

Brock University Students' Administrative Council



Meeting: 13

Date: March 29, 2017, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Istafa Sufi

Deputy Speaker: Jeremy Steinhausen

Recording Secretary: Kaitlyn Daw

OVERVIEW

Opening Procedures

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2 Territorial Recognition	Administrative
3 Approval of the Agenda	Administrative
4 Adoption of the Minutes (Meeting 12)	Administrative
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Adjournment

1.0

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

2.0

Territorial Recognition

3.0

Approval of the Agenda

BIRT BUSAC approves the agenda for the March 29, 2017 meeting.

Barbon, Sehgal

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

Passes by general consent

4.0

Adoption of the Minutes

BIRT BUSAC approves the March 15, 2017 minutes.

Stark, Price

14-In favor

0-Against

2-Abstain

5.0

Open Question Period

6.0

Notes from the Speaker

Welcome back everyone, I hope you're doing well. 2/3s majority is 19. 50%+1 is 15. Total voting members present is 16 at this time.

Presentation – BUFA*Larry Savage presents.*

Sheikh: I was wondering if you could clarify by what you mean about the open access publishing initiative?

Savage: Open access publishing means publishing research that is free and accessible to everybody. Oftentimes there may be a subscription wall or fee that inhibits a student from accessing a piece of research. Open access would mean it's free and accessible at any time. It's good for students because research is made more affordable and accessible, but it's also good for the general public to be able to access the research that the university is creating. BUFA is committed to this idea; it's a win-win.

Stark: One of my professors doesn't have a PhD but is highly regarded in their industry. Is that something that could be argued against the 14% you mentioned? What's your response to that?

Savage: The 14% I mentioned is a cap; the university isn't at that cap yet. There are some programs, like nursing, that make sense to have people come in from the outside, but this isn't the case for all faculties. When Brock asks you to pay a full-time tuition fee and you're being taught by part-time professors that aren't involved in the Brock community, what does that say about the reputation of the University and the quality of education you're getting? There are obviously some exemptions, such as sabbaticals or leaves.

Stark: How do part-time vs. full-time percentages compare?

Savage: The general trend in the U.S. is that part-time contingent faculty are the faculty majority, but this varies by school in Canada. In some schools, if a professor retires and the university doesn't replace them within a certain amount of time they are forced to replace them with a full-time faculty member. This provision in their contract ensures continuation of quality full-time staff. I don't want to throw part-time staff under the bus, but they can't do the same thing for students as full-time staff. For example, writing reference letters. They're also not involved in the university in governance issues. There's less of a relationship there, and generally speaking that's not a good thing for the community as a whole.

Stark: Do you have percentages from other schools, like UBC?

Savage: No, I don't know their percentages.

Stark: Is there information to compare with other institutions available?

Savage: There aren't many statistics in this area, and if there is data they don't make it publicly available and/or difficult to acquire.

Wood: I studied a bit in Germany and the university system is following a similar model as the U.S. because part-time industry professionals taught most of the classes. I think these professionals offer a valuable perspective to education, and considering Brock's focus on pushing experiential learning and career preparation, it doesn't seem like a necessarily bad idea to be taught by industry professionals.

Savage: I think that's a valuable point to make. I think it comes down to the question: Do you want a system where the base of the university faculty is part-time and don't have the same commitment to the university? They're industry professionals, and it makes sense in some programs that you're exposed to them, but it's not for all faculties.

Verrier: I'm in the drama program so we have a lot of part-time instructors, but they come back every year. In my first year we had two teachers do a course together, one of whom was an actress. The actress had no idea what she was doing because of the course she was teaching. It was awful. That being said, there are some part-time instructors doing a lot of good, but there is potential for unqualified teachers to come in and impact a student's quality of education.

Green: When I was in the political science program, Labour Studies wasn't a full-blown program yet. What is the succession planning to get new young professors into the university to continue the flow of education and ready older professors for their retirement?

Savage: The way universities allocate resources isn't the same as the way a private corporation does. I graduated from the same program at Brock, and it's a good example of there being majority full-time instructors and some part-time instructors sprinkled throughout the department. Part-time instructors don't have the same capacity to build relationships with students or do research, they don't participate in university governance in the same way either. It's bad for the quality of education and for students.

Green: What is the review process of determining whether a professor will be returning? Quality education will only happen if there's constant review of their teaching. I'm not certain that the review process is done for quality for full-time staff.

Savage: Both include student evaluation forms. These forms count in all instances no matter what people have told you. They're used in promotional applications for faculty members. Deans review them every year for full-time staff. Part-time staff might be reviewed by the chair. There is a process in the part-time faculty agreement, but that doesn't allocate jobs based on the most qualified candidate. It's the candidate with the most seniority *with* qualifications. There's no view that the provisions in the full-time collective agreement are stronger than part-time.

Calder: Last week we saw a presentation about the Human Rights Task Force. During their presentation they fell back on the collective agreement as a reason for allowing accused staff and/or faculty to continue working during an investigation. Could you speak to this?

Savage: That particular professor was not a member of BUFA, he was a member of the administration. He's not protected by the collective administration in any way. If it's a hypothetical instance, all unions in the province of Ontario are bound by the "Duty Of Fair Representation" law, which requires that they represent their members in disciplinary hearings.

Green: Do the Deans fit into BUFA or the administration?

Savage: They are a part of the administration. The way it works, anyone at the level of associate and up are not part of BUFA.

8.0

Election By-Law Ruling

Motion to open the agenda

Verrier, Calder

Verrier: I want to add two things: 1) Addition of a downtown campus representative, and 2) Talking about adding a second faculty representative.

Speaker: If you'd like, we can open up the BUSAC bylaw to add them.

Campbell: Wouldn't this be more appropriate for governance?

Verrier: In the interest of time, I'd like to do it here.

Speaker: This still would require two readings.

Green: It also won't take effect until a year and a half from now because we're already in the election cycle.

Speaker: It would be the March election 2018.

Stark: Couldn't we add it to the October elections?

Speaker: Yes.

10-In favor 3-Against 4-Abstain

Motion to open agenda passes.

Verrier: Next year I will have placements and won't be at the downtown campus as much throughout the year. I want to make sure the students of the downtown campus have a voice, since I can't be at both campuses at once.

Speaker: There's quite a bit of legislation you would have to suspend to make this happen. For example, in the bylaw it states that a student group must exist for 5 years before adding a seat, so you would have to suspend that section and any subsequent sections.

Campbell: Can we actually make this motion?

Speaker: I still have to give him the floor to make the motion.

BIRT BUSAC suspends Bylaw 101 section 10 and Bylaw 103 section 7 to amend bylaw 103 to include a representative from the MIWSFPA campus.

Verrier, Tonyclinton

Verrier: As much as I'm going to try to make the voice of art students heard, it will be difficult for me to navigate both campuses next year. The education representative wouldn't be as capable of navigating both of those campuses either. I want there to be a

voice for the people downtown since it's new and we won't know their needs until they have an avenue to voice them.

Stark: If all of these bylaws are suspended, is there a way we can include adding a second faculty representative as well?

Speaker: Once you do it [suspend the bylaws], you could.

Green: To suspend multiple bylaws is really bad governance. I implore council not to follow through with this motion; this is not the way to do this. We have a process in place and they are there to ensure that the rules are followed. I don't think this decision should come at the cost of due diligence. The decision to implement 16 faculty seats at-large was not pulled out of nowhere last year. There were many discussions about reforming council at the Governance Committee, and the decision should go through a formalized review. I think this [suspending bylaws] is the wrong way to do it.

Calder: How many governance committee meetings are expected to happen before the end of the year?

Sheikh: 2.

Calder: With the report coming, could you see it making it through this year?

Speaker: No.

Campbell: We've had several governance bylaws. To suspend all of them for this one motion isn't appropriate.

Tonyclinton: What's the rule of the governance committee pertaining to this motion?

Speaker: If we were to suspend them, governance wouldn't have to look at them.

Tonyclinton: Is it an issue to not present to the governance committee?

Speaker: Usually .. it would have to go to governance

Tonyclinton: What would the gov committee do? What effect do they have on this decision?

Speaker: The best case scenario ...

Tonyclinton: He's saying there are many students that won't be represented. If the governance committee won't do much why can't we vote on the decision now?

Speaker: The governance committee is created for councilors with experience with legislation, whenever a new piece of legislation is introduced ... avoid conflict. In this case it needs two approvals to become a part of the bylaw. We only have two meetings left. It could only come to one meeting this year.

Tonyclinton: Can we make a decision to jump past the governance committee's review?

Speaker: If you wanted to suspend our legislation you could.

Wood: I recognize the importance of this and it's crucial we have downtown student voices represented just like Hamilton students. I do think we should be following proper legislation. We're waiting on referendum results tomorrow night and coming after the second last meeting, we are leaving recommendations for next year's BUSAC gov committee. We understand some things might not be approved by the end of the year by this council, but we're leaving recommendations for next year to take on. That would be my recommendation moving forward for this situation.

Price: If the downtown campus wants a voice, they could run for a student at large position. We all have the same voice. They could run in October.

Verrier: They could, but the problem is that their voice isn't a sure thing on council without a seat formally representing them. I did not think we would have to suspend so many bylaws to make this happen tonight. Governance has been busy with the updates to the elections bylaw—we spent 7 meetings on it this year. It took up a lot of our time and there was not a lot of room for other discussions. I did talk about this at the beginning of the year. I think the ethical considerations of overstepping the bylaws aren't worth the silencing of student voices downtown. If you don't want to suspend the bylaws, we could possibly schedule an additional emergency meeting. I would like this issue to be addressed.

Banava: You mentioned it took 7 meetings to review the elections bylaw this year. As you noted, it takes us a long time to put together reports and that's why I don't feel comfortable with BUSAC voting on this tonight.

Green: I want to make sure council understands something. The Governance Committee only does work that is tasked to them. All you need to do is make a simple motion to refer governance to work on a particular bylaw. It's important to realize that this is an illegal motion to make until we get rid of our rules—which doesn't make any sense to me. BUSU is responsible for making other parties accountable to their rules, so I have trouble finding an answer to give a student who asks why we don't follow our rules when it is an expectation of others to do so. We should be held to a higher standard. Councilors don't have to answer to angry students, executives and BUSU staff, like me, do.

Campbell: In terms of the downtown campus, it does fall under the faculty of humanities, which has a seat.

Green: In the hypothetical situation that we did move for another meeting, we'll have to suspend another section of the bylaw in order to do that.

Motion to amend to "BIRT BUSAC tasks the governance committee to explore and provide a report on providing a seat for the MIWSFPA on BUSAC."

Calder, Verrier

Tonyclinton: Why are they getting back to us? Because there won't be a decision?

Calder: The reasoning is to make a decision without suspending bylaws. Perhaps BUSAC would be more comfortable doing it after the motion has been reviewed and a recommendation is put forward.

Verrier: We have a few meetings before the October by-election next year. Would it come into effect for the October by-election?

Speaker: If it goes through before the election period starts, you can put any empty seats up for that election.

Verrier: So it would have to be brought to the retreat and first meeting in September to be brought into effect in October?

Speaker: In May, the Governance Committee would have to be elected and immediately tasked to do this. Remember that you get to decide when any October election gets to start.

BIRT BUSAC tasks the governance committee to explore and provide a report on providing a seat for the MIWSFPA on BUSAC.

15-In favor 0-Against 2-Abstain

Motion passes.

9.0

Governance Committee Report

Calder: I couldn't find anything in the bylaw about the number of signatures required. Is it still 100?

Speaker: It should still be in the elections bylaw.

Stark: It says with only executive and board elections in February.

Speaker: Do you want to run the Board elections later?

Stark: Yes. If someone wants to run for the BUSU executive elections and they don't win, they don't have the option to run for any of the Board of Directors seats because it happened during the same campaign period.

Speaker: Actually, they can. They can still run for BUSAC afterwards [during the March elections] and go for the Board as a BUSAC rep.

BIRT BUSAC approves the changes to Bylaw 400 (Elections By-Laws) in its first reading.

Sheikh, Campbell

16-In favor

0-Against

1-Abstain

BIRT BUSAC approves the Environment Committee By-Laws in its second reading.

Sheikh, Banava

16-In favor

0-Against

1-Abstain

10.0

Report - General Manager

11.0

Report – VP Student Services

12.0

Report – VP External Affairs

13.0

Report – VP Finance & Administration

14.0

Report – President

15.0

Closed Question Period

Sehgal: There's no link on my agenda for VPFA and President.

Cousins: Why did we take away the polling stations?

Green: The committee determined that we haven't used the stations because there isn't any turnout. It was unnecessary to have it in the bylaw if we aren't using them.

Sheikh: There have been issues with using them and that's another reason we got rid of them as well.

16.0

Information and Reminders

Green: Please message your networks about the referendums. Let them know they have an email in their inbox.

Wood: university ... looking for 20-30 students to come and meet with him. Outside of being the university champion, I will send out all of the information.

Verrier: There's an election going on. Make sure we're not using our positions to get people to vote a certain way. A mental health free breakfast isn't an appropriate place to sway a person to vote on a referendum in a certain way.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Passes by general consent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.