



REPORT

From the office of the...
Engineering Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Fraser McCauley, Engineering Caucus Co-Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 21R Report
DATE: March 22nd, 2022

A lot of progress has been made in recent weeks on OER advocacy. A plan is in place to have a report on the OER surveys complete by the end of April, which will be presented at a MacPherson Institute Learning Month event in May. This document will include recommendations for how to increase adoption and creation of Open Educational Resources, and will set a precedent for tracking awareness in future years. Hopefully, it will propel the MSU to advocate for the implementation of better OER policies at McMaster, and in the Provincial government. This is a small step towards affordable, accessible educational materials for all, and I hope that the MSU continues to push hard for this change. Olga Perkovic from McMaster's library and Open Education committee has been invaluable in this project, and I'd also like to thank Simranjeet for his support in putting the report together.

The other major priority was tenant's rights advocacy. While we have had less of a hands-on role in this, I'm happy to say that we helped to organize a pair of workshops with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic to educate new renters on their rights, and how to exercise them. There was decent turnout for these, and while education is certainly invaluable, structural change is also required to address the needs of students who rent. MSU successfully advocated to City Hall for a continuation of Hamilton's rental licensing pilot this year, in a major victory for renters. This should continue with even more aggressive advocacy for affordable, safe, climate-conscious housing and zoning policies. I hope the incoming engineering caucus, and the MSU in general, will make this a priority.

Best,

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