



AGENDA - SRA 17K
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111

PROCEDURE

Call of the Roll, Playing of National Anthem, Territory Recognition, Adoption of Agenda, Announcements from the Chair, Special Orders of the Day, Delegation from the Floor, Report Period, Information Period, Question Period, Business Arising from the Minutes, Business, Committee Business, Unfinished Business, New Business, Time of Next Meeting, Call of the Roll, Adjournment

The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe territories through the 'Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty'.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

1. Engineers without Borders

REPORTS

1. First Year Council	Justin Lee
2. Nursing Caucus	Nwamadi
3. Science Caucus	Sabra Salim
4. Social Sciences Caucus	
5. Municipal Affairs Committee	Stephanie Bertolo
6. University Affairs Committee	Lee
7. Executive Board	Deshpande
8. Vice-President (Administration)	Anbalagan
9. OUSA GA Report	Deshpande
10. UCRU Federal Advocacy Week Report	Deshpande
11. President	Ibe

BUSINESS

1. OPIRG Referendum	D'Souza
2. Committee of the Whole – Engineers without Borders	D'Souza
3. Open SRA seat on Other Committee	Hackett
4. Close SRA seat on Other Committee	Hackett
5. Yearplan	Patel

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. BYLAW 15/A – FACULTY CUP AWARD	Anbalagan
2. Rescind BYLAW 15/B – RESIDENCE CUP AWARD	Anbalagan
3. OPERATING POLICY – VICE-PRESIDENTIAL, SPEAKER, AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS	Anbalagan

MOTIONS

1. **Moved** by D'Souza, **seconded** by Ibe that the SRA send the OPIRG fee of \$8.07 to referendum in January of 2018.
2. **Moved** by D'Souza, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss Engineers without Borders, as per BYLAW 5 – FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
3. **Moved** by Hackett, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee.
4. **Moved** by Hackett, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee.
5. Moved by Patel, seconded by ____ that the Assembly approve the updated Social Sciences Caucus Yearplan, as circulated.
6. **Moved** by Anbalagan that the Assembly approve changes to BYLAW 15/A – FACULTY CUP AWARD, as circulated.
7. **Moved** by Anbalagan that the Assembly rescind BYLAW 15/B – RESIDENCE CUP AWARD
8. **Moved** by ____ that the Assembly approve OPERATING POLICY – VICE-PRESIDENTIAL, SPEAKER, AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS, as circulated.



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 17K
Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111

Called to Order at 5:01pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present:	Ahmed, Anas, Anbalagan, Aoki, Arnold, D'Souza, Fama, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Lao, Lee, Lightstone, McGill, Nwamadi, Patel, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthilmohan, Webb, Wilson
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Chestney, Deshpande, Ibe, McNally, Obaidullah, Risi, Szeliga, Vlatkovic, Zhang
Late	Ochocinski, Stott
Others Present:	Stephanie Bartolo (AVP Municipal Affairs), Brett Cox (OPIRG/MISCA), Sahra Soudi (OPIRG/Womanists), Rashmi Rajendran (EWB), Neha Malhotra (EWB), Ross Edwards (EWB), Daksh Datta (MSU Member), Justin Lee (FYC Chair), Hazra Chowdhary (FYC Coordinator), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Helen Zeng

TERRITORY RECOGNITION

- The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe territories through the 'Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty'.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Patel that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Passes Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Speaker asked for observers to please sign the list at the back. The Speaker asked for clear and concise arguments as they will be having a lot of discussions today, and to stay germane to the topics at hand.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

Set Parameters

Moved by D'Souza, **seconded** by Lightstone to set parameters for Delegation from the Floor #1 be 15 minutes for presentation, and 10 minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

1. Engineers Without Borders –Rashmi Rajendran, Neha Malhotra, and Ross Edwards presented

- The members from EWB went over the presentation with the Assembly.

Questions

- D'Souza stated that he noticed that they have a \$5,000 sponsorship. He asked if this was yearly. Rajendran responded that this goes towards global engineering conference.

- Anbalagan stated that the junior fellowship was \$8,000 and that it was 75% of student money for one individual to do so. She asked what they do with the remaining funds, specifically for conferences. Malhotra responded that clubs bring in a lot of students and they take students from all faculties. Edwards added that the national level was re-branding and will be opening it up to the rest of the community.
- Ahmed asked about the mobile budget. Edwards responded that this was in Ghana and it aggregates all sorts of data; medical and health stats.
- D'Souza asked why there was a difference between engineering and non-engineering delegates for the conference reimbursement. Edwards responded that reimbursement comes from the individual faculties, and engineers get their own funding. Rajendran added that they usually have more engineers apply, which is why those students get less funding as it's split up amongst them. She explained that the way that it works is that everyone will apply for USIF and faculty funding, and depending on how much they received from that the rest of the money gets split up so that everyone pays the same amount to go to conference.

REPORT PERIOD

1. First Year Council – Justin Lee presented

- J. Lee summarized the report.

Questions

- Senthilmohan asked about council events, and residence Olympics. She asked how they were accounting for off-campus students. J. Lee responded that the external chair had been meeting with SOCS and that they would like to bring more unity to off-campus students.
- D. Lee asked about the ancillary policy. J. Lee responded that they had advocacy training on Thursday, and that it was beneficial and informative and that they would apply that training to read policy.
- Patel asked if they were partnering with Athletics and Recreation for the residence Olympics next semester. J. Lee asked Chowdhary to answer. Chowdhary responded that the money was coming from the resident activity fund and FYC was taking a lead on that this year.
- D'Souza asked if they had a lot of connections with Residence Life, and wondered what they were planning on advocating for student concerns. J. Lee asked Chowdhary to respond. Chowdhary responded that they had a meeting last week and expressed their concerns. She added that they will be having a core meeting this week to work towards it.
- Anas stated that he noticed that a lot of FYC events were being held in specific residences. He asked if they had look into other residences to hold events. Chowdhary responded that they will be handing out study packages in the other residences during exams.

2. Nursing Caucus – Nwamadi presented

- Nwamadi summarized the report.

Questions

- Deshpande asked how she and MUNNS navigated the college strike, and if any action was required on her end. Nwamadi responded that she only represents McMaster students, so the president of MUNNS would go to the faculty meetings and bring student concerns there.

3. Science Caucus – Sabra Salim presented

- Salim summarized the report.

Questions

- Patel stated that one of the challenges talked about was about reaching out to Community Advisors. He asked what avenues did they use. Anas responded that they spoke to Jenn at OCRC, and that they would help reach out to the CAs.
- Deshpande stated that it was cool that they were doing office hours together. He asked if they were using service spaces after consultation with the PTMs. He asked about the clustering of projects and why it wasn't being done through the Internal Governance committee. Sabra Salim responded that they would get PTM permission. She added that for their projects there was a larger theme base and that it was very specific and oriented to science students. Wilson added that it was important for people to take initiative for their projects and move with momentum.
- Anbalagan asked if they spoke to the AVP Internal Governance about some of the projects they were focusing on. Sabra Salim responded that when they came up with their ideas it was independent of what was going on with Internal Governance, and they wanted it to be informal instead of part of the committee structure.
- Lee asked about clustering platform points, and asked if they were reaching out to respective standing committees. Wilson responded that the purpose was to consult students in what they wanted, and if MSU resources were required then they will go through formal channels.
- Anbalagan asked about the science caucus yearplan, and how they wanted to reach 2-3,000 likes on Facebook. She asked how it was progressing. Sabra Salim responded that it was went through surges and that they were slowly progressing, and they were at 1,500 likes.

4. Social Sciences – Patel presented

- Patel summarized the report.

Questions

- Deshpande stated that he was confused as to why some of the issues raised in the report weren't brought to Provincial and Federal Affairs. He asked why they didn't go through the Committee. Patel responded that this was something that they decided to take on, and that they would be reaching out to the Board and Committees once they were ready to move forward with the projects.

5. Municipal Affairs Committee – Bertolo presented

- Bertolo summarized the report.

6. University Affairs Committee – Lee presented

- Lee summarized the report.

7. Executive Board – Deshpande presented

- Deshpande summarized the report.

8. Vice-President (Administration) – Anbalagan presented

- Anbalagan summarized the report.

9. OUSA GA – Deshpande presented

- Deshpande summarized the report.

10. URCU Federal Advocacy Week – Deshpande presented

- Deshpande summarized the report.

11. President – Ibe presented

- Ibe summarized the report.

Questions

- Wilson asked if the MSU was considering revisiting the workplace harassment policy. Ibe responded that this was something they were thinking about.
- Lightstone stated that bus shelters are expensive, and asked if they would be the best use of SLEF money if McMaster ends up making campus pedestrian friendly and re-route the buses. Ibe responded that he didn't say they would be using SLEF money. He explained that this was something raised with the VP Admin of the University.
- Webb asked about the section on Homecoming, and about the events fund. She asked who was this done with, and would it take into account the student codes of rights and responsibilities on campus. Ibe responded that there was no commitment made whatsoever, and that they were just ideas and concepts.
- Arnold asked if there was specific protocol that has to be followed if someone who comes forward with a disclosure for a follow-up. Ibe responded that it was. He stated that if it wasn't raised to the Board of Directors it could go to the General Manager, and if not them to EIO or Ombuds.
- Patel stated that for the last reporting periods, the president has consistently handed theirs in late. He asked if Ibe planned on handing them in on time and doing a better job next time. Ibe responded that he wrote this while in the office and then circulated it. He stated that given his schedule it was very hard to hand things in on time, and he also wanted to be very thorough with reports.
- Lightstone asked about CLAY saying that the report said that it was revised. He asked Ibe to specify the changes to documents and documented mandate, was this just the way they will be putting on CLAY this year. Ibe responded that the job description was revised on what the expectation was of the CLAY PTM.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Lightstone shared the following statement with the Assembly: There is an ancient Jewish poem means a lot to me, and I'd like to share part of it with all of you.
"Man is like a passing shadow and a vanishing cloud, like a breeze that blows and dust that scatters, like a dream that flies away."
So that's pretty dramatic, but it's very applicable to the student experience at McMaster. You're here for a few years and then you're gone. And you have the knowledge you've gained, the friends that you've made, and memories of all those experiences, but have you left many changes behind?
I'm very proud of the work that I've been able to do as a member of this assembly. I've been to meetings, put forward ideas, participated in dramatic debates, done a few bits of theater here and there. And I've had successes, I've had failures, I've gotten so annoyed at the union and the university that I wanted to rip my hair out on occasion.
But I think my career here has been successful overall. I think that I've represented students to the best of my abilities, I've gotten some things done, and I'm very proud of all of that. I'm so proud that I'll be able to look back and think that I made an impact on the university around me something that will last after I'm gone.
I hereby announce my resignation from the Student Representative Assembly, effective December 31st, 2017. I will be staying on until the end of the semester and will be fulfilling my responsibilities to the union and to students as long as I am here, but today is my last meeting. This is probably the last time I'm going to appear before this assembly, and I'm going to miss it. Thank you all for the friendships, the great times, and the opportunities.

- Anbalagan reported that she appreciated the Assembly holding the Board of Directors accountable, and they know that when missing deadlines there is no excuse. She explained that sometimes it was hard for them to make deadlines because of the obligations they have in their calendars.
- Sabra Salim stated that Lightstone has done so much for the Assembly, and thanked him for all of the work he has done with Interfaith Council.
- Webb announced that they were less than two months away from Charity Ball, and that the Committee was holding a bottle drive with proceeds going to the Eva Rothwell Centre.
- D'Souza thanked Lightstone for all of his hard work of being on the Engineering Caucus and bridging the gap between the MSU and MES.
- Deshpande thanked Lee, Stephanie Bertolo, and Urszula Sitarz for all of their hard work, and stated that he was very proud.
- Ibe gave the appreciation award to Arnold and Stephanie Bertolo.
- Sabra Salim announced that the Science PNB talk will be on Wednesday. She thanked her caucus for doing a good job while she was MIA.

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Ahmed to recess for 15 minutes

Passes Unanimously

Recessed at 6:57pm

Called to Order at 7:13pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present:	Anas, Aoki, Arnold, Fama, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Lao, Lee, Nwamadi, Patel, Ochocinski, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthilmohan, Webb, Wilson
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Chestney, McNally, Obaidullah, Risi, Szeliga, Vlatkovic, Zhang
Late	Ahmed, Anbalagan, D'Souza, Deshpande, Ibe, Lightstone, McGill, Stott
Others Present:	Stephanie Bartolo (AVP Municipal Affairs), Brett Cox (OPIRG/MISCA), Sahra Soudi (OPIRG/Womanists), Rashmi Rajendran (EWB), Neha Malhotra (EWB), Ross Edwards (EWB), Daksh Datta (MSU Member), Justin Lee (FYC Chair), Hazra Chowdhary (FYC Coordinator), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Helen Zeng

QUESTION PERIOD

- No questions were asked.

BUSINESS

1. OPIRG Referendum

Moved by Aoki, **seconded** by Wilson that the SRA send the OPIRG fee of \$8.07 to referendum in January of 2018.

- Aoki stated that this has been an issue that their engineering constituents have.
- Wilson stated that there are genuine concerns with several things with OPIRG. Wilson stated that they were hoping to have creative solutions for multi-year problems. They explained that the Assembly has discussed sending OPIRG to referendum for awhile now.
- Sabra Salim stated that they would be taking away from their wages, and jobs would be on the line. She explained that cutting the funding won't fix the issue.
- Ahmed stated that it would be unfair to say that the fee wasn't a big deal. He explained that the Assembly was there to represent the interests of students, and they haven't been handled well in regard to OPIRG. Ahmed added that even if this does go to referendum, a chapter will still remain in operation as

evidenced by the Kingston chapter. Ahmed stated that the service that OPIRG offers, such as the working groups, would be fully able to integrate into the MSU groups.

- Wilson ceded to Brett Cox. Cox stated that he was a student at McMaster and on the OPIRG Board. He explained that he would like to address some key points. Cox stated that effective September 2018 the opt-out will now be hosted online, and be administered by OPIRG, as well as advertising to a larger audience. Cox added that they will be raising funding for their working groups from \$250 to \$300, and make sure they meet twice a semester. Cox explained that OPIRG was willing to try and relieve some of the communication barriers that had occurred in the past. He added that he couldn't speak to the admin fees as those are HR issues.
- Lightstone stated that living wages in Hamilton would be \$14.60 per hours, and comparatively OPIRG pays around \$22. He explained that OPIRG has been widely ignoring the recommendations from the MSU for years, and now while having the possibility of being sent to referendum they finally put them in place. Lightstone went over the history of how OPIRG was put together for McMaster with the Assembly, and stated that any time that this fee went to the general population students decided that they didn't want it. Lightstone stated that this fee hadn't been looked at in 22 years irrespective of funding structure or opt-out, and that students deserve to have their say in what fees they're paying. He added that the working groups get less than \$4,000 of the student money from OPIRG, so they're getting less than 4% of the total amount collected. He felt that the working groups could be fine within the MSU structures.
- D'Souza explained that this was brought forward based on the fact that OPIRG has not done any of the recommendations made by the Assembly for the past four VP Finances. He stated that it was interesting to see the changes being made now even though these conversations have been happening over the past four years, and asked why now. D'Souza explained that the MSU's role in this was based of the conversations with McMaster about who was in control of the organizations receiving the money from students, as no one knew where the money was going. He added that while the University could be the ones to look into it, the MSU felt that it was their responsibility to make sure that these groups were using student money effectively. D'Souza asked if students were getting value from the money being put in OPIRG, and he didn't think so. He urged the Assembly to think critically if students were getting the best value and let the students have a voice.
- Ahmed stated that when the fee was added social justices weren't a priority for some groups, but advocacy is now one of the most common things McMaster is recognized for. He explained that have services providing this, so why were they paying \$200,000 to OPIRG when very little goes to the working groups.
- Wilson ceded to Sahra Soudi. Soudi stated that speaking to years in the past, a lot of other OPIRGs have been concerned about being defunded from the alt-right. She explained that with the recent communication with the SRA she acknowledged that it was about proper accessibility.
- Sabrin Salim stated that if they agreed to send the fee to referendum, as much as they would like student to evaluate this for themselves, it's clear students don't care. She added that if students see the chance to opt-out of a fee they will do it. She felt that this wasn't fair as the issues they were concerning themselves with are now in the past, and some things need improvement. Salim stated that the price for OPIRG was not that big, and didn't think sending the fee to referendum was the solution.
- Ibe explained that he was not satisfied with the answer that they weren't able to speak to or give information about staffing costs, which is three-quarters of the funding given. He asked for someone to speak to why. Ibe ceded the rest of his time to Jonathan Patterson.
- Patterson responded that staffing costs make up more than half of what was spent each year, and added that living wage doesn't set the costs for employees. He explained that these costs are set through the union and they dictate what the wages and benefits are, which is why it takes a large percentage. Patterson stated that the employees bring value into the organization, and provide financial and volunteer management. He added that they also will help with events, and room bookings.
- Florean stated that any time she spoke to her constituents about OPIRG, they didn't know what it was. She explained that was concerning because of the amount of funding they receive from students. She felt that if there was a referendum then this will give the students an opportunity to learn more about the organization.

Amendment

Moved by D'Souza, **seconded** by Ibe to amend the motion to read: “**Moved** by Aoki, **seconded** by Wilson that the SRA send the OPIRG fee to referendum in January of 2018, to give the option of \$8.07, reduce to \$5.50, or not have the fee at all, with option to opt-out.”

- D'Souza stated that this will give students a choice, and if the \$5.50 option was chosen it would give them a budget of \$120,000 and it would still be enough to have two part-time staff, and support the working groups. He added that any working groups who choose to leave OPIRG could become members of MSU clubs.
- Ibe stated that in 1995 the University had 13,000 full-time undergraduate students, and now there are 23,000. He stated that his questions to OPIRG to provide answers if it was worth \$200,000. Ibe stated that he wasn't interested in defunding OPIRG, but they had to ask if they provided a value to students at the current costs, and based on the information presented it does not. Ibe stated that if this was based on volunteer management and working groups, it wasn't worth it for paying for staffing concerns. Ibe added that he was interested in seeing this fee go down to a meaningful and sustainable number.
- Webb asked why not just the two options of the original fee, and lowering it.
- D'Souza stated that they should be giving students a choice if they want this or not.
- Arnold stated she supported the amendment, and that students should have the opportunity to have their say. She added that she didn't think it was fair to say a lack of knowledge meant that students didn't care.
- Deshpande stated that he would be sad and upset if OPIRG was defunded completely, but agreed with Ibe's statement that he wasn't sure the current fee was needed to operate. He added that OPIRG can provide a platform that the MSU doesn't necessarily provides.
- Sabra Salim stated that she had a couple of concerns, and one of them being that students would vote no if it was sent to referendum. She explained that the fee reduction would cause the service to shutdown. Salim stated that this was an equity based group on campus that does work, and that students already have a choice to opt-out at the beginning of the year. Salim stated that this amendment puts OPIRG at risk of being defunded.
- Florean stated that she didn't see how reducing the fee would be helpful, and she will be voting the amendment down.
- Wilson ceded to Jonathan Patterson. Patterson stated that he met with D'Souza regarding this suggestion, but he wasn't sure where the amount came from. He explained that if they look at the OPIRG budget it would require reducing one staff member. Patterson added that if the question was about not putting enough money into programming then that was a conversation they could have.
- Anbalagan stated that there were a couple of concerns raised that she didn't want to go unnoticed. She explained that they weren't cutting grassroots initiatives, and don't want to see OPIRG defunded. Anbalagan stated that they have had fruitful programming and she would like to see more. She explained that if they sent this to students she didn't think they would vote blindly on this.

Moved by Lee, **seconded** by Stott to Call to Question

In Favour: 12 Opposed: 11 Abstentions: 3

Opposed: Ibe, Anbalagan, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Anas, Wilson, Fama, McGill, Patel, Webb, Arnold

Abstained: D'Souza, Deshpande, Ahmed

Motion Fails

Back to Amendment

- Sabrin Salim stated that this value was just made up, and there was nothing to back it up. She asked if D'Souza consulted anyone about this. Salim ceded the rest of her time to D'Souza. D'Souza stated that this was not an arbitrary number. He explained that looking at the numbers in 1995, \$5.50 with 13,000 students was \$70,000 but with CPI that number would be \$100,000 today, and that it would be \$120,000 with today's students. He felt that this number was solid to look at and think about. He stated that it was the duty of the Assembly to oversee these groups, and the reduction of the fee should be decided by the

MSU. He added that they don't have to necessarily agree with the fee, but it should be acknowledged and ask the students to vote on what's appropriate.

- Anas stated that given the MSU admin costs of \$126 per student, only 11% of that goes to employment. He explained that the MSU was providing more money to students' services compared to OPIRG. Anas added that he would hate to see OPIRG be defunded, and didn't think students would blindly make that decision.
- D'Souza addressed the notion that students don't care or see value in fees. He explained that it was insulting to students. He explained that the Health plan was increased, and students chose not to have the Marmor. He explained that they should be giving students more credit.

Moved by Lee, **seconded** by Stott to Call to Question

In Favour: 13 Opposed: 6 Abstentions: 8

Opposed: Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Anas, Wilson, Fama, Patel

Abstained: Anbalagan, Ibe, D'Souza, Deshpande, McGill, Webb, Arnold, Ahmed

Motion Passes

Vote on Amendment

Moved by D'Souza, **seconded** by Ibe to amend the motion to read: "**Moved** by Aoki, **seconded** by Wilson that the SRA send the OPIRG fee to referendum in January of 2018, to give the option of \$8.07, reduce to \$5.50, or not have the fee at all, with option to opt-out."

In Favour: 21 Opposed: 3 Abstentions: 1

Opposed: Lightstone, Aoki, Florean

Abstained: Patel

Motion Passes

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Ahmed to recess for 10 minutes.

- Anbalagan stated that she would like to take a break.
- Wilson responded that they had time to debate, and this wasn't one of the break times for staff.

Vote to Recess

In Favour: 15 Opposed: 8 Abstentions: 1

Opposed: Stott, Sooriyakumaran, Sabrin Salim, Anas, Wilson, Florean, Patel, Hackett

Abstained: Webb

Motion Passes

Recessed at 8:27pm

Called to Order at 8:40pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present:	Ahmed, Anas, Anbalagan, Aoki, Arnold, D'Souza, Deshpande, Fama, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Ibe, Lightstone, McGill, Nwamadi, Patel, Ochocinski, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthilmohan, Stott, Webb, Wilson
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Chestney, McNally, Obaidullah, Risi, Szeliga, Vlatkovic, Zhang
Late	Lao, Lee
Others Present:	Stephanie Bartolo (AVP Municipal Affairs), Brett Cox (OPIRG/MISCA), Sahra Soudi (OPIRG/Womanists), Rashmi Rajendran (EWB), Neha Malhotra (EWB), Ross Edwards (EWB), Daksh Datta (MSU Member), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Helen Zeng

Back to Main Motion

Moved by Aoki, **seconded** by Wilson that the SRA send the OPIRG fee to referendum in January of 2018, to give the option of \$8.07, reduce to \$5.50, or not have the fee at all, with option to opt-out.

- Webb stated that she will be voting this down, and while a reduction was step forward she didn't agree that sending it to referendum would be productive. She explained that OPIRG's reasoning on why they don't want to be a part of the MSU was valid, and it wasn't the MSU's place to debate it. She felt that the most collaborative approach would be to ask OPIRG to report at the end of the year to ensure that recommendations were being followed.
- Fama stated that he would like to speak to the value of staff versus students. He stated that students can't provide the same value of that as a paid member devalues students on campus. Fama pointed out that they were sitting in a room and representing an organization made of students that turns over yearly. He explained that it was demeaning to them and showed a lack of respect to the organization and the students who are paying the fees, which funds OPIRG.
- Lee stated that he conducted some polls to the Health Sciences students, and they would like to see this go to referendum. He explained that it was the Assembly's responsibility to look at this critically. Lee stated that this was his second time on the Assembly, and the second time that concerns have been raised.
- D'Souza agreed with Lee. He stated that OPIRG has been around for 22 years, and sending them to referendum was the best option, and now they have choices in having a reduced fee. He stated that they should put this to referendum and would like students to have a say.

Moved by Sooriyakumaran, **seconded** by Lee to Call to Question

In Favour: 21 Opposed: 4 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Wilson, Ibe, Fama, Webb
Abstained: Sabrin Salim
Motion Passes

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 21 Opposed: 5 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Sabrin Salim, Wilson, Sabra Salim, Patel, Webb
Abstained: Senthilmohan
Motion Passes

2. Committee of the Whole – Engineers without Borders

Moved by D'Souza, **seconded** by Lightstone that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss Engineers without Borders, as per BYLAW 5 – FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Motion Passes due to General Consent

Moved by D'Souza, **seconded** by Ibe that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and to Rise and Report.

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- D'Souza reported that the Assembly discussed the delegation. They commended EWB for presenting to the General Assembly each year, and having a sizable portion of non-engineering students going to their conferences. D'Souza reported that the Assembly would like to know if the referendum was for funding a

junior fellowship. D'Souza reported that the Assembly had two recommendations, one was that they would like to see the EWB and the junior fellowship be better promoted, and come report to the SRA about how promotions had changed. The second would be to have expanded opportunities.

3. Open SRA seat on Other Committee

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Webb that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee.

Passes Unanimously

4. Close SRA seat on Other Committee

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Stott that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on the Elections Committee.

Nominations

- Lee nominated himself

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

- Lee won the SRA seat on the Elections Committee by acclamation.

5. Yearplan

Moved by Patel, **seconded** by Stott that the Assembly approve the updated Social Sciences Caucus Yearplan, as circulated.

- Patel went over the yearplan with the Assembly.
- Ibe stated that the MSU already had an elections how-to guide.
- Patel stated that it was different from what they already had. He explained that they wanted to give students templates for what to do.
- Hackett went over his contributions to the yearplan, which was reconstructing the application process for Welcome Week, and increasing mental health initiatives.
- Ahmed went over his contributions to the yearplan, which was optimizing the booking system of rooms, and having a centralized system for after hours bookings. He added that his second point was to look into cheaper food options on campus.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. BYLAW 15/A – FACULTY CUP AWARD

Moved by Anbalagan that the Assembly approve changes to BYLAW 15/A – FACULTY CUP AWARD, as circulated.

- Anbalagan went over the Bylaw with the Assembly.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

2. Rescind BYLAW 15/B – RESIDENCE CUP AWARD

Moved by Anbalagan that the Assembly rescind BYLAW 15/B – RESIDENCE CUP AWARD

- Anbalagan stated that they now need to remove this bylaw as they merged the original two into one.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

3. OPERATING POLICY – VICE-PRESIDENTIAL, SPEAKER, AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

Moved by Anbalagan that the Assembly approve OPERATING POLICY – VICE-PRESIDENTIAL, SPEAKER, AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS, as circulated.

- Anbalagan went over the memo with the Assembly.
- Lee stated that his concerns were still the same from the last time this was presented, as they were putting more time for questions and presentations. He felt that this wouldn't be conducive, and it was a lot on VP candidates to speak for more than 10 minutes.
- Lightstone asked Deshpande if one minute answering the questions in this process would be sufficient. Lightstone ceded to Deshpande. Deshpande responded that one minute was good, as the debate gets long and this would allow for more questions. He added that he didn't want to answer questions after-hours last year.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 22 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 2

Opposed: Ibe

Abstained: Lee, Lao

Motion Passes

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Deshpande, **seconded** by Lightstone that the SRA consider the following motion for New Business:

Moved by Deshpande, **seconded** by D'Souza that the SRA endorse the '\$5.50' option on the OPIRG referendum questions, to appear on the ballot."

- Deshpande stated that he wanted to introduce the motion so that the SRA had a firm mandate.
- Lightstone stated that regardless of if the Assembly adds this to the agenda, it is now late and so everyone should be succinct.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 17 Opposed: 7 Abstentions: 1

Opposed: Lightstone, Stott, Aoki, Nwamadi, Lao, Lee, Florean

Abstained: Senthilmohan

Motion Passes

1. MSU Endorsement for OPIRG Referendum Option

Moved by Deshpande, **seconded** by D'Souza that the SRA endorse the '\$5.50' option on the OPIRG referendum questions, to appear on the ballot.

- Deshpande stated that there was a lot of concern about the room whether that OPIRG was doomed to fail during the referendum. He explained that in the spirit of the previous discussion of a reduced fee, this was what a lot of people agreed with.
- Lightstone stated that the money OPIRG wasn't being used for student services. He explained that clubs cost students \$30,000 less than OPIRG. Lightstone felt that fully removing the fee entirely was best for students, and that they shouldn't be recommending the middle option as it was just a number they came up with. He felt that it was best for students to just have the full opt-out.
- Ahmed stated that they should let students know their position on this, as they are representing the students. He added that OPIRG has a right to advertise their preference for what students should vote, but that won't be added to the ballot.
- Lee stated that he was uncomfortable making the stance for this referendum, as this has financial implications.
- Deshpande stated that as the SRA they should be empowered to take stances, and that they analyzed the finances of this group. He added that they should put this forward if they don't want to see OPIRG fail.

Moved by Sabra Salim, **seconded** by Ahmed to Call to Question

In Favour: 22 Opposed: 2 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Lee, Florean
Motion Passes

Vote on Main Motion

In Favour: 12 Opposed: 10 Abstentions: 2
Opposed: Lightstone, Stott, Aoki, Gardner, Fama, Lao, Lee, Ochocinski, Florean, Arnold
Abstained: Sooriyakumaran, Hackett
Motion Passes

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 7, 2017
5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH 111

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present:	Ahmed, Anas, Anbalagan, Aoki, Arnold, D'Souza, Deshpande, Fama, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Ibe, Lao, Lee, Lightstone, McGill, Nwamadi, Patel, Ochocinski, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthilmohan, Stott, Webb
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Chestney, McNally, Obaidullah, Risi, Szeliga, Vlatkovic, Wilson, Zhang
Late	
Others Present	Stephanie Bartolo (AVP Municipal Affairs), Daksh Datta (MSU Member), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Helen Zeng

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Lightstone, **seconded** by Patel that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes Unanimously

Adjourned at 9:46 pm

/vs



REPORT

From the office of the...

First Year Council Chair

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Justin Lee, Chair
SUBJECT: SRA 16F Report
DATE: November 26, 2017

Dear Student Representative Assembly,

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

One of our goals was to ease the transition to off campus housing for first year students and we made a step in the right direction on Monday, November 20th with our House Hunting event, where we collaborated with SCSN to bring more awareness and information about looking for houses. On our goal about advocating for first year concerns, we have received, noted and begun to think about a couple concerns that first-year students are having. The council has been split up into their respective residence consultation committees and will begin tackling the problems related to their committee. We have made progress in the right direction with spreading awareness for our diverse MSU services, first of which is the creation of infographics that would split up and tackle several different topics such as hospitality, physical wellness, etc.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

This past month has been a busy one! We organized and ran Meet Your First Year Council event which lasted throughout the week of November 13 where the chairs visited each residence, and meeting up with the residence chairs, promoted the First Year Council Facebook page as well as promote for other events such as the SCSN collaboration event for house hunting. This week allowed us to be able to get more personal with the students we were representing while getting students to support our social media platforms; overall, we were able to get ~300 likes on our Facebook page and 41 followers on our Instagram. On November 13th, we held the MSU Spark First Year Formal, which was a success. The council has also launched a social media campaign called "FYC Presents: Discover Your McMaster" where members of the council are photographed, and the pictures are captioned with information about different MSU services. November 20th was the date of our house hunting event, in collaboration with SCSN, to bring important information to first year students about leaving residence next year. Both, the 6:00PM and 8:30PM, sessions were a success and the event was very informative, spreading important tips and tricks to smoothly transition to off campus housing.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The council has planning for future projects already underway. We have considered a Cookies and Cram event starting first semester, but ultimately decided it may be a better idea to begin sometime in the second semester. We hope to plan an all ages club night

on January 11th with the theme still under the selection process. A residence programming event we are in the process of organizing is the Residence Olympics which will feature different activities from dodgeball, to cookoffs, to video contests. We are also getting close to the planning of our FYC exam care packages. Our Vice Chair of Events reached out to Awaken Chocolate and was able to get a sponsorship of 300 units. Research for infographics have been collected and given to the underground for design and publishing.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Communication with residence life is not optimal, however our residence consultation committees have finally been set and put into action. The council has been made aware of concerns, and they are bringing those concerns to their respective committees to solve to create a smoother experience for first years in the future.

SUCCESES

Despite starting slow, our residence consultation committees have been finalized and are ready to begin figuring out solutions to first year concerns. Housing and Conferences is set with Kevin Beatty. Student Life is set with Simon Wilmot. The Dining committee is set with Cathy Tasis, and the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities committee is set with Michelle. Our past events, as mentioned earlier, have also been quite successful.

Best,

Justin Lee
First Year Council Chair
McMaster Students Union
fycchair@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

SRA Nursing

From the office of the...

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Sharon Nwamadi, SRA Nursing
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Report
DATE: Tuesday, November 21st, 2017

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Platform Point #1: Demystify the workings of the SRA/MSU to the nursing student body.

Next semester, I will be working towards creating an Elections information seminar.

Platform Point #2: Improving collaboration with the McMaster University Nursing Student Society (MUNSS).

We've begun the constitution review for MUNSS so I am looking into becoming a voting member. I initially wanted to introduce an SRA Observer position similar to that of the Arts & Science caucus and will be bringing this concern up at the next meeting to discuss the feasibility of this and what their role would entail. I will hopefully be working with the RNAO Representatives on MUNSS to provide a resume and cover letter building workshop with the help of the Registered Nurse Association of Ontario in March. In addition, I am working the Education Chairpersons on MUNSS to plan a career conference/panel for the next semester. Collaboration is running smoothly at this point, and I also plan to enlist the president in some advocacy related projects for the next semester.

Platform Point #3 - Building on the foundation of the 2016-2017 SRA Nursing Caucus.

The Nurses of McMaster Initiative has been re-launched and has a faculty component which I hoped would run every week – but it's looking like a biweekly project as I have to wait on biographies from faculty. The career panel/conference will be expanded next semester, as of right now I am now just collecting contacts that are interested in speaking. One project that is on my radar is creating a “how to” video on how to access the nursing lounge and health science lounge which I hope to complete at the beginning of the winter semester.

Platform Point #4 - Working to improve the Constituent Outreach Operating Policy to the benefit of nurses.

My office hours have slowed down as we're nearing exams, but I'm hoping they will pick up again next semester.

Platform Point #5 - Advocating for transparency and change within the School of Nursing.

I have not started working on this platform point, and I have pushed it until the next semester as our program is just recovering from the strike and these points are not going to be viewed as a priority for the School of Nursing as of yet.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- Nurses of McMaster (continuous)
- Northern nursing event (cancelled due to the strike)
- Welcome week presentation (completed)
- Increasing Facebook likes by 10% (completed)

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- Mental wellness programming with health science (next semester)
- Career panel/conference (next semester)
- Elections seminar (next semester)
- How to access the Nursing Student lounge video (next semester)

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- The college strike put a major hold on my advocacy projects and events

SUCCESES

- Social media engagement is up 80% and continues to increase with each Nurses of McMaster post

That's all for now.

Best regards,

Sharon Nwamadi
SRA Nursing
McMaster Students Union
sranursing@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

SRA Science Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Sabra Salim, Caucus Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Report
DATE: November 26, 2017

Dear Assembly Members,

On behalf of the SRA Science Caucus, I would like to congratulate the assembly for making it halfway through the year! It has been quite a semester but I am very proud of the work that this assembly has been able to accomplish. I also look forward to the coming semester. Below, you will find the work that we have accomplished for this term.

PAST AND CURRENT PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Theme 1: Course Registration and Management

I have already reached out to the AVP UA, David Lee in some initial conversations for the Assessment Ban campaign. Groundwork metrics will be established in the near future.

Theme 4: Accessibility

Faculty Mental Health Training: Faculty mental health training is underway with SWC, Catherine Munn who previously applied for a grant to fund an overlapping project for this year, they were kind enough to allow me to join the team

Disability Studies Minor: Working with the ADA/MEDS Working Group of PACBIC we hope to create an interdisciplinary minor on critical disability studies. Currently I have a small conciliatory role in this project, but as we move forward I hope to take on more responsibilities as next term I have more time to dedicate to this project. A challenge regarding this project is the unpredictability of workload combined with my schedule. However, as the project develops more concretely and my schedule is more free next term I'm excited to really get cracking! A success regarding this initiative is that funding was allocated for a MacPherson Student Scholar to work up to 60 hours on this project next term! **Applications close November 27th!** Having a dedicated paid research member will decrease the reliance on volunteer labour from a few very busy people.

SAS Note-Taking Program Improvements: Other platform points have taken precedence up until now. Currently planning for second term and consulting with students, the PACBIC ADA/MEDS working group and SAS regarding what a change should look like and how to best achieve that change. This was always intended to be a second term project for me so things are on track.

Podcasted Courses: This issue is too big for just me to tackle and in the new year I'll be working with SRA members and engaged students regarding a podcasted courses working group to better mobilize students in achieving this advocacy goal. In some cases the technology to podcast exists and faculty are unaware of how to use, but in other cases there needs to be an investment to increase podcasting on campus and a commitment to ensure all new classroom are equipped with the ability to podcast. Additionally, the best practices regarding podcasting should be looked into before recommending an investment. The goal is to have the first meeting of this working group in early January! Moving forward I believe a challenge will be SRA engagement and leadership in this initiative but overall I am excited for this opportunity to engage a multitude of students in more direct forms of advocacy! **Message Alex to get involved with this project!**

Open Educational Resources in Integrated Science: The goal of this project was to increase the integration of open educational resources in the iSci curriculum. Myself and the VP Academic of the iSci Society presented to the majority of the core faculty two weeks ago. We have an update meeting with an eager professor on Wednesday November 22nd. There appears to be some initial hesitation from some faculty regarding work load however, there were also several faculty members that appeared very excited with the project. My hope is that by the end of the academic year, we can create a student faculty working group, have completed a needs assessment, and have a sustainable plan for the next academic year as the majority of people currently involved in this initiative will be graduating this year.

Accessibility in Teaching Awards: As part of a larger initiative of the ADA/MEDS PACBIC working group we will be creating and developing a wide variety of awards regarding accessibility on campus. My role in this project is working with the MacAcademics Coordinator to introduce an accessibility award for this year's teaching awards ceremony. The operating policy changes should be ready for executive board early January!

Theme 5: Career Networking Night

Sabrina and I are currently going to meet to book the venue for the Quantum Leap conference. It will most likely be held on campus, I am still awaiting feedback as to whether we can invite other students to this event.

Theme 6: Diversity in Governance

Sabrin has already started to work on restructuring the MSU and You Committee. She is currently working with Chukky and Sebat Bekri to rebrand the committee as well as plan a conference.

Theme 9: Providing Resources to Clubs

Interfaith Council: The Interfaith council will be meeting sometime this coming week to start planning a interfaith event for next semester. Max is also in the works of establishing an operating policy.

Engaging Community Advisors: Attending the residence life conference, it came to my

attention (Aqeel) that other schools have unions formed by CA's/RA's/Dons that act as a body to advocate on behalf of students working in the housing field. I have been in conversation with Chukky, Rabeena, and fellow CA's in organizing a meeting of a diverse array of community advisors in order to start a conversation on what issues they face on campus.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- **Rabeena:** Trouble funding science scholarship expansion with MSS funding
Solution: working with Karen McQuigge from Advancement to explore other funding options
- **Sabrin:** Forsee a difficulty in recruiting members who are not on election teams.
Funding as well as tight timing in planning the coming conference may pose as a difficulty for the MSU & You restructured committee.
- **Aqeel:** Getting together CA's from multiple buildings is difficult, as everyone has different schedules
- Another challenge we for see is in advocacy efforts. Understandably so, advocacy efforts can take a long time in order to see some action. We are already in contact with Adina Silver, a Science Representative on the Senate. She will assist us in our science advocacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Science Speaks! Survey:** SRA Science with the MSS has released an academic survey on the Science student experience. This will help us amalgamate data for advocacy. This survey covers questions on many of our platform points, namely our diversity platform as well as our learning environment platform.
- Next semester, we plan on taking our office hours to the student body. This semester, there was a focus on bringing students to our office hours. However, we will be planning on moving our office hours into student spaces with permission from services. For example, Maccess and WGEN are spaces that we are considering hosting at least one office hour. Not only will this invite students into these spaces, students can also learn about advocacy and projects related to the initiatives and mandate of the particular service. We encourage other caucuses to consider bringing office hours to students. This was an idea put forth by Alex.
- Alex has also started on the podcasted course, after a discussion we had at one of our group meetings, we decided that we wanted to start implementing a committee style structure for our platforms. Not only will we be clustering SRA members, we want to bring MSU members to help establish platforms. Alex has already started on developing this for Podcasted Courses and we will continue to start more committees depending on where we need assistance with our platforms and advocacy efforts.

SUCCESES

- Four of us were authors on the passed policy papers. These papers were pivotal in next semester's advocacy efforts which we look forward to. These policies covered:
 - **Theme 1: Course Registration and Management**
 - **Theme 3: Enhancing the Learning Environment**
 - **Theme 4: Accessibility**

Cheers,

Sabra Salim
SRA Science Caucus Leader
McMaster Students Union
srasci@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of...

SRA Social Sciences

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Uwais Patel, Caucus Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Report
DATE: November 29, 2017

Hello Members of the Assembly,

We're more than halfway into our term as caucus members and approaching our last SRA meeting of the semester. While we are sad that our time on the assembly is almost finished, we are more than content with all that we have achieved thus far. Should you have any questions with the contents of this report, feel free to reach out!

Best,

Uwais Patel
SRA Social Sciences
McMaster Students Union
srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Formalized Relationship with McMaster Social Sciences Society

We're working with our faculty society to create a better relationship between the SRA and the society itself. We have started to sit in on their core exec meetings and will be having monthly office hours with them. November 20th will be our first joint office hours and they will resume back in January for the new semester.

SRA Business Cards

While engaging and interacting with students during office hours and in informal settings, it was apparent that business cards were needed to get students to follow up with us as writing our contact information on a piece of paper every time wasn't the best way to close our conversations. Using Special Projects funding, Aarij and Shemar now have business cards to use when interacting with constituents.

SRA By-Election

In October, nominations opened for two Soc Sci seats on the assembly. We prepared a promotional campaign to advertise the open seats and tabled with the MSU Elections Department and Speaker in L.R. Wilson to engage with students and inform them of these vacant positions. While it's unfortunate that an election did not occur, we are lucky to have Shemar and Aarij with us today.

L.R. Wilson

We finally have access to the L.R. Wilson Lounge space which is exciting news! This space is open for both Humanities and Social Sciences students. With the space now available, our caucus members will be able to get to work on some of the projects that required the space to be open.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Career Pop-Up: Hamilton City Hall!

The Experiential Education Office invited us to an event they're hosting at Hamilton City Hall. They asked to have some representation from us as student leaders. This event will provide Social Sciences students the opportunity to make connections with local government officials and many other professionals working for the City of Hamilton in a wide range of department areas.

Draft Communications and Engagement Plan

After communicating with the MSU Communications Officer, Director, and Brian Zheng, we hope to have available a draft communications and engagement plan available for consult sometime in late January.

L.R. Wilson Lounge Opening

With L.R. Wilson Lounge now open, we hope to collaborate with our faculty and society partners to host an opening event to publicize the lounge space.

SRA Platform Point Video

Lauren has received feedback from multiple SRA members and communicated with Sarah Mae Conrad regarding a SRA promotion video. Instead of serving as a meeting recap, this video would be a collaboration between the SRA caucuses, featuring one member per caucus highlighting progress/completion of a platform

point. Once Lauren has received confirmation on timing, she will reach out to caucus leaders for input and to inquire about participation.

SENgage

Sunny and I are interested in inviting a Senator and possibly a member of Parliament over to campus for a lecture/ guest speaking type event. We're currently working the logistics of doing something like this and will reach out to the BOD and others if necessary.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Constituent Outreach and SRA Image

During outreach time, we've realized that it's a bit difficult to engage with students and show them what the SRA is all about. We had a lot of students reach out for the SRA By-Election but we ended up having the positions acclaimed. This could possibly be due to the image of the SRA and something we as an assembly can tackle.

Communication

Consistent communication with different staff members, services, and community partners has been difficult because we're not getting timely replies. Additionally, when we do get replies, finding a meeting time that works for all parties is hard to coordinate.

Intersection of Commitments

We've all found that we hold multiple roles and conduct activities that intersect with our positions on the SRA. This has resulted in time constraints, boundary dilemmas, and multiplicitous interactions with stakeholders on campus. While this has been a challenge, sometimes it has been helpful, and we are all learning from the experience.

SUCCESSES

Social Media Outreach

Our outreach over our social media channels has been amazing. We've been gaining traction on our Facebook and Twitter pages and we're hoping that it continues throughout the next little bit.

OUSA and University Advocacy

Kirstin has recently attended OUSA General Assembly as an MSU delegate and contributed to the MSU's Academic Success Policy Paper as an author, furthering the caucus and her personal goals of advocating for students.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Communications and Engagement Strategy

Developing this protocol for our communications and engagement strategy is on its way and a rough draft should be available in January to be commented on. Earlier in the semester, we reached out to Sarah Mae Conrad and Michael Woorder, as well as Brian Zheng, for assistance in developing such a system.

MSU ‘How To’ Guide

An interim guide was created for the October SRA By-Election where students were given detailed information on how to run in an election and the different avenues of support available. In preparation for SRA Generals this March, we will have an FAQ, a class talk schedule, and a lot more resources available on the website to ease some barriers students may face when they run in elections.

Formalized relationship with MSSS and Faculty of Social Sciences

Collaborating with the SRA should be in the MSSS constitution. We've been working with them on a few initiatives and will continue to foster this relationship. With the Faculty, we've had a great relationship with them so far and are looking forward to continuing it.

Student Representation at the University Level

Kirstin has been contributing to the University Affairs committee through policy authorship, attending PACBIC meetings, and otherwise been involved in representation at the University level. There is currently discussion on the efficacy of a survey at this time.

Accessibility for Courses/SAS Capabilities

Kirstin contributed sections of the Academic Success policy paper on these topics, and has been supporting and advocating for students to SAS. She will also be attending a conference and working with one of the presenters to further the goals of improving accessibility in courses.

Improved Course Evaluations

Kirstin contributed this section to the Academic Success policy paper. There is planning in process to incentivize students to complete course evaluations in collaboration with the MSSS and the Social Sciences Faculty.

L.R. Wilson: Hours & Lounge

The Social Sciences & Humanities Lounge is now open after months of advocating for the space to be open and accessible. We held our office hours on November 20th in this space to promote its use and draw students into the area, and were happy to see the space relatively full throughout the time we spent here. We are currently in communication with the SRA Humanities caucus, and are planning to reach out to the MSSS and the MHS, with regard to running a campaign to decorate the space with student art and hosting a grand opening of the space with the aim of drawing students into the space (and increasing SRA awareness). After multiple attempts to communicate with the faculty and facility services regarding hours of the building, the goal has evolved to making the hours public (either on the physical building or online), as opposed to extending the hours of the building.

Experiential Opportunities

Kirstin is a member of the Experiential Education Governing Council (for Social Science's EE Office), and they met recently about upcoming events and opportunities. We will be helping them advertise as well as attending their events to increase uptake and help improve the opportunities within our faculty.

Optimizing Various Rooms for Studying Purposes

Currently, during exam and midterm season the only study rooms that can be used during exam/midterm season are either in the library or in LR-Wilson (where the rooms are only available to social science and humanities students). To deal with this issue, we plan to work closely with both administration and members of the MSU optimize the current booking system. After the optimization of the current booking system, we will aim to set the system to allow students to be able to book rooms in KTH, TSH, and CNH among other buildings on campus. These bookings will be available during exam/midterm season and during the after-hours of the day.

Healthier and Cheaper Food Options on Campus

After hearing several complaints from our constituents, we found that many of them are highly displeased with the rising food prices especially of entities such as Centro and Willy Dog. We plan to find the reasoning behind these rising prices and seeing where we can redistribute funds to provide cheaper and good quality food. Along with this we hope to work with the administration and members of the MSU to find a way to provide healthier and cheaper food options available on campus.

More Informal Events for Students

Like the overall year plan, we would like to build and strengthen relations among faculty and students. We believe by doing this, students will be able to form a casual yet formal relationship with the faculty, with this new relationship students will be more likely to reach out to their Professors and TAs in times of academic need and possibly for other endeavours.

Reconstructing the Application Process for Welcome Week

Based on personal feedback from first year students and a few Blu Cru reps, we have noticed that reps have an issue of approachability and some first-year students feel there is a disconnect between the faculty and students. To circumvent this issue, we wanted to reach out to the MSSS to determine if they are aware of this problem and if we could collaborate on reshaping how faculty reps are chosen. After speaking with Arjay Villasis, MSSS president, they agreed that there is an issue and they have decided to make the application process for the 2018 Welcome Week planner position slightly more extensive. Additionally, once the WW planners have been chosen, I plan to have a conversation with them about these student testimonies and determining what we could collectively do moving forward to make sure that students and reps have a great experience during welcome week.

Increasing Engagement with Mental Health Services

Mental health is a topic that is frequently taboo on campus and we wanted to make sure that students are comfortable within the McMaster community. We have reached out to Diversity Services Director, Lilian, to determine if it were possible to collaborate on events in the future. We are currently organizing a sit-down meeting to determine what the next step would be, but she has agreed to collaborate on a workshop/event that would take place next semester and has encouraged us to help

promote events to increase the amount of Soc Sci students that currently attend sessions by Diversity Services.

In addition, COPE McMaster, a club focusing on students mental health on campus, has asked for SRA involvement in an mental health round-table discussion that will be held in February. We have reached out to Paul Hewitt, Vice-President of COPE, and he has been keeping us up to date on all the information for the event that we will be attending next semester.

Increase Turnout to Events and Build Relationship with MSSS

We're working with our faculty society to create a better relationship between the SRA and the society itself. We have started to sit in on their core exec meetings and will be having monthly office hours with them. November 20th will be our first joint office hour and they will resume back in January for the new semester. In reference to increasing the turnout to events, we have been helping the MSSS promote their events by sharing it on our individual pages and attending their events and volunteering where we are needed.

Temporary Caucus Leader

Uwais will be out of the country from January 7-20. As a result, Kirstin Webb will be taking over any duties that will be occurring during that period.

Caucus Pictures

We'd like to give a special shoutout to Sarah Mae Conrad, MSU Communications Officer, for taking our caucus pictures! We're really thankful for her great work.

Overview of Progress on Year Plan

Objective	Status
Communications and Engagement Strategy	On Going
MSU 'How-To' Election Guidebook	In Progress
MSSS Partnership	Completed
Faculty Connection	Completed
Student Representation at the University Level	In Progress
Accessibility for Courses/SAS Capabilities	In Progress
Improved Course Evaluations	In Progress
L.R. Wilson: Hours	In Progress
L.R. Wilson: Lounge	In Progress
Experiential Opportunities	On Going
Rooms for Studying Purposes	In Progress
MSSS Welcome Week Application	In Progress
Food Options on Campus	In Progress
Engagement with Mental Health Services	In Progress
Increase Turnout to Events	In Progress

Before September Goals	Status	End of Winter Goals	Status
WW Communication Plan	Completed	MSSS Winter GA	In Progress
Calendar of Events	Completed	Continuous Caucus Outreach	In Progress
Open Seat Recruitment Plan	Completed	Caucus Transition Plan	In Progress
End of Fall Goals	Status	Engagement Report	In Progress
MSSS Fall GA	Completed	600 Facebook Likes	Completed
SRA By-Election Transition	Completed		
SRA By-Election Outreach	Completed		



REPORT

From the office of the...

AVP Municipal Affairs

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Associate Vice President of Municipal Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Report
DATE: Tuesday, November 21, 2017

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

My committee and I continue to make progress on our year plan objectives. In terms of transit advocacy, Ryan Deshpande and I delegated at Environment Hamilton's Emergency HSR Riders Meeting. We talked about the importance of the HSR to students and how we are negatively impacted by the current crisis of absent buses. As well, I have an advocacy meeting with HSR Director Debbie Dal Verre and Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson to discuss the needs of students who are commuting across Hamilton to McMaster.

SCSN is running a fantastic Rental Housing Awareness Week. My committee provided input on the events running during the week and is now supporting SCSN by helping out at the different events throughout the week. We also partnered with SCSN on the focus groups on student housing. This campaign will help to students to have a better rental experience, be more informed about by-laws, and the information collected from the focus groups will be of incredible value to our further advocacy efforts.

Finally, we are continuing to work on the Municipal Budget Submission. While it was the initial goal to have it done for November, we realized we will not need to submit or advocate on it until next term. For that reason and to give authors some more time, we extended the deadline till December.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Since my last report, we have partaken in a number of events, projects, and activities. I aided Chukky Ibe in writing his delegation to the Ontario Municipal Board hearing, where the MSU opposed separating Ainsle Wood North from the Ward One boundary in the next election. Ryan Deshpande, Alex Wilson, and I attended the meeting where Chukky Ibe presented to show our support and to further demonstrate the MSU's interest in this issue.

I was also on City Matters again with Christine Yachouh, who co-chaired Change Camp with me, promoting the Change Camp grants that were offered by the Office of Community of Engagement. It also brought attention to Change Camp itself, which may allow for increased community turnout next year.

I attended both the Ainsle Wood Westdale Community Association (AWWCA) and Anisle Wood Community Association (AWCA) meetings the week of the 6th. I raised concerns

around student safety with the increased break and enters, landlord discrimination against certain groups of students, and the increased by-law enforcement in the area. The community was fairly receptive and provided suggestions on how to effectively advocate on behalf of these issues.

On Tuesday November 14th, Ryan and I delegated at the Emergency Transit Riders Meeting hosted by Environment Hamilton. The meeting brought together community members and HSR representatives to discuss concerns with the system. This is especially relevant given the current crisis the HSR is in where they have cancelled over 500 buses in October due to absenteeism, which is a symptom of a larger problem. The HSR was very receptive to our concerns.

Finally, my committee and I wrote our first policies this term! We were able to meaningful contribute our knowledge of municipal affairs to each policy. I am very proud of all their work.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Our next upcoming event is Cupcakes and Community Change! The plan is to host it the week of the 27th or early the following week with the date to be confirmed as soon as possible. This event will be promoting ForWard One, which is this ward's participatory budgeting process. Residents have the opportunity to submit and vote on infrastructure project ideas. This year, the theme is Environmental Stewardship. At our Cupcake and Community Change event, students can submit ideas in exchange for a cupcake. Having an event allows for further dialogue and is an opportunity to inform students about important municipal issues. Last year, I hosted this event and it was a great success!

My committee is continuing to work on the Municipal Budget submission, which we plan to have completed in mid-December.

As mentioned previously, I have a meeting with Councillor Tom Jackson and HSR Manager Debbie Dalle Vedove next week, where I and a few committee members will advocate for better transit service for commuter students. This was supposed to occur last week, but has been rescheduled to next week.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

With school work and a number of other responsibilities increasing at this time of year, it has become difficult to keep on top of every opportunity. For instance, I missed out on the opportunity for members of the Municipal Affairs committee of leading a table at the Our Future Hamilton Summit because I forgot to respond to an email and was cut out of further communication. As well, I have been unable to attend every council meeting and community event where it may be valuable to have MSU representation. I am attempting to get back on top of this by assigning specific times to answering emails. As well, I am informing my committee about events and other opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS (Commissioners only)

I continue to be impressed by the work of my committee members! They always provide thoughtful feedback on projects and are excited to work on the Municipal Budget Submission. However, they are also busy with schoolwork and other commitments, which makes it's difficult to make progress on projects. I am checking in with them about their workload and create flexible deadlines to ensure we put forward our best work.

SUCCESES

Our municipal advocacy work continues to be covered by local media and the Silhouette, which I believe is a testament to the great job we are doing! The Silhouette is also covering more municipal issues, demonstrating this is a greater priority for students and increases the importance of our work. The community is also very thankful for our efforts. Aidan Johnson and the community associations thanked us for delegating at the OMB hearing. As well community associations continue to thank us for being present, listening to their concerns, and providing feedback. Lastly, after several months, Aidan Johnson accepted my Facebook friend request!

OTHER

Please promote the ForWard One Idea submission opportunity and the Cupcake and Community Change event once we have the detail finalized! This is a really unique and exciting opportunity for residents of Ward One to decide how to spend tax dollars! Also, come out to the event! Submit ideas and eat cupcakes!

Best,

Stephanie Bertolo
Associate Vice President Municipal Affairs
McMaster Students Union
avpmunicipal@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

University Affairs Committee (AVP University Affairs)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: David Lee, AVP University Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Report
DATE: November 21, 2017

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Thode Survey

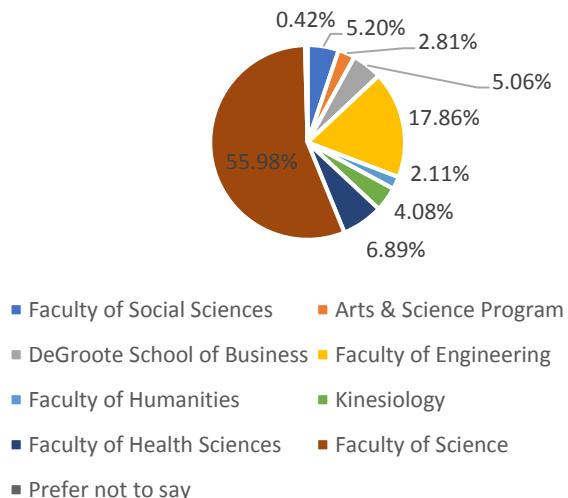
In conjunction with extending Thode Library Hours, I have also drafted a survey in conjunction with the MSS President, Connor Maclean. The survey asks important questions that will help inform our advocacy efforts for extending Thode hours in the second term. Thank you especially to Abdul, Ezza, Sinthu, and Ella.



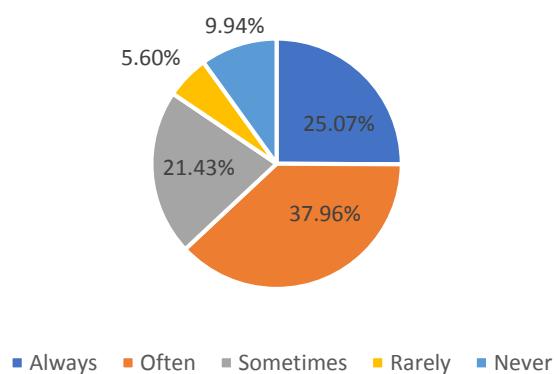
The survey has been especially successful and is still up and running. To date, we have had over 700 responses. Most of the responses can be attributed to the MSS' reach and campaigning. However, UA has also taken on the job of tabling at Thode and giving out hot chocolate during this week to promote the survey. Connor and I have both agreed to promote this survey one more time before the start of 24/7 Thode.

The results of the Thode Survey have been strongly in favor of the extension of hours. We have presented the preliminary results with the Associate Librarian in a meeting and they have been very receptive. Moving forward, Connor and I will find a way to continue this project as we move into the second term. Below are some preliminary results, thank you especially to our RA, Emily for her work in analyzing the survey data.

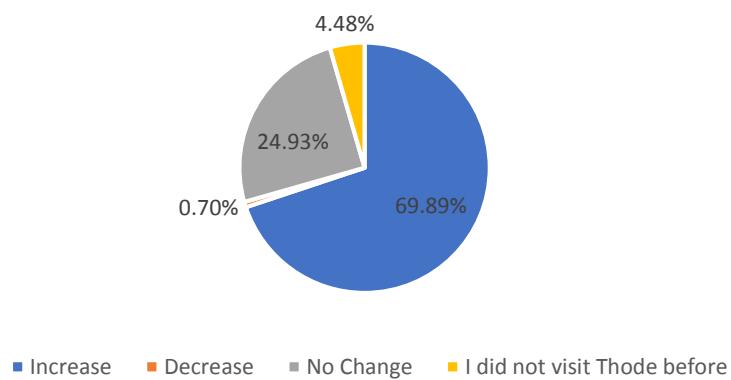
In which faculty/program are you enrolled in?



How often have you used extended Thode Library hours?



How have your visits to Thode Library changed after extended Thode Library hours?



IT Services / IT Forum

I've been reached out a couple of times from university staff in the IT Department. I am also currently in contact with Amanda Baldwin who oversees the IT Services Review for the university. The scope is not limited to Mosaic but the accessibility of IT Services in McMaster in general. We've rescheduled for the IT Forum to occur in the new semester based on our meeting with Amanda. The forum is something that I have taken on in planning. I foresee reaching out to the President's Council, Academic Affairs Council and other groups such as the UA Committee. Thank you to Sinthu for taking a lead in this project.

University Budget Submission

The topics on this year's budget submission will cover: Cutting the Learning Portfolio, Deferred Maintenance Priority, Food Security, Emergency Bursary Fund, Financial Support for Work Placement Offices, Sexual Violence Training, Funding for the Off-Campus Resource Centre and more investments to Open Educational Resources. Chukky, Ryan, Tuba, Tiffany and I have put this on a hold for now.

The submission has been in the works as the deadline for it has been pushed back as university administration has informed us that most faculties have already approved their budgets for this cycle. I am hoping to have a submission drafted early into the second term so that the faculties are able to incorporate our feedback for the upcoming budget cycle.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Health Services Review



The Health Services Review required that I reach out to several stakeholders to ensure that the review was robust but also gathered information in an unbiased fashion.

I touched based with the SHEC PTM, Sutina, who I worked alongside the review from last year. Together, we were able to discuss the survey draft and she connected me with her Social and Political Exec, Peter, who was able to help me edit the drafts further. From then, Emily and I started reviewing the survey with our Communications Director, Wooder to ensure that the questions were gathering information in an accurate fashion.

I met with the Student Wellness Centre head nurse, Cathy, to ensure that the survey was up to the standard and also collected information that they would also find particularly helpful. The outcomes of this meeting are particularly reflected in asking how students feel the confidentiality of their information is kept to standard and the accessibility of the hours provided by the SWC. In partnership with the SWC, we were able to create stances aligned with the student interest such as asking for more space for counsellors.

The Health Services Review was launched with great support of our Project Assistant, Atherai. The survey gathered over 130 responses and our focus groups were able to gather some valuable data. A special shout out to UA members: Francis, Anna, Sunny, and Sara for their hardwork on this.



Health and Wellness Policy

I am happy with the outcome of the Health and Wellness policy paper this semester. Thank you especially to Emily for being an amazing support. I was able to author three sections of the policy paper including: Health Services, Mental Health and Fee for Service Model. Using the review as a framework, our stances have been appropriately supported by student voices. The policy was a bit challenging for me due to the amount of sections I took on in conjunction with running the review at the same time. Regardless, I am very pleased with the outcomes of both and it is reflected in the quality of the policy paper.

Personal Interest Course (PIC)

The university had originally asked the MSU to find a name for the new upcoming Credit/No Credit policy, also known as the Discovery Credit beforehand. Originally, the university had asked the MSU to run a campaign to have students name the new credit policy and we shortlisted Flex Course or Personal Interest Course

Due to tight timelines on the university's end, we have decided to move forward in naming the new credit without a campaign. After reaching out to the VP Academics of each faculty society, we have decided to

move forward with naming it the Personal Interest Course as it explains the nature of the credit better. This can be potentially useful in educating the student population about the credit.

In meeting with the AVP Faculty, the next steps for this project would be to disseminate this information appropriately once faculties and programs have decided if they want to implement this change. The university is hoping that the MSU would be able to share this information in the near future. Stay tuned for more updates.

Sustainability Committee

As part of the Sustainability Committee, I have taken a supportive role in the committee. Thanks to the leadership of Fiona who is the chair of the Committee, they have successfully launch the compost initiative at MUSC in collaboration with a Sustainability 2SO3 group. In our last meeting we discussed compost bin design and signage based on the new funding from SLEF as well as ensuring the composting of waste in MUSC once the student group has finished their project.

I have offered my support to Fiona in helping her with the next steps of this group. We are planning on reaching out to student groups on campus who are potentially interested in helping monitor the compost bin in MUSC for the time being.

Academic Affairs Council

As Vice-Chair of this council, I have provided my input and advice in these meetings. The committee has mostly discussed OERs and finding a strategy to have professor buy-in. Moreover, I have specifically advised the VP Academic of the McMaster Engineering Society in terms of gathering information for the new McMaster Standard Calculator policy change. I am happy to be a resource for this committee and its members in their advocacy efforts. I see this committee as an especially strong body moving forward due to the eagerness of its members.

PolicyCon

I facilitated a session on PolicyCon on the Health and Wellness Policy. The experience was valuable in gathering feedback on the policy as students voiced their experiences with the SWC and SWELL. It was also great to teach other students about the MSU's advocacy process and have students contact me afterwards indicating their interest in joining the UA committee. I am happy with the outreach of PolicyCon and have 3 more members join UA as a result.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

University Sustainability Policy

I am an author on this upcoming policy with our RA, Tiffany. Currently, we are brainstorming a data collection method for measuring sustainability on campus. Tiffany has taken a lead on this for the time being and I am planning on working with her in implementing the proposed project moving forward.

Other Policies

Due to the large size of the committee, I have had several interested students in being authors for the upcoming policy. The amount of interest to be involved in policy has been amazing. Unfortunately, it also means that I will have to choose members for each policy team based on statement that UA members will submit to me.

Work integrated Learning

A couple of my committee members have indicated interest in working on WIL initiatives and I am hoping to work on the success that last year's Advocacy Street Team WIL campaign and resources. We have survey on student feedback as well as courses that have a WIL component.

SUCCESSES

I am extremely overwhelmed and appreciative of the support I've received from my committee members. The past two months has been an extremely busy month but they're dedication and interest to the committee has been outstanding. I'm happy to say that UA now has 25 members in this committee and growing.

Undergraduate Course Management Policy

I've been involved with the consultations regarding the Undergraduate Course Management Policy which is finally been renewed after 10 years. The policy covers ways that undergraduate courses should be managed (ie..Test Restrictions, Course Outlines etc...). Together, Ryan, Chukky and I attended the Undergraduate Council meeting where we noted an issue with discrepancies on the new Test Restriction Policy. Ryan and I

also attended the meeting with other faculty representatives from the Undergraduate Council to provide our input on the Undergraduate Course Management Calendar

I also formed a subcommittee within the University Affairs Committee to gather feedback on the policy. Thank you especially to Uwais and Kirstin for providing their feedback to me. I am happy to see that new policy addresses concerns regarding the ambiguity of using different terminology (ie. test vs. quiz) to assign an assessment during the Test Restriction period. As well as professors not letting students know ahead of time regarding the nature of an assignment due during this period. Finally, the policy also calls for professors to release their course outlines early, if possible, to better inform students. See below:

2. Test, quizzes, exams and take home exams worth more than 10% cannot be assigned or due during the last 5 days of classes plus the day(s) between the end of classes and the beginning of examinations. Assignments worth more than 10% that are assigned at the beginning of the course and noted on the course outline can be due during this time period, provided students are given sufficient additional detail to enable them to work on the assignment in advance of the due date.

Thode Library Hours

I am happy to say that the extension of Thode Library Hours has been well received by students and McMaster Libraries. Working with the MSS President and Associate Librarian we have noticed an increase in usage of the library. McMaster Library have also noted that there have been minor road bumps in launching this initiative but for the most the operations have been going extremely smooth and is set to complete before the start of 24/7 Thode. At peak hours, security have noted upwards to about 410 students using late night extended hours. It is important to note that in our meeting with the Associate Librarian, that they have noticed a decrease in Innis hours and possibly Mills Commons.

Librarians have also noted that number of students utilizing this extension have increased as we move into exam season. Connor and I have agreed to help promote some resources that students can access at this time, most notably the extension of PSL hours.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Volunteer Management

Managing a large committee can be challenging. I find that I am constantly trying to make my committee members' time valuable and interesting. I have tried to navigate this by splitting the committee into three specific sub-groups (Thode Library, Undergraduate Course Management and Health Services Review) and found that particularly helpful. However, this also required a lot of time on my end in terms of planning logistics and coordinating schedules.

MEMBERS



26 Members

The shift from having the education committees focus on also projects rather than just policy has been challenging in some respects. I have tried to empower committee members to take on their own initiatives with my support. Nevertheless, the new structure has also permitted for several projects to be completed.

Health Services Review

Drafting the health services review was particularly challenging as it required balancing several ideas. I had to ensure that the review was drafted in collaboration with the SWC staff and addresses misconceptions about the SWC. It was difficult trying to navigate misunderstandings and disagreements, but I am happy with the result of the review after careful consultation.

Although the review was a success, it had room for more student engagement which The Sil had published a piece on. While I agree with the message of gathering more student feedback, I have found that engaging a large audience can be challenging. I am hoping that with more foresight in the upcoming policies, in terms of timelines, that my advocacy projects will have greater outreach.

OTHER

I attended OUSA General Assembly in Laurier. It was particularly valuable experience being able to connect with my counterparts in other institutions and share best practices. The policies also provided some insight that can be applied to university advocacy.

Let me know if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them!

Best,



David Lee
Associate Vice-President (University Affairs)
McMaster Students Union
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REPORT

From the office of the...
Executive Board

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ryan Deshpande, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: Executive Board Report - 17K
DATE: November 22, 2017

Dear Student Representative Assembly,

Below is my report on the Executive Board meeting that has occurred in the last two weeks. We are thoroughly pleased to welcome our new member, Aarij Ahmed of House Social Sciences. Aarij is already proving to be an effective EB member and we are excited to see all he will contribute. Originally scheduled in the last two weeks was EB 17-14 for November 7, and 17-15 for November 14. However, due to lack of quorum (3/4 of the board was out of the office, and some SRA members had given regrets), we cancelled EB 17-14 for November 7 and moved all the items to November 14. Thus, EB 17-15 will be occurring on November 21.

In EB 17-14, we heard from SHEC, Spark, SWHAT, the TRRA, WGEN, EFRT, FYC, Mac Bread Bin, and Macademics. We are also in the midst of hiring PTM positions.

Student Health Education Centre – Sutina Chou

Between September and October, SHEC has received a total of 453 visits. This is double the service usage as was compared to last year, with condom visits being the most popular, and an increased number of pregnancy tests. SHEC had a volunteer training on October 22. It also ran events such as Sex 101 and *Soup and Selah* (in collaboration with the Chaplaincy Centre). SHEC's Facebook page has also surpassed 2000 likes! It is considering increasing operating hours from 10:30am – 7:30pm. The service is noticing budgetary constraints as it cannot keep up with the demand on inventory within its allocated budget. Finally, the SHEC back office is being equipped with breastfeeding equipment in collaboration with Chukky and the Equity & Inclusion Office.

Spark – Lindsay D’Souza

At this point in the term, Spark has completed 6 sessions, 1 workshop, 1 Team Leader social, and is on track to release its first guidebook before the end of the term. Last week, the *First Year Formal: A Starry Night* ran in collaboration with the First Year Council. Spark's sessions have included topics such as Team Work & Compromise, Stress Management & Resources, Discover Your

City, Support & Resilience, Getting Involved, Diversity, Life After Spark, and Change the World. Closing ceremonies for this term will be on December 4th. For second term, Spark will be changing the team leader pairings. Finally, First Year Formal had put budgetary constraints on the service, and they will be looking to either expanding it or fundraising.

Student Walk Home Attendant Team - Carly Van Egdom

November is SWHAT's walk-a-thon month, and they have partnered with the Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton (SACHA) to help fundraise for them. Overall, their walk count has been consistently increasing. In October, they had 139 walks (even while closed for reading week, 144 walks in September, and 15 walks in the first 2 days of November. They have also seen more returning walks. SWHAT recently completed their second round of hiring, and received training from Diversity Services. SWHAT's exec team has been excellent, stepping up when the Coordinator was sick.

Training Resources Research Assistant - Merima Menzildzic

In October, the TRRA trained the Queer Students Community Centre and Maccess volunteers. She has also been developing customizable training templated for both AOP and Peer Support training for each service, as well as open modules for sexual violence and mental health & illness training. She is also working on an infographic for the Sexual Violence Response Protocol which will be released in November.

Women & Gender Equity Network - Padmaja Sreeram

In the last month, WGEN has been accessed approximately 600 times. The service also held its first event of the year, *Spooptacular*, on October 25. They have also launched a community healing group for black students called *Black and Gendered*. The binder donation program has also been running, with 2 binders donated since the last report. They are looking to develop a sister program for transfeminine students. In addition, WGEN has received 2 sexual violence disclosures, totaling to 8 this year. These have often resulted in referrals. WGEN ran an event during *MacPride* with the QSCC called *Repoliticizing Pride*, and is underway for their *Transforming Mac* campaign. There have also recently been threats to the physical safety of the WGEN space, and the Coordinator is working to address this, including adding a panic button to the space.

Emergency First Response Team - Samantha Aung

EFRT recently celebrated their 35th anniversary, and invited Alumni members for a celebration. They have also completed the first training of their newly hired responders. In October, service usage has increased with approximately 20 more calls made than last year, but the severity of these calls has not increased. EFRT's budgetary spending remains on track, and they have a fundraising goal of \$2000 with the alumni association matching donations.

First Year Council Coordinator - Hazra Chowdhury

FYC has had several events in the last month. *JamFactor* was run in collaboration with the Maroons and was a success. They also hosted a Town

Hall with Chukky as part of the MSU Open House. This event didn't have as high turnout, but still gave the opportunity for FYC to practise advocacy. FYC is running a social media campaign to introduce the new council and bring awareness to McMaster/MSU services called *Discover Your McMaster*. The 4 Housing & Conference/Residence Life/Hospitality Services committees are starting up now that all the university stakeholders have responded. The External Committee is also scheduled to have its first committee, and they are selecting the SOCS rep. FYC will also be getting a portion of the Residence Life Activity Fund to support their activities.

Macademics - Iye Velikova

Macademics has finished the fall nomination period for the Teaching Awards, which was a huge success. As of November 10, they received a total of 440 nominations for TAs and 530 nominations for professors. The final count is even higher. Macademics recently hired a new Research and Resources Executive and now has a full team. Upcoming is a *Wikithon* for the Course Wiki on November 21. Macademics has also created a resource hub which is in display in faculty offices and the Student Success Centre.

Mac Bread Bin - Taylor Mertens

All of MBB's operations have been launched. The Lockers of Love program is seeing less usage in October as compared to September. This trend is consistent from last year, though there is an increase in usage in October this year compared to last. The Good Food Box is also seeing higher usage compared to last year, at around 35 orders. MBB ran *Trick or Eat* and raised 787lbs of food, an increase of nearly 300lbs from last year. MBB has launched an Instagram contest to increase their social media presence. It is also running an event with Paradise Catering called *Second Course* where it is giving out uneaten food. MBB has also collaborated with Spark for one of their sessions, and with PSL for an exam support event.

Hiring

EB is in the midst of hiring, and interviews have been scheduled for most of the PTM positions already. We also re-struck the hiring boards for EFRT and Mac Bread Bin to account for our new EB member and availabilities of other members.

That is all from Executive Board! If you have any questions about EB, please direct them to Chukky; and if you have questions about a service, please direct those to Preethi.

Best,

Ryan Deshpande
Vice President (Education)
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

Vice-President (Administration) & CAO

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Preethi Anbalagan, Vice-President (Administration)
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Report
DATE: November 20, 2017

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. Since September, I've had a busy term one and it's only getting busier with hiring cycles, services delivering programming, and preparing for next year's Welcome Week. Something to understand about this position is that there will always be projects, conflicts, meetings sprung up on me unexpectedly, demanding equal attention and priority. This position will always be more than what I've outlined it to be and what the job description outlines it to be. So in this report, I've tried to address projects I've been working on and other matters that have come up on my radar and purview. If you have any questions, as always, don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Preethi Anbalagan
Vice President Administration
McMaster Students Union
vpadmin@msu.mcmaster.ca

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Welcome Week

As it currently operates, the Welcome Week Planning & Implementation Committee is overseen by the Welcome Week Advisory Committee. There were a number of inefficiencies that were recorded by past vice-presidents and members within Student Affairs, that we've finally taken the time to address. Myself and Gina Robinson have initiated a complete governance review and have put forth a number of changes to the governance structure and operations to ensure efficiencies in communication, output and delegation of responsibilities. The personnel for WWPIC now include three full-time staff (Orientation & Transition Program Coordinator, CMPE Programming Coordinator, potentially OCRC Director) with part-time planners who oversee other events included in Welcome Week. The personnel for WWAC now include the supervisors of those within WWPIC to oversee strategic oversight of Welcome Week and direct the overlying vision, principles, targets and goals. Every year the schedule is revisited and value/purposes of events are discussed at length, which seemed to be an incredibly inefficient use of time for the committees. Therefore, an idea myself and Gina have proposed is to craft a skeleton schedule that is unchanging, including staple events that are provided year after year (i.e. concert nights, MacQuest, IRIS, etc.). Additionally, two hour meetings will now be one hour to encourage members to communicate and coordinate the completion of action items outside of meetings. *Future Vice-Presidents can thank me for this later.*

By-Election Training

Congratulations to Jaime, Shemar and Aarij on their elections and general transition into the assembly. It can be difficult to integrate into an already well-oiled team who were trained over a weekend but you three are seamlessly stepping into your roles. On Friday, October 27, I hosted By-Elections training and it was quite time-sensitive with their first SRA meeting being the first weekend post-elections (See Appendix A). The challenge with this training is that assembly members don't know what they don't know until they've experienced the role after three full meetings. I will be checking in with these individuals afterwards to see if there are any lingering grey areas that can be cleared up. In addition, I'm sure caucus leaders will do their part to support their members with other remaining questions they may have.

Peer Support Long-term Plan

The original intent of the Peer Support Policy that was recently rescinded was "to highlight the number of advocacy initiatives that needed to be undertaken before the peer support services in the MSU were going to operate at their fullest capacity." Although the policy was rescinded, there was significant time

and energy spent on highlighting longer term asks that I thought could be valuably transitioned into a long-term plan for the peer support department. Over the years, peer support is evolving and the direction the department takes is as well - however, there is no documentation that encompasses collective goals and vision beyond the long-term section of part-time manager year plans, which are not reviewed or reflected on throughout terms. As a result, myself and the peer support part-time managers and the TRRA have been working on a Peer Support Department Long-term Plan. This document will include mission and vision statements, operational goals and advocacy goals. To avoid this document falling through the cracks of organizational turnover, I'm looking towards Executive Board revising and approving the departmental long-term plan in tandem to part-time manager year plans for peer support. In addition, hiring processes should integrate the plan in a form of a question and/or assignment that asks peer support part-time manager candidates what operational or advocacy goals they hope to work towards long-term.

Job Description Changes

There are two significant job description changes that I put forth to circumvent the challenges experienced this Welcome Week, and to support the longer-term vision for the CLAY Service. With strategic themes being overseen and coordinated through the MSU, it's appropriate that we look into providing personnel support to the VP Admin if their portfolio is expanding. It was challenging in my term to oversee the regular aspects of my role (i.e. three training weekends, supporting newly hired staff and tying up loose ends) while balancing a larger project, with an infrastructure that could use improvement. Moving forward, the Welcome Week Faculties Coordinator will be supporting the VP Admin with logistics of strategic theme events and programming, to assist and guide the VP in event-planning. Regarding the CLAY Coordinator position, the job description was changed to better reflect Chukky's platform and the vision of supporting youth in the local community beyond a three-day conference, which was also successfully passed at Executive Board.

Developed Hiring System

With limited transition and minimum wage distribution preparations, Maddison (Operations Coordinator) has been hands-off this year with hiring and I've taken more of a larger role this year with developing a hiring system, overseeing logistics and coordinating promotions. This year, I've used excel to document when each position will be interviewed and collect availability from hiring boards. While this system creates convenience by using one document that contains all the necessary information and visually depicts a week-by-week schedule, the challenge is also the manual submission of information. After this first cycle, I will be revisiting areas where I think I could improve the system and integrate doodle polls opposed to excel sheet availability submissions.

PTM Hiring Promotions Strategy

Coupled with developing a hiring system was the promotions strategy behind hiring. Positions had been posted on November 1st and were promoted until the postings closed on November 15th. With Sarah's help, I was able to get the part-time managers to take headshots and provide a blurb on, "why someone should apply to my job." These were incredibly successful as they were posted between fixed intervals, so there was always traction on the hiring posts. In addition, I did a Snapchat take-over with Scott's assist. I coordinated amongst the part-time managers to find time to take a 10-second spiel of their position - which was also just as incredibly successful because Sarah received a number of compliments on the takeover and how humorous it was. I'm just that funny.

 McMaster Students Union (MSU)
November 9 at 2:54pm · [View](#)

"Working on the MSU Shinerama campaign was by far the most rewarding position I've held so far. As the Shinerama Coordinator, my role consisted of planning and executing fundraising events in support of cystic fibrosis (CF) research and care. This included communicating with partners on and off campus, working with the MSU and Welcome Week planning committee, managing a team of executive and general representatives, and implementing new initiatives to increase funds and aware... See More





 McMaster Students Union (MSU)
November 13 at 11:58am · [View](#)

"It's that time of year again! The MSU's employment tab has a bunch of new listings, but I'd like to take the time to draw your attention to one job in particular. For the past year, I've had the chance to work as the Director of Diversity Services and it has been unlike anything I've ever experienced before. Diversity Services has given me the skills needed to be a more effective organizer, orator, and activist within my own means. It was my first introduction to the activis... See More





These are some examples of the headshots and blurbs that were posted (Nicole on the left, Lilian on the right).

United Nations University Engagement

In my term, I wanted to do more to engage United Nations with the students union as they do a lot of advocacy and work within the sphere of policy-related work. United Nations has expressed interest in branding alongside the Sustainability Education Committee but with further conversations, they seem to be better aligned with promoting programming and their events to graduate students. So, I've been able to connect the GSA with the research associate looking to making university partnerships. In the future, I do hope to set up a workshop session for those within the Ed Department and assembly who are hoping to do more philanthropic work, work within non-governmental organizations and policy-related work.

YMCA Breakfast

YMCA Hamilton hosted a Level Up Breakfast for Women In The Workplace. The Board purchased a table of 10 and I recruited a mix of part-time managers, SRA reps and AVPs to attend. This was an interesting event as it provided a lot of relevant insight to research currently being conducted on

women and diversity in executive and community leadership. One of my projects was to support women and resilience, albeit a broad and nebulous dream, making these spaces and events accessible to the assembly and staff members are important strides in making paths for others to move ahead. While I had some constructive feedback for the event, I would encourage and seek more attendance at these events to engage with other like-minded female-indentifying leaders.

Services Special Projects Funding

With revisions made to the application process made by last year's Board - I included a few more changes that reflect service collaboration (emphasis on fostering collaboration with clubs) and this year's Presidential vision for increased advocacy, making connections and student support. Sarah is currently creating a fillable PDF form with some design work to finalize the document.

Minimum Wage Distribution Strategy

Minimum Wage Distribution has been mentioned in Tuba's report as well, so I'll keep my update a bit more brief. Since his report, myself, Tuba, John, Maggie and Maddison have been devising a strategy for when minimum wage increases to \$14.00 come January 1st, 2018. Speaking with other student unions, they seem to also be working at the pace we are in terms of finalizing decisions. We have played out increases via monetary values and percentage values, keeping in mind what is best for our employees first and what is fiscally responsible for the organization second. In addition, myself and Maddison have been discussing the prospects of a Resource Bank to provide part-time staff as well to provide additional benefits. Myself and Tuba will provide a more detailed and thorough document that explains rationale and process for the distribution strategy after Executive Board's approval.

Digitized Staff Evaluations

I'm unsure as to why we've been living in the stone-age and have been using paper-version supervisor evaluation forms - it's no wonder that very few evaluations were ever submitted for VP Admins in the past. This year, Office365 allows forms to be submitted anonymously, so I've translated the paper copy to a digitized version that I could easily circulate. So, as per my job description and platform related to embracing upward feedback (See Appendix A), I circulated a mid-year supervisor evaluation form (where part-time managers evaluated their respective supervisors), student manager evaluation form (where service executives and volunteers evaluated their respective part-time managers) and self-evaluation form (where part-time managers reflected on challenges and success halfway through their term). These three documents were incredibly insightful and provided areas where I could improve, which I appreciated. It also highlighted areas for student managers to improve, that I hope to relay in a formalized one-on-one with each of my staff after hiring is completed. See Appendix B to see pictures of my pies.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

SRA 1-on-1's

I've let Kamini take leadership in organizing one-on-ones with each caucus leader to discuss informally or formally the personal successes so far in your term, aspects that made these areas particularly successful, challenges so far in your term, and if challenges existed then what you could explore doing to prevent them from happening again in term two. These are important conversations to have with Kamini, so that she can best support you in her capacity as AVP but can also be the middle man relay any concerns your caucus may be having with contacts that you may not feel comfortable disclosing conflict with.

Mid-year Transition Reports

As a standard practice, we provide one-week pay for part-time managers to complete a transition report. However, there are challenges with this as reports are often submitted with little detail and nebulous guidance mainly because it's quite difficult to remember what you've done the first month of your term. On December 8th, my staff are to provide a mid-year transition report. This is something I introduced this year because I don't want my staff to be reflecting on 12 months of their term in one short week. Handing in a draft transition report before the end of term one with their month by month progress will help them better reflect on what they did when the time comes to submitting finalized reports. This ensures a more detailed and thorough report that accurately reflects on their term in the role to be provided to the incoming part-time manager.

Revamping Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy for Welcome Week

It was clear after Welcome Week and Homecoming that there can be strengthened coordinated efforts with on-campus and off-campus partners to ensure that prevention is prioritized in our programming, education, messaging and operations. I've begun conversations with Meaghan earlier and am looking forward to setting up meetings that begin preparations for Welcome Week 2018 and how programming will look that includes the focus of prevention. One recommendation I'm putting forth is to include an event hosted by Meaghan, Crickett and WGEN as a staple event in the skeleton schedule to ensure the long-term stability of their continued partnership in welcome week. Future meetings will be necessary to solidify this plan, albeit the plan being somewhat malleable for a future VP Admin to also share input and vision to how this strategic theme will be carried out.

519 Community Centre Collaboration

An exciting opportunity that is currently in the works is providing a Trans-Inclusion At The Workplace training workshop to managers within our students union and anyone else wishing to attend. This is currently being coordinated with Chukky and the Office of Equity & Inclusion. As of now, dates and times are to be confirmed but the opportunity will be extended to beyond our organization depending on seating and availability. Will keep everyone posted as EIO and I solidify dates.

Unmasking Rape Culture Conference

In the middle of hiring, I will also be attending this conference and encourage anyone else who is free to attend with me. It can be incredibly insightful as a primary event organizer for Welcome Week and someone who co-chairs the highest governing body for as well - so I will be recommending it to future VP Admins if the conference outlives this year. It's important that senior administration coordinating events in this sphere of work understand and are equipped with the knowledge to have meaningful dialogue.

Staff Succession Policy

With high turnover this year (i.e. Campus Events Director, TwelvEighty Management, Operations Coordinator, etc.), a staff succession policy has been put on our radars by John. Myself and the board had preliminary meetings with John to craft a skeleton draft of what the policy could include. Further meetings are to be scheduled with full-time staff to seek advisement on what else the policy should incorporate.

SLEF: Composting Project & Charging Stations

The composting project has been incredibly arduous as there's conflicting visions for this project. A different student group is also simultaneously working on attaining composting bins for MUSC and this has created some overlapping communication to our campus partners who are viewing the MSU (Fiona's leadership) and the student group (Sustainability 3SO3) to be the same, which is erroneous. Fiona has taken incredible strides with this project and moving forward, I will be supporting her in attaining the bins that we find most suitable for MUSC in addition to the messaging and design work developed by the Underground team. Facility Services have yet to get back to me regarding the confirmation on charging stations, so no updates as of yet.

Eggnog Planning

Our annual Eggnog is on December 8th at the time of our Holiday Exchange. I'm still in the process of confirming numbers for the event to know how much food to order, but beyond that - the event is ready to roll.

OTHER

I wrote a Physics midterm last Thursday and cried over This Is Us. I sang 'Happy Birthday' to Margaret Atwood, and the courtesy cards are in printing.

Regards,



Preethi Anbalagan
Vice President Administration
McMaster Students Union
vpadmin@msu.mcmaster.ca

APPENDIX A

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

In the forthcoming reports, I will be structuring my updates in table format for the following components: training, supporting the SRA, supporting PTMs, supporting AVPs, hiring practices, human resources, welcome week.

- SRA Onboarding Package *completed*
- Summer MSU Orientation *completed*
- Summer Specialized Training *completed*
- Clustering Platforms *completed*
- SRA Transition Training *completed*
- One-on-ones *completed*
- Staff meetings *completed*

Training

Safe(r) Campus Training <i>On-going</i>	Myself, Crickett and Meaghan will have a follow-up meeting to discuss the 3-week program that we can present to SVET, in addition some training components that Meaghan wishes to deliver to Security, which I'd like to support.
Training & Resources Research Assistant <i>On-going</i>	See Executive Board report.

Supporting SRA

Resource Library <i>On-going</i>	I was approved a \$1000.00 budget to also purchase books and magazines that staff would appreciate having access to at the workplace. I'm currently looking into the benefits of a Harvard Business Review subscription.
Opportunities to Lead <i>On-going</i>	Both Sunny and Rabeena will be sitting on the SSAC committee for SWC advisement,
Caucus Leader Support <i>On-going</i>	Kamini is currently scheduling one-on-ones
Skill-building Workshops <i>In Progress</i>	Have been having difficulties with the Improv Team and communications but currently working with them to propose times that are best suited for their availability and the SRA's.
Work-life Balance <i>On-going</i>	Pauline has created tips and tricks documents that I've shared with the part-time managers and she will be creating more that are specific to the functionalities of office 365.

Supporting PTMs

Collab-space <i>On-going</i>	There has been delay in renovations as we are waiting for quotes from different companies and discussing where the budget will be coming from.
Professional Development <i>On-going</i>	Myself, John and Chukky have been in conversations regarding this and have found DSS to be quite involved with successfully planning professional development opportunities and are looking towards partnering with them on upcoming events.
Work-life Balance <i>On-going</i>	We've tried Teams on Office365 that doesn't seem to work for Caucus leaders, so a platform for communication outside of Facebook still needs to be explored. Since September 17th, I've hosted two part-time staff socials (a Halloween Party and Fish Bowl

[Redacted] Friday) that provided time to unwind and relax!

APPENDIX B

MID-YEAR SUPERVISOR EVALUATION RESULTS

Part-time staff were asked to fill out categories below to evaluate their respective supervisors, either the Vice President Administration, Education or Finance. The evaluations were kept entirely confidential and were filled out anonymously.

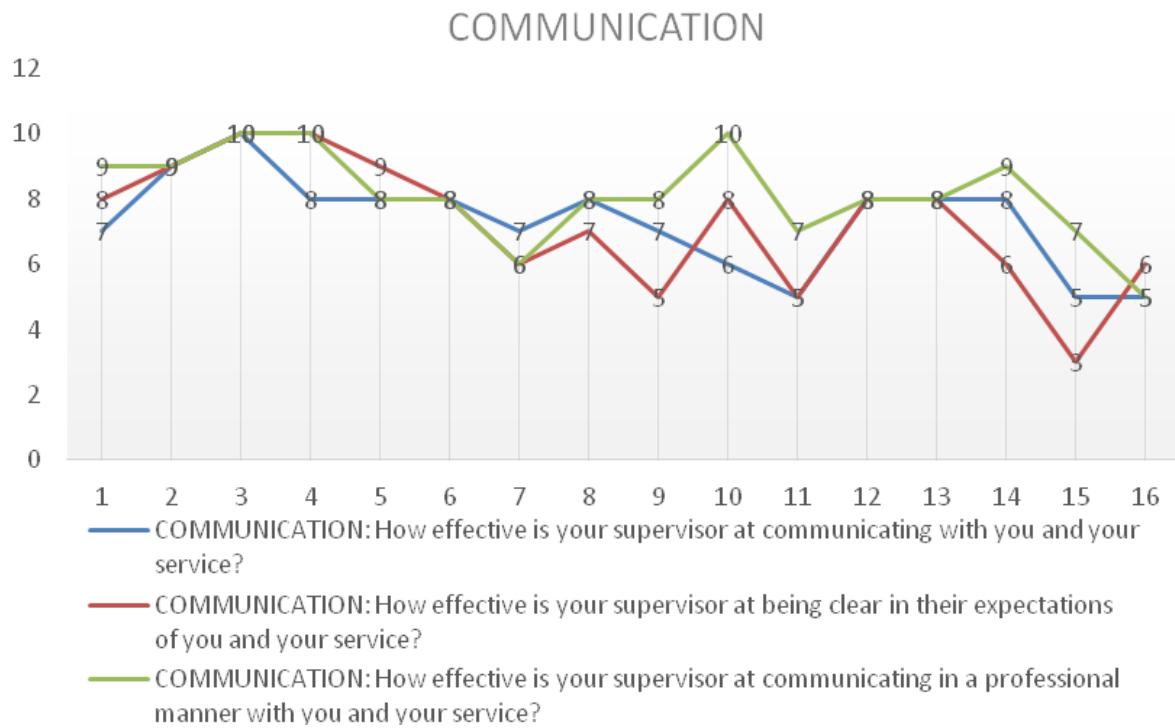
1 - Very Ineffective

10 - Very Effective

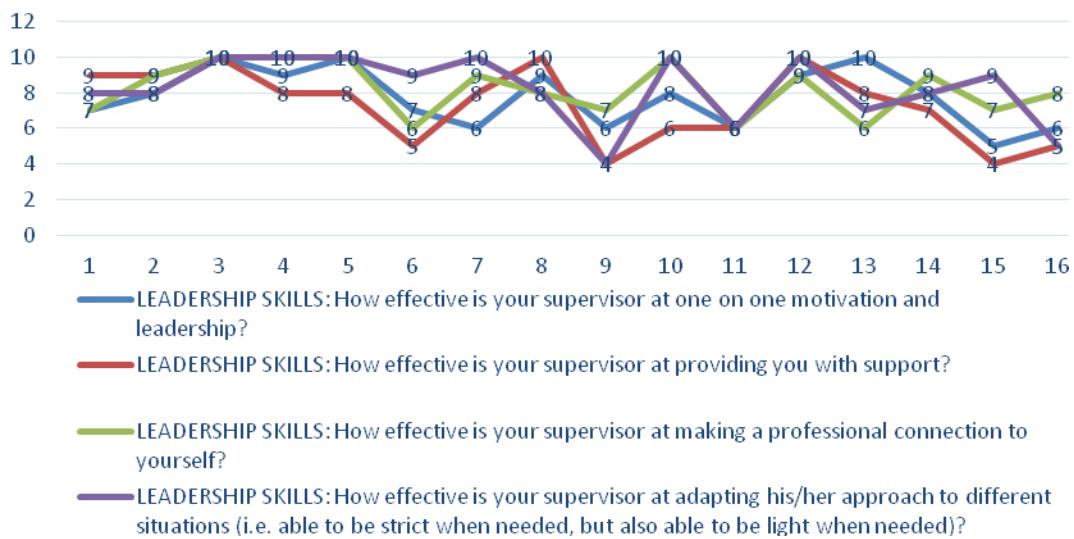
Evaluation Submissions: 16

**Assuming that all part-time managers submitted evaluation forms irrespective of whether their terms were complete*

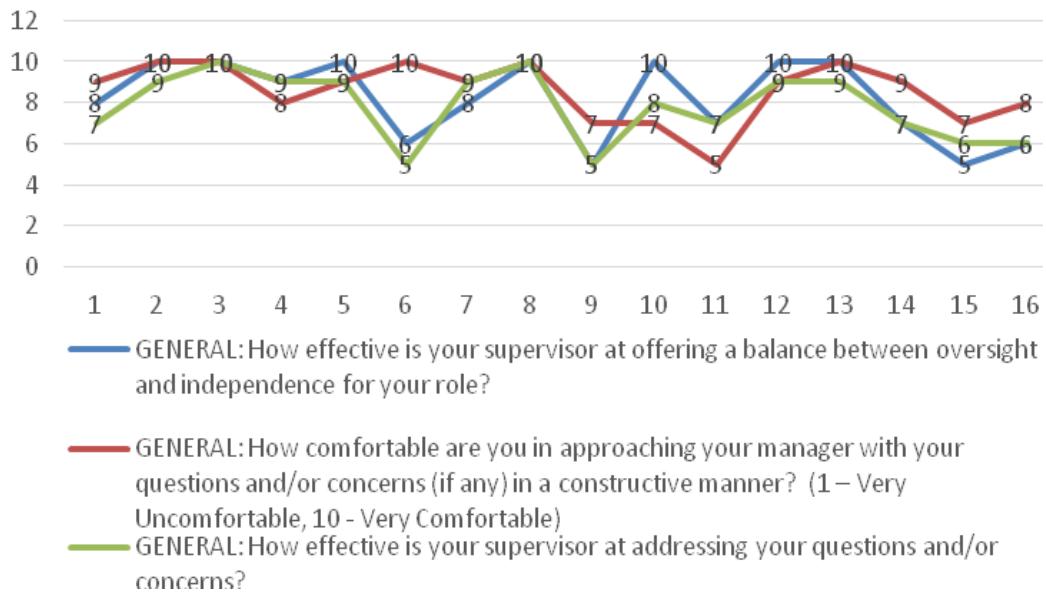
**Assuming that assistant directors did not complete an evaluation because I am not their direct supervisor*



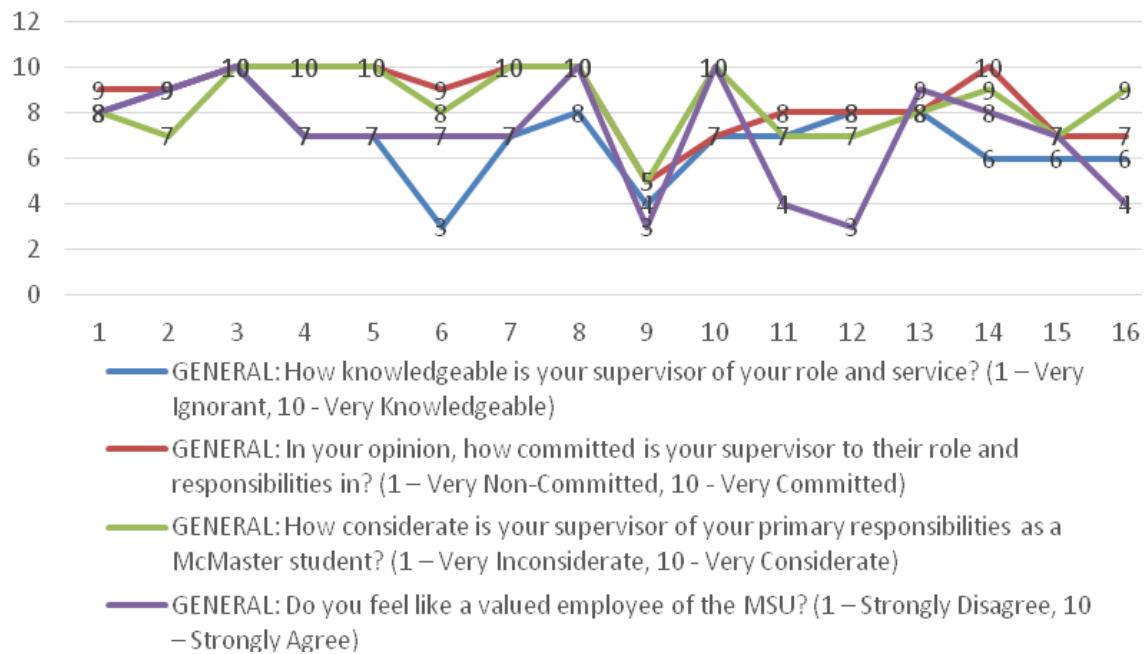
LEADERSHIP



GENERAL



GENERAL II





REPORT

From the office of the...
Vice President (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ryan Deshpande, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: OUSA General Assembly Report - Fall 2017
DATE: November 22, 2017

Dear Student Representative Assembly,

On October 26-29, I took the MSU delegation to Wilfred Laurier University for the Fall 2017 General Assembly of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. With nearly 23,000 undergraduates, we have 8 voting seats at the GA.

Our delegation comprised of the following individuals:

- Myself - Vice President (Education), automatic primary delegate
- Chukky Ibe - President, automatic delegate
- Urszula Sitarz - AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, automatic delegate
- Daniel Tuba D'Souza - Vice President (Finance)
- Kirstin Webb
- Piers Kreps
- David Lee - AVP University Affairs
- Stephanie Bertolo - AVP Municipal Affairs
- Ikram Farah (non-voting)
- Hannah Martin (non-voting)

In this conference, we debated and passed three policy papers. This was done through two days of breakout sessions where we informally debated the papers, and one day of plenary, where the paper was formally approved. The papers were:

- [Indigenous Students](#)
- [Accountability](#)
- [System Vision](#)
- [Open Educational Resources](#)

MSU authorship for these papers included:

- Indigenous Students
 - Myself
 - Urszula Sitarz
 - Piers Kreps
 - Hannah Martin

We also approved the following papers to be written and passed at the Spring 2018 General Assembly:

- Mature Students
- Mobility & Credit Transfer
- Student Health and Wellness

I removed myself as an author on the Student Health and Wellness policy paper, as I needed a break from the additional responsibility. The Steering Committee was more than happy with the amount of work I put into the Indigenous Students paper, and replaced me with another SC author. I managed to get a spot for an MSU member to write the paper, which has been given to Stephanie Bertolo.

Finally, OUSA is planning on undergoing a decolonization & indigenization strategy for itself as an organization, something which became evident through writing this paper. We are really excited to work with the Indigenous student organizations across all our campuses to make this a reality.

Best,

Ryan Deshpande
Vice President (Education)
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...
Vice President (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ryan Deshpande, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: UCRU Federal Advocacy Week Report
DATE: November 22, 2017

As part of our ongoing “membership” with the Undergraduates of the Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU), I went to Ottawa to lobby the federal government and other federal stakeholders on our annual priorities on November 5-10. Chukky (President) and Urszula (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs) accompanied me during this week, and we were able to have many meetings on the Hill. Representatives from the University of Toronto, Western University, University of Waterloo, University of Manitoba, and University of British Columbia were able to attend the week, and Queen’s University and the University of Saskatchewan remained members but were not able to attend. Overall, I felt that our week was incredibly productive.

We presented our four advocacy priorities for the year, which included Undergraduate Research, International Students, Indigenous Students, and the Canada Student Loans Program. Copies of the briefs can be found at msumcmaster.ca/ucru.

We had meetings with the following Members of Parliament, Ministers, or their political staff:

1. MP Harold Albrecht (Kitchener-Conestoga)
2. MP Daniel Blaikie (Elmwood-Transcona)
3. David Small - Staff of MP Maryann Mihychuk (Kildonan-St. Paul)
4. Bari Miller - Staff of MP Michelle Rempel (Calgary Nose Hill, Conservative Critic for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship)
5. MP Bryan May (Cambridge)
6. MP Terry Duguid (Winnipeg South)
7. MP Marwan Tabbara (Kitchener South-Hespeler)
8. MP Richard Cannings (Okanagan – West Kootenay, NDP Critic for Post-Secondary Education)
9. MP Omar Alghabra (Mississauga Centre)
10. MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke)
11. MP Bob Saroya (Markham-Unionville)
12. MP Bardish Chagger (Waterloo, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Minister of Small Business and Tourism)
13. MP Shaun Chen (Scarborough North)
14. MP Salma Zahid (Scarborough Centre)

15. MP Tony Clement (Parry Sound-Muskoka)
16. MP Raj Saini (Kitchener Centre)
17. MP Peter Fragistakos (London Centre)
18. Adriana Gonzalez - Staff of Jim Carr (Winnipeg, Minister of Natural Resources)
19. MP Robert Falcon Ouellette (Winnipeg-Centre)
20. MP Filomena Tassi (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas, Deputy Government Whip)
21. MP Majid Jowhari (Richmond Hill)
22. MP Dan Ruimy (Pitt-Meadows-Maple Ridge)
23. MP Ted Falk (Manitoba-Povencher)
24. MP Brigitte Sansoucy (Saint Hyacinthe-Bagot)
25. MP Mary Ng (Markham-Thornhill)
26. Maxime Dea - Staff of MP Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Prime Minister, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Youth)
27. MP Francesco Sorbara (Vaughan-Woodbridge)
28. MP Robert Sopuck (Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa)
29. MP Adam Vaughan (Spadina-Fort York)
30. MP Raj Grewal (Brampton East)
31. MP Irene Mathyssen (London-Fanshawe, NDP Critic for Veterans Affairs, Deputy Caucus Whip)
32. MP John Oliver (Oakville)
33. Maaz Yasin - Staff of MP Chrystia Freeland (University-Rosedale, Minister of Foreign Affairs)
34. Joshua Lindner - Staff of MP Kirsty Duncan (Etobicoke North, Minister of Science)
35. Laurent Carboneau - Staff of MP Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay, NDP Critic of Indigenous and Northern Affairs)
36. MP Julie Dzerowicz (Davenport)

Many of these MPs hold positions on relevant standing committees, such as the Standing Committee on Finance, or the Standing Committee on Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship.

We had meetings with the following non-political Ministry representatives or staff:

37. Lynda Watson & Frank Lee (Executive Director & Deputy Director of Global Affairs Canada: Science, Technology, and Innovation Division)
38. Gina Wilson (Deputy Minister, Status of Women Canada)
39. Jean-Sebastien Bock (Policy Advisor to the Minister of National Revenue)
40. Emily Yorke (Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance)
41. Richard Wex (Associate Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada)
42. Elaine Hood (Director General, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada)
43. Emmaline English (Policy Advisor to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations)
44. Jessica Hayden (Policy Advisor to the Minister of Indigenous Services)

45. **Tahiya Bakht** (Staff to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour)
46. **Hersi Hujaleh** (Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance)

We had meetings with the following stakeholders:

47. **Dr. Ted Hewitt** (President, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council)
48. **Gilles Patry** (Executive Director, U15)
49. **Isabelle Gingras** (VP Human Resources, National Research Council of Canada)
50. **Michael MacDonald** (Executive Director, Canadian Alliance of Student Associations)
51. **Alfred LeBlanc** (VP Communications, National Science and Engineering Research Council)

With 51 meetings, I think the week was a success. We learned a lot on how to do effective advocacy this week, and I'm excited to take those lessons and apply them locally. The federal government is a complicated beast but we were able to make some headway. We are now following up with each meeting with specific advocacy directives.

As UC RU grows, it is exciting for the MSU to be a part of it and help shape it in a way that meets our needs.

Best,

Ryan Deshpande
Vice President (Education)
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the...

President of the MSU

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Chukky Ibe,
SUBJECT: Hindsight is 20/20
DATE: 20 11 2017

To the most honorable Assembly,

This is a list and highlights of milestones as of 21st of November

Student Engagement



and stakeholders to get their ideas pushed on campus.

I have also made it a priority to attend open houses, and general assembly hosted by clubs and faculty societies. I had the privilege of addressing the Science, Engineering and Commerce General assembly's. I also attended the SOCS general assembly. I addressed the general assembly's of power to change, McMaster gospel choir, and the McMaster Muslim association assembly, and the Tamil student association general assembly. I have also been engaging with students through club's executive council, and the MSU Open house and Greek life. My goal here has been to be strategic with engagement, and optimize the time spent with them, and be able to connect with the critical issues they present to me.

Presidents Council.

President Council continues to meet every 2 weeks. This is a space where faculty society presidents and SOCS presidents share issues, and plan strategically for the year. Issues that have risen at this table in the last couple of months have included risk management and its implications for off campus faculty society events. The current risk management policy does not allow for university sanctioned

My favorite, and toughest part of my job is connecting with students one-on-one, listening to their concerns, and having the ability to do something about it. People share with me their most personal concerns. On the 4th and 5th of October, I had camped out with in MUSC with a breakdown of student fees and 70 pairs of MSU swag. I handed all of them out and had meaningful engagement with students. I had also followed up with 3 students who wanted to escalate some of their ideas. Since then I have been supporting these students to connect with university partners

events happening in the homes of people. Issues with the student code of conduct have also been raised. There was an issue with one of the faculty societies as they went out on a pub crawl in their suits. This does raise a concern. This event was not a university sanctioned event. But it was also not sanctioned by the faculty society. Yet the faculty society was held responsible for the actions of their students it had no control over. We had raised this issue with the dean of students, the risk management office, and the student code of conduct office. We are still in consultation through this process, and are keen on learning more and finding better solutions for our student societies. We also discussed the university strategic mandate agreement, and what it means for our students.

SLEF

We have revised the timeliness for SLEF to incorporate ideas for the presidential election. During my campaign I had promised to give back the ideas of students who lost the election to the general student body to fund ideas that they like. After consulting with university and MSU stakeholders it was clear the best way to do this was through the SLEF process. The idea submission process has been extended to January 15 to 19, to account for good ideas that may arise during the election president election cycle.

UCRU – Lobby Week



Similar to OUSA GA, UCRU Ryan's report should cover much of this. I find the UCRU a necessary group to be a part of. It covers a national scope and builds on an important network of student advocates across the country. For this group to be suitable, we need full time staff support and centralized resources. There also ought to be a significant identity. Do we specifically follow the framework for the U 15 schools ? We can also open up our doors more broadly to other top advocacy schools that have left CASA like Wilfrid Laurier Student Union. It is also unclear at this time what our relationship with CASA would be, and if it is more worthwhile to region CASA as a U 15 block. These are all ideas to be considered going forward and I am open to advisement from PFA and the VP Ed.

Good Food Box

The MSU is still of the opinion that the delivering the Good food box makes a more robust service for students. There are still challenges around implementation of this program. This has been built into the long term priority for bread bin. In the short term the Campus Commercial Partnership coordinator is in negotiations with lob-laws, and plan B foods to secure student rates and prices. As our initial negotiations with Plan B foods were unsuccessful, we have empowered our full-time staff to continue the negotiations on behalf of our board, and ensure Bread Bins time is being spent on service delivery. I am confident in the ability for this project to be successful. We would rather do it well, than do it fast, and take our time to create a long-term partnership that will work for students.

The challenge we ran into specifically with Plan B foods is that students have to pay in close to a \$100-\$250 deposit and pre-subscribe to a plan. This is not something I could support. We have asked for a student discount, and a portal for student subscription, in exchange for easy access to the student market. Negotiations are ongoing the assembly will be informed as to the progress of

Tech Lit

Tech lit was Lit. It was a great collaborative event between the MSU, UTS, Faculty of social sciences and various campus stakeholders. We had mixed results with our programming. The strongest program was the tech hub event which was on Friday the 17th. I saw 2 SRA members attend. There were live workstations where university offices could provide real time information and support to student. Phase One a student club was also available helping students back up their computers and other equipment. We partnered with SWELL for their unplugged program to help student disconnect from the tech around them. We hosted an accessibility workshop where we had 4 students attended. The workshop was around how to build accessible documents and digital assets. We hosted an information session on copyright and user rights, and another on online security and information protection. We did not get any uptake from students on these events. We all agree that these initiatives are important, but are still looking for the best way to deliver the content to students. Workshops are not an effective medium.

I also worked with SUS 3S03 to promote the student tech dump. This was a way of ensuring we are reducing the waste students are producing on campus, and items are not going to landfill.

Lesson Learned

We are going to look to have the student success run some tech support workshops in second semester and potentially host another standalone tech support program next semester. We have also put out a survey to the students to understand what their tech needs are and help shape student tech advocacy over the next couple of years.

We have also been consulting with UTS staff on a student tech advisory committee. This will help ligase between students and tech provide effective recommendations to improving our experiences with learning technologies on campus. I was extremely supported through this process by full time staff but it did raise a concern for me. During my transition process, I did not receive any event planning training. It is important that during the MSU BODs transition we receive the same training, or comparable training given to others in the organization. It should not be assumed that the President of the MSU knows how to plan an event. And I will be making these recommendations to the next team to strengthen the transition process. I am satisfied with the turnout of tech week especially tech hub.



Homecoming

So, homecoming was a thing. And for some people it was the most lit thing in the world. For others it was terrible. This was the first homecoming that I ever went to. I found myself often times trying to have fun. Yathy was fun (Lil Boat). I really enjoyed the Strumbellas. There are a significant amount

of students who do not attend homecoming for a myriad of reasons. From Mid-terms to commuter reasons, faith restrictions, and just lack of interest. We also have concerns about the responsibility of students and student leaders, concerns of the community. Then there are issues around gender based violence, inappropriate behavior by artists and students and community members. There are also issues around alumni not actually coming back for home-coming. University stakeholders all agree that eliminating homecoming is a terrible solution. The path forward is not yet clear. The MSU is currently in a working group with Queens, Waterloo, Western and Laurier student unions to co-ordinate responses. I am also interested in exploring homecoming as more than just a day, but consider how alumni engage with clubs, and associations they have been a part of. This may mean development of a homecoming fund to support student lead programming. We also have to review alcohol consumption and ensuring students are in safe environments if they do choose to drink. We also have to explore the relationships between reps and homecoming if any should exist. All these are ideas and debates. The MSU leadership currently does not have an official stance on this, but we are working in tandem with alumni services and campus events. We have also talked about the student code of rights and responsibility and if it has any jurisdiction off campus.

We are also talking about the scope of the primary event organizers and their relationship with social media and amss gatherings. If a student plans an event for hundred people, and thousand people show up, how do we account for such when disciplining and potentially compromising other students safety, while simultaneously creating a fun environment for hundreds more. These are ongoing debates and will be continuing for a while. I am very open to guidance from the assembly on this.

Childcare

The MSU has recently purchased lactation resources (breast pads, mini fridge) that will be permanently housed in the SHEC office. We have been in consultation with staff from SHEC and EIO and they have guided myself the GM in creating a list of necessary items. We will be transferring funds to the SHEC budget line to ensure they are able to promote the new resource they offer on campus. It has been challenging as we also do not have a clear number of student-parent on campus. I have reached out to student affairs to ask for this number and the data is not clear on their end as well.

We need to understand the scope of the project to determine an appropriate response.

We are also consulting with the childcare center to plan a child-minding program for parents who may want to access it. I also think a support group via a club, for students to form a community and a support group. Lastly, the MSU network administrator is building an online hub where students can register to offer child-minding services for other individuals who need their children to be watched for a period. All these projects are currently underway

Landlord Wiki

Progress continues to be made on this. It is a slow and steady process. The Ed Team and myself have continuously met to crystalize the idea. This has been passed on to the network for administrator for further development.

Open House

<https://www.msumcmaster.ca/msu-open-house-2017>

I hosted the MSU open house. The planning process of this event was sound. It was a way for the BOD and the AVPs to engage with students in a meaningful way, and showcase the work that their committees currently perform. It was the connection between several ideas the leadership had developed in isolation with each other. We combined Tubas idea of the budget pop-ups with Ryan's policy workshop ideas. The goal was to open up our doors, open up our decision-making processes,

and also open up our financial affairs to students at large. The SRA played an important role in the delivering office tours.



Lessons Learned,

A critical lesson I learned from this was SRA members did not feel as if they had enough information, and ownership of the process. This was a very BOD lead initiative, and SRA members could have played a more significant role, and not only asked later in the end to facilitate parts of the tour. Information should have been delivered earlier on in the process to ensure SRA members felt more engaged, had clearer information, and were well equipped going into the tours. There was also need for earlier advertising, and stronger collaboration with program societies.

One critical issue that I learned from this initiative was the need to collapse our governance and service structures a bit. I am considering creating a part-time issues committee as a sub-committee of Executive board. This committee should constitute a representative from our CSR staff, a rep from our Services, and a rep from our volunteers, so we can speak openly about staffing issues within the organization. I have been in consultation with the general manager about this, and we are looking to bring recommendations to this EB for ratification before the year is over. This was a significant lesson I learnt through the MSU town hall and I am acting on it.

Moving forward, I recommend this model of the MSU open house remain in the MSU. There should be strategies in place to bring new students into the room. Have program societies and clubs provide specific input into our policy making process. Students should be aware of their financial contributions to the SRA, and the MSU use this opportunity to collect feedback from students. I would look to organize a second MSU open house in second semester. This is not a promise, but there are benefits from getting this right. This is the first time we have tried this in this scale and it is okay not getting it 100 percent right the first time. It was a great idea, great intentions, but weak implementation from my end. MSU staff and volunteers and AVPs provided excellent support to me with the information I had given them. I am thankful for this initiative and have taken all the recommendations and lessons learnt and I am looking forward to moving forward with them.

Executive Board

EB has been extremely engaged, open, and thorough this year. I take no credit and give all the credit to the assembly for picking an exceptional group of assembly members. As the chair of EB, it is important to inform you that I have taken a different approach to the meetings. We have heard concerns in the past from PTMs about lack of engagement, and members not reading reports they work hard to write. Myself and the VP admin have constantly encouraged EB members to attend as many events, to speak to PTMs about their issues and raise concerns with us PTMS might not be comfortable raising. I have also been co-chairing EB with the SRA members on the committee. The assembly members have the choice to decline the chair, and only one individual has chosen to do so thus far. I hope to provide assembly members with a tangible soft skill and hope to build on their skills as members of EB.

International Student Lobbying

This was not a significant part of my platform, but I have taken a significant role in supporting. I have been working with student affairs to consult for their International student strategy. You can see the MSUs full international student policy stance on our website. My emphases have been creating an international student advisory board, expanded legal services for international students, and enhanced orientation services for international students. As the consultation for the international student policy is over, our next priority is pushing the provosts office to allocate sufficient funds to ensure the strategy is successful, robust, and rolls out in a timely fashion.

Caring communities Network

The caring communities project is underway. We have connected with 40 student leaders across campus. Before we move on with this project, we will need to hire a staff resource person. There is agreement from all parties involved that this is one of the most innovative programs pushed forward from the MSU. For this program to reach its full impact, it should be well resourced, and I will be bringing proposals to EB to this effect before the term is over. I will also be allocating funds for this project to function and will be working with SWELL to find a permanent home for it.

Neighborhood Advisory Committee

The neighborhood advisory committee has met serval times this year. This is a great table to be a part of and is necessary for integrating our services. We have been collecting feedback from all stakeholders on MSU programs, but we can and should do more to support SOCS and OCRC programming. This committee is yet to fulfil its full potential and we are continuing to work through it going forward.

Undergraduate Course Management

This is one of the biggest wins we have had this semester. It was a direct result of the MSU advocacy and thousands of students on campus will benefit from this and can make better academic choices as a result. This will mean more students can buy cheaper textbooks, find alternative course material, and can also source affordable course material and make better informed academic choices.

CAF & Student Services Advisory Committee

Ath and Rec – Chukky Ibe,
Sebat Bekri
Andrew Pidutti

I have been in conversation with ath and rec leadership to expand their consultation process and accountability measures with their student stakeholders. We have agreed to the creation of a captains council/ or a student leadership council is a favorable. Ath and Rec executives are currently in the process of developing said committee to guide the future of student athletes. This came as a result of direct student advocacy.

Student Wellness Clinic - Preethi Anbalagan
Rabeena Obaidullah
Sunny Yun

Student Success Centre - Ryan Deshpande
Shaaruja Nadarajah
Kirstin Webb

Access Strategy - CLAY

The mandate of CLAY has been revised this year. The expectation is that in addition to the summer camp, they work with community partners to co-create programs that support youth in our city. The JD has also been extended by one month to allow the PTM more time to close shop for the year, debrief and communicate with community partners. Through EB, after rigorous debate, we have provided the framework for the new CLAY coordinator and we will be allowing them to be flexible in creating the specific programs.

Life After Mac

This program is looking amazing. I wish I can tell you all of it. But the announcements will be coming in the next couple of weeks. We have an immaculate headliner and a week full of programming that will support students through their transition out of university. It will start on the 9th of January to the 12th of January. Every student I have spoken to so far is excited about this project and thinks it will be greatly beneficial to students. Our partners so far are SSC, Alumni, Campus events, and it is being codirected by Tuba and Myself.

Full Time Staff Issues

I have been on the full-time issues committee with representation from the GM, and the staff and SOP representative. I can only talk about human resources issues in closed session. But we are looking at full time staff benefits as they have not been reviewed in close to 5 years. I am also working on creating a policy for if-and-when the General manager is no longer with the organization.

Other Presidential Duties - LR Wilson , OCE open house Con , CASA

OUSA Lobby - Ryan has reported extensively on this. I won't spend too much time here only that we had a phenomenal delegation. The MSU did not have much to lose in this round of OUSA GA. I was not exceptionally vocal during the general assembly, but only during the breakouts. It was important to note though; that through this process we learnt that there are significant challenges and inadequacies with McMasters university Strategic Mandate agreement. We also learnt that the BOG student representative role can be made more robust and better supported.

The MSU ought to build better relationships with undergraduate representatives on university committees. We also learned that there ought to be clarity given to the university strategic mandate agreement and properly observe its implications for university funding. As the university also possess different satellite campuses, the MSU should further investigate its relationship with student on these campuses, and build relationships with student representative groups from said campuses.

E- Sports

I have been Liaising with the general manager, and the president of the E-Sports teams, and the clubs department on campus. There was a recent ruling by the Clubs appeals board to not-ratify e-sports as a club. This is because e-sports has a competitive wing that students compete for scholarships. The appeals board opinion was that such action qualifies as commercial activity, and financial gain, and does not meet the expectation set by our clubs department policy.

I completely agree with the presence of e-sports on our campus. There is a growing trend of competitive gaming across north America, China and Europe. Our E-sport team actually rock !!! They are so fire. But they cannot be a club. The general manager and I are currently working with E-sports and student affairs to find a solution that is able to support this student group, and their commercial activity.

SAB

SAB consultation are on going. Myself Tuba and Scott have been leasing and consulting on this project. Recently, I had conducted a joint meeting with the food and beverage department and also with the campus ministry council as to what the opportunity for programming in the SAB will be for faith based groups on campus. All these consultations are significantly considered when we are asking decisions around the table for the SAFE project.

Student of Distinction Award

We recently re-launched the student of distinction award. It has been extremely fun and endearing saying thank you to students on campus that do amazing work. Definitely one of my favorite part of my job.

Municipal Issues -

OMB, I delegated to the Ontario Municipal Board about concerns . See appendix 1. The investment made by the last board in municipal affairs and relations has been extremely important. We have a renewed, refreshed and empowered presence in council and relevant sub-committees because of the worshipful Stephanie Bertolo and the honorable Ryan Deshpande. Our advocacy priorities are easily coordinated and we share resources and ideas before we delegate. I was up till close to 1 am writing my delegation to the OMB with Stephanie, and co-wrote the delegation to the general issues committee with the VP Ed and AVP Municipal affairs. I am empower them, to the same degree they empower me. Our work is collaborative and always done in consultation. It does not matter too much who is in front of the room or caught on camera. It only matters that the MSU is diligently represented.

Our relationship with the ward one councilor ought to be under review from both sides, and we should consider if his term has meaningfully benefited students in his word. At the meeting in which he delegated to the MSU, I asked him a series of questions and I find that the least useful question was put on the record.

I needed the councilor to be clear on his private communication with me regarding to other constituents as "having low IQ". His preferred description of students in council as "causing a hygiene problem." I also raised concerns around the expansion of the by-law enforcement program. Our challenges were that there is no formal appeals process, students do not know their legal rights when they are ticketed. We were also deeply concerned that council will choose to expand a program that they had little information about. And the public had no information about. I then asked him if he considered himself an honest man. To close, I then asked what his vision was for a meaningful relationship with his office going forward. I also raised concern over the lack of a through clean- up plan after the dale wood street party.

Crime Management Ward 1

As a response to safety concerns reported that came to our attention, I reached out to Amanda - the crime manager in ward 1. We spoke extensively about the issues and created a game plan together. Through the MSU page, SWHAT and SCSN pages, we pushed out communications asking people to report concerns. The issue was that, although there were increased complaints, there was no change in reports to the police and they could not move on anything.

Bus Shelters

As I promised during my campaign, I have filed a request with facility services to review the bus shelters on campus. Myself and facility officer toured the campus and we highlighted spots that need significant investment and refurbishments of shelters. At this time, priority areas are a shelter beside the Alvin Lee Building and another beside the hospital. Since my tour of the facilities, I have not received much response from facility services. I followed up 2 weeks and in person with the director of facility services. They are now consisting out the shelters and will take a proposal to the VP admin and the provost. I will also be considering using the SLEF funding pool to access build the shelter pending on the costs.

Strengthening student communities

Myself, the honorable VP Finance and the ever capable Clubs administrator and operations manager, alongside the General manager are looking at infrastructural upgrades to the clubs department. We host by-weekly meetings to talk about investments in the clubs system. From finances, to space, to empowered processes.

Clubs loan System

Myself, the honorable VP finance and the ever dependable clubs administrator have all agreed that going forward we would be introducing a clubs loan system to reduce the out of pocket costs clubs have to pay for booking venues and other capital necessities for their clubs. This project will be rolled out shortly over the next couple of months and into the new year.

Clubs Community Breakfast



The clubs community/ appreciation breakfast was a blast. We hosted and fed close to 200 student leaders from across campus. This event was hosted by myself and Patrick Deane. We also had he

director of the Wilson leadership award share her story and her information with students, and then encouraged them to apply for the illustrious scholarship. This is part of my commitment to strengthening student communities and ensuring that students across campus who do great work are recognized and supported. I do hope this event becomes an annual event, and eventually can reach the same caliber and status as student rec night.

McMaster People Project

This project is moving slowly but steadily. We currently have a growing team and will be applying for club ratification. The goal of this group is to be a resource hub for everything elections. It will provide training, campaign resources, and effective tools for engagement in elections. This group will focus on historically disadvantaged and equity seeking groups on campus, while also providing tools and resources for the general student body.

Challenges

Do you do things fast, or do them well ? This is a critical question I have been reflecting on. I believe the portion of students who would rather see a project completed properly, or a robust program rolled out. The MSU has a yearly cycle. Where the university have 5-10 years strategic plans depending on what the issues are. It is imperative I keep my word to students. But at the same time expectations are managed as to the time lines of project implementation. To resolve this, effective and honest communication is necessary. It is also important I get pushed and challenged by the SRA when they feel there is not sufficient movement on any issue.

Hindsight is 20/20. At this point, I am thinking of all the things I wish I knew before I was president. And the things we do not talk about as the leadership because of being the board. To be frank, my transition could have been much stronger, and pieces of training I could have received earlier on. I had to do a significant amount of self educating and have had to make a lot of mistakes in order to learn. Things as simple as risk management, event planning, purchase orders, and many things I have had to learn on the job, and I was never taught. But other things like significant university agreements, the SLEF process, the CAF agreement, the SAB history and the MUSC agreements. I wish I knew earlier on. I have raised this concern to the GM and we working on building better board transitioning packages.

I think I have been a decent president. I wanted to be a spectacular one, but I don't know if it is possible. I am still trying tho. I try to be there for people, take SRA members on one-on-one conversations and try to understand the truth of the matter before I make any decisions. I am trying my best with what I have, with what I know, and with all my constraints. Let me know what I am doing right, and what I need to improve on. No one has really given me much feedback.

Insights, Opportunities, Rants, and Other Things

If you have made it this far, thank you. I like to use this opportunity to talk about things that are on my mind, and an invitation for future conversations.

With the ever present stories of sexual impropriety, assault, and harassment making national headlines it is essential we review our own processes to ensure our workplace is free of harassment and people are allowed to thrive. It is important to remind everyone that we are committed to a harassment free, and anti-oppressive workplace. Working in a peer-led and supervised environment often makes for more complex and convoluted power dynamics and relationships. It is also important that you are familiar with the MSU Workplace Anti-Violence, Harassment, and Sexual Assault Prevention Policy (Prevention & Response Plan.) If you feel the MSU leadership is not in a

position to act on your complaint/ concern for what ever reason, the equity and inclusion office and or the OMBUDS person should where complaints be taken.

One of the other pieces of literature I have come across is how people of other genders and sexes may find it difficult to ask for a mentorship opportunity because they may be perceived as being flirtatious and unprofessional. This then leads to lack of mentorship opportunities for women and women folk in leadership positions. I am very sensitive to these issues and want to ensure that everyone on the assembly and in the union is given their every opportunity to succeed. Anyway I can make myself more available for mentorship, or just a coffee is important. Please advise me on how best to act. And if you would rather have another staff relay your message to me on your behalf, I am open to that as well.

Successes

I convocated a couple days ago. That should count for something.

Peace and Love.
Your Friend, now and always
Chukky Ibe
President and CEO
McMaster Students Union
president@msu.mcmaster.ca

Appendix 1

My name is Chukky Ibe, I serve as the president of the McMaster student union. I am here with Stephanie Berteullo and Alex Wilson fellow mac students. I represent McMaster Full time undergraduate students to all relevant stakeholders. My students are appreciative of the opportunity for our issues to be on the record and we trust we would be duly considered. I will go straight to the point. Dislocating a significant part of our community though the proposed ward boundary recommendations is not favourable to the realities the student living in the areas surrounding McMaster. Especially those living in Ainsley wood north. I lived in Ainsley wood north for 4 of my undergraduate years. First on Westbourne, and then on main st further reassuring me of this position.

1) Community of character

For the record, it is essential we describe the community that we refer to as McMaster students. A significant portion of our population are housed in transient living, first time renters, low-income, with a monthly rent of 350 – 600 dollars per month. We heavily rely on government supports and financial transfers as the basis of our income. Our population consists of a significant amount of international students, and newcomers to Hamilton.

We rely heavily on public transit and have similar migratory patterns. We wake up at 8 30 am, go to campus, and walk back by 10 30 pm at night. And during exams, we do not believe in time.

We are affected the exact same way by decisions made by council, and often times, disproportionately so. These may range from issuers regarding by-law enforcement, to housing regulation, and investments, or divemsent in transit. When the major bus route is cut through McMaster, Or reduced in the summer, it is this community that feels the brunt of it. When our councillor Johnson increased the presence of by-law officers paroling our neighbourhoods, it is our students that pay fines close to 700 dollars. This community is first of campaigned too , and then disproportionately targeted, and scapegoated for political gain.

We are bound by a common geography with McMaster university as a focal point. Our unified interest, is to access campus, have reasonable living conditions, and excel in our academic endeavours. We share the same cultural heritage. From welcome week, to frosh week, to homecoming, to graduation ceremonies, all facilitated through our shared local. We conceive of our identity and interests significantly different from what will appear to students as a different city across a highway and a valley. We conceive of ourselves as geographical boundary to the local of McMaster.

As a result of this local, and cultural heritage, we have unique government relations with the city of Hamilton, access to the Ainsley wood community association and the Ainsley wood and westdale community association, and representation through the McMaster student union and these association have deeply entrenched reporting and accountability structure. Some of them, as old as 1890.

We are a community of interest, and at this time, our unified interest is staying together, one ward, one voice.

2) Effective representation

The alternative presented at this time, will weaken our systems of representation, and erode accountability structures already in place.

Students already find it difficult to engage with city councillors we elect. Dalewood street still has fragments of broken glasses on the lawns of students who worked with police to keep their neighbours clean, safe and calm.

This level of negligence from our represented officials, would be unacceptable in any other ward. We have the right to a significant voting block representing our community of interest to effectively leverage our councillor in the next election.

Taking away a significant part of our community will weaken the incentive, elected officials have to heed the concerns of their constituency. We loose our critical mass in one regions, and in the other region, our population becomes deeply insignificant, further entrenching this negligence by council on the issues that matter to us. The political incentive that democracy brings is eroded and instead local politicians use us as scapegoats to gain political relevance.

Any suggestion an additional councillor will have a positive impact on students at this time is deeply misguided and not consistent with our experiences on the ground. Splitting our students will weaken the accountability structures with one councillor, and completely weaken our positions with the potential 2nd councillors.

Simply put, the proposed changes do not equitably distribute students across both ward boundaries. A decrease in population in ward 1 reduces the incentive for democratic accountability. An amalgamation with ward 13 creates the right type of environment for political negligence, and fearmongering tactics used as a political tactic.

It is in the interest of this community, that our voices, and our interests be represented through a singular point of influence.

3) We are encouraged that the Ontario Municipal Board recognized that Mac Students are similar to the students at Queens University and we are deserving of the same representation as any other group of residents. Students deserve an equal voice in municipal elections.

Our students should be counted and duly considered as a community of interested, in accordance with the supreme court carter decision. The higher court ruling specified that all citizens are entitled to be represented, regardless of whether they vote.

Effective representation for this community, is through one Ward.

Thank you for your time, and due consideration.



MEMO

From the office of the...

VP Finance & AVP Finance, Chair of the Finance Committee

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Daniel Tuba D'Souza, Vice-President Finance & Scott Robinson,
Associate Vice-President Finance
SUBJECT: SRA 17K Motion for OPIRG Referendum
DATE: November 16th, 2017

On Tuesday, November 7th, the Finance Committee met to review the non-university non-MSU groups that receive student funds. The groups include: McMaster Marching Band, OPIRG McMaster, McMaster Solar Car, Incite Magazine, and Engineers Without Borders McMaster Chapter. It is the Committee's responsibility to audit the financial statements of each group, and ensure that the practices of each group are in compliance with MSU Bylaw 5 – Financial Affairs.

To that effect, the Finance Committee has reviewed all groups and voted unanimously that OPIRG McMaster have not sufficiently complied with MSU Bylaw 5 section 3.1.3. Thus we have submitted a motion for referendum for the OPIRG fee to the SRA for consideration. The motion reads as follows:

Moved by *D'Souza*, Seconded by *Ibe* that the SRA bring the OPIRG fee to referendum in January of 2018.

This memo will go over the following information

- The history of Bylaw 5
 - Past concerns and efforts for collaboration between the MSU and OPIRG
 - Finance Committee Decision & Recommendation 2017
-

History & Purpose of Bylaw 5 – financial affairs (est. 2013)

The purpose of Bylaw 5 as created: to ensure awareness and financial accountability of fees created through MSU referendum or MSU General Assembly for students and student leaders.

Prior to the 2013/2014 year, there was no university or MSU policy dictating that a Bylaw 5 group make their spending and budgets publicly available, nor was there any mechanism to help ensure that these groups were being held accountable to students. This raised concerns from both the MSU and the University in regard to financial transparency.

September 29, 2013

VP Finance 2013-2014, Jeffrey Doucet puts forward a change to Bylaw 5 with the main additions of:

- Sending all Bylaw 5 groups to referendum every three years to ensure their relevancy in a model similar to Queens University
- The SRA must send the fee to referendum to be evaluated by students directly if the groups fail to either meet reporting requirements or is deemed to administer themselves that is inconsistent with the original referendum

September 29, 2013

The SRA decides to send the Bylaw back to the Finance Committee for a more thorough consultation with the groups pursuant to Bylaw 5.

February 23. 2014

The Finance Committee, chaired by Daniel D'Angela, re-proposed Bylaw 5 – Financial Affairs after more consultation with the Bylaw 5 groups. The revisions included the removal of the automatic triannual referendum, and the addition of empowering Finance Committee to submit a motion for referendum to the SRA for consideration if the reporting regulations were violated.

- The debate around this motion was heavily centered around OPIRG with OPIRG representatives & some SRA expressing concerns that this Bylaw violated OPIRG's autonomy and that the SRA does not have jurisdiction to mandate groups to report.
 - Other members of the SRA stated that the SRA has a **fiduciary and moral duty of creating awareness of the fees that students pay**
 - The Bylaw 5 changes passed with an overwhelming majority 25 in favor to 3 opposed.
-

Past Concerns & Efforts for Collaboration

Key point in question from the original motion:

1. Refund procedure will be well advertised

Of the four years since Bylaw 5 – Financial Affairs was amended, questions or concerns regarding OPIRG's opt-out have been raised repeatedly, as reflected in meeting minutes from SRA 13G, 13O, 14H, 16K and again in our last meeting.

Most notably, in 2014, the committee of the whole discussion revealed that “there was a slight issue with the opt-out, but there are plans from both the MSU and OPIRG to make changes moving forward”. Despite the good-will of the assembly, this was clearly not achieved as in 2016 a similar concern was raised with the assembly making the three specific recommendations below:

- The assembly would like to see the opt-out process be moved online
- The assembly would like to see how many opt-outs were received
- There was a discussion about sending this fee to referendum but the assembly decided that it would be brought forward at a future meeting

These recommendations/concerns were communicated to OPIRG in December of 2016 and again in August of 2017 both online and in person. **As of September 2017, none of these recommendations were followed.**

In SRA 17J the concern of an inadequately advertised opt-out was raised again in Committee of the Whole from various members of the Assembly. In addition, the discussion highlighted members' concerns with overall financial transparency.

Recommendation of the Finance Committee for SRA 17

Finance Committee Decision & Recommendation

When reviewing OPIRG McMaster, the Finance Committee was moderately satisfied with their compliance with sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. **However the Finance Committee does not believe that they are fulfilling their duty in 3.1.3**, administrating the fee in accordance with their original General Assembly motion from 1995. The vote regarding this was unanimous by the committee. Therefore, in accordance with section 3.4 of MSU Bylaw 5 – Financial Affairs, the Finance Committee is submitting a motion for referendum for the OPIRG fee to the SRA for consideration.

In a motion to the General Assembly of 1995, OPIRG McMaster advertised that the fee “shall have a well-publicized opportunity to obtain a refund.” Through our external

research and consultation with the staff of OPIRG McMaster, we do not believe that the opportunity to obtain a refund was well advertised and that no meaningful effort to inform students or facilitate the opt-out process has taken place.

Avenues through which OPIRG McMaster advertised the fee refund in 2017

- Rotating graphic on the MSU screens (Appendix A: *Figure 1*)
- Ad in the MSU Almanac (Appendix A: *Figure 2*)
- Flyer on the door of the OPIRG McMaster office
- Flyer given out during the MSU ClubsFest (Appendix A: *Figure 2*)

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) McMaster



OPIRG McMaster exists to empower students and community in exchanging ideas and taking action on diverse social justice and environmental issues by connecting individuals, groups, organizations, and resources.

We value Anti-Oppression, Empowerment, Creativity and Innovation, Equity and Inclusivity, Consensus, and Environmental Responsibility.

Email: opirg@mcmaster.ca
905.525.9140 x27289
MUSC 229

View our events list on our website or follow us on Facebook to stay informed about our many public events, including a wide range of free events during "Making Connections: OPIRG's Social Justice and Environment Week," held September 25-29, 2017. OPIRG's skills training sessions, Passion to Power, held each term include workshops on consensus decision-making, anti-oppression, conflict transformation, publicity and outreach, and other important activist skills.

Student volunteers form the core of OPIRG's activism. Our student-run volunteer working groups meet regularly to educate themselves and organize around a diverse range of issues. Former working groups have included Adaptive Design, McMaster Indigenous Student Community Alliance, Fossil Free McMaster, Guatemalan Solidarity, Hamilton Freeskool, Hamilton Urban Beekeepers, Threadwork and many others. New working group ideas are encouraged. OPIRG's volunteer Board of Directors define both our vision and our activism. Join us and gain valuable volunteer experience working with an engaged social justice organization, while contributing to impactful outcomes.

Visit our alternative lending library full of books and dvds focusing on social justice, human rights and environmental sustainability issues. Students use our library for a variety of their course requirements. We build our resources based on your needs and interests; ranging from anti-racism, animal welfare, green politics, women's health, to urban development, timely zines and much more. Also available is the OPIRG button-maker, megaphone and projector.

OPIRG's core funding comes from full-time undergraduate students, in the form of a \$8,07 refundable levy. If you do not wish to support the work of OPIRG McMaster, you can claim a full refund by bringing your student card to the OPIRG office. This must be done within three weeks after the completion of the drop and add period, when your student status has been finalized. If you are not a full-time McMaster undergraduate student, \$10 will get you a **Community Membership**, entitling you to all the wonderful things OPIRG has to offer.

 opirgmcmaster.org

 @OPIRGMcMASTER  /OPIRG.McMaster

The Finance Committee does not feel that these avenues alone constitute a well-advertised opportunity. More importantly, **we do not feel as though the graphics used can even be considered “opt-out advertisement” at all.** The vast majority of the graphic focuses on an explanation of OPIRG and the services therein. A small portion of text, buried at the end, and constructed with a tone of shame, invites those “who do not support OPIRG” to come to their office and show your student card. Frankly, we find it preposterous to imagine that a shame tactic, reinforced with the need for a student to physically enter their space and then turnover personal information to whichever staff member or volunteer happens to be there, is a reasonable opt-out process.

A public comparison of how the Finance Committee believes an opt-out opportunity should be advertised is the promotions done for the MSU Health and Dental plan opt out, which clearly outlines the process, website and steps necessary to opt-out. It is not intentionally crowded with other information and it does not shame a student for wanting to opt-out. (*Figure 4*). This method of opt-out was also referred to by an OPIRG Board member during SRA 17J, demonstrating the OPIRG Board is aware of the qualities of an

effective opt-out program, yet continue to intentionally disregard the Assemblies wishes to see one in effect.

Final Thoughts

Concerns regarding OPIRG's opt-out process have been repeatedly highlighted for years by successive Assemblies. Further, consecutive Assemblies have made clear and concise recommendations as to how OPIRG can overcome the deficiencies in their process, yet OPIRG has failed to take into account any of the recommendations made by the SRA. In order to fulfill the fiduciary and moral responsibility of the SRA to ensure that students are made aware of the fees that they pay, the Finance Committee and Vice President Finance strongly urge the Assembly to allow students the opportunity to have a choice via a referendum during the Presidential election in January.

I am available to answer any questions that you might have, and hope to be as helpful in this process as possible.

Thank you,

Daniel Tuba D'Souza
Vice President (Finance)
McMaster Students Union
vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca

Scott Robinson
Associate Vice-President Finance & Chair of the Finance Committee
McMaster Students Union
avpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca

Appendix A

Figure 1: OPIRG ‘Opt-Out’ advertisement displayed via MSU screen network

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) McMaster



OPIRG McMaster exists to empower students and community in exchanging ideas and taking action on diverse social justice and environmental issues by connecting individuals, groups, organizations, and resources.

Student volunteers form the core of OPIRG's activism. Our student-run volunteer working groups meet regularly to educate themselves and organize around a diverse range of issues. Former working groups have included Adaptive Design, McMaster Indigenous Student Community Alliance, Fossil Free McMaster, Guatemalan Solidarity, Hamilton Freeskool, Hamilton Urban Beekeepers, Threadwork, and many others. New working group ideas are encouraged. OPIRG's volunteer Board of Directors define both our vision and our activism. Join us and gain valuable volunteer experience working with an engaged social justice organization, while contributing to impactful outcomes.

OPIRG's core funding comes from full-time undergraduate students, in the form of a \$8.07 refundable fee. If you do not wish to support the work of OPIRG McMaster, you can claim a full refund by bringing your student card to the OPIRG office. This must be done within three weeks after the completion of the drop and add period. When your student status has been finalized. If you are not a full-time McMaster undergraduate student, \$10 will get you a **Community Membership**, entitling you to all the wonderful things OPIRG has to offer.

View our events list on our website or follow us on Facebook to stay informed about our many public events, including a wide range of free events during “Making Connections: OPIRG’s Social Justice and Environment Week,” held September 25-29, 2017. OPIRG’s skills training sessions, Passion to Power, held each term include workshops on consensus decision-making, anti-oppression, conflict transformation, publicity and outreach, and other important activist skills.

Email: opirg@mcmaster.ca

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MUSC 229

@OPIRGMcMASTER

f /OPIRG.McMaster

opirgmcmaster.org

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) McMaster



OPIRG exists to empower the exchanging of ideas and taking action on social justice and environmental issues by connecting individuals, groups, organizations, and resources. We value Anti-Oppression, Empowerment, Creativity and Innovation, Equity and Inclusivity, Consensus, and Environmental Responsibility.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our student-run volunteer working groups meet to educate and organize around a range of issues. Former groups include: Adaptive Design, McMaster Indigenous Student Community Alliance, Fossil Free McMaster, Guatemalan Solidarity, Hamilton Freeskool, Hamilton Urban Beekeepers, Threadwork and more. OPIRG's volunteer Board of Directors define our vision and activism, and there are always opportunities to gain valuable experience through OPIRG's Volunteer Coordinator.

Resource Library

Visit our alternative lending library of books and resources on social justice, human rights and environmental sustainability. We build our resources based on your needs and interests; from anti-racism, animal welfare, green politics, women's health, to urban development, zines and more. Also available is our button-maker, megaphone and projector.

Events

Subscribe to our events list or follow us on facebook to stay informed about our free public events, including "Making Connections: OPIRG's Social Justice and Environment Week," in September. "Skills Training Series," held each term includes workshops on consensus decision-making, anti-oppression, conflict transformation, publicity and outreach, and more.

Fair Trade

Check out the variety of fair trade products, from chocolate and coffee to handmade woven baskets. Proceeds go to support the grassroots organizations who produce them.

Funding

Our core funding comes from full-time undergrad students, in the form of a \$8.07 levy. If you do not wish to support OPIRG, you can claim a full refund by bringing your student card to our office in MUSC 229*.

* Within 3 weeks after completion of drop/add period.

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Figure 2: OPIRG 'Opt-Out' advertisement displayed in MSU Almanac and Welcome Week preview



Figure 3: MSU Health & Dental Opt-Out Graphic



BYLAW 15/A – ~~FACULTY CUP~~ WELCOME WEEK AWARDS

1. CRITERIA FOR GRANTING ~~THE FACULTY CUP~~ WELCOME WEEK AWARDS

1.1 Two awards shall be granted during Welcome Week, the Faculty Cup and the Residence Cup

1.1.1 The Faculty Cup Award shall be granted in recognition of the faculty or academic division that has demonstrated superior spirit, presence, and participation during Welcome Week.

1.1.1.2 ~~The Residence Cup Award shall be granted in recognition of the residence or the Society of Off-Campus Students (SOCS) that has demonstrated superior spirit, and participation during Welcome Week.~~

1.2 The Selection Committee shall assess the performance and recognize the exceptional efforts of faculties or academic divisions based on the following criteria:

- 1.2.1 Campus spirit;
- 1.2.2 Participation during Welcome Week;
- 1.2.3 Contribution to Shinerama;
- 1.2.4 Airbands;
- 1.2.5 Other criteria as established by the event organizers.

2. SELECTION COMMITTEE

2.1 The Selection Committee shall consist of:

- 2.1.1 A member of the MSU Board of Directors, who shall act as chair;
- 2.1.2 The Campus Events Programming Coordinator;

2.1.3 ~~The Maroons Coordinator;~~

2.1.4.3 ~~The Shinerama Coordinator;~~

2.1.4 ~~The Welcome Week Faculty Societies Coordinator;~~

2.1.5 ~~The Residence Orientation Planner~~

2.1.6 One (1) SRA member, elected by the SRA no later than April 30;

2.1.6.1 ~~SRA member shall not be involved in Welcome Week as a current Faculty Representative, Residence Representative or Residence Community Advisor with Residence Life.~~

2.1.6.2 Should no SRA member be found, the SRA member must abstain from the vote of the award that is relevant to their organization/affiliation

2.1.6.3

2.1.7 One (1) non-SRA MSU member, elected by the SRA no later than April 30.

2.1.7.1 MSU member shall not be involved in Welcome Week as a current Faculty Representative, Residence Representative or Residence Community Advisor with Residence Life.

- 2.2 Vacancies created through a member's resignation or recall shall be filled by the Board of Directors from the SRA membership.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The Selection Committee shall review and approve judgment criteria for each Welcome Week event as proposed by the event organizers before the beginning of Welcome Week..

- 3.2 The Selection Committee shall judge Welcome Week events as implemented by campus partners.

- 3.3 The Selection Committee may disqualify any faculty or academic divisionparticipating group from consideration for any of the following reasons:

3.3.1 Violation of Welcome Week Policy;

3.3.2 Violation of Welcome Week Representative Contracts;

3.3.3 Failing to meet the requirements for judged events;

3.3.4 Failing to meet the safety standards for events as laid out by the Employment and Occupational Health and Safety Service (EOHSS);

3.3.4 Acting in discordance with the Welcome Week strategic priorities;

3.3.5 Failing to follow the instruction of the primary event organizer;

3.3.5.3.6 Other causes as determined by the Selection Committee.

- 3.4 The Selection Committee shall, with concurrence of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, award the Faculty CupWelcome Week Awards to the participating groups faculty or academic division that it deems most worthy. The Selection Committee shall hold all of all its deliberations in closed session.

- 3.5 The Faculty CupWelcome Week Awards shall be presented at the Welcome Week Closing Ceremonies by the chair of the Selection Committee.



OPERATING POLICY - VICE-PRESIDENTIAL AND SPEAKER AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To outline a structure for the annual elections of the MSU Vice-Presidents, ~~SRA Standing Committee Commissioners~~ and the annual election of the MSU Speaker.
 - 1.1.1. Should mid-year elections be necessary, these procedures shall be appropriately adapted.
- 1.2. To normalize these processes and the communication of relevant information to increase and facilitate the accessibility of running for these positions.

2. NOMINATIONS

- 2.1. Nominations for all Vice-President positions and the position of Speaker shall be opened by a member of the outgoing Board of Directors at the first SRA meeting in March each year.
- 2.2. Nominations for the Vice-President and Speaker positions shall be closed at the first meeting of the incoming SRA ~~and nominations for MSU Standing Committee Commissioners shall be opened~~
- ~~2.3. Nominations for SRA Standing Committee Commissioners shall be closed on the second meeting in April~~
- 2.4.2.3. The Speaker, in collaboration with the Elections Department, shall be responsible for advertising the available Vice-President, ~~Standing Committee Commissioner~~, and Speaker positions.
 - 2.4.1.2.3.1. Nominations shall be advertised on the MSU Website and through appropriate social media channels starting no later than twenty-four (24) hours after nominations have opened and until nominations have been closed.
 - 2.4.2.2.3.2. Information regarding the nature of the positions shall be made available on the MSU website and centralized under the Elections webpage no later than twenty-four (24) hours after nominations have been opened and until nominations have been closed.
 - 2.4.2.1.2.3.2.1. This information shall include, but is not limited to, the relevant job descriptions, past Vice President ~~and Commissioner~~ reports, and past Vice-President ~~and Commissioner~~ transition reports.
 - 2.4.3.2.3.3. Information regarding the typical protocols for campaigning and running for these positions shall be made available on the MSU website and centralized under the Elections webpage no later than twenty-four (24) hours after nominations have been opened and until nominations have been closed.

2.4.3.1. This information shall include, but is not limited to, how to contact incoming SRA members, how to contact the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Commissioners, and Speaker, what equipment will be available for presentations, and this Operating Policy.

2.4.4.2.3.4. The Speaker and Elections Department, as well as the incoming SRA, shall advertise through appropriate social media channels the occurrence of these elections to the general MSU membership no later than one week prior to their occurrence.

2.4.5.2.3.5. Other advertising may be done as the Speaker and the Elections Department see fit.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1. The Vice-President elections shall be of the following format:

3.1.1. Twelve (12) minutes Fifteen minutes (15)-presentation by each candidate;

3.1.2. Ten (10) Fifteen minutes (15) minutes of questioning per candidate pooled, in a debate;

3.1.2.1. During this time, the candidates have a time limit of one (1)-two (2) minutes to answer each question;

3.1.2.2. During this time, the SRA must submit questions to the Speaker in writing;

3.1.2.3. During this time, the SRA shall not ask booth questions;

3.1.2.4. During this time, the Speaker shall amalgamate and/or remove questions at their discretion;

3.1.2.4.3.1.3. After this time, no further pooled questions can be posed to the candidates by the speaker or the SRA.

3.1.3.3.1.4. Ten (10) Twenty minutes (20) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;

3.1.3.1.3.1.4.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;

3.1.3.2.3.1.4.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices;

3.1.3.3.3.1.4.3. During this time, the candidates have a time limit of one (1)-two (2) minutes to answer each question;

3.1.4.3.1.5. Additional time for questioning as moved and approved by the SRA;

3.1.5.3.1.6. Five (5) minutes closing statements by each candidate.

3.2. The Speaker elections shall be of the following format:

3.2.1. Five (5) minutes presentation by each candidate;

3.2.2. Ten (10) minutes of questioning per candidate, pooled;

3.2.3. Five (5) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;

3.2.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;

3.2.3.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices.

3.2.4. Five (5) minutes closing statement by each candidate.

3.3. The Standing Committee Commissioner elections shall be of the following format:

- ~~3.3.1. Five (5) minutes presentation by each candidate;~~
 - ~~3.3.2. Five (5) minutes of questioning per candidate, pooled;~~
 - ~~3.3.3. Five (5) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;~~
 - ~~3.3.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;~~
 - ~~3.3.3.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices;~~
 - ~~3.3.4. Additional time for questioning as moved and approved by the SRA;~~
 - ~~3.3.5. Two (2) minutes closing statement by each candidate.~~
- ~~3.4. A laptop and projector shall be made available for all candidates;~~
- ~~3.5. Each SRA member shall sign their ballot so individual votes can be made public in the minutes;~~
- ~~3.5.1. Candidates who also hold an SRA seat shall be forced to abstain from voting for the position they are running for.~~

4. COMMUNICATION WITH SRA MEMBERS

- 4.1. Candidates must have their documentation sent to the SRA Recording SecretaryAdministrative Assistant by noon (12:00pm) four (4) business days prior to the meeting in which their elections close.
- 4.2. In accordance with OPERATING POLICY - INTERNAL DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION, if an SRA member wishes to secure a copy of a candidate's documentation for the meeting, a request must be made to the Administrative Assistant prior to a deadline of their discretion.
- 4.3. Candidates will not be permitted to bring their own physical copies for distribution to the SRA:
 - 4.3.1. The only documentation that will be permitted for distribution is that which is distributed by the SRA Recording SecretaryAdministrative Assistant.
- 4.4. The Administrative AssistantSRA Recording Secretary will post the campaign material on the MSU website in the same manner as a supporting document.
 - 4.4.1. Any documentation which is not submitted by the above stated deadline will not be posted on the MSU Website.
- 4.5. Meetings pertaining to campaigning for these elections shall not take place in the MSU office.
- 4.6. Candidates may request from the Speaker contact information from the SRA:
 - 4.6.1. The Speaker will notify the incoming SRA members of their intent to release contact information and provide members with at least 24 hours to opt out of this information sharing.

5. AMENDMENTS

- 5.1. Any amendments to this policy shall require five (5) days notice.

- 5.2. Notification of intent and/or motions to amend this policy shall be communicated on the Elections webpage with the original information on the election process.

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