

BUSAC March 15th Report

By: Sohail Ahmed

2011



Ladies and Gentlemen

This document is my report for the March 15th Meeting of the Brock University Student Administrative Council in the year 2011.

I will attempt to update you on the happenings of the Brock University Students Union from the perspective of the President. For the remainder of the year, I will continue to be as proactive as possible to assure that the BUSAC councilors know what's coming down the pipeline before the general public does. Please openly comment to me on the style of all my reports for feedback!

The Prestigious BUSU Awards Ceremony: BUZIES

<http://www.busu.net/buzies/>

I Strongly encourage you to take 4 minutes and nominate...

BUSU Club of the Year

BUSAC Councilor of the year

BUSU Volunteer of the year

BUSAC Committee of the year

Graduating Student Award

BUSU Presidents Award (...BUSU president of the year?)

There are many more awards that you can nominate someone or yourself to. Please see the website and nominate asap. The Awards Ceremony is on April 9th.



Brock Leadership Summit: April 2

100 spots. Most of them already gone. Will you be there?

The Brock Leadership Summit is getting more and more exciting every minute. As spots fill up with student leaders of 2011-2012 who are registering at:

<http://bit.ly/fS3RBO>

The goal of this summit is to bring together every Brock University student leader of 2011-2012 in a meet and greet, inspirational & team building packed day!

Referendums:

BUSU Supports "Vote Yes" Campaign

BUSAC last week passed a referendum question in the last meeting and subsequent to that it passed a motion that BUSU supports it. The Referendum question was in regards to getting approval from students to spend up to 1.5 million dollars for the purpose of drafting architectural designs for a New BUSU building. All Brock Undergraduate students will have to vote whether they approve of the two following questions on March 29, 30, 31st:

Do you support the expenditure of up to \$1,500,000 from the existing Strategic Expansion Fund (established via referendum in 2005) for phase one and two of the building process for a new Brock University Students' union building as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding?

Do you support the access of up to \$500,000 from the Capital Fund for the renovation of the Student-Alumni Centre as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding?

We cannot start campaigning to students to "Vote Yes" until March 21st. Currently you can view more information about the questions at:

<http://www.busu.net/events/2011-elections>

Board of Directors

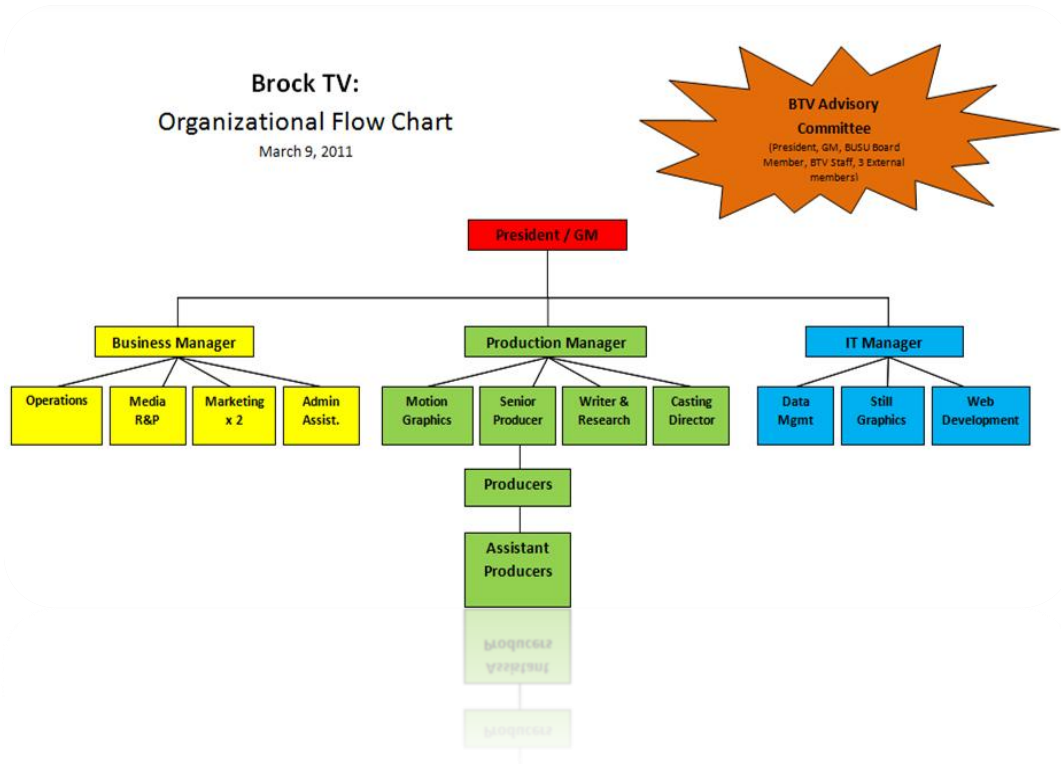
Since March 1st, the BUSU Board of Directors have approved and have been in discussion regarding the following topics:

1. Brock TV [New Org chart + Advisory panel]
 - a. The ad hoc committee that was struck by the Board to review the Brock TV org chart and come back with recommendation on a Advisory panel reported to the Board during the March 9th meeting. It came back after consultation and meetings with a number of people including BTV and BUSU Staff, volunteers, managers, exec, alumni as well as Students at Large.
 - b. The report to the Board included a new Org Chart for Brock TV and after a presentation the Board approved it.
 - i. We are now amending current job descriptions as well as creating new ones to fit the new Org Chart. We will take any new JD as well as amendments back to the Board asap and than post them to recruit and hire in the coming weeks.
2. Marketing and Communication Manager
 - a. A job description was approved after thorough review by both the Board and the executive. The board was updated and discussed in

camera about the hiring / salary / benefits of the job. These discussions will continue in the coming weeks.

3. Investment policy

- a. A very lengthy but good discussion came up when talking about investments of BUSU funds. For many years, we have invested the restricted BUSU funds and surplus in very cautious investments with our Bank and investment advisors at RBC Dominican Securities. The discussion came up when a point was raised around **if we are allowed to invest those funds** at all because there is no mention of it in the referendums when they were originally passed. The question becomes that, did Students expect the funds to be invested reasonably when they “voted” yes. If they did... than the board will continue to invest those funds in minimum risk portfolios which almost guarantee protection of the principal. The board has decided to have a discussion about this at the next BUSAC meeting to get input and direction.



BUSU HR

As a follow up from my last report, here are the updates in term of HR in our office.

- 1) Our new **Accounting Manager** is still set to start on March 22nd. We are currently re arranging the office to accommodate him on his first day.



2) After sitting in on a very good debate in which we discussed who to offer the job for BUSU **Research and Policy manager**... we came to a decision. Today we will be calling their references. In the case that they refuse the job or that their references bring about concerns, the hiring committee identified that they are okay to hire either of the two runner up candidates. Thank you to those who applied and fingers crossed that our final pick accepts the offer!

3) Jayne Stewart, Kenneth and myself will be short listing the resumes we received for the BUSU **Clubs manager**. Interviews will be conducted in the week of March 21st! The hiring committee will consist of a board member, Kenn, Jayne, Daud, Nazir and myself.

4) We have successfully interviewed and now hired a Retail Store Manager. Please refer to our General Managers report for details.

Strike update: CUPE 4207 & Brock University

*The Strike was averted because an agreement was reached.
The story of how it went down on the last day.*

CUPE 4207 and Brock University has been in negotiations for almost a year and still had not come to an agreement. CUPE Local 4207 representing more than 800 teaching assistants, course coordinators, lab demonstrators and marker-graders was ready to Strike at 7am on March 14th if an agreement had not been reached by then. An agreement was reached however and it happened only 5 hours before they were ready to strike. What I want to talk about isn't the facts of the agreement or the history of the negotiations. I want to tell you the story of how the communication went down on the night when Brock students stayed up late night wondering what was going on. I'll do this in point in chronological order:



- BUSU was the first live coverage to students regarding the potential strike. It arrived at the scene where the negotiations [Four Points Hotel] were happening at 145pm on Sunday.
- The First tweet sent out by @busupresident which contained vague information and a picture of the negotiation room was a "Top Tweet" by twitter because of

the engagement it produced by followers

- Daud Grewal created a live video stream from outside the negotiation rooms which hundreds of students were following from midnight until the agreement hours later. Countless students thanked him for doing it.- Approx – 11pm
- @BUSUpresident on twitter and @BrockBusu gained hundreds of followers and were deemed as the best source of information by many students, union members and even other media outlets
- Brock Press joined us to cover live at 11:30pm.
- Over 50 students joined BUSU by midnight in the lobby of the hotel to be among the first to hear the news live and to show support for those covering live - 11:45pm
- BUSU treated them all to Pizza =]
- BUSU, #nostrike and @BrockBUSU became a trending topic in Canada
- Brocku.ca, CUPE and BUSU websites all crashed/became unusable at midnight making @BrockBUSU - @BUSUpresident and the live video feed the only source of live information to students
- When the tentative agreement was reached, those waiting in the lobby of the hotel were the first to know. -2:00am ish...
- Student Union leaders from across Canada (Other universities and colleges) stayed up to watch the live coverage. (it was that exciting to them!)
- [Macleans Magazine](#), [610CKTB](#), [The Standard](#), [The Brock Press](#), [Brock News](#), [Brock TV](#) and CFBU Radio all covered the “[BUSU No Strike](#)” campaign... Clicking on each news source takes you to an article or video from each of them.



Make it Better

The first annual week – Organized by the Student Justice Centre

I want to share with you a few facts about Make it better week which took place the week of March 7th, 2011.

To begin I want to recognize Carol Leishman, Khadeeja, Donnie, Tonia, Kyle, Jenn and all the volunteers who did a fabulous job. I want to give a virtual round of applause to them and the volunteers who made it a success! Here are a few facts:

- Make It Better Week was 20 separate events that highlighted Cultural Awareness, International Women's Day, LGBTQ issues, Mental Health, Poverty, Accessibility, and Bullying.
- Events included a concert, a play, self defense workshop, films, marches, information tables, and presentations. Performers included artists, writers,

musicians, researchers, and others from Brock University and the wider community.

- All events were funded by the Student Justice Centre.
 - \$597.00 raised for Canadian Paraplegics Association/Ontario Chapter
 - 354 food items donated to Community Care

Faculty Associations

This topic is gaining a lot of momentum and so....

The topic around the future of faculty associations at Brock University is spurring up in a lot of meetings and informal chats. Although I could tell you a lot more, 'm not going to..... well not yet at least.

I will tell you however that I believe the topic is so important that Tessa Lofthouse and myself have started to draft a document which speaks about:

- 1. History and current status of Faculty Associations at Brock***
- 2. The importance and potential of Faculty associations***
- 3. Guiding Principles that BUSU believes about the future of Faculty Associations***
- 4. BUSU's strategic and action plan on fostering them***

We have been meeting consistently and have started to conduct as much research as possible. Tess and I plan to present the document to BUSAC for adoption. In the coming 2 weeks, we will be meeting with key members of the Brock community for input on the first draft of the document. **Stay tuned- this is big!**

Echoes of the Holocaust

Responding to a controversial event that was held @ Brock.

A number of students asked me what my thoughts were on the controversial event that was held last Friday on our campus by a BUSU ratified club. My response to them was very similar to what Jack Lightstone said and so I want to share it with you in this report.

"...My stance as a university president is this (and I would be surprised were it not shared by our Senate and Board): if it is within the bounds of the laws of Canada, the answer, in my view, must be "yes." If people have ideas that are ill-founded or offensive, better that they express them publically, so that they can be challenged. I say so, not only because of this practical consideration--let's out inappropriate ideas so that they may be challenged--but because of principle as well. Freedom of expression within the

limits of the law is precious. And if it is not held precious in a university, then where will it be precious. Moreover, a university is all about ideas and their criticism, and if it is not--well, better we should not call ourself a university.” – Jack Lightstone

I believe this also represents the view of BUSU. If you believe that is not correct, I strongly encourage you to have a conversation with myself- I would enjoy hearing your opinion on it!



Short updates:

OUSA General Assembly

March 11, 12 and 13th Daud Grewal, Luke Speers, Steven Nicholls and Chris Ventura went to the Ontario Undergraduate Students Association General Assembly. It was hosted at Queens university in Kingston and was a successful weekend to say the least! The three policy documents that were passed by OUSA were on the topics of Aboriginal students, Student Success and Ancillary Fees. I encourage you to ask our VP UA for those documents because they have been passed and now officially represent the views of the Ontario Undergraduate population.

Brock Day Care Centre

The BUSU executive and Marketing Manager took a tour of the Brock Day care center. The purpose was strictly to meet the director and start to build a relationship. A lot of valuable information was learned in the trip such as the Day care \$1 fee, undergraduate student involvement, the future of the daycare center and of course the history. The interesting fact that I want to share is that Brock Students do get a priority on the waiting list (over Brock Staff and community members) because each student pays \$1. The \$1 each student pays goes strictly towards the upkeep and maintenance of the center and does not go into their operating budget. I have asked the director of the center, Helen to come to BUSAC and do a report on the history and current status of the Day care center because a lot of students do not know. She agreed it was a great idea and plans to attend a BUSAC meeting in the coming weeks. As is BUSU, she said she is very excited and looks forward to building a stronger relationship with BUSU.

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Links

www.busu.net	www.busu.net/busac	www.brocktv.ca
BUSU Youtube Homepage	SWAT Facebook page	www.Sohail.ca