



REPORT

From the office of the...

Internal Governance Committee

TO:	Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	Armin Sariaslani – Associate Vice-President (Internal Governance)
SUBJECT:	SRA MEETING 21M Report
DATE:	03/01/2022

Internal Governance Committee

- I'm very pleased to see our committee being filled with our latest member Zahrah Talawala who has joined us In November.
- The committee has been meeting weekly without any interruptions.
- The meetings of the committee will resume in the new year in the week of January 17 to allow for the members to finalize their class schedules to pick an appropriate date for the weekly meetings of the committee.
- I'm pleased that the meeting minutes of all the meetings of the committee have been uploaded to the MSU website since the beginning of November and I intend to continue this trend of transparency.

The Status of the Policy Reviews

- On the advice of Victoria Scott and Daniela Stajcer, we revised the list of the policy reviews. Some of the policies such as the Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence were removed from the list of the policies to review due to the fact that they were recently reviewed. This has opened up the valuable time of the committee and I have used this time to have extensive discussions about the ethical purchasing policy that I have been working on to gain the perspective of the members of the committee.
- So far, the 'Room Bookings', 'Space Allocation & Audit Committee', 'Bylaw 11- McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC) have been fully reviewed and the 'Document Management' policy is in the process of the final discussions with the administration team to be brought to the floor of the SRA before the end of January.
- The list of the policies that will be reviewed in the next few months are 'Bylaw 6 - General Assembly', 'Appendix A - General Assembly Special Procedures', 'Communications Strategy', 'Promotions & Advertising', 'MSU Governance & You Committee', 'Employee Conflict Of Interest'. We need a pace of roughly 1.5 policy reviews per month to completely review all the aforementioned policies which is highly achievable.

- I have made some advocacy suggestions to the members of the committee to work on within their caucus. For instance I have advised the members to advocate for further health care resources for mental health issues of the students.
- The committee will start working on 'Communications Strategy' in the week of January 17.

Ethical Purchasing and Environmental Sustainability Policy

- I was asked by the president of the MSU to devise an ethical purchasing policy to guide our purchasing decisions and investing portfolio in the future.
- The complexity of this task required me to conduct several consulting meetings with the finance department of the MSU, the president of the MSU, the previous a AVP of internal governance, and the admin team of the MSU.
- A policy titled environmental sustainability will be brought to the floor of the SRA before the end of the year which outlines a set of guidelines and principles for the businesses of MSU to follow to ensure that they are adhering to the highest standards of environmental sustainability. This policy was mostly developed by the previous board of directors however I'm currently going through this document to ensure that it matches the goals I have in mind.
- Furthermore, I'm devising a policy regarding ethical purchasing and investment based upon a previous policy of the MSU that addressed the same issue. I'm using the previous policy as a skeleton for the new one and building upon on the previous policy to ensure that it adheres to our current goals and standards.
- Working on these policies have been extremely challenging for the simple fact that if passed, the policies will have a massive impact on the functions of all the businesses of the MSU and the investment portfolio of the MSU. Therefore, no single person can make any final decision regarding what the policy should contain, and every single clause of the policies have to be reviewed by all parties involved to ensure that the policy is feasible, and it does enough to address the environmental and ethical concerns of the students.
- However, with all these difficulties, I still expect that both the environmental sustainability policy and the ethical purchasing an investment policy will be passed by SRA 2021/22.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- It is my believe that the only way to do this job appropriately is to have multiple consultations with all parties involved that are affected by policy that is being reviewed by the committee. Even though I have been quite successful in consulting all the parties involved for the policies we have worked on, this task has been very time consuming and has caused some delays in our policy reviews.

Sincerely,
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