



REPORT

From the office of the...

First Year Council Coordinator

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Fayth Frank
SUBJECT: First Year Council Report 1
DATE: Friday, September 23, 2022

Year Plan Update

In July, I created a tentative year plan, as I believe First Year Council and its vision should be based on the elected representatives' ideas and goals. I am excited to have a full team on September 29th and discuss with the elected First Year Council members what they want to accomplish through the year.

I would like to outline the progress I have made in meeting some of my preliminary goals as FYC Coordinator during the month of August and Welcome Week below.

Events, Projects, & Activities

Raise Awareness of First Year Council

In previous years, it has been a struggle to get all FYC positions filled in by the first round of elections. Last year, the first round of elections happened from the end of September to the beginning of October. Subsequent rounds of elections followed, and they were only able to get a full team at the end of November. Many first-year students I talked to last year told me they did not know First Year Council existed until second semester. My goal was to take advantage of a fully in person Welcome Week and utilize events and campus partners to educate first year students on the council and encourage them to run.

This started in August with advertising with the Silhouette and attending MAC 101: Student Services Online Fair. I was already optimistic seeing many first-year students attend the FYC booth and ask questions about the service and how to get involved. Speaking at Spark's Transition to University Panel gave me another opportunity to talk to first year students about FYC. As a Senior Community Advisor, I realize the impact CAs have in the lives of first year students on residence, which was why I wanted to collaborate with Residence Life to ensure CAs were knowledgeable on FYC during their training. Residence Life Manager, Chris Eley, has been supportive of FYC and willing to help promote the service wherever possible. During Welcome Week, Simranjeet allowed me the

opportunity to speak at the International Student Services Orientation. Following the event, I received emails from interested international students who wanted to get involved with FYC.

ClubsFest was another great opportunity to promote First Year Council. I recruited last year's council members to assist me at the FYC table to talk to first years about their experience on the council and answer any questions. First year students responded well to this and appreciated the opportunity to hear firsthand from the people who had done this before and the profound impact they were able to have last year.

Promoting First Year Council Elections (On-Going)

I have been working closely with the Deputy Returning Officer, Theodore Liu, and the Chief Returning Officer, William Liu, to promote FYC elections. A table was booked in MUSC for the week of September 12-16. Since having FYC members attend ClubsFest worked out well, I requested that they also take turns sitting at the MUSC table to help promote the elections. They were more than happy to help out. During the week, we gave out rave cards and FYC stickers and had many first-year students come to the table to ask questions about nominations, the election process, and the roles of the various positions.

We had 33 first year students nominate themselves for elections! This was a much higher number than previous years. The Residence Chairs for McKay Hall, PGCLL, Brandon Hall, and Bates have been acclaimed, as well as one of the two Off-Campus Chairs. 7 students are running for Chair, 3 students for Vice Chair External, 3 students for Vice Chair Internal, 5 students for Vice Chair Events, 2 students for Les Prince Residence Chair, 3 for Mary Keyes Residence Chair, 2 students for Wallingford Residence Chair, and 3 students for Hedden Residence Chair. Campaigning started on September 20 and ends on September 29, which is when polling takes place. The following seats have not been filled as of yet: Moulton, Edwards, Whidden, Woodstock, Matthew, and one of the two Off-Campus seats. The nominations for those seats have been extended until September 26. I will be going around to those residences and distributing rave cards to help further promote nominations.

First Year Formal

Last year, the First Year Council ran a successful First Year Formal. This year, Spark asked to collaborate. The contract has been signed and the First Year Formal will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at Michelangelo Events and Conference Centre. I had hesitated to agree to this date, as FYC will only be elected at the beginning of October, following which, they will have to undergo training. This means FYC will have less than a month to contribute our share of work for the formal. I recently spoke with Spark Director, Kyobin Hwang, and told her that I would like to keep the theme of the formal undecided until FYC is elected and they can have the say in deciding that. FYC will also oversee decorations, photobooth, music, seating arrangements, photography, and

coordination of volunteers on the day of the event. It is important to me that they get a say in the event since it is a collaboration, so most of these tasks will only be completed once FYC is elected. It will be a little bit of a time crunch in the month of October, but I am confident that we will be able to get it done.

Outreach & Promotions

Summary

Throughout the nomination period, I have been using Instagram as my primary form of promoting First Year Council on social media. 11x17 elections posters made by the Underground were posted on every floor of each residence building. Two sets of rave cards (one with election and nomination information and another about FYC with a QR code to our Instagram) and FYC stickers were distributed during ClubsFest and our Promotions Weeks table at MUSC.

Promotional Materials

FIRST YEAR COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Chair
- Vice-Chair Internal
- Vice-Chair External
- Vice-Chair Events
- Residence Chair Reps

BATES • BRANDON • EDWARDS • HEDDEN • LES PRINCE
MARK • NILES • PARTHASARATHY • HICKAY • HOSKIN
PETER GEORGE • WALLINGFORD • WINDSON • WOODSTOCK
TWO OPEN CANDIDACY COMMITTEE STUDENTS

NOMINATIONS
SEPT. 6th - 19th
msumcmaster.ca/elections

VOTING
SEPT. 29th
msumcmaster.ca/vote

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What is the FYC?

FYC is the unique representative body for McMaster first year students that serves to inform and speak for their distinctive needs and concerns. FYC is operated by first year students who are elected in the fall by their peers. The purpose of FYC is to represent current and future McMaster first year students and ensure their issues and interests are addressed by acting as a voice.

Social Media Engagement since the Previous Report



Finances

Budget Summary

In terms of finances, First Year Council is on track with our budget. We have only spent money on promotional material, ClubsFest, and advertising with the Silhouette. In the upcoming weeks, more money will be spent on promotional material for the First Year Formal.

Successes

I am proud to say that we had 33 first year students nominate themselves to be a part of FYC. This is a huge improvement from previous years, and it is great to see the excitement and engagement FYC is already receiving.

Current Challenges

A current challenge is getting the remaining seats filled and planning First Year Formal on a time crunch, due to the event being held earlier this year.

Miscellaneous

I look forward to having a full team of First Year Council members in just a few weeks and helping them accomplish their goals for the year as soon as possible!