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| MSU-logo-2001. | REPORT*From the office of the…*First Year Council |
| TO: | Members of the Student Representative Assembly |
| FROM: | Aiman Dhiloon, First Year Council Chair |
| SUBJECT: | SRA 20P Report |
| DATE: | Tuesday, March 2, 2021 |

**PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

Council continues to collaborate with various MSU services to host events catered to first years, while also continuing to advocate for first-year needs and concerns.

**PAST EVENTS**

FYC and the First Year Representative Assembly (FYRA) hosted our much-anticipated speed friendshipping/escape room event a few weeks ago. It was designed to provide first year students an opportunity to make cross-faculty connections and complete an escape room with their peers, grouped together based on shared interests. While we had spent much of our time and effort preparing for and promoting this event, we experienced some technical difficulties with Zoom during the event itself. As such, we had to adapt, and the event did not go exactly as planned. Instead of having students connect through smaller breakout rooms, as this function was not working, we facilitated our escape room activity for the entire group and many students stayed till the end and really enjoyed this. Additionally, to still encourage cross-faculty connections among students, we sent out follow up emails to all those who signed up, sharing their escape room groups and encouraging them to meet virtually to complete the escape room we created. Those groups who complete the escape room (and provide FYC with proof of collaborative completion) will be entered into a raffle to win a $100 prize! Although things did not go exactly according to plan, it was still a great experience and demonstrated FYC’s ability to persevere and overcome obstacles, especially in this virtual environment.

Furthermore, our PGCLL chair, Henry Laing, organized a Valentine’s themed candy-gram event for students living in residence. This was a collaboration between Henry and current community advisors (CAs) and was met with very positive feedback. Additionally, FYC has continued to work with our consultation committees and campus partners. Through our student life consultation committee, we are currently providing input on the residence budget, while working closely with our partners to develop a Residence Financial Accessibility initiative. Additionally, our Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities committee has completed preliminary training regarding the Code. Finally, FYC has been collaborating with Kim Dej (Vice-Provost Faculty) to provide feedback on McMaster’s Teaching & Learning strategy.

**UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

FYC is collaborating with Spark, the Maroons and MSU Campus Events to host a trivia night to help first years connect with each other, upper years and MSU services. This event will be taking place on March 10th. As well, we are hosting another event in collaboration with Spark, which will occur near the end of March.

FYC will continue to promote our advocacy initiatives through collaboration with Kim, to provide feedback on the Teaching & Learning Strategy Action Plan and course portal project. In addition, our Vice-Chair Internal, Michelle Song, has been invited to give a presentation regarding FYC advocacy initiatives at the upcoming Information Technology Student Advisory Committee (ITSAC) meeting.

**CHALLENGES**

As mentioned, our latest event experienced technical difficulties, which were quite disappointing given the effort and time FYC and the FYRA had contributed to planning this event. However, those who attended the event were very understanding and many still had a great time! FYC has followed up with participants in an effort to provide a semblance of the event itself.

**SUCCESSES**

Though our speed-friend shipping event did not go exactly as we had planned, it still had an incredible number of signups (about 200!) and excellent turnout. Additionally, there was an amazing amount of collaboration between FYC and the first-year representatives from the numerous faculty societies. Thus, this event turned out to be an exciting opportunity for first years to meet/connect with their representatives and FYC members, while also meeting peers from different faculties.

Moreover, our PGCLL Chair is now back on residence, which is very good news. Finally, FYC members are thriving in their roles and pursuing opportunities to continue our participation in MSU governance.

Best,

Aiman Dhiloon

First Year Council Chair

McMaster Students Union

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