



AGENDA - SRA 18K
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
Sunday, November 25, 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 18H & 18I, 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. OPIRG | Katerina
Simantirakis &
Mohammed
Alshalafeh |
| 2. Incite Magazine | Catherine Hu &
Sabrina Lin |
| 3. Student Activity Building Update | Robinson |

REPORTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. First Year Council | Ajay Gandhi |
| 2. Nursing Caucus | Gandzi |
| 3. Science Caucus | Senthillmohan |
| 4. Social Sciences Caucus | Isah |
| 5. Municipal Affairs Committee | Hackett |
| 6. University Affairs Committee | Warwani |
| 7. Executive Board | Bertolo |
| 8. Vice-President (Administration) | Epifano |
| 9. OUSA General Assembly | Bertolo |

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Close MSU Seats on Awards Committees | Robinson |
|---|----------|

BUSINESS

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Committee of the Whole – OPIRG | Robinson |
| 2. Committee of the Whole – Incite Magazine | Robinson |
| 3. On-Campus Infrastructure Policy Paper | Bertolo |
| 4. Student Engagement & Retention Policy Paper | Bertolo |
| 5. Tuition & Student Financing in Post-Secondary Education Policy Paper | Bertolo |
| 6. Open one (1) SRA Seat on Programming Advisory Committee | Robinson |

7. Close one (1) SRA Seat on Programming Advisory Committee

Robinson

MOTIONS

1. **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)
2. **Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the OPIRG presentation.
3. **Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the Incite Magazine presentation.
4. **Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly adopts the On-Campus Infrastructure Policy Paper, as circulated.
5. **Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly adopts the Student Engagement & Retention Policy Paper, as circulated.
6. **Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly adopts the Tuition & Student Financing in Post-Secondary Education Policy Paper, as circulated.
7. **Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on the Programming Advisory Committee.
8. **Moved** by Robinson, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on the Programming Advisory Committee.



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 18K
Sunday, November 25, 2018 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111

Called to Order at 5:00pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Anderson, Arbess, Benzon, Bertolo, Dominguez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Farah, Gandzi, Hackett, Ibrahim, Isha, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Reesor, Robinson, Roshan, Salciccioli, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Sykes, Trejpal, Villasis, Warwani
Absent Excused:	
Absent	Ahmed, Bonk, Epirity, Irfan, Kumaran, S. Singh
Late	Bishara, Grewal
Others Present:	Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Catherine Hu (Incite Magazine), Sabrina Lin (Incite Magazine), Kojo Dampsey (OPIRG), Katerina Simantirakis (OPIRG), Mohammed Aishalalfeh (OPIEG), Ajay Gandhi (FYC Chair), Aisha Sallad (MSU Member), 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 Warwani, **seconded** by Sykes to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Shingleton-Smith, **seconded** by Sykes that the Assembly add CASE Report to Report Period.

Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt Agenda

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

Passes Unanimously

ADOPT MINUTES

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Shingleton-Smith to adopt minutes from SRA meetings 18H – October 14, 2018, and 18I – October 28, 2018, as circulated.

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. They reminded the Assembly that if they were planning on being absent

to please send an email so that it could be documented properly, and to try and get here earlier than five minutes before the meeting starts.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

Set Parameters

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Anderson to set parameters for Delegation from the Floor numbers 1 and 2 to be 15 minutes for presentation, and 10 minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Shingleton-Smith to set parameters for Delegation from the Floor number 3 to be 23 minutes for presentation, and 10 minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

1. OPIRG – Katerina Simantirakis, Mohammed Alshalafeh, and Kojo Dampthey presented

- OPIRG summarized their presentation.

Questions

- Arbess thanked everyone for coming out and stated that the presentation was excellent. Arbess stated that it was amazing how OPIRG adapted to the recent fee cut. Arbess asked about the 'other programming' budget line being \$13,000 and why it wasn't listed out. Alshalafeh responded that it was listed on the budget sheet but there were too many items to fully list, but it includes collaborations with other organizations.
- Hackett asked how many paid student positions did OPIRG have. Alshalafeh responded that due to the budget cuts they didn't have any, but over the summer they had two.
- Gandzi asked why the report is saying that they're carrying over \$20,000 but losing \$1,000. Alshalafeh responded that it was their contingency plan and that they had to reduce staff hours and may have to dip into it.
- Farah asked how the relationship was and collaborating with other Indigenous groups on campus. Alshalafeh responded that they usually work with MISCA, and the work will happen through them, but it wasn't restricted to that. Alshalafeh added that there was consistent support for the Indigenous community. Dampthey added that historically OPIRG only supported those reconized by Indigenous Studies, and they still have connections with that program and continue to have connections through staff.
- Robinson asked for the group to speak to 'making connections week'. Alshalafeh responded that it used to be called 'alternative welcome week'. It's just for students to get involved and connecting with other groups.
- Roshan asked when the part-time student positions open, and where can students find the job applications. Alshalafeh responded that there used to be opportunities to work with OPIRG through work study, but since funding has been cut OPIRG doesn't offer the position. They added they weren't sure if there will be anything. Simantirakis stated that summer jobs are advertised on OPIRG's website and other social media.

2. Incite Magazine – Catherine Hu & Sabrina Lin presented

- Hu & Lin summarized the presentation.

Questions

- Hackett thanked the group for their presentation. They asked if Incite had thought about printing copies based on who was interested in the magazine itself instead of printing 1,000 and leaving them across campus. Lin responded that it was an interesting idea. Hu stated that making it more available on campus would be more open and accessible.
- Sykes asked what benefits Incite sees in print copies instead of electronic. Hu responded that they do have an electronic archive online for those who get the physical copy, but not every student goes to the website. They stated that having the magazines on the stands provides an opportunity for students to value the arts and students in arts.
- Lee asked if \$7,500 was the total amount projected per issue pre-tax. Lin responded that it was. They added that they had an unprecedented amount of submissions this term, and it was a large volume so the group cut down on the number of copies printed. Hu stated that the amount fluctuates each issue.
- Roshan asked how Incite was using the money effectively. Hu responded that the amount per issue was based on the average from previous years, and if they have a larger issue then the group publishes less copies so that they can continue with the practise of accepting every submission for each issue. Hu added that with budgeting their events will be more expensive as they can no longer host them at the art museum for free.
- Florean stated that the budget lists that the group received \$23,000 but spending \$25,000. Florean asked for the group to account for that. Hu stated that it was money not used in previous years.
- Oketch asked how students could get involved. Hu responded that they generally hire the exec in the summer, and the editorial board in the spring. They explained that they do have one set time in the year for students to get involved, but contributions to issues can happen at any time.
- Shingleton-Smith asked how long it takes for all issues to be picked up by students. Hu responded that they don't monitor their stands from week to week, but whenever the next issues go out the older ones are gone.
- Isah asked if the group had thought of moving towards an online platform. Hu responded that they already have an online platform, but they could promote it more.

Moved by Sykes, **seconded** by Lee to exhaust the Speaker's List.

In Favour: 28 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1
Abstained: Oketch
Motion Passes

- Anderson stated that it doesn't seem as though the group has anyone dedicated to finance and budgeting. Anderson asked if the group thought that this was an important role to have. Hu responded that the editorial board collectively oversees the budget. They added that this was something they would be open to.
- Sykes asked if the group thought of becoming a club to have those MSU benefits, such as room bookings. Lin stated that this was something the group was thinking about this year. Hu responded that they would be open to it.
- Lee asked if the group had looked into the possibility of advertising to get revenue. Hu responded that they had thought about it, but it all comes back to the core values they have for the magazine which was no advertising.
- Florean asked what steps the group would be taking to be more financially transparent, currently the budget doesn't emphasize the spending. Lin responded that this was something important to address, and that they could create an infographic. Hu responded that they were currently in the process of developing an FAQ and that would help give more information.
- Roshan asked how the group acquired the \$15,000 surplus. Lin responded that they weren't sure, as funding comes in after they acquire the money. Hu added that they normally get their funds at the end of their year instead of the start.

3. Student Activity Building Update – Robinson presented

- Robinson summarized the presentation.

Questions

- Senthillmohan asked if there was a washing area for non-binary students. Robinson responded that there wasn't for prayer cleansing, but that those students could use the first or fourth floor.
- Anderson asked why there wasn't a washroom on the second floor. Robinson stated that there was a massive bathroom bank connected to DBAC and they will have an agreement with Ath and Rec to have the doors open to the washrooms when DBAC was closed.
- Senthillmohan asked why the washrooms were gendered. Robinson responded that it was a recommendation from Interfaith Council.
- Senthillmohan asked Robinson if they could look into the reason why these recommendations were made. Robinson stated that they would ask.

REPORT PERIOD

1. First Year Council – Ajay Gandhi presented

- Gandhi summarized the report.

2. Nursing Caucus – Gandzi presented

- Gandzi summarized the report.

3. Science Caucus – MacLean presented

- MacLean summarized the report.

4. Social Sciences Caucus – Isah presented

- Isah summarized the report.

5. Municipal Affairs Committee – Hackett presented

- Hackett summarized the report.

Questions

- Sykes asked why SCSN wasn't involved the event that was put on. Hackett responded that there was a communication error and that SCSN wasn't able to help out at that time. Hackett stated that they do have plans for second semester for something else.
- Florean asked about the landlord rating system and where it was. Hackett responded that they had sent an email to the SRA to go online to rate student houses but will send the link again. They stated that they didn't want the system to be public year because the team was still tweaking things before release.
- Florean asked if they will be connecting with SOCS for promoting the landlord rating system. Hackett responded that they met with Res Life and OCRC to see what could be done.
- Anderson asked if they thought of collaborating with International Student Services as they use off-campus housing. Hackett responded that they haven't thought about it yet because they are still on the backend of working out the legal items. They stated that they will be making international students aware of it.
- Florean asked if they were outsourcing the website and paying any fees. Hackett responded that they would not be paying fees, and that the owner of the website has run this system at different schools. Hackett stated that every website needs revenue, and while they weren't sure where it was coming from they have been assured that the MSU would not be paying for the website.

- Florean asked if there was any way landlords could look at the reviews and go against them. Hackett responded that landlords can go into the site and put their own reviews, but when reviews are left they will be screened. They stated that the goal was that they get enough people to leave reviews on that that a landlord's review wouldn't sway anyone.

6. University Affairs Committee - Warwani presented

- Warwani summarized the report.

Moved by Anderson, **seconded** by Robinson that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

Passes Unanimously

Recessed at 7:03pm

Called back to Order 7:14pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Anderson, Arbess, Benzoni, Bertolo, Dominguez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Farah, Gandzi, Grewal, Hackett, Ibrahim, Isha, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Reesor, Robinson, Roshan, Saliccioli, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Sykes, Trejpal, Villasis, Warwani
Absent Excused:	Saliccioli
Absent	Ahmed, Bonk, Espiritu, Irfan, Kumaran, S. Singh, Warwani
Late	Bishara
Others Present:	Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Ajay Gandhi (FYC Chair), Aisha Sallad (MSU Member), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Elizabeth Wong

7. Executive Board – Bertolo presented

- Bertolo summarized the report.

8. Vice-President (Administration) – Epifano presented

- Epifano summarized the report.

Questions

- Florean asked how they would be managing looking at job descriptions and wage reviews as it would be a huge undertaking. Epifano responded that they wouldn't be going through all of them, but that the Operations Coordinator, General Manager, and they will be coming up with a process of what going through the job descriptions would look like.
- Florean stated that Epifano was going a really good job and thanked them. Florean asked Epifano if there was still money for the Committee Room renovation allocation after furniture expenses. Epifano responded that there was still money leftover.

9. OUSA General Assembly – Bertolo presented

- Bertolo summarized the report.

10. CASE Committee – Shingleton-Smith presented

- Shingleton-Smith summarized the report.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Sykes reported that they have been working on a project to get students who are internship voting rights. They explained that these students would be coming back the following year and would be dealing with the results, and that they were currently going through the consulting process by speaking with the Administrative Services Coordinator, the Internal Governance Committee, and Elections.
- The Speaker announced that the Elections Department was looking for Assembly members who would be interested in participating in highlight reels for SRA General Election promo.
- Bertolo reported that they will be submitting a formal report on the OUSA LobbyCon at the next meeting, but that meetings were split up amongst all OUSA schools and they advocated on tuition and OSAP.

QUESTION PERIOD

- No questions were asked.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Close MSU Seats on Awards Committees

Moved by Anderson, **seconded** by Hackett 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)

Nominations

- Epifano nominated Aisha Sallad for the J. Lynn Watson Award Committee - accepted
- Sahil *get from Elizabeth previously nominated for Honour M Award Committee - accepted
- Farah nominated Ryan Da Silva for the Rudy Heinzl Award Committee - accepted

Amendment

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Anderson to amend the motion to read: "**Moved** by Anderson, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:

- Honour M (1)
- Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)"

- Hackett stated that they should strike the MSU Merit and Spirit Award Committee nominations to the next meeting as no one was here.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Vote on Motion

Moved by Anderson, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly close nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:

- Honour M (1)
- Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)

- J. Lynn Watson (1)

Passes Unanimously

- The following won the MSU Seats on the following Committees by acclamation:
 - Aisha Sallad – J. Lynn Watson
 - Sahil – Honour M
 - Ryan Da Silva – Rudy Heinzl

BUSINESS

1. Committee of the Whole – OPIRG

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Sykes that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the OPIRG presentation.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Sykes 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 discussed OPIRG's presentation and that they were impressed with OPIRG's financial transparency and flexibility, and the introduction of the online opt-out and promotions. Robinson added that the Assembly also discussed the changes to the student positions and would like for OPIRG to look into more opportunities for paid student positions.

2. Committee of the Whole – Incite Magazine

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Sykes that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the Incite Magazine presentation.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Senthillmohan 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 discussed Incite's presentation and that they felt that the budget was too vague and that there was a lack of consistency of information of where they were spending their money. Robinson reported that the Assembly recommended to create a role in the executive structure to be VP Finance or Treasurer to focus on the finances. The Assembly also discussed promotions and how they would like to see it be modernized and not just use Facebook.

3. On-Campus Infrastructure Policy Paper

Moved by Bertolo, **seconded** by Gandzi that the Assembly adopts the On-Campus Infrastructure Policy Paper, as circulated.

- Bertolo went over the memo with the Assembly.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

4. Student Engagement & Retention Policy Paper

Moved by Bertolo, **seconded** by Gandzi that the Assembly adopts the Student Engagement & Retention Policy Paper, as circulated.

- Bertolo went over the memo with the Assembly.
- Gandzi stated that they worked on this paper and that it was very hard to write, but well researched.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

5. Tuition & Student Financing in Post-Secondary Education Policy Paper

Moved by Bertolo, **seconded** by Gandzi that the Assembly adopts the Tuition & Student Financing in Post-Secondary Education Policy Paper, as circulated.

- Bertolo went over the memo with the Assembly.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

6. Open one (1) SRA seat on Programming Advisory Committee

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly open one (1) SRA seat on the Programming Advisory Committee.

- Robinson went over the Committee's duties.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

7. Close one (1) SRA seat on Programming Advisory Committee

Moved by Robinson, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly close one (1) SRA seat on the Programming Advisory Committee.

Nominations

- Sykes nominated MacLean – accepted

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

- MacLean won the SRA seat to the Programming Advisory Committee by acclamation.

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, January 6, 2019
5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH 111**

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Anderson, Arbess, Benzon, Bertolo, Bishara, Dominguez Florean, Emmanuel, Epifano, Farah, Gandzi, Grewal, Hackett, Ibrahim, Isha, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reddy, Reesor, Robinson, Roshan, Saliccioli, Senthillmohan, Shingleton-Smith, N. Singh, Sykes, Trejpal, Villasis, Warwani
Absent Excused	Saliccioli
Absent	Ahmed, Bonk, Espiritu, Irfan, Kumaran, S. Singh, Warwani
Late	
Others Present	Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Ajay Gandhi (FYC Chair), Aisha Sallad (MSU Member), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Elizabeth Wong

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gandzi, **seconded** by Florean that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 8:20pm

/vs



REPORT

From the office of...

First Year Council

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ajay Gandhi, First Year Council Chair
SUBJECT: SRA 18K Report
DATE: November 20, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Council members have started to establish methods of communication with first year students through social media and various FYC events.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

“Let’s have a Kahoot!” event which included board and video games, kahoot trivia, and free snacks catered by Twelve-Eighty for first year students. This event was held on Wednesday, November 14 from 6:00 – 8:30pm in Twelve-Eighty and the Grind. The event went well and there was a large turnout of first years that cared about student politics and asked various questions. Unfortunately, many clubs that would have enhanced the experience for first years with more board and video games were unable to collaborate due to time constraints. Finding alternative ways to get materials needed to enhance events and not relying on the aid of other clubs is a lesson that we will carry to further projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Tentative date for a collaborative event to help ground students before the exam period is December 6, 2018. This event is still in the planning stages, but we hope to have multiple stations set up in Bridges, as well as care packages that include items that may be needed during exam season. Another upcoming event that FYC is contributing to is the First Year Formal. Our council oversaw a song request form, social media promotion, and theme creation.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Challenges currently fall in planning our collaborative pre-exam event with other clubs. We are finding it hard to establish communication and come up with a concrete plan over email. Ideas to solve challenges include having an in-person meeting with executives from clubs we hope to collaborate with. This would be a more efficient method of communication and would allow for all clubs to be on the same page for the upcoming event, reducing last-minute event issues.

SUCCESSSES

Facilitated and fully organized an event catered for first year students.

Best,
Ajay Gandhi
First Year Council Chair
McMaster Students Union
fycchair@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...
Nursing Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Marina Gandzi, SRA Nursing Representative 18-19
SUBJECT: SRA 18K Report
DATE: Monday, November 19, 2018

Dear Members of the Assembly,

Hope you're all doing well and powering through as we near exam season! As a nursing student, I just want to remind you all to make sure to take some time for self-care. Summarized below are just a few updates from the SRA Nursing Caucus on platform points I have completed and those which I am looking forward to completing for the coming semester.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

This year we have seen a lot more engagement among first-year students with both our faculty society and events. The anatomy review session and de-stress event held on October 19th was quite successful. We had 23 people show up for the review session and many of those stay behind to enjoy some snacks and hang out with upper years in the Health Sciences Lounge. The Peer Tutors have a review night for the final exam which I will be helping out with on December 5th.

In addition, I have been attending all of the McMaster University Nursing Students Society (MUNSS) and collaborating with them to hold events. I have reached out the Education Team and we have begun planning our Career Conference to be held next semester.

For my third platform point, I have submitted a SLEF idea for improvements to the whiteboards in the Health Sciences Lounge. I have been working with MUNSS in figuring out who to reach for these improvements as well, since lounge upkeep is not only a nursing responsibility. In addition, MUNSS has hired a new media executive who can make videos, and we will hopefully be making one about accessing both the Health Sci Lounge and the Hole in the Wall Lounge in the School of Nursing.

Lastly, the School of Nursing is holding a Town Hall on November 29th, which I am very excited about! This forum is being held in MDCL 3020 and allows students the chance to voice their opinions about issues within the program. I have submitted some questions related to my year plan which I am looking forward to having addressed. Other advocacy I have done includes joining the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee to help work on their Experiential Education initiative which is happening next semester.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

I held the anatomy review session and de-stress on October 19th which went over very well, according to feedback received from the simulation lab supervisor. Last week was National Nursing Student's Week so I teamed up with MUNSS to ensure there was an SRA presence at the events which were held.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Events I am looking forward to hosting are the anatomy review for the final exam on December 5th and the Career Conference which will be held in the coming semester. I will provide updates on my advocacy at the School of Nursing Town Hall. I'm hoping to re-launch the Nurses of McMaster initiative soon, but students may be a bit too busy during exam season, so I am considering pushing it back to next semester.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

My current challenges are finding time to balance everything as I am currently on three committees, working as a peer tutor, and still a student with her own assignments. I hope to rely more on MUNSS with the planning of events so I can ensure that I am also practicing self-care. It has also been brought to my attention that Accelerated Nursing Students do not have access to the Health Sci Lounge, so I need to find out who in the School of Nursing to contact to have this function added to their badges.

SUCSESSES

Anatomy study night was a success and I'm hoping the next one will be as well! It's been wonderful seeing all the first-years come out and get engaged slowly with the MSU.

If you have any questions about my report or ideas to help improve my outreach, please don't hesitate to message me!

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marina G". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marina Gandzi
SRA Nursing Caucus Leader 18-19
McMaster Students Union
sranursing@msu.mcmaster.ca

Hello members of the assembly!

We hope everyone is doing well and taking care of themselves in preparation for exams! Our caucus has been continuing to work away at our year plan and have exciting things coming. These are outlined below in terms of progress, upcoming projects, successes and challenges. As always please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Stay rad,

SRA Science 2018-2019

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Research Information Hub

Raisa is currently having conversations with MSS Volunteer & Research Coordinator, Doris Adao about beginning planning and vision brainstorming for the Research Information Hub. Alternate commitments on both ends have delayed this process but she hopes to get this project going in the near future. Meetings are set up for the end of the month.

Accessibility

Sinthu has reached out to Dr. Susan Giroux, who is working on classroom accessibility from the university side. She is hoping to have a meeting with her later this week. She also had the chance to extensively meet with the Advocacy Coordinator of the MSS and implement podcast-related questions in their upcoming survey.

Extended Thode Library Hours Partnerships

After meeting with Anne Pottier from the university libraries, it came to Connor's attention that there was a lack of communication from the Provost to the library administration about the continued extension of extended Thode library hours. The focus of the partnerships has shifted to be dedicated to ensuring that there is a budget for future years for the project. The wellness partnerships will begin next semester and SWHAT has mentioned that they are on board to set up a table in Thode some nights and help promote the partnerships. Next steps would be to set up a meeting with Dr. David Farrar to ensure that the university budget includes increased base funding for security for the Extended Thode Library Hours project.

SCIENCE 1A03 Expansion

With Dr. Robin Cameron's term coming to an end in December, there has been little movement to make changes to the course curriculum within her term. Connor will reach out to Dr. Michael Farquharson in January when he returns from his sabbatical to see how the course can be refined for 2019-2020.

Better Academic & Career Resources

After having a brief conversation with Vicki Lowes (SCCE Manager) and Monish Ahluwalia (MSS President), it is apparent that the ideas that were campaign on during the SRA

election have come to fruition. The information has been assembled by students over the summer and the SCCE is waiting for funding to roll out the projects. They don't need support from the SRA anymore until it comes time to promote the project.

Better Promotions in the Faculty of Science

Connor is working with Dr. MacDonald on his Thesis project to improve promotions and communications within the Faculty of Science. Preliminary research has been completed and they will be looking at using some analytics from SRA Science social media accounts to determine best practices of promoting to students. As well, they will be performing primary research in January and February. It is apparent that teens (13-17) use Facebook less than older students (18-25) and this trend is expected to continue. From secondary research, Connor recommends that Snapchat and Instagram are more heavily used to promote events and campaigns from the SRA and MSU.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES

SRA Science, SRA Kin, the MSS, and the Kin Society all met with Dr. MacDonald (Dean of Science) to discuss our plans for the year and our progress on our year plans. We will be continuing to meet with her monthly to gather more insight into the projects and refine our goals and deliverables.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Developing Academic Science Advocacy in partnership with the MSS

Eric has been having conversations with MSS Advocacy and Macademics Course Wiki to discuss how to help with the efforts to improve the service for science students. He and Raisa will be working with the MSS to help with promoting the upcoming Course Wikithon. The two will also assist Fourth Year Rep, Eden Kapcan to develop and disseminate a faculty specific resource for course peer-review in conjunction with Macademics.

Exam Destressor/Wellness Event/Campaign

Ashley is going to reach out to SHEC and Maroons to see if we can support them on their SHECare Packages project in support of her mental wellness resources platform point. We will also be brainstorming a way to reach out to constituents during exams with some resources from the MSU.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Raisa is still working towards finding a balance between her various roles. She plans to find a way to amalgamate smaller responsibilities into tangible tasks to complete throughout the remainder of the year.

SUCSESSES

Continued MSS Relationships

We have continued to hold regular office hours with the MSS, twice a week in their office BSB B108. We will continue promoting the office hours on social media!

OTHER

You rock, don't ever change. You is kind. You is important. You is great for reading this far in the report! Keep your head up and there's only 2 weeks of class left!



REPORT

From the office of the...

Social Sciences Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: SRA Social Science
SUBJECT: SRA 18K Report
DATE: Tuesday, November 20th, 2018

Hello Members of the Assembly,

We hope you have all had a productive and healthy last few months. We are excited to share our updates since our last report. Happy reading, and we wish you all a successful finals and exam period!

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Increase Feedback from Social Science Students

As mentioned above, we will be having a focus group on November 27th to get feedback from students. At the beginning of the term, Fawziyah and Shemar reached out to MSSS president Raquel regarding the creation of a feedback survey at the start of the term. As reported last cycle, a few students raised concerns about us not doing enough specifically for social science students. This is what led to us having this focus group, to get an idea of how our students feel about our year plan, current advocacy efforts and general feedback revolving the MSU. We have reached out to the experiential education office and academic advising to get their input on current issues we should raise during our sessions. We hope to get some good feedback from students and may potentially restructure our year plan for second term based on how students feel.

Charging Stations

After the longest 6 months of Shemar's life, charging stations are finally on campus!! This project has turned out to be a significantly larger amount of work than Shemar anticipated it to be. Work orders have been filed and they should all be set up by the start of the winter term!

Advocating for the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policy

Through the University Affairs committee, Fawziyah will be working on a report detailing the need for student-facing staff to receive sexual violence response training, as well as suggested changes to current training and sexual violence

response policies.

Increasing the types of Course specific help available to Social Science students

Justin has had a meeting with Jill McMillan, the Academic Skills Program Coordinator from the Student Success Centre. The Student Success Centre was open to the idea of providing an event or collaborated effort during a transition period such as welcome week to create more interested and involvement for students with their Writing Centre. Justin is in the process of setting up a meeting with a representative from residence to gain a better understanding of how residence academic sessions are run.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Joint Office Hours with the MSSS

At the beginning of the term we started doing joint office hours with the MSSS. We have promoted them with graphics, had a few strategic themes and have gotten little snacks to incentivize students to show up. We are finding that office hours as a whole hasn't been the most effective, so we are currently having discussions with our faculty on how to engage students and get them to come out to our office hours. We are aware that this is an issue every year and are currently racking our brains on how to get students to come out. If anyone has suggestions or ideas, we would love to hear them!

Welcome Week Applications

A platform point of Shemar's from his previous term on the SRA was restructuring the hiring process for Welcome Week. Every year, there are concerns raised by students that the MSSS is biased when it comes to hiring. We acknowledge students concerns, and are actively finding ways to reduce any perceived bias within the faculty. After consulting with the President, Josh Marando will now be sitting on the hiring board for WW planners to have an outside perspective on the role as well as someone removed from social sciences as a whole. Additionally, Tasneem Warani, SRA Arts and Science, has been advocating to her program to name blind all applications. We have decided to adopt a similar model for our faculty, and will be name blinding all applications for Blu Cru WW planners as another method to reduce any biases within the hiring process.

Mentorship Program

Earlier in our term, Shemar reached out to the VP (Academic) of the MSSS about implementing a mentorship program this year. Since then, Fawziyah and Raquel (MSSS President) have joined in and we have all been working on getting a pilot program started for second term. Applications opened on October 31st, and we have a decent number of both mentors and mentees signed up for the program! We recently held a training session for our mentees covering Anti-Oppressive practices training, and Sexual Violence training. We will be spending the rest of the term

training the mentors, planning a few events and matching individuals with their preferred mentors. We are very excited to see this project come to fruition again and hope everything runs smoothly in second semester.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Social Sciences Focus Group

This is an event that will be happening at the end of the semester, on November 27th, that will be used to collect feedback from Social Science students. If you know any students in Social Sciences that wants to have their voice heard, please tell them to come out and there will be lots of free food. The link to register before hand is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWHe9KQfEVJleKgk9aIcCIDtRzuqgZ_Ys3cpFCPkXI6EUYA/viewform



NONCOMPLIANCE
WITH
SRA Social Sciences

THE SRA Social Sciences caucus is hosting a **focus group** to get **feedback** on their **year plan**, **current student issues** and the **MSU as an organization**.

November 27 from 5 to 6PM or 6 to 7PM in The Grind

 

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Due to the nature of the end of a semester, we have all been very busy. Our current challenge that we are continuing to strive to achieve is ensuring that we balance our academic work and our SRA roles, while keeping communication open with each other. We will continue to strive to better this, and continue to hold ourselves accountable to the platform points we have set out.

SUCSESSES

Our caucus is making great strides in facilitating open and constructive communication with our faculty society. Through our joint mentorship program, our joint office hours, our routine interaction and our participation in MSSS Executive meetings, this has allowed us both to form beneficial bonds. We are looking to continue this relationship.

OTHER

Feel free to reach out to our caucus via facebook or email! We will also respond to individual messages as well. Reminder to visit our bi-weekly office hours outside of LRW 1001 on Mondays from 11:30 to 12:30, and Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30.

Best,

Fawziyah

Fawziyah Isah
SRA Social Science Caucus Leader
McMaster Students Union
srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

AVP: Municipal Affairs

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Shemar Hackett, Associate Vice-President of Municipal Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 18I Report
DATE: November 25th, 2018

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I can't believe I'm 7 months into my term already. Time is flying by and there are so many things I'm still really excited to work on! A decent amount of work has occurred since the last time I reported to you all, so my apologies in advanced for the lengthy report. Please reach out if you have any questions!

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Presence at Community Meetings

I have been attending the local Ainslie-Wood and Westdale Community Association (AWWCA) meetings and recently went to another Hamilton Transit Alliance (HTA) meeting. The HTA is a group of individuals from different organizations across Hamilton that discuss how to improve and expand transit in Hamilton. Though these meetings can be time consuming, I'm constantly being told how nice it is to see the MSU have a representative at these meetings. Our presence within the community has been great thus far.

Student Engagement with Municipal Advocacy

The first half of this semester was taken over by the municipal election, so this platform point still needs some work. The MacVotes campaign was a great way to engage with students and keep them informed on current municipal issues. Next semester, I plan to make posts on the MSU advocacy social media pages, especially around the time of the municipal budget submission, to keep students up to date on my work. I have also been contacted by *The Silhouette* around 4 times this semester and take every opportunity I can to talk about the work that I'm doing. The Sil is a great avenue to reach students and I'm actively looking for other routes to ensure I'm being transparent with all of the work I'm doing!

Municipal Budget Submission

It's almost time for the municipal budget submission! For those that don't know, last year was the first time the MSU submitted budget recommendations to the City of Hamilton. It went very well and I'm excited to do so again this year. I have organized the authors writing the budget submission and we will be having our brainstorming session by the end of the term. The current goal is for everyone to work on the budget from November to the beginning of January. We should be finished by the second week of January, as long as everything runs smoothly. As of right now, the sections in our budget are: Employment Opportunities, Student Engagement, Transit, Off-Campus Housing, Waste Management and Bylaws and Enforcement. If there is anything that you would like to see in our budget submission send me an email and my authors and I will look into it!

Municipal Advocacy Week

Another new project that started last year was municipal advocacy week. This is a week-long lobbying week with councilors and stakeholders within Hamilton and we advocate to them on student issues. My committee and I have come up with individuals we would like to advocate to. The current date for advocacy week will be the first two weeks of February. Contrary to last year, I have decided to spread our lobbying meeting over two weeks. This gives us more time to meet with councilors and ensures my committee members have the opportunity to attend at least one meeting each. If there are any stakeholders within the Hamilton community that you believe we should meet with, again please email me and we can look into it.

Landlord Rating System

In my year plan and previous reports, I referred to this as the 'Landlord Wiki'. The name of this has since been changed to 'Landlord Rating System'. I have asked you all to go on the website, sent in an email, and rate your current or previous student house. If you haven't done so as yet, I would really appreciate you doing so now! It would be nice to have a few posts on the site prior to students go on the website. In addition, please let me know if anything doesn't work or if the layout isn't user friendly. The owner of the website is always looking for ways to improve.

My committee and I have set a tentative date for the launch of the Landlord Rating System, which is Tuesday January 8th, 2019. We will be renting out a room, most likely in MUSC, and have snacks for students while they fill out the evaluation of their student house! The website also gives users the ability to find houses to rent as well, so it's a great time to launch in January as many students will be looking for off-campus housing.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Ward 1 Candidates Debate

The debate went very well! The candidates all came up to Stephanie and I afterwards and raved about how well written the questions were. The format of the debate was a major struggle, as there were 13 candidates to manage, but everything ran smoothly. Big thank you to my committee for all of their help.

Information Session events in Residence

As mentioned in my last report, I wanted to hold an event in residence for students on where, how and when to vote. I did promote the event on social media and sent out emails, but we had very low turnouts to the events. As I was busy preparing for other aspects of the campaign, I believe my promo could've been significantly stronger. With that being said, I did speak to a few students in res about the election so overall it was still worth it.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

#YesLRT Campaign

As stated in my last report, the current status of the LRT is undetermined. We don't know what the future holds in regard to the LRT, but the MSU is in favor of the project. My committee has organized the logistics around what we would want this to look like. We haven't set a date for this campaign as yet, as it may not be needed. We are currently reviewing candidates' stances on the LRT and preparing for a scenario in which we would need to lobby City Council to move forward with the LRT.

Maroons First Year Event

Maja, the events coordinator for the maroons, reached out to me to collaborate on an event for first years. December-January is when many students begin looking for off-campus housing. We wanted to hold an event to help students in their search of a best student house for them! The event, which is called "*House Hunters: Student Edition*" will be livestreamed through Facebook and students can send in questions before hand or tune in and ask them directly. The date of the event will be Tuesday November 27th, 2018! If you know any students, specifically first years, who are planning to live off campus, please tell them to tune in to get some info!

As this is when many first year begin looking for off-campus housing, they wanted to have an event to aid students in their search. We plan to have a live stream that will go over important information students need when it comes to renting a house and important red flags to look out for when talking to your landlord and viewing the house. We do not

have a set date and time for the event, but we will soon! We plan to have the event before the fall term is over.

TTCriders Campaign

TTC riders is grassroots, advocacy group that advocates to the municipal government in Toronto for better transit service. They plan to launch a provincial campaign soon with the goal of putting pressure on the Ontario government to honor previous promises for better transit and to increase funding commitments for already established transit initiatives. We will be partnering with Environment Hamilton and the Hamilton Transit Alliance on this campaign and I'll provide updates in my next report on the next steps, as very little is currently known.

Fred Eisenberger and Maureen Wilson

I'm sure you are all aware, but Fred Eisenberger won back his seat as our Mayor and Maureen Wilson is now our new Ward 1 City Councilor. Congratulations to them both on running a great campaign. I wanted to have an event in second semester inviting them to campus to speak to student leaders about their plans for the ward. They have both expressed interest in coming in to speak to students which is great! I have planned to invite them to an SRA meeting so that they can delegate to the floor and we can collectively ask them questions. I felt an SRA meeting would be the best option as we have a guaranteed audience for them, rather than attempting to persuade a large number of students to attend an event in 1280 to see their Ward 1 Councilor (which would be difficult). My committee and I will still promote the event to students and we hope a decent amount come out next term!

CURRENT CHALLENGES

It's been a weird period since the election finished. There isn't much advocacy that can be done to the new councilor as they have no power, and I cannot advocate to outgoing councilors as they won't have any power within the next month. For incumbents who won their seat, many of them don't have a vested interest in student issues. I have been taken this time to work on smaller projects, organize meetings, plan events for second semester and continue our presence at community meetings. Once the new year starts, I'm sure things will pick back up again, and this won't be an issue.

SUCSESSES

Campaigning for the MacVotes was very successful, especially the day of the election. There were a few issues with getting volunteers to sign up, but that is understandable as it is midterm szn AND the campaign started the week after fall break. Nevertheless, we walked a few groups of first years to the polls, had a number of students fill out voter amendment forms, and had students ask about job opportunities within the MSU. Thank you to my amazing committee for all of the planning you did. Thank you to the Maroons

for helping us walk students to the polls and hand out voter amendment forms. Major shout out to Steph for all of the work and support she gave me throughout this campaign!!

That is all this current report. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let me know and I'll be happy to answer them. Otherwise, see you all Sunday!

Best,

Shemar Hackett
Associate Vice-President: Municipal Affairs
McMaster Students Union
avpmunicipal@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 18K Report
DATE: November 20, 2018

I can't believe we're all already halfway through our terms, and we're at our last meeting before the New Year! I hope you're all ready for exam season, prepared for the final stretch of the semester, and will be treated kindly by these next few weeks. Given that my committee has mostly been doing research, and I've personally been following up on meetings, I don't have a lot to report on so this will be a short report.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

My year plan is going well. I've reshuffled the timeline for some of my originally scheduled meetings because we decided that a better way to advocate is to create info-packs that outline our current problems with existing policies and indicate suggestions for improvement prior to having these meetings. I am happy with the progress of my year plan, I'd rather do things well and be effective in our advocacy than rush things. In addition, I think that this will set a foundation for future advocacy so we can ensure continuity of projects regardless of the rotating positions.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

A lot of our focus in the past few weeks for our committee has been on creating these info-packs. We're well on our way to completing them, and I'm really happy with how much information we've gathered. Some past activities have been reaching out to different stakeholders – some of which I've done, some of which other committee members have done – to continue consultations. I've also done some consultation meetings with Chris Roberts and the Assistant Dean of Humanities for projects outside of the committee and those have been really informative and successful as well. These meetings have allowed me to make a lot of progress on the restricting of course outlines, develop an understanding of how we can make a course repository happen, and continue following up on University Budget Submission asks. Lastly, I've been an active member of the Sustainability and Peer Supporting Working Group committees, and we've made a lot of good progress in those committees as well!

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Next week, a few committee members and I are meeting with the Equity and Inclusion Office re: sexual violence response as part of our consultation process for our sexual violence response info-pack. After this report is due, and before our SRA meeting, I'll be attending the 2018 McMaster Financial Forum held by the university. It was an invitation extended by Dee, the CFO of the University, and it's a great opportunity to learn how the MSU can better prepare budget submissions for the future. As mentioned earlier, our committee hopes to finish our info-packs in the next few weeks, so I'll be scheduling meetings with the relevant stakeholders for the new year. Stephanie and I are also meeting with Sean (Dean of Students) and Roger Couldrey for our final budget submission follow-ups. Lastly, the Assistant Deans Group has invited me to their

next meeting (either December or January) to present some changes I drafted for course outlines. These changes are improved standardized versions of the MSAF and RISO, and a new OMBUDS section to increase awareness that I hope all faculties will adopt.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

My current challenges are making sure that we get everything done before the year end. There's a lot of information to include in each of our info-packs, and I'm hoping to conduct a Health Services Review in second semester so ideally we finish this semester's projects as soon as possible. At the same time, we want to make sure our info-packs are high quality, so we don't want to rush them. I'll revisit our progress at the end of this month and reshuffle the timeline for our projects.

VOLUNTEERS

As always, the University Affairs volunteers are incredible and super committed to our projects! They've been taking lots of initiative to meet with stakeholders to consult on the creation of our info-packs which I've really appreciated. I'm hoping that once our info-packs are completed, we can book meetings with relevant stakeholders and present our findings and recommendations – my intention is to take at least one committee member to each meeting. I really want to provide committee members and the SRA with professional development opportunities, so if there is something in my platform you're interested in pursuing, I once again encourage you to reach out to me!

SUCSESSES

A continuous success is the wonderful committee members I have; something that's really exciting is the few MSU members who have heard about the committee and have reached out to get involved! In addition, I'm really happy with how my past advocacy meetings have been going, university administration has been really receptive to asks and willing to listen and meet with me.

OTHER

Please continue to advertise the University Affairs committee to your constituents. We meet Tuesdays (4.30-5.30) and Wednesdays (12.30-1.30) weekly in Meeting Room C of MUSC 201; each meeting works on something different so it's perfectly okay to only attend one of the two meetings. As always, I'd love to have more of you and more of our students engaged in University Affairs!

Yours Truly,



Tasneem Warwani
Associate Vice-President University Affairs
McMaster Students Union
avpuniiversity@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

Executive Board

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: Executive Board Report, SRA 18K
DATE: November 21, 2018

Dear Members of Assembly,

In this report, I am summarizing the reports presented to Executive Board on November 15th and November 8th. Overall, all of our services are doing well, with no major challenges. More details can be found in the Executive Board documents.

Women & Gender Equity Network

The WGEN space has been tracking usage by having volunteers complete intake forms each shift - approximately 60% of intake forms were completed, recording 270 visitors from October 1st to November 2nd. It is assumed that there were more users than counted accessing the space as a result of not all intake forms being completed. Their social media channels have had consistent engagement, with good traction on their Instagram account that they launched 2 months ago. On October 29th, they ran a Spooptacular event which had 30 attendees. The event included identifying exclusionary feminism, watching movies, and enjoying candy and snacks. Attendees had positive feedback and many noted it was their first WGEN event. Now they are planning their Transforming Mac week, which is an educational and community building week of trans focused programming. There has been some challenges in terms of volunteer engagement but the PTM and Volunteer Coordinator are working to address this through one-on-one meetings.

Diversity Services

All of Diversity Service's volunteers have been hired and trained, totaling 18 individuals. They have provided AOP to SWHAT, Hillel, MSA, and their own service. They are also looking create new materials of AOP training and to partner with the Equity and Inclusion Office to find ways to standardize training. In October, 10 events have been hosted in Bridges and there are 19 events scheduled in November. Past events included "Video on Trial: Horror Edition" and Resistance & Existence: PoC, Pride, & Police with PCC. They also ran an educational campaign about Thanksgiving and Halloween costumes, which received traction on social media. Future events include hosting an event on anti-Semitism during Holocaust Education week with McMaster Hillel, a coffeehouse with interfaith council, and a voluntourism campaign. The

services challenges include incorporating an Indigenous and decolonizing perspective in their anti-oppression work and are looking to overcome this by partnering with Indigenous student groups on campus.

Food Collective Centre

The FCC has run a successful Food Drive Campaign with Living Rock, collecting 1330lbs of food through Trick or Eat, which is almost double what they collected last year. They have also restocked the Food Collective Centre through the Trick or Eat campaign. The second round of Good Food Box packing and delivery has been completed and orders are up from last year. FCC also host their first Second course event and are planning for their second. The Lockers of Love program is seeing comparable usage as compared to the last two years, with 10 people accessing this service. Upcoming activities include developing a partnership with the McMaster Poverty Initiative Student Advocacy Committee and their first community kitchen workshop at the Alumni House. A challenge includes the increased price of the Good Food Box, which has deterred FCC partners (students who have accessed other services provided by FCC such as Locker for Love) from purchasing them. FCC is responding by looking into other avenues to subsidize or absorb the cost for partners.

Pride Community Centre

The PCC has completed their annual Pride Week. There were a few challenges but the events were generally well attended. One highlight was the coffeehouse at The Grind, which ran out of performance timeslots and was packed. They are running weekly support groups after hours. They are now planning their AIDS action campaign. As well, they are working on their LGBT Dictionary poster campaign for later in the year. They are looking to reopen hiring for volunteers for second term since some volunteers may not be returning for various of reasons. Their space is seeing consistent usage and has established regulars. Their social media is also seeing increased traction with their post popular post being the statement on the crosswalk vandalism. Challenges include communication with executives, which will be discussed at their meetings.

EFRT Report

EFRT rookies have completed the first half of EMR training and are now running full shifts, relieving pressure on senior team members. On the issue of new radios, they are hoping to have new radios and responders trained on how to use them by the new year. The month of October had a similar volume of calls. With the legalization of marijuana, EFRT has seen more cannabis related calls but are working with campus security, their medical director and alumni to develop a more all-encompassing drug protocol. Past events included a bonfire at alpine tower to welcome new responders. The team is preparing for their Holiday team appreciation event. A current challenge is the Red Cross changes their standards over the summer for CPR courses. As a result, CRP instructors will have to be trained at a cost and new equipment will need to be purchased. The implementation of these changes may be delayed past January.

Macademics Report

Macademics is progressing on their year plan, completing the Spark Event on Academic Success, Teaching Award nomination Period, MacPherson Institute project proposal on creating a guidebook for undergraduate students. They have surpassed previous year's nominations with 1273 this year compared to 1130 in 2017 and 992 in 2016. They are now working on Prof and TA evaluation from Teaching Award nominations, an volunteer and exec appreciation event, and a Resource Hub launch.

Maroons Report

Upcoming events for the Maroons include How to Rent a Home Event with SCSN and AVP Municipal Affairs, Exam Care Packages with SHEC, guiding students to the Spark formal, hosting an Exam Destressor, and planning a Holiday Social for the Maroons. To help keep volunteers accountable, they are tracking volunteers attendance at events. The biggest challenge is not having a permanent coordinator at the present time, but Kristina is doing an excellent job in the interim with the support of the Leadership Team.

Sponsorship & Donations Committee

The Sponsorship & Donations Committee recommended Executive Board approve three request for funding: \$250 in Sponsorship to the Arts and Science Musical, \$300 Sponsorship to the International Women's and Children's Health Conference, and \$100 sponsorship to the McMaster Mars Rover team. Executive Board approved these requests. The fund now sit at \$6,760 to be used throughout the remainder of the year.

SCSN Community Connector Job Description

The Community Connector job descriptions have been slightly modified. This is as a result of consistently low turnout for these positions, which demonstrated a need for the role to be reworked. The positions will now be referred to as Connectors to highlight the role has changed. Clarity has been added to the supervisory portion of the role and added a duty to educate students about by-laws and other related acts.

Part Time Issues Committee

As mentioned in past EB reports, the Executive Board is looking into creating a Part-Time Issues Committee to provide a forum for part-time staff to address employment issues. Executive Board has now discussed what the composition of the committee will look like. Two options were presented and Executive Board voted to move forward with Option 2 which outlines the structure of the committee should be the following:

- Operations Coordinator - 1 (chairperson)
- Board of Directors (5 positions) - 1 rep
- Supervisory Staff (23 positions) - 1 rep
- Non-Supervisory Staff (70 positions) - 3 reps

Executive Board though this would be the best option since it is more representative of staff and provides a better split between the roles.

Best,

Stephanie Bertolo
Vice-President (Education)
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca



REPORT

From the office of the...

Vice-President (Administration)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Kristina Epifano, VP Admin
SUBJECT: SRA 18K Report
DATE: November 20, 2018

Happy basically officially winter – yay for snow and this semester almost being done!

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Work Towards a Safer Campus

I have recently joined the Sexual Violence Education Team which is led by Meaghan Ross, sexual violence response coordinator and meets monthly. The team is essentially a working group that brings together many campus and community partners who are responsible for coordinating ongoing awareness-raising, prevention education and skill-building trainings. The committee has developed its principles of education to be survivor-centered, intersectional and anti-oppressive. Our next meeting is in early December when we will discuss the Women's Campus Safety Grant, meant to improve trainings, programs and facilities to create a safer campus, and a potential Climate Survey.

Review Welcome Week Planner Hiring and Compensation

This past summer I created a sub-committee at WWAC to review planner numbers and compensation. The committee includes myself, Josh Marando, Scott Robinson, Michele Corbeil (SSC), Brittany Reifenstein (Residence Life) and Jennifer Kleven (OCRC). The sub-committee had its first meeting in October and we are currently working on an environmental scan to assess inconsistencies across planning groups across various departments. Some of the areas of research are job descriptions/responsibilities, wages and where the funds are coming from, and contract duration. After many challenges with planners this year, myself, Josh Marando and Michele Corbeil will be reviewing the planner hiring practices that occur under each faculty. We will be working with faculty societies to find a more standardized way to select planners, ensuring that selection is being made on proper merits, while still giving faculties some autonomy. Until then, Josh has been sitting on some hiring boards for faculty planners for Kinesiology, Engineering, Social Sciences and Art Science – we hope to make this mandatory in the future.

Evaluation Forms

I created two evaluation forms this term, mid-year supervisor evaluation forms (were part-time staff – including PTMs, AVPs, Research Assistants – evaluate their respective supervisors) and student manager evaluation forms (where services executives evaluated their respective part-time managers). I will be compiling the data in December and highlighting areas of improvement during my one-on-ones with PTMs in January. The evaluation form allows staff to evaluate the

effectiveness of their supervisors on a scale of 1-7 and touches on areas of Leadership, Communication and General Skills. There is also space for staff to highlight strengths and weakness that they have seen in their supervisors. I have been looking at the results and have found the feedback to be very useful in identifying areas I can improve as a manager. I will also be having conversations with John and the Board about implementing similar evaluation forms in all departments across the union.

Standardizing Hiring Logistics/Practices

Myself and Maddison have figured out a system in which the logistics of hiring are done through the office clerks. We have completed one hiring cycle thus far and believe this system will work well. I have also reviewed all competencies for part-time manager positions. I have made the competencies more extensive, outlining specific skills and competencies for each individual interview question, as well as the cover letter. We have opted to not provide interview questions in advance for candidates, and instead have created a "Tips to Ace the Interview" guideline sheet that is sent out when confirming the time of the interview.

Creating a Positive Office Culture and Environment

The board has done a great job so far at creating a positive working environment for staff. We have all made an effort to check in on all full-time staff members and actively listen to their needs. We will also be starting to celebrate milestones for full-time staff in a variety of appreciation gifts depending on how long they have been with the MSU.

Supporting the TRRA

I have implemented weekly check-ins with the TRRA and made the role very research and project based. We put out a survey to services volunteers to get feedback on important topics they would like more training on or things they wanted to learn more about. From this, we have identified 3 research topics which include, Facilitating Group Support, Identifying and Responding to Crisis and Navigating Warm Hand-Offs. We are currently working with the underground to develop an infographic for Facilitating Group Support and Allison Drew-Hassling on adapting the university crisis protocol her office put out.

Strengthening Relations

In efforts to strengthen the relationship between our services and Good2Talk, I was able to update the Good2Talk resources/referral database so they can now refer McMaster students to our peer support services or at least inform callers about the services that exist on campus. I am currently working with Megan, the Good2Talk outreach manager on organizing to have Good2Talk presence on campus during the upcoming exam season.

Strengthen Support and Relations Between My Counterparts from other Student Unions

I have been working to improve the relationship between myself and my counterparts from other student unions. Since OUSA Best Practice Sharing Day, we have created a group chat and have been using each other as resources which has been very helpful. This includes my counterparts from Waterloo, Laurier, Brock, Trent Durham and Western. Right now, we are exchanging job descriptions and union structures to compare positions, who reports to who, and more specifically I am looking into the supports in place/full-time positions that work closely with my counterparts. Another area of interest that I have been looking into is the human resources structure at other unions. We have started to plan visits and I am looking forward to going to Waterloo on Friday to meet with Savannah, VP Student Services, and some of her staff.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Increasing SRA Transparency

Through conversations with Tony from Avtek, Wooder and Scott – we have begun livestreaming SRA meetings on Facebook. These livestreams are housed under a new page - Student Representative Assembly (follow on facebook). This new Facebook page will solely be informational and promoting the SRA – including sharing infographics about the SRA, general updates, and livestreaming. The AVP Internal Governance will be the main admin of the page and work closely with the communications team to operate the page and respond to comments on the Livestream.

PTM Meetings

I have held two full part-time manager meetings so far – both of which have been successful. I have structured meetings to be discussion based and more focused around what the PTMs wish to discuss. Sarah, AVP Services, and I come up with 3 common challenges that we have noticed and prompt the discussion with those. I allow the PTMs to continue the conversation, asking questions, expanding on experience or providing potential solutions. Then they have time to discuss whatever they would like to discuss. I emphasize the fact that no one will understand their challenges better than another PTM so they should use this time to learn from each other.

PTM Check-Ins

I have given managers the decision of whether or not they want frequent check-ins. Some have scheduled bi-weekly check-ins, while others prefer monthly. I have had formal check-ins with all part-time managers thus far where I check in on how they are doing in the role, challenges they are having, navigating exec team meetings and how they are doing outside of this job. I have made communication very important between myself and the PTMs, the open communication is mutual and this has been nice so far for myself to know what is going on in their lives.

Committee Room Renovations

The new table and chairs in the committee room have been received very well. The table is constantly occupied and creates more of a conducive working environment. The new white board is beautiful and people have been using it to communicate, write prompts, ask questions. The new printer has been working fairly well, it is wireless so staff and volunteers can print from their laptops which is a nice change. I am currently working on getting a quote from facility services to install more outlets in the space.

Hiring

We have completed hiring for our “summer” PTMs – all part-time managers that begin their contract prior to May 1st. We received over 50 applications in total and were able to interview 2-3 candidates per position. Executive board brought helpful insight to the hiring board and I appreciate the time and energy they put into helping me hire.

The positions have been filled by the following individuals:

CLAY Coordinator	Giancarlo Da-Re
Horizons Coordinator	Emma Tomas
WWFC	Raquel Munoz

Farmstand Director	Abby Lindzon
Shinerama Coordinator	Alexa Ceiro
MaCycle Director	David Zaslavsky

Peer Support Promotions Working Group

Last year, a working group mandate was created and presented to the assembly to ensure adequate promotions of on and off-campus supports available for students. The committee has had three meetings thus far and we are rolling out our first project hopefully at the end of this month. The committee had a lot of conversations about gaps in knowledge of students and performed research to find out how other universities promote or raise awareness about their resources. We decided our first project would be to launch a video showing students how to navigate the new Student Wellness Centre website, specifically the Resources tab. We have drafted a script and storyboard for the video, it will be a screen shot of how to navigate through the different pages and a short blurb on what each resource is.

Part-Time Issues Committee

Maddison, John and I created a structure for the Part-Time Issues committee which was recently passed at Executive Board. The committee mirrors the Full-Time Issues Committee, where there are representatives from different departments and they discuss some challenges or issues full-time staff are facing on a large scale. This committee will begin to meet in January and will include the operations coordinator, a member from the Board of Directors, one supervisory staff representative and three non-supervisory representatives. The committee will create a forum where part-time staff can address employment issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Job Description and Wage Reviews

Recently there has been discrepancies in wages and job descriptions brought to my attention. Maddison and I are going to be working to evaluate all the current job descriptions, specifically those with similar responsibilities, to ensure they are up-to date and semi-standardized (ie our peer support part-time managers share similar responsibilities – so their JD’s should include similar scopes). In addition, we will be looking at positions that have similar work or responsibilities and evaluating their pay grades. There have been some discrepancies in positions being graded at a lower or higher pay scale although they involve similar work. I am also hoping to create an operating policy or mandate that all positions must go through a wage review every X number of years.

PTM Training

As I begin to hire the 2019-2020 part-time managers, I will also begin evaluating training. There has been negative feedback from our past summer service PTMs on the training they received. This is mainly because they are trained earlier than 80% of the other part-time managers and do not partake in the same rotational-based training day in early May. I will be working over the next month to create an effective training for these managers, ensuring training includes all relevant information, is not rushed, and is delivered prior to their start dates. I will be working with Scott to ensure finance training is also just as effective.

Space Allocation Committee

The space allocation committee is meant to evaluate the MSU space in order to record usage and make recommendations. The committee has met twice and we have recently developed a Space Audit survey that will be administered to all full-time staff. We are hoping to evaluate how effective the current space is and what changes full-time staff wish to see. Specifically, we are looking at the need of meeting space and storage space. The survey will be sent out by the end of the month and recommendations will be brought forward to Executive Board early next term.

PTM Hiring

We are going to be trying new outreach efforts for our December/January hiring cycle, including tabling in MUSC and infographics. We are hoping to expand our outreach by tabling, being able to ask questions and break down the myths that currently exist when someone sees an MSU job posting. We will be having part-time managers visit the table and share their experiences and talk to students about why they should apply. In addition, we are working with the underground to create a couple of infographics that can be circulated during every hiring cycle. One infographic will include general skills needed for these roles, a breakdown of what the positions entail and what you can gain from your experience as a part-time manager. We are hoping this will help explain what a “part-time manager” really is, and allow for a better understanding.

Warm regards during this season of cold,

Kristina Epifano
Vice-President (Administration)
McMaster Students Union
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REPORT

From the office of the...

Vice President (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: OUSA Fall 2018 General Assembly Report
DATE: November 21, 2018

Dear members of the Assembly,

This report is to update you on the recent Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance General Assembly, hosted at McMaster University from November 2nd to 4th.

The McMaster Students Union was represented by ten delegates:

- Stephanie Bertolo (Vice-President Education) - Author, Tuition
- Ikram Farah (President)
- Urszula Sitarz (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs) - Author, Tuition
- Linda Cabral
- Shemar Hackett (AVP Municipal Affairs, SRA Social Science) - Non-voting
- Aleigha Kampman - Non-voting
- Josh Marando
- Leela Raj
- Joshua Yachouh
- Tasneem Warwani (AVP University Affairs, SRA Arts & Science)

The main purpose of the conference was to pass three policy papers: Tuition, Technology-Enabled Learning, and Teaching & Assessment. Additionally, the General Assembly passed a stance on Freedom of Speech and Expression. Delegates from each of the eight member schools came to discuss these policies over three days. The first two days they provided their feedback on the policy in breakout sessions, which are in smaller group setting and not governed by Robert's Rules, allowing students to more easily express their opinions.

On the third day we had plenary, which is similar to our SRA meetings. This is where we formally debated and passed all of the policies. Each year, we invite an alumni of the host Student Union to be the speaker and I was happy Ryan Deshpande, last year's VP Education, agreed to take on the task. As you have likely already heard, plenary, which last year was a maximum of 4 hours, was over 12 hours this General Assembly. It was a long and tiresome process, with a lot of frustration expressed. A good portion of those 12 hours was not spent debating the actual policies or stances of the organization, but rather procedural matters according to Robert's Rules. There was also abuse of Robert's Rules during plenary, where individuals, with extensive knowledge of Robert's Rules, would advance their own political agenda by using Robert's Rules to speak over others

or silence other delegates. The process was disheartening to say the least. It highlighted some major gaps in OUSA that need to be addressed before the next General Assembly. I am working closely with OUSA's Executive Director Sophie Helpard, and President Danny Chang to ensure that Robert's Rules is used as a method to facilitate meaningful discussion, rather than to silence it. They are both in agreement with me that there were major issues presented at that General Assembly and are committed to addressing them. I will be raising these points with the Steering Committee at our next meeting.

The upside of the twelve hour meeting is that the MSU delegation remained incredibly composed throughout it all and were able to effectively advocate on behalf of students. This certainly paid off as we were able to ensure the stances that we thought best reflected and addressed student needs were in all of the policy papers and the Freedom of Speech and Expression stance, which was certainly the most hotly debated item on the agenda.

The policy papers and stances will be available soon at the following link:
<https://www.ousa.ca/policies>

We also decided which policies we would write next term. The final decision was:

- LGTBQ+ Students
- Financial Aid
- Student Employment

The authorship for these papers will be decided later in the term. If you are interested in being an author, let me know ASAP.

At the conference, Andrea Horwath, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the NDP, also came to give a speech and answer questions from the General Assembly. This was an incredible opportunity for not only delegates, who were able to interact with the Leader of the Opposition, but also for the MSU and OUSA to continue to build a strong relationship with the NDP. This will be critical over the next four years and having Andrea Horwath only one riding over is a fantastic asset for us.

Planning General Assembly certainly was tiring and I am thankful that a Vice-President will not have to plan one for another four years. However, it was incredibly rewarding to see it all come together and to show of McMaster and Hamilton to delegates across the province. I am also so thankful for such an incredible MSU delegation, making me and McMaster proud to be represented by them.

Best,

Stephanie Bertolo
Vice President (Education)
vped@msu.mcmaster.ca