



**AGENDA - SRA 181**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY  
Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 5:00pm  
**Council Chambers, GH 111**

**PROCEDURE**

Call of the Roll, Playing of National Anthem, Territory Recognition, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of SRA Minutes, 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. McMaster Marching Band | Graeme Noble,<br>Gary He, &<br>Frank Sh |
|---------------------------|---|

**REPORTS**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. First Year Council                                      | Ajay Gandhi            |
| 2. Arts & Science Caucus                                   | Warwani                |
| 3. Business Caucus   | Floean                 |
| 4. Engineering Caucus                                      | Sykes                  |
| 5. Internal Governance Committee                           | Raquel<br>Deperasinski |
| 6. Services Committee                                      | Sarah Figueiredo       |
| 7. Executive Board   | MacLean                |
| 8. Vice-President (Education)                              | Bertolo                |
| 9. Student Activity Building Ad-Hoc Committee Final Report | Alex Johnston          |
| 10. Interfaith Council                                     | Arbess                 |

**BUSINESS**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Recess into meetings of MSU & CFMU Incorporated | Farah    |
| 2. Committee of the Whole - MMB                    | Robinson |

## **MOTIONS**

1. **Moved** by Farah, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly recess for meetings of the Full Members of MSU & CFMU Incorporated.
2. **Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the McMaster Marching Band presentation.



**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 181**  
**Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 5:00pm**  
**Council Chambers, GH111**

**Called to Order at 5:00pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

<b>Present</b>	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Bertolo, Dominquez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Espiritu, Gandzi, Irfan, Isah, Kumaran, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Roshan, Saliccioli, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Warwani
<b>Absent Excused:</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Hackett, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Villasis
<b>Late</b>	Bishara, Bonk, Grewal, Ibrahim, Robinson
<b>Others Present:</b>	Raquel Deperasinski (AVP (Internal Governance)), Sarah Figueiredo (AVP (Services)), Melissa Paglialunga (FYC Coordinator), Ajay Gandhi (FYC Chair), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Maggie Gallagher (MSU Comptroller), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
<b>Chair</b>	Elizabeth Wong

**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 Lee, **seconded** by Sykes to adopt the agenda, as presented.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by Warwani to amend that the Assembly add 'Ratification of OUSA Delegates' to Business

**Passes Unanimously**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Saliccioli, **seconded** by Sykes that the Assembly move the Services Report to #1 in Report Period

**Passes Unanimously**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Farah, **seconded** by Epifano that the Assembly move Business Item #1 – Recess into meetings of MSU & CFMU Incorporated before Report Period

- Farah stated that a full-time staff member has joined the meeting for questions.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Vote to Adopt Agenda**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Sykes to adopt the agenda, as amended.

**Passes Unanimously**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

- The Speaker asked that those at the back please sign the observer's list. The Speaker asked everyone to please clean up after themselves.

**DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR**

**Set Parameters**

**Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by Anderson to set parameters at 15 minutes for presentation, and 10 minutes for questions.

- Robinson stated that this was what has been communicated to each group.

**Vote on Parameters**

**Passes Unanimously**

**1. McMaster Marching Band – Graeme Noble and Gary He presented (presentation attached)**

- Noble and He summarized the presentation.

**Questions**

- Sykes thanked MMB for a great presentation. Sykes asked them what the average student was getting from Marching Band. Noble responded that the MMB was a spirit generating machine, and while students might not see the direct benefits the MMB does bring a lot of promotion to the University.
- Warwani stated that in the presentation MMB mentioned seeing a lack of engagement with membership. Warwani asked why they thought this was the case and what plans were they putting in place. Noble responded that they actually reduced the amount of student enrolled to five, to reduce the load on students. Noble responded that sometimes it comes down to the style of music they play, learning to march, or rehearsals being three hours a week. Noble added that they intend to increase engagement by social events, reducing fees, and engaging with the Athletic Department more.
- Arbess asked now that MMB has switched to a deposit model were there any other funding choices besides the fee or not. Noble responded that they do a lot of parades, which does pay around \$1,500-2,000 per event. They explained that it helps with losses.
- Bonk asked what the additional money for uniforms were for since enrollment was down. Noble responded that it was due to natural wear and tear and have to replace them once in awhile.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Recess into meetings of MSU & CFMU Incorporated**

**Moved** by Farah, **seconded** by Robinson that the Assembly recess for meetings of the Full Members of MSU & CFMU Incorporated.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Recessed at 5:32pm**  
**Called to Order at 5:52pm**

## **CALL OF THE ROLL**

<b>Present</b>	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Bertolo, Bonk, Dominquez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Espiritu, Gandzi, Grewal, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Kumaran, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Robinson, Roshan, Saliccioli, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Warwani
<b>Absent Excused:</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Hackett, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Villasis
<b>Late</b>	Bishara
<b>Others Present:</b>	Raquel Deperasinski (AVP (Internal Governance)), Sarah Figueiredo (AVP (Services)), Melissa Paglialunga (FYC Coordinator), Ajay Gandhi (FYC Chair), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Joshua Yachouh (MSU Member), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
<b>Chair</b>	Elizabeth Wong

## **REPORT PERIOD**

### **1. Services Committee – Sarah Figueiredo presented**

- Figueiredo summarized the report.

### **2. FYC – Ajay Gandhi presented**

- Gandhi summarized the report.

### **3. Arts and Science Caucus – Warwani presented**

- Warwani summarized the report.

### **4. Business Caucus – Florean presented**

- Florean summarized the report.

### **5. Engineering Caucus – Sykes presented**

- Sykes summarized the report.

### **6. Internal Governance – Raquel Deperasinski presented**

- Deperasinski summarized the report.

## **Questions**

- Gandzi asked what changes were being made to the bylaws. Deperasinski responded that it was just wording, such as gender-neutral pronouns.

### **7. Executive Board – MacLean presented**

- MacLean summarized the report.

### **8. Vice-President (Education) – Bertolo presented**

- Bertolo summarized the report.

### Questions

- Gandzi asked if Bertolo knew why they were moving away from Change Camp. Bertolo responded that it was just a shifting of priorities, and didn't think that the department could give enough resources. Bertolo stated that Change Camp continues to get bigger and planning takes up a lot of time. They added that the MSU has changed their focus and it's on advocacy, not community engagement. Bertolo stated that they were sad to see it not happen this year, but it was the right move for the MSU and Education team. They added that something similar might come back in the future.
- Florean asked what the Ombuds review was about. Bertolo responded that it was to look at how the office was managed, who was in charge of funding it, and staffing resources. Bertolo stated that the Ombuds office was currently staffed by one person and they would like to see how they could better service students.

### 9. SAB Ad-Hoc Committee – Alex Johnston presented

- Johnston summarized the report.

### Questions

- Arbess asked what role the committee had in determining the layout of the interfaith prayer space. Johnston responded that the committee didn't look into this, but focused on the general areas.
- Robinson stated that the committee did a lot of great work. They added that they were thankful for all of the work that Johnston and the committee put together.

### 10. Interfaith Council – Arbess presented

- Arbess summarized the report.

### Questions

- Warwani asked if there were others who couldn't make it to the meetings, and if they were still working on finding a time for everyone. Arbess responded that the Diversity Services Coordinator was responsible for meeting times and sends out a doodle poll but a few groups on the council haven't responded.

### INFORMATION PERIOD

- Robinson reported that the SLEF portal was still active and will be until the first week of November.
- Epifano reported that voting for the SRA Commerce and Kinesiology seats start tomorrow and will go until 5pm on Tuesday. They announced that MAC Pride Week is this upcoming week, hosted by Pride Community Centre and other equity-based services on campus.
- Farah announced that on November 6 tax-free Tuesdays will be piloting at La Piazza.

### QUESTION PERIOD

- Sykes asked the Vice-President (Administration) about the general SRA Facebook page and was curious on what they will be using it for moving forward. Epifano responded that the page will be sharing general information, and posts from SRA caucuses. They stated that it was mainly to house agenda graphics and the livestream.
- Sykes ceded to Josh Yachouh. Yachouh asked if they had looked into the possibility of no longer having individual caucus pages. Epifano responded that the page was creating by the Marketing and Communications Director and that they have already discussed that the general page would look like and how it would differ from the caucus pages.
- Oketch asked Epifano if the SRA livestream will only be on Facebook now. Epifano responded that currently it was being filmed to be uploaded to their livestream account, but the goal was just Facebook.

- Oketch asked Epifano what would happen if someone didn't have a Facebook account. Epifano responded that it would be similar to the drawbacks of having to create a livestream account to watch.

## **BUSINESS**

### **2. Committee of the Whole – MMB**

**Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by MacLean that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the McMaster Marching Band presentation.

- Robinson stated that as part of Bylaw 5 requirements the Assembly must discuss presentations in Committee of the Whole.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by Gandzi that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and to Rise and Report.

**Passes Unanimously**

#### **Rise and Report**

- Robinson reported that the Assembly went into detail about the Finance Committee's recommendation. Robinson stated that there was a discussion on when the fee first went to referendum and they discussed the process on how to bring fees to referendum. Robinson added that the final note of discussion was on whether the Assembly had to make a decision at this meeting or if an Assembly member could bring forward a motion at a later date.

### **3. Ratify OUSA Delegates**

**Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by Gandzi that the following delegate be approved for OUSA Fall General Assembly:

- Stephanie Bertolo
  - Ikram Farah
  - Urszula Sitarz
  - Shemar Hackett
  - Aliegha Kampman
  - Josh Marando
  - Josh Yachouh
  - Leela Raj
  - Linda Cabral
  - Tasneem Warwani
- 
- Bertolo stated that they need to ratify the delegates for this weekend.
  - Florean asked how many SRA members were going. Ceded to Bertolo.
  - Bertolo responded that it was just themselves, Farah, Warwani, and Hackett, and the rest were MSU members.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 27 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**  
**Abstained: Warwani**

**Motion Passes**

**TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Sunday, November 11, 2018  
5:00pm  
Council Chambers, GH 111**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

<b>Present</b>	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Bertolo, Bonk, Dominguez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Espiritu, Gandzi, Grewal, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Kumaran, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Robinson, Roshan, Saliccioli, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Warwani
<b>Absent Excused</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Hackett, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Villasis
<b>Late</b>	Bishara
<b>Others Present</b>	Raquel Deperasinski (AVP (Internal Governance)), Sarah Figueiredo (AVP (Services)), Melissa Paglialunga (FYC Coordinator), Ajay Gandhi (FYC Chair), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Joshua Yachouh (MSU Member), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
<b>Chair</b>	Elizabeth Wong

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Warwani that the meeting be adjourned.

**Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 6:54pm**

/vs



# REPORT

*From the office of...*

## First Year Council

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Ajay Gandhi, First Year Council Chair  
SUBJECT: SRA 16I Report  
DATE: October 23, 2018

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### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Council members have decided collectively that it would be best to get acquainted with the first-year population in order to establish channels of communication with them before completing a year-plan for the council.

### **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Pumpkins, Spice, Maroons, and FYC – To get first years engaged Maroons and FYC planned an event that included pumpkin painting, coffeehouse, and free snacks at Bridges from 8pm – 10:30pm. The event went tremendously well with over 100 attendees as well as a full coffeehouse performance line up. However, we did realize that there were not enough pumpkins for painting as needed for all first years. We did problem-solve during the event as the Maroons purchased more promptly realizing the need for more pumpkins. Another area of improvement was that the Paradise Catering food options did not provide sufficient options for dairy-free and/or vegan individuals. We will carry these lessons and address them in future events.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Tentative date for a FYC introduction event is November 16, 2018. This is the week before the First Year Formal and it will cater to a wide-range of interests by offering crafts, music, and games. We are planning on this being an evening event with trivia and board games in Twelve-Eighty and The Grind. Further details still need to be established.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Challenges currently fall in planning our introduction event, especially in finding a layout in Twelve-Eighty and The Grind that will allow for quieter board game spaces as well as louder video-game and trivia spaces.

### **VOLUNTEERS (Standing Committees only)**

N/A

### **SUCCESSSES**

Helped to facilitate and setup an event organized by Maroons and FYC.

Best,  
Ajay Gandhi  
First Year Council Chair  
McMaster Students Union  
[fycchair@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:fycchair@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Arts and Science Caucus

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Tasneem Warwani, SRA Arts & Science Caucus Leader  
SUBJECT: SRA 18I Report  
DATE: October 23, 2018

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Time flies! It feels like we were just having our first meeting last week, but we're already halfway through the first term. As school has ramped up, so have my projects and the work I've been doing to make sure my platform points are achieved. At the same time, I've found that being a one person caucus can be quite a challenge, so while things are going well, the road is a little bumpy at times.

### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

I mentioned in my past report that ArtSci applications will be name blinded moving forward. I'm hopeful that it'll be done in time for the incoming cohort, but I'm in the dark on the progress of this project given that it has to be done by our administration. I've been following up with them quite consistently, but all I know for now is that it is currently happening, and that they're hopeful it'll be done for this year. I plan to attend my Director's office hours this Friday (after the report is due but before our meeting) to get a little more insight on how far along the project is and what the timeline will look like.

Engagement with ArtScis has also increased significantly. I didn't end up running a contest in September because I realized it didn't make much sense given that there had been a lot of SRA exposure in the first month of school, so I'm pushing that for a more down-time of the year (likely November). The ArtSci World of Work planners were hired fairly late, so I'll be reaching out to them soon to talk about my platform point on collaborating for faculty events. My podcasting courses campaign is also on hold for now because I've been in discussions with our ArtSci administration as well as working on this platform point through University Affairs.

I realized that my year plan likely requires some shuffling around. After entering the role, and seeing how my projects align with other folks in the SRA/on the University Affairs committee, I have a much better grasp on how to navigate my priorities and make my projects come to life.

### **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

It's been a really busy two months! At the beginning of the school year, I reached out to Dr. Susan Giroux, the Vice-Provost. She oversees the Arts and Science program, and we've been meeting almost bi-weekly to discuss some systemic problems within the program and how to go about bettering the experience for students. We've made a lot of great progress, and I'm very grateful for how understanding, validating, and responsive Dr. Giroux has been. There should definitely be improvements in the next few months on how ArtSci responds to mental health and student academic advising needs.

In the past month, I also held an Office Hours/Freedom of Speech discussion in the ArtSci lounge. I'd like to give a little shoutout to Dr. Wilson, our program director, for letting me use the space so last minute. We had about fifteen to twenty really engaged students either drop by during the office hour or send me a message with their feedback on the guidelines released by the university. There were also a few people who dropped by to discuss my platform, so that was definitely great to see! We had really great discussions, and I sent what students said to Ikram. Overall, it seems that the ArtSci perspective is that there is no need for a formalized Free Speech policy.

One of my platform points was increasing MSU/SRA engagement within ArtSci. Recently, I've been sending email blasts to all the ArtScis for any important updates (for example, I've sent two about the Municipal Election), and I include little things like advertising 1280's Music Nights and recommending food items to grab while they're there. These have been really effective, and I've had several ArtScis reply to my emails thanking me for them. I'm going to continue these, but another exciting update is that we managed to secure a space in our lounge specifically for MSU/SRA updates. Angel (my SRA observer) and I will keep this board updated with opportunities and news. This has been really great because of how many ArtScis go through this space daily!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

In the upcoming weeks, my main priority is discussing midterm planning strategies for the Winter term and reaching out to Social Sciences to see the feasibility of including ArtScis as one of the faculties who can book/use rooms in LR Wilson. The challenges with both these tasks is that they are advocacy based, rather than physical events, so it's a lot of waiting on other people. In addition, I'll be reaching out to the ArtSci World of Work forum planners to offer my support and see if there are ways we can improve the event! I also hope to begin formulating a website revamp strategy that I can then present to our Faculty society, so we can improve "sassweb."

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Being a one person caucus is really difficult. If it wasn't for my official observer, I don't know how many tangible changes or strong advocacy efforts I would actually be able to make this year. This has been especially hard with things ramping up with the Education Team this past month, and University Affairs projects in full gear. This has pushed some of my projects to be a little later than I expected. To make up for that, I've been trying to continuously engage my constituents which has definitely been working.

Another challenge has been communicating with my faculty society. I have class at the same time as their bi-weekly meetings. This challenge is mitigated by the fact that Angel is able to attend these meetings, but I really would have liked to engage face to face once in a while. Thanks to Angel, we also recently realized that our Faculty Society doesn't have a VP Academic. She'll be bringing that up in the next Faculty Society meeting so we can ensure to have representation at the Academic Affairs Council Meetings.

### **SUCSESSES**

The Official ArtSci SRA Observer, Angel, has been incredible. She's so active and helpful, and she's always willing to step in and take on tasks when there's a lot on my plate. She truly keeps me afloat and I'm so grateful that she's there to help out. It's wonderful that we also happen to be really passionate about the same things, so it makes our advocacy really strong!

The other success has been our continued advocacy through Dr. Giroux as well as our small accomplishments like engagement during Office Hours, and our new SRA Bulletin Board.

**OTHER**

I was interviewed by the Sil recently about ArtSci moving towards name-blinded applications so I'm really excited for that article to come out!

That's all from me for now. As always, my inbox is always open for questions, comments, concerns, or feedback!

Yours Truly,



Tasneem Warwani  
SRA Arts and Science Caucus Leader  
McMaster Students Union  
sraartsci@msu.mcmaster.ca



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Business Caucus**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Selene Dominguez Florean, SRA Business Caucus Leader  
SUBJECT: SRA 18F Report  
DATE: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Hello everyone!

I hope your last couple of weeks and mid-term season is going as well as it can – remember to eat, sleep, breathe and take one step at a time. Since it is mid-term season, I will keep this as short and sweet as possible, let us begin with some of the things that SRA Commerce has been up to!

### **Outreach**

*Objective 1:* Social Media – Instagram

We launched our Instagram page during the DCS Cookout that happened in the first weeks of September. We had a very successful turnout with lots of people interested in learning about the MSU and the SRA. We also had a give-away that had some homecoming SWAG (Thanks Wooder!!!) and some DeGroote SWAG that included a sweater and a really nice notebook (thanks Campus store and Alex for approving our funding!).

*Objective 2:* Last SRA meeting, there were a couple of interested faculties that wanted to create a recap video for the meeting. So, Haley was able to help us out and edited a short 60-second recap on the things that were talked about during the meeting. We will continue to look into creating more professional content that will be presented to students across many social media platforms.

*Objective 3:* DCS Cookout happened with lots of successes! We had a huge turnout and were able to get over 100 new Instagram followers, as well as likes on Facebook. We even got a mailing list going with people who were interested in entering the raffle that we had and who wanted more information! We had lots of comments on how much more engagement this year's SRA had compared to previous years – so we are over the moon about it.

## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been tirelessly working on three of the events below:

DCS Cookout – YAY – it happened! We are still trying to figure out timing for our meeting with DCS, as coordinating a time has been pretty difficult.

Office hours – we hosted our first office hours in the DSB lobby and had cookies/ tea/ coffee! We had many people come over to hear about SRA as they chowed down on

delicious UM cookies. We had lots of engagement and we were trying to promote our open SRA seat. Our second office hours were also successful as some people came down to ask about how to run for the SRA Commerce position as well as a Commerce student interested in doing their marketing project on the Grind.

Elections – We have an open seat in SRA Commerce, so along with Elections, we have tried to promote this nomination period as much as we can. Emily and all the elections team have been relentlessly working on promotion of elections – so big props to them. We also posted lots of Elections content on our Facebook page, as well as sent out an email to our mailing list on some tips on running and a little blurb about SRA. Also, huge shout out to the Elections department for the beautiful redesign of all the documentation needed for nominations of SRA and the by-laws that surround it, forms have never looked so beautiful.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

The uncertainty of having a new team member makes it difficult to coordinate between all the things we want to do. We are currently focused on the by-election process and we are hoping that our 4<sup>th</sup> member is able to adjust to our chemistry and how we currently work.

### **SUCCESSSES**

We have focused a lot on the outreach part of our platform – as DeGroote and the MSU have had a rocky relationship since the beginning.

### **OTHER**

If you have read this far, you my friend, are awesome! If there is anything I can clarify, you want to partner up with, or just say “CHEERIO”, let me know. Good luck with midterms – we are half way there!

Best,

Selene Dominguez Florean  
SRA Business Caucus Leader  
McMaster Students Union  
[sracom@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:sracom@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Engineering Caucus**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Liam Sykes, SRA Engineering Caucus Leader  
SUBJECT: SRA 18F Report  
DATE:

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Hello fellow assembly members!

Since my last report, the engineering caucus has made progress on a few key goals for the year. This progress is summarized below.

## PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

In my previous report, I talked about our promotional plan which was created by Nikhail and I, in consultation with the MSU communications department. This plan has since been put into action through our like campaign, first year class talks, and introductions of caucus members on our Facebook page. Nikhail and I both participated in the recap video for 18G which has over 600 views. We also shared PTM hiring, SWHAT's hiring and information related to FYC elections, which ties in well with our plan to make engineering students more aware of what is going on within the MSU. At a past caucus meeting, all of our caucus members invited their Facebook friends to like our page which has continued to elevate our exposure within the McMaster community. We will be continuing to follow this guide as the year continues.

I have also been working with Stephanie to remove the hard cut-off for Valedictorian candidates. She reached out to all the relevant administrators in the different faculties to hear their thoughts on the changes. We are currently awaiting their responses. I also talked a bit about this at a past SRA meeting, and based on a straw poll it seemed that a majority of the assembly would strongly consider supporting the changes. Once we have heard from all of the faculties, we will begin working to change the operating policy related to the selection process.

Our caucus also helped with the #TextbookBroke campaign. Mitchell, Josh and Nikhail both tabled for it outside of the campus store. We hope to continue promoting increased OER use as the year progresses.

Seraj has been working on his personal goal of starting a mentorship program. He reached out to Alyssa Burrows, the MSS Mentorship Coordinator to see how they run their program. Using this as a template, he is in the midst of

creating an outline for how the program will function. He will be reaching out to the McMaster Engineering Society's VP Academic, Ian Currie in the near future to determine feasibility and to finalize plans to roll it out.

Josh has been working as the SRA observer on the Interfaith Council, where he facilitates meaningful discussion between various faith-based, cultural, and indigenous groups on campus. There have been two meetings so far, both of which have been well attended and well-received. Josh will be giving an update at the meeting.

Josh has also been working on reducing the MSU's ancillary fees. So far, this has entailed searching through the MSU budget to find ways that budgets can be reduced without sacrificing the overall quality of service provided by the MSU. This search is still in progress. He has also talked informally with constituents to see what they think about the MSU's Operating Budget, and what services are most important to them. His next step will be discussing his findings with Scott and Alex, as well as with the Finance Committee.

Mitchell has been working on experiential education, where his duty dictates that he understand and explain the current opportunities that exist within the faculty of Engineering that help students develop skillsets in a more practical manner (i.e. McMaster Solar Car and Bhaja racing). He is also investigating the ratio of practical to theoretical courses taught at McMaster, and how they can help with finding co-op opportunities, considering that fact the landing an internship is becoming more competitive every year.

Mitchell's primary focus on UA has been tackling high risk exams. Exams that have a weight over 50% are classified as high risk. We want to help reduce, or even eliminate heavy final exams if possible. Here's the logic behind our goal to tackle this issue; in several instances students tend to enter the final exams with a high mark on the course, only to come out with a very low mark in the end. This doesn't seem fair as it seems to trivialize their efforts throughout the semester. High risk exams also take a toll on our student's mental health, with added pressure coming from final projects and presentation at the end of the year, they also must balance their schedule with other courses as well.

Our main setback when handling this problem is dealing with professors who tend to disagree with these concepts. They tend to have strong personalities and convictions towards their course, having taught specific courses for years, so dealing with different personalities can make things challenging. Also, there is the issue of cost. When we change the weight of high risk exams, you tend to modify the whole course outline consequently, thus leading to a change in the number of assignments or midterms being written, and that could lead to either hiring more TA's, or adding to their hours, thus costing more money. Right now, I am helping Tasneem Warwani and the UA committee with researching and checking out other universities, and how they handle high risk exams, using them as a point of reference on how to modify our courses in case the idea itself may seem too overwhelming for our professors to implement.

The Elections committee successfully oversaw the FYC election and will be working on the October SRA bi-election. My personal year plan goal to “improve elections” was purposely left vague because I wasn’t sure exactly what this would entail. So far, I have taken an active role by joining the Elections committee, and working with the department to review proposed changes and to provide suggestions when necessary. I also received clarification on how our contract with Simply voting works. Thanks to review and changes made by the elections department, this system is working more effectively. The move to signing in with your MacID and password, as well as the creation of the link [msumcmaster.ca/vote](https://msumcmaster.ca/vote) has made it a lot easier to vote, which will hopefully increase the voter turnout in elections this year. In the future, I hope to continue helping the elections department to improve election rules based on how other elections run leading up to Presidentials.

#### PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The biggest event that we’ve run so far this year was our September like campaign. It was very successful, improving our like count by over 160 likes. Overall, the original post for the campaign reached over 7 000 people. We have further improved this total in recent weeks by inviting people to like our page. For the contest, we worked with Wooder and secured funding through the SRA Special Projects fund to create a Homecoming Prize Pack. This pack, which included two tickets to the Roy Woods concert, was given to one lucky winner at the end of the campaign. Overall, we feel that this project allowed us to expand our reach within the engineering faculty, particularly amongst first years.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Following our promotional strategy, albeit a little behind schedule, we will be doing introductions on Facebook. Connor took photos for us after meeting 18H, and we’ve been working on writing the introductions to be published on the SRA Engineering page. We will hopefully be in the midst of this effort by the time we actually have meeting 18I.

We will also be presenting at the McMaster Engineering Society’s (MES’s) Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM), happening Wednesday, November 7. This is the result of our continued efforts to maintain close ties with the MES. In our presentation, we will be showcasing our plan for the year, what we’ve already accomplished, and will be encouraging students to reach out if they have suggestions on how to improve undergraduate student life at McMaster. We will be working with Ikram to prepare this, as she also wants to present at the meeting.

On Friday October 26, Nikhail and I will be trying to run a well-promoted office hour. To do so, we will be promoting it throughout the week on our SRA page,

and will hopefully secure funding for snacks to draw students in. We hope that this will help us get some turnout at office hours, increasing engagement and hopefully giving us more insight into what engineering students are looking for out of the MSU.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

The first issue that we are having currently is regarding the changes to the valedictorian selection process. Stephanie and I are still waiting on responses from several faculties, and some of the responses have not been promising. We are hoping to receive responses in the coming weeks so that we can make this change prior to selections this year.

Another major issue that we've been having surrounds office hour engagement. As of yet, we have not had a single student come to office hours. We are currently exploring how to better promote them, and will be using the SRA banner to hopefully draw students in to ask us questions.

Third, the MES has scheduled their council meetings on Wednesday nights, a time that often doesn't work for anybody on our caucus. This is making it very difficult to be present, and to offer MSU support to MES members who may need it. Well this will not be changing, we are hoping that meetings will be at a better time next semester.

Lastly, since we're in the heart of midterm season, some of our projects have experienced delays, particularly personal projects. By maintaining clear communication, we have managed to mostly mitigate this challenge. Since schoolwork comes in waves, we are hopeful that we can advance parts of our projects in less busy parts of the schoolyear.

Overall, this has been a promising first semester for SRA Engineering, and well we have hit some setbacks, we are still working hard and looking forward to second semester.

Best,



Liam Sykes  
SRA Engineering Caucus Leader  
McMaster Students Union  
[sraeng@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:sraeng@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## AVP Internal Governance

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Raquel Deperasinski, AVP Internal Governance  
SUBJECT: SRA 18I Report  
DATE: October 23, 2018

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Hello Assembly! Hope everyone is having a great semester so far; I know this is a super busy time but hopefully everyone is getting the rest we all need and deserve. I tried to keep this report pretty concise but if you have any questions or concerns or would like to know more about what the Internal Governance committee is working on, definitely reach out to me and I would be happy to chat more about it!

### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Since the year plan was written back in early September, we have shifted our goals as a committee slightly to adjust for new members, project feasibility, and general interest, as well as to accommodate some suggestions for projects to take on. In particular, we plan on thoroughly reviewing every bylaw (rather than just those we thought needed most attention), as well as some policies. This is an ambitious goal, as there are lots of policies and bylaws, and only so many weeks in the year! However, I have made up a schedule for the year so that we can budget our time appropriately and accomplish everything we plan to.

I have created a yearly bylaw review schedule so that future Internal Governance committees won't have to review every bylaw; our work this year will provide some framework for long-term bylaw/policy maintenance and a rotating review schedule will ensure that some documents are forgotten while some are constantly reviewed.

Currently, we have reviewed Corporate Bylaw 1 (while we don't intend to allot the same attention to Corporate Bylaws as MSU Bylaws, this particular one had some obvious issues that needed fixing) and sent our recommendations to be brought to EB. We have also looked at Bylaw 5- Financial Affairs (note that the version on the MSU website is not the most recently updated version as some amendments were made in April of 2018 but this most recent version hasn't been uploaded to the site yet) and are still doing some of the background research before finalizing anything that would be brought to SRA.

### **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Since we aren't really an event-holding committee, there have been none of those (although if anyone has ideas for bylaw-themed events, please let me know because I would be very intrigued). To reiterate the first section of this report, we have reviewed Corporate Bylaw 1 and are almost done with Bylaw 5. I have also drafted a long-term bylaw review schedule for some consistency and continuity regarding bylaw review in future years. This will also free up time for future IG committees to take on

other projects outside of bylaw and policy review, potentially expanding the role in interesting ways!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

- Filling one more seat at an upcoming meeting
- Next bylaw review: Bylaw 12- McMaster University Student Center (so if anyone has any hot takes on MUSC, we'd love to hear them)

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Since bylaws govern so many different groups, processes, and departments of the MSU, a lot of background research is needed to assess the accuracy or effectiveness of a bylaw. In addition to this, many stakeholders need to be consulted- we aren't experts on every function of the MSU! As such, it can be difficult to confine our discussions to a single meeting every week, even with people taking on components outside of meeting times. This can cause the review of a single bylaw to take multiple meetings since every discussion raises questions that can rarely be answered instantly.

Another challenge is taking on a perspective outside of the scope of a single year. Trying to think about the implications of a bylaw over multiple years rather than the short time we have our current positions for can be challenging although it is an absolutely necessary consideration. Luckily, consultation with Victoria Scott (Administrative Services Coordinator) and Emma Ferguson (Administrative Assistant) can often give some insight into how a change to a bylaw might play out year-to-year and whether, in a broader scope of the MSU, it is a necessary and positive change.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

In general, there have been no major challenges with regards to chairing the committee, aside from the inevitable busyness of members and myself, which was certainly to be expected. Conflicting schedules made it difficult to pick a feasible meeting time, but we were luckily able to find one that seems to work for everyone. Additionally, the challenges of time management and multiple commitments have caused a few members to drop their seats, which is understandable- it is important to know when you have spread yourself too thin and to make sure you are prioritizing your own health and well-being! However, it can be difficult to build and maintain group cohesiveness with constantly changing group members. Hopefully the dust has settled vis-à-vis committee membership.

Scheduling difficulties aside, the group dynamics seem to be positive and productive- bylaw review discussions have been very fruitful in terms of questioning every stipulation to ensure they are completely accurate and written as effectively as possible. Lots of great perspectives, questions, and opinions are being brought up and I am excited to see how we progress as a team as the year goes on!

## **SUCSESSES**

*Point form since I am reiterating from previous sections:*

- Finding a meeting time
- Schedule for the year- yay for time management!
- Schedule/plan for future years
- Review of Corporate Bylaw 1
- Review of Bylaw 5

## **OTHER**

We will be opening another SRA seat in an upcoming meeting, so keep your eyes peeled for that- if you are interested in policies and bylaws we would love to have you!

We meet Mondays at 3:30!

Best,

Raquel Deperasinski  
AVP Internal Governance and Internal Governance Committee  
McMaster Students Union  
[avpinternal@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:avpinternal@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

**Sarah Figueiredo, AVP Services**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Sarah Figueiredo, AVP Services  
SUBJECT: SRA 18I Report  
DATE: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

We have been making great headway on our Maccess and Diversity Services reviews. These reviews were scheduled to be completed prior to reading week; in the 'current challenges' section I will discuss why these dates have been adjusted.

## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

We are continuing to work on our service reviews for Maccess and Diversity Services. We have created all internal and external surveys, and are ready to launch them. Some of our committee members have also created an AOP feedback survey in conjunction with Diversity Services. I am very excited to release these. I know the work the committee has put into these will definitely pay off.

I have met with all committee members one-on-one. This was done to discuss their strength and their goals. I want the services committee to be a place where individuals can grow in ways they want to. I will use this information through the year to make the committee experience a positive one!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Maroons and WGEN will have full committee attention after the completion of the Maccess and Diversity Report (which are schedule to be completed in the first to weeks of November).

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

The largest challenge the committee is facing is creating a holistic review of a service under tight timelines. Diversity Services has a lot of components that require consultations with external bodies, and in-depth research. A lot of the components of our review, such as discussion surrounding the Indigenous Liaison position, requires a perspective and information that the current committee cannot accurately provide. Situations similarity exist with Maccess. This has delayed the completion of the reports as it takes time to accurately find, analyze, present the information gathered .

I do believe this delay will result in a very thorough report, that will have lasting impact. I would rather a report be done well, and therefore usable, than it be completed by an arbitrary deadline. To compensate for the delay and ensure that future deadlines are met, we have a team of services members beginning the Maroons report.

In order to allow us more time to accurately review each service, we will be running a dual review system for the remainder of the year. WGEN and Maroons will be reviewed next, with completion aimed at late January/early February, and SCSN and Macademics to be completed by the end of March.

**VOLUNTEERS (Standing Committees only)**

The volunteers on the committee are fantastic! A few members from the general MSU population have asked to join the committee, so now we have a committee of nine members (plus myself). This is super exciting! Having more members has allowed the committee to be divided into two team – each tackling their own service. They are very driven and have been meeting deadlines with quality work.

I have found it difficult to balance deadlines while ensuring that committee members are not over worked. As stated above, the committee is driven so I am very confident they could handle a larger work load, but I do not want to overwhelmed them. I will be having a discussion with the committee this week to talk about realistic workloads.

**SUCCESSSES**

As stated in the volunteer section, the team has been incredibly dedicated – I measure this as a success. Often for standing committees it can be difficult to engage and retain members. I believe the retention and engagement the services committee is experiencing is due to the mass amount of care the members have for making a positive impact on the MSU community, the warm and welcome committee atmosphere they create, and the “can-do” attitude they bring to every meeting.

Warm Regards,

Sarah Figueiredo  
AVP Services  
McMaster Students Union  
avpservices@mus.mcmaster.ca



# REPORT

From the office of the...  
Executive Board

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Connor MacLean, SRA Science  
SUBJECT: Executive Board Report, SRA 18I  
DATE: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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Dear Members of the Assembly,

I'll be reporting on one Executive Board meeting, due to the timing of reading week and our next meeting being after the document submission deadline for SRA, so only 4 services reported at the meeting. Anyway, take some time to read this report, our services are up to some really neat things and have seen lots of successes and few challenges over the past little while! As well, the Executive Board handle a few financial tasks that were brought to our attention by the Sponsorship & Donations Committee and the Wage Review Committee. Happy reading!

**EFRT** - *Samantha Aung*

EFRT has been operating smoothly and Sam has been able to stay on top of her year plan for the month of September. During September, EFRT saw slightly fewer calls than last year, but the average usage is similar to previous years. They also completed their hiring cycle and hired 12 new team members that are starting to be trained and run shifts! The hiring process went well, as they added a third section to the process to limit the number of interviews they offered. Many EFRT alumni came back to help with the process and they're excited for what's to come!

EFRT will soon be bringing a request to the SRA to purchase new radios, as previously reported on. This is due to Security Services updating their communication methods and encouraging EFRT to do the same to make communication more effective in emergency situations.

There was also an incident with Hamilton Fire and EFRT responders that has been communicated to the Kristina Epifano and John McGowan. Due to this, Sam, Kristina, and John have been in contact with the Deputy Chiefs of Hamilton Fire and Hamilton Paramedics Services to offer a spot at the EFRT Advisory Board Meeting. They are hoping the services can work better together in the future and build a stronger relationship with the services from the City of Hamilton.

### **Food Collective Centre** - *Hannah Philip*

The Food Collective Centre has seen a decrease in Lockers of Love usage compared to previous years for the month of September, but the long-term usage over the past 5 months is up significantly from the last three years. Good Food Box orders have also increased and the new delivery system to the McMaster community through partnerships with Hamilton Cab have gone well! They have 23 deliveries of the boxes in October and 14 pick-ups.

Their Food Collective Centre Grand Re-Opening had a good turn out, but they are aware that many people who attended the event already knew of the space. Next year, it will be recommended to have the Grand Re-Opening later in the year to have greater outreach to new students. As well, their first Second Course event was well attended with around 70-80 people showing up, which is lower than in previous years.

Coming up, they will be focusing on the Trick or Eat campaign where they collect food items from the community and donating them to Living Rock. They are also hosting a Food Insecurity Session with MSU Spark and working on making their volunteers feel like part of the greater service and be less disconnected from each other.

### **MAC Farmstand** - *Shailee Siddhpuria*

Mac Farmstand has been operating in full-swing, has hosted their Local Food Fest, and has recruited more volunteers for the service. Their revenue has been fluctuating from week to week, with the highest earning week reaching between \$1100 and \$1200. However, an overall reduction in their customer base has been noted, which is speculated to be due to increases in price of some baked goods. However, their Local Food Fest went well, engaging students from the community, bringing in groups like OPIRG, the Student Wellness Centre, FCC, Mac Veggie Club, and the Sustainability Academic Programs Office. They also had many students performing musical numbers at the event. They have away corn and hot chocolate, both of which were very positively received.

In the future, they will be working on Free Pumpkins for Halloween which will use up their leftover supplies from Local Food Fest. As well, Shailee is working on increasing the amount of produce available locally in the Winter months. This will take the form of a collection of resources that will be distributed in their last week of operations. They are also still working on the Local Food Discount Card, which has seen low usage in the past few years. In general, they are happy to have a dedicated team of volunteers, CSRs, and executives and have seen lots of successes this year!

### **Macademics Report** - *Angel Huang*

Macademics has been getting into the routine of planning and executive events while managing the services they offer. In recent weeks, they have hosted a screen filming, effectively managed the "McMaster Used Textbook Sales" Facebook group, completed volunteer training, started with with their subcommittees, and started planning for the Teaching Awards nominations

(from Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>). While the film screening of “The Right to Learn” had a low attendance, their engagement in the McMaster Used Textbook Sales Group has increased and are working on ensuring the page isn’t misused. The four subcommittees (Research and Resources, Course Wiki, TAC, and Promotions) are all set up and working away, with the first campaign being the Teaching Awards at the end of this month.

In the future, they will be launching their Teaching Awards, promoting course evaluations, releasing another blog, and partnering with Spark for a “Back to the Grind” study session. They are working on overcoming their issues with low student engagement, but they have an enthusiastic, committed volunteer/executive team that has a bunch of ideas they’re following through with.

**Sponsorship & Donations Committee Recommendations** – *Alex Johnston*

Alex Johnston, the MSU AVP Finance, and the Sponsorship & Donations Committee recommended to the Executive Board to donate \$750 total (\$250 each) to three students who applied for a donation for various extra-curricular and academic activities. This was approved unanimously by the Executive Board, and there is now \$7,410 remaining in the fund. Scott and Alex will be looking into reviewing the grading and allocation scheme for groups that apply for sponsorship in the coming weeks.

**Welcome Week Faculties Coordinator Wage Review** – *Scott Robinson*

After discussing with Josh Marando, the past Welcome Week Faculties Coordinator, the wage review committee recommended to Executive Board to increase the number of hours for the role and upgrade the pay class to C6 which would be \$15.15 per hour for 640 hours total. This is a \$0.50 increase from B class and a 40-hour increase. This results in around a \$900 difference in total pay. The Executive Board unanimously approved this pay increase to reflect the changes the role has undergone over the past two years of review. The new Welcome Week Faculties Coordinator will be hired in the coming weeks and will start January 1<sup>st</sup>.

That’s all for now, folks! Have a great week and enjoy the meeting!

Stay rad,

Connor MacLean  
SRA Science Co-Caucus Leader, Executive Board Member  
McMaster Students Union  
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[maclecl@mcmaster.ca](mailto:maclecl@mcmaster.ca)



# MEMO

*From the office of the...*

## Vice-President (Education)

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TO: Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Vice-President (Education)  
SUBJECT: Report #2  
DATE: October 24, 2018

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Dear SRA,

The saying “Time flies when you are having fun” truly applies. Since I last reported, the Education Team and I has run two more campaigns, published two budget submissions, approved one ethics application, and have attended countless of meetings to progress on our year plans. Currently, we are busy planning two conferences and writing three policies while I am preparing for two lobbying weeks. I am so proud of all the work the team and I continue to accomplish. Seeing our advocacy efforts grow, strengthen, and achieve results is the most rewarding experience. I want to thank all of my AVPs, Research Assistants, Advocacy Team, and Education Team Committees for all your hard work to making this such a successful year – and we aren’t even half way done! I have outlined this report to give updates on each of my platform points that I have made progress on and also provided some other relevant updates at the end. As always, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

### Year Plan Updates

#### **Improving Education Team’s Outreach**

It was my goal to work towards improving the Education Team’s outreach this year. All of the Associate Vice-Presidents worked together to create a graphic promoting their committee times, which is a great first step in increase individuals involvement in the Education Team. As well, I am working with the Advocacy Team Executives to find unique ways to promo the Education Team. The Promotions Executive is doing a great job regularly updating the MSU Advocacy accounts and now, after the MacVotes campaign, we will be looking to find ways to promote all the work the Education & Advocacy Department is working on. The Volunteer & Logistics Coordinator is also thinking about tabling in MUSC in order to familiarize students with the team.

#### **MSU Policy Development**

The entire Education Team is hard at work writing the three policies for this term! We are on track to having the papers done for the beginning of November, giving individuals enough time to review papers before Policy

Conference. Unfortunately, I was not able to advertise the brainstorming sessions to the SRA and general public since they were decided on with little time to promote. I will aim to do this next term.

Policy Conference is set for Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>. It was originally my plan to hold it on the 11<sup>th</sup>, before the SRA meeting. However, Ikram and I are away in OUSA Lobby Con on the 11<sup>th</sup>. I apologize to those who are unable to attend this date due to religious observances.

### **Ombuds Review**

Sean Van Koughnett and I, as the management committee of the Ombuds Office, have started a review of the office. This is a great achievement, since the MSU and Sean Van Koughnett were trying to do a review for a number of years now. We have hired Harriet Lewis, a retired University Secretary from York University and who now does consulting work, to conduct the review. As the management committee, we have now taken a step back to not influence the review process and Ms. Lewis is now conducting interviews with stakeholders across campus. She should have recommendations for the Ombuds Office by the end of the term.

### **Sustainability Committee**

Setting the Sustainability Committee up took longer than expected. However, we are meeting Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> for the first time. I am excited to elect the chair of the committee and to determine our priorities for the year.

### **Academic Affairs Council**

I had my first meeting with the Academic Affairs Council in September. They are a good group of people and I am excited to use the committee as a space where they can share best practices with each other as well as receive their feedback on MSU education advocacy. I am currently setting up the next meeting.

### **University Budget Submission**

The University Budget Submission is complete and can be found on the MSU's Issuu. Thank you to Tasneem and Anna who did an incredible job putting this together! The submission outlines 7 priorities; 5 which require financial investments and 2 which would save the university money. The priorities are the following:

- Additional funding for EFRT
- Increased sexual violence response support in the form of hiring an additional trauma counselor and increased funding for the Equity and Inclusion Office
- Hiring a Work-Study student to allow for the earlier release of exam schedules
- More funding for the development of Open Educational Resources
- Environmental sustainable practices that reduce energy consumption and costs

- Discontinuation of PebblePad

We presented to the University's Budget Committee on our submission. They noted that we are the only group that they allow to do this, which we greatly appreciate and believe demonstrates a willingness of the university to work with students. We received feedback to follow-up with the heads of university departments, who's portfolios would include our budget asks. Tasneem and I have set up those meetings and are currently following up on them.

After speaking to the Provost, he said the committee was very impressed with our presentation. He also had already followed up with the relevant people under him about a number of the asks and advised them to allocate funding in their budget submission to these asks. This was an amazing win for us - it is clear that senior administrators of the university have taken our asks seriously and are working in incorporating them into the budget. This demonstrates that we had well-researched, strong but realistic asks. As well, it shows that the university sees the MSU as a respected stakeholder that they consider when drafting the budget. I will continue to follow up and inform you when it is confirmed our asks are in the final budget.

### **Unsettling Campus**

I have reached out to both MISCA and CISSA, the Indigenous student groups on campus, to ask to meet to discuss shared priorities and areas of collaboration for the year. I will be meeting with CISSA this week and will be following up at MISCA to find a time. As we are having OUSA General Assembly on campus, I have invited CISSA to our opening ceremonies to give an introduction and speak to the importance of truth and reconciliation as post-secondary student leaders. I am excited to continue building these relationships throughout the year.

### **Food Security**

I have been working with Meal Exchange, a national charity based in Toronto, Kate Whalen, Senior Manager of Academic Sustainability Programs for McMaster, and students from the class Sustainability 3S03 to run the Hungry for Knowledge Survey on McMaster's campus. This survey has been run at a number of university campuses across Ontario and it will be highly valuable to collect data specific to McMaster but to add the data to a larger database throughout Ontario.

Since the summer, I have been working on the ethics application for this and I finally received approval!!! This was a long and tedious process, but it feels rewarding having it done. We can now move forward to collecting data. I hope all of you will be able to help promote the survey to your constituents.

### **Experiential Education**

I have a seat on the University's Experiential Education Definitions committee, where we are working to define different categories of experiential education. Classes offered at McMaster will be "tagged" with the applicable categories to

eventually track the number of opportunities students have during their university education.

As well, Macademics Coordinator Angel and I met with MacPherson to discuss potential areas of collaboration, including a resource guide for professor with best practices for experiential education experiences. These conversations are still in early stages and I will continue to update you as I have more details.

### **Open Educational Resource Advocacy**

In September, we ran a very successful #TextbookBroke Campaign. Thank you to everyone who volunteered! We had a number of people coming up to our table in front of the bookstore. They really identified with the messaging of the campaign and were eager to learn about OERs. We received hundreds of ballots for our contests and selected two winners. Overall, it was more successful than last year's campaign. This was likely because of the timing of the campaign. Last year, it was held in January, when less students might have been buying textbooks. As well, since we ran the campaign last year, people may have recognized it and were more likely to engage. We will not be running it in January next year, but I would encourage next year's Education Team to run it. The results of the campaign will help with our advocacy efforts for OERs for the rest of the year since it is clear that rising textbook costs are a concern to students across campus.

I also sit on a OER Working Group, which is comprised of faculty and library staff who are also passionate about creating OERs. We had our first meeting a few weeks ago, where I provided updates on the Textbook Broke Campaign. As well, Catherine Anderson, a professor at McMaster, showed us the OER she developed for the first-year linguistics course! It is titled Essentials of Linguistics and can be found in the eCampus Ontario Library. I encourage you to check it out.

### **Quality of Education**

MacPherson underwent a review process this year to determine how it can best serve the McMaster community. I was unable to attend, but Ikram and Angel the Macademic PTM attend, who I provided my feedback to. We have a number of policy recommendations to MacPherson surrounding increased training and resources for professors and teaching assistants to improve students' educational experience. The outcomes of the review should be published soon.

I have had initial discussion with Macademics about the accessible pedagogy award, which they are going to work to create this year in partnership with Maccess. They seem eager to implement this.

Finally, I had a meeting with the president of McMaster University Faculty Association, Michel Grignon, where we discussed shared priorities. He is hoping to review course evaluation forms, which, in their current format, are not the most useful for students or professors. I will work with the Academic

Affairs Council to collect feedback on course evaluations and welcome any insights that you have.

### **Landlord Rating System**

As mentioned by Shemar in his report, we have been working with Oleg Lights who operates Yomes, an online landlord rating system. Our conversations have been going well and we are connecting with the university to inform them about the system. We are also working to collect 50 reviews before officially launching the system at McMaster. Then, we plan to hold a “Wikithon” event where we invite students to rate their houses and provide food. This will help get reviews for the system and make it a useful tool for students to use when looking for houses.

### **Hamilton Youth Strategy**

The City of Hamilton is creating a 5 year Youth Strategy, which is being developed with extensive engagement of youth from the ages of 14-29. The BOD met with Jesse Williamson in the summer to talk about the strategy. They wanted to come to campus to collect data from students. They set up at the sidewalk sale and then in MUSC one day and got a lot of feedback.

I attended one of the Steering Committee meetings for the strategy. Due to my schedule, it is difficult for me to dedicate the time to going frequently. If you are interested in attending on behalf of the MSU, let me know and I can connect you.

The Strategy should be presented to the new City Council sometime in the new year. We will provide feedback on the draft strategy before then.

### **Consistent Municipal Advocacy**

I have assigned one of my Research Assistants to go through relevant council meeting agendas and alert us when there is something that the MSU should comment or delegate on. Nothing has come up since council was wrapping up for the term.

The Board of Directors met with Mayor Fred Eisenberger in the summer. As well, Ikram and I met with Aidan Johnson in the summer. Because of the election, there were not many opportunities to meet with other sitting councilors. However, we will be reaching out to the new council to set up meetings in December or the new year.

### **MacVotes Election**

The municipal election was on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Education Team was running a strong MacVotes Campaign for the past three weeks. We started with a social media posts during reading week about the MSU’s stances on transit and near campus neighbourhoods. Then, we tabled the week back, handing out buttons, stickers, and rave cards. We informed people about the election and answered any questions they had. I also invited Metrolinx to table separately to provide students with information about the LRT project. Finally, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we tabled from 10:30am to 4pm. We went around to inform students that voting was today, offered to walk students to polls, and provided them with the paperwork they would have to fill out at the polls, which Hamilton’s election department provided to me ahead of time to speed

up the process of students voting. As well, I took over the Instagram story for the day, posting updates throughout the day. Unfortunately, I did not provide external training to volunteers due to time constraints - however, they did an excellent job throughout the month!

Outside of the MacVotes campaign, Ikram, Shemar, and I collectively meet with all 13 of the Ward One candidates. We sat down with each of them to get to know their vision for Ward One and Hamilton and informed them about our priorities. While at times this felt tedious, I saw it to be of great value since it continues to establish the MSU as a major stakeholder in Ward One. As well, it helped us build relationships with those who might be our potential councilor.

The Ward One All-Candidates Debate occurred on October 16<sup>th</sup>. All 13 candidates participated, making us the only ones to have a truly all-candidates debate! (Only 11 showed up to the Cable 14 debate and no other community association held a debate). It was certainly challenging holding a debate with 13 people, though our new format worked incredibly well. Instead of asking general questions, we asked each candidate 2 targeted questions to their campaign, which were prepared by the municipal affairs committee. This allowed us to ask candidates more challenging yet insightful questions. As well, we had a section of the debate where candidates could ask each other questions, which provided some fun debate. We received great feedback from the attendees of the debate about the structure. Several local media sources covered the debate and many local residents attended, demonstrating that we run strong, well planned debates that the city is interested in. Congratulations to Shemar, who did the majority of the planning of the debate for running such a successful event!

The MSU also received a lot of media coverage during the election. We were featured on Cable 14 twice, interviewed for CBC Hamilton, the Spectator, and Raise the Hammer. The Silhouette also did great cover of the municipal election and our campaign!

Maureen Wilson won Ward One Councillor and Fred Eisenberger was reelected as mayor! The night of the election, I went to City Hall where citizens and media were watching the results come in together. I met many of the elected candidates, where I congratulated them and told them the MSU is looking forward to working with them. I received a number of comments from people who said we ran an excellent campaign and they noticed more students voting this election! Overall, I am really excited to work with this new council. I see many new potential allies who will help us advocate for student issues.

We do not have the poll by poll data for Ward One to see if turnout was higher in Ainslie Wood and Westdale. However, voter turnout was up 2% in Ward One! So that is a promising sign. I will update you once this data is released.

### **Revamp Change Camp**

As per my platform, I am looking into re-evaluating the role of Change Camp in the Education Department. While Change Camp has been a great event to bring community members together across Hamilton, each year it is taking up consistently more and more time and resources in terms of the planning. The Office of Community Engagement has been a major partner in planning the event, providing a lot of the human resources necessary to run this event. In conversations with the OCE, they are not able to provide the same level of resources this year. While they are able to financially contribute, they want the majority of the planning portion of the event to be the responsibility of the MSU. To put this into context, last year when I was AVP, I spent the majority of my hours in the summer (May-September) on planning Change Camp. I was also planning it with two people from the OCE who spent even more time planning the conference. If we were to plan it, it would be the AVP Municipal, Advocacy Coordinator, and myself dedicating a large portion of our time to the event. With a number of other priorities, this will not be possible. As well, Change Camp, while a great community engagement event, does not advance the advocacy of the organization, which is our main goal. As a result, I do not believe moving forward with Change Camp this year is the best option for the MSU.

Instead, we are finding new ways to partner with the OCE. The OCE has now been operational for 5 years and is doing a review to see how they can better serve the McMaster and Hamilton community. They are eager for student feedback so we will partner to achieve that. As well, they have connected me to an individual who produced a report about the world of work for millennials and is hoping to host an event on this in January to hear students thoughts on this report. I think this is an interesting opportunity for the MSU to get involved with and I will be follow up on this opportunity.

Another alternative to Change Camp is holding a meet & greet with local politicians and community organizations. This is still a working an idea but this would better connect students to the leaders that represent them and align with our advocacy initiatives. Western does a similar event and it has great success. The Municipal Affairs Committee, Shemar, and I will continue to brainstorm on this idea.

### **Join the Town and Gown Association of Ontario**

This platform point has been achieved! Joining TGAO is free for Student Unions across Ontario. The process of becoming a member was very simple and mostly just signs us up for webinars and newsletters. However, it does demonstrate a commitment on behalf of the organization to improve community relations within Hamilton, which is a symbolic step forwards in our efforts.

### **OUSA Tuition Policy**

As mentioned in my last report, Urszula and I are authors on the OUSA Tuition Paper. I have been co-writing the section on the Tuition Framework Policy with Danny Chang. We have proposed to recommendations for this section:

**Recommendation(a): The provincial government should freeze tuition for all students under the new tuition framework.**

**Recommendation(b): Increases to tuition each year should be capped at the Consumer Price Index for Ontario for all students in post-secondary**

I will be asking the McMaster delegation to vote for Recommendation A, which is in line with our policy stance. This is a reasonable policy ask, which does not dramatically reduce the budgets of universities or require large investments from the provincial government. Instead, it will lead to more predictable tuition fees for students across Ontario.

### **Tuition Advocacy**

I was published in OUSA's annual publication, *Educated Solutions*, with an article titled "Addressing Root Causes: Why International Student Tuition Needs to be Regulated in Ontario." I argued that regulating international tuition fees at the same rate as domestic tuition would attract the top talent across the world, increase the likelihood of students transitioning to become permanent residents, and overall build a stronger economy. This publication is distributed to universities' presidents and vice-presidents as well as to government officials. This is a great start to our advocacy work that will continue during lobby week.

### **OHIP+ for International Students**

I presented at OUSA's Policy Symposium about International Student Healthcare as part of a panel on Safe & Healthy Campus. I received a lot of positive feedback from both people within OUSA as well as others attending the event. Many members of Steering Committee told me that they are very excited for us to lobby on this advocacy priority during lobby week.

### **Building Relationships with MPPs and MPs**

We are beginning to set up meetings with Hamilton MPPs and MPs for first term. This month, I went to Filomena Tasi's nomination event to represent the Liberal Party in the upcoming federal election for the Hamilton-West-Ancaster-Dundas riding. Tasi is the current MP for HWAD and the Minister of Seniors. I had a productive conversation with her after the event and she is excited to meet with us in Hamilton and Ottawa. Additionally, Andrea Horwath, the leader of the NDP and opposition, has agreed to speak at OUSA's General Assembly next month!

### **UCRU Advocacy**

On the federal advocacy front with the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities, I was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the organization! We have expanded the organization by having McGill join as a member school. Currently, we are working on setting up our lobbying week for the first week of December.

## **UCRU Federal Budget Submission**

The UCRU Pre-Budget Submission has been submitted to the federal government! Congratulations to Urszula, Takhliq, and Tereza for writing a great report. It outlines one ask of reallocating tuition tax credits into upfront grants for post-secondary students. This is similar to what the provincial government did in order to achieve “Free Tuition.” Unfortunately, we were not invited to present to the committee. There were over 400 submissions from many high-profile organizations across the country and only a handful were selected to present – none of which represented students. However, I contacted Standing Committee on Finance to ask for feedback. They advised me that next year we should contact individuals on the committee to put our name forward to present. This was a great step forward in UCRU’s advocacy, which will only be strengthened in the coming years.

## **Other updates**

### **Valedictorian**

The valedictorian selection process falls under the VP Education’s portfolio. I have been working with Liam Sykes to remove the 7.0 culminative GPA requirement. There is resistance from the deans who believe that valedictorians should have a degree of academic excellence. One possibility is to change the GPA requirement from being one’s culminative GPA to their GPA in their final year. I am still asking why it is arbitrarily 7.0 and find a solution that works for all parties.

Also, past VP Educations have noted that being in charge of the administrative tasks of the valedictorian selections process takes a significant amount of time. Over time, this no longer seems to fit the VP Education’s portfolio and I am looking to other individuals in the MSU and the university who would be able to assist me in these administrative tasks. While there is value in the MSU being involved in the selection process, it requires review if it needs to be the VP Education and what in what capacity the MSU should be involved.

### **Freedom of Speech**

I have been working with OUSA to present a document outlining OUSA’s stance on Freedom of Speech for discussion and to be voted on at General Assembly. There has been significant resistance from others on the Steering Committee from taking a strong stance against the issue. However, I was still able to have a similar recommendation be put forward as the one the SRA passed at the last meeting. I will continue to fight for OUSA to adopt this stance and keep you updated.

### **Rental Housing Sub-Committee**

This is a municipal subcommittee that the MSU has a voting seat on and which I attend. A Rental Housing Licensing Report was put forward by staff, which made 3 recommendations of a pilot project in Ward 1 and 8:

- To increase education around by-laws
- To create a mandatory landlord registry

- To create a mandatory Licensing program

The Licensing program would charge landlords a licensing fee and require inspections of the units. This is most in line with the MSU's stance and ensures safer housing conditions. Councillor Johnson moved that we move forward this option, and which I voted in favour of. Ultimately, this motion passed. Now, this report will go to the new council with the recommendation from this committee. We will continue to lobby to councilors to vote for this motion to allow the pilot project to move forward.

### **Advocacy Team**

Last year, the Education & Advocacy Department's Operating Policy was revised to add two volunteer Advocacy Executives and a volunteer base (similar to the former Street Team). The two execs have been hired along with 9 Advocacy Ambassadors. We are still looking to recruit more Ambassadors to increase the volunteer base. Overall though, they are doing a fantastic job! Unfortunately, the Advocacy Coordinator has removed themselves from the position and I am rehiring. In the meantime, I am taking on additional planning tasks, which has been a challenge. As well, it may be challenging to transition a new coordinator into the role over half way through the year. However, I am certain whoever is hired will be able to overcome these challenges with me.

Warm regards,  
Stephanie Bertolo  
Vice President (Education)  
[vped@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vped@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## **SAB Space Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee**

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TO:	Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	SAB Space Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee
SUBJECT:	Final Report
DATE:	October 29th, 2018

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Dear Members of the Student Representative Assembly,

A special referendum was held in March of 2017 where students voted in favour of a new fee structure that led to the creation of an expanded Pulse and new Student Activity Building (SAB).

The SAB Space Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee was struck at SRA Meeting 18B to make decisions and gather students input on behalf of full-time undergraduate students as to how the space will be allocated. In 2017, the committee worked to gather students input on recommendations for the overall structure of the building. This year, the committee worked to gather students input from an interior design perspective. This report contains the findings and recommendations of the committee, for your approval.

Sincerely,  
The SAB Space Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee

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## The SAB Space Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee

### Committee Inception

The Space Allocation Ad-Hoc Committee was struck at SRA Meeting 18B to gather student input regarding the design of the Student Activity Building (SAB). This committee was intended to build off of the work from last year's committee. The committee will then make a number of recommendations to the SRA regarding the interior design of the 40,000 square feet of student space.

### Structure

The committee was to be comprised of 7 voting members -- the Associate Vice President Finance (as chair), 3 SRA members, and 3 MSU members. This year also had two additional MSU members sit in on the meetings.

Associate Vice-President: Finance	Alexandrea Johnston
SRA Members	Andrew Bonk Hargun Grewal Menatalla Ibrahim
MSU Members	Jovan Sahi (Voting) Harneet Hothi (Voting) Urszula Sitarz (Voting) Tushar Tejpal (Non-Voting) Nina Vujovic (Non-Voting)

### Operating Procedure

As per the initial operating procedure, available through [msumcmaster.ca/SAB](http://msumcmaster.ca/SAB): The committee shall be struct to solicit and compile information concerning student priorities for the allocation of space in the Student Activity Building. Using pre-existing data, newly obtained student feedback, and stakeholder consultation, the committee shall create a plan for the use of the 40,000 sq/ft of unallocated space within the building and present a plan to the assembly for approval.

Without limiting the generality of the of the foregoing, this committee shall:

Consist of the following voting members

- One (1) chair of the committee who shall be the MSU VP Finance of AVP Finance
- Three (3) SRA members elected by SRA
- Three (3) MSU members elected by the SRA

Include the following official observers

- All SRA members
- All members of the Executive Board
- The Board of Directors of the SRA 18 year

### Intention

- To solicit student ideas and priorities on the space allocation of the Student Activity Building
- To provide a venue in which priorities may be proposed, discussed, and ranked
- To finalize recommendations within the timeframe dictated by the building schedule
- To ensure that students space, and as a result student fees, are being used in a way that will benefit all students
- To keep the assembly informed as the progress of the allocation

### Process

- Meetings shall occur biweekly
- The committee shall have access to a promotions budget

### Timeline and Dissolution:

- Submit a final proposal to the Assembly
- Dissolve upon the completion of their mandate

### **Campaign Structure:**

The SAB Ad-Hoc committee met on a bi-weekly basis to develop a strategy that would successfully gather student opinions on the interior design of the Student Activity Building. A survey was created and shared both online and on campus over the course of 4 weeks. The committee selected areas with high student traffic in order to maximize campaign exposure. Committee members were present at information booths during Clubsfest (September 5th), Homecoming Expo (September 14th), and in the McMaster University Student Centre (September 25th/28th). Coffee vouchers for Union Market were used to incentivize student participation in the survey along with the chance of winning one of five \$100 pre-paid meal plan cards. A Snapchat barcode was created to make access to the survey quick and simple for students. The online strategy consisted of social media posts by committee members that were linked to the survey form. A video was produced and shared on relevant social media pages to provide another means to inform and engage students in the project.

### **Survey Results:**

#### *Summary of Student Outreach:*

Within the four weeks, the survey was open, we gathered 945 responses from full-time undergraduate students. This is a 105% increase in responses from last year's committee. We had a table at the McMaster Homecoming Expo and we connected with approximately 1200 students through handing out information cards. Our video was viewed for a total of 2,854 minutes and reached approximately 5,000 unique viewers. Video stats can be seen below in Figure 1 and Figure 2. Further, through the use of our tabling efforts in MUSC we connected to approximately 150 unique students each day.

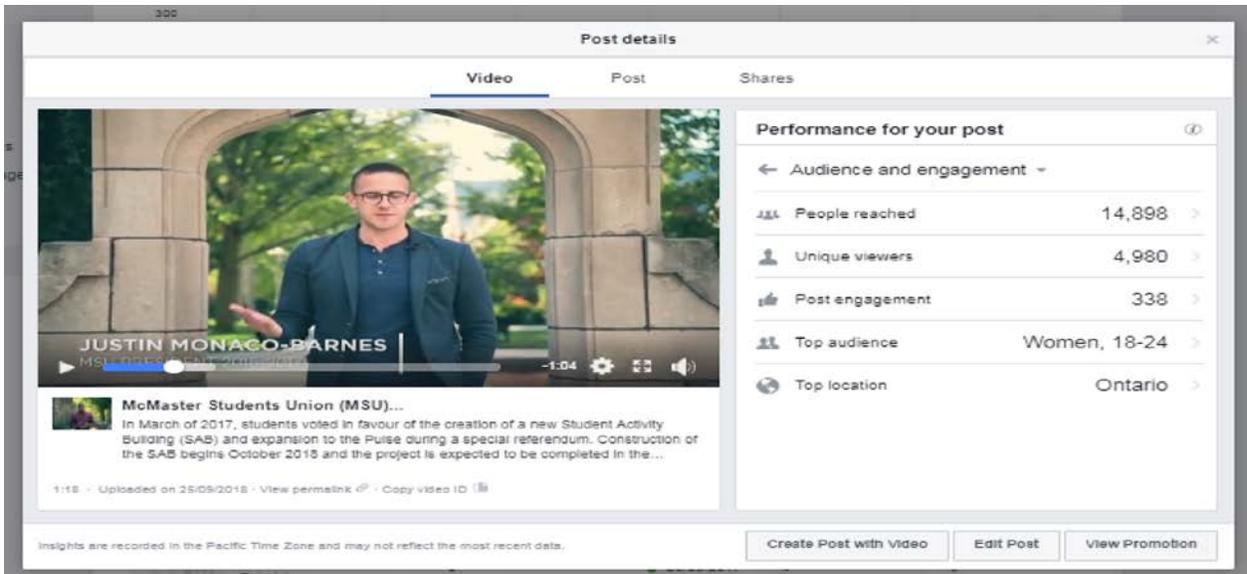


Figure 1: Summary of promo video's performance.

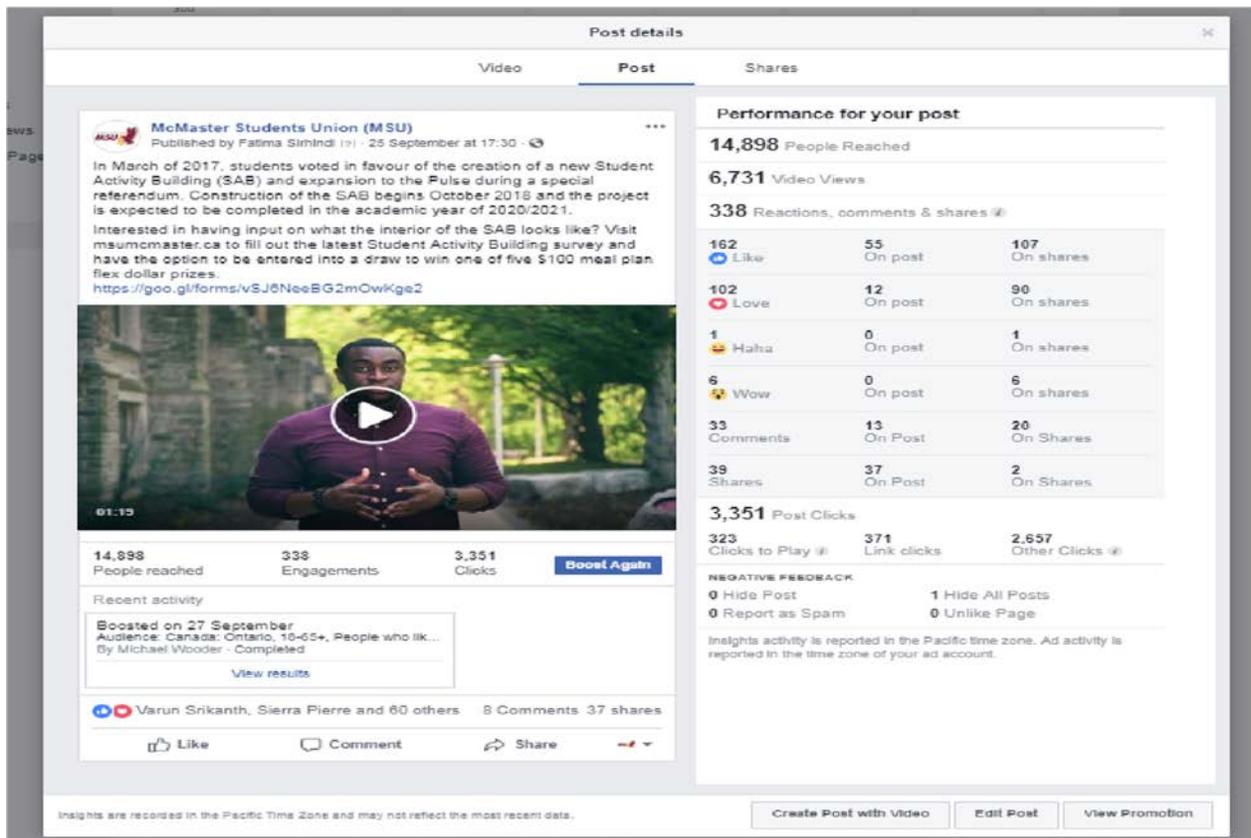
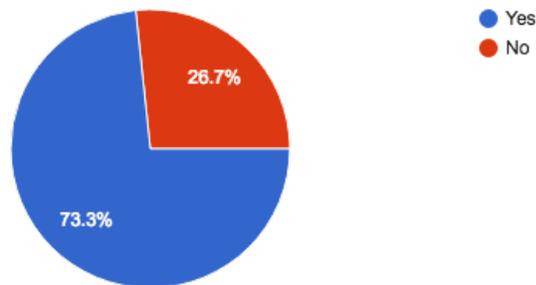


Figure 2: Summary of promo video's outreach.

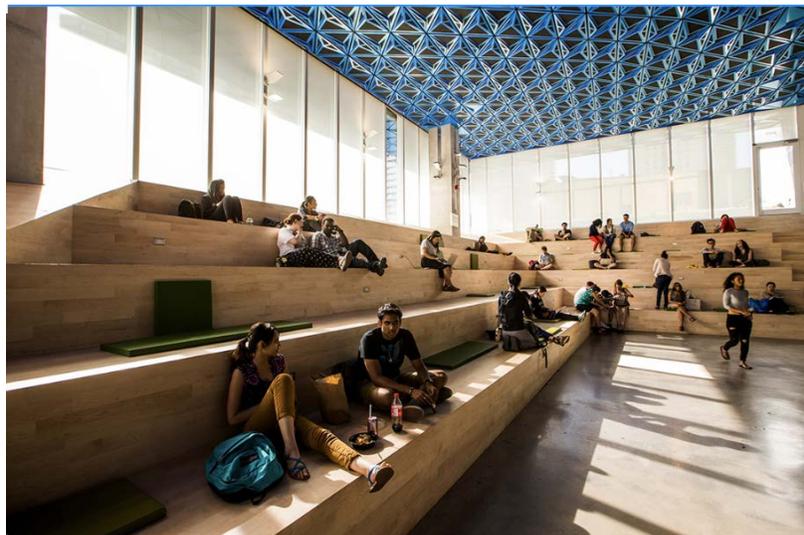
## First Floor Steps

The first floor of the building will have large open steps. Do you think the large open steps should have cushions?

945 responses

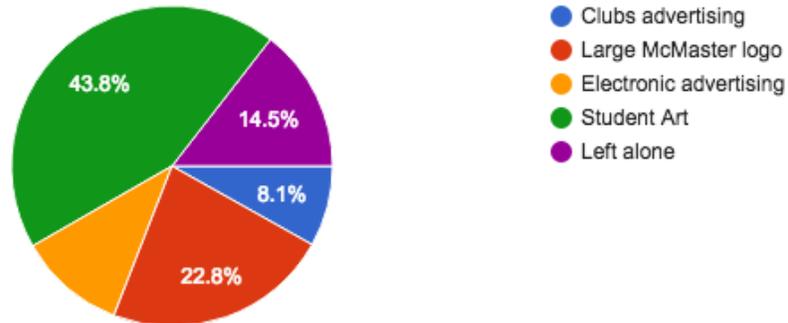


Students were asked if they wanted to have moveable cushions placed on the large open steps on the first floor of the building. The question received 945 responses. From this, a total of 73.3% of respondents (693/945 responses) indicated that they wished to have cushions placed on the steps. As a result, the committee recommends that the SAB has some form of removable cushions students can use on the steps.



## What would you like to see on the exposed black spaces on the image below?

945 responses



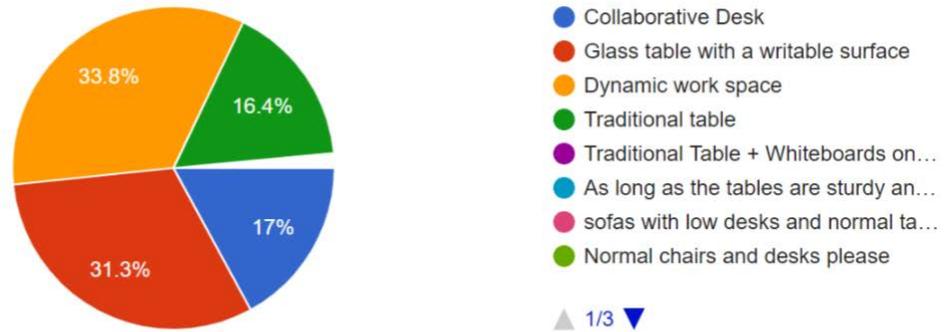
### Exposed Black Spaces

Students were asked what they would like to see on the exposed black spaces on the walls of the Student Activity Building. The question received 945 responses. From this, a total of 43.8% of respondents indicated that they wished to have student art placed on the space. 22.8% of the respondents indicated that they want a large McMaster logo on the space. 14.5% of the respondents indicated that they would like to leave the space alone without anything covering it up. 10.8% of the respondents would like to see electronic advertising on the space. Finally, 8.1% of the respondents said they would like to see the space used for clubs advertising. As a result, the committee recommends that the exposed black spaces are used to showcase students art.



The third floor will have meeting/study rooms. What kind of tables would you like to see in these rooms?

945 responses



### Third Floor Meeting Room

Students were asked what kind of table they would like to see in the meeting/study rooms on the third floor of the building. Students were presented with four options; all four options can be seen below. Of the 945 responses, 33.8% of students wish to see dynamic workspaces within these study rooms whereas 31.3% want glass tables with writable surfaces. As a committee, we recommend the third-floor meetings rooms resemble a dynamic workspace, however, the tables have a glass writable surface.



Option 1: Collaborative work space



Option 2: Glass table with a



Option 3: Dynamic workspace

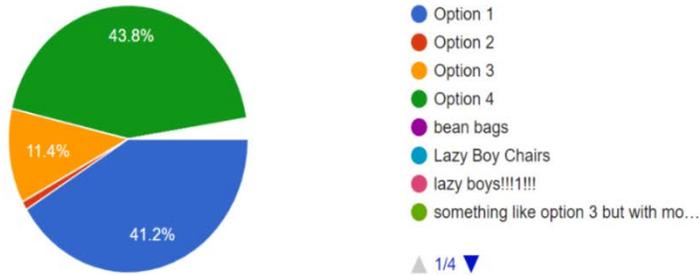


Option 4: Traditional Table

## Fourth Floor Nap Room

The fourth floor of the building will have designated nap room. What kind of nap chairs would you like?

945 responses

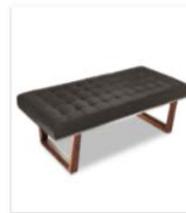


Students were asked which kind of nap chairs they would like to see in the designated nap room on the fourth floor of the building. Of the 945 responses, 43.8% of students wish to see Option 4 as their preferred nap chair while 41.2% of students want Option 1. The white space within the pie chart represents new suggestions that were submitted such as bean bag chairs and reclining armchairs, however, these do not make up a significant portion of the votes. Given the students responses were so close, we as a committee recommend that the nap room should have a combination of nap chairs similar to those in Options 1 and 4.

Option 1



Option 3



Option 2

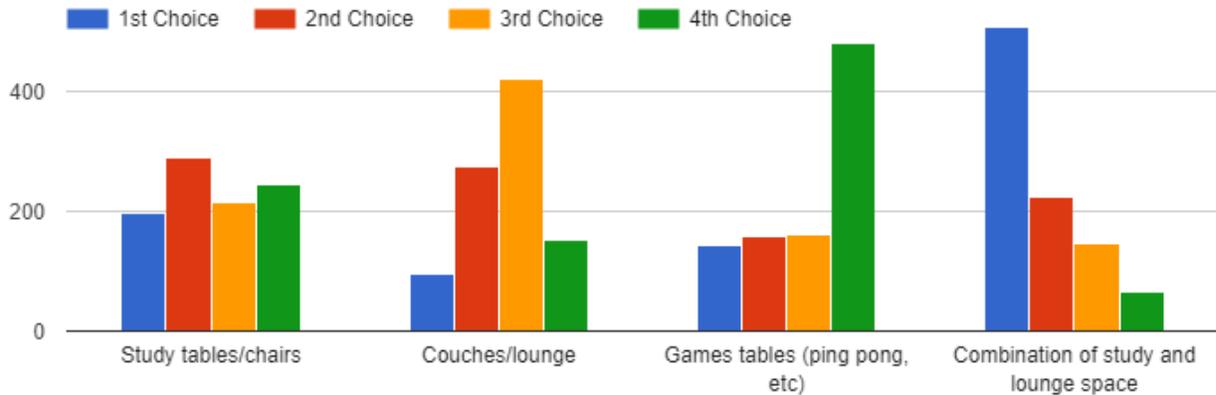


Option 4



## Multi-Purpose Room

The fourth floor will have a large multi-purpose area. How would you like this space to be used?

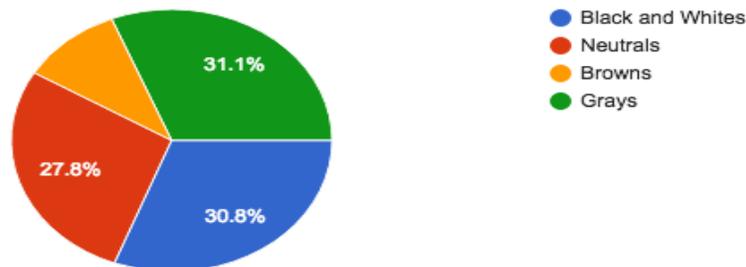


The fourth floor of the new Student Activity Building will be taken up mostly by a multipurpose room. This room has been designed to suit everyday student needs and to function as an event space. In the survey, students were asked about their preferences for the everyday uses of this multipurpose area. The students were provided with four choices: study tables/chairs, couches/lounge, games table, and a combination of study and lounge space. They were asked to rank each option from their first to fourth choice. The survey found that 53.8% of students would like the multipurpose room to have a combination of study and lounge space. The second choice of students was study tables/chairs at 30.5%, followed closely by couches/lounge at 29%. The results of this question support the multipurpose room to be truly multipurpose, both in its daily and occasional functions.

## Colours

What kind of colours would you like to see in the building?

945 responses



Students were provided with four colour palettes and asked which they would like to see within the Student Activity Building. The colour palettes, each containing 15 individual shades, were grays, browns, neutrals, and black and white. The students' votes were 31.1% for grays, 27.8% for neutrals, 30.8% for black and white and 10.3% for browns. These results show an approximately equal preference among the three muted palettes with a slight preference against the brown palette. As a committee, we do not have a formal recommendation other than traditional light colours, as suggested by the students. In other suggestions, many students asked for natural colours/light colours over dark colours.

Black and Whites



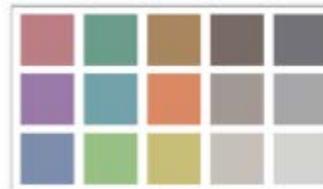
Browns



Neutrals



Grays



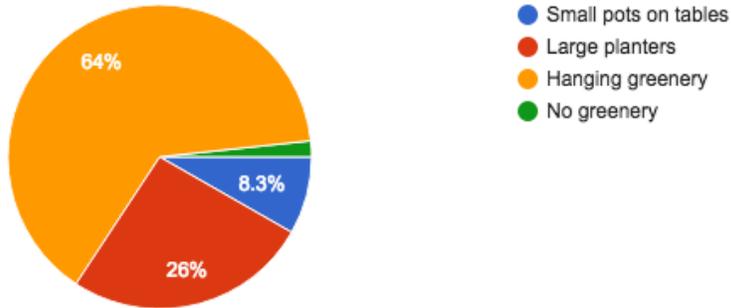
### Greenery

The committee provided students with options for the type of greenery that will be included throughout the SAB. The three options were small pots on tables, large planters, and hanging greenery. With 64% of the votes, hanging greenery proved to be the students' top choice for greenery. Large planters had 26% of the votes and small pots on tables 8.3%. Our results show not only a large preference for hanging greenery but also a clear interest in the presence of

greenery in the SAB, as the no greenery option only got 1.7% of the votes.

### What kinds of greenery would you like to see in the building?

945 responses



Small pots on tables



Large planters

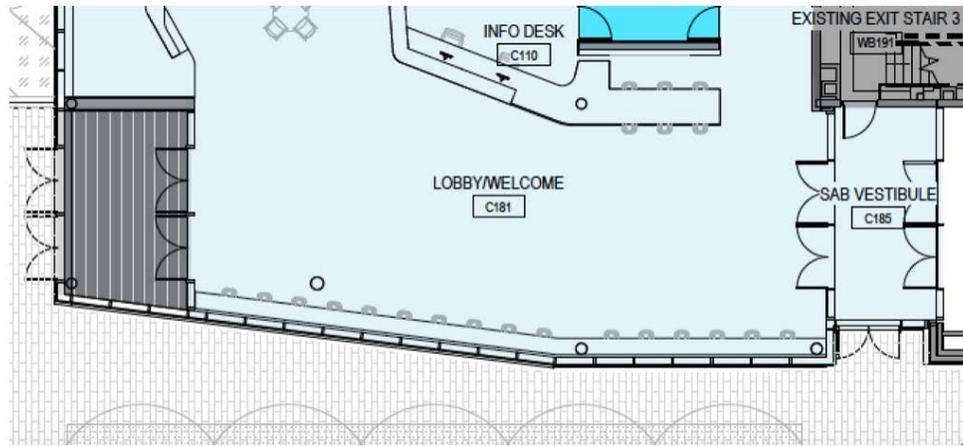


Hanging greenery



## First Floor Lobby

Do you have any suggestions for what you would like to see in the first floor lounge area?



Short answer text

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Of the 945 survey responses, 542 of the respondents indicated other alternative suggestions on how the space on the First Floor Lounge Area should be allocated. A total of 58 responses were considered to be invalid, resulting in a final total of 484 responses. The responses were then sorted into 6 major themes. A total of 20% (97/484) of the respondents indicated that they wished to see a Cafe/Restaurant be allocated to the space. A total of 30% (143/484) of the respondents indicated that they wished to see the space be allocated with comfortable sitting/study spaces. Other common themes included a Greenery/Plant Wall space (8.1%), Charging Stations (6.6%), Gaming Tables/Multimedia Entertainment (5.6%), as well as a Waterfall/Water Fountain (7.0%). Given the second floor of the building will have a grocery store, we do not recommend a cafe, however, we do recommend the space is functional for both studying and socializing. To do this, we think open tables/chairs is the best solution.

## Building Name

"Student Activity Building" was a temporary name given to the original campaign. What would be your suggestion for the building's title?

Short answer text

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The title, “Student Activity Building” was a temporary name given to the original campaign. Thus, in the form of an optional short answer question, students were asked for suggestions for possible titles to give this building. Subsequently, this question received 360 responses. From these responses, 8.61% of the suggestions indicated keeping the current title of the building. However, these suggestions also included modifications such as “Student Activity and Study Base” and “McMaster Student Activity Building.” Another common theme amongst the suggestions was to name the building after a notable figure whether that be a McMaster alumnus or a woman who has made a significant impact in their respective fields, for example, the “Roberta Bondar/Donna Strickland Building”. Recurring answers also included “the hub (21),” “homebase (2)”, and names that incorporated the word activity (35) such as “Activity Center for Excellence”, “Student Life Activities Center” and “Active Learning Center.” Incorporating the word “student” (84) into many of the names other than “Student Activity Building” was also another recurring theme. “Student Life Building”, “Student Care Center” and “Student Community Center” are examples of this. As a committee, we do not have a formal recommendation for the building name, we believe further investigation and consultation is required. We believe this task is better suited for the specific SAB naming committee, the top three names will be sent to a student vote and we believe this will be the most effective way at choosing a final name.

## General Building Suggestions

### Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for the building?

Long answer text

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- 39 students asked for increased study designated areas whether it is private, group, or public. The suggestions were as follows:
  - They asked the rooms to be for everyone, not faculty specific.
  - Also, to be soundproof, have comfortable seating and many power outlets and to be used by first come, first serve concept.
- 29 students asked for food places and revolved around being cost-efficient, address the diversity of food restrictions, healthy and taste good.
- 8 students asked for more nap space extension to the 10 spots in MUSC.
- 19 inputs suggested more greenery.
  - The ideas were centralized around natural light, colors, balconies, etc.
- 16 students asked to provide plenty of power and USB outlets around the building and many in lecture rooms.
- 13 students incorporated water in their suggestions.
  - Examples were waterfalls, water fountains, many water filling stations, and free hot water to make drinks for students.
- 3 students asked for soundproof rooms. especially for napping and study rooms.
- 12 students emphasized better accessibility generally for this building.
  - One specific example was not putting ramps only on the sides.

- 11 students asked for large windows looking over to the sky, greeneries, or just for natural light.
- 10 students asked for game tables like residences for off-campus students.
- 10 students' ideas were around building a relaxing theme throughout the building and destressing ideas such as swings, a wall with a big fidget or writing thoughts out and has a modern style another 4 suggested that walk-in activities like yoga or puzzle would be an assist.
- 7 students suggested lounges generally and for off-campus students specifically.
- 6 students asked for movie theaters/screening rooms.
- 6 students about having better washrooms that can accommodate more than one-person gender-specific, and gender-neutral washrooms, full-length mirrors, good air ventilation to smell clean, and to be close to the prayer room.
- 5 students suggested opening it for 24/7 building or at least the study spaces. 5 students want public music rooms/pianos.
- 5 students asked to be sustainable and energy-efficiency.
- 4 students want a full Tim Hortons.
- 4 inputs asked for dance studios and big rooms for other teams that require a big private space.
- 2 students asked for better Wi-Fi services.
- 3 students asked for whiteboard walls with markers to study/brainstorm.
- 3 students asked for bicycle racks that are well spaced with good light to keep the space safe.
- 2 students asked to keep peer support services separated as they serve different causes and to stay in MUSC to be easily reached.
- There were many interesting single ideas such as calling the nap room "Marauders' Nest" and calling the multi-faith room "A house of Prayer for All Nations", creating bus routes close to the building, designated areas for club promotions and team recognition, a garden/greenhouse open for public student use with provided materials, big clock wall, a cornerstone dedicated to students and to have interfaculty representation.

## Appendix A: Additional Name Suggestions

1. MUSC 2.0
2. Student Living Building
3. Student multipurpose center
4. MacSpace
5. The McFuture
6. Student Lounge
7. MACTivity Student Center
8. Student Life Building
9. Student Center 2.0
10. McMaster Center for Excellence
11. Peter George Center for Learning and Living
12. Community Enrichment Building
13. The Bondar Building
14. McMaster Activities Center
15. Marauder's Nest
16. Student Recreation Center
17. Marauder Mainstay
18. The Hub
19. Marauder Home Base
20. Student Continuous Improvement Building
21. Mac Live
22. Marauder
23. McLounge Space
24. The Roberta Bondar Center for Excellence
25. Activity Centre for Excellence
26. Master Zone
27. McMaster Recreation Centre
28. Architecture McMastered
29. McMaster Student Zone
30. MAQ- McMaster Activity Quarters
31. General Vivacity Centre
32. Student Activity Hall
33. Strive for Success Structure
34. Student Learning Centre
35. Student Unity Project (SUP)
36. Student Enjoyment Centre
37. McMaster Community Building (MCB)
38. Centre for Student Expansion & Life (CeSEL)
39. Student Space
40. McMaster Rec and Leisure
41. Creators Space
42. Living and Learning Centre
43. McMaster Centre for Student Engagement
44. Student rejuvenation center/building

45. Mac-tivity Lounge
46. The Rec building
47. Active learning building
48. MacSpace
49. Mac Pad
50. Multi Purpose Community Centre (MPCC)
51. Marauders Activity Center (MAC)
52. The Marauder
53. Marauder HQ
54. McMaster Student Hall
55. Student Living and Activities Centre
56. Student Success Building
57. McMaster Student's Place
58. Marauder Zone
59. Mac Centre Building (MCB)
60. Patrick Deane Activity Centre
61. Interdisciplinary student building
62. The Nest
63. Eugene Levy Activity Building
64. DBAC 2
65. Student Life Building (SLB)
66. McMaster Student Collaboration Centre
67. Student Lounge and Activity Building (SLAB)
68. McMaster Action Centre (MAC)
69. Student Multi-purpose Complex
70. SLAC (Student Life Activities Centre)
71. The Student Shack
72. The Commons
73. Student base
74. Marauders center for living
75. Chill zone
76. Student Care Centre (SCC)
77. Student Community Centre
78. The Mosaic Building
79. McMaster Legacy Centre
80. The Excel Centre
81. The Solarium
82. Marauder Corner
83. MARS (McMaster's Area for Relaxation and Study)
84. Residence-Recreation-Study (RRS) Building
85. McMaster University Student Activity Building (MUSAB)
86. Mac Hive
87. McMaster Fitness and Wellness Center
88. Rec Facility
89. The Student Space
90. McMaster University Student Activity Centre (MUSAC)

91. Student Union Building
92. Student Socializing Centre
93. McMaster Center of Student Recreation
94. Student Activity & Leisure Complex (SALC) or Student Leisure and Activity Building (SLAAB/ SLAB)
95. Marauder Community Hall
96. The Think Tank
97. H.O.M.E (Helping Oppourtunity Magnify Experience)
98. The Garden
99. Marauder Life
100. McMaster Community Plaza/Centre/Square
101. Student city center
102. Student Residential Learning Complex
103. Mactivity / MACTivity Centre
104. Marauders Mansion
105. Student activity quarters
106. The maroon room
107. Student Activity Building
108. Study, Health and Accommodation Centre (SHAC)
109. McMaster Productivity Centre
110. University Place
111. Student wholeness building
112. The Marauder's Den
113. McMaster student engagement building MSEB
114. Jacob Makris building
115. Student Learning Building
116. Relaxations station
117. McMaster Integrated Student Life Building
118. Magic Mac Lounge
119. Student Activity and Study Base (SASB)
120. Clubhouse
121. Collaborative Activity Centre
122. Marauders Crossing
123. MSU House
124. Marauders' Multispace
125. Machill Spot
126. The McMaster Den
127. Marauder Square
128. Mary Henderson Building
129. The Welcome Building
130. A name formed through consultation with Indigenous leaders to speak to the fact that McMaster is built on traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and neutral peoples
131. Centre of Open Thinking and Engagement for Students (COOTES)
132. Union Square
133. Marauders Meeting Place

- 134. The Bulb - for bright ideas
- 135. Mac Station
- 136. Cultivating Brighter Minds Building (CBMB)
- 137. Maroon & Grey Pride Building (MGPB)
- 138. McMaster Activation Place (MAP)



# REPORT

From the...

## Interfaith Council



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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly

FROM: Josh Arbess, SRA Observer on the Interfaith Council

SUBJECT: Interfaith Council Report and General Updates

DATE: October 28th, 2018

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### INTRO AND BACKGROUND

The Interfaith Council was given an updated operating policy at SRA Meeting 170 this past February. This year, the council has held a number of meetings, planned some preliminary events, and has begun to generate dialogue between various religious, cultural, spiritual and Indigenous groups on campus.

### MEETINGS SUMMARY

The Interfaith Council has held two meetings so far, both with solid attendance. The first meeting of the year was held on August 30th. At this meeting, the council reviewed its operating policy and general obligations, ran some icebreakers for everyone to meet each other, and brainstormed ideas for an Interfaith Council event in the mid-late autumn. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this meeting due to my summer leave of absence, however it supposedly had a high degree of attendance and was enjoyed by all.

The second meeting this year was held on October 15th. At this meeting, representatives from the Hindu Students Association, Hillel (Jewish Students Association), CISSA (Cooperative of Indigenous Studies Students and Alumni), COCA (Christian Orthodox Campus-Ministry Association), and Power to Change were present, along with Andy Crowell, McMaster University's Ecumenical Chaplain. At this meeting, the council continued to brainstorm ideas for joint events, and each representative had a turn to update and invite the others on the upcoming events and initiatives within their clubs.

Interfaith Council meetings are run by Mijia Murong, the director of MSU Diversity Services, and Maxwell Lightstone, a community member and graduate student at McMaster. The next meeting is scheduled for the first week of November (exact date/time to be determined).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

At both meetings, the council expressed interest in becoming more involved in Student Activity Building consultation, specifically with respect to prayer spaces and other religious facilities. It is recommended that those who are on the SAB Ad-Hoc committee approach the Interfaith Council for consultation on designing these areas of the building.

At the October 15th meeting, the Interfaith Council discussed potential action on the Quebec religious symbols law, which would heavily restrict outward displays of religion if passed. Action

on the issue was postponed for the time being, until the legislation progresses further. If it does, a statement will likely be released by the council and further discussion will ensue.

As mentioned previously, the Interfaith Council has floated many ideas for independent events open to all (i.e. not tied to any particular group on the council). A cultural art exhibit and/or coffeehouse seemed to be very popular event ideas. More details on this (and invites!) will come soon. As with any MSU service or initiative, it would be great if the SRA Facebook pages and MSU general social media could share any future Diversity Services posts when requested by either a member of the council, myself, or Mijia.

Also at the October 15th meeting, the council expressed interest in asking McMaster University to re-evaluate their smudging protocol, allowing all religious, cultural, spiritual and Indigenous groups to use fire for ceremonial/religious purposes within reason.

### **CONCLUSION**

The council would love to hear from the SRA and the entire student body, so if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please reach out to either myself or Mijia Murong (diversity@msu.mcmaster.ca).

Best,



Josh Arbess  
SRA Engineering - McMaster Students Union  
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