

Brock University Students' Administrative Council



Meeting: 8

Date: November 30, 2016, 7:00pm

Speaker: Istafa Sufi

Deputy Speaker: Jeremy Steinhausen

Recording Secretary: Kaitlyn Daw

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 November 30, 2016 meeting.

Cousins, Sunderaeson

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

Passes by general consent.

4.0

Adoption of the Minutes

BIRT BUSAC approves the November 16, 2016 minutes.
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Saleem, Sehgal

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

Passes by general consent.

5.0

Open Question Period

6.0

Notes from the Speaker

Thank you to everyone for sending in their reports. There are a few people who are late getting them in; you have until tonight to get them to me if you're in this category. If you know you have not sent in your committee report, please make sure you get that to me by tonight as well.

Quorum is at 13 tonight. We have a lot of important stuff in tonight's agenda, so please be mindful about leaving the room so we can get these items done.

Voting 50%+1 is 8, and 2/3 majority is at 10.

7.0

Presentation – Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning

Anna Lathrop presents what she's doing on behalf of the university as a consult for the next strategic agreement.

Verrier: I'm working on a project around accessibility for the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts (MIWSFPA). A friend of mine who uses a wheelchair did not have the best experience accessing this part of the university, and I'm wondering what you mean when you mention you're involved in accessibility initiatives?

Lathrop: I've heard that story and have met students to discuss it. Recently the university has decided to fold in on a number of items on my portfolio. Health and wellness and accessibility are now treated as one entity. We're legislated to have everything accessible, we also have to provide accommodation at the academic level. Recommendations are going to the President. I've spoken to Chris Litle as well.

Calder: Thank you for coming. I'm a co-op student in Political Science. I noticed there were a lot of postings in the GTA and not as many in Niagara or closer to Brock. I would suggest focusing on building more local relationships.

Provost: We've connected co-op about this issue as well. One of the recommendations is that we formalize our relationships with the Niagara community. You're absolutely right.

Campbell: Another suggestion I have is possibly looking towards more service learning opportunities. Co-op isn't an option that a lot of people have in their respective programs. I think we need to give our students more practical experiences.

Lathrop: 20 curricular experiential learning opportunities across the board will be brought to the BOD as of December 7. Experiential learning is applying your academic learning to real world experiences, such as consulting projects, co-op placements, creative practices, entrepreneurship, experiential research projects, field experiences, internships, labs, practicum, project activity simulations, experimentation, and service learning. There's a whole host of other learning extending beyond service learning activities. Faculty need to think about what they're embedding in their courses. When students graduate you'll have a full array of experiences.

Verrier: I'm also in the education stream and I've noticed an issue with most courses being considered "full year" but are only worth half a credit for a significant amount of effort.

Lathrop: What do we mean by service learning? It has to be genuine engagement and need by the community. It has to be reflective and for credit.

At Brock we have a variation of service learning opportunities. I can't comment on the specific choice made by the faculty to designate half-credit courses that are a full year's duration. I would recommend speaking with your Associate Dean and say that you would respectfully request changes to the way these courses are set up.

Verrier: Those steps have been taken, yet they still remain worth only a half credit.

Lathrop: Faculty have the academic license to teach the way we want to. I can't weigh in on those specifics.

Bardon: While talking to Student Health Services I found out that a lot of Concurrent Education students are having issues with depression and their overall mental health. The transition from first year to second year is a huge struggle for a lot of students and they want to see that change.

Lathrop: We are seeing an increase of 35% in mental health related-needs alone, and we are struggling to catch up to support our students. What you're talking about is a curriculum standard, where there is higher risk for stress and burnout because of such a tight curriculum. My colleagues have agreed to co-chair a committee around retention that that these needs come to me and we can work on retention rates beyond the first year. You need to tell me what you need as students so I can advocate for you, and I would love your support.

Cousins: I'm a student in the Math and Science department. I, along with other classmates, find it tough to find service learning experiences in our department. The first couple of years are often overlooked. I was wondering if you could speak to anything you might be working on for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year student in this department?

Lathrop: Every faculty will eventually have an advocate for experiential learning efforts, and every faculty will be required to have a course that will introduce them to this system to build career-ready skills and resilience, and future-ready students. It's in my plan.

Green: In terms of a mental health strategy, remember that you have a voice through me and Patrick on the committee as well. If you have any concerns, please bring them to me as well.

Lathrop: Absolutely; the more information you can feed us, the better.

Green: We're now looking at our health and dental plan to help bridge the gap with mental health support as well.

Lathrop: We're in financially challenging times. The demographic is going down, and we're going full throttle around our high impact programs, but we need to do more around retention. Unfortunately the university cannot afford to put as many resources into retention, but despite challenges around priorities, mental health is on their radar. We're making some good progress, but there are certain high-risk levels that are on the compass moving towards mental wellness.

Verrier: One of the issues in education placements has been the police check. I've talked to someone at the police station about it, and the reason there was such a long time getting those screens out was because it takes a long time to do them and all students are required to have them done. What is the necessity for getting a vulnerable sector screening?

Lathrop: I don't know the specifics of that one, but we can follow up afterwards. We're struggling to find an effective software support for experiential education and documentation. If you send it through the Speaker I will find an answer for you.

Speaker: I would also recommend speaking with the Dean about this issue.

8.0

Presentation – Club Funding Presentation (Brock Dance)

Verrier: What was the number for your new ask?

Brock Dance: \$3510.

Nasser: To clarify, they're only asking for the buses and the dancers' compensation.

Price: Can you tell me what the difference is between the contract and the club?

Brock Dance: The dancers at the games are self-funded.

9.0

Presentation – Club Funding Presentation (Brock Catholic Students Association)

Hibma: Why 600 shirts?

BCSA: We're asking for 600 so we'll have some leftover for the following years and won't have to keep coming back to request funding.

Banava: Do your members keep the guides?

BCSA: Yes.

10.0

Presentation – Club Funding Presentation (Playmakers Foundation)

Stark: Are there 3 or 4 tournaments?

Playmakers: It's supposed to be 3 tournaments now. There are 3-4 members from that tournament specifically.

Nasser: For the shirts, you'll have 75 shirts (baseball tees) for members?

Playmakers: The others are going to be kept for coming years. Part of the membership fee pays toward this cost.

11.0

Presentation – Club Funding Presentation (NACS Club)

12.0

Removal of Councilor

BIRT BUSAC removes Kevin Gate from council due to failed attendance requirements.

Calder, Sehgal

16-In favor

0-Against

0-Abstain

13.0

Clubs Policy Committee Report

Nasser: This request is regarding delegate fees and transportation.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$6210.00 as a grant for the Brock Dance Club from Clubs Funding.

Nasser, Verrier

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

Motion to amend to the recommendation (1b) as presented in the Clubs Policy Committee Report.

Calder, Berryman

Motion passes by General Consent

Stark: How much do we have left in clubs funding?

Nasser: \$18,457.61

Hejazi: The number looks smaller than it is, because most of the requests were approved with reimbursements that cover “up to” a certain amount, which doesn’t mean they’ll spend all of what was granted.

Price: Say we went through this all today. We’ll only have about \$9 - \$10,000 left in Clubs Funding. There might not be enough money to fund clubs next term.

Nasser: There’s one thing I’d like to clarify. Our clubs levy is the same that we’ve had for years, yet the number of clubs we have is growing. We have over 100 active clubs and when a large number of these clubs are asking for about \$5000 each that adds up. We

are trying to manage it as best as we can; keep in mind that the bigger clubs will come in first semester because they know they need a lot of money. There are a few clubs in January that are smaller requests. We do have a loan lent out to Brock Musical Theatre who will be giving that money back to CPC funding after their show. It'll be back after February.

Speaker: In my three years on council, there have been times when we've been without money. There is also a contingency fund, so it's not something to be too worried about.

Verrier: \$11,000, is that before or after CPC's recommendations?

Green: You have around \$18,000 remaining in the budget. There's approximately 11k in requests this evening. If everything gets approved tonight at the requested \$11,000, then you're at \$7,000 remaining in the budget. There *is* a reserve in club funding, it is not substantial but it does exist to pull out some club funding if needed. We won't know how much of the \$16,927 will come back from loans, but that's where your finances are at right now.

Hejazi: We have a contingency fund. We aren't going to deny clubs the opportunity to host their events. We've been around for 8 to 7 months for funding already. Verrier is one of the councilors who voted against increasing the funding limit for CPC. I think it may have been a mistake to go through with it last year. What we've seen is that clubs are asking for more of an amount at the CPC level because they can get away with it. That might be a little bit of the problem. There are a lot of loans that will be coming back though.

Campbell: There should be a certain criteria for coming to BUSAC ... I think it was a good part to save a lot of time, but we have to consider the challenges with financial limitations.

Motion to call to question

Calder, Verrier

Motion passes by general consent

BIRT BUSAC approves \$3910.00 as a grant for the Brock Dance Club from Clubs Funding.

Nasser, Verrier

-In favor

-Against

-Abstain

Passes by general consent

BIRT BUSAC approves \$1530.83 as a grant for the Catholic Students Association from Clubs Funding.
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Nasser, Verrier

-In favor -Against -Abstain

Motion to amend to the recommendation (2b) as presented in the Clubs Policy Committee Report.

Calder, Verrier

15-In favor 0-Against 2-Abstain

Motion passes

BIRT BUSAC approves \$1110.83 as a grant for the Catholic Students Association from Clubs Funding.
Nasser, Verrier

15-In favor 0-Against 2-Abstain

BIRT BUSAC approves \$4267.36 as a grant for the Playmakers Foundation from Clubs Funding.
Nasser, Verrier

-In favor -Against -Abstain

Motion to amend from 3a to the recommendation (3b) as presented in the Clubs Policy Committee Report.

Calder, Saleem

Stark: The volunteer appreciation cost should be changed to \$120.

Nasser: We do not agree that there should be volunteer appreciation. The speakers are free, and they don't charge clubs. We left \$100 available to them. This has all been taken out of the budget recommendation.

Motion passes by general consent

BIRT BUSAC approves \$3397.36 as a grant and \$900 as a loan for the Playmakers Foundation from Clubs Funding.
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Nasser, Verrier

13-In favor
0-Against
3-Abstain

Motion passes.

BIRT BUSAC approves \$3625.00 as a grant for the NACS Club from Clubs Funding.

Nasser, Barbon

-In favor
-Against
-Abstain

Motion to amend to the recommendation (4b) as presented in the Clubs Policy Committee Report.

Calder, Banava

Motion passes by general consent

Recommended Motion: BIRT BUSAC approves \$3475.00 as a grant for the NACS Club from Clubs Funding.

Nasser, Barbon

17-In favor
0-Against
0-Abstain

14.0

Governance Committee Report

Motion to open the agenda to add: "Discussion about clubs funding"

Verrier, Calder

Motion passes by general consent.

BIRT BUSAC approves the removal of Bylaw 601 (Committee Chairs) in its second reading.

Sheikh, Verrier

-In favor
-Against
-Abstain

Passes by general consent

BIRT BUSAC approves the changes to Bylaw 602 (Governance) in its second reading.
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Banava, Verrier

-In favor -Against -Abstain

Passes by general consent

15.0

Referendum Petitions and Polls Oversight Committee Report

Hejazi: We're not excited to do this, but we *have* to do it. There hasn't been a referendum since it first went to referendum. There's currently a deficit and we'll lose bus routes if we don't do this. We've looked at various numbers and concluded \$240 was the most appropriate.

Green: All of our transit contracts are confidential in nature and we've done projections from 5-6 years, so I'd like to move into camera to present these numbers to all of you.

Motion to move in camera.

Verrier, Banava

Motion passes by general consent

Motion to move out of camera

Nasser, Verrier

Motion passes by general consent

Motion for a 5 minute recess

Verrier, Calder

Motion passes by general consent

Calder: When you say ridership is going up but enrollment at the university has been going down, what do you mean?

Hejazi: It's only been going down since the last year. Ridership might go down a bit this year.

Green: Ridership also increases because of the demographic of Brock. It's 60% from the GTA to 40% from the Niagara region, so more students are coming here from outside of the region and require use of public transit to get around without cars.

Verrier: Who will be supporting the "Yes" side?

Hejazi: We'll task that to Council in the new year.

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

Banava, Calder

16-In favor (Verrier)

0-Against

2-Abstain

Green: RILRC met to review a few fees, the SJC being one of them. The recommendation came that the refugee program and the SJC should be amalgamated and increases added to both to ensure sustainability for both programs moving forward.

Hejazi: We're amalgamating the two fees together so there is only one. There are 25-30 different fees of smaller values, which has been presented as an issue before.

Bathish: So will this increase guarantee two students?

Green: Yes, it will guarantee two students a year.

Speaker: The program does take on two students at the moment, but there aren't enough funds for the program to actually do a good job supporting both, which is why this increase has been presented.

BIRT BUSAC approves the Student Justice Centre and World University Services of Canada referendum question and memorandum of understanding and sends it to referendum for the February election period.

Banava, Stark

16-In favor

0-Against

1-Abstain

16.0

Fed Up Funding Request

BIRT that BUSAC approves the Fed Up Funding request for wellness week's free breakfast, up to an amount of \$6,000.

Nasser, Bathish

16-In favor 0-Against 1-Abstain

17.0

CASA Referendum

Verrier: Last year this was a major topic of conversation. All of the funding right now comes from the Division 1 budget. This referendum would take it out of the Division 1 budget and free up some funding for other initiatives.

Campbell: It's a general advocacy theme.

Speaker: To clarify, this referendum will not be asking if students want to be a part of CASA. It will be asking if they would like to pay for our CASA membership.

Green: I just wanted to provide some context as to why this has never been a fee. In '95 and 2003 it went to referendum and failed quorum both times. I can't speak to what the "federal lobby fee" is, we'll have to refer to the MOU and terms of reference to figure out the title.

Calder: Will the MOU come back to BUSAC when it's drafted so we can fine tune the language?

Speaker: Yes. As long as the changes remain true to the spirit of the original MOU.

Motion to call to question

Nasser, Saleem

Passes by general consent

BIRT BUSAC tasks the referendum petitions and polls oversight committee to meet with the YES side of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) referendum to draft a question and memorandum of understanding for the March election period.

Banava, Campbell

16-In favor (Verrier, Dannaher) 0-Against 0-Abstain

18.0

CPC Funding Limit Discussion

Verrier: Last year there were some changes made to the CPC bylaw to increase the amount of money [\$800] that would be given out to clubs before having to go to BUSAC. For several meetings we discussed this, and I was adamantly opposed to it. The reason why I was opposed to increasing that amount was due to the fact that clubs would do less work to get more money. Now we have the ability to do something on the “TLC” level for \$1450 and do the same amount of work in terms of requesting money, which means they can draft their request in a way that looks reasonable but could be done for less. I did not have faith in the competency of CPC and that people would take advantage.

Price: I want to learn more about the history of this. All of the clubs that come in for funding seem to get it; there’s no reason for us to vote. There’s a culture that clubs know that they can spend money before asking and they’ll get the funding.

Speaker: You as a committee can decide not to approve any of the funding requests.

Nasser: When they present they show out of pocket purchases. We only approve what they are asking us to cover. We only covered transportation and delegate fees for Brock Dance. Last year they did a lot of research before implementing this. If we do not put trust in people we elect onto these committees, then that is an issue. There are things in CPC that are very consistent and detail specific, like delegate fees, registration costs, transportation, and accommodations within the budget that we can afford. T-shirts are taken out of membership fees, and that’s how every club is run. Just because we’ve opened up that bracket doesn’t mean that everyone is approved for \$1400 when they come to us before BUSAC.

Stark: In our budget we gave away \$11,000. We have just under \$7500 for clubs now. How are we able to justify giving away all that money when clubs in January could come forward for funding?

Calder: We’ve had some requests of \$1490, and we have asked them to come to BUSAC.

Hejazi: Our BUSAC meetings used to be 4, 5, 6 hours long because of so many club presentations. Increasing this amount to \$1500 would reduce some of these issues. However, I commend Verrier for his views last year. I don’t know if this is the answer though. CPC isn’t approving a drastic amount in comparison to last year. It’s only a 6% increase, so I’m not sure if the limit increase at the CPC level is the issue. I think it would be most appropriate to task CPC to discuss this and make some adjustments. I don’t think we should make the decision right now. Let them take care of it and bring their recommendation to us.

Campbell: I think we should trust CPC.

Green: The total approved dollar amount is \$2600 more than last year. This year council hasn’t overspent. I have all of the numbers. You have some of your largest clubs coming to funding this year, which did not come last year. As a due diligence, this body needs to ask better questions about where the money is going. We have close to 110 active clubs. You have the ability to ask tough questions.

Verrier: With regards to the \$2600, I can't help but wonder why we changed it in the first place.

Green: There were a number of reasons brought forward for the change. One of which was to reduce the length of meetings so students weren't driving home so late at night, which posed a liability and safety issue.

Verrier: It was unnecessary then and it's unnecessary now. That it was done in the interest of time, that amount would have been 2-3 presentations. I trust CPC to make the right decisions. The point I made was that not every group will put in the effort required for more money. Clubs are coming to CPC with \$1400.

Nasser: I think you're building off of assumptions. That's not true at all. There's maybe two clubs that came in asking for \$1495, but we're not stupid. Just because they come in, not one club has been approved for what they ask for. They've all been reduced. No one has taken consideration of the fact that our club numbers have increased significantly since this fee was implemented. It might not be CPC's fault or BUSAC. That being said, take a look at the levy and the number of clubs that we have; we have more clubs for the same amount of money. We might have to go into contingency, but that's what it's there for. We're there to encourage more club ratification and will fund their events so long as we are able.

Green: One club has come with over \$1200.

Verrier: Last year we tried to put forward a new programming levy, but there were issues around equality in the way that it was set up since only first years would be paying for it. I opposed this. If we are going to put forward another programming levy we need to discuss it further.

Banava: Could we table this discussion? There are a lot of new councilors that don't know what we're talking about and I think it would be better if we came back to this discussion having had time to review the facts.

Motion to end discussion

Calder, Saleem

13-In favor 1-Against 1-Abstain

Report – VP Student Services

Stark: Meeting with Athletics, could you elaborate?

Nasser: There will be a halftime show. We have a partnership with Niagara College for school spirit to do hair extensions and we're looking to run this at various sporting events on campus.

21.0

Report – VP External Affairs

22.0

Report – VP Finance & Administration

23.0

Report – President

24.0

Close Question Period

Price: Is it possible to get a list of the referendums coming in the future?

Green: Those are the only two in February so far.

Speaker: This is the last meeting to get them approved.

25.0

Information and Reminders

Green: I apologize for snippiness tonight; I have a pet peeve for speculation. We have a winter retreat this weekend where we will be doing a full integration of our new directors.

Hejazi: The "Ride with Me" program registration is up. If you are going to be on campus late at night, we have a ride home program available at three different times.

Price: Brock men's hockey is hosting a game. BUSU will be sending a bus.

Speaker: Thank you again Brock TV for streaming and thank you Evan for staying back so long. We somehow managed to not go past midnight for any of our meetings. Have a great rest of your semester everyone. If you haven't RSVP'd for this Saturday's party, please do so ASAP.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.