



REPORT

From the office of the...
AVP University Affairs

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Simran Dhindsa, AVP University Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 22K Report
DATE: November 27, 2022

Hello everyone,

I hope November is treating you well. Here are some updates on what the university affairs committee has been up to, with updates and new ideas to share.

Progress on Year plan

- **Inclusion**
To increase accessibility for diverse groups, the UA committee is advocating for all gender bathroom policy for future McMaster buildings. Additional collaboration with international student services to convey concerns brought up with the policy paper that was constructed last year.
- **Sustainability**
This year, in addition to supporting programs and initiatives for sustainability, we also hope to advocate for climate change. UA affairs in collaboration with other groups hope to present the fossil fuel nonproliferation treaty to Hamilton Council, something that has been received well in Toronto and Vancouver.
- **Accessibility**
In addition to all-gender bathrooms, UA hopes to advocate concerns regarding student accessibility services and student wellness center to voice gaps in service and advocate for greater (accessible) support for students.
Conversations about the clinic model for the SWC in place to understand the degree to which it can be made more accessible, especially the booking process.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

With many projects and conversations having taken place, it is difficult to determine past projects as many advocacy efforts ultimately lie in the hands of the administration. Open Educational Resources, advocacy for accessible and hybrid classrooms have gone well with university administration and continued advocacy should hopefully ensure increased for these projects. UA had the opportunity to join Smart Commute at a conference downtown and provide feedback on student transportation and commute needs.

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

- **Open Educational Resources**
With OERs being an idea received well with many university stakeholders. It remains still in conversation and continued advocacy will hopefully approve the

- funding of OERS, an important tool in making education and educational more affordable and accessible.
- **Campus Recycling and Composting**
McMaster, with the number of students and staff, produces a lot of waste, waste which should be accounted for. We are hoping to track and follow up on the process of waste management at McMaster and beyond to ensure that standards of sustainability are met.
 - **International students**
Presenting policy needs to the international student services and associated groups has allowed us to share concerns by students as well as understand what tangible changes can be put in place. The reinstatement of the international student task force is in the talks.
 - **Classroom Accessibility**
Continued advocacy for high flex classrooms and adoption of echo360 has been received well by the teaching and learning committee at McMaster. In tandem with Kim Dej, Vice Provost teaching and learning, aim to have this as continued agenda of the committee and conversations with faculties, as professors ultimately decide how they would like to teach, but given the current state of affairs (the pandemic), hybrid classrooms need to be better implemented in the learning model.

Successes and Challenges

University stakeholders have been very receptive of feedback and campaign ideas. With the university, there is a strong support for student concerns, however, this may be a challenge, there is timeline difference in presenting an idea and its adoption. Hence, to really emphasize projects, we want to make campaigns as impacting as well as embedded in future university and MSU agenda as possible. Despite scheduling remaining a difficulty sometimes, meetings have been much easier to schedule given everyone's set schedule (soon again to change starting January).

Volunteers

I would like to thank Olsen Chan, Justine Rodriguez, Taaha Hassan, Michelle Middaugh Cifuentes, and Francesca Caputo for all the wonderful ideas they have brought and their role in shaping the university affairs committee.

Regards,

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