



**AGENDA - SRA 18M**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY  
Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 5:00pm  
**Council Chambers, GH 111**

**PROCEDURE**

Call of the Roll, Territory Recognition, Playing of National Anthem, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of SRA Minutes 18L, 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. Meaning of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement | Maggie Powless-Lynes |
|---|----------------------|

**REPORTS**

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Health Sciences              | Roshan         |
| 2. Humanities                   | Grewal         |
| 3. Kinesiology                  | Emmanuel       |
| 4. Provincial & Federal Affairs | Urszula Sitarz |
| 6. Executive Board              | Epifano        |
| 7. Vice-President (Education)   | Bertolo        |

**BUSINESS**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Open SRA Seat on Standing Committee        | Epifano |
| 2. Close SRA Seat on Standing Committee       | Epifano |
| 3. Open MSU Seat on Standing Committee        | Epifano |
| 4. Close MSU Seat on Standing Committee       | Epifano |
| 5. National Anthem                            | Warwani |
| 6. OPERATING POLICY – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION | Bertolo |

## **MOTIONS**

1. **Moved** by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) SRA seat on Services Committee.
2. **Moved** by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) SRA seat on Services Committee.
3. **Moved** by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) MSU seat on Services Committee.
4. **Moved** by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) MSU seat on Services Committee.
5. **Moved** by Roshan, **seconded** by Warwani that the Assembly strike “Playing of the National Anthem” from the standing orders on the SRA agenda.
6. **Moved** by Bertolo, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Assembly approve the changes to OPERATING POLICY – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION as circulated.



**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 18M**  
**Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 5:00pm**  
**Council Chambers, GH111**

**Called to Order at 5:01pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

<b>Present</b>	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Benzon, Bertolo, Bishara, Emmanuel, Epifano, Florean, Gandzi, Grewal, Hackett, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reesor, Roshan, Salciccioli, Shingleton-Smith, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Villasis, Warwani
<b>Absent Excused:</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Espiritu, Farah, Robinson, Senthilmohan, N. Singh
<b>Late</b>	Bonk, Reddy
<b>Others Present:</b>	Josh Yachouh (MSU Member), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Swaleh Hussain (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (University Affairs Committee Member), Raquel Deparinski (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (PCC Coordinator), Uwais Patel (MSU CRO)
<b>Chair</b>	Elizabeth Wong

**TERRITORY RECOGNITION**

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved** by Shingleton-Smith, **seconded** by Epifano that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Epifano, **seconded** by Bertolo to add a closed session discussion before Report Period.

- Epifano stated that she did not need to give much context. It would be in closed session because the discussion would have to do with HR matters.
- Miranda Clayton asked if all parties involved would be in the closed session.
- Epifano stated that the Assembly can invite any individuals they like in to the closed session to make a statement. To do so the Assembly would entertain a motion. Epifano stated that precedent from Executive Board would be to have the individual(s) come in and make a statement/participate in what they would like to say and then leave for the remainder of the discussion.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 25 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 3**  
**Abstained: Oketch, Grewal, Hackett**  
**Motion Passes**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Warwani, **seconded** by Roshan to open one (1) SRA seat on University Affairs.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Roshan, **seconded** by Warwani to move Business item #5 before Delegation from the Floor #1.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Vote to Adopt the Agenda**

**Moved** by Shingleton-Smith, **seconded** by Epifano that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

**Passes Unanimously**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**Moved** by Arbess, **seconded** by Warwani that the Assembly adopt minutes SRA 18L – January 6, 2018.

**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.

**BUSINESS**

**5. National Anthem**

**Moved** by Roshan, **seconded** by Warwani that the Assembly strike “Playing of the National Anthem” from the standing orders on the SRA agenda.

- Roshan stated that they had had many discussions with folks from the Equity and Inclusion Office about what purpose the national anthem serves. They stated that the memo took a lot of time and effort. Roshan read the memo to the Assembly.
- Warwani reinforced that the memo had taken a lot of time and effort. Warwani explained that everything the assembly does at these meetings have the potential to impact students. They asked if the national anthem furthers the goals of the assembly. Warwani explained that many elementary schools have moved the land acknowledgement before the national anthem.
- Benson asked why the anthem is not played at the Board of Governors (BoG) or Senate meetings. They asked if it was removed. Benson ceded their time to Roshan. Roshan explained that the BoG and Senate had never played it.
- Warwani explained that the SRA began playing the national anthem around 10 years ago after a motion was passed for it to be put on the standing agenda. There was not much discussion or reasoning on why it was added.
- Arbess thanked Warwani and Roshan for the time they put in and agreed it is important to reconsider what the assembly does. Arbess stated they were not sure how the playing of the national anthem could be harmful. They agreed that the land acknowledgement should come first, but in conjunction with the national anthem. They stated that McMaster is a Canadian university and it is important to recognize that as well.
- Roshan still did not see a tangible purpose to have the national anthem at an SRA meeting. Roshan stated that there is merit in having it in other occasions, like Remembrance Day. Roshan stated it was naive to say that the impact is not harmful to students, as some groups are saying that it is.
- Warwani stated that no decisions are affected by the playing of the national anthem at a meeting.
- Florean felt playing the national anthem was a way of showing respect and did not see how removing it would make a big improvement on student politics.

**Moved** by Epifano, **seconded** by Bertolo to table Business item #5.

**In Favour: 28 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2**

**Abstained: Arbess, Bishara  
Motion Passes**

**DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR**

**1. Meaning of the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement – Maggie Powless-Lynes presented**

**Parameters**

**Moved** by Warwani, **seconded** by Roshan that parameters be set at 15 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions.

**Passes Unanimously**

- Powless-Lynes presented:
  - Upwards of 300 indigenous students at McMaster.
  - Purpose of doing a land acknowledgement is to acknowledge the privilege you have for being a visitor on this land.
  - Recognize that it is a privilege to attend McMaster University and be on the land as a non-indigenous person.
  - Indigenous women are the lowest representation at university, while at the same time McMaster benefits from indigenous land.
  - The dish with one spoon wampum agreement predates contact and includes almost all of Southwestern Ontario and reaches Ohio and New York state.
  - Wampum agreements hold as much power as legislation and are international agreements. Wampum agreements are made between multiple indigenous nations as well as between an indigenous nation a non-indigenous nation. Agreements still apply today, just not from a colonial standpoint.
  - Dish with one spoon says that we share the land and while consuming the resources we are not taking more than we need. It is an agreement of peace because a spoon cannot be used as a weapon.
  - As student representatives you represent indigenous students and communities.
  - Many indigenous people do not identify with being Canadian. The national anthem states that the land is Canadian which is problematic. A land acknowledgement states that indigenous people never gave up the land. The land acknowledgement and the national anthem therefore do not work together as they say opposing things. It is fine to be proud of being Canadian, but it is built off of taking advantage of indigenous people and that needs to be accepted.

**Questions**

- Florean asked if there was anything the Assembly could do at meetings besides the land acknowledgement. Powless-Lynes stated that they should always make room for indigenous perspectives and how decisions could affect indigenous students.
- Ibrahim asked Powless-Lynes had thought of any ideas/solutions for reconciliation. Powless-Lynes stated that the Canadian government need to speak to indigenous leaders as equal to the prime minister and give equal say to how land is used.
- Ibrahim asked if there should be acknowledgement of Canada. Powless-Lynes stated that they felt the national anthem needs rewritten. Powless-Lynes did not personally see an issue with an anthem that reflects an equal relationship. Powless-Lynes added that it should not be indigenous people doing land acknowledgements.
- Grewal asked if the national anthem could be substituted with something that acknowledges Canada but does not cause conflict. Powless-Lynes stated that they could only speak for themselves, but an idea could be to write up a Canadian acknowledgement.

- Lee thanked Powless-Lynes for the presentation. Lee asked what an ideal process would look like at an SRA meeting. Powless-Lynes stated that they were not aware what the land acknowledgement currently looked like. They stated that land acknowledgements should provoke thoughts that may not have an answer. Land acknowledgements could be different every time, as long as they push non-indigenous people to think more and recognize and admit that they do not know or care enough.

**Moved** by Hackett, **seconded** by Gandzi to take from the table the motion to strike “Playing of the National Anthem” from the standing orders on the SRA agenda.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Hackett **seconded** by Gandzi to pick Business item #5 up from the table.

**Passes Unanimously**

### **BUSINESS (cont.)**

#### **5. National Anthem (cont.)**

**Moved** by Roshan, **seconded** by Warwani that the Assembly strike “Playing of the National Anthem” from the standing orders on the SRA agenda.

- Isah stated that Powless-Lynes brought up a great points about the negatives of having the anthem. Iesha stated that they could discuss later what the replacement should be and keeping the discussion focused.
- Bonk stated it was important to them to play the anthem and have the land acknowledgement.
- Oketch stated that they are a first generation immigrant and coming to Canada helped them achieve a better life, but it does not matter what the anthem means to them if it has negative effects on other students.
- Bertolo stated that we are reminded of our Canadian identity quite frequently: money, passports, drivers license. However, it is very rare that we are reminded of the territory we sit on. For that reason, Bertolo did not feel the Assembly needed to play the anthem. Bertolo stated that when she hears the land acknowledgement it inspires her to think about students not around this table, and students who may not be able to attend McMaster due to barriers.
- Arbess stated that they did not see the clash between the land acknowledgement and the anthem, and felt they are both equally important. Arbess agreed that the land acknowledgement should be before the anthem.
- Warwani stated that it is easy to think of the reconciliation without thinking of all the wrong things we are doing such as sterilization, no access to clean water. Warwani stated that Assembly members can be proud of being Canadian but not at a cost to students. Warwani asked Assembly members to think about the purpose of their action and their impact, and think of the students they are representing without a voice.
- Anderson stated that if the motion to remove the anthem does not go through there should be time allotted to express the history of the anthem and how it effects certain groups, and recognize there are students negatively affected by it playing at these meetings.
- Roshan expressed concern with the way Assembly members were thinking. Roshan stated that the delegation explained the negative impact of the anthem and members were still debating the contradictor nature of the anthem and the land acknowledgement.
- Florean stated that the anthem should not be taken out completely, and that they should look at improving the land acknowledgement.
- Hackett stated that the idea of Canadian identity needs to acknowledge the good and the bad parts. Hackett stated that acknowledging the anthem is harmful but continuing to play it is like acknowledging you are being rude and not saying sorry.

**Moved** by MacLean, **seconded** by Sykes to Call to Question.

**In Favour: 20 Opposed: 10 Abstentions: 0**  
**Opposed: Arbess, Bishara, Ibrahim, S. Singh, Grewal, Florean, Reesor, Ahmed, Bonk, Saliccioli**  
**Motion Passes**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**In Favour: 21 Opposed: 6 Abstentions: 3**  
**Opposed: Arbess, Bishara, Florean, Reesor, Irfan, Villasis**  
**Abstained: Ibrahim, S. Singh, Bonk**  
**Motion Passes**

**Moved** by Epifano, **seconded** by Bertolo that the Assembly move into closed session.

- Epifano stated that the Assembly wanted to have a conversation that was HR related and needed to be held in closed session. Epifano stated the conversation would bring up the topic of sexual assault and if any assembly members were uncomfortable, they could leave, and she would check on them.
- Oketch stated that a lot of people were unhappy with the discussion being held in closed session.

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

**In Favour: 26 Opposed: 3 Abstentions: 1**  
**Opposed: Ibrahim, Florean, Irfan**  
**Abstained: Reesor**  
**Motion Passes**

**Recessed at 6:25pm**

**Called to order at 6:35pm**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

<b>Present</b>	Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Benzon, Bertolo, Bishara, Emmanuel, Epifano, Florean, Gandzi, Grewal, Hackett, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reesor, Roshan, Saliccioli, Shingleton-Smith, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Villasis, Warwani
<b>Absent Excused:</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Espiritu, Farah, Robinson, Senthillmohan, N. Singh
<b>Late</b>	Bonk, Reddy
<b>Others Present:</b>	Josh Yachouh (MSU Member), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Swaleh Hussain (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (University Affairs Committee Member), Raquel Deparinski (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (PCC Coordinator), Uwais Patel (MSU CRO)
<b>Chair</b>	Elizabeth Wong

(cont.) **Moved** by Epifano, **seconded** by Bertolo that the Assembly move into closed session.

- Miranda Clayton stated that as a peer support part time manager, they understood the need for confidentiality but did not support having this conversation in closed session.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 25 Opposed: 3 Abstentions: 0**  
**Opposed: Grewal, Roshan, Gandzi**  
**Motion Passes**

**The Assembly entered closed session.**

**The Assembly returned to open session.**

**Moved** by Hackett **seconded** by Reesor that all Reports and all remaining Business items #1-4 and #7 be moved to SRA 18N.

**In Favour: 25 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1**  
**Opposed: Bertolo**  
**Abstained: Epifano**  
**Motion Passes**

### **INFORMATION PERIOD**

- Miranda Clayton announced that the Pride Community Centre was having a history week focused on the impacts of HIV and AIDS. Clayton encouraged everyone to attend the remembrance event and to share on social media.
- Bertolo announced that Valedictorian nominations were opening on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Bertolo stated that if anyone had any concerns regarding the announcements from the government on changes to OSAP and ancillary fees that they could reach out to her. Bertolo stated that the board of directors were speaking to the government about the changes and looking into other means of advocating.

### **BUSINESS (cont.)**

#### **6. OPERATING POLICY – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION**

**Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly approve the changes to OPERATING POLICY – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION as circulated.

- Bertolo reviewed the attached memo.
- Isah asked who was spoken to in social sciences. Bertolo stated that she contacted the Deans and Associate Deans but were unsure who in their staff they communicated to.
- Reesor stated they felt valedictorian should be a display of academic excellence.
- Ahmed stated that someone be an exemplary student in their later years and not their first years, and the change speaks to that.
- Roshan stated there a lot of other factors consider, such as needing more than one job to support themselves, and valedictorian should be an accessible position.
- Bertolo explained that after a student has a 7.0 average grades are no longer supposed to be considered. Bertolo stated that in her own experience on a selection committee they did consider grades further, but that is not in line with the bylaw.
- Benzon asked if a student could drop their year with the lowest average.
- Bertolo stated that could be an option. They could also do either a 7.0 in the final year or across all academic years.
- Reesor asked if the accessibility would cause a large influx in applications.
- Bertolo stated that potentially more people will be able to apply, but did not think they would see a drastic increase.
- Warwani stated that the idea of valedictorian being the student with the highest academic standing has changed over the years, and it was time to look at someone who inspired their graduating class and motivates the graduating class.

### **Amendment**

**Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by Hackett that section 9.1 be changed to state: “Nominees are required to have either an average of at least 7.0 in their last academic year OR a cumulative average of at least a 7.0 in order to be considered eligible for Valedictorian.”

- Bertolo advised that the last full academic year would be considered your third year if graduating after your fourth year.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Bertolo, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly approve the changes to OPERATING POLICY – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION, as amended.

**Passes Unanimously**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Moved** by Warwani, **seconded** by Hackett to consider the following motion:

“Moved by \_\_\_\_, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_ that the Assembly tasks the VP Administration to develop an amendment to the constitution with the Equity and Inclusion Office and Meaghan Ross, to be brought to GA to develop emergency responses and survivor centric processes.”

- Florean asked the VP Administration if this was feasible.
- Epifano stated that it was, but the Assembly needed to recognize that there were limits to her time and energy and focusing her attention on this would take away from other projects.

**Vote to Consider**

**In Favour: 24 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2**

**Abstained: Arbess, Bishara**

**Motion Passes**

**Moved** by Warwani, **seconded** by Hackett that the Assembly tasks the VP Administration to develop an amendment to the constitution with the Equity and Inclusion Office and Meaghan Ross, to be brought to GA to develop emergency responses and survivor centric processes.

- Warwani stated that the VP Administration has a close relationship with Meghan Ross and the Equity and Inclusion office. Warwani stated that the VP Administration could choose to delegate this task to Internal Governance.
- Epifano asked again that the Assembly be respectful and understanding that she would need to reprioritize her year plan. Epifano stated that due to her relationship with Meghan Ross she would not be delegating this to Internal Governance committee.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 24 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2**

**Abstained: Arbess, Bishara**

**Motion Passes**

**TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Sunday, February 3, 2019  
5:00pm  
Council Chambers, GH 111**

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

**Present** Ahmed, Anderson, Arbess, Benzon, Bertolo, Bishara, Emmanuel, Epifano, Florean, Gandzi, Hackett, Ibrahim, Irfan, Isah, Lee, MacLean, Oketch, Reesor, Roshan, Saliccioli, Shingleton-Smith, S. Singh, Sykes, Tejpal, Villasis, Warwani

**Absent Excused:** Grewal

**Absent** Espiritu, Farah, Robinson, Senthillmohan, N. Singh

**Late** Bonk, Reddy

**Others Present:** Josh Yachouh (MSU Member), Sahil Karnani (MSU Member), Swaleh Hussain (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (University Affairs Committee Member), Raquel Deparinski (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (PCC Coordinator), Uwais Patel (MSU CRO)

**Chair** Elizabeth Wong

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Epifano, **seconded** by Bertolo that the meeting be adjourned.

**Passes by General Consent**

**Adjourned at 8:59pm**

/ef



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Health Sciences Caucus

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Devin Roshan, SRA Health Sciences  
SUBJECT: SRA 18M Report  
DATE: Jan 20th, 2018

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### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Since our last report we have met with Wooder to devise a petition to justify piloting extended hours in the Health Sciences Library (HSL). Collaborating with the director of HSL, we have identified that redistributing hours from Sunday to Saturday would be a feasible solution. The petition idea has been vetted by Michael Wooder and by the Director of HSL. To ensure participation, the petition will be incentivized hosting an event, which requires completion of the petition to receive pizza.

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

We connected with the Bachelor of Health Sciences office, specifically the Student Liaison, to plan and promote the alumni event—Life After BHSc—which was held on November 14th and 22nd. Our role included but was 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. 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 host the petition called a pizza and parlor event, where students will have the incentive of completing our HSL petition. 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. We are hoping to meet with Haley to begin our social media campaign and include testimonials of BHSc student experiences with MSU services as a way to better support students in the community interested in various services. We will have a photo of them taken by Haley, 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**

The transition into this semester was quite hectic and I'm hoping to find a way to balance my commitments more effectively.

### **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. 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](mailto:srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Humanities Caucus**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Hargun Grewal, SRA Humanities  
SUBJECT: SRA 18M Report  
DATE: Tuesday, January 15, 2019

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## **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

The progress of our caucuses' year plan is going very well. We have made headway on all the objectives we aimed to achieve first semester and the year and we are looking forward to seeing what more we can accomplish in second semester. We did re-schedule and change our year plan since the beginning of the year after receiving feedback on certain points, however, we were still able to accomplish our main objectives for first semester.

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

One of our main past events was our Charity Ball tickets giveaway. We ran this giveaway to increase our social media presence. Through this event, we engaged with students through an online presence and allowed them to connect with us more. The purpose of the event was to increase the platform our social media accounts have (primarily Facebook) so we can reach out to a larger audience when running events or promoting opportunities. Overall, the giveaway was a great way for students to interact with our social media accounts and get to learn more about SRA Humanities. Continuing from last semester we are still running our weekly office hours 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 demonstrating the importance of the arts and the variety of subjects and topics they encompass. In order to demonstrate this, we will be hopefully aiming to run the annual Arts Matters Week again this year in collaboration with the McMaster Humanities Society. This initiative is something that previous SRA Humanities Caucuses have started and continued and since we believe it is very valuable and important, we want to continue it as well.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

One of our current challenges has been re-organizing and planning out what we would like to do within second semester. After receiving feedback and making significant changes to our year-plan we planned out exactly what we wanted to do within first

semester and accomplished exactly that. However, now we have to plan out again what exactly we would like to accomplish in second semester and ensure we remain on track.

**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](mailto:srahuman@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Kinesiology Caucus

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Ushwin Emmanuel, SRA Kinesiology Caucus Leader  
SUBJECT: SRA 18M Report  
DATE: January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Dear Assembly,

I hope that with the start of the new year you are all doing well and had a wonderful winter break! Now that the new semester year is being kicked into high gear there are many platform points that I have been working on the past semester that I really want to start focusing on. Below are the objectives that I have been tackling so far after the start of the new year.

#### Objective #2: Student space for Kinesiology Students

With David now on the caucus he has helped tremendously in forming a plan that will get maximum constituent outreach. We have already sent out emails to the professors asking them to use their platform to get students to fill out the survey. We are still awaiting responses from some professors, but if not we hope to meet with them during office hours to see if they are able to help out in any other way. We also soon hope to do another cookies and coffee event to increase the exposure and gain feedback.

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

After deciding that Instagram would be the best method of outreach we have started an Instagram account for our caucus. We have yet to do a full media push to gain followers since we are still waiting for the graphics to come in, but we hope that by the end of the month we can use this platform to reach our constituents in a more effective manor.

#### Objective #6: Facilitate transition with the incoming caucus.

Throughout the years there has been a lot of miscommunication between past kinesiology caucuses. This has led to ineffective passing down of information and work being lost between the years. We have thus created a drive in which we have started to compile our documents and work, so that in future years they may look back to this information for guidance.

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

There has not been many past events or activities other than holding office hours in conjunction with the Kinesiology Society and attending their meeting regularly.

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

We hope to soon run an event to increase the outreach of the Kinesiology lounge survey and to increase our follower account on Instagram once we have the graphics.

Our consultation process for the Kinesiology Alumni Mentorship Program is set to begin within the next few weeks. We aim to collaborate with the Director for Experiential Learning & Business Development in the Department of Kinesiology, Office of Graduate Studies and the Alumni Association to seek guidance on how to develop this program. We welcome feedback from fellow members who are aware of a similar program in their respective academic faculties.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Our current challenges at this point is getting professors or TA's on board to help get the maximum amount responses for our survey. How we want to tackle this is to meet in person with whichever professors that have not replied to our email and see if we can use their platforms to aid our cause.

### **SUCSESSES**

With David being elected at the end of last semester, he has learned quite quickly and his transition into his new role has gone smoothly.

Sincerely,

Ushwin Emmanuel  
SRA Kinesiology Caucus Leader  
McMaster Students Union  
[srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca)



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
Executive Board

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Kristina Epifano, Vice-President (Administration) on behalf of Executive Board  
SUBJECT: SRA 18M Report  
DATE: January 15, 2019

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As it is still early in term two, there is not too much to report on from Executive Board as no services have reported yet this term.

### Meetings Scheduled

Our meetings have been scheduled for Thursdays at 11:30am to 1:30pm. Reminder these meetings are open – folks are more than welcome to sit in! The reporting schedule has been sent out and reports will start on Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### LOA's

In our first meeting back we approved Leave of Absences for the presidential elections season. These individuals will not have access to their email, the MSU office, and they will not be paid for the period of January 14<sup>th</sup>- January 24<sup>th</sup>. They all submitted complete forms identifying how their responsibilities will get done, who will be taking over different aspects of their roles, and any other relevant information required for their departments to continue.

### Hiring Boards

With our third hiring season starting, EB members were selected to sit on various hiring committees.

1. EFRT – Marina
2. Macademics – Selene
3. Food Collective Centre – Shemar
4. Maccess – Shemar
5. CRO - Tas
- 6.

If you have any questions – don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of Executive Board.

Kristina Epifano  
Vice-President Administration & CAO  
McMaster Students Union  
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# MEMO

*From the office of the...*

## Vice President (Education)

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TO: Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Vice-President (Education)  
SUBJECT: Report #3  
DATE: January 16, 2019

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Dear SRA,

Since my last report, the Education Team and I continue to work determinedly to advocate on behalf of students. We are happy to have completed our first round of policies and are now moving on to the next set, continuing to modify and improve how we create these papers. I attended two lobbying weeks, sitting down with MPPs across Ontario and MPs across Canada to discuss student interests and continuing to build a strong reputation for the MSU, OUSA, and UCRU. Back in Hamilton, I have delegated to council on landlord licensing, making progress on an initiative we have been advocating on for more than eight years. On campus, we have completed a report on food insecurity and continue to advocate for our priorities in the budget submission. I continue to be so proud of the work we have accomplished and thankful for all the individuals in the Education Team that make all of this advocacy possible. Please ask me any questions at any time!



My Education Team! (Not featured - Takhliq, who is also amazing)

### Improving Education Team's Outreach

Similar to last term, the Education Team will release a graphic with the meeting times for the committee. Please help promote this and inform any interested student about ways to get involved!

### **MSU Policy Development**

As you are aware, we passed all three policies at the last meeting in December! Thank you again for everyone's hard work in writing the policies and providing feedback to make them even stronger. Unfortunately, we did not have a great turnout at Policy Conference. This is in part since the Advocacy Coordinator quit and I was not able to hire a replacement until the week before the conference. While I attempted to promote it to the best of my ability, more could have been done to attract more students. I had hoped to see more SRA members out at the conference since it is important these policies are thoughtfully discussed by all representatives to ensure they represent the interests of students. If you have any thoughts on how we could restructure how we gain feedback on our policies please reach out to me.

This term, the policy papers that we will be writing are Race, Religion, and Cultural Equity; Student Housing and Near Campus Neighbourhoods; and Accessibility. I would greatly appreciate if you could dedicate an office hour to gaining constituents perspectives on these topics early in the year and send the feedback to [research@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:research@msu.mcmaster.ca) so it can be incorporated into the papers. The Education Team will also work to publicize the Brainstorming Sessions once we have the dates.

There is a challenge in scheduling Policy Conference this term due to the timing of Reading Week and OUSA General Assembly. Currently, we are looking at the dates of Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> or doing one 1.5 hour session each day from February 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know your preference.

### **Ombuds Review**

The Ombuds Review continued since my last report. I am waiting on the final recommendations from Ms. Lewis, which should be available soon. Once they are available, I will share them with the SRA.

### **Sustainability Committee**

The Sustainability Committee has had some challenges meeting last term. However, they are on track to having a composting campaign to inform students about the new compost bins on campus and what is and isn't compostable.

### **University Budget Submission**

Tasneem and I met with Roger Couldrey, McMaster's VP Administration, to discuss increasing the university's contributions to EFRT. This meeting went very well and is receptive to the idea. We provided him with additional information about the EFRT budget and are waiting to hear back from him.

We are also continuing to follow up with the individuals who agreed to put items in their budget to see if they were approved by the committee.

### **Unsettling Campus**

I now sit on the Joint Indigenous Admin Consultation Group, organized by the Provost. I was unable to attend the last meeting, though Tasneem was able to in my place. She brought up having an Indigenous flag on campus, which groups on campus have been having discussions about but there have been no updates as of late. As a result of the reminder, they are going to look into it again. It seems that this will take longer than expected due to the McMaster Flag Policy and Protocol which states the following:

*"1. Official University Flag Poles*

*1.1 Only the Canadian flag and the flag of Ontario should be flown from the Official University flag poles, except when there is an official visit from a head of state, during which the flag of the visiting head of state's country may be flown provided that such flags are flown in accordance with flag protocol as directed by the Ministry of Canadian Heritage.*

*1.2 Flags other than those recognised in section 1. 1 above should not be flown from the University's Official flag poles."*

In order to have an Indigenous flag flown next to the Canadian and the flag of Ontario, changes would have to be made to this policy, which will take additional time. I will work to explore this option with the committee.

After conversations with the President of CISSA, I have set up a joint advocacy meeting with her and Patrick Deane, where we will discuss issues impacting Indigenous students on campus.

### **Modifying Exam Timelines**

Ikram and I met with the Registrar's Office to discuss exams. They informed us it would be possible to release the exam schedule earlier. I will follow up on this to hopefully have this done for next term.

Also, we learned about the complexity of scheduling exams. We are now looking to have it put in policy that professors have to have their course outlines done by a certain date, which will then allow them to tell the Registrar if their course will have an exam or not, allowing the Registrar to schedule exams sooner.

### **Food Security**

As you are aware, I have been working with students An'am Sherwani, Asha Smith, and Garry Vinayak in the course SUSTAIN 3S03 - Implementing Sustainable Change to run the Hungry for Knowledge Survey. As the term has come to the end, the students have put together their final report. Unfortunately, we did not get as many responses as we hoped, with 204 partial responses and 185 full responses. However, the students were able to analyze the results to report initial trends. Their findings indicate that 39% (71) of respondents have experienced moderate food insecurity while 12% (22)

experienced severe food insecurity. The major contributing factors included costs of food (51%), limited time to prepare meals (43%), the lack of healthy and diverse food options on campus (40%), and inadequate financial support (29%). Students also reported that food insecurity impacted areas of life such as their physical (44%) and mental health (42%), along with their social life (27%) and their grades (23%). The full report can be found at <https://asp.mcmaster.ca/experiential-learning-project-opportunities-2/experiential-learning-past-projects/>

Overall, I am very proud of the work the students did! Their efforts will help to support the MSU advocacy efforts for years to come.

This term, I am going to continue to promote the survey (and hopefully you will too) in order to get more results and strengthen our advocacy efforts.

### **Quality of Education**

McMaster has completed its review of the MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation & Excellence in Teaching. The MSU provided feedback during the review about how we believe MacPherson should place more of an emphasis on supporting professors in developing and teaching accessible, engaging, and innovative courses that follow best pedagogical practices. We see our feedback reflected in the report and believe the recommendations suggested will help improve teaching and learning at McMaster. A few key recommendations to highlight are:

*“6. The MI should develop effective ways to enhance collaboration and specifically, to provide ‘on the ground’ support to Faculties and the Arts and Science Program through an integrated-distributed (or ‘liaison’) approach that positions MI staff directly into Faculties, while maintaining their connections with the MI. Such a model can provide embedded, collaborative support in diverse ways that are sensitive to varied Faculty contexts, and also enhance access to MI resources.*

*7. Similarly, there is a need for increased coordination across units that provide support for teaching and learning, and particularly with respect to educational technology. More effective collaborations would create synergies and leverage the expertise of the MI to collaborate more widely to support an even stronger teaching and learning environment.”*

The full report can be accessed from the MacPherson website.

### **Municipal Budget Submission**

The Education Team is now working on the Municipal Budget Submission. This is the second year we are writing the submission and finding new ways that we can improve our advocacy on this front. A first draft of the report is complete as I am writing this. Our recommendations for the City of Hamilton’s 2019 budget surround issues including transit, student employment and retention, student safety, and by-law enforcement.

### **Landlord Rating System**

The Municipal Affairs Committee hosted an event on January 8th to gather reviews on the Landlord Rating System, Yomes. This is a great step forward in making this website useful for students when choosing a house to rent. Please be sure to review your own house and tell your friends to do the same.

### **Transit Advocacy**

With the Hamilton Transit Alliance, I met with Mayor Eisenberger to advocate for council to develop a transit sub-committee. This would be a sub-committee of Planning Committee, which is currently responsible for discussing transit issues. This means the sub-committee would still report to the Planning Committee and the Planning Committee would have the final say on decisions. However, the bulk of the discussions would occur at the Transit sub-committee. The benefits of this are that at-large citizens and relevant stakeholder groups would be able to sit on the committee. For instance, the MSU has sat on the LRT Sub-Committee and the Rental Housing Sub-Committee and thus could have a seat on the Transit Sub-Committee. It would also be more convenient for citizens interested in transit issues to attend and delegate to the sub-committee meeting, rather than having to sit through Planning Committee, which discusses a number of topics and can be quite lengthy. This advocacy is in line with the MSU recommendation in the Transit Policy for a committee for transit riders. The mayor was receptive to the idea of the committee and is interested in looking into it later this year. We will continue to gain support for this committee by advocating other councillors.

### **Rental Housing Licensing**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, I delegated to the City of Hamilton's Planning Committee, speaking in favour of the Rental Housing Sub-Committee's (which I sit on) recommendation for a rental housing licensing pilot project in wards 1 and 8. Landlords across the city came mobilized and also came out to delegate. Out of around 15 delegations that day, I was only one of two that spoke in favour of the pilot project, with the other being the tenant advocacy group ACORN. A lot of landlords spoke negatively of student tenants, some accusing the MSU of doing nothing and taking no responsibility for the action of students. However, despite all of that, council passed a motion to direct staff to create a draft of what the pilot project would look like. They did not necessarily agree to implement the pilot but they did agree to consider it, which is a good first step. We will continue to lobby councillors to pass the pilot project in order to create safer rental units for students. I was very pleased with the support from the councillors Maureen Wilson, Terry Whitehead, and John Paul-Danko,



who supported the work of the MSU and spoke highly of our advocacy efforts.

### **OUSA's Tuition & Student Financial Aid Policy Papers**

Last term, Urszula and I were authors on OUSA's Tuition Paper, which was passed at the General Assembly. We were able suggestion innovative recommendations that were then lobbied on during our provincial advocacy week. If these recommendations are adopted, they will help make tuition more affordable and transparent to students.

This term, Tasneem and I are authors on the Student Financial Aid Paper. We will ensure that the recommendations include consideration for students in professional programs, who currently do not receive equitable amounts of financial aid when compared to students in arts and science degrees. If you have any other recommendations that you would like to see in the paper, please let me or Tasneem know!

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

Throughout the year, we continue to make progress on meeting with local MPPs and MPs. Through our provincial and federal lobbying weeks as well as meetings the MSU organized, we have met with all of the MPPs representing Hamilton and all but one of the MPs (but I did say hello to that one individual at Matthew Green's nomination meeting so I think that counts). In December, we met with MPP Donna Skelly, which was a very productive meeting. While the MSU developed a relationship with Skelly when she was a city councillor, this was our first time meeting with her as an MPP. We raised several issues with her, including post-secondary affordability, student employment, sexual violence and response on campus, and freedom of speech. She had her staff member follow up with MTCU on the Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey that was released last year. They quickly got back to us to let us know that it would be released early this year. MPP Skelly is also interested in hearing our opinions on GO Transit, so we are hoping to set up a follow-up meeting on this topic in the future.

I am now working to reorganize the Hamilton Post-Secondary Advisory Group. This group was originally chaired and organized by MPP Ted McMeekin. However, as he was not re-elected, the group has not met. I am taking the initiative to bring together the post-secondary groups in Hamilton (Mohawk & Redeemer) to begin to meet with elected representatives in Hamilton, such as MPP



Skelly, MPP Shaw, MP Tassi, and the mayor, to present a united front on issues impacting all students in Hamilton.

### **OUSA General Assembly**

As mentioned in my report OUSA General Assembly (18K), GA happened on McMaster's campus in November. The conference was successful from a planning perspective and all of the papers were passed. Please refer to my previous report for more details.

The Provincial/Federal Affairs committee, Urszula, and I are looking to increase the participation of students providing feedback on OUSA policies. There is a short turn around time from when we get the final draft of the policy papers and General Assembly, making it unlikely that we can have focus groups to discuss the final drafts. However, we are hoping to gather some feedback from students on the general themes of the paper to guide the MSU delegation's review of the papers. We are looking to hold focus groups and create surveys. I also am hoping you can ask your constituents views on the paper topics as well. As a reminder, the topic at this General Assembly are Student Financial Aid, Student Employment, and LGBTQ+ students.



### **OUSA's Provincial Advocacy Week**

In November, Ikram and I attended OUSA's provincial lobbying week with student leaders across the province. Notable meetings I attended were with Minister Fullerton (Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities), MPP Chris Glover (Critic of the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities), MPP John Fraser (Interim Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party). Also during the week, I stopped by MPP Sandy Shaw's offices (our local MPP) and met Kathleen Wynne at OUSA's reception. Overall, it was a very valuable experience to advocate for the top issues for students across Ontario. For more information about this lobby week, refer to my report in 18L.

### **UCRU's Federal Advocacy Week**

During the first week of December, Ikram, Urszula, and I were in Ottawa for UCRU's federal advocacy week with student leaders across the country. As the Vice-Chair of UCRU, I took on a major role organizing our meetings

throughout the week and creating our lobbying documents. This year, we got a much higher number of meetings with MPs compared to previous years, demonstrating UCRU is building a brand and we had an effective strategy for reaching out to MPs. For more information on our lobby week can be found in my report from meeting 18J.



### **Valedictorian**

It is that time of year again! Upon the recommendation of Ryan Deshpande, I am releasing the nomination packages for Valedictorian earlier. This will give the committees more time to select a valedictorian and will allow me to get the name to the Registrar earlier. Please encourage students to apply and promote through your SRA pages. If you are graduating, also consider applying!

I have proposed to the Assistant Deans that instead of a cumulative average of a 7.0 that students need to have a 7.0 in their last academic year. At the time that I am writing this, the Faculty of Health Science and Engineering agreed with the changes. The Faculty of Social Sciences did not. I am proposing to the SRA that we move forward with the changes. Please see my memo for more information.

I did notice in past packages that it said that grades were a category of consideration and a high academic standing would favour a candidate. However, our by-law states that individuals only need to have a cumulative 7.0 average and grades will only be considered in the case of a tie. I've corrected the package to reflect this, which should hopefully ensure that valedictorians are selected based on their contributions to the community and their speech, rather than on their grades.

### **Freedom of Speech**

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Ikram and I were invited attended a Council of Ontario University's meeting to discuss students' perspectives on freedom of speech. This was a great opportunity to voice our concerns about the policies. Many representatives from universities across Ontario were receptive to our views

and often shared similar concerns. This was a great opportunity to build a partnership with COU that will be valuable as the policies take effect.

We also discussed this topic during OUSA's provincial lobbying week with the individuals we met with. Particularly, we raised

the issue to the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities. While individuals in the PC caucus were not receptive to the idea of repealing the mandate, they were willing to work with us to monitor the impacts of the policies on student life. We will continue to gage feedback from students as the policies have now taken effect.



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