



Brock University Students' Administrative Council

Meeting: 10

Date: January 17, 2018, 6:00pm

Speaker: Ian Beaumont

Deputy Speaker: Fiona Purkiss

Recording Secretary: Maddie Staruch

OVERVIEW

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Adjournment

1.0

Call to Order

2.0

Territorial Recognition

3.0

Approval of the Agenda

BIRT BUSAC approves the agenda for the January 17 th , 2018 meeting

Mover: Lillo

Secunder: Bathish

Motion Passed

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

4.0

Adoption of the Minutes

BIRT BUSAC approves the minutes for the January 10 th , 2017 meeting
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Mover: Harber

Secunder: Sethumadhavan

Motion Passed

Yes: 16

No: 0

Abstention: 0

5.0

Open Question Period

Gallery: If item 9 on the agenda is voted no, does 11 get taken out of the agenda?

Speaker: Yes, it will. If the referendum doesn't go through there's no need for the positioning of a yes side.

Gallery: In December it was mentioned that there was a training session for board members, is that training open to students to attend?

Purkiss: There has never been a call for community members to have BUSAC training, and it is specifically for BUSAC members as they are the ones who have to follow Roberts Rules and interact with our standing orders and minutes.

Gallery: Are students allowed to come?

Purkiss: If you want to learn more, you can speak to me, Kayleigh, or Ehima, we can all answer your questions. All of this information is also online.

Beaumont: We also host our standing orders online that are accessible to everyone, and they explain the process that we use in tandem with Roberts Rules.

6.0

Notes from Speaker

Beaumont: As we're having a meeting this week, there will not be a meeting next week, we don't meet again until February. Enjoy the rest of January, and see you in the month of love.

Total Voting Members = 20

Quorum:

- $50\% + 1 = 11$
- $2/3\text{rds} = 13$

7.0

Brock University Student Radio

CFBU presents.

Green: What is the historical context of the CFBU?

CFBU: Has been in existence for 20 years, we've been downtown for 14 years, the majority of our life has been downtown. There has been radio at Brock starting in the 70s, then it died, then the 80s, then it died, then we started in the 90s and have been here ever since. And as mentioned any way you can get involved, you don't need experience. You wouldn't think it would be a great place for introverts, those are the people that we help the most, especially with self-confidence and speaking skills. We can definitely help with experiential learning and getting things for resumes and portfolios. We've partnered with a lot of different programs to try and get experience for people.

Ali: You said you want a referendum and you're asking for \$1.75, how will that benefit the students?

CFBU: As we kind of said, there's a lot of benefits to volunteer with CFBU. We have a lot of opportunities and events, for me, volunteering with CFBU has changed my confidence in speaking in front of large groups. I think it's a benefit for students to have this experience.

Ali: If it's only volunteering, that's a huge amount of money that we're going to be giving you, correct?

CFBU: That is one benefit, the other thing we do is promotion for things at Brock. Today I interviewed 4 people in Social Justice and Equity Studies. We want to broadcast their upcoming event. We want to help promote people at Brock, and their events on and off campus. Obviously experiential learning is important to students, but the flip side is we can promote people at Brock.

Johnson: How much does CFBU interact with the community or is it just Brock? Would you have interviews or shows that involve the community? And how are they related to events or student groups at Brock?

CFBU: We interview anyone who needs exposure, including people in the community. We do a mix of Brock and people in the community Brock also wants us to be connected to the community

Kerr: How did you come up with the amount of 1.75 a credit and what is that going towards?

CFBU: So our old fee was 1.50 from 1998. We're asking for 25 cents more. In the time since we've received that money inflation has increased. And that will go a long way, helping with rent, equipment, we have had employment with CFBU, so students can actually get paid.

Lillo: POI: They're not currently being funded by BUSU?

Speaker: My recollection is that they were defunded in 2014.

Lillo: Where are you located?

CFBU: Downtown St. Catharine's on the corner of Ontario and St. Paul

Lillo: Would you move closer to Brock if you got funded?

CFBU: It's something we've thought about, but we're not there by choice. We originally left campus because the university and OPIRG told us that we had to leave. We looked at all sorts of locations but there was no space on campus at the time. The best we could do to still keep connected to students is stay in the downtown student residences. We can't move back because there's no space for us.

Saleeb: Do you guys operate similar to Brock TV?

CFBU: Can you expand on that?

Saleeb: We fund Brock TV and they make content for the students, do you operate the same way?

CFBU: Yes, students make the content and we facilitate that.

Saleeb: How are you operating without money?

CFBU: We had to get creative, so it's a lot of ads, grants, and a bit of donations.

Sethumadhavan: How have you been operating since 2014?

CFBU: Grants, ads, donations, and money that we've saved over the years, but that can only go so far. Having actual funding would really help us out.

Nicoyishakiye: Additional funding would help fund you guys for equipment and provide an outlet. If a student decides to make use of this outlet for original content. What does CBFU provide to this individual?

CFBU: Let's assume the person has no prior experience. We offer 1 on 1 training. Then it's a gradual process as they decide what they want to do. They have access to equipment to record, edit, have access to the field.

Nicoyishakiye: Is there anything they're required to bring?

CFBU: No

Lillo: Why were you defunded in 2014 and what have you done since then?

CFBU: We were defunded because of politics, someone did not get elected to our board and their girlfriend was a BUSAC councilor, and it got defunded because of that. We haven't changed much since then.

Lillo: It wasn't your fault then.

Green: I wasn't the GM at the time. But from my understanding there were questions about accountability, but now they've answered all those questions and have a full framework of accountability. There had been issues with relationships with CFBU and BUSU and a lot of it was political. All the concerns have been dealt with moving forward from our end as sure.

CFBU: As a follow-up for finances. The first 4 years BUSU handled our finances, and after that we never ran a deficit ever. There's never been an issue with responsibility of money.

Ontario Public Interest Research Group presents.

BIRT BUSAC extends the presentation time by 5 minutes.
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Mover: Verrier

Secunder: Lillo

<i>Motion Passed</i>

Yes: 20

No: 1

Abstention: 1

Hibma: Thanks for coming back to back meetings. So, in your post it says OPIRG presents, issues action groups, I'm curious what your affiliations to these foundations are, and how you are contributing to these organizations financially considering your budget.

OPRIG: This year we decided that 8 action groups would receive funding, and additional action groups could receive unfunded status. The 8 groups would receive networking opportunities and 300 dollars budgets, and they can use the OPIRG board application board for additional funding. So, if someone needed additional funding they could apply outside of their budget for more budget. What we require is continual action, and they must have OPIRGs logo, and we ensure the safer space of their advertising. Also, all of these groups have to follow our safer space policy. For the councilors and execs who weren't there, there was a folder that was provided in the December meeting. It has been updated as we've had new board members and staff members. How we promote these groups: we have disorientation week, we have alternative frost week, these are all action group events. The Niagara freelancers are hosting a panel at the Marilyn. We are very community driven and have a lot of presence downtown. Connecting with the Marilyn has given us lots of work. We're having a poetry slam on Friday open to everyone. These are just some of the programming examples. We also provide training. Running an organization is no small feat, on how to do consensus, how to take minutes, how to send a good email, and these are all skills that we also provide the actions groups, as well as anti-oppression training, consensus training. Members were asked what trainings that they would like and we cover that. Most of our trainings are open to the public. We're going to be re-hosting consensus training downtown in the future.

Hibma: You submitted 8 action groups this year, that's 300 dollars times 8, so 2400 dollars, plus let's say, an additional 2400 dollars on training, that's 4800 dollars total out of your over 100,000-dollar budget, do you think that is sufficient given the overall budget at your disposal?

OPRIG: That's not the only part of our programing. It makes up a large part of what we are, but it's only a part. We also have been trying to develop volunteer teams. It requires staffing time and training time to make this trading post exist. At the end of the year we are happily going to take any notebooks, posters, blenders, etc. because we want to be able to facilitate a discussion downtown about trading and what non-consumption looks like. We're developing a research

project on activism and the history of activism at Niagara. There's a lot of institutional memory that has been scattered. We're really excited to get that going. There's also two staff members who work 30 hours a week which requires funding. There's many other things that money goes towards, I really hope you come to the budget update. Vanessa, who's our book keeper, is working on developing the update, so we can know where our spending is at and what needs to be done. This is something that we know, programming is 100% a priority. This is how we meet students. We spent the last week talking to students every day hearing what they want to do. Also, if a student has a social or environmental initiative that we think is good for campus or the Brock community, they can use the application form to apply for funding.

Napper: I appreciate you answering my question again today, I just have a follow up, I know this is an emotionally charged issue, your staffing costs are 111,000 dollars and the money you got this year is 116000 dollars, you are only spending 4% of your budget on things other than staffing next year. 96% of your budget is going towards staffing and I don't know why.

OPRIG: We have a contract with a union with our employees. None of these action groups would exist if we didn't have a training coordinator. Action groups + training costs is much more than 4%. Once again all of these groups won't exist if that position isn't here so it's a program cost. We have heard feedback, and we've had to take that and climb back up. In hearing all these perspectives, this is why it was so important to create a finance committee. The biggest change is our 2 staff are 30 hours a week. The budget you have is at 40 hours a week. We know that looking at the budget is a huge piece of feedback from this council and we don't want to shy away from that. But, there is a significant change in the staffing budget form what you've looked at to what's going forward as the staffing budget has changed. At the beginning of December we went back and looked for a better solution so we cut 20 hours of work. Being asked more questions makes us more accountable.

Ali: First of all, referendum doesn't mean you will be kicked out, it's a way that lets us what the students actually want. Why don't you give students a chance to vote in the referendum?

OPIRG: Why don't you just go to referendum, but just winning doesn't always ensure the future. Partially our concern is that we're an 8-person board and a 2 person staff, this is not the same capacity as BUSU or BUSAC, it takes a lot our staffing hours and organizational energy away from student opportunities. We've accepted that this vote could go either way. If it goes to referendum it goes to referendum. We're not giving up without a fight. Even though I speak passionately about winning, we would rather partner with all of you without having to defend the work that we're doing. With our 30 new volunteers. I could be tabling about the organization instead of defending myself. Similarly, I think an important thing to highlight, you see a big push from NOPIRG. This council has said they don't oppose our existence, but the NOPIRG movement actively does. We have a huge counter voice online that isn't even on our campus that opposes us. They think equity is not a good service. Last year a lot of the attacks we were receiving were from the Laurier campuses. Going to referendum puts us through that again when we could be supporting the SJC referendum. We would much rather spend this referendum campaigning for them instead of defending ourselves. If we do go to referendum, that's where our energy has to go. This is the second time in a year that we've had to be put to referendum, we're working really hard to make sure this works.

Nicoyishakiye: As we all know, year after year student dollars fund OPIRG, however in the last 2 years there's been a trend of inactivity. WE don't know where the funds have gone rather than the carryover. However, my question is that is there a systemic issue with OPIRG if there are other campuses trying to defund OPIRG?

OPIRG: In terms of OPRIG brock, we've revitalized our constitution and everything to make sure students get what they pay for. OPIRG doesn't just exist in Canada, it's in the States as well. Just because a few campuses aren't working, I can name ten that are. There have been some issues on this campus but the new board has worked on this from bottom up. We want to make sure this never happens again. If you look at our policies, safeguards have been put into place now. OPIRG brock has gone up and down, a lot of organizations do. We see this high turnover and we have to train all over again. By acquiring an office by establishing these policies, this is the year we don't want to be sent to referendum. We can continue to establish those policies and establish a really strong AGM so that never again will we see student dollars go to inactivity. Number one priority is to fix that. We had to fix a lot of internal things and now we have to fix the outward.

Johnson: You mention that if there is going to be a referendum, you'd have to focus on campaigning for the no side, but I'm unsure of what the difference would be in convincing the students to fund your programs. Would not convincing students involve continuing with your programs be the best way to convince students you're worth saving?

OPIRG: We have to many programs going to stop doing them, as well as partnerships. Our action groups don't stop existing if we're in referendum. Yes, we're a volunteer board but our entire organization can't campaign for the referendum. Under the BUSU policy, only one person who is not a BUSU member can talk about the campaign on campus and advocate. Our organization will continue to exist and talk about our work, it means that my board members or action group members, we don't want to violate your policies for your election, and they can't be on campus promoting what's going on. We know there are certain rules and policies that are essential to follow. I can't allow the referendum team to face a penalty because my organization is advocating for itself. The other thing is I think we'll win is because we have strong programming and strong ties to faculty. However, being a part of a narrative of BUSU versus OPIRG, and we don't know that, but inherently if one of your executives runs a yes campaign, that puts us in an opposition group. We're not here to be in opposition of BUSAC. We can continue to promote BUSAC's things. People will be able to talk in OPIRG in a way that shows they are pro social and environmental justice. Why would we be in the No if everyone's on the Yes side. We want to provide student opportunities and we know you want to provide student opportunities. We don't want to put ourselves in the OPRIG versus BUSU sides; we want to work with you as we've been speaking and connecting with you. We want it to be one team, that's our end goal.

Johnson: Would you not say that giving students power to vote in the referendum is just for the money, and the funds being determined and controlled by a very outdated contract, would you not say that's giving power to the students?

OPIRG: We want that goal to have students to have a program that advocates for them on campus. Having a third party as a separate voice is important. If students have issues with how we're using their money they can contact us. Just because there are a few students who disagree with us, doesn't mean we should take it away from all the other students who agree. If they want to opt out they can opt out. We are here to give students power, and if you say power comes with money, we will give them that money. At the end of the day we are accountable. We understand that time is an essential resource, OPIRGs without budgets spend years dormant and can't serve the students or community without their budget. I would advocate to say our budget is separate of our programming is just not true. We can't provide 300 dollars for 8 groups to run opportunities without that money.

Hejazi: I respect your willingness to continue to come to council. I just want to say every one of these members of council and exec were elected by our students to represent our students. Not by questioning OPIRG, but we have to make sure the financial integrity of your organization is intact. There's a total of 78,000 credits being taken at Brock. OPIRG collects 116,000 dollars out of 118,000 dollars available – that's 98% contribute to OPIRG. There is an opt-out clause, but it's difficult for student to opt-out. We have a 50% opt out rate for the student Health and Dental plan, which is more difficult to opt-out for because you have to prove you have better insurance. I know your agreement was written in 1988, there was no internet and we have continually asked if there's potential to revamp the contract, and you said that you would be willing to discuss it. We have approached you to try and work together, but I think there are little things in the contract that are making little frustrations. You have to be accessible, it's 2018. You went up 8 months ago and 77% of students voted no. Unfortunately, that didn't pass, because in 1988 its stated you need 25% quorum when current quorum is 13%. There are so many flaws in your MOU that we're willing to work with you to change, yet I haven't seen any of that change happen. I personally went around campus to a sample size of 100 students, and though it's small, it might show off the bigger picture. 87% of students said they'd never heard of OPIRG, and that 87% would opt out. 9 responded they were aware but never used, and 4 have said that they are aware of OPIRG. We're members by default, we don't have options. Nobody really knows we're members, 87/100 had never heard of OPIRG. If you think you're doing such a phenomenal job – in the last 5/6 months you have done a phenomenal job – but I think that's because you're worried about being defunded. What about in the future?

OPIRG: It's interesting because the 100 students you talked to is different in the 100 students and 45 said they would be volunteers and many more signed up for our online mailing. We have not shied away from the fact that we know it is a 30-year-old contract, and we know it's a high priority for this council to discuss this contract. We are working to ensure our internal organization exists so that we can have these discussions. We want an office to have a computer to facilitate opt-outs. It's true, we're building from scratch, all of our action groups disassociated from the organization 4 years ago. To us, and to the students who are now involved in OPIRG this is huge. Another key thing you brought is the health plan, and it's true, good job creating an opt out for your health plan. 7 dollars is different than hundreds of dollars. Besides asking to prove that they are enrolled in courses to make sure that they're getting the right amount refunded. We never ask why people are refunding. Also, If it goes to referendum, say our budget is taken away, and this won't exist, so it's true, that our board gets elected every year, but there's an option to stay on the board. Students have the opportunity every year. We had a public AGM,

public audits, everything is posted on our website, why we are conditionally establishing a presence on our campus, I would love to meet the students you talked to. We want to educate 17000 students on their right to the organization. It's interesting that you bring up that 77%, it was mutually agreed upon that was provided by the CRO: last year's overall population was 17+ thousand students. These were the numbers that came out for that referendum. 11% of students voted. 11% isn't a huge range, let's have more students vote. However, we think it harms the organization when council says 77% of people voted to defund OPIRG when it's not true. It's not 75% of undergraduate students, it's of the people who voted, which is fair, those are important votes. We care about everyone's opinions. We just don't think that the 11% should negate the 800+ students. We've been advertising to the Brock Press, we come to this council, social media, to tell that 11% they can opt out of our organization. Don't take that opportunity away from the people who do want to take advantage of this organization. It's a much larger discussion that we can't have if we don't exist. We know your quorum is different than our quorum. We know online opt out is a big push, we're ready for that discussion but we can't have it if we don't exist.

OPIRG: I completely agree we should be online, and on my personal level to make sure everything is accessible and online and maintained. That's one of our goals is to be online. As it's been said, we're at capacity, we've been rebuilding and you can see the results. We're working towards that. This is a board of directors of 8 and we're working to get there, and we need organizational capacity. If we get defunded we don't get to discuss more. We're working with programs to try and reach out to various departments to have more class talks, engaging in more opportunities in class rooms. Everything from button designing competitions to the co-curricular record to volunteering, these are ways to promote our organization, if these don't exist we will never be able to advocate to our students.

Green: The FTE is full time equivalency, so when you see the percentage vote, when you do the FTE it's a 19% of voters. There's 17914 eligible voters, but that's not how quorum is counted. Abstentions don't get counted into the percentages. That file is the raw data sheet, but from there the data is extrapolated and made to fit our quorum.

Hejazi: It wasn't 76.3% voted against of the people who voted, with the FTE it's 19%. Those are the students who voted at that time you're insinuating that the rest of the students who didn't vote would have voted to save OPRIG. All we're doing if the council wants to take this out to students. In 1988 the population of Brock was about 6500, now it's about 20k, I don't see a problem with democracy, I don't see a problem with students making their own decisions.

Kerr: What are the 8 action groups?

OPIRG: Brock STM religious tolerance, Niagara Freelancers Group advocating for a standing creative space, Food Not Bombs free food provisions, Cycle Circle – a newly established cycle advocacy and sustainable transportation, poetry slam which performs the first Friday every month at Mahtay, the anti-racism coalition which was established over a year ago, the fight for 15 and fairness which is based out of the labor studies student association to educate for the fairness of minimum wage, and finally we have the disability and neurodiversity collective

advocating for increased space for disabled and neurodiverse people, to have increased space for folks with disabilities.

BIRT BUSAC will exhaust the speakers list.
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Mover: Napper Secunder: Malapela

<i>Motion Passed</i>

Yes: 19 No: 2 Abstention: 1

Seliman: I'm a fourth year now, and to be honest, I didn't hear about OPIRG until now in my university career, if the whole population of Brock has to vote, wouldn't it give more exposure to OPIRG?

OPRIG: In terms of your first question, we're not ever going to say that the organization was doing great in those years. In 2015 when the new board was elected, there was 1 member left who no longer works for the organization and we had no action groups. That was a HUGE problem. Since then a group of students ran for the board of OPIRG, they either had to mutually agree to close OPIRG or fight for it. They had to fix all the internal issues that we legally cannot discuss, but in the interim, you had the board that's currently running. That board had worked so hard to fix the internal that there was no external. Taking the work from last year to this year, you can now see an increased presence across campus, we saw the same problem that you saw, that this organization was not existing and not using the dollars provided and that was not okay for us. We want to be here to provide those opportunities. We've always known that presence, capacity, and programming is what's needed to engage you. That's what we need to create a dialogue about OPIRG. However, it is the strong opinion of OPIRG brock that we can continue to grow as an organization if were allowed to maintain our budget. At no point has this council sent OPIRG back to the levy committee to do a follow up. Prior going to referendum, we should be sent a follow up to make sure that things have change. We ensured to prioritize an opt out period and have a stable board as recommended by the committee last year. We changed our constitution to extend our board. Our goal is to exist and make sure the students get what they paid for. We advocate that we should've been sent to that rather than to referendum.

Seliman: I do regret not hearing about you guys earlier, I regret the money I paid because I could've bought a burrito.

Verrier: The earliest time that you guys could meet to have an open conversation on the 1988 contract, making changes, the unlikely situation where you would scrap it all together, when is the earliest time you could discuss it?

OPIRG: For the 2018/2019 year begins May 1st, we would be able to sit down and have an initial conversation about what both parties want. We don't think the current contract that is in place is perfect either. Officially opening and not expanding, is possible in the 2018/2019 year in May.

Verrier: Is there any chance at all that you can have a conversation about it, no changes, but have a conversation, but hash out in the ideal situation what could be changed, so that when it comes to it in May, it's as simple as putting the edits in?

OPIRG: OPIRG is a consensus organization, we have to go back to our organization on January 29th, we have to talk about it with our lawyer, and then we would be in referendum, and then to send volunteer board members/book keep or whoever is allocated to do that process, equivalent to a collective agreement negotiation, you send in amendments and adjustments, you go through lawyers, for us it requires our consensus board. We can't guarantee that to you today.

OPIRG: As a board member, we are open to discussion, but we can't make final decision as we are a consensus based model. We thought we'd do everything you have asked us to do, when our board is at full capacity, and we would be more than willing to discuss.

OPIRG: The other thing is all our board meetings are public, if councilors wanted to attend and ask questions, you have access twice a month, once downtown and once here, and this question could have been brought forward. Until this week we had no permanent staff.

Hibma: You have 300 dollars for action groups, are you aware that BUSU provides 500 dollars for student initiatives?

OPRIG: I think that's awesome, I just don't think that should mean that OPIRG shouldn't exist, it would be great if both could exist. I'll have my action group board member designate that information. If one of the people in our action groups is a community member and not a student can they operate the same way?

Hibma: No, it's just for students. My follow up, you make claims that you're an autonomous group, why wouldn't someone want to partner with the department that they're a part of, why wouldn't they want to work with the groups they're inherently apart of?

OPIRG: We see this as an opportunity for cooperation rather than picking sides. If I were them I would apply to BUSU, OPIRG, and the department to try and get the word out into the community. We have a 50 organization contact list that we can get in contact with. We don't think people should pick one option. The best way to get the most vice's is through collaboration and through connection. That would be great they wouldn't have to pick a side, or only pick one, if OPIRG also exists, it's more support.

Ali: What's unique about OPIRG that you guys can say we do this, which is very significant and SJC does not do that.

OPRIG: As we highlighted, the SJC is in the name. It's an organization for students to address equality issues. One of the members of OPIRG actually pitched the idea of the SJC to exist. There needed to be more and what we feel is where the SJC hones in on issues happening in campus, we can then take those issues and broadcast it much wider. We can promote the work through more organizations on campus. OPIRG creates a bridge for the SJC into the community and vice versa. It allows the community a bridge to see issues and highlight issues that are being performed on campus. We don't think the SJC isn't doing a good job, but the mandate for justice is huge. We can take that mandate and see where they need support and bring it to a wider community. We add a whole other element and connects Brock students to Niagara, for students who live in Niagara and have issues with transit; if the SJC takes on a campaign to advocate for transportation accessibility, we can connect that campaign to the community. We have resources that we are happy to provide students through the SJC, different departments, etc. OPIRG also wants to partner with the grad student association; the SJC is run by undergrads, and we want to connect to the grad students more.

Ali: How can we trust OPIRG, based on past experience?

OPRIG: In the MOU, we added a section that OPIRG should be reviewed every once in a while, to make sure we are living up to standards. We continuously come and present and are happy to present. The MOU specifies that we would be mandated to present and provide the information that historically has been asked of us. Those were all sent to RPOC as additional measures to try and ensure we don't have to do this every year.

Johnson: A lot of Brock clubs do partner with external organizations, earlier today there was a pre-med club that partners with medical professionals in the community and outside the country to foster opportunities. Brock innovation group works with entrepreneurship groups in St. Catharines and Niagara. This is very common in initiatives and clubs funding with BUSU. I wanted to point that out, and with that, an organization that takes 98% of students funding, there has to be accountability for an organization that has a budget of over 100k. On the OPIRG website I found an OPIRG provincial collective agreement, and Brock isn't actually involved in the agreement. What wasn't on the website, the agreement that OPIRG Brock and BUSU signed wasn't on the website. For accountability and transparency, that should be posted. Being open to discussion, it seems that it's two different things: one that it's a legal conversation that you can't say yet, but one that you're open to discussion which seems like a contradiction. It seems a little unclear, and is why council is questioning this to the extent which we are. I would hope if I'm voting for something I should be able to see the conditions. I would suggest that it would be up there, especially if a referendum were to happen. Although you have opt-out options, it is, an initially mandatory fee to undergraduate students, that information should be there for them. I'm wondering why it's not?

OPRIG: That's my bad, I can go back and add it. The contract was printed and given to all the board members, but you're correct and that should be made publicly available. I'll make sure it's up by 12:00 tonight. In terms of the boards position, I'm here representing the board. The board is open to conversation, as we did in November.

OPIRG: All OPIRGs in Ontario are united under the provincial network. It was decided many years ago that all staff should be unionized under CUPE 1281. That's why no specific local is specified outside of that unit.

9.0

OPIRG Referendum Question and MOU

BIRT BUSAC approves the OPIRG referendum question and memorandum of understanding and sends it to referendum for the February election period.
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Mover: Hibma Secunder: Castano

Hejazi: Motions to vote by secret ballot

- I'm saying this because I want everyone to make their own decision and I don't want anyone to be swayed by perspectives. I want everyone to make their own confident and secure choice

Gallery: We talk about accountability and we don't want our votes to be public

Napper: The votes won't be public anyways unless it's noted by us. It wouldn't be in the minutes.

Johnson: it ensures everyone is making an individual vote on their own, and that makes it easier to make pressure against their decision.

BIRT BUSAC will vote by secret ballot.
--

Mover: Hejazi Secunder: Lillo

<i>Motion Passed</i>

Yes: 18 No: 1 Abstention: 0

Johnson: Based on the conditions of voting, 25% of all students constitute quorum and 60% must vote to defund.

Saleeb: After seeing OPIRG come several times to council it's clear that they're making an effort to rebuild, I think that coming to a referendum question so soon it might be worthwhile to consider timing, given everything they've said they want to do. Having more time would benefit

everyone a little more, pushing it back a little bit to see what else comes out of this before sending them to referendum so soon.

Bathish: I will be voting yes to send referendum tonight, I don't want to deny the students their right to go to referendum.

Napper: It's important to go to referendum during the February election, those students voices from last year were thrown out. It's a much likelier chance we will make quorum during the February election as they will be voting for exec.

Harber: There's a higher turnout for February elections. It gives more to students being able to learn about OPIRG, they can go and share everything they've done, and gives students the opportunity to decide.

Lillo gives his turn to the Gallery: In the interest of giving the students the opportunity to learn, to amend the MOU to give a line of what OPIRG Brock is. You should at minimum explain what this fee is for. We are open to that; however, I would very strongly advocate that a definition is added so student at minimum know they're voting for.

Wassink: Just as a point, because we're going into what would be a campaign period, to me, that is something that students will be getting educated. When you do the voting process, the Yes side would get a blurb, and so would the No side, that blurb is very visible.

Malapela gives her turn to the Gallery: I have a comment/question, so I have 15 councilors in the room and 4 execs – who are paid to be in this position – I wonder what research have you been doing these last few months, where have you been these last few months, why don't you know what to say to students? The students coming up and saying I have no idea what OPIRG is, why aren't you replying, why aren't you sending them to us? If you're elected for the students by the students, why aren't you sending them to a student opportunity, why aren't you facilitating an opportunity? Why aren't you liaising with us, why aren't you consulting? I'm very curious.

Wassink: So as one of the four executives that, yes, is paid to be here after being elected by students – and is working very hard to get this position – I have never been asked about OPIRG probably because no one knows about OPRIG. I don't work for OPIRG, therefore I haven't been going out and advocating for you because I work with a lot of BUSU services including the Social Justice Center which is working actively all over campus and when people ask me what the Student Justice Center is I am able to answer because they are very active on campus, which you have not been until a few months ago.

Tooba: I'm a 3rd year at Brock and I didn't know about OPIRG until I joined BUSAC. I really wanted to ask the question that what're your future plans for marketing. You have a strong team now but there's no guarantee that team will exist in the future.

Verrier: We are seeing some growth in the clubs and there are things that they need to hash out. I think we haven't seen the strides in this club before that we have seen now. This 1988 agreement that they are bound to, they don't like it as much as we don't like it. They are offering

us an opportunity at the beginning of May to go over this agreement and make some changes. For this reason, I will be voting no today as they have been making some strides.

Napper: I'm going back to answering why we haven't been advocating for OPIRG, I asked what they are going to be doing for Hamilton campus – especially considering what Aidan and Faisal have done for Hamilton, Hamilton students think they are the best exec team – but I gave OPIRG my email like 9 weeks ago and I have yet to hear back.

Ali: This is an opportunity for students to exercise their rights, and I think that the fact that most of the students are unaware, I have a lot of respect for OPIRG, but we represent the students here and most of first, second, or third year students, what they do, and what kind of role they play in the school. You seem very confident in the fact that you're going to win, but I would actually vote yes for referendum, as this is an opportunity to educate students on where their money is going. For advocating for OPIRG, you know what, this is the money they take for the students and this is what they do in return. I think we need to include that in the referendum.

Verrier: I'd like to invoke one of Roberts Rules that everyone must speak towards the speaker.

OPIRG: We're not a campus club, we're a student organization; if the Hamilton campus votes us to referendum that's a good piece of feedback. I would be curious to ask, knowing the improvements that have been made, for people who are voting yes, what can you highlight why you're voting yes besides that you think we're doing nothing. I also encourage someone to amend the motion.

Tooba gives her turn to the Gallery: I was at the meeting in which we got the Hamilton email, we really only had one employee and it was an oversight on my part. Because this came up about the 300 dollars and how much that is, personally as one of the organizers for the poetry slam, we are able to give people in the community great opportunities. Our Canadian poetry slam rep went to Vancouver to represent St. Catharines and came in 17th place overall.

Wassink: I'd like to call this to question, I think we've had a lot of discussion, if it's possible we can vote.

BIRT BUSAC calls the question

Mover: Wassink

Secunder: Johnson

<i>Motion Passed</i>

Yes: 18

No: 1

Abstention: 0

Motion Passed (BUSAC approves the OPIRG referendum question and memorandum of understanding and sends it to referendum for the February election period.)

Yes: 15
No: 4
Abstention:

BIRT BUSAC moves item 14 on the agenda to number 10

Mover: Bathish
Secunder: Hibma

Motion Passed

Yes: 19
No: 0
Abstention:

10.0

CFBU Referendum

BIRT BUSAC approves the CFBU referendum question and memorandum of understanding and sends it to referendum for the February election period.

Mover: Hibma
Secunder: Bathish

Kayleigh: There's two ways that things can go to referendum, BUSAC tasks to RPOC to send them to referendum. The other way is that they met with RPOC and have drafted the MOU and have gone through the petition route.

Napper: So, we're saying if they get their signatures they go to referendum?

Kayleigh: Yes

Hejazi: I will be voting yes as I think Brock Radio is an important outlet to have on campus, Brock Press exists, Brock TV exists, there's a subset clause that will take this back to referendum every 3 years.

Hibma: I couldn't agree more. I think this is allowing students their democratic right to vote, the proper fail safes are in place, and I think that's vital, I hope you will join us in voting yes.

Verrier: I have the benefit of doing some voice acting for Brock Radio and it was a great experience, so I did understand what the speaker was talking about when it came to volunteering with Brock Radio. Having Brock Radio in the future to work with BUSU like our AGM which never gets many people, we can use them to promote that and have that partnership.

Ali: It is 1.75 per credit for every student, and then every student would be charged that?

Speaker: This is a 25-cent increase from what CFBU used to receive until they were voted to be defunded.

Ali: This seems a lot a money and I know I asked the question earlier and it was explained that it would be a good experience, I think it's similar to Brock TV and I don't see why we should spend such a large amount of money on this service.

Motion Passed

Yes: 19 Verrier, Lillo

No: 0

Abstention: 0

11.0

Student Justice Center Question and MOU

BIRT BUSAC approves the Student Justice Center referendum question and memorandum of understanding and sends it to referendum for the February election period

Mover: Wassink

Seconder: Bathish

Castano: Why such a big increase?

Wassink: The manager of the SJC being paid, various student jobs, including 6 different coordinators, student sexual violence support, and various SJ campaigns run by the SJC. In the past you can see that SJC does so much on campus, you can go into their office and see the workers that work part time hours but work like they're full time deserve to be paid, and rightfully so. Those are the main points. Definitely there is a need for social justice on campuses through a successful organization like the SJC

Hejazi: There were various budgets that were presented. The first fee was bout 6 dollars, and then it eventually dropped down to 4.88, we want to keep it there so they can perform their jobs effectively. For example, the Ombudsman service is being performed by one person whereas at UofT they have multiple coordinators. We also want to completely bring forward a new program for combatting sexual violence. The 3.00 range would completely erase the ability to offer a service for sexual violence support. We concluded that 4.88 was the most reasonable. We know that the more the fee increases the less likely it will be that the referendum will pass.

Verrier: Could you bring up the MOU?

Purkiss: Yes

Verrier: I'm noticing that this MOU defines what this group is, can OPIRG have that as well?

Green: This MOU was adapted from a current MOU, the OPIRG was from a question. This is from the current SJC document that students voted on, this is a document that was already in there from the previous SJC referendum that was in there in 2009. I can't speak to the other piece, but that's the justification for why that's in there.

Verrier: Can we put that in the OPIRG MOU?

Green: That's not my decision.

Hibma: I presume no on the fact that we already voted on it, and if we wanted to do a subtitled amendment, someone would've had to have done that prior to voting

Beaumont: According to the bylaws this would have had to be brought up before the vote

Green: In this referendum of budget, it also provides for the creation of 6 new student jobs paid at 15 dollars an hour, in this it's 8 new paid student positions. The sexual violence support is a full-time candidate. A lot of this is student job creation built into the budget.

Motion Passed

Yes: 16

No: 2

Abstention: 0

12.0

OPIRG Referendum YES SIDE (Hibma)

BIRT BUSAC be permitted to run the "YES" side Campaign Team of the OPIRG Referendum, pursuant to section 5 of By-Law 401, the "Referenda By-law"

BIFRT Faisal Hejazi; the President of BUSU, be directed to act as the chair of "YES" side Campaign Team of the OPIRG Referendum, pursuant to section 5 of By-Law 401, the "Referenda By-law"

Mover: Hibma

Secunder: Wassink

Hibma: I think one thing worth noting in comparison to last year is not only the time that this referendum is being brought forward, but last year our president solely ran the campaign. I have complete confidence that our representative would do a good job of representing BUSU.

Verrier: October election this year we had the highest voter turnout this year.

Napper gives her turn to the Gallery: If any of the councilors on the yes committee have to excuse themselves from the council? What is the process for remaining a student representative but running this campaign

Kayleigh: Faisal will not be taking a leave from work because BUSU is tasking him to run this referendum. As this is from BUSU, you are not running as an individual and you don't have to take a leave.

Hejazi: I'm doing this by default as two of our council will be taking leaves of absence and Maddy will be running the SJC referendum.

Lillo gives his turn to the Gallery: Could you speak to the difference between an individual running this campaign and a BUSU run campaign? What does it advocate for when the student union runs for the yes side? Does it mean they feel the levy isn't worthwhile? What does it mean for how the student union is represented?

Purkiss: You will have the exact same budget to run, and yes, BUSU feels that OPIRG should be defunded.

Green: If council decides they support this motion, BUSU would run the election with Faisal being the chair. If this goes to no, there would be an opening for a Yes side that a student could step up to run the Yes side. If they vote it down no, someone else can take on the yes side, and would have to take a leave. The people who join the campaign team do not have to leave.

Tooba gives her turn to the Gallery: Based on all this, I would strongly advocate that you vote no and have an individual student member take this on, instead of BUSU championing this motion. We never wanted it to be OPIRG versus BUSU. If the executive feels strongly enough to take it on we would encourage them to take it on, but working with BUSU is 100% in our priorities. We encourage you to vote no to this.

Hejazi: I do respect your opinion, if I have to run this referendum as an individual it would mean leaving the office with no executives, and it would cause chaos.

Saleeb gives her turn to the Gallery: Just to confirm, if it was voted no, it wouldn't just be an executive, it could also be a council member?

Hejazi: I don't want to put a burden on a student that's in classes, that student is going to have to take a leave of absence, and I don't want to force someone to do that.

Napper: I know Faisal says that it's by default, it's best to have him run this as the students place their faith in him. To have 1 executive in the office it would be mayhem, it's mayhem with 4 execs.

Yendt: Having been a BUSAC representative who ran 2 referendums without taking a leave of absences, it is logistically a nightmare, there are so many nuances that you don't understand until you're in the position.

Khan gives his turn to the Gallery: I do appreciate that if it was voted no that an individual would have to run that referendum. OPIRG has people who help run the referendum, we also are coming into this referendum with a chunk of our support not being able support us.

Green: Community members don't pay the fee, so that's why community members can't be on campus. As you saw from Brock radio, Brock radio lasted 3 years and came back. No funding doesn't mean that OPIRG will die. The other reason that if this is voted no, then any resources are not eligible to be used. Then it shifts where OPIRG can put all their resources into this but BUSU cannot.

Motion Passed

Yes: 13

No: 2 Verrier

Abstention: 2 Hejazi

13.0

Student Justice Center Referendum YES SIDE (Bathish)

BIRT BUSAC be permitted to run the "YES" side Campaign Team of the Student Justice Center Referendum, pursuant to section 5 of By-Law 401, the "Referenda By-law"

BIFRT Maddy Wassink; the Vice President, Student Services of BUSU, be directed to act as the chair of "YES" side Campaign Team of the Student Justice Center Referendum, pursuant to section 5 of By-Law 401, the "Referenda By-law"

Mover: Bathish

Secunder: Harber

Motion Passed

Yes: 16

No: 1

Abstention: 1 Wassink

14.0**Zone Referendum (Hejazi)**

BIRT BUSAC tasks the Referendum Petitions and Polls Oversight Committee to meet with relevant stakeholders to draft a question and memorandum of understanding for the March election period for a potential Zone referendum
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Mover: Hejazi Secunder: Lillo

Hejazi: I've mentioned this before, it was one of my main platform points. As many of you are aware in 2012 it passed that all students could access the zone, however it has limited capacity. Some of us are getting memberships elsewhere because there's no room to workout. I've been there 3 times and I've walked out twice because it was so packed. Algoma has 1800 students and their gym is 10000 square feet, we have 18000 and ours is 4200 square feet. We have the second smallest gym in the entire country. This will contribute to both physical and mental health. There's been a lot of research going into this, we met with architects, engineers, university administrators and banks for financial planning, and we have a 25 page long draft report. My last meeting will be taking place next week where we can propose a fee for students. There are two options to where we can expand, above academic south, or in the courtyard. Courtyard will be 11200 feet; academic south will be 10600 feet. Courtyard addition would cost 375/sq ft, Academic South would cost 300-/350 sq ft. Hopefully this will be taken to the March election referendum, to which students will pay fees over the next 3-5 years. This will be taken to RPOC to draft a MOU and fees structure and then come back to BUSAC before it goes to March elections.

Saleeb: How that's going to look? Are you going to take out a wall?

Hejazi: There's a potential to have a 3D rendering of what it's going to look like, which is something I've been advocating for. Next week I'll be finalizing which expansion we are going to do.

<i>Motion Passed</i>

Yes: 18 No: 0 Abstention: 0

15.0**Governance Committee Report**

BIRT BUSAC approves the Data Collection Committee Bylaw in its first reading.

Mover: Sheikh

Secunder: Lillo

Sheikh: Since last semester the governance committee has been digitally working to make more informed decision making on council, we can do this through the current proposal of having more data driven governance.

Purkiss: Right now, I've planned 3 surveys, one in September, October, and March. September to get information on O-Week, and demographics. Ask them questions about transit, active levels on campus. October is focused on elections. March is similar demographic questions, how BUSU has impacted your life, and hopefully that can direct future execs.

Hibma: I just want to thank them for a lot of the work that they've done. I don't sit on governance committee but they reached out to me. I think this allows students and clubs to make data driven clubs, and it gives us the opportunity to foster experiential learning.

Johnson: Just to clarify, you would be bringing in a report to a BUSAC meeting to help inform decisions?

Sheikh: Obviously the problems and issues would change from year to year and I think the surveys would be reflective of the problems that are arising each year. I think a lot of the surveys this committee would be implementing are feedback oriented, such as feedback on O-Week and how we can improve it.

Purkiss: The surveys are for bulk information and see trends, as well as demographics as they help us see who are the biggest groups on campus.

Khan: Does BUSAC collect data like this already?

Green: We've done transit surveys in the past, advocacy have done some, I wouldn't say they're campus wide, as we can't access the email data base for all students. The orientation survey we are able to put a couple of questions on there. Our marketing department does a number of surveys throughout the year. This would certainly help us. Some of it we track year over year, for social media marketing we do an overview of our traffic. We put it into an annual report to hand over the next marketing team.

Lillo: this will help us collect data more efficiency and more data in general, as well as help us identify what data we need to start collecting. Looking and developing practices.

Johnson: I know the Brock Press does lots of polls, they're mostly not related to student issues, would you be able to work with those existing surveys and data for your committee?

Sheikh: That's a great point, and we didn't want to make the bylaw too specific. We wanted to leave some autonomy to the committee so they can decide the issues they want to address. Collaboration is great and we want to make sure they have that as a valid option.

Motion Passed

Yes: 15

No: 0

Abstention: 2 Verrier

16.0

Report – General Manager

General Manager, Mr. Green, presents report.

18.0

Report – VP Student Services

VPSS, Ms. Wassink, presents report.

19.0

Report – VP External Affairs

VPEA, Ms. Bathish, presents report.

20.0

Report – VP Finance & Administration

VPFA, Mr. Hibma, presents report.

21.0

Report – President

President, Mr. Hejazi, presents report.

Hejazi: Would anybody be very opposed to the cancellation of the laptop borrowing service from the library in September 2018? They either want to do it to the best of their ability, or not do it at all.

Ali: I would say they should survey the students who actually use the laptops and ask them if they want the service to continue or not, and I know at least four students who use those laptops.

Lillo: I think that it seems like a lot of issues, I know desktops have a lot of issues and they can use that money to reinvest in the desktops. Sometimes people think they will use a service when they actually won't.

Hejazi: They did conduct a survey, there's a 60% drop in use of users, not including from 2017. Laptop ownership is 91% and smartphone ownership is 92%. 32% say they borrow a laptop because they own a laptop but don't want to bring a laptop. 21% forgot their laptop at home. It seems like most students use it because of the convenience. I don't think the laptop is something that is crucial or essential for a student to succeed. I think a computer and internet is, but we have those on campus. That's just my own opinion.

Napper: I was just going to raise the point that, I'm a con-ed student, and almost all elementary and high schools in Niagara are leaning towards BYOD because it's cheaper. I don't really think that 25k should be going towards this service when it could be allocated better.

Hejazi: McMaster and Queens ended their services. Guelph has scaled back from 150 to 20 laptops, it's a trend across the province.

Yendt: I'm not an undergrad student, but I want to be cautious of the data that was provided, that means 8% don't have a smart phone and 9% don't have a laptop. This is an accessibility issue and it means almost 10% of students have an accessibility issue. There are accessible portions of our population that we need to consider. The library has a vested interest in moving this one way or another, it's also because they have decreased the accessibility. They've decreased the number of laptops available, so as a result less people will be using that service.

Hejazi: I agree with you, I'm just considering that I personally took notes by hand and didn't consider my laptop essential in that concern.

Yendt: I don't have the answer either, but I think it's worth for us to note that it's a portion of the population that has an accessible need.

Johnson: I just want to point out that there are many programs that are growing for people who are in financial need to help them access laptops. For the 9% that don't have a laptop, it's getting better for them to be able to afford them, but also being able to remove Brock being responsible for the laptops I think that, for those who can't afford it, what I find is that it's a little more stressful to have to worry about returning a laptop with all these conditions which is not open 24/7. So, being able to find another way with these new programs to allow them help to afford a laptop that is completely their own is a better approach for the need for laptops. I would be leaning more towards supporting the removal of the program because of this.

Hibma: Yeah there's a percentage of people who do need laptops, a laptop is directly correlated to my academic success in that standard.

Sheikh: Where are the funds for this program being collected?

Hejazi: through the library's budget in the university. This would come out of their budget.

Sheikh: So they have the autonomy to make the final call?

Hejazi: yes, they just came to us out of respect so in case there was significant concern from our end.

Harber: If you wanted it available but more affordable, you could go with a tablet as it's more budget friendly.

22.0

Close Question Period

23.0

Information and Reminders

Beaumont: Thank you everybody for your commitment to this meeting as I know it went longer than our last few, and for exercising your democratic right to be the voice for the students.

Purkiss: Faisal talked about most of it; elections are coming up, if you are interested please come to the elections office, nominations close on the 26th. There will be a lot of debate days so keep an eye out.

Yendt: I want to thank council for resilience in a heated debate and I thought everyone did a great job. Bell Let's Talk is fast approaching and it's done a lot of great things for the mental health communities to decrease stigma, I myself was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, it combines bipolar and schizophrenia. One of the things I want to acknowledge that there's still a difference between mental illness and mental health. I caution anyone to not conflate the two, it does a lot of damage to our community. There are all sorts of sides to mental health, and Bell Let's Talk shows a very certain side of mental health. Mental health and mental illness are not the same thing, and treat them responsibly.

Bathish: Thank you everyone for staying so long, as Faisal mentioned the advocacy team has been doing a wonderful job this year. Tomorrow is the last day for our OER campaign, take a pic of your receipt and tweet it at us you could win. Any questions about running for the role of VPEA can come ask questions

Green: we don't meet again until February 7th, everyone here has a vested interest in getting voter turnout up. Also remember there's spots available for board of directors, if you have any questions. All four of the current executives have experiences sitting on the board. There's one and two-year seats available.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:15pm