



REPORT

From the office of the...

President

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Denver Della-Vedova, President and CEO
SUBJECT: SRA 21G Report
DATE: Sept. 11, 2021

To the most honorable Assembly,

This is a list of highlights, milestones and goals as of September 11th 2021.

Year Plan Developments (Completed)

In terms of year plan development, movement has been made in a few key areas as follows;

Vaccination on campus

Ensuring student safety has been a top priority with our return to campus. I have been involved in many consultations with the university – and although the landscape is ever evolving we have taken great steps to ensure a safe return for staff and students.

UCRU

UCRU made waves in headlines across Canada recently, highlighting that vote on campus programs and special ballot voting from these stations will not be available to students. In the wake of this Elections Canada appears to have made a serious effort to target students with advertising. In addition to this it is anticipated that these services for voting will be returning the next federal election cycle.

Mental health task force

The mental health task force is just releasing short and long-term recommendations in the next 2 weeks. These currently are being reviewed for final edits and sectioning into short, mid, and long term goals.

Level II welcome

Level II welcome will have occurred by the time you folks read this. My hope is that it will be a large success. Based on programming it should be a fun packed day, with registration currently open for students

Educational supports

I have been in conversations with Kim Dej regarding the supports students will receive re-entering in person courses after such a long time away from in person learning. The university has put out messaging of empathy and support to instructors, with several different strategies and unique supports based upon program/course.

Clubs Advisory Council

CAC is just beginning now. I have had several conversations with Jenna and Nicole our new club's assistant about the scope and function of CAC this year. Things seem to be well suited to start strong and more effectively utilize this group as I had highlighted in my year plan.

MSU A2L

An MSU A2L is in the works at the time of writing this. Thus far I have consulted with our IT and comms departments on feasibility from our side, as well at McPherson and some folks at the university regarding permissions (Kim Dej and UTS). With these completed, things look promising to launch an avenue tab for the MSU after a proposal is created to show involved parties.

MSU x Archway

In line with the MSU A2L page we are also looking at developing a teams channel via archway to connect with first years. The aim of this will be to target a demographic we have typically struggled to engage with on social media and make them more aware of our events/ the offerings of campus events.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

Meetings of note

Many of the following are outlines of ongoing conversations that will develop into more actionable items as the year progresses. This is not a summary of all meetings but rather highlights.

Sean Van Koughnett/David Farrar

I have had several conversations with Sean, David and other folks regarding vaccination on campus. We have been working towards a safe campus while being cognizant of student habits, logistics, and the potential pain points of mandatory vaccination. By and large this policy has been well received but we have been conscious of those unable to vaccinate for any number of reason and I have been advocating for the development of the processes to support these students.

Kim Dej

Kim and I have predominantly had discussions regarding vaccination on campus in line with those with Sean Van Koughnett/David Farrar. We have also had several discussions about academic supports with focuses on in person components in the short term. As well we have developed an ongoing conversation surrounding proctoring and student input on this process.

Presidents council

Presidents council met and discussed predominantly the level II welcome. This evolved into a group that has been meeting weekly to help with dissemination of information amongst folks.

Other

As well I have had many other committees or 1:1 meetings with the university/other stakeholders. The following is a list of folks/groups you are welcome to reach out regarding,

Sexual violence Prevention and Response Task Force

Sexual Violence and Prevention Response Office

MUSC Board of Management 21/22

Return to McMaster Oversight Committee Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Return to Work Operations Group

Full - time staff (all)

Jenna courage and clubs

Campus Wireless and MS 365 Student Email Steering Committee

Ath and Rec

UCRU

First Year Council

Student housing survey

The board and our comms department developed a survey which can be found [here](#). This survey was a success and with the high number of students planning to be in area we created the Hamilton Legal Clinic event highlighted below.

Hamilton legal clinic

At this event created with AVP MA Mymoon, and SRA member Fraser McCauley, we facilitated legal advice on the landlord tenant board with the help of the Hamilton Legal Clinic as presenters. As well we shared useful tools and tips for living on your own. These are being shared across socials for students to access as needed.

Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU)

UCRU Governance

We are continuing our review of our elections policy, as well as several other governing policies.

UCRU Advocacy Committee

I had drafted a letter on indigenous student needs highlighting the lack of action regarding specific parts of the TRC. Advocacy committee reviewed this draft and we have sent it out to several pertinent members of parliament (ministers relating to indigeneity and equality).

Current Challenges

Welcome week has been a fair headache for many folks from the student leadership side between faculty societies and the MSU. The BOD will be having discussions with SSC in near future on how we can better navigate this process so it is more accessible to folks working on their first welcome week.

I wish you all the best with the start of the fall semester,

Thank you,

Denver Della-Vedova

President and CEO

McMaster Students Union

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