



REPORT

From the office of the...
Vice President Education

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Siobhan Teel, Vice President Education
SUBJECT: SRA 21F Report
DATE: October 31, 2021

Ghoulish greetings to the SRA!

I'm sending my apologies for missing this meeting however I'll be at OUSA's General Assembly with nine MSU delegates.

It's been a busy few weeks since I was last at an SRA meeting but also since my last report to you in the summer. I've been making headway on a number of points in my year plan with some of the most notable being hiring 3 Research Assistants and a Project and Campaign Coordinator. In early August, Arooba, Rabeeyah, Muhammadhasan, and Kiran joined the Education department and have been making progress on our three policy papers! With Kiran's help, the Education team has been planning social media campaigns and posting much more regularly to our accounts. Another area where I've made a lot of progress in my year plan is working with OUSA to [publish an article](#) about the importance of young people voting in Canada's 44th election and also work closely with the AVP PFA, Sneha, to finish the System Vision and Accountability policy paper. Some areas that I have been struggling with are the MSU's university budget submission as we've experienced some problems with continuity from last year's work. At this point, the AVP UA, Hargun, and I are looking to standardize the process for future teams to have a more seamless experience. Additionally, the McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group is not operating at the capacity we anticipated however we did have the opportunity to share the MSU's federal priorities with MP Tassi recently. In the coming month, I'll be working to start consultations for the MSU's second policy paper with OUSA for the year, planning another housing and rental seminar for students, and starting to work on my transition report. I'm really happy with the progress both myself and the department have made, especially given the lack of stability in the past few months.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

In September, the AVP PFA, the AVP UA, the PCC, and I worked with a number of MSU members from various committees to organize resource sharing surrounding Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous activism. Thank you to Simran, Lindsay, and Maya for all the support and hard work – it's super appreciated!

Also in September, the MSU's SUSTAIN project was launched and we have a group of students connecting with the Underground, 1280, and the Silhouette to conduct a

sustainability audit. This project will be complete next month and the group of students will be presenting their findings to you then.

In October, I hired 9 delegates for the OUSA General Assembly and we had two training sessions to go over materials and expectations.

Also in October, the Board of Directors attended the Student Union Development Summit in Vancouver, BC where we attended seminars on governance, sexual violence prevention and response, and providing better service to our communities. This was a great experience as we were able to share ideas and thoughts with student leaders from schools across Canada. In particular, we were able to develop strong relationships with our connections in OUSA and UCRU which will help us continue to advocate and lobby effectively.

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

The RAs and I have decided that two papers, Academic Success, and International Students will be presented to you at the March policy conference however the Off Campus paper will be presented at the November policy conference. This was a result of the motions passed at the last SRA meetings and will allow authors more time to conduct research where needed.

I'm going to be planning the valedictorian selection for the Winter 2022 graduates in the next few weeks which will require me to update some Operating Policies. I've had a number of conversations with the MAPS team and Graduate Office to ensure the process is equitable for all students and this will need to be reflected in our own documents.

Since the next round of OUSA policy papers are approaching, the AVP PFA and I will be planning consultations and starting to write our sections.

The UCRU lobby week is fast approaching so the President, PCC, and I will be working to finalize the event and also the MSU's advocacy priorities to be presented to the newly appointed cabinet.

Outreach & Promotions

The MSU_Advocacy account recently shared a post featuring MP Tassi, the Mohawk Student Association, and the Redeemer Student Senate that had good engagement. We're currently working on a strategy to build higher engagement on Instagram and plan more consistent posts featuring work done by the four committees.

Successes

The MSU's involvement on the OUSA policy paper and at GA has gone so well and I'm very thankful for everyone who we were able to consult with!

Current Challenges

One challenge that I'm facing and also hearing from my team members who lead student authors and committee members is decreased engagement and turn out. I totally understand feeling burnt out and not able to put in more effort, but it would be so helpful if SRA members could convey when they're at capacity. In terms of deadlines

and planning, it can be super challenging to accommodate everyone's needs when we don't know what those needs are. That being said, if you have any ideas to help increase the number of people involved in our various projects, please reach out because I'd love to hear from you!

Volunteers

I can't begin to express how wonderful all of the MSU's OUSA GA delegates were for attending training, reading through countless revisions, and having to hang out with Denver all day (that's a joke and test to see if y'all read my reports aha). I'm so excited for spring GA:)

Best,

Siobhan Teel
Vice President Education
McMaster Students Union
Vped@msu.mcmaster.ca