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| MSU logo.jpg. | MEMO*From the…*Office of the MSU President |
| TO: | Student Representative Assembly |
| FROM: | Giancarlo Da-Ré, President |
| SUBJECT: | MSU Sustainability Education Committee OP Change |
| DATE: | June 9th 2020 |

Dear Members of the SRA,

In recent years the MSU Sustainability Education Committee has not been very active. In hopes to utilize this committee more often over the coming year and help advance environmental sustainability efforts and practices within the MSU, a number of changes to the Operating Policy are proposed.

One proposed change to this operating policy includes **striking the objective, “Conduct an Environmental Audit”**. While this may be helpful in producing data relevant to environmental sustainability impacts of the MSU, a formal audit has never been performed. It may also fall out of the scope of the committee to conduct bi-annual formal audits of the MSU’s environmental sustainability practices. While this year is indeed unique, there may be challenges year-to-year associated with conducting a formal environmental audit from a third-party auditing group. If the audit rather refers to an informal audit via research conducted by members of the committee, this is redundant as there is already an objective titled “Conduct Research” in the Operating Policy.

A number of **changes have also been proposed to improve the “Conduct Research” objective**. These changes focus research more on the MSU rather than the University or the municipality of Hamilton, since both of those sectors already produce annual environmental sustainability reports. This research should also be compiled in a year-end document, to be presented to SRA and published in an accessible format for the MSU and surrounding community. This report should inform members of the SRA and MSU community of current gaps, practices and recommendations for the MSU related to environmental sustainability. This would allow for public documentation of the progression of environmental sustainability work done within the MSU.

**A new objective has been proposed, called “Project Work”**. Since MACgreen was rescinded at the end of the 2015/16 academic year, beyond a number of clubs, there have been no MSU committees or groups specifically dedicated to environmental sustainability project work. The proposed changes include establishing project goals for the year, working to meet them, and including the details and progression of this work in the presented and published year-end report.

In order to increase our lobbying efforts and to sustain a relationship between this committee and the university, another proposed change includes that there will be **a minimum of one (1) member from this committee that sits on the university’s Sustainability Committee**. Formed in the fall of 2019 and chaired by the AVP and Chief Facilities Officer for McMaster, this committee is the highest environmental sustainability committee for the university, with numerous members branching to different areas of campus. This proposed change already aligns with current practice, as both last year and this current year, a member of the Board of Directors sits on the Sustainability Committee for the university. The change would ensure this practice continues in the future.

As it stands, the Operating Policy states that the Advocacy Coordinator of the MSU Education Team shall organize and call the first meeting. Due to challenges in past years, this has led to delays in the scheduling of the first meeting. This proposed change allows **the member of the Board of Directors who is designated to sit on the committee to organize and call the first meeting. A** **chair of the committee will then be elected at the first meeting who will organize and call all subsequent meetings**. This change is simply to ensure that meetings are not delayed and work from this committee can begin as early as possible.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Warm regards,



Giancarlo Da-Ré

President & CEO

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