

Statement to BUSAC  
Witta Nicoyishakiye  
Wednesday November 21, 2018

My name is Witta Nicoyishakiye. I serve as the Chair of the Brock University Students' Union Board of Directors.

On behalf of the Brock University Students' Union Board of Directors I am bringing forward to the Brock University Students Administrative Council a Recall Referendum to remove Peter Henen from his elected role as BUSU Vice President of External Affairs position.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Board of Directors that Mr. Henen is not performing his professional duties to the standard that we expect from our Elected Executives.

Mr. Henen is "Not showing up for Students".

Mr. Henen has:

- Displayed consistent absenteeism and lateness which included 24 documented occasions by Professional Staff. Many of these absences were not communicated to anyone at BUSU and the team was left to wonder if and when he would arrive.
- Been absent for many obligations as a BUSU Executive including BUSAC retreat, transition meetings with former VPEA, staff interviews to hire the advocacy team, advocacy team staff meetings, and multiple meetings with University Senior Administration.
- Been disorganized and unprepared for several projects he was a part of, leaving things to the last minute and putting unnecessary additional work on staff.
- Did not participate with or contribute to the rest of the advocacy team in any of the municipal election campaign planning or execution and did only his own personal video.
- Further it has come to the Board's attention that Mr. Henen's representation of BUSU through our involvement in OUSA has also failed to meet the standards we and they expect of our Elected Officials. Evidence was received from OUSA professional staff which documents significant absenteeism, missed deadlines, and under performance of his responsibilities as an OUSA Steering committee member.

Most Recently Mr. Henen missed the Bus for the Brock University Food Services Tour of Queen's Ottawa and Carleton, and Brock University had to fly him to Ottawa. Mr. Henen has claimed to have been fighting for Food Affordability for 7 years and yet he did not "Show Up for Students".

The BUSU Board is not making a "knee-jerk" reaction.

Mr. Henen's behaviour has been addressed on three separate formal occasions, and countless informal occasions by BUSE Executives and Staff to no avail.

It is the unanimous opinion of both the Board of Directors and the BUSU Executives that Mr. Henen is not performing his duties to an acceptable standard.

On Monday November 19, 2019 the BUSU Board of Directors provided Mr. Henen with an offer to resign from the role voluntarily which included a jointly issued statement that he stepped away from the role for personal reasons, salary continuance and a seat on the Food Committee until Winter term.

We wanted to protect Mr. Henen's reputation. We did not want Mr. Henen's name to be associated with a Recall Referendum.

Mr. Henen sadly did not accept our offer. Therefore as the Board of Directors we feel we are left with no other option but to proceed with a recall referendum even given the circumstances.

We know that STUDENT classes end on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

We know that STUDENT exams begin on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

We did NOT want to hold a referendum during the exam period. But, Mr. Henen left us no choice.