



AGENDA - SRA 18J
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
Sunday, November 11, 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 18G, 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 Solar Car | Justin Han, Jesse Wang, Jackson Brown, Milan Dave |
| 2. Engineers Without Borders | Mohammed Haque, Sa'ida Shdaifat, Alexii Hernandez, Francesco Vito |

REPORTS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Health Sciences Caucus | Roshan |
| 2. Humanities Caucus | Grewal |
| 3. Kinesiology Caucus | Emmanuel |
| 4. Provincial & Federal Affairs Committee | Urszula Sitarz |
| 5. Finance Committee | Alex Johnson |
| 6. Executive Board | Roshan |
| 7. President | Farah |
| 8. SRA October By-Election | Uwais Patel, Emily Yang |

BUSINESS

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Committee of the Whole – McMaster Solar Car | Robinson |
| 2. Committee of the Whole – Engineers Without Borders | Robinson |
| 3. Open one (1) SRA seat on Executive Board | Robinson |
| 4. Close one (1) SRA seat on Executive Board | Robinson |
| 5. Open SRA Seats on Awards Committees | Robinson |
| 6. Open MSU Seats on Awards Committees | Robinson |
| 7. Close SRA Seats on Awards Committees | Robinson |

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 6. | Close MSU Seats on Awards Committees | Robinson |
| 7. | Open one (1) MSU Seat on Elections Committee | Robinson |
| 8. | Close one (1) MSU Seat on Elections Committee | Robinson |

MOTIONS

1. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on Executive Board.
2. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on Executive Board.
3. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly open nominations for SRA members to the following award committees:
 - Honour M (1)
 - MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
 - J. Lynn Watson (1)
 - MSU Spirit (1)
4. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly open nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:
 - Honour M (1)
 - Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence(1)
 - MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
 - J. Lynn Watson (1)
 - MSU Spirit (1)
5. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly close nominations for SRA members to the following award committees:
 - Honour M (1)
 - MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
 - J. Lynn Watson (1)
 - MSU Spirit (1)
6. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:
 - Honour M (1)
 - Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence(1)
 - MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
 - J. Lynn Watson (1)
 - MSU Spirit (1)
7. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly open one (1) MSU seat on Elections Committee
8. **Moved** by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly close one (1) MSU seat on Elections Committee



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

Present	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Bertolo, Dominquez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Espiritu, Gandzi, Irfan, Isah, Kumaran, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Roshan, Saliccioli, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Warwani
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Hackett, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Villasis
Late	Bishara, Bonk, Grewal, Ibrahim, Robinson
Others Present:	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)
Chair	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

Present	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
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Hackett, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Villasis
Late	Bishara
Others Present:	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)
Chair	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

Present	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
Absent Excused	
Absent	Hackett, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Villasis
Late	Bishara
Others Present	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)
Chair	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 the...

Health Sciences Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Devin Roshan, SRA Health Sciences
SUBJECT: SRA 18J Report
DATE: November 11th, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Since our last meeting we have made quite a lot of progress on our year plan. We have solidified a timeline on Health Sciences Library (HSL) renovations which will aim to expand student study space. At our meeting in October with Jennifer McKinnell, we were told that renovations have been approved for the summer of 2018-2019. We have since began looking into creating a survey that aims to address whether extending Saturday hours would be beneficial to the community. With the director of HSL, we have identified that redistributing hours from Sunday to Saturday would be a feasible solution. The survey has been vetted by Michael Wooder and then by the Director of HSL. To ensure participation, the survey will be incentivized by advertising that folks will be in a draw to win a \$25 campus store gift card—provided by the Marketing department of the MSU—and through hosting an event, which requires completion of the survey to receive the goods.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Our caucus hosted an event in the Health Science lounge on October 2nd. The event titled, “SRA Health Sci Coffee & Cookies: Feedback on Anti-disruption Guidelines” yielded a high attendance and folks often came in passing for cookies and were able to share their perspectives on the guidelines. It was also an opportunities to make students aware of the guidelines and for them to formulate a stance. We formally recorded student feedback and forwarded the document to the MSU president.

We’ve started connecting with the Bachelor of Health Sciences office, specifically the Student Liaison, to plan and promote the alumni event—Life After BHSc—that will be held on November 14th and 22nd. Our role includes but is not limited to, planning logistics, promotion via social media networks, and attending the event. The partnership with the Student Liaison has also yielded productive conversations around the creation of a podcast in collaboration with CMFU. The podcast will provide a space and medium for folks from the BHSc to have important discussions around topics that affect our community (e.g. toxic competition in student elections).

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

An upcoming event we have is meeting the BHSS and SRA. This event requires further attention as we're looking for more commitment from the BHSS chair to assist us in the organization. In addition, we're hoping to release the survey to students shortly, along with a gift card incentive. Another upcoming event that we mentioned in the pizza and parlor event, where students will have the incentive of completing our HSL survey. We have also been asked by our faculty society to be included in their updated executive photo, so it seems our involvement is being recognized. In December, we will begin to create a booklet that showcases BHSc students involved in various MSU services. We may alter this into a social media campaign and include testimonials of BHSc student experiences with MSU services as a way to better support students interested in various services. We will have a photo of them taken professionally, and they will be an MSU mentor, and students can shoot them messages to ask about the service and how to get involved. This project is still being fully conceptualized and I welcome any ideas the assembly may have.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

N/A

SUCSESSES

Confirming HSL renovations were exciting and demonstrated to us the importance of advocacy in positions of power, even when systems operate on their own jurisdictions. We found that regularly contributing to our faculty society's discussions and also attending their weekly meetings as an official observer to be particularly important. After the BHSS election spectacle we were able to share our experiences with the MSU elections system, with the aim that they will create more explicit rules. We hope to maintain this great connection with our faculty society.

OTHER

N/A

Yours truly,



Devin Roshan
SRA Health Sciences Caucus Leader 18-19'
McMaster Students Union
roshand@mcmaster.ca
srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

Humanities Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Hargun Grewal, SRA Humanities
SUBJECT: SRA 18J Report
DATE: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

One of our goals was to increase awareness on degree options and specializations available to first year Humanities students which was why we ran an information booth event at the beginning of October. The purpose of the event was to connect the SRA Humanities caucus with students and address any concerns they may have. We advertised it as an information booth event where first year students could ask any questions about specializations they may have as well as more information on how to get involved. Our caucus also wanted to focus on strengthening relations between the McMaster Humanities Society and the SRA which is why we decided to ask them if we could host our office hours in their space. This initiative is aimed to improve collaboration amongst both groups to create a stronger sense of community in the Faculty of Humanities.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Two steps out of our three-step project of increasing awareness on degree options and specializations available to first year Humanities students have successfully been completed. On track with our year plan, we ran an information booth event at the beginning of November that would allow first year humanities students the opportunity to ask any questions they may have had regarding specializations. Not only was it open to first year humanities students but this was an event where any student was given the chance to meet and get to know their SRA Representatives, ask what we have planned for the year, share things they would like to see, and inquire on how to get involved within the McMaster community. We are hoping to have the third step of leaflets in faculty bags take place next welcome week. In addition to our first event, at our information booth we also addressed the concerns students had about the "Freedom of Expression, Protest and Dissent: Guidance For Event Organizers and Participants" the University Administration set forth earlier on in the year. We ran the event to gather student feedback, questions, and concerns regarding the guidelines. We used free coffee and Timbits to incentivize students to visit our booth. This portion of the event was successful as we had a lot of students come by and give their insight on the guidelines. Our caucus also started running our weekly office hours at the beginning of October in the McMaster Humanities Society (MHS) Office. We believe that running our office hours within the MHS office would emphasize a central place where Humanities students can find their representatives and ask any questions or give any feedback that they may have.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

One of our upcoming projects is aimed at increasing our social media presence and in order to do this we will be conducting a giveaway of 2 free MSU Charity Ball tickets. We feel that this giveaway will be a great way for students to interact with our social media accounts and get to learn more about SRA Humanities.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

One of our current challenges have been getting Humanities and Social Science students access to the arts student space in L.R. Wilson. We know that a code already exists but many students do not know of it, we are currently working with SRA Social Science to get our faculties to send out an email with the code to all students within the faculty and not just certain programs.

OTHER

Please feel free to reach out to our caucus with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have, we would love to hear your suggestions.

All the best,

Hargun Grewal
SRA Humanities Caucus Leader
McMaster Students Union
srahuman@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

Kinesiology Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ushwin Emmanuel, Caucus Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 18J Report
DATE: November 11th, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Dear Assembly,

I hope that with the last few weeks of midterm season you are all doing well in your respective courses and programs! I am excited to introduce to you all my new caucus member and close friend David Benzon. David is no new face to the MSU having served with me on the MSU Maroons for the past 3 years. He is, although, excited to join the governance aspect of our organization and learn from the entire Assembly. Now that there are two of us, we hope to kick into high gear and strive towards achieving our platform points within the coming year. David and I have conversed and talked about which platform points we both have been voted on and how we plan to integrate them in the coming year.

Objective #1: Bring OER's to Kinesiology Programs

In conjunction with the Science Caucus I was invited to speak with the Dean of Science Dr. Maureen Macdonald. During the conversation of OER's I made sure to advocate on behalf of Kinesiology students to make sure that we would be included in this plan.

Objective #2: Student space for Kinesiology Students

With this being our primary priority I have already consulted with the VP finance and the Kinesiology Society to construct a google form to gain constituent feedback on their views of a Kinesiology Lounge. During a cookies and coffee event that I hosted for the By-Election outreach, I launched a small pilot of the google form to see the feedback and efficacy of the form. Within in the 2 hour event I received 36 individual responses. Fortunately, there were no negative reviews of the form and we hope to now form a strategic plan of action to get the maximum constituent feedback.

Objective #5: Update social media and increase constituent exposure.

With the lack of success of regaining access to the twitter account David and I discussed that making an Instagram account would be more effective as many of our

constituents are more active on Instagram than twitter and having two twitter accounts would be confusing to constituents.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

During the By-Election I hosted a Cookies and Coffee Cheat day event for Kinesiology Students in the foyer of IWC so that I would get more outreach about the open spot on Kinesiology Caucus. It was a huge success as there were 4 people who ended up running for the one seat and with a voter turnout of about 40 percent. The event was also promoted on the Mac Kin Facebook page as well as their Instagram so that there would be more exposure to the By Election.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

With the google form being finalized we hope to run an event similar to the cookies and coffee event to get more outreach and constituent engagement. We also want to meet with professors to ask if it was possible for them to post the link to the google form on avenue so that we may be able to get even more outreach and engagement. As per one of David's platform point during the by-election, we have tabled the potential initiative of developing a Mac Kin Alumni Mentorship Program to the Kin Society. They are fully on board and have provided us with resourceful contacts we aim to consult with in the coming weeks.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

At this moment there does not seem to be many challenges as I now have a reliable and amazing caucus member, that I can depend on with full confidence.

VOLUNTEERS (Standing Committees only)

The finance committee has been working on the SLEF initiative with some great ideas coming in! We have also been reviewing the finances of other services outside of the MSU that get funding from us, for example, the Marching Band, OPIRG, and Incite. David has still yet to join a Standing Committee, but he is super excited to be a part of one!

SUCSESSES

With the past by election we were extremely pleased with the engagement that this election received with a 39.4% voter turnout. Going forward, we hope to sustain this level of engagement and increase it. This election has given SRA Kinesiology good outreach and we hope that constituents continue to stay involved in the conversations that we are having. We continue to be fully engaged with the Kin Society through their weekly meetings.

Sincerely,

Ushwin Emmanuel
SRA Kinesiology Caucus Leader
McMaster Students Union
srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 18J Report
DATE: Submitted November 7, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

OUSA Tuition Policy and OUSA Fall General Assembly

I completed the OUSA tuition policy this weekend at the Fall General Assembly. The MSU put forth excellent arguments and a fantastic delegation, I couldn't be more proud. The tuition policy has turned out very well. My sections were not that contentious, which is great, and I was able to make it even stronger because of the feedback the Assembly provided. Our weekend at McMaster for the Fall GA was overall quite successful. The MSU was very strong and we got what we wanted in the end. I am looking forward to the next general assembly in March at the University of Waterloo.

Experiential Education at McMaster

The Provincial & Federal Affairs committee has been hard at work completing a comprehensive report on experiential education at McMaster. We have passed the second of three checkpoints for the report which should be completed at the end of the term. This is in preparation for the OUSA Experiential Education Campaign that will be held in second term.

MSU Policy Writing

I helped author the MSU Tuition policy this term. I am excited to receive feedback at Policy Conference on Saturday, November 10 and then see it pass at the SRA meeting after this one!

Student Perceptions of Data Collection

The PFA committee is currently promoting the survey to accompany this project. We require help with promotion as I have expressed through both the facebook group and facebook group chat. The results of the survey will be analyzed and written into a report during second term.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

OUSA General Assembly

In preparation for the Fall 2018 general assembly, I helped promote, hire, train, and attend the assembly this past weekend. As mentioned, the MSU got what we wanted for the most

part! We will be advocating for a tuition freeze until fair funding proportions have been restored.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Student Perceptions of Data Collection

Please help us promote the survey! It would be very helpful if your SRA pages could promote the survey and if you can all fill it out individually. We will keep the survey open until mid-November (unless we have to extend it) and begin to analyze the results once it has been completed. The committee will then take the data and turn it into a report.

UCRU Lobbying Week

Steph, Ikram, and I are going to Ottawa at the beginning of December for federal lobbying week! We'll be lobbying on several different priorities, including the reallocation of tax credits to upfront grants.

Policy Conference/MSU Policy Writing

Policy Conference is on Saturday, the day before this SRA meeting. We will be receiving feedback from all of you and incorporating it into the policy. I will be in the Tuition Paper room all day, collecting feedback with Tereza the research assistant in charge of that policy. A lot of PFA members are also policy authors and I'm excited to see them continue to improve their sections based on your feedback.

Experiential Education

PFA is currently in the process of finishing their sections for the experiential education at McMaster report. This report will provide us with a comprehensive understanding of where we are exceling and what gaps need to be filled to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality and affordable experiential opportunity during their time at McMaster. This report will also be connected to the OUSA campaign that we will run at McMaster in second term. We will use the data and information to tailor the campaign to McMaster and communicate to our students the impact that provincial advocacy on the issue can have on our campus.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Things are smooth sailing at the moment.

VOLUNTEERS (Commissioners only)

The committee has been incredible. The quality of their work has made my job of revision and guidance very easy and I'm so excited to see the final product of the experiential education report. They've also done a great job of promoting the data collection survey and being engaged with the committee and the Education Team as a whole.

SUCCESESSES

Our VP Education Stephanie has done a fantastic job at leading the MSU's advocacy efforts this year. She was a true champion at OUSA General Assembly over the weekend and I could not be happier with her. Steph's dedication to us and our students is inspirational and grounding. I wouldn't have been able to get through General Assembly, or this term, without her. Please show her gratitude for working so hard and fighting the good fights.

OTHER

Please promote the Student Perceptions of Data Collection survey through your SRA pages, personal pages, to your friends, and in your classes!!! The results of our survey will influence our provincial advocacy but only if we get enough responses! If you have questions, please let me know. Also, please complete the survey as individuals!!!

Best,

Urszula Sitarz
AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs
McMaster Students Union
avprovfed@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...
Associate VP Finance

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Alexandra Johnston, Associate VP Finance
SUBJECT: SRA 17J Report
DATE: November 7, 2018

Dear members of the SRA,

Below you'll find an outline of what the Finance Committee has been working on thus far and updates on my overall year plan. I look forward to any questions you might have.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN:

The Finance Committee has been off to a busy start this year. We have been meeting regularly since the second week of September and our meetings are every Wednesday morning at 9am. Our two large focuses for Term 1 have been SLEF idea submission promotion and non-MSU services review. We have been maximizing our hour-long meetings to get everything accomplished.

We created a SLEF timeline in the end of September and began to have graphics and promotional materials created. We collaborated with the Underground to create a pull up banner, rave cards with a snapchat code, and online promotional materials. The online promotion was displayed in the various screens in MUSC (including the large SLEF one!) and posters were posted around MUSC and within the Arts Quad. We began online promotion on October 18th where we shared a graphic on our personal pages, the MSU page and encouraged all SRA pages to share on their pages. We had a table in Thode on Thursday October 25^h where we had brownies and hot chocolate and encouraged students to submit ideas. This worked really well, and students were really engaged and willingly took rave cards. We also had a table in MUSC on October 30th where we spent the day encouraging students to submit their ideas. We had a second table in Thode with hot chocolate and brownies on Thursday November 1st and a second MUSC table on Monday November 5th. There will be an Instagram takeover of the McMasterU account on November 6th which we hope acts as a final push before idea submission closes on the 7th. We have learned a lot from this campaign as a committee and will make adjustments from what we've learned during SLEF voting period in January.

The Finance Committee has also been making good progress on the non-MSU services review. We have completed assessments on the McMaster Marching Band, Engineers Without Borders and McMaster Solar Car. These three services have impressed the committee with their prompt responses and eagerness to work with us. We have Incite Magazine and OPRIG outstanding which will both be reviewed in the coming weeks and will be presenting on the 25th of November. Following their presentations, we will be able to mark that as complete on our year plan.

Now that SLEF ideas submissions has wrapped up, we will begin to work on our other year plan tasks and create action plans for these to be completed in the new year. We are making good progress on our year plan thus far and the committee has been excellent in providing input and ideas!

Apart from the Finance Committee, I have also been working with other aspects of the MSU. The SAB Space Allocation Committee submitted our final report to the SRA and the committee has wrapped up. The final report was shared at a meeting with John McGowan, Sean Van Koughnett and Mark Alfano. They were all impressed by the report and plan to use this as consultation for future space redesigns on campus. I will be working with Scott in the coming weeks to sit on the SAB naming committee where we will brain storm names to be voted on by students in September.

The Sponsorship and Donations Committee has been going well. We have been meeting bi-weekly and have approved \$3,240 in sponsorship or donations from a total of 22 applications. I have been working to go through the past three years allocations of funds to use as a foundation for the potential Conference Fund. I anticipate the applications will be done and approved by the committee by the end of the term.

The Program and Advisory has been off to a slow start. I hope to have our first meeting within the next two weeks. With the SAB and SLEF campaigns, I have taken a back seat on this committee.

The SRA Special Projects Fund continues to be successful, thus far I have received and approved applications from Nursing, Kinesiology, Social Science, Health Science, Commerce, Humanities, Engineering and Arts and Science. I have received 10 applications and the fund currently sits at \$2,604.46.

I have also been working with Scott on various tasks here and there such as evaluating the MUSC Fund. We are looking into this fund and potential applications where we can put this fund to use.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

As a committee, we have currently had challenges with our SLEF campaign. We had planned to have a promotional video, however due to scheduling we were unable to film and edit in time. We plan to make this up by having a promotional video in January. We will also adopt different promotional strategies in January when the voting period opens. Individually, I have had challenges with getting going on the Program and Advisory Committee. It has taken a back seat these past two months, but I am optimistic we will meet in the coming weeks to evaluate our events and begin to discuss gathering students input.

VOLUNTEERS

The Finance Committee has worked really well together thus far. Although attendance can sometimes be an issue with the 9am meeting time, members are actively participating and catching up on the minutes. Overall, the committee is a bunch of super stars 😊 We have also had interest from other MSU students in joining the committee, so I am excited for more additions to the awesome team!

Thank you for reading this far! I am looking forward to the rest of the year in this role and I'm excited to see what else we can accomplish.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,
Alexandrea Johnston
Associate Vice-President Finance
avpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

Executive Board

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Devin Roshan, SRA Health Sciences
SUBJECT: Executive Board Report, SRA 18J Report
DATE: November 11th, 2018

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I will be reporting on a number of services and providing updates on their progress. Bear in mind, these brief summaries are only a glimpse of what our services are accomplishing.

MEMO: Part-Time Issues Committee

A memo drafted by Maddison Hampel—the Operations Coordinator—outlined the need for a committee—as a forum—to facilitate gathering feedback and providing resolutions with the aim to support MSU part-time staff. Since EB has historically operated to address specific employment challenges as opposed to general issues, this committee would provide a new space for folks to address such concerns. The employee composition of this committee sparked debate amongst the EB as a number of members felt there was not enough employee representation by number and by division in their current model. Further updates will be shared as this project will require revisions. Please refer to the [Proposed Part-Time Issues Committee](#) document if you would like to read the specifics.

Maccess - Hilary Zorgdrager

Their executive team is focusing on preparing two advocacy campaigns for next semester. They intend to host a smaller week-long campaign addressing the controversy surrounding #BellLetsTalk, and a larger scale campaign with Divisibility Week. They met with the Equity and Inclusion Office to discuss future Disability Discussions after the success of their first one this year. Maccess' next discussion is planned for Nov. 29th which will focus on stigma as it relates to invisible disabilities. The Humans of Maccess photo campaign will occur during mid-Nov. to expand service outreach. Lastly, Hil met with Miranda from the Pride Community Centre (PCC) to discuss the potential of running a collaborative group between the intersections of LGBTQ2SIA+ and disabled identities.

Maroons - Kristina Epifano

The maroons held a coffee house in collaboration with First Year Council (FYC) called “Pumpkin Spice, Maroons, and FYC” on Oct. 17th. They purchased 140 pumpkins, all of which were utilized, overall, they had great turnout and engagement. The Maroons also

had a Cootes Elementary Pumpkin hike in collaboration with SCSN that had good reviews and engagement. The Maroons reportedly worked with the Education Team to walk students to polling stations and worked at the #MacVotes campaign table in MUSC. In addition, they were able to support the Commit(men)t and Allyship event hosted for male allies through helping with registration, selling raffle tickets, and directing attendees. In the future, they're focusing their efforts on exam destressors, care packages (in collaboration with SHEC), Spark Formal, and a holiday social for volunteers. Volunteer engagement is an ongoing issue with the service this year, if anyone on the assembly has ideas to improve this, reach out to Kristina. Lastly, the Maroons coordinator stepped down as a general volunteer and the application has reopened until November 12th.

Student Community Support Network - Rohan Lohana

As mentioned, the SCSN supported the annual pumpkin hike in collaboration with Maroons and Cootes Paradise Elementary School. The past few weeks Rohan focused his efforts on hiring the new Promotions and Events coordinators. They also worked with the Student Success Centre for the Student Service Expo. In the future, the SCSN is planning a Housing Awareness Bootcamp that is projected to launch from Nov. 25th - 27th and the Westdale Food Tour for Nov. 15th. They are also hoping to begin the Discover Your City - Westdale Version and launch the Community Connector Application.

Student Health Education Centre - Adrianna Michell

The SHEC team hosted their first event—Sex 101—a first year focused event that occurs annually. It had high turnout and engagement with around 40 attendees. They have also implemented volunteer expectations: (1) thereby allowing students to take home pregnancy tests, (2) volunteers must now refrain from using laptops during shifts, and (3) promoting the use of a new therapy light for treatment of conditions such as (but not limited to) Seasonal Affective Disorder. In the future, the SHEC team will be collaborating with PCC to have a LGBTQ2SIA+ sex ed workshop during pride week. They will also be hosting a Substance Use Awareness Fair with a focus on harm reduction.

Spark - Jane Luft

The Spark team released their second online guidebook “All Things Hamilton” and had a high level of engagement. They also ran an event with Macademics called “Back to the Grind”, which featured snacks, a quiet space to study, and upper year volunteers as a resource to first years. Spark has also launched their Spark Ambassador program which offers first year Spark students an opportunity to be involved with the planning and logistics of Spark. These ambassadors provide feedback on sessions, promotions, and publications, as well as, aid with promotional campaigns. A few notable upcoming events include, First Year Formal, closing ceremonies, and second term registration. A significant challenge plaguing Spark is student retention, the service had 200 student register with 4-5 students per group the first week and only 2-3 the second week. The team has been brainstorming strategies such as “Bring your friend to Spark” week which could improve outreach and attendance. If anyone has any innovative ideas please reach out to any member on the EB or Jane Luft.

Student Walk Home Attendee Team - *Sowmya Karthikeyan*

SWHAT hiring is complete and service usage has remained high (5-7 walks per night). The executive team hosted a hiking social and went for sushi. Sowmya has been focusing their efforts on improving the SWHAT section of the MSU website and launching their Humans of SWHAT campaign. In addition, they will be hosting their annual coffeehouse on Nov. 9th and the Walk-A-Thon which will have funds donated to SACHA. Their promotional campaign will draw on engagement from Humans of SWHAT campaign and posts about SACHA. The team will also undergo AOP training, this teamwide training will also serve as a space where they hope to address some aspects of SWHAT culture they intend to change to ensure a safe(r) space (i.e. eliminating gossip).

MACycle - *David Zaslavsky*

The service is winding down with the season and David is seeing less people per day. Their bike giveaway was successful and had a high level of social media engagement. MACycle will be launching the “F-Ride-days” campaign which will involve giving out lights to anyone who visits the shop on Fridays. They will also have a second volunteer training session in early Nov.

Yours truly,



Devin Roshan
SRA Health Sciences Caucus Leader, Executive Board Member
McMaster Students Union
roshand@mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...
President

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ikram Farah, President
SUBJECT: SRA 18J Report
DATE: November 11th, 2018

Summary

Objectives Completed:

1. Vision Conference ✓
2. Expanding Clubs Fest ✓
3. Tax-Free Tuesdays ✓
4. Extended GO Bus Hours ✓
5. Bus Shelters ✓

Objectives in Progress:

The differentiation of the bold and the non-bold is that the bold is for those who need to follow up with me and the non-bolded is where I need to take the lead. However, all of these projects - to some degree- have some sort of foundation created. More updates are likely to come for the new year at our first meeting back or via email.

- 1. Increasing Outlets**
 - a. MUSC
 - b. Libraries
 - c. Lecture Halls
- 2. Lighting on and Off Campus**
- 3. Supporting SAS**
4. Healthier Food on the Go
- 5. Earlier Bursaries**
- 6. Establish International Student Advisory Committee**
7. Co-Curricular Record
8. MSAF

Provincial Advocacy Goals:

1. Tuition for International Students
2. Program-Based OSAP (Professional Students Program Support)

Objectives to be Revisited:

1. International Students Shuttle Bus (plan mentioned in the 18E Report)
2. Re-Examining Exams

Food on Campus:

Tax Free Tuesdays is HAPPENING every Tuesday for the month of November. Therefore, for the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, folks are able to get a 13% discount for all customers paying with cash, credit and debit. To clarify, we legally cannot issue a “Tax-Free” discount as we have to charge tax. With that, Hospitality services marked the regular prices at 13% for these days. As per my campaign promise, this is a pilot project and while getting discounted food is a success of its own, it is my hope that Hospitality services will further collaborate with the MSU to continue this.

Supporting Student Accessibility Services:

Due to some logistical errors and coordination, we will be giving out SAS courtesy cards for the new year. While my intention was to give them out earlier, I am working with the office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to better promote these cards as incentives. For example, in the beginning of the year professors who would need a note-taker would just mention there is a note-taker needed. Often times the incentive of a reference letter is barely mentioned. This time, I will be working with SAS to ensure that the classes that need a note-taker will be provided a slide that lists the incentives within the MSU courtesy cards in addition to the reference letters. This small change of plans can have a whirlwind of effects and I am grateful for this partnership.

Tuition and Financial Aid:

International Students:

This past week we had the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance(OUSA) Fall General Assembly. McMaster was honoured to host it. As per my year plan, the objective was to include International Students within the OUSA’s new tuition framework.

Recommendation: Within the new provincial tuition framework, the provincial government should freeze tuition for all programs while correspondingly increasing operating grants until students are contributing approximately one-third of universities’ total operating budget.

Recommendation: After restoring a fairer cost-sharing model, tuition for all Ontario post-secondary programs should be capped at Consumer Price Index for Ontario, maintaining the same fair-cost sharing ratio.

In addition, OUSA and the MSU have policies related to International Students and tuition. The sentiments shared between OUSA and MSU is that International Students “should have the same predictability in their annual tuition costs as domestic students.” Given these sentiments, this is reflected in the above policy recommendation that we will be taking to Queens Park in the upcoming week. Also, this provides longevity and sustainability to this advocacy goal even after my term as President. By incorporating this into the policy, OUSA schools are meant to be prioritizing this even after my term is done.

Students in Professional Programs:

Within the MSU's Policy Paper *Tuition and Post-Secondary Affordability* that the SRA will be approving, we will be incorporating that the MSU advocate for "Program-Based OSAP" as per my campaign goal. In addition, in the 2019 Spring OUSA GA we will be approving the "Financial Aid" paper and we will incorporate the support for students in professional programs at the OUSA level as well. What this looks like specifically is to ensure that OUSA will prioritize the increase of grants students in professional programs receive to reduce the financial burdens.

Freedom of Speech:

Throughout the summer I have done multiple consultations with students from diverse backgrounds and experiences on our campus. I have constantly been meeting with University stakeholders and communicating to the SRA on my progress. The SRA then demonstrated the need to take an official stance in opposition to the dictate. On October 14th we did that. In addition, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance(OUSA) took a similar stance this past weekend. Specifically, OUSA opposes the Government dictate. As communicated before, I have been working with the University to create a Town Hall for students to address their concerns regarding a campus-wide freedom of speech policy. This Town Hall is a format in which concerned students can directly address Senior University leaders. At this event, I will be raising the concerns I have heard from students. I also encourage others to do the same. Please attend for more information on this topic.

Lighting off Campus:

Nikola who is one of Aidan's staff members has been super helpful with this project. She had connected me with the Senior Project Manager of Street Lighting and Electrical. He had communicated to me in the late summer that they were finishing up their city-wide LED retrofit. At the time he had committed to examining more opportunities (McMaster University area). He assured me that many of the streets I had mentioned that were priorities were also a part of the initiative and that McMaster University and its surrounding neighborhoods were not being forgotten. However, due to the recent election I have paused my follow-up regarding the lighting matter and once Maureen is fully in office I will follow up shortly.

Lighting on Campus:

During the summer I went around the campus with the Maintenance Supervisor. Previously, McMaster University had replaced the lights at the front of the hospital at the crosswalk and along Forsyth Ave. They also replaced the lights on the poles between Divinity College and the Museum. John and I identified areas of concern and while the long-term project is to transfer all lights to LED, he and his team are going to prioritize major areas of concern first. I have given a list and am still waiting for follow up. I will have more information on the specifics and timelines for the new year.

Challenges:

During my campaign, the narrative with exams the issues surrounding that period was bigger than just having the option to opt-out of back to back exams. While that in itself is a tangible solution, I am realizing the difficulty of completing one goal in isolation of an inherently problematic structure. One cannot look at exams without looking at teaching and learning, specifically assessments. One cannot look or evaluate exams without looking at the impact it has on student mental health and well-being. During my consultation stages prior to running, these ideas were deemed feasible. I believe that they are and I will do my best to achieve them. However, due to the statements made above I realize that my challenge is to prioritize goals. For instance, at the time of my campaign I decided to have two objects to solve the crisis; whereas my perspective now is to solve the structural issues. Currently the discussions I am having with University leadership is surrounding universal design and assessments. My dream is to reduce the amount of exams we are giving students during the two-week exam period. That would then allow more room and less exams conflict (back to back exams). And with less assessments and flexibility of exams, the University would have more room for a break and that would not impact any learning or will not be taking away from class time. I wanted to communicate to the SRA however that this is still a priority for me despite the road-block I faced. I do not believe that the exam breaks and having students opt out of back to back exams is impossible, I just believe that there are different ways to achieve it that may take more time and support from the University.

Best,

Ikram Farah

President & CEO McMaster Students Union

president@msu.mcmaster.ca



Report

From the office of the...

Elections Department

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Returning Officers, Uwais Patel (CRO) & Emily Yang (DRO)
SUBJECT: SRA October By-Election Report
DATE: November 4, 2018

Hello Members of the Assembly,

We are thrilled yet again to report to you the results of an election. As per Bylaw 10 - Elections 2.1.5, my department is required to relay to the SRA the results of each electoral period, including recommendations of the Elections Committee. This report is on the SRA October By-Election.

We are quite excited to say that our two SRA By-Elections ran successfully without any major issues.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Uwais Patel
Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
McMaster Students Union
elections@msu.mcmaster.ca

Emily Yang
Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)
McMaster Students Union
elections_dro@msu.mcmaster.ca

Elections Department

RESULTS

Below are the results of the October By-Election ratified by the Elections Committee. Please note that these results are *unofficial* until the appeals process has been exhausted.

SRA Commerce: Cole Reesor

SRA Kinesiology: David Benzon

Position	# of Candidates Running
Commerce	4
Kinesiology	4
Total	8

The full breakdown of the results can be found using the link below:

- [Voter Breakdown](#)

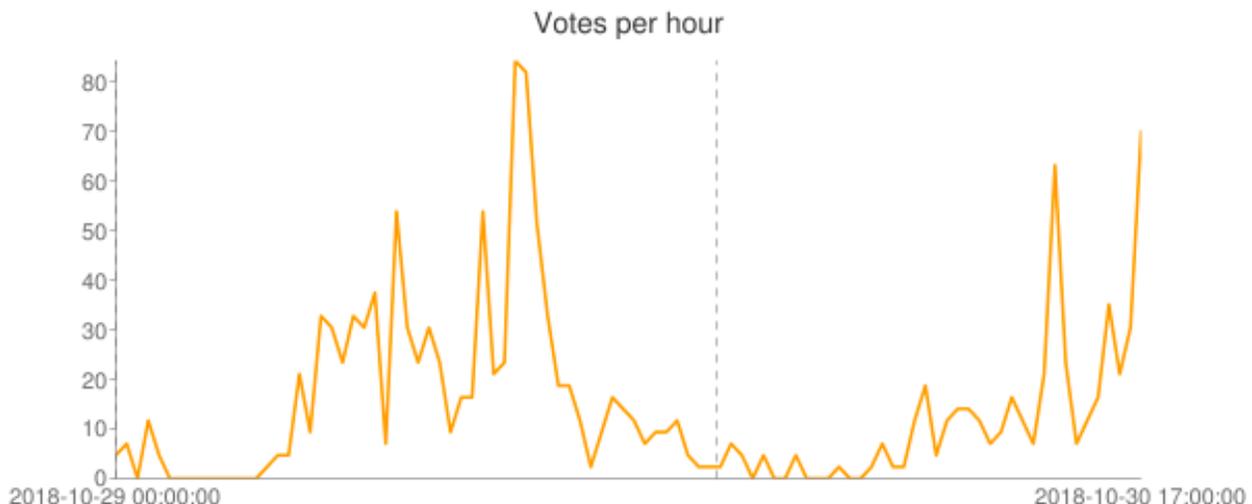
Due to an accidental human error, the ballot was run using a preferential voting method instead of a plurality one (re: Bylaw 10 -- Elections 7.2). The results, however, continue to remain valid as the candidates elected had received the most votes in the first round of voting.

TURNOUT

Overall Turnout

Overall turnout for both elections was **15.7%** with 617 students casting their ballot. The table below goes more into details on overall year turnout. In former by-elections, turnout hovered just below the 20% mark. Last January, turnout for a Kinesiology by-election was 19.8% with 133/671 students voting. In October 2016, turnout for a Social Sciences by-election was 17.6% with 655/3731 students voting.

Year	Electors	Votes	% Voted
1	1193	199	16.7
2	959	154	16.1
3	1013	181	17.9
4	753	83	11
9	2	0	0
TOTAL	3920	617	15.7



SRA Commerce

Voter turnout for the SRA Commerce election was only **9.3%** with 286 students voting this year. Though there were four people running in commerce, only one individual was *actively* campaigning. I believe this contributed to the low voter turnout in this faculty. While correlation does not equal causation, I feel there is an increased likelihood that the interest that a candidate shows can affect the way students perceive and vote in the election.

Year	Electors	Votes	% Voted
1	943	107	11.3
2	779	66	8.5
3	803	73	9.1
4	553	40	7.2
9	2	0	0
TOTAL	3080	286	9.3

SRA Kinesiology

Voter turnout for the SRA Kinesiology election was **39.4%** with 331 students voting this year. In retrospect to what occurred in the SRA Commerce election, all the candidates running in the division of kinesiology were actively campaigning.

Year	Electors	Votes	% Voted
1	250	92	36.8
2	180	88	48.9
3	210	108	51.4
4	200	43	21.5
TOTAL	840	331	39.4

PROMOTIONAL EVENTS & STRATEGIES

Nominations Promotion

This by-election, the effectiveness of promotion of nominations shone through the impressive amount of nominations we had (4 per faculty) in comparison to past by-elections. While planning promotional events and campaigns for this election, I tried to involve the current SRA members of each faculty as much as I could, as they would have the best reach to their respective faculties. They were reached out to for ideas for events, and for help in promoting on social media.

Together with SRA Kinesiology, we held a cookies and coffee event at the Kinesiology Society office on the third day of nominations, where we were able to let students stopping by know about the open nomination period and had nomination packages available for students to pick up. This event had good turnout, with multiple students taking nomination packages, and the rest being informed about the voting dates if they were not interested in running. It was a pleasure to work with Ushwin Emmanuel in planning and executing this event, and we saw that

the majority of the nominees were students who had attended this event. SRA Commerce also held office hours to promote the open nomination period.

Another way in which the current SRA members in the faculties with open seats were involved was in a online campaign where edited headshots of each SRA member was shared with a blurb sharing why they chose to run to be on the SRA, and what their favourite moment has been so far on the SRA. This worked out well as it provided a more personal perspective on promoting nominations. A big thank you is due to Haley Greene for making these beautiful graphics.

Finally, as per usual, proclamation of nominations was put on all MSU Elections social media pages, the MSU Elections Website, as well as the homepage on the MSU website. Graphics were also circulated through MUSC TV screens and through the MSU facebook page.

Voting Promotion

Similar to nominations, the current SRA members played a big role in helping promote voting to the students in their respective faculties. Voting was mainly promoted through the MSU Elections social media pages and website, with help from the MSU social media accounts, the SRA social media accounts, and the current SRA member's personal social media accounts. Voting was promoted in specific faculty year groups by SRA members. As with the past FYC election, the direct voting link made promoting open ballots more streamlined as it was included in all posts made regarding voting.

Information Distribution

All information regarding the election was updated continuously throughout the nomination and voting periods on the MSU Elections website. As always, a list of nominees was made available on the website, with links to candidate social media pages if available. This election, we also included an optional 100 word blurb from each candidate on the website. At the end of the election, unofficial results were announced on the website, MSU Elections social media pages, and emailed to candidates. The detailed voting breakdown was published.

SUCCESS

Kinesiology Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for Kin had increased almost two-fold during this by-election which is quite amazing. This is mostly due to the sheer amount of campaigning that each candidate had took part in. The result was that voters were more engaged and informed.

Number of Candidates

Based off of the number of candidates that had nominated themselves to run in past by-elections, we were incredibly happy to see four candidates nominate themselves to run in each election. This truly is a testament to the great work that we've been doing when it comes to engaging students.

Ballot/ Email

We are incredibly happy to say once again that with the changes we have made to our voting system, there were no issues with students being unable to gain access to their ballot. A student had mentioned in the anonymous feedback section that they had not received an email link but because no emails had bounced back. The likelihood is that the emails ended up in their spam/ junk filter.

In preparation for Presidentials, we will be creating graphics and a video to educate and inform students on how to access their ballot. This will include a graphic that will ask them to check their spam/junk box.

CHALLENGES

Poster Issues

It seems that there is a miscommunication that's occurring in various campus buildings in regards to how election posters should be treated vs. regular posters. We've tried our best to be proactive in communicating with our various campus partners, however, there still seems to be some confusion present. We will be reaching out H&CS as well as specific building managers in order to ensure that there aren't future issues with election posters.

No candidates had reached out informing us that their posters were taken down, however, one had said that they were told if it was not on a bulletin board in a specific campus building, it would be taken down.

CHANGES BASED ON PREVIOUS FEEDBACK

Email Notifications of Nominations

This election, we had made use of our resources and sent an email out to all students informing them that nominations were open for the Commerce and Kinesiology by-election. This wasn't something that had been done in the past but based on some feedback we got, it was something that was quite easy to do. We had used the SimplyVoting platform to send the email blast, however, for future elections, we will be using a UTS listserv. We are working with the Underground to design an email template and that will be used for future elections. The goal is to inform students about nominations, candidates running, polling, and results.

Headshot & Statement on Ballot

Based off feedback from FYC Elections, we decided to give candidates the opportunity to submit an optional statement and/or a headshot that would be available on the ballot. Students had mentioned that they didn't know a lot of the candidates running and some sort of statement or picture would be beneficial in helping them determine who the best candidate is. We had also included links to their social media pages as well. See below or click [here](#) for what the ballot had looked like.

-- **David Benzon** [\[hide details\]](#)

Truly we are a unique program - one that requires a unique voice. I am committed to integrating C.A.S.T in Kinesiology.

Collaborate with our stakeholders to develop an Alumni Mentorship Program

Advocate for Kin student space in the newly upcoming SAB.

Student feedback and recognition prioritization

Transcend MSU resources and services to the Kin forefront.

Let's do the real heavy lifting – lifting your voice. Remember, David B for the Kinmunity.

[Facebook Page](#)



ELECTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Headshot/Photo on Ballot

There was a concern that was raised with how including a headshot could create an unconscious bias for voters (similar concept to why “Blind recruitment” was created) and also potentially create an unfair advantage to those who doesn’t have the resources to get a headshot taken. We will be doing some consultations with some campus partners on how to best approach this. Headshots are normally taken by the MSU Communications Officer for Presidentials and this process can be replicated for other elections.

NEXT STEPS

Appeals Process

The appeals process for candidates who chose to appeal their violations and fines will begin on November 11, 2018. Should candidates be satisfied with the outcome of the appeals process, the election results will then become official. At the time of writing this report, no candidate has appealed their violations and fines.

Candidate Reimbursement

Reimbursements for all candidates will be actioned off shortly. Should no candidates want to go through the appeals process, the cheques will start going through the MSU Accounting process by the end of the week. It won’t be long before candidates can get their deposits/campaign reimbursements back.