

# YEAR PLAN

MSU SRA

Health Sciences Caucus  
Cloris Su & Kerry Yang

2023-2024

(June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023)



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## OFFICE OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES CAUCUS LEADER INTRODUCTION

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Dear Health Science Students,

It's Kerry and Cloris here! Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude for entrusting us to represent you on the Student Representative Assembly (not that you had any other options). Despite the lack of competition, we really enjoyed engaging with you throughout our election campaign and look forward to serving you in the upcoming school year! We hope through it, you can recognize us now as the friendly faces of BHSc and the MSU. We're both incredibly passionate about representing and advocating for the Health Sciences community and hope to make meaningful impacts that last far beyond our term. To our incoming and outgoing cohorts, congratulations on a monumental stage of your undergraduate career and we hope to make this year especially memorable for you, despite the misery that cell bio, thesis-writing, or grad school apps may bring.

As we'll be getting to know all of you during our term to best represent our community, we'd like to better introduce ourselves. I (Kerry) am entering my second year of BHSc in the child health specialization. I'm originally from Sudbury, Ontario, so I've been enjoying what Hamilton has to offer (i.e., diversity). This upcoming year, I'm excited to work with Cloris as your SRA reps, as well as serve on the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee, Executive Board, and as your Associate Vice President Municipal Affairs.

I (Cloris) am entering my third year of BHSc, also in the Child Health Specialization. After being affiliated with the MSU for a year, I decided I wanted to represent the MSU and what it has to offer to BHSc. Kerry and I see the need for BHSc life to be connected to the general student life at McMaster and are ready to devote ourselves to this partnership. I am originally from Scarborough, Ontario, and am excited to also serve on Services Committee, the Clubs Advisory Council, and the Teaching Awards Committee for the upcoming school year.

As we outlined in our election campaign, we have a few goals and projects we'd like to bring forward. These include MSU engagement, TA feedback, updating the BHSc homebase, and MUSC maintenance. Some of these goals are long-term that we hope to build on from past SRA reps, while others are new initiatives. If you see yourself contributing to any of these goals or something new, please reach out to us!

While we enjoyed running a campaign unopposed, ultimately, we want to see this change with more engagement with the MSU. We firmly believe there are many strong and qualified candidates to sit on SRA and we hope to encourage more MSU engagement. As such, we hope you'll read our year plan and share your ideas, concerns, comments, and suggestions! Don't ever be afraid to reach out and you can find us in BHSS meetings or in our Office Hours. As always, BKTY and best of luck next year,

**Kerry Yang and Cloris Su**

SRA Health Sciences Caucus 2023-2024

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## GOALS

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>MSU Engagement</b>
Description	Student engagement is an ongoing goal across all faculties to bridge the gap between student interests and the representative bodies of the MSU. The MSU is a complex organization with many branches, services, and clubs, which can make it inaccessible to student interest. Our goal is to inform students on the structures of the MSU and share opportunities for health science students to get involved at varying commitment levels.
Benefits	Health science students can better understand the structure of their student union and experience opportunities within student government. We can also better represent student voices when they are involved in the student union (i.e., they are voting in elections and connecting with SRA reps).
Difficulties	The limited number of students who become involved in the MSU form a “bubble” where opportunities travel around, but not outside. Our goal is to pierce the bubble and allow more equitable and accessible engagement opportunities. Additionally, health science students are often committed to other extra-curriculars, so the value and importance of the MSU must be demonstrated.
Long-term implications	Long-term success would be demonstrated in strong health science representation in MSU roles, specifically in SRA. Within our term, we hope to increase SRA candidates and better inform students of our role, scope, and projects.
How?	We will continue our social media recaps of SRA meetings and posting volunteer and job opportunities as they arise. We also hope to create initiatives for us as SRA members to engage with students on campus and during office hours.
Partners	Board of Directors SRA Caucuses BHSS

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>TA Feedback</b>
Description	<p>Course teaching assistants are hired and trained to aid a student's comprehension of a course content, equipping them with resources to apply learned concepts on their own, and making themselves available for student inquiries. Teaching assistants also serve as the liaisons between the professors and the students.</p> <p>To better meet the needs of the student, and to reweigh the importance of the learning needs for students, we plan to reach out to the instructors of HTHSCI 1106 (Cellular and Molecular Biology) and HTHSCI 2F03 (Human Anatomy and Physiology) to ask that a feedback system be implemented, where students can provide feedback on their TAs, and they encourage their TAs to incorporate feedback that students have given.</p>
Benefits	<p>With the TA feedback system incorporated in both of these mandatory BSc courses, students will be able to communicate with their instructors directly about what goes on in their tutorials, providing transparency through positive and negative feedback in their tutorials. Instructors will be overall more informed about tutorials and how they can better support their TAs. Feedback they receive from students can be used however they they may choose, whether it be improving the content material for clarity, answering common questions, or encouraging a TA to implement different teaching methods.</p>
Difficulties	<p>The course instructors must agree with this, and discussions must be held to come up with proper protocol in the case of conflicts that may arise due to reports from the feedback.</p>
Long-term implications	<p>We aspire to maintain the integrity of the teaching assistant role and hope to maximize the transparency between instructors, TAs, and students. If the system is put into place, we hope that other courses (BSc or non-BSc, depending on its success, we will share the idea with other caucuses) will consider adopting the TA Feedback system. We also hope that the Feedback system eases some of the differences between tutorials (e.g., topics uncovered, some questions answered over others, etc.)</p>
How?	<p>We will first be in contact with Stacey Ritz, Assistant Dean, in order to discuss whether this is a feasible initiative to move forward with, and how we may proceed. We will then be sending out a student survey, in order to gauge students' experiences in their tutorials and whether change should be implemented (if so, what changes?) After receiving feedback</p>

	for the survey, we will be in touch with course instructors, showing them that there is a need for changes to be made, and suggest to them a TA Feedback system. If after successful discussions and the system is agreed upon, we shall assist with the development and launching of the system for the next coming school year.
Partners	BHSc Office BHSS Academics BHSc student body HTHSCI 1106 and HTHSCI 2F03 Instructors

<b>Objective 3</b>	<b>Updating BHSc Homebase</b>
Description	The BHSc homebase has long been a musty and dusty space. In the upcoming school year, this is set to change, and we want to ensure the changes reflect student input. Our goal is to share what renovation options are available for the new lounge and working with BHSS to implement the improvements.
Benefits	A community space for BHSc students to gather and relax, with improved lighting, quiet study spaces, and room to hang out.
Difficulties	The BHSc homebase has long been a goal for many years of SRA reps, but there have been challenges navigating funding and logistical considerations. For example, the lounge is not fully accessible as renovations are being done, impacting students and student associations (BHSS meetings). We also do not receive regular updates from the BHSc Office regarding available funding, and steps to move forward with this project.
Long-term implications	Successful updates of the BHSc homebase will hopefully lead to a positive student experience for many years to come, and improve the sense of community and contribution, as we are hoping to have Lounge renovations be somewhat student directed.
How?	We will collaborate with BHSc staff and the MSU to break down funding and renovation plans to students. We also hope to send out a student survey, in collaboration with the BHSS and BHSc, to provide some degree of customization of the Lounge to students.
Partners	BHSc Office BHSS Student Body

<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Improved MUSC Maintenance</b>
Description	As the self-titled student center of the building, MUSC is undeniably the hub of student life for all years (graduate and undergraduate) and all faculties. It is the home to the MSU and all its services, as well as the prime location for public events (e.g., bake sales, banquets and awards, poster days, various fairs, elections). In order to improve student experience in this powerhouse, we aim to update the micro-services that make MUSC function better. This starts with things like changing the hand sanitizer dispensers, having the filters at water-refill stations frequently changed, and ensuring the supplies of menstrual products are being renewed in all the washrooms.
Benefits	We hope that improved maintenance of MUSC will go appreciated but unnoticed, as it is meant to improve the function of the building for students, cutting out minor day-to-day inconveniences.
Difficulties	Many of our target items are things MUSC is already doing and has in place, and it may be difficult convincing them there is an existing issue and need for improvement.
Long-term implications	Through this objective, we hope to not only improve general experience of the Student Center, but also possibly bring to light other micro-issues with the facility that need to be improved and target those items within the upcoming years.
How?	We will do a quality check of the existing amenities and services offered in MUSC and receive advice and support from the BoD and SRA Caucuses before contacting MUSC Facility Services. We also hope to do a service review of these items before the end of our term in April 2024, to ensure a considerable change has been implemented.
Partners	SRA Caucuses Board of Directors MUSC Facility Services

## Long-Term Planning

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<b>Overarching Vision 1</b>	<b><i>Transparency</i></b>
Description	The limitations in successfully improving engagement in the MSU often lies in the lack of transparency. Students are simply unaware of the MSU's operations and how its services can benefit them. As SRA reps, we can bridge the lack of knowledge and engagement among students. This includes increasing awareness of the role, responsibilities, and commitments of the SRA. Students running for SRA seats are often unaware of additional opportunities and commitments involved, such as special project funding, committees, and Executive Board. We also hope to dismantle the formality and inaccessibility of meetings by continuing our social media recaps.
Benefits	Students benefit from a sense of ownership in their undergraduate experience when they understand and are connected with the student union. They are also more closely connected to opportunities within the MSU and can benefit from new experiences.
Year 1	Our goal to tackling transparency during our term is to meet students where they're at through accessible means. We want to increase social media engagement so more students are aware of SRA and being updated on meeting contents. We also want to be accessible on campus through office hours and events in MUSC.
Year 2	When students are aware and interacting with SRA, we can encourage students to attend SRA meetings. Why would a student want to sit through a 10-hour meeting on their Sunday? Because hopefully they want to. The SRA Health Science caucus can create incentives for being involved in meetings, such as creating an SRA Health Science committee. This committee can broaden Health Science and SRA engagement by allowing students to be directly involved in year plan goals.
Year 3	In year 3, we can expand our transparency efforts based on what we've learned in previous years. If the committee was an effective method in increasing engagement, then it should be continued. Social media and in-person awareness should continue to reach incoming and existing cohorts.

Partners	BoD SRA caucuses
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<b>Overarching Vision 2</b>	<b><i>TA Feedback</i></b>
Description	We hope to bring our initiative to life this year, increasing transparency and function of student tutorials. We hope that this initiative, if successful, can continue through years beyond Kerry and myself, with other courses and other caucuses joining as well.
Benefits	Greater control of learning and emphasis towards students and instructors
Year 1	Adopting the TA Feedback system for HTHSCI 1106 and HTHSCI 2F03
Year 2	Adopting the TA Feedback system in other BHSc courses
Year 3	Adopting the TA Feedback system in non-BHSc courses that need better tutorial management
Partners	BHSc Office BHSS Academics BHSc Student Body HTHSCI 1106 Instructors HTHSCI 2F03 Instructors



## GOALS to strive for

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### **List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September.**

- Contact with BHSc Office about status of BHSc Student Lounge renovations
- Materials to connect with the incoming class of BHSc students about SRA and opportunities within the MSU
- Student survey for TA Feedback initiative
- Regular posts of SRA meeting minutes
- Decide a time for SRA Health Sciences Office Hours

### **List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1<sup>st</sup>)**

- Assisting the BHSS in year initiatives, provide updates from the SRA in their monthly meetings
- Applying for SLEF and the SRA project fund to finance our objectives.
- Conducted an MSU opportunities/engagement campaign
- Received input from Student Survey regarding TA Feedback Initiative, analyze results and work on drafting a formal letter to course instructors
- Received input for renovations on the BHSc homebase

### **List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

- Applied student input into the BHSc homebase renovations
- Initiate process of discussions with course instructors about proposed integration of TA Feedback in upcoming school years
- Completed at least 1 event or campaign using the SLEF or SRA project fund for BHSc
- Collaborated in at least 1 inter-faculty event
- Collaborated with MUSC Facility Services to improve MUSC Services (hand sanitizer dispensers, improve quality of water filters, etc.)

## Master Summary

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings and VP candidate platforms</li> <li>● Promote MSU seats on SRA committees</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings and VP candidate elections</li> <li>● Update social media about VP Admin and VP Finance elections</li> <li>● Promote upcoming job opportunities in the MSU</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings and VP candidate elections</li> <li>● Update social media about VP Admin and VP Finance elections</li> <li>● Promote upcoming job opportunities in the MSU</li> <li>● Present Year Plan 2023-2024 to the SRA and BoD</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting with BHSc Office for plans to go forward with TA Feedback initiative</li> <li>● Gather SRA and BoD Support for MUSC Maintenance initiative</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committeres, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>● Engage with incoming students about the SRA and MSU (Welcome Week, Clubs Fest, etc.)</li> <li>● Connect with BHSc (()) on plans for renovations of the lounge and create a timeline for renovations</li> <li>● Complete and finalize student survey to gauge tutorial experience</li> <li>● Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committeres, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>● Apply for SLEF and SRA funds for future initiatives</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a joint SRA event with the goal of engaging students and sharing MSU opportunities</li> <li>• Release TA Feedback Survey</li> <li>• Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committees, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Collect TA Feedback Survey responses from BHSc student body</li> <li>• Contact MUSC Facility Services with suggestions for improvement</li> <li>• Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committees, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Finish collecting, compile and analyze TA Feedback Survey responses</li> <li>• Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committees, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Present TA Feedback Survey results to BHSc faculty and staff</li> <li>• Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committees, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Promote upcoming SRA elections with expanded office hours and campaigns</li> <li>• Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committees, and volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Promote upcoming SRA elections with expanded office hours and campaigns</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Conduct classroom outreach to recruit SRA candidates</li><li>● Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li></ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Update the Instagram page with relevant updates regarding SRA meetings, open seats on committeres, and volunteer opportunities for the upcoming school year</li><li>● Begin transition for incoming SRA reps</li><li>● Hold bi-weekly office hours open to the BHSc community</li></ul>