



Investigative Report on Potential UTSU Referendum

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Introduction:

This report, meant for all Victoria College students, is being created with the thought of educating as many students as possible, who are a part of the Victoria College Union. VUSAC, in its role as elected representatives of the student body, has authorized the 2012-13 VUSAC President, Shoaib Alli, to conduct an investigation into the services of the University of Toronto Students' Union (henceforth referred to as UTSU), as well as their fees and budget. The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether it is advantageous for the members of Victoria College to remain a part of the UTSU, or whether to leave to exist at the University of Toronto, but outside of the scope of the UTSU.

It is the hope of VUSAC that students may read this report, and consider it a package of 'frequently asked questions', with the answers within as well. Some things that will be considered:

- Services that UTSU offers that are already offered by VUSAC/Victoria College
- Services that UTSU offers that will be begun to be offered by VUSAC/Victoria College
- Services that UTSU offers that VUSAC will not offer in the 2013-14 academic year
- Ways the UTSU fee will be reduced, should a referendum pass

There are more issues that this report will examine, but hopefully all questions will be addressed by the time this report is over.

Section I: Referendum Question and Referendum Charter

At present, VUSAC has not voted to have a referendum either way. In order for the referendum to be passed, it must be passed by the March 1st VUSAC meeting in order for the Chief Returning Officer to add the question to the ballot of voting.utoronto.ca.

As per the Trinity College Provisional Referendum Report, in order for the proposed referendum to be both substantively fair and perceived to be fair, it must be administered by certain rules, by both VUSAC, and by the Chief Returning Officer, as this is an elections matter. (For further information, please refer to the VUSAC Constitution's section on Elections Procedure and the section on Referenda) This referendum would be administered by the following rules, over a clear campaign period, which would also coincide with the VUSAC Spring Elections 2013 period as well. Once VUSAC has the election dates approved via the Elections and Appeals Committee, those dates will be added to this 'Proposed Referendum Charter'; as of right now, these are simply tentative dates.

Proposed Referendum Charter

- 1) Voting shall take place from 12:00 AM on Saturday, 23 March 2013 to 5:30 PM Tuesday, 26 March 2013.
- 2) Voting shall take place online using the system provided by the administration of the University of Toronto at voting.utoronto.ca, at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer.

- 3) Campaigning shall not take place in libraries, residences or dining halls (where “residences” are defined as residential portions of the Victoria College campus that are not publicly accessible during normal business hours).
- 4) The publication of campaign literature is permitted, but said literature is not permitted in libraries, residences or dining halls.
- 5) Online campaigning is permitted.
- 6) Notice of the referendum, including these rules, shall be posted in Wymilwood, the Birge Carnegie building, Caffiends, Old Vic, the Cat’s Eye, Sidney Smith, Jackman Humanities, every common room, every floor of every residence and on the VUSAC website. It shall also be sent to all Victoria College students by the college administration.
- 7) Unsolicited campaign emails, as distinct from the notice email prescribed in Rule 6, are not permitted.
- 8) A simple majority of votes cast is sufficient for victory.
- 9) The ballot question shall be prepared by the CRO (see Rule 12), subject to approval by VUSAC on 15 March.
- 10) The tentative ballot question, subject to further consultation, review and approval (see point 9) shall be as follows:

“PREAMBLE: The Victoria University Students’ Administrative Council is asking full-time undergraduate students whether they wish to have the fees that they currently pay to the University of Toronto Students Union diverted to Victoria College and the VUSAC instead.

QUESTION: All full-time undergraduates currently pay \$x per semester to the Students’ Administrative Council at the University of Toronto.

Are you in favour of full-time undergraduates at Victoria College henceforth paying this fee to the VUSAC instead?

YES
NO”

- 11) Undermining a campaign by tampering with campaign materials, impersonation, making threats (legal or otherwise) or spreading clear disinformation is not permitted.
- 12) Use of racist, sexist or otherwise hateful and derogatory language is not permitted.
- 13) The Deputy Returning Officer of the VUSAC shall serve as Chief Returning Officer for the purposes of the referendum. The CRO shall enforce these rules and administer the referendum generally. The CRO shall work with the Elections and Appeals Committee to continually ensure that her rulings are fair and transparent.
- 14) All full-time undergraduates at Victoria College shall be eligible to vote.
- 15) The use of pre-existing listservs for campaign purposes is not permitted.
- 16) The CRO shall make every effort to involve the UTSU in the conduct of the referendum.
- 17) The referendum shall be considered under Article V, Section 13, Subsection d of the VUSAC Constitution: Referendum results shall be considered binding by the VUSAC for results in favour of the said referendum question by a majority of at least 15% of the VCU. Results in

favour of the said referendum question by a majority (but less than 15% of the VCU) may not necessarily be considered binding by the VUSAC, upon the discretion of the council.

Section II: VUSAC Services - UTSU Services

It is important to note that there are services that are currently provided by VUSAC that are not entirely feasible for VUSAC to implement over the summer. Indeed, should a referendum come to pass, it will be up to VUSAC, in consultation with the Bursar's Office and other administrators as well as consultation with the student body at large, to decide whether or not to re-implement these services.

With that in mind, it is also important to note that many of the services currently implemented by UTSU are already being provided by either VUSAC, one of the levy receivers, a VUSAC-funded club (more on this in another section), or by the administration. Victoria College students are very fortunate to have such a robust community of students who care very much about the quality of student life, and it shows when all these services are tallied and examined.

For those services we do not provide, VUSAC feels confident that many of these services can be provided at little cost, which would come out of the currently existing fees that are charged by the UTSU.

Here is a quick break-down of the services that UTSU provides to students:

- UTSU Book Exchange
- Book Bursaries
- Dollars for Daycare
- Free ISIC!
- Entertainment Discounts
- Office Services
- Food and Clothing Banks
- UTSU Handbooks
- Individual Academic Endeavour Grants
- TTC Metropass
- Income Tax Clinic

There will be a separate note on Orientation Week activities following this analysis.

Of these services, the following are already provided in some way, shape or form at Victoria College, via VUSAC, a levy receiver, a club, or the administration:

Book Bursaries

- These bursaries are administered through the Registrar's Office, as well as various administrative offices around Victoria College. Victoria College essentially has an extensive list of bursaries available to students, which can be found online at www.vic.utoronto.ca/students/Financial_Matters.htm underneath the link for 'Student Awards and Benefactors Booklet'.

Entertainment Discounts (via VUSAC, levy receivers, clubs)

- This service is extremely extensive. Tickets to Stratford, to Winterlicious, to comedy clubs such as Yuk Yuks, to see the Toronto Raptors, to speaker series, and to many other events are all available via the various student groups. VUSAC's Arts and Culture Commissioner, the Victoria College Athletics Association, and some of our 41 student-run clubs all offer discounted tickets, subsidized up to 50% or more in some cases.

Office Services (via VUSAC and the administration)

- VUSAC offers printing for 5 (five) cents a page from 9:30am to 5:30pm, every weekday, out of the office. With some of the fees that would likely be diverted from UTSU, this cost could be made even cheaper.

Academic Grants (via the administration)

- Outside of the Student Awards and Benefactors Booklet mentioned previously with regards to Book Bursaries, VUSAC is also in the process of approving a VUSAC Scholarship (akin to ASSU's scholarship) that would be open to any student that is registered with Victoria College. If funds were applied to this scholarship that were coming back to Victoria College from UTSU, this fund, once thought to be possibly maxed at \$10,000.00, could potentially be enlarged, letting more students apply and be granted funding.

Services that remain:

UTSU Book Exchange

Dollars for Daycare

Free ISIC!

Food and Clothing Banks

UTSU Handbooks

TTC Metropass

Income Tax Clinic

Of these services, VUSAC (or any of the other organizations that currently exist within Vic) can easily and nominally provide the following: Free ISIC!; Handbooks; Income Tax Clinic; Dollars for Daycare.

ISIC (International Student Identity Card)

- VUSAC is more than capable of maintaining the status of the ISIC cards. While it is important to note that VUSAC does not have the staff at the moment to have the ISIC cards, it is a simple matter to have such a person hired, either under a work-study like salary, or under an honourarium, to hold such an office position, to administer the ISIC cards. The cost is also manageable; of the funds that the college/VUSAC would be keeping, the ISIC funds would be one of them, and this means that VUSAC would be able to (if students were interested) purchase ISIC cards on behalf of their members from Travel CUTS directly.

Handbooks

- It is currently a provision in the VUSAC Constitution that every incoming student (i.e. every first year) be granted a handbook that details important dates and events for Victoria College students. This handbook is to be prepared by the VUSAC President. For the past few years, the handbook has taken the shape of the annual calendar found in the frosh kits, as the Orientation Executive Committee as well as the VUSAC have both found this to be useful. At their discretion, this service could simply be expanded to all students, and to be expanded from a

calendar to an agenda, so that students have that access as well. These are not expensive to make, and already come out from VUSAC's budget; with the additional funds that would be coming back to the college/VUSAC as a result of any referendum, it is not unreasonable to assume VUSAC can merely take over the production by expanding from the existing calendar product.

Income Tax Clinic

- VUSAC reached out to UTSU in the 2011-12 academic year, regarding having an Income Tax Clinic on the Victoria College campus. This was done for accessibility reasons, and in the end, never happened due to poor communication after initial meetings. As such, VUSAC has looked into hosting them independently, and it is very reasonable to assume that the costs for such an event (based on the UTSU cost of \$1,000.00) is within the reach of VUSAC as well. It requires some purchasing of software, and hiring of some volunteers to come and show students the appropriate way of filing taxes, but the bottom line is that it can be done, and done well, without any external assistance.

Dollars for Daycare

- This program is supported through a levy that is administrated/distributed via the Office of Admissions and Awards. If that is a service that VUSAC deems desirable in the 2013-14 academic year, it is easily done with the continuance of the relationship with the Office of Admissions and Awards.

After these services, the services that remain are the following:

UTSU Book Exchange

Food and Clothing Banks

TTC Metropass

UTSU Book Exchange

- With the advent of the book rental system through the official U of T bookstore, as well as the increasing demand for students to simply be able to buy and sell their own textbooks either online via their own social media, or through websites such as TUSBE.com, or through services such as the Discount Bookstore, the UTSU Book Exchange would seem to be a service that has outlived its usefulness. The funds that go towards maintaining this service could go towards other initiatives, scholarships or any other such service; if Victoria College students deem this a service that is absolutely necessary, the funds could simply go towards recreating the online presence that the Book Exchange has, in order to satisfy the needs of students.

Food and Clothing Banks

- It is estimated that, with the resources that the UTSU puts into this, that even with the matching funds, this is not a service that would be immediately implemented by the VUSAC for the 2013-14 year, as all the other services would be. It is entirely possible that this is a service that could return, but due to the massive time constraints and resources (i.e. people) that this would require, it would have to be given to a specific group. One such idea is that the Commuter Dons, who are students who are also employees of the Dean's Office, could run such a program in conjunction with VOCA (Victoria Off Campus Association) and other student groups. The Commuter Don program is constantly evolving, and this is easily something that could be added to their portfolio.

TTC Metropass

- There is absolutely no worth behind going to the UTSU Office to purchase a Metropass, as the price there is no different anywhere else. It is merely a matter of convenience, but with St. George station, Museum station, Spadina station, and Queen's Park station all bordering the campus, the access for any commuters is large. In the days of UTSU providing a discounted Metropass, then an argument could be made for keeping this service, though that has not been the case for quite some time.

Recap:

These are fair estimates of what VUSAC is able and will be able to do, in the first year of operations that have been relieved from the UTSU. It would be counter-productive to the interests of Victoria College students if VUSAC did not work with the UTSU, referendum or not, to resolve matters of dispute, to resolve matters of advocacy, or to represent students to groups around both the University and the province itself.

Section III: Orientation Week

Victoria College enjoys one of the more robust Orientation Weeks that are offered at U of T. As such, the events that take place are largely kept within Victoria College itself; there are other opportunities for collaboration, such as events with Innis College (Breakfast/Lunch with Innis), or the Engineering Society.

As of now, it is unclear what consequences leaving the UTSU would 100% have on the larger Victoria-UTSU programming. Right now, the only events that have the possibility of being affected are as follows: UTSU Clubs Day, UTSU Parade, UTSU Concert, UTSU Club Night, and the purchasing of kits from the UTSU Orientation themselves.

The frosh kits are a lesser issue as while they would incur a cost (as last year, 2012, the kits were given to Victoria College for free, as long as the contents of the kits were not altered, and Victoria received 750 free frosh kits from UTSU), the opportunity is available to collaborate with other colleges and divisions who choose not to accept the UTSU kits already. Every year there is a standing offer from those other colleges and divisions to collaborate, and though Victoria College did not accept that offer in the past, that does not preclude any collaborations in years to come. In truth, the contents of the kits are largely determined by the Victoria College Orientation Executive Committee regardless; Vic usually adds our own 'swag' to the kits, such as t-shirts, mugs, mailing booklets, lanyards, and other Vic specific items that cannot be obtained anywhere else. As such, it would most likely be a benefit to obtain items with other colleges and divisions, as if they did, they would most likely obtain a deal which would bring the cost down for everyone involved.

The UTSU Clubs Day would also be a lesser problem, as students would be able to walk around their campus as they please, regardless of what college or division they attend.

The Parade, Concert and Club Night are the more concerning issue, as far as Orientation Week goes. While the Parade might simply be an issue of a nominal fee, the Concert and Club Night would likely require more resources. The Club Night, while a popular event, is also held at the

same time as some Victoria College Orientation events, which are held on Victoria College campus. In addition, there is also a standing offer every year to collaborate on ticket purchasing for the Engineering Club Night, if any students are so interested in attending events of that nature. The purpose of Orientation Week is to provide something for everyone, regardless of their preferences, and the Orientation team attempts to do that year in and year out.

Nevertheless, the results of defederation on the Parade, Concert and Club Night are the most unclear. In all cases, it is simply likely that a fee would have to be paid, and should Orientation be unable to cover this, it is possible that VUSAC (with any new revenue it would be receiving from re-routed fees) would be able to cover it in their place, as a service to students.

Section IV: Fees and how they affect Victoria College students

The most frequently asked question I have received over this entire issue is 'How does this affect students?' Apart from the services that will and will not be offered, the issue is the fee structure. Every student currently pays a levy towards the UTSU, which they gather and budget towards very specific things. As previously mentioned in numerous places, there are a ton of fees that would be potentially cut, some reworked towards other things, and others that would simply continue to do what they are doing. In this following section, it is my hope that you will understand what the UTSU did with this past year's budget (which is indicative of their budgets in 2011-12, as well), and where VUSAC/Victoria College is hoping to steer the budgets in the future.

To begin, you may find the 2012-13 Operating Budget at the following online link:
<http://utsu.ca/section/1143>

The numbers in this next section were all taken from that link.

Total expenses the UTSU projects: \$1,659,220.00

Without their contingency reserve (\$25,000.00) and their 'depreciation' values (\$7,000.00), the UTSU has expenses of \$1,627,220.00 for the 2012-13 academic year. Of these expenses, at least \$560,000.00 goes towards salaries, honourariums, wages, benefits, and other items that do not in any way benefit the student body. Should VUSAC take charge of this funding, it would not spend any of it on salaries that benefits itself.

Students each spend, currently, upwards of \$31.04 a year towards the normal levy of UTSU. This does not include the fees for health coverage, and for dental coverage, however, which is a separate levy. There are approximately 3200 full time students at Victoria College, which would work out to \$99,328.00 in new funding. The fee is subject to change due to the Consumer Price Index, which means that the fee of \$31.04 raises every year, which would raise the total of new funding that Victoria College and VUSAC would jointly receive. Please see Section V and Section VIII for proposals on how this new funding would be managed and spent.

For clarity, the only position currently that gets paid on VUSAC is the VUSAC President, who is required to be in Toronto, in the VUSAC Office, over the summer. This person is not allowed to

hold any other job, as the position of office manager is theirs over the summer, and the hours are required (by the VUSAC Constitution) to be done over four days a week, 30 hours a week. All other elected positions are volunteer positions. All hired positions (Chairperson, Finance Chair, Chief Returning Officer, Secretary) are all paid honourariums of \$500.00 each (in the case of the CRO, they are paid \$250.00 per election, which allows for two different people to do two different elections, though one person may do both for a total of \$500.00, as per the other positions).

By no longer contributing to the UTSU's various staffing charges, we would be able to use this funding to bolster resources already at Vic. Whether it is providing more money to the levy receivers here at Vic, or using it to create new clubs, or using it to simply give more money to the portfolios that VUSAC already works with, students would not be losing out on services provided directly by the office of the UTSU. Essentially, we as a student body could choose to further increase the Victoria College programming, or we could choose to reduce student fees even more (by simply leaving certain services the way they are, and then charging less fees per student).

Section V: Clubs Funding and access to UofT-wide clubs

VUSAC already oversees 41 active clubs (and 10 levy receivers, with separate budgets), which are a lively and significant part of the Vic community. This year, we allocated \$31,635.41 in club funding (~9.84\$ per student, compared to \$168,000 or ~\$3.57 per student for the UTSU). In addition, Vic recently implemented a system by which U of T-wide clubs with a significant involvement in the Vic community are eligible for "associate status" with the VUSAC. Associate status carries with it certain privileges, including access to free space booking and the opportunity to apply to VUSAC for funding. VUSAC provides many other services to its clubs, including unlimited free printing and access to any promotional materials produced by VUSAC or other Victoria offices. VUSAC also hosts a Clubs Fair every September during Orientation Week, at which a table is provided for free for all Vic and associated clubs, levies and organizations.

In fact, certain clubs at U of T (e.g. Amnesty International) have decided to establish individual chapters at each college while collaborating across-campus, as they have recognized the benefits of being associated with a college rather than the UTSU. That being said, VUSAC recognizes the importance of a strong contribution (both financial and in terms of participation) to U of T-wide clubs and will endeavor to ensure just that. Formally, the UTSU cannot demand its clubs to deny membership to Vic students (or Trinity and Engineering students, by extension). These clubs are first and foremost registered with ULife for legitimacy, and second to UTSU for funding and services. In order to be recognized by ULife clubs must adhere to the Governing Council's policy on the Recognition of Campus Groups which states that: "Membership in groups should be open to all members of the University community [...]"

We hope that the UTSU will not choose to deny funding to those clubs that have Vic members, but this is not something we can control. What we can do is endeavor to contribute financially to all U of T-wide clubs, especially those which Vic students are members of. Several mechanisms for continuing to fund U of T-wide clubs could be implemented and need to be further investigated. A key concern to VUSAC is ensuring that we do not complicate the processes that

club heads go through in order to receive funding and services. The option which is most feasible for the 2013-14 academic year involves the expansion of our associate recognition policies to make recognition and access to funding easier (e.g. reduce from 75 VCU members and one executive member to 15 VCU members and one executive member). We would also, as soon as possible, explore options to have clubs apply for funding directly to the college councils (rather than have that money flow through the UTSU and ultimately be reduced due to their overhead costs) perhaps through a joint application process to the SGRT (this would be facilitated in the event that two or more colleges decide to separate). If we do separate, VUSAC is committed to allocating an additional \$30,000.00 to club funding using the redirected funds (on top of the ~\$32,000.00) we already allocate.

Section VI: Insurance coverage for Health and Dental plans

As previously mentioned, one of the largest areas of concern for students is the health and dental plan currently provided to students via the UTSU. It is administered through them, and a third-party system is currently contracted to provide any opt-out systems. All members pay approximately \$238.50 a year towards this insurance, and can opt-out should they prove to be otherwise insured.

Since Reading Week began, when VUSAC announced this investigation into the possibility of Victoria College students defederating from the Union, I have been investigating the possible options for students to have as their insurance provider.

I will not disclose any quotes of any companies, but it is possible to say that students are very likely to have insurance coverage provided by Victoria College by the start of the new academic year in 2013-14.

I approached the Bursar at Victoria College, and after some negotiations, the decision that was reached was that Victoria College can provide as good if not better insurance coverage, should any referendum take place. We would be able to provide coverage that is potentially more customized to the wants and needs of students of Vic, and at a cost that would definitely not increase. If anything, the cost would more than likely remain the same, and students would still be able to opt out, provided that they have proof of prior insurance coverage.

Using some of the fees that would potentially be re-routed, and after some negotiations with the Bursar's Office, their office would potentially be responsible for administering any opt-outs that students wish, as well as the administering of the health plan itself. VUSAC would pay the staffing fees, which we believe would be minimal, in order to allow the Bursar's Office to accomplish these goals with students interests in mind.

It is important to note that the UTSU, while they represent approximately 45,000 undergraduate students, if Victoria College were to join on an insurance coverage plan with other divisions that choose the defederation path (if Victoria College were to do this), then the price would be potentially lower. Vic has over 3200 full time students, with several thousand other U of T students at the other divisions in our same situation.

Recap:

- Victoria College can provide coverage that is similar if not better than that of UTSU
- This plan can be implemented without an increase in fees
- This plan can be implemented before the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year
- To accomplish this, the outgoing VUSAC President, the incoming VUSAC President, and the administration would have to (in the event of a successful referendum) work together in the early parts of summer to achieve this implementation

As Trinity College's report on the referendum has mentioned, going alone in the first year of health/dental might be preferable to a pooled plan. After results have come in from the first year of operations, a pooled plan might be more attractive and beneficial. Working with the Trinity College Meeting and the Engineering Society is an option, as it is for any other divisions that also contemplate defederation in the future.

Section VII: Advocacy and Representation to the University at large

Currently, the UTSU represents students (from all over the University) to several bodies and in several ways. They represent students to the larger U of T administration, they represent students to provincial and federal governments, and they embark on 'activism'/advocacy channels.

It is my estimation, after this past year as VUSAC President, that the college councils can very well represent students adequately. The SGRT, the St. George Round Table, is more than adequate in representative issues for the students that elected them. This academic year, 2012-13, was the first time in many years where the SGRT was challenged to step up and take the path of advocacy. Meeting with a provincial minister was the first step into representing students, and while the SGRT definitely has a long way to go, if any referendum question passed, the functionality of UTSU advocacy at all the various levels would be replaced with members of the SGRT doing the same thing.

There are concerns towards the fact that because the SGRT has not embarked upon the path of advocacy in the past, that that means that it cannot possibly function that way. This is untrue. The SGRT is comprised of college and faculty council presidents, all of whom have the ability to represent interests of the people who elected them to the senior administration at U of T, as well as the provincial and federal parties.

UTSU has shown, on many occasions, their distrust of the administration of the University at large. Victoria College, and specifically VUSAC, does not take this tact with the administration; indeed, we enjoy working and having productive conversations. While the UTSU is perfectly within their rights to take such a path with U of T, it is my belief that that is not the most productive path on which to embark. Indeed, the SGRT exists for this purpose, to present a face that is decidedly not UTSU to the senior administration and to other parties around Ontario. The members of the SGRT have already been invited to meetings with the Vice-Provost, with the Office of Student Life, with the Presidential Search Committee, and a host of other bodies that have all resulted in fruitful discussions.

The SGRT is also open to working with groups such as GSU (Graduate Students Union), the ASSU (Arts and Science Student Union), and other divisions and groups that exist around the university. Some are skeptical of our willingness to work with these groups; the SGRT is constantly growing in scope, and, should a referendum to defederate pass, it would be one of the largest areas for the SGRT (with the VUSAC President as a member) to reach out to other groups, and to improve its advocacy platforms.

In addition, the Victoria College Board of Regents is a fantastic place for students to voice concerns about U of T governance, without having to go directly to the senior administration of the University. As a federated college, Victoria College enjoys having the presence of the Board of Regents; any concerns about U of T governance or any other concerns can always be brought to them for representation, or to the students who also sit on the Board itself.

Section VIII: Potential Changes to VUSAC's Internal Structure

This section's purpose is solely to demonstrate the changes that would need to be made to the internal structure of VUSAC in order for the council to function at the highest possible level, should any referendum take place.

To begin, this report has previously mentioned the possibility of an 'Office Manager'. While this title can be reworked, it is important to consider the very strong possibility of hiring one or two of these students, in order to manage all the various items that the VUSAC Office would have for sale. VUSAC members are also students, and so it is crucial that there is someone who is otherwise unhindered by other large commitments (as the members of VUSAC would be) in order to administer these services. It would function much like any potential work-study students, and would in all likelihood be administered in part by the Dean's Office as well.

In addition to all the services VUSAC offers right now, it would (as per Section II) be offering many more, should a referendum be approved by the student body. It would also, as per Section IV, be receiving at minimum \$99,328.00 in new revenue, to be put towards these new initiatives. This would effectively almost double VUSAC's current operating budget, which would then require change to the internal structure as well as the VUSAC Constitution in order to ensure maximum transparency.

VUSAC currently publishes all financial reports online, so that any Victoria College (or, in all reality, any person who has access to the internet) student can see exactly where and how their funds are being spent. We would endeavor to also do this service for the new funding and new services, so that again, students would be able to see how and why their funding is being moved around. VUSAC always endeavours to operate at maximum transparency, and such large amounts of money must always be cared for.

If a referendum is passed, the Constitution will have to be immediately examined, most likely by the new VUSAC of 2013-14 in brief consultation with the current VUSAC, in order to implement new positions and to re-work current positions. This would be to ensure that the funding of students are being managed appropriately, and that VUSAC is handling the new influx of money in the best way possible. The Bursar's Office has also committed to continuing

the annual audit of VUSAC's financial records in conjunction with the VUSAC President and the Finance Chair, to make sure that no fraudulent or otherwise detrimental activity has been undertaken, again to ensure that student money is being safeguarded.

Section IX: Conclusions and Recommendations

As the VUSAC President, it is important to constantly have the best interests of Victoria College students at heart. As such, after the past several pages of this report has shown, by leaving the UTSU, Victoria College students will not be worse off for it. The main result that will happen, should a referendum question be posed and voted in favour of, will be the re-routing of funds to the Victoria College accounts.

Staying with the UTSU, at this juncture, provides no real benefit to any Victoria College students, as everything they offer can (in one form or another) be provided by the college itself.

By becoming its own entity, Victoria is more than capable, via VUSAC, of joining with other colleges entirely of their own volition, to create an environment at U of T that is both welcoming and inclusive. This report does not condemn the UTSU for this; indeed, the environment that has been fostered by the UTSU on campus is all of these things, and VUSAC applauds them for their efforts thus far. By becoming its own entity, VUSAC will be able to provide a stronger voice for its own students, and sometimes in unison with the UTSU, will make the university stronger as a whole.

I am confident that this year's VUSAC (2012-13) and the iterations of VUSAC that have yet to come are fully capable of administering everything students want or need, with the help of the administration of Victoria College. They have also shown receptive to such an idea, as long as it is what the students want.

As such, my recommendation to the 2012-13 VUSAC is as follows. I recommend VUSAC vote to ask UTSU to hold a referendum for Victoria College students to leave the UTSU, within this academic year. If they decline this request, then I recommend VUSAC to vote in favour of having a referendum question (as seen in Section I of this report), and to let the student body of Victoria College directly decide if they wish to remain a part of the UTSU.

- Shoab Alli, VUSAC President 2012-13