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| /var/folders/1s/3kz_212d4fs9k63bzm3f0tjm0000gn/T/com.microsoft.Word/Content.MSO/CD169C2.tmp.  | **REPORT*****From the office of the…*****Science Caucus** |
| TO:  | Members of the Student Representative Assembly  |
| FROM:  | Christy Au-Yeung, Simranjeet Singh, SRA Science Co-Caucus Leaders  |
| SUBJECT:  | SRA 20H Report  |
| DATE:  | Oct 12th, 2020 |

**PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

The Science caucus has been successfully completing many of its goals and working to represent Science students. To summarize many events thus far:

* MSS relations: we have been continuing our relations with the MSS by providing updated SRA information for the MSS website and by attending the MSS GA Oct 9th and briefly speaking about the role of the SRA
* Policy for extenuating circumstances: The administrative assistant to the Dean of Science has been contacted, next we will be connecting with relevant parties to discuss the feasibility and structure of this policy.
* Student engagement: We have been increasing our social media presence through regular postings on our SRA Science Instagram.
	+ Introductory post introducing SRA members
	+ Piloting SRA Meeting summary videos on Instagram in addition to posting summary graphics. We received 164 views on our last video and we’re planning on creating monthly summaries moving forward.
* Environmental Sustainability Initiative/Fund: After discussing with the sustainability education committee and further understanding challenges of receiving funding and determining which projects should receive funding, we have decided to redirect this funding to creating larger events and campaigns to promote sustainability.
* Pushing for statement giving more information about the status of Winter 2021 term.
* Solar Panel Initiative: All remaining supplies have been delivered to Facility Services. This process took some time and coordination due to conflicting schedules, but luckily the transfer of supplies is complete. Now, Simranjeet hopes to plan the construction process so it is hopefully completed within the remaining few months. Facility Services has been less willing to respond to emails in earnest recently, so I imagine this process will stretch over the next few months.
* Initiative to introduce more Sustainable and Experiential Learning in courses: Simranjeet is currently in contact with a few different professors to discuss potential augmentations to courses to introduce more sustainable education within curricula. The goal is that this can then be used as a template to advocate for greater changes in more courses to other professors and through forums such as the University Planning Committee. Currently working on this project with AVP University Affairs Brittany Williams.

**PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES + SUCCESSES**

* One of the Science caucus' main priorities was ensuring an early and clear message about how the 2021 Winter would look like for the science departments at McMaster's University. Several students were negatively impacted by the uncertainties surrounding the winter semester. These uncertainties revolved around the issue of housing and transportation accommodations. For instance, many students were not able to make decisions regarding their student housing lease. On behalf of the science caucus, Armin contacted the Office of The Associate Dean of Science on several occasions to advocated for an early announcement of the University's plans for the winter of 2021.
* Responding to inquiries and increasing engagements on our social media: We have responded to multiple inquiries from clubs regarding the status of the MSU clubs fee. We have also been piloting new social media engagement strategies
* SoBi campaign: during Oct 7-9th members of the SRA Science Caucus aided in promoting and planning the virtual SoBi campaign conducted by Sustainability Education Committee – Subcommittee A. The aim of this project is to increase awareness and usage of SoBi bike share.

**UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

* Discussions about international student tuition: We are planning on discussing the increases in international student tuition in the upcoming meeting with the Dean of Science. We hope the Dean is able to shed more light on why these increases are necessary in a time as tumultuous as the current one, and if the university has any future plans to potentially reduce these continual increases.
* Sustainability Education Committee – Subcommittee B Earth Week: Earth Week (October 26th-30th) is an series of events being held by the second subcommittee comprising the SEC. It encompasses a series of events which will help support environmental awareness, hopefully raise student interest in the topic, and include information about food insecurity in the Hamilton area as well. The event involves collaboration with the McMaster Hospitality Services, Food Collective Centre, Mac Veggie Club, and Spark. It will be made up of several distinct events including a Sustainable Art Night, Virtual Tree Planting, a Nature & Hiking Bingo, as well as a few other events. We hope to support all of these events taking place and help afford students fun, engaging ways to learn more about the environment and related concerns.
* Meetings with Professors about increasing Sustainability in future courses throughout McMaster: Simranjeet will be meeting with Dr. Felicia Vulcu and hopefully a few other faculty at McMaster such as Dr. John MacLachlan. The goal of these meetings is to analyze how a few specific courses taught by these professors may be augmented to add more course-related sustainability information. We hope that these changes can then be incorporated in future variants of these classes, and can be used as a template to advocate to the various Faculties and Departments of introduce more sustainable education in their curricula. Will be receiving support from AVP UA Brittany Williams in this initiative.

**CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Currently, challenges relating to the Solar Panel Initiative and Sustainable-Curricula initiatives involve how thoroughly McMaster faculty and other employees respond and support initiatives. This is why when possible, we are trying to pivot to using existing University frameworks, or individuals whom we already have personal relationships with (such as professors of our own classes) to ensure higher likelihood of success in our goals.

Best,

Christy Au-Yeung and Simranjeet Singh

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