YEAR PLAN
MSU SRA Humanities
Michelle Middaugh Cifuentes
2022-2023
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OFFICE OF THE HUMANITIES CAUCUS LEADER INTRODUCTION

Hello! My name is Michelle Middaugh Cifuentes I am the Humanities Caucus Leader on the Student Representative Assembly for the 2022-2023 year. I'm so excited to work with the other faculty caucuses over the next 10 months to enhance student life at McMaster!

I'm currently entering my 4th year of studies in the Cognitive Science of Language program here at McMaster, although I've been around for quite a few years! I completed my first degree in Human Behaviour (B.A.Sc) in the Spring of 2021 and began pursuing my second degree in Cog Sci in the Fall that same year. During my time at Mac, I have been involved in many different areas of campus life: I was a Sciclone and Peer Mentor with the Faculty of Science for 3 years, and was also a Residence Orientation Representative for Les Prince Hall and the VP of Promotions for the Human Behaviour Society for 1 year! This year, I'm grateful to be able to continue making an impact in student life as I enter my second year with Residence Life as a Senior Community Advisor, as well as beginning my first term as the McMaster Humanities Society President.

As Humanities Caucus Leader, my main goals are centered on working to increase sustainability efforts on campus, increasing transparency within the MSU, and working with professors in the Faculty of Humanities to increase the use of Echo 360 technology in lectures. I also plan to collaborate with the President and VPs on their initiatives, which include increasing Student Wellness resources on campus as well as working with the city of Hamilton to improve the efficiency of operations of the HSR bus lines that run to and through McMaster's campus. I really hope to make a positive difference during my time in this position!

GOALS

Objective 1	Increasing sustainability efforts on campus (in residence)
Description	While dining locations on campus such as Centro provide students with the opportunity to properly dispose of their waste through the options of compost, recycling, and garbage disposal with the aid of educational imaging, the same opportunity is not available within residence. Specifically, there is no compost disposal available within residence buildings and so the compostable containers and cutlery used by Hospitality Services are being sent to landfill. By supporting the implementation of green bins in residences as well as instructional material on what goes in the garbage/recycling/compost, this can help to make sure waste is being disposed of properly.
Benefits	• Diverting compostable and recyclable material from landfills • Educating first year students on proper disposal habits that can support sustainability efforts already taking place on campus • Can help tackle the problem of garbage rooms becoming overwhelmed by the volume of compostable waste that ends up in the garbage bins
Difficulties	• Ensuring existing garbage rooms/kitchens have the space to support an additional bin/wall space for instructional posters • Cost of green bins • Potential for slow adoption if green bins are implemented midway through the year
Long-term implications	Need to monitor the effectiveness of the educational materials/green bins - are students actually using them properly? To what extent? Has it helped reduce the amount of waste in the garbage bins?
How?	Discussing the feasibility with HCS, RezLife, and Custodial Services, determining the cost of the materials, ensuring CAs are communicating the benefits to their students
Partners	• Housing & Conference Services • President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Education, Elizabeth Wong • RezLife • Custodial Services • Facility Services

	● Sustainability Education Committee

Objective 2	**Assisting the President in increasing collaboration and advocacy with the SWC**
Description	As the student population at McMaster has grown, so has the need for mental health supports on campus. A stronger relationship is needed with the SWC to better represent student needs and to determine areas for improvement. Advocacy is also needed to increase the number of wellness supports (counsellors, doctors, group sessions) that are available to students to ensure that they are proportionate to the student body.
Benefits	● Better communication between the SWC, MSU, and student body ● Better accessibility to mental health resources ● Overall better student mental health on campus
Difficulties	● Possible limitations on number of SWC staff that can be hired ● Potential scheduling conflicts for new group session hours ● Learning curve necessary for running a new advisory committee
Long-term implications	Better representation of the student body's wellness needs, better support for students on campus, overall better student mental health
How?	Assisting in the development of the Student Wellness Centre Advisory Committee, liaising with the University and all stakeholders
Partners	● SWC ● Board of Directors

Objective 3	**Conducting an audit on use of Echo360 and other streaming software for classes within the Faculty of Humanities with the goal of increasing usage**
Description	The pandemic highlighted the need for different methods of instruction that accommodate the uncertainties of life, such as illness. As we move back to regular in person instruction, the need for hybrid instruction has not disappeared. The use of Echo360 and other streaming softwares have increased over the years, but adoption has been slow. An audit to determine the overall usage in classes within the Faculty of Humanities can determine areas in which the software can

	be implemented to make lecture content more accessible for students.
Benefits	- Increased accessibility to lecture content - Increasing public health within McMaster's campus by encouraging students to stay home when they are sick without jeopardizing their education - Increasing student safety (specifically for commuters) who will not have to risk coming to campus during inclement weather
Difficulties	- Despite the benefits, professors may choose not to adopt streaming softwares in their classes, citing absenteeism and worries over distribution of recorded content - Not all classrooms on campus are capable of using Echo360 technology
Long-term implications	Higher student satisfaction with course delivery methods, overall better public health on campus and mental health within the student body through increased accessibility, potential need to upgrade the software being used as technology advances and student needs change
How?	Collaborating with Library Services to determine which classrooms are Echo360 compatible and which classes in the Faculty of Humanities use those classrooms. Then, collaborating with the Faculty of Humanities to determine how many eligible classes are using use Echo360 for the 2022-2023 year
Partners	- Faculty of Humanities - Academic Coordinator, Antoinette Somo - Library Services, Campus Classroom Technologies - VP Education, Elizabeth Wong - President, Simranjeet Singh

Objective 4	**Assisting in increasing efficiency of HSR operations to campus**
Description	The way the buses (5, 51, 1) are currently running to campus typically sees two or three of these lines operating on almost the same schedule, usually arriving at stops on campus at the same time. By working with the HSR to improve the timing and frequency of buses coming to campus, this can improve the flexibility students have when planning around commuting to or from campus.

Benefits	● More flexibility for students ● Improves the flow of traffic on campus/reduces congestion at the Sterling/University and Sterling/Forsyth stops in particular ● Helps reduce crowds of students waiting at stops, can be especially beneficial during inclement weather
Difficulties	● Need to determine feasibility with the HSR, may be larger implications to the Hamilton community in changing bus timing/frequency
Long-term implications	More efficient HSR operations through campus, commuting more accessible to students. Need to evaluate demand year over year to determine if it is still beneficial for students - potential for student bus-taking habits to change that could inform the need for further revision of the frequency/timing of the line's operations.
How?	Collaboration with the HSR to determine scheduling, number of buses on the route during peak hours, examining the impacts that changing the route's operations could have
Partners	● VP Finance, Sarphina Chui ● Municipal Affairs Committee ● HSR

Long-term planning

Overarching Vision 1	**Increased engagement with and accessibility to the MSU**
Description	Over the course of the pandemic, engagement with the MSU has fallen significantly compared to previous years. By engaging with the student body directly through class talks, booth/panel discussions in MUSC, and better social media promotions we can increase student awareness on the MSU's affairs and encourage involvement with students enrolled in the faculty of Humanities.
Benefits	● Increased voter turnout ● Better understanding of the MSU and its functions/how it benefits students ● More applicants to positions within the BoD, SRA, and Services
Year 1	Main focus on increasing accessibility & awareness: putting out messaging that is clear and easy to understand re: the SRA and MSU's operations, promoting contact with SRA

	members, and running campaigns to educate students on MSU matters pertaining to them (e.g. financial literacy campaign). Working with the MHS to host SRA content on their site for easier accessibility for Humanities students without social media
Year 2	Transition to developing awareness & engagement: continuing the use of campaigns and messaging to keep students informed, but with an emphasis on getting involved and the importance of groups such as the SRA
Year 3	Shift to increasing and maximizing engagement: generating hype over the opening of applications for positions within the MSU, outgoing members promoting the benefits of involvement
Partners	- MUSC - Faculty of Humanities - McMaster Humanities Society - Other Academic Division Caucuses

Overarching Vision 2	**Increased opportunities for student feedback in SRA affairs**
Description	Because student engagement with the MSU is currently low, so are opportunities for student feedback. The SRA is meant to represent the interests of the student body, but cannot do so without hearing from students what their interests are. Feedback can be hard to collect when students are not aware of the initiatives taking place within the MSU, and so increasing feedback opportunities would occur in tandem with Overarching Vision 1.
Benefits	- Encouraging feedback increases engagement - Helps us to better represent student interests - Aids in identifying areas of improvement - Informs goals and initiatives for the following academic year
Year 1	Implement two opportunities for feedback surveys: mid year (December) and year end (March). Use mid year feedback to inform track for the winter semester, and use year end feedback to inform the new incoming caucus members of potential goals and initiatives for the following year
Year 2	Increase promotion to develop further engagement with feedback opportunities: having (hopefully) increased social media presence in year 1, using social media as a way to promote feedback surveys while creating smaller, more frequent opportunities for feedback (e.g. polls, questions, etc)
Year 3	Evaluate past two years of feedback strategies and adjust if necessary: determine what worked and what didn't, and

	incorporate that into the new plan for gathering feedback moving forward
Partners	- Faculty of Humanities - McMaster Humanities Society - Other Academic Division Caucuses

GOALS to strive for

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September
- A meeting set up with Housing & Conference Services/Custodial Services to determine the feasibility of implementing green bins (pilot project? If feasible, only implementing in a few residence buildings first)
- A meeting with the Sustainability Education Committee to secure and allocate funding to the implementation of educational sustainability materials to be posted in residence
- A timeline for discussions with the HSR as set out by the Municipal Affairs Committee and VP Finance
- A meeting set up with the Humanities Academic Coordinator, Jackie Osterman to discuss Echo360 use in classrooms
- A meeting set up with the President and Student Wellness Centre regarding the formation of the SCW advisory committee

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)
- Implementation of educational sustainability materials and green bin pilot project in residence
- Coordinate with the MHS to host SRA content on their website
- At least 10 class talks with classes in the Faculty of Humanities
- Completion of audit on Echo360 use in classrooms
- Completion of discussions with the HSR re: new referendum and operations

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)
- Potential implementation of green bins in all residences
- Evaluation of the impacts of green bin implementations in residence
- Creation of a plan to increase wellness supports in the SWC by Fall 2023
- Increased social media presence (min 50 new followers)
- Collection of feedback from Humanities students about SRA operations by year end

Master Summary

May	• -
June	• Creation of Year Plan
July	• Begin talks with HCS, RezLife, Custodial Services
August	• Develop green bin pilot project with HCS, RezLife, Custodial Services • Meet with Humanities Academic Coordinator, Library Services, VP Education to discuss the audit of Echo360 use
September	• Implement sustainability educational materials in residences • Schedule/carry out class talks • Meeting with Municipal Affairs Committee to discuss HSR bus pass referendum • Begin meetings with President re: SWC advisory committee creation • Begin the audit of Echo360 use • Meet with MHS to determine feasibility of hosting SRA content on their website
October	• Transition newly elected caucus members • Begin implementation of the green bin pilot project in residence • Set up booth in MUSC for Q&As, promoting social media • Continued discussions on HSR referendum • Finish audit on Echo360 use, meet with Classroom Campus Technologies • Continued discussions with SWC • Begin building content on the MHS website
November	• Monitor green bin pilot project and check in with HCS, RezLife, Custodial services to determine next steps • Final discussions on HSR referendum • Oversee the implementation of Echo360 in remaining Humanities based lecture halls • Continued discussions with SWC
December	• Prepare for Winter semester plans

	● Conduct mid-year feedback survey
January	● If pilot project continues to be successful, continue with the implementation of green bins in residence ● Continued discussions with SWC ● Evaluate use of Echo360/audiovisual software in Fall semester, determine areas of improvement ● Set up booth in MUSC to promote the vote on the HSR referendum ● Conduct class talks to promote the vote on the HSR referendum
February	● Set up booth in MUSC for Q&As and social media promotion ● Finalize SWC plans for the 2023-2024 year
March	● Evaluate impacts of projects completed or initiated during the year - benefits? Drawbacks? Unexpected outcomes? ● Distribute feedback survey to Humanities Students
April	● Transition new members