|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| /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:  | Simranjeet Singh and Christy Au-Yeung, SRA Science Co-leaders  |
| SUBJECT:  | SRA 20N Report  |
| DATE:  | Sunday, February 7th,, 2021 |

**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:

* Solar Panel Initiative:

The full lockdown restrictions imposed by the second wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic have prevented any further work on this project. Simranjeet is waiting for restrictions to be lifted before working with Facility Services to finish implementation and the creation of a plaque to describe the structure when it is eventually built.

* Initiative to introduce more Sustainable and Experiential Learning in courses:

To review progress on the initiative so far, 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.

Simranjeet presented his findings to Dr. Felicia Vulcu of how to augment her classes in relation to the sustainability plan on January 4th, 2021. In previous meetings with Dr. Vulcu, she has given useful contacts who may be relied upon to better understand how to implement this initiative. Simranjeet is still in the process of reaching out to Ms. Joanne Kehoe of the MacPherson Institute to understand how OERs, grants, and other opportunities may be combined with this program to create a clear action plan for the implementation of pilot project findings.

Simranjeet also met with Mr. Wayne Terryberry, who works with McMaster in many roles relating to conservation, community engagement, and other avenues. Mr. Terryberry gave very useful insights to how to further the goal and which faculty to reach out to get support.

Mr. Terryberry recommended that Simranjeet present the proposal, its purpose, and its goal to the President’s Advisory Council for Natural Lands (PACNL) with the backing of MSU President Giancarlo Da-Re who also sits on the committee. The goal was to allow Simranjeet to further procure more professors with whom he may work to conduct his pilot project, and give a clear connection with important figures within university leadership to ensure in the future, when results of the pilot project are ascertained, work can be done to implement the findings.

Simranjeet presented on February 3rd to the PACNL Committee, receiving a negative reception from present faculty. The proposal existed to simply give a framework which professors could follow if they wished to introduce more sustainability in courses, with the hope for University Senate approval to function as a mechanism by which the proposal could be officially recognized, not forced upon professors.

Possibly due to the rushed nature of the presentation as the meeting was behind schedule, Simranjeet’s inadequate presentation of the proposal, the professor’s disagreement with the proposal’s initiative, or a combination of these factors all likely led to the negative reception.

Simranjeet will now be doing further research to reorient his proposal, work with a small number of professors directly, and abandon hopes for near-term McMaster Senate adoption.

* Advocacy regarding Proctoring Software

Simran has done some work with Ryan regarding the student union's response to Respondus. She hopes to help advocate for greater student protections regarding procuring and ideally, hopes to advocate again the University's use of proctoring software. SRA Science is currently thinking of doing some polling and consultations with constituents regarding the topic and would love to have feedback from the rest of the SRA regarding this potential initiative.

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

* Simranjeet has made significant progress regarding introduction of sustainability in BIOMEDDC 3B06 and 3C09. Furthermore, his research has allowed him to learn more about sustainable practices in some research laboratories within the Faculties of Health Sciences, Science, and Engineering. He will focus on expanding his knowledge in these areas to refine his Sustainability proposal.
* Danial, Armin, and Christy are continuing to do extensive research, consultations, and work regarding the Mental Health Advocacy campaign. Work has been slower than expected due to logidtical setbacks, and difficulty getting in contact with relevant parties. Thus, we are currently re-assessing what appropriate goals would be.

**UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES + CHALLENGES**

* Mental Health Advocacy Memo: Danial & Armin, along with the help of other SRA Sciences, are continuing to work on a campaign to advocate for more comprehensive mental health resources. This includes a memo that will call on the university to see mental health as one of its core aspects and further increase the accessibility and quality of its mental health services.
* Simranjeet’s initiative to increase Sustainability in future courses throughout McMaster: Simranjeet will be working to conduct research for his pilot project. The current setbacks have meant new steps and methods may need to be used to ensure success.

Best,

Christy Au-Yeung and Simranjeet Singh, SRA Science Co-leaders

srasci@msu.mcmaster.ca

sings42@mcmaster.ca

auyeuc1@mcmaster.ca