

## VUSAC Commuter Commissioner Report 2003-2004

First off, congratulations on being elected as the incoming Commuter Commissioner of VUSAC. Your role on VUSAC is of great importance to campus life at Vic. Commuters make up more than half of the student population at Vic, yet their presence on this campus does not reflect this. I am not sure of the level of commuter participation in other colleges, but I think it's fair to assume that there's an overall sense of apathy. In any case, the first thing I would recommend for you to do is to think of a larger goal of what you wish to accomplish next year. This can be considered as one of your summer tasks, to assess what the current situation is and how that matches up to what you feel is needed. You should have some sort of an action plan formulated by the time September rolls around. This of course, does not have to be done entirely on your own; your most valuable resources are the Campus Life Coordinator and the President of VUSAC. You'll find out that things move *really* quickly once the school year starts, so the more prepared you are before September comes, the more effective you can be in fulfilling your role during the year.

### Orientation

Even though the Commissioners are not constitutionally bound to their responsibilities during the summer, there is quite a bit that the Commuter Commissioner can be involved with at this time. As you know, the first Commuter Orientation was held last September. It was a very successful event, but not without some flaws that needed to be improved upon. This year, the Orientation Executive had been chosen with Commuter Orientation in mind, so there are already executive member(s) who will be doing most of the organizational work. However, it is obvious that the Commuter Commissioner should also be a part of the process. Therefore, I encourage you to get in touch with the CLC and the relevant exec members and offer your assistance where you can

and if need be. At the very least, I think you should attend Commuter Orientation because you would be an important contact for incoming commuter students. It would also be a great opportunity for you to promote the Commuter Commission and VOCA.

### VOCA

I have made some structural changes to VOCA this year to make the task of running weekly events less daunting, and in my opinion, overly time-consuming for a single Member-at-Large. I think it was a good idea to have VOCA coordinators to work alongside the MAL, but here are a few suggestions that I have:

- Have two coordinators MAX - having more than this may make the committee less manageable and more prone to miscommunication
- Make sure that the MAL and the coordinators' roles are clearly defined – there was too much overlap between the two roles last year
- Encourage first-year students to apply since they are more keen to participate

You should open up applications within the first few weeks of school. The decision could be made once the MALs have been elected and assigned. What this means though, is that YOU will have to plan the first few VOCA events. These ones especially have to be well-planned and executed. This is when you will get the highest level of attendance and you want to keep them coming for the rest of the year. Once the coordinators have been selected, your organizational role on VOCA should be minimal, but do make the effort to attend as many events as you can. I've included with this report a list of VOCA events from this past year as well as the VOCA report from two years ago. I encourage you to have your MAL put together a report similar to the latter.

### Commuter Newsletter

The second MAL usually takes on the task of publishing a bi-weekly Commuter Newsletter. The newsletter is great because it has detailed information of upcoming events all on one page. This

alone can make the newsletter a great way of informing not only commuter students but residence students as well. You should make sure that the MAL knows that he/she is also responsible for its distribution. Oftentimes, the newsletters were printed off but never left the VUSAC office. You should look into getting the newsletter sent out with the Registrar's mailing. I also think that the "look" of the newsletter could be updated.

#### Cat's Eye Advisory

A lot of your work as a commissioner takes place in the numerous subcommittees. The Cat's Eye Advisory Board (CAEB) is one that will demand a lot of your attention.

#### Special Projects

#### Wymilwood House Committee

#### Grad Banquet Committee