

YEAR PLAN
MSU SRA
Humanities Caucus
Paige Hannan and Olivia Dodd

2023-2024
June 19, 2023



OFFICE OF THE HUMANITIES CAUCUS CAUCUS LEADER INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone! Welcome to the 2023 -2024 school year at McMaster. My name is Paige Hannan, and I am the Humanities caucus leader in the Student Representative Assembly. I am going into my third year at McMaster in Justice, Political Philosophy and Law. I am honoured to return to the SRA for my second term alongside my caucus member, Olivia Dodd. We are excited to add another member approaching the fall semester, but rest assured the interests of Humanities students are in the good hands of a power duo for now.

As a Navy Nation Welcome Week rep, I have so much love for MacHum. I believe that our faculty brings special qualities of love, community and imagination to campus, and I am excited to persist in making our small but mighty voice be heard. The longevity and strength of Humanities as a faculty at McMaster is one of the core tenants and long-term visions of this year plan. I believe that humanities staff and students have an important and well-deserved place at every table. I am hopeful for the coming days as we continue to strengthen the positive relationship created last year with the McMaster Humanities Society in this, and every, endeavour for the benefit of students.

As you will see in reading our plan, our caucus places importance on the diverse types of wellness of our community. Sometimes this means pouring love into each other, and sometimes to turn out, towards our far-reaching friends in Hamilton and beyond. Throughout each choice, we want to hear your voice. If you have a thought, an idea, a qualm or questions, please reach out! We are here to direct the vision of the faculty.

GOALS

Objective 1	Prioritizing Student Wellness in Humanities
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing stigma surrounding talking about or reporting instances of sexual harassment, assault, or similar through informative social media campaigns and events in collaboration with our desired partners - Increasing student awareness about mental health resources that are available to them (whether through McMaster or third -party organizations) - Collecting feedback from students (especially Humanities constituents) about their current wellness, their needs, and their visions for improved wellness at Mac
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower students' stigma about mental health and sexual assault - Encourage reporting of mental health crises and instances of harassment/assault - Ensure funding continues to be allocated to vital services on campus, and that existing funding does not go unused - Creating a safe and open community where students are welcome to share their stories and struggles, thus causing a positive culture change on campus
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborating with SWC has proved challenging in the past - Changing cultural norms is a multi -year objective - Difficult to conceptualize and measure progress - Potential to face pushback from other parties
Long -Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over time, this will likely provide more accurate data surrounding students' needs, and statistics about sexual crimes and mental health crises in the greater McMaster community - Improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of Humanities and all McMaster students
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By collaborating with the Student Wellness Centre and the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office through informational promotional material and awareness campaigns

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By planning and hosting events encouraging students to seek help and access resources in times of need - Using our partners' resources (social media accounts, etc.) to raise awareness about our cause and related events
Partners	SWC, SVPRO

Objective 2	Engaging Students in Local Environmental Wellness
Description	<p>We hope to recognize the pressing urgency of environmental wellness in our community. To this end, our faculty wants to promote action Humanities students can take towards the wellness of them and their loved ones, meaningful local advocacy and fruitful collaboration across varied ways of knowing.</p> <p>In achieving this goal, we are collaborating with many community partners and hope to span caucuses - this is, after all, an interest of everyone.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make advocacy for relevant local causes more accessible and comfortable for students to participate in - Creates a seat at the table for Humanities students where information or participation can feel inaccessible - Promotes diverse methods of investing in wellness
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deciding where to invest resources for climate action can be challenging - Short -term gratification is unlikely seeing as it is an ongoing issue - Students are busy - clearly - and sometimes community oriented events are not in the schedule
Long -Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MacHum has an entrenched interest in being a major contributor to McMaster's overall climate action efforts - Students can keep transferable skills of environmental with them

How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We hope to provide clear, concise information on personal environmental wellness, especially in virtual formats to combat the issue of time sensitivities - One of our major fall semester projects will be an audio project featuring community partners like SSHO, Mac Experts and talented students. - We will promote SSHO and events of varying local organisations which provide involvement opportunities to students
Partners	Stop Sprawl Hamilton (SSHO), Hum students, community members

Objective 3	Examining the Benefits of the MSU's Contracts for Students
Description	<p>Affordability is top of mind for most students. An issue brought to the attention of past and current caucus members is the nature of on-campus employment. Following the momentum of the TA contract renegotiations, living wage has become a prevalent conversation at McMaster. Our caucus will be investing time into ensuring that on-campus employment is a viable choice for as many students as possible.</p> <p>Our position on the SRA, within the MSU, poises us perfectly to navigate the complicated nature of contracts within the MSU. We believe that this can be an advantageous use of our time and the time of our fellow MSU employees.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the issue of affordability as cost of living and inflation reach new peaks - Support students in remaining enrolled in the midst of economic uncertainty - Foster positive change within the structure of the MSU
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracts and wages are issues of infrastructure and are weighty in the lives of everyone - great care must be taken in every conversation and initiative - This could be a long-running issue and student power has very high turn over
Long -Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSU can be a community leader in ensuring that

Implications	<p>every person connected with the organisation is respected and valued as a worker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student opinions of the MSU can be improved
How?	<p>We hope to learn from our peers within the MSU as to why certain choices are made concerning employment and discover whether the SRA can continue to evolve the set up of the MSU.</p>
Partners	<p>VP Administration, McMaster Okanagan Committee</p>

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Overarching Vision 1	<p>Increased Student Agency in Promoting Student Life Improvements</p>
Description	<p>Since COVID, there has been a decline in student involvement in campus life and the culture of the student experience as a whole. The Humanities caucus feels passionately that our constituents deserve the tools to be able to steer student life at McMaster towards their vision of development.</p> <p>Frustration should drive progress, and we know that our peers care about the things that they want to change about their surroundings - we want to empower them to do so.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - McMaster and the MSU builds a culture of student voice being influential - Students see their hopes for the future of their school become a reality - The fast turnover of student power becomes a more steady stream of progress
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students find ways to more accurately communicate their desires for the services and action of the MSU - The issues that students care about at McMaster are pinpointed and can be understood as demonstrable issues
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication between the student body and the MSU continues - Action plans are created by student leaders in co -

	<p>operation with their constituents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paths forward can be seen clearly and there are clear steps to improvement codified for the next wave of leaders to continue
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action plans are carried out - While student issues can change, the pressures of long standing issues are alleviated - McMaster is gradually seen as an even more positive and supportive environment with an active and influential student government
Partners	Executives, Faculty of Humanities and McMaster Humanities Society

Overarching Vision 2	Prioritizing the Longevity of MacHum
Description	<p>Due in part to the pandemic, students' engagement with MacHum has declined, and interest in events and initiatives geared specifically towards Humanities students has wavered. We are confident that the spark of love for MacHum is going strong, and we hope to bring the flame back to its former glory. Additionally, as McMaster is predominantly a research and healthcare based university, the arts are often ousted from priority, which impacts issues like funding and course availability. We hope that our caucus and future members are able to maintain the boundaries of MacHum as an integral part of McMaster now and in the future.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The critical and creative ways of thinking continue to benefit all areas of McMaster and its surrounding communities - Arts students feel welcome and secure in their studies and communities - The Humanities are recognized as a legitimate field of study by the university through their actions and by the wider community in their attitudes
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of faltering integrity concerning the existence of our faculty are identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with peers who hold positions within

	McMaster and the MSU help us draw a clearer picture of this and also establish our intention and awareness of the benefit of our faculty
Year 2	- Plans for strengthening MacHum are created and a vision for the future of our faculty is clear and optimistic
Year 3	- MacHum has entrenched and sustainable practices which ensure the prosperity of the arts at McMaster
Partners	McMaster University, McMaster Humanities Society, MSU and executives

GOALS to strive for

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

1. Prepare promotional material for a by -election needed add a third caucus member to our team
2. Establish initial connections with partners listed in objective descriptions.
3. Outreach materials prepared for Welcome Week.
4. Student feedback/idea forum created - virtual and widespread accessibility.
5. Plans for collaborations between caucuses created where year plan overlaps exist.

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)

1. The first Stop Sprawl event takes place.
2. Physical outreach materials created.
3. Outreach hours are workshopped into effective means of communication with students.
4. Collaboration with MHS resumes and fosters effective activity for both parties.
5. SWC and SVPRO have meaningful presence within Hum spaces - virtual and physical.

**List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term
(2nd)**

1. Continue connecting with outside partners like Stop the Sprawl, possibly plan another event with them this semester.
2. Outreach hours are productive and well -attended.
3. Meaningful and measurable progress (i.e. meetings, negotiations, etc.) made through meetings with the MSU regarding improving contracts for part -time student jobs on campus (e.g., the Grind, Union Market, 1280, etc.)
4. Collaboration with MHS continues and become s a staple part of our outreach activities. This relationship continues to be fostered to remain successful in following years.
5. End of year caucus 'audit' completed to analyze the success of our goals and progress of our year plan. This will contribute to making next year's transition easier for incoming members.

MASTER SUMMARY

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete and submit year plan
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grow social media platforms (engagement, followers, etc.) ➤ Prepare and bank posts for upcoming days of significance and events
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote MacHum and our own Welcome Week activities/initiatives through our social media ➤ The MHS and Humanities SRA have an established plan for collaboration
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete our caucus ➤ Class talks ➤ Welcome Week - benefits of exposure and communication are realized
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SWC and SVPRO allyship is present throughout MacHum life ➤ Stop Sprawl Collaboration begins ➤ Meetings with MacHum advocates begin

November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stop Sprawl collaboration event is published
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Issues of the integrity of our faculty are identified through discourse with partners ➤ Focus on the winter semester is strong
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Measurable progress is made with MSU in regard to student work on campus at their services ➤ Collaborations with SVPRO and SWC pick up again into the Near Year; possibly host an event or campaign this month ➤ Push to renew constituents' engagement with our weekly outreach hours into the new semester
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborating with MHS to plan major end of year events, such as Humanities Formal ➤ Continuing to build our relationship with Stop Sprawl
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete an 'audit' or checklist of our progress this year, including our successes, shortfalls, and goals for upcoming years ➤ Wrap up projects initiated throughout the year
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete transition report for incoming caucus members ➤ Begin brainstorming ideas for next year and drafting a year plan