



REPORT

From the office of the...
AVP University Affairs

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Simran Dhindsa, AVP University Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 22H Report
DATE: October 16, 2022

Hello everyone,

I hope you had a great reading week. In the past couple months, I have learned a lot in my role as the associate vice president university affairs. Despite the short turn around, the committee is now gearing to finalize our projects, campaigns and advocacy initiatives and we hope to bring good news for student advocacy moving forward.

Progress on Year plan

- Mental Health

I hope to continue collaboration with the SWC Advisory Committee, Okanagan Committee and SVPRO to increase the presence of mental health and support services on campus. I also hope to expand this collaboration to the PCC, SHEC, MSU DEN and WGEN to increase collaboration and engagement.

- Sustainability

With Simranjeet and members of the committee, we hope to continue to support the sustain program as well as sustain projects with Kate Whalen. We also hope to launch a project to vet the waste management on campus on how it can be optimized using data for waste management collection.

- Accessibility

In collaboration with the IT Advisory committee, students have voiced many concerns regarding accessibility and availability of resources. Additionally, the OER project aims to increase accessibility to education and academic resources. I also hope to collaborate with the McMaster Libraries to promote educational resources provided by the libraries and accessibility services available. In collaboration with the teaching and learning committee, we hope to continue to advocate for student accessibility and resources to allow students a better learning experience.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

- Proctoring Software

After past efforts for increased information regarding, there has been an increase in resources for Respondus software available on Avenue. This

gives students more information on where and how their data is stored, and more logistical information regarding the software in general.

- **Echo360**
Many instructors have been receptive about the implementation of Ech360 in multiple courses. We hope to translate to a greater number of courses or advocate for alternate resources for students unable to attend in person.
- **International Student Task Force**
Previously, the UA committee in collaboration with the International Student Services, launched an international student survey. We hope to translate this into an effective campaign and communicate the needs to the students to the university.

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

- **December 6**
The December 6 Planning committee is currently navigating a panel for targeted individuals to bring a more personal aspect. A few days prior, red dresses are to be hung around campus. The fine details of the event are yet to be sorted out over the next couple meetings.
- **Open Educational Resources**
With the VP Education and President, the committee hopes to implement OERs as a promoted and better funded resource for courses. With an open call for funding, we hope to allow professors a platform to be recognized for their teaching efforts and alleviate financial stress on students.
- **Mac Votes**
On October 17 and 18, the MSU hope to increase presence on campus to direct students to voting polls and be present in the decision making of their city. With increased social media and MSU presence on campus during the days of, we hope to increase voting presence on campus.
- **ITSAC**
The IT student advisory committee brought forth many interesting projects. One such project is the vetting process for a cyber security module. Additionally, IT hope to launch a virtual ID for all things that a student card can do, which is very exciting. Issues regarding the authentication and accessing to the committee and will be followed up on.
- **Policy Papers**
The UA committee is very enthusiastic about our policy papers, despite many finding them boring (or they haven't been honest). We hope to finalize our policy papers, with an emphasis on accessibility, financing, and student engagement.

Successes

We have been successful in advocating for additional accommodations beyond the initial MSAF and greater mental health awareness around campus. The transition to in person, while chaotic has been successful in welcoming first years and we hope to follow up with first years for feedback regarding how this transition could be smoother and how the MSU can support them further.

Current Challenges

As having come into this role quite late in the summer, I do sometimes feel behind but I appreciate all the support the committee members and full-time staff have provided and continue to do so. One of the challenges is to schedule meetings with all stakeholders and relevant members with everyone's evolving schedules, but as we are going later into the semester, schedules are more concrete to ensure an easier process.

Volunteers

I would like to thank Olsen Chan, Justine Rodriguez, Cierra Pittari, Taaha Hassan, Michelle Middaugh Cifuentes, and Francesca Caputo for being such a wonderful committee and being patient as I transition into this role and being enthusiastic and receptive for the initiatives we have thus far. I would also like to thank Elizabeth Wong and Simranjeet Singh for being so supportive and guiding me through my role.

Regards,

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