UofT including College Principals and students.
 - ELOS Pillars of Support:
 - Program, Faculty, and Student Supports, as well as Partner Outreach (building and maintaining partnerships).
 - Collecting data on what is working for the program.
 - ELOS offers a diverse range of programming, not just co-ops and internships.
 - Examples: Research, Field Courses, Entrepreneurial, Co-Curricular.

- As well, offering opportunities for a range of students.
- New EL Hub coming in Fall 2021, Corner of College & St. George Street.
 - Open to all programs looking to expand.
 - Convenient space for partners to meet with students.
- Experiential Learning Hub launched November.
 - Resources available for students and coordinators.

Contact: Email: experientialsupport.artsci@utoronto.ca

The Council posed several questions and comments.

A. Wong asked about the difference between the Center for Community Partnerships (CCP), and ELOS. V. Lowes said CCP have a narrower mandate than ELOS, focused on community-based learning.

L. Faria asked what sort of preparation will there be for students looking to participate in experiential learning opportunities. V. Lowes noted that ELOS would not duplicate any existing supports but add professional skills and support for students' success. As well, we will offer mentorship for students from students. Skills articulation is important for students.

Y. Ali asked other than support, what would the ELOS create? V. Lowes noted that the focus will be Experiential Learning, but also supporting existing opportunities and introducing new programs. Y. Ali followed up, asking what challenges students to find their own internship opportunities, which is currently a complicated process. V. Lowes responded that currently, there had been little support for these opportunities. ELOS will survey the current situation and will add some structure to the process.

D. Wright asked if a student were in the second or third year, would you help them find summer jobs? V. Lowes said the Career Centre currently offers a job board so that ELOS will focus on more academically linked opportunities.

E. Istrate asked if the ELOS be driven by what the units want. V. Lowes noted there were a few strategy hubs that occurred. There are fantastic opportunities for teams so that experiential learning could help those courses.

W. Robins commented he was glad the ELOS is open because there is a lot of work involved in faculty setting experiential learning opportunities. Victoria College can also help ELOS because there are faculty who have thought about these issues. How do we help the ELOS to advocate for undergraduate research? V. Lowes stated that the Ministry has a narrower definition of Experiential Learning. ELOS will continue to push for more support for these opportunities. Data collection will also help show the positive impact these opportunities have on students.

The Chair thanked the team from ELOS for the presentation and noted that all of Victoria College's courses are part of the Faculty of Arts & Science so that the ELOS will be an excellent resource for us.

4. Report of the President (W. Robins)

The President reported on several items for the Council:

- The Strategic Plan for Victoria University. We hope to bring a plan to the April meeting of the Victoria Board of Regents.
- Northrop Frye Hall:
 - January: consultations begin with the city for re-zoning application.
 - No decisions have been made.
- Vic Ready Program:
 - Program to help students with what comes after graduation.
 - The pilot year has finished.
- Two Conferences with the Dean's Office:
 - Minding our Minds, Thurs Feb 27, 2020.
 - Campus Reconciliations Conference, March 9, 2020.

A. Wong as the President if there a timeline for strategic planning. W. Robins said by the first week of April.

R. Davidson asked if there were any updates on the new website edits. W. Robins noted that it is an ongoing process.

5. Report of the Principal (A. Esterhammer)

The Principal reported to the Council:

UTQAP reviews: The self-study document for the four Minor programs under review in the current UTQAP cycle (Education & Society, Material Culture, Creative Expression & Society, and Semiotics) is in the hands of the external reviewers. They are Professor Manina Jones, Department of English & Writing Studies, Western University; Professor April Nowell, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria; and Professor Robert J. Tierney, Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of British Columbia. The reviewers will visit campus on 27-28 February 2020 to meet with faculty, students, staff, and members of cognate departments. Many thanks to those who worked on the self-study, including program coordinators Michael Chazan, Adam Sol, Julia Forgie, and Marcel Danesi, Ira Wells, and especially Paul Kutasi for helping to coordinate the self-study document and the upcoming visit.

Scholars-in-Residence: The call for student applications to SiR 2020 is open until 24 February. There are 5 exciting projects in Humanities and Social Sciences running on each of the UTM and UTSC campuses and 11 on the St George campus, including several led by Vic-affiliated faculty: Shaun Ross, Rie Kijima (Education), Atsuko Sakaki (Comp Lit and LCT), and me. All students in the second year or higher with a CGPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to apply. Please encourage qualified students to consider applying to SiR via the Jackman Humanities Institute website. If students ask to list you as a reference, remember that you will not be required to submit a letter; references will only be contacted for short-listed students.

Opportunities for undergraduate researchers and RAs at Vic: Victoria College strives to be proactive in connecting undergraduates with meaningful research opportunities, both during the academic year and in the summer months. As you know, the College has created the position of Undergraduate Research Coordinator, currently held by Professor Shaun Ross. He hopes to promote connections between the research being undertaken by Victoria College Fellows and Associates and the many talented undergraduates who have contacted him looking for research opportunities. Shaun encourages any Vic faculty, Fellows, and Associates who are seeking Research Assistants, or who are open to the idea but need further advice on how to fund such opportunities or incorporate them into an ongoing project, to contact him at shaun.ross@utoronto.ca. He is excited to find out more about your projects, and the contributions undergraduates might make to them.

This year, the Northrop Frye Centre is also piloting a Research Affiliation Program that affiliates the research projects of Vic faculty and Fellows with the NFC and sponsors work-study RAs for students on those projects. If you would like more information about this program, which anticipates expansion next year, please contact Shaun Ross or NFC Director Bob Davidson.

Reappointment of Research Centre Directors: On the recommendation of Advisory Committees who reviewed the activities of the Victoria College Research Centres, Professor Bob Davidson has been reappointed Director of the Northrop Frye Centre, and Professor Matt Kavalier has been reappointed Director of the CRRS, both for 5-year terms. Thank you to both for their dynamic leadership of research at Victoria College, and to members of the two Advisory Committees for their conscientious and collegial discussions.

College Life Committee: We have been trying to call a meeting of this committee, but it has not been possible yet to schedule a date when enough committee members, especially student representatives, are able to attend. We will try again to find a meeting date before the next VCC meeting, which will take place on April 20, 2:00-4:00pm, in Alumni Hall.

W. Robins noted that faculty members can talk to the undergraduate research coordinator, S. Ross, about building in undergraduate research opportunities.

6. Academic Programs Director Update (I. Wells)

The Academic Programs Director updated the Council on the College's recent curriculum developments.

- In our most recent round of Faculty of Arts and Sciences Curriculum meetings in late January, Victoria passed 5 new courses and 6 changes to our academic programs. I will provide a concise, high-level overview, beginning with the new courses.
- Three of these new courses are not new courses at all, but rather H versions of longstanding courses that have been taught in the “Y” format for many years.
 - Renaissance Icons and Afterlives – a 200-level course on the adaptations and afterlives of canonical examples of Renaissance Art;
 - Sex and Gender a 300-level course on questions of gender and sexuality in early modern Europe; and
 - Semiotics of Visual Art, a 300-level course on applied models of visual semiotics.
- These three courses were re-weighted from 1.0 to 0.5 FCE to make them more accessible to students and allow them to be taught with greater frequency in the future given the availability of faculty.
- Then, our two “new” new courses were one third-year special topics course in our Science and Society program, to allow for greater flexibility of program offerings and allow faculty to pilot new course ideas.
- Finally, a new first-year course, “Posters and Propaganda,” to be taught by professor Eric Jennings, will think about political posters, and the relationship between art and propaganda, and possibly leverage some of our archival holdings at the Pratt library – and offer a gateway to our Minor program in Material Culture.
- As for our program modifications – most of them were simply a matter of adjusting program requirements to register these course changes.
- I would highlight one final category of change, which is our decision to allow several 100-level courses to count toward the requirements of specific courses. For example, as of next year, students who take VIC100 courses on Machiavelli or “Popular Culture and the Renaissance” may now apply those courses to programs in Renaissance Studies (to a maximum of 1.0FCE at the 100-level.) A similar change was made in Material Culture—again, for the purpose of providing students with clear pathways from 100-level courses into our VIC programs.

Y Ali asked for courses that are now accepted for programs, will these courses be listed explicitly on the website? I. Wells noted it was a good point and we will update the website.

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

The Chair gave an update to the Council:

Upcoming Events include:

- Dark Futures: Race, Slavery and Succession in the Early Modern British Atlantic World - Feb 28, 3:30 pm - Urvashi Chakravarty (UofT)
- Distinguished Visiting Scholar - Michael Questier (Vanderbilt) – March 2-4

8. Northrop Frye Centre Update (R. Davidson)

The Chair gave an update to the Council:

- Many upcoming events: Wednesday, talk by Billy Johnston. 2 weeks, talk by Matthew Thomson. Mark Kaplan February 26. March 5, Annual NFC lecture on distressed migration by Homi Bhabha.
- Symposium on Taste: by Lindsey Kelly, Anne Urbancic, among others.
- Research day for Undergraduate fellows and call for nominations.

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

The VUSAC President A. Ballis gave an update:

- Student Choice Initiative and opt-out portal have been shut down, as the court decision is being appealed. The VUSAC budget will be adjusted accordingly.
- VUSAC Spring nominations will be open soon. March 20, results will be posted.
- Alexis’ replacement will be introduced at the next VCC meeting.
- VUSAC’s Strategic Plan has had five surveys so far, and consultations will be conducted.
- Top three Social Events: Alumni networking dinner, Highball is at March 27 and VUSAC has subsidized Vic Tickets, Environmental Equity workshop was conducted.
- Sustainability Initiative has started a composting pilot program.
- The Bob Sketch Comedy Review, we were the first Canadian university to attend an American Comedy Revue.
- Caffiends has a fundraiser on right now for their Peaches & Cream drink.

10. Other Business

The meeting ended at 5:20 pm. Moved by E. Istrate; adjourned.