

Brock University Students' Administrative Council



Meeting: 14
Date: April 6, 2016, 7:00pm

Speaker: John Pappas
Deputy Speaker: Kayleigh Rossetto
Recording Secretary: Kaitlyn Daw

OVERVIEW

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6 OPIRG (Smaiya)	Information
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8 RILRC Political Policies #3 (Sufi)	Action Item
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B. BIFRT BUSAC Approves RILRC's recommendation for the Athletics, Intramural, Recreation Program Fee	
C. BIFRT BUSAC Approves RILRC's recommendation for the Ontario Public Interest Research Group Fee	
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9 Fed Up Levy Request – Food Voucher Program (Rose)	Action Item
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1.0

Call to Order

2.0

Approval of the Agenda

BIRT BUSAC approves the agenda for the April 6, 2016 meeting.

Bezaire, Sufi

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

General consent

3.0

Adoption of the Minutes

BIRT BUSAC approves the March 23, 2016 minutes.

Hanula, Hashmi

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

General consent

4.0

Open Question Period

5.0

Notes from the Speaker

Let's have a productive and constructive meeting. I'm going to request that discussion goes through me tonight.

Presentation – OPIRG

The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Board Of Directors presents to council about the organization and introduces the B.O.D.

Sergi: We appreciate you coming to talk to us tonight. Can you explain what's meant by "radical research" and "social justice activism"?

OPIRG: Social justice activism can mean a lot of things. Basically anything that has to do with someone's rights being questioned, or implementing some kind of action to enact positive change in areas of social justice. Radical research means researching everything, not just keeping it limited to the types of things that a lot of researchers stay limited to. Researching social justice issues as a whole and looking into sources that people don't look into.

Green: I've been with BUSU for a long time and this organization has very rarely come to present to BUSAC so thank you for making the effort to come here tonight. How does the relationship work with the overarching body and campuses?

OPIRG: We get funding from the network, and they have resources for training. It has the potential to suggest campaigns too. There's a greater nationwide one as well.

Hashmi: When you said you were going to research everything, will that be quantitative, qualitative, are you collaborating with third parties? What kind of research will you be doing?

OPIRG: We would make sure not to leave anything out, if both qualitative and quantitative. We won't put a more inherent value on some sources over others, such as quantitative over experience. We will consider experience in our research because we think it is just as valuable as other forms of information.

Hashmi: Is there a member of your organization that is qualified to carry out that research?

OPIRG: If we don't have someone, there are outlets in the network to turn to.

Horvath: Do you have a list of goals you want to achieve?

OPIRG: We have immediate and long-term goals. We're focusing on some of our immediate goals the most right now, such as getting a location and post office box so we can communicate with the community. Long-term includes getting action groups again and connecting students and the community. There's been a lack of certain members of the community being included and we want to improve those relationships. We're making an effort to go to other people's meetings to help build these relationships into stronger ones.

Green: The Board of Directors is a volunteer Board? Who are the employees now?

OPIRG: Our main employee is Mathew Heppler.

Green: What's the role with the Board and the staff?

OPIRG: The board sets direction for the employees.

Rose: Thank you to everyone on this new Board for taking up the challenge and viewing it as the opportunity that it is. Some trouble we've had with OPIRG up to this point is with communication and transparency. Is this a priority for you moving forward, and have you put any thought into ways that you are looking to communicate with BUSU?

OPIRG: We emailed RILRC and Mr. Green, and we will be meeting with the new council in May.

Rose: In terms of financials and accountability to BUSU, is that something in the works as well?

OPIRG: The financial accountability is something we're working on, yes.

Sergi: You mentioned in your presentation one of the distinguishing factors is that you use sources that aren't necessarily conventional for research. Can you expand more on what that means and if the research is reflective of what students are paying into?

OPIRG: We're talking about direct experience, mostly. A lot of traditional views in research say that direct experience is too biased, but we think using it as part of the research is valuable. It wouldn't be the only source used, but that's an example.

Sergi: You talked about one of the purviews of the board is to provide training. Can you explain how that relationship has looked for the board the past few years?

OPIRG: We can't speak before our time unfortunately.

Sergi: Do you have a training date decided yet?

OPIRG: We're going to do it sometime in May.

Suffi: Will you be using Robert's Rules rather than consensus?

OPIRG: We're looking into a hybrid model.

Sergi: You talked about mobilizing people on social justice issues, and that part of that involves working with other community organizations, Food Not Bombs being one of them. Are there any others that you're involved with?

OPIRG: We're open to creating relationships with various community groups from the folk art group to the Quest Community Health Centre.

Sergi: Have you worked with any third party organizations students would pay into? I'm just concerned with issues we've run into in the past and I'd like to know your thoughts on the past relationship our students had with OPIRG.

OPIRG: Unfortunately we don't have knowledge of past relationships.

Kayitaba: I'm wondering with the past, how do you hope to create this new future gaining BUSU's trust when you still have the same member who created this issue as your main employee? There are some elements that clearly have not changed.

OPIRG: Other than everything else we've talked about, we have a conflict resolution committee in place. We can't speak to the actions of others or the things that have happened in the past. We're focused on moving forward.

Demachkie: What methods have you thought of in terms of involving the student body and the advocacy department of BUSU?

OPIRG: We're trying to focus on getting a building so people have a location to come to talk to us. But we're open to that.

7.0

Ratification of Election Results

BIRT BUSAC ratifies the March 2016 BUSAC Election results.
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Sufi, Campbell

21-In favor

0-Against

1-Abstain

8.0

RILRC Political Policies #3

BIRT BUSAC Approves the Document RILRC Political Policy # 3 (April 6th, 2016) as a Political Policy

Sufi, Sergi

23-In favor

0-Against

0-Abstain

BIFRT BUSAC approves RILRC's recommendation for the Ontario undergraduate student alliance fee
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Sergi, Hashmi

23-In favor

0-Against

0-Abstain

Motion to pass recommendations via omnibus

Verrier, Banava

Motion passes unanimously.

BIRT BUSAC approves an omnibus motion approving RILRC's recommendations for the Athletics, Intramural, Recreation Program Fee; Ontario Public Interest Research Group Fee; Student Health Services Fee; and the World University Service of Canada Fee.

Bezaire, Sufi

23-In favor

0-Against

0-Abstain

BIFRT BUSAC Approves RILRC's recommendation for the Athletics, Intramural, Recreation Program Fee

Omnibus

BIFRT BUSAC Approves RILRC's recommendation for the Ontario Public Interest Research Group Fee

Omnibus

BIFRT BUSAC Approves RILRC's recommendation for the Student Health Services Fee

Omnibus

Piovesan: Say this goes to referendum for a fee increase and it fails, would the original fee be eliminated?

Sufi: No, whatever the fee amount was beforehand will remain.

BIFRT BUSAC Approves RILRC's recommendation for the World University Service of Canada Fee

Omnibus

Fed Up Levy Request

Campbell: Will they come in certain monetary vouchers?

Rose: \$25, \$50, however they decide to allot it. It will be decided based on the intensity of the situation. There isn't a receipt requirement to ensure they're buying healthy food, but it provides an opportunity for them to get food to eat if they need it. There are measures for privacy in place as well. You don't have to pick it up at the SJC, you could pick it up in a locker or our office.

Campbell: So you'll have to tell them your financial situation to be assessed?

Rose: There's a form that has to be filled out either online or in person, and that form will be approved by the food bank coordinator, SJC supervisor, and/or committee to evaluate the degree of need.

Piovesan: What would make a person qualified for approval?

Rose: From personal experience, I remember it asking about how much you received from OSAP, how much money you think you need, what would happen if there was an emergency, etc. There's a metric that the answers are held to, so there is infrastructure to make sure people are getting the assistance who need it.

Piovesan: If the \$5000 isn't used up in the year, will it rollover into the next year?

Rose: Yes, it will. The hope is that it gets built into the SJC's budget in the future. They're looking to potentially go to referendum in the next few years.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$25,000 from the Fed Up Levy for the Food Voucher program and the agreement which outlines the terms.
Budgeon, Verrier

23-In favor 0-Against 0-Abstain

10.0

Transfer of Power to the Board of Directors

BIRT BUSAC approves the transfer of powers to the Board of Directors until the May 7, 2016 meeting
Sergi, Banava

23-In favor 0-Against 0-Abstain

11.0

Report – General Manager

Piovesan: I've heard rumors that garbage, recycling, and organics gets put into one place. Is that true?

Green: No, it's not. They actually sort all of the garbage by hand, which I was astonished to find out. They have statistics about how much recycling, grey, and organics gets taken away. If you haven't noticed, the Market doesn't have any garbage pales because everything is compostable or recyclable. Our goal is to have no garbage pales by January in Isaac's and Union Station. I'm sure some of it gets merged, but they keep detailed statistics. They also keep track of food sourcing too.

12.0

Report – VP Student Services

13.0

Report – VP External Affairs

14.0

Report – VP Finance and Administration

15.0

Report – President

16.0

Closed Question Period

17.0

Information and Reminders

Campbell: It's been a great pleasure being on this council. You make my day every two weeks, and to everyone going away we'll miss you. Good luck in the future, and I'm looking forward to what's to come for everyone coming next year.

Horvath: If you see Andy, Mike, or any of the staff and volunteers from the breakfasts, please give them a huge thank you. They wouldn't have been possible without them.

Sufi: Thank you to everyone that's been involved with council over my last three years. It's been a pleasure working with you all, there has been some major achievements from all of the committees this year and great discussion at council. I look forward to working with you all next year as the Speaker.