

Brock University Students' Administrative Council



Meeting: 10
Date: January 27, 7:00pm

Speaker: Chris Ventura
Deputy Speaker: John Pappas
Recording Secretary: Kaitlyn Daw

OVERVIEW

Opening Procedures

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New Business

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Adjournment

1.0

Call to Order

2.0

Approval of the Agenda

Add Fed Up Levy Request and Committee Reports to the agenda.

Horvath: The last breakfast was well received. If that's still the case, this will be the fifth breakfast.

Horvath, Budgeon

BIRT BUSAC approves the agenda as amended for the January 27, 2016 meeting.

20-In favor
0-Against
0-Abstain

3.0

Adoption of the Minutes

BIRT BUSAC approves the January 14, 2016 minutes.

20-In favor
0-Against
0-Abstain

Passes by general consent.

4.0

Open Question Period

5.0

Notes from the Speaker

Elections start in earnest next week. I've been instructed that by Friday you need to send an email to the CRO and me to let us know that you will be a part of a campaign team. If you're not on a leave of absence you will have to volunteer your time doing classroom talks, polling hours, or any other election

promotion. John is happy to use the recent changes in bylaw 103 surrounding elections during this election period as a trial run.

The AGM is tomorrow. We've done some serious promotion for this this term and it appears that many councilors have not joined the event online. When under half of council has said they would attend the event it's a problem, so please make sure you attend.

The two MOUs on the agenda have to come to this meeting because this is the deadline set by our legislation. This is something governance is discussing right now with elections as well because this deadline seems very soon, considering this is the second BUSAC meeting of the term and we have to have all MOUs in for March. I want to be clear that these aren't last minute items, we're just respecting the deadline that we have to abide by.

I've been asked to communicate that the paintings at the back are \$30,000 a piece, so please be careful not to hit or rub up against them. There are some empty seats away from the wall that you're more than welcome to sit in.

I want to remind everyone to speak through me tonight and I will direct it to the appropriate party. There are 20 members present and quorum is 11.

6.0

Presentation – Club Funding Request (Archaeological Society)

Anna Wrobel and Olivia Holcombe present the Archeological Society funding request.

7.0

Presentation – Club Funding Request (Brock Fashion HQ)

Kidisha and Natasha present the Brock Fashion HQ funding request.

Craig: Do you charge a fee for your designers to show off their work at your show?

Brock Fashion HQ: No. We don't charge them because they're taking this out of their free time and handle their material costs.

Craig: What kind of sponsorships do you have?

Brock Fashion HQ: We work closely with Brock affiliated organizations and clubs. Today we were introduced to the photography club and they volunteered to do photography. We're looking into corporate sponsorships but we don't have any yet.

Verrier: Are you rounding up the costs to \$500?

Brock Fashion HQ: Yes. We're rounding up because of unexpected additional costs like potential damages at the venue.

Governance Report

Hashmi: I recognize there's a significant amount of councilors absent this evening. We could pass this next meeting which is February 24, but this is really close to the March elections and doesn't give John enough time to prepare for the changes made to the BUSAC bylaw. We have had two round table discussions and have spent a significant amount of time going through the report and changes that were made during the last BUSAC meeting, including edits council made collaboratively, so that we would be able to pass it in its second reading tonight. Governance has a lot of other bylaws to bring forward to council, and pushing this back would disorganize our plans for the other bylaws, including the elections bylaw which is integral to the BUSAC bylaw. Governance is looking at changing the second semester MOU as well so that it is more in line with the first semester. While we respect the absent councilors' desire to be here and speak their concerns, they have had several opportunities to come and present concerns regarding the changes. We find it a bit redundant to table it tonight. Saying that, we respect your wishes as BUSAC but ask that you recognize there are only 7 councilors on leave right now, and they were given the opportunity to be here to voice their opinions as members of the public.

Speaker: To reiterate, option one is to table, and option two is to go through with the reading.

Straw poll

Table motion – 8 in favor

Pass the Second Reading – 10 in favor

Abstain – 2 in favor

Rose: This is somewhat awkward because I want to vote in favor of this. But a lot of people have come to me expressing their concerns about these bylaw changes, and this is me doing my due diligence to ask people to please speak up if you're uncomfortable about voting this through.

Verrier: I still don't understand why we're offering two and one year positions. I want more of an explanation for that, please.

Hashmi: Having 15 At Large positions will attract a lot of candidates. As a councilor I've been much more involved on BUSAC during my second year because I understand how the standing orders and committees work. If we recycle 15 new councilors every year we pose the risk of losing councilors who are on the brink of making positive change just as they get familiar with the structure of BUSAC. This way there's a mixture of councilors with rollover experience and a structure for mentorship for incoming councilors. Board currently works this way.

Berryman: Hypothetically, if someone was elected for a two year term and served one year but decided not to return, would the second year go to the runner up from the last year or would it go up for election again?

Hashmi: I would say it would go to the next runner up, but it would depend on them. I wouldn't see the point in calling an election.

Campbell: I understand people wanting to pass it tonight, but I would rather see this tabled.

Sufi: For two-year Board terms we have an election during the first period, right?

Speaker: Yes, we have an election during the regular period. For example, if the first place person was a fifth year student going into their one year term, that seat would go up for election again as normal. As we discussed at the last meeting, everyone is just elected and those two year terms are handed out in preferential order of first, second, third, etc. and if someone declines it goes down the list. What we hope would happen, is if we notice someone is in their fourth year we would ask if they'd be sticking around for two years because it doesn't make much sense to run for a two year term if they're going to graduate before their term concludes.

Hashmi: I'm not understanding what you think is going to change when we bring it back on the 24th with the same rationale. I'm going to be honest, the next meeting is almost in a month and most people will forget a lot of this discussion by then. I personally will not feel comfortable passing these changes if you don't remember what's been proposed. I understand there are not as many people in the room right now, but we gave them the opportunity to come. I don't see your opinions changing come February 24.

Verrier: At the beginning at each year we decide our meeting time. If a councilor is unable to make those meetings it could pose a big problem because there wouldn't be a representative for that faculty anymore. Speaking from experience it's very difficult to act as a sole representative of a faculty, and having that onus on one person to be the one to make decisions for the faculty is a lot for one person. There's a possibility of a councilor stepping down and a faculty being left without a representative. I think there should be at least two representatives per faculty. I will be voting against this.

Irandost: I agree with Shanza. It makes sense, and if the other councilors were so worried they would have shown up. What's going to change? You'll still vote against it if we table it.

Rose: Did Verrier pose his question at the round table, and if so, what was the reaction?

Hashmi: No. We have had many governance meetings where he had the opportunity to bring it up.

Deb: In regards to the five mandatory meetings: would it be a for the individual's entire term?

Speaker: Attendance resets per academic year.

Sufi: This is my third year on council. During my first year I was the only representative for the faculty of Education and it was an honour and privilege. Frankly I don't personally think it was a burden to represent an entire faculty.

Rose: I'm not sure that councilor Verrier would be able to speak to these conditions even though he is the only councilor for his faculty being that there's a lot of infrastructure lacking between the current system and what this new system would look like. I'm going to vote in favour of this motion because of the diligent work that's been done and general logic of the changes.

BIRT BUSAC approves the changes to Bylaw 103 (Brock University Students' Administrative Council) in its second reading
Hashmi, Hobbs

14-In favor 3-Against (Verrier) 5-Abstain

BIRT BUSAC approves the changes to Bylaw 600 (Committees) in its second reading.
Hashmi, Craig

21-In favor 0-Against 1-Abstain

Piovesan: If you recommend less than the requested \$1500 and the club says they still want more funding, would the decision be up to CPC or would it go to BUSAC anyway?

Horvath: If a club requested 1600 and we suggested they would only get 900, they would have to go to BUSAC with their original ask.

Munro: Only if they don't want to accept the recommendation and would like to try to get the full amount.

Piovesan: I mean if they were asking for exactly 1500, they would come to BUSAC?

Speaker: Regardless of the amount, if they're not happy with CPC's recommendation they would bring it to BUSAC.

Bezaire: Is there anyone on there in Part A beside BUSAC and SALs? The way it's written right now suggests there would be an even number of members.

Hashmi: No there are other members so it won't be an even number.

BIRT BUSAC approves the changes to Bylaw 609 (Clubs Policy Committee) in its second reading.
Hashmi, Bezaire

18-In favor 3-Against (Verrier) 1-Abstain (Budgeon)

Clubs Policy Committee Report (Club Funding)

Budgeon: Their costs were justified and we feel as though the money they’re asking for is reasonable.

Piovesan: What is the current total of club funding left?

Budgeon: \$9394.28.

Verrier: With the amount of fundraising this club did, I think should definitely receive full funding. It’s a great effort.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$1077.00 as a grant from Club Funding to the Archaeological Society.

Horvath, Sufi

20-In favor
0-Against
2-Abstain (Budgeon)

Budgeon: We found ways that they could save on some of their costs and they have roughly \$550 in their account. We feel as though they will be able to work with a loan because they’re looking to sell 170 tickets and we think they’ll be able to sell them based on their turnout last year.

Horvath: They had a turnout of 175 people the first time they hosted this event with a return of \$3000. It won “Event of the Year” last year, too.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$5000.00 as a grant from club funding to the Brock Fashion HQ.

Horvath, Hashmi

-In favor
-Against
-Abstain (Budgeon)

Motion to amend to a \$4000 loan.

Horvath, Bezaire

20-In favor
0-Against
2-Abstain (Budgeon)

Motion passes successfully.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$4000.00 as a loan from Club Funding to Brock Fashion HQ.
Horvath, Hashmi

20-In favor
1-Against
1-Abstain (Budgeon)

10.0

Committee Elections

BIRT BUSAC elects Istafa Sufi and Abby Budgeon to the Appeals Committee until the end of the February election period.

-In favor
-Against
-Abstain

BIRT BUSAC elects Jake Coetzee to the Ethics Committee until the end of the February election period.

-In favor
-Against
-Abstain

BIRT BUSAC elects Kelsey Craig and Shanza Hashmi to the Elections Committee until the end of the February election period.

-In favor
-Against
-Abstain

Motion to open the agenda to include SAL approval.

Hobbs, Verrier

Motion passes by general consent.

11.0

BrockTV MOU

BIRT BUSAC sends the BrockTV student levy to referendum for the March 2016 election.
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Verrier, Rose

17-In favor

0-Against

0-Abstain

Rose: There's a variety of reasons why I support this. It allows for practical learning experience and it integral to the capturing the student experience, not to mention something that is taken for granted like having a camera at these meetings or other events. It goes a long way.

12.0

Student at Large Approval

Hobbs: She's worked in the office for up to two years now. She heard about it today and wanted to be a part of it. She understands how BUSU and BUSAC works.

BIRT BUSAC approves Fiona Purkiss as a Student at Large member on the Elections Committee

Hobbs, Berryman

16-In favor

0-Against

1-Abstain

13.0

Programming Levy MOU

Craig: I wanted to see if you would reconsider having an opt-out option for students because I could see conflict with this in the future.

Horvath: I think it will be hard to get students to buy into this fee.

Green: There's no mechanism for that. With the current form of the first year fee they aren't here to be able to opt out of it. They aren't charged again in second, third, or fourth year; it's a one-time fee. Besides, we won't have as high a fee as Western.

Craig: I don't understand what the rationale is for just charging the first year students.

Horvath: Most first years are the ones who attend these programming events.

Berryman: I have a few supporting statements. I have been selling the VIB card for the past two years and I've seen a lot of problems with it. The first time I met students I was selling them something rather than creating a relationship with them. They don't understand what BUSU is and tend to see us as an entertainment center, plus the cards make orientation week first-year centric. Removing this card gives us more freedom to

reach out to other years. There's also the issue of dividing first year students from other students at events with the card, and this fee will help create more singularity. I see this doing a lot of good for the community.

Bezaire: To clarify, would this be for first years or transfer students coming the first time?

Green: We're unsure at this time, but we will figure that out. There aren't many transfer students, so it would be targeted at the bulk of other incoming students.

Speaker: When students come into Brock, there are different sub categories that the finance office uses, but this fee would likely affect those students coming from high school into university.

Verrier: Anyone can go to these events, so how would you be able to identify who is a first year student?

Green: We would treat it the same as a bus pass. When we go through Smart Start they'll be given bracelets or something of that effect.

Jaberi: You have a good idea and I support it. One thing to mention is that some universities give the option to opt out. Have you considered giving them a range instead of the option to opt out?

Horvath: Giving them a range by what? Some other schools give a range based on faculty, and that's the range in prices that they will pay. Our orientation week is for everyone, not per faculty.

Jaberi: A charge from \$0-100 where you can organize what you want and calculate how much you need. Charge them \$85 or \$90 because there's no opt out option.

Green: The ancillary fee prohibits you from doing that. You can't tell them it might be a certain amount because the province of Ontario doesn't allow you to do that. There's no way for the finance department to make that happen legally.

Bernie: You say want to charge an extra \$100, but what's the benefit of charging \$100 over \$85? What are you going to do with that extra \$60,000?

Horvath: The \$60,000 will cover American exchange rates. There are a lot of costs that add up with programming, and the money will help us put on better programming and events for our students.

Bernie: It's not just an extra \$60,000, it'll be like an extra couple of hundred thousand dollars after charging each student this fee.

Green: That revenue will come out of the stream, so it will go from \$182,000 to \$400,000. We won't be charging for gate revenue for first years or events moving forward. This fee will subsidize the gap. It's also on the lower end in terms of pricing compared to the schools that have these fees.

Horvath: There's going to be bigger productions and more events because of this fee.

Deb: A lot of people know I'm a first student. There were a lot of people who didn't want to participate in these celebrations during the week. I find it is forcing those students to participate even though they don't want to. That's my main concern.

Campbell: How would these events be funded?

Horvath: They would all be heavily subsidized. For big ticket events like our concerts where tickets would normally be \$50 would only cost \$15 or maybe \$20.

Piovesan: I agree with what Mr. Deb was saying because there are a lot of students who would be forced to come to the events. For a student who was just able to afford university, they can't afford \$100 for an event. I don't think it's right to force them to pay for this. I totally get and appreciate the argument that you don't want the first interaction with students to be about selling something, but what you're saying with this fee is "we're making you pay it secretly."

Motion to amend to add a sunset clause for 5 years.

Sufi, Verrier

Sufi: I think you covered the reasoning earlier. It's been a legislative best practice because it adds more accountability to the MOU.

Green: I can appreciate the five-year renewal. Knowing the 3 years... The MOU allocates for security, staff, and programs. If this fee were to be recalled the programming budget would go from \$400,000 to \$0 in a day. You would also be ending contracts which would have a massive ripple effect of severances we'd have to pay with money we don't have. If it went to March referendum, you would have to create a system on how to run orientation week. It's not an ordinary fee. That's why none of the Brock fees have a sunset clause and I would speak passionately against this. I think a better practice would be to bring it to BUSAC for review and not expose BUSU to lawsuits or severance.

Sufi: How much money are we looking at if this were to pass? What jobs would be affected?

Green: If this were to pass, the student event coordinator, volunteer, partnership manager, and VPSS salaries would be affected. This fee would create 3-4 new student jobs. Those are my concerns if you went from \$400,000-\$0 in one sweep.

Hobbs: The entire reason we have things like 3 year review period for fees is to ensure the funds are being used appropriately. For the reason Mr. Green just mentioned, we have complete oversight over this. It's directly out of BUSU and it's not a third party associate. I don't think including a sunset clause in an MOU that functions as a contract between students and BUSU is a good idea when we have that oversight.

Public: I think the VIB needs to be tailored to people, not necessarily an academic institution. If we went on a social media blitz, you could help students feel happy about getting the VIB by showing how it is used as a tool to connect students with each other. I support the programming fee. I do think it's a possibility, but you have to give them something before they get to show them the possibilities of the community this fee will build. Show how it's inclusive. We all share Badger pride and this is where the cost comes into play. Market it to people to show that we're selling something they can look forward to.

Sufi: I would like to retract my motion to amend.

Motion retracted.

Banava: I would like to remind councilors that student life is a huge aspect of university life in general. I've been at Brock three years and this is the second time this kind of referendum has come up. There is clearly a need for a fixed budget and the numbers speak for themselves. I agree with Brian on everything he said. I understand that not all

students like to party, but as Mr. Horvath mentioned, some of the money went towards other activities and programming too. It's not just the party-centric events.

Horvath: We quickly brushed over where the fee would be going. This money could create so much more. We talked about o-week and volunteering, this money will allow us to create something huge. You have to apply to be a volunteer at other universities. It's going to take time to build a bigger volunteer base. Mr. Green also talked about how we will be able to plan events where we don't have to worry about selling tickets or taking risks. It'll give us money in our back pocket when we want to try something new. Because the margin on our budget is tight, if we weren't doing so well on our sponsorship this year we could have been done for the rest of year because of the last concert. This money will allow us to try new things and reach out to students in new ways. We want to create a community and this fee would help bring us together. They've already paid the \$100, so there's no reason they couldn't attend if they wanted to.

Green: In our current system, we can't offer the diverse programming that other universities can. What are their two top genres for concerts? We can't take the risk of taking on a different act because we don't have the budget to do it. There's currently no ability to take the risk of implementing diverse programming like concerts or keynote speakers on campus. We had to pass the offer to bring Claire Hughes to speak for 2 hours because we couldn't afford the risk. The impact that event would have had would have been unbelievable, but we can't charge students to attend a mental health talk. We can't touch these other areas unless we know they're a slam-dunk. A few years ago we did a big event called "Pimp my Dorm" where we gave away \$8000 to one student. We spent a lot of resources marketing this event and only five students showed up. We lost our shirts on it. The gentlemen from the public gave some phenomenal comments.

Rose: It was reflected in the mock budget that some of the money would be allocated to other events. Some examples of initiatives we can't currently explore is mental health, diversity in food, social justice events, events that cater to underrepresented groups, as well as speakers or career preparation events. If we had more flexibility in the budget we could plan these events. Second, we're not in this room to decide whether this fee should be implemented. We're currently deciding whether these students will have the opportunity to vote themselves. We are determining the ethical value of the fee in and of itself. That's the question. For the folks getting into the nitty-gritty details, let the students decide. It's within our union to hold them accountable. You have an opportunity to get involved with idea generation.

Bezaire: I think it's a great idea. Let's say we have an event and you're selling tickets. If there's a line up, who gets preference?

Horvath: It will be geared towards first year students.

Verrier: Has anyone looked at increasing the BUSU fee because it hasn't been raised in a number of years?

Green: The fee is tied to CPI. As CPI increases the BUSU fee increases. You could go and look at adding in a per credit fee. You could get rid of the bus pass fee. But since 2006 or 2010 we've changed the way we do referendum. The reason you do a separate fee is so that it's clear what it's supposed to be used for. You wouldn't have councilors sitting in on how that money is spent if you did a per credit fee. It's easier to maintain accountability and oversight the way the fee is set up right now.

Verrier: The name “Programming Levy” might be the reason it didn’t go well before. I don’t think of cool events when I hear this, I think of different programs instigated by Brock for different initiatives.

Green: Student life fee is already taken unfortunately, which is exactly what this Levy is for. We looked at programming entertainment as well, but if anyone has suggestions we’d be happy to hear them. I agree, it isn’t the ideal term.

Hobbs: Opening up the BUSU fees allow students to make mistakes. Opening up that MOU could completely alter the way BUSU works. For the \$100 fee, there are a ton of fees that you don’t use but pay for like Day Care. It positively affects the life of other students and university as a whole. I don’t think it’s a good argument to say it isn’t worth implementing because some students won’t use all of the programming when you’re benefiting the student body as a whole.

Horvath: There’s a list of other universities who do it another way too.

Jaberi: Mr. Rose mentioned this would go to referendum. First year votes turn out less than upper year voting. I think it wouldn’t be a good idea.

Green: We actually don’t know if that’s the fact or not because we don’t have a mechanism to track voting patterns.

Bernie: This is more for clarification. You said earlier you were over capacity.—at capacity, sorry. How do you make sure that everyone can get in?

Horvath: We’ll adjust our programming to accommodate capacity. Next year we’ll track student attendance at events and create a map where students register. Small things like that could be used to gauge student attendance.

Green: The tower ... if we were going to move onto the grass, you would still need to provide weather shelter. You would have extra costs like permits. You’re also going to have to bring in more fencing. That’s how you would handle that situation. You build a structure and then fit people in it.

Bernie: How much do other universities charge?

Horvath: I’ve provided a list of what other universities charge.

Bernie: We keep comparing ourselves with other universities. Should we be looking at ones that are more similar to us?

Green: Western has a similar sized student population.

Deb: Mr. Rose mentioned all undergrads would be participating in the referendum. None of the students paying for the fee would be here to vote. This would not be an add-on to them and I find that concerning because they have no say in whether the fee should be accepted.

Green: I understand where you’re coming from, but that’s every fee we have now. When you entered Brock you paid those fees, that’s unfortunately how it works.

Piovesan: I think the difference is that we all pay those fees each year, but the only students paying for it will have no say and we wouldn’t have to pay for it. I don’t feel comfortable with this.

Rose: They also lack the perspective on how that might impact their experience. The students voting for this fee will have either attended or didn’t attend the events. They also have the opportunity to be educated on what the fee will be used for. There’s going to be an opportunity to educate the student body. The fact that every student will have a

perspective on their experience I think is greater than those who haven't experienced it. I can say that at least 95% of them were interested in experiencing new things and meeting new friends. What I've learned at university is that more than 80% of the experience comes outside of the classroom. It's the opportunity to interact with students on various different levels.

Call to question

Hobbs, Rose

13-In favor 2-Against 0-Abstain

Call to question succeeds, discussion concludes.

BIRT BUSAC send the Programming Levy MOU to referendum during the March 2016 election.
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Horvath, Craig

11-In favor 3-Against (Jaberi) 1-Abstain (Verrier)
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14.0

Fed Up Levy Funding Request (Heather Hill)

Sufi: Why was this brought so late to council?

Green: The Board approved it at today's meeting, which happened earlier this afternoon.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$5065 from the Fed Up Levy Funding for General Brock expenses.

BIFRT BUSAC approves \$600 for two additional fridge units
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Rose, Bezaire

14-In favor 0-Against 0-Abstain

15.0

Fed Up Levy Funding Request (Brian Horvath)

BIRT BUSAC approves \$2700 from the Fed Up Levy Funding for a Meet the Candidates Breakfast

Horvath, Craig

14-In favor 0-Against 0-Abstain

16.0

Report – General Manager

17.0

Report – VP Student Services

18.0

Report – President

19.0

Committee Reports (RILRC and Environment Committee)

20.0

Closed Question Period

21.0

Information and Reminders