



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## First Year Council Coordinator

---

TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Fayth Frank  
SUBJECT: First Year Council Report 5  
DATE: February 27 2022

---

### Year Plan Update

First Year Council Members are having weekly meetings with Residence Life and Hospitality Services to propose ideas and implement initiatives to enhance the first-year experience in these areas. They are planning and executing events, initiatives, and campaigns for the winter term, in their residences as well as for their entire cohort. The promotions team is currently working on designing merchandise for FYC, conducting Instagram takeovers, and giving their creative input for promotional materials for the events in the upcoming month (posters, rave cards, social media graphics, stickers, etc.). The events team is currently working on the events planned for the semester.

### Events, Projects, & Activities

#### *Projects & Events: Project 1 (On-Going) - Consultation Committees*

- First Year Council are working with Residence Life to provide feedback and suggestions on current operations. They recently brought forth a budget change proposal that will be considered for the following year in respect to residence fees.
- First Year Council are working with Hospitality to provide feedback and suggestions on current operations. They are working towards opening dining services for longer hours during the exam season.

#### *Projects & Events: Project 2 (Upcoming) - Coffeehouse & Board Game Night*

- On March 8, First Council is hosting a Coffeehouse and Board Game Night at The Grind.
- Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and snacks will be provided for attendees.
- The event will be open to all first-year students.
- They are working with McMaster Board Game society.
- The goal for the event is to increase community and provide the first-year cohort with an opportunity to socialize and de-stress.

### *Projects & Events: Project 3 (Upcoming) - 'First Year Wellness' Campaign*

- During the week of March 13, FYC will be hosting a weeklong "First Year Wellness" campaign.
- The goal of this initiative is to help first year students take care of their mental health and de-stress during the stressful midterm period.
- They have contacted partners to collaborate with and are currently in the process of booking rooms.
- Each day, FYC will host a different event:
  - Day 1: Therapy Dog
  - Day 2: Wellness Walk
  - Day 2: Give a Compliment, Take a Compliment
    - Table in MUSC, where first year students will write down a compliment for someone else to pick up and get to pick one up for themselves.
    - The first 150 students who arrive will get a stress ball.
    - Resource rave cards will be present with contacts of mental health support on the McMaster campus.

### *Projects & Events: Project 4 (Upcoming) - First Year Survey*

- FYC has compiled a list of questions about the first-year experience that they would like to send out to their cohort. This information includes but is not limited to their experience transitioning to university, their experience on residence or commuting, their experience and usage of the services and resources McMaster offers, and their experience with the food on campus.
- FYC wants to use this survey to gather information and pass it on to the necessary campus partners to better improve the first-year experience for future years.
- The council is hoping to do an iPad giveaway to incentivize students to complete the survey.
- The aim is for the survey to open during the last week of March.

### *Projects & Events: Project 5 (Upcoming) - 'Life After First Year' Campaign*

- During the first week of April, FYC will be hosting a week-long campaign with the theme of 'Life After First Year.'
- The goal of this initiative is to prepare students and get them excited for what is to come after their first year of university is over.
- Each day FYC will host a different event centered around a unique theme:
  - Day 1: Budgeting/Financial Literacy Workshop
  - Day 2: Cooking Class
  - Day 3: Self-Defense Class

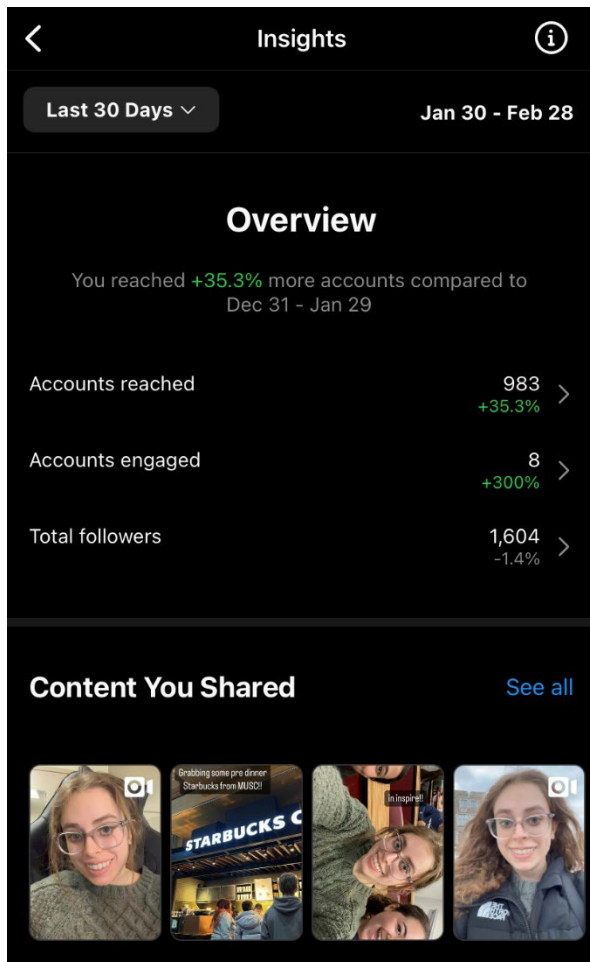
- Day 4: Applicant's Workshop – Interview, Resume, Cover Letter Tips
- FYC is in the process of contacting campus partners to collaborate on running the daily workshops.

## Outreach & Promotions

### Summary

FYC has been doing daily Instagram takeovers which has increased Instagram engagement. FYC is getting promotional material for the Coffeehouse and Wellness Week events, in the form of digital graphics. Rave cards will also be printed for the event and stickers will be given out at each event with FYC's social media.

### Social Media Engagement since the Previous Report



## **Finances**

### *Budget Summary*

We are taking money from the Volunteer Recognition budget line for getting sweaters for all the FYC members. FYC have also been taking from the Advertising & Promotion budget line for the promotional packages and graphics, rave cards, and posters for our upcoming events. We are also taking money from the Residence budget for the residence chairs to run their events.

## **Successes**

First Year Council are in the process of executing their events and initiatives. It has been rewarding for myself and the council members to see their hard work come to fruition. They have been very active in brainstorming ideas and bringing up their concerns to their consultation committees. They have been passionate about getting feedback and ideas from their peers, which is evident in the implementation of the First Year Survey. It has been great to see how confident all of them are to share their ideas and visions. It is clear that they are passionate about their roles and have been diligently planning for their upcoming events.

## **Current Challenges**

A current challenge has been getting some members of FYC to take initiative, meet deadlines, and respond in a timely manner. This is just in regard to a few members, as the majority have been diligent in their roles. A few of them have also been disheartened when some of their proposed ideas to McMaster consultation committees have been unable to go through, which has affected their motivation and positive attitude. I will be trying to get morale back up and get our campus partners to better explain the reasoning behind the decision-making process.

## **Miscellaneous**

Below are some headshots of our lovely FYC members, taken by Will, the MSU Communications Officer:

