YEAR PLAN

MSU SRA Arts and Science
Priya John
2023-2024
July 23, 2023

OFFICE OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCE CAUCUS LEADER
INTRODUCTION

Dear Arts and Science Students and Members of the Assembly,

It is both an immense honor and great pleasure for me to represent Arts and Science on the Student Representative Assembly (SRA). Having served as the Arts and Science SRA Observer in the previous year (2022-23), I have gained a deep understanding of the significance of advocating for the pressing concerns of our constituents. The objective for this year contains both new initiatives, as well as some past initiatives. Regarding the past initiatives, my aim is to build upon the remarkable work left unfinished by the previous SRA Arts and Science Caucus.

While the year plan outlined below encompasses some ideas and goals discussed by past SRA Arts and Science Caucus leaders, Arts and Science students, and myself, I encourage you to reach out to me with any concerns or requests. I am fully committed to reconstructing the year plan to better cater to the needs of every one of you. To my fellow assembly members, if you have any similar goals or objectives, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

I cannot wait to embark on this journey with you all!

Yours sincerely,

Priya John
SRA Arts and Science 2023-2024
johnp5@mcmaster.ca
@sraartsci

Objective 1	Adding more extension cords to MUSC (Continuation from last year)
Description	• Last year, we noticed that many of the study spaces offered in MUSC were not being used due to the lack of electrical outlets • Based on surveys we launched last year, we planned to add electrical plugs by bringing in extension cords • All of this is done in collaboration with the MUSC Building Maintenance team
Benefits	• Provide more accessible space for McMaster students to utilize on campus that otherwise was not being used • Using campus space more effectively and efficiently
Difficulties	• Keeping outlets permanent to its respective study space. To alleviate this issue, we are hoping to add a label to the extension cords so that students are made aware that this is property of the McMaster SRA
Long-term implications	• Allows students to study more efficiently and effectively on campus • Makes study spaces more inclusive and welcoming
How?	• With the help of the MUSC Maintenance team, we should have extension cords for the Fall Term 2023 • Reach out through phone calls or emails to the necessary companies to produce labels for the extension cords
Partners	• MUSC Maintenance Management

Objective 2	Electing an Arts and Science SRA Observer
Description	• Artsci is a very small caucus (made up of only one member). The Observer is a unique position to Artsci. They support the SRA member with all tasks related to SRA.
Benefits	• Supports the SRA member (me!) to accomplish the goals listed on the year plan • Helps facilitate Artsci SRA office hours • Manages the Artsci SRA social media accounts • The Observer gains knowledge of SRA to mature into the SRA member role the following year

Difficulties	• Electing someone before the start of the Fall Term • Lack of student engagement and interest may pose some difficulty
Long-term implications	• Foster student engagement with the SRA and those who are not directly involved on the assembly • More informed and prepared SRA members
How?	• Have nominations sent in (through Google Forms) • Run elections with the support of the SASS Co-Presidents
Partners	• Society of Arts and Science Students (SASS) Co-Presidents

Objective 3	Ensuring Mills' 6th Floor Silent Study Space Remains Silent (Continuation from last year)
Description	• Although this initiative started last year, due to the lack of student engagement, we were not able to follow through with the plan • Our initial surveys found that McMaster students wanted additional measures taken place to ensure silent study spaces (we are specifically looking at Mills 6th floor) remain silent. • By providing evidence of the frequent disruptions found in silent study spaces, this plan focuses on bringing an effective method to ensure Mills 6th floor remains silent
Benefits	• Students are guaranteed a silent study space (which is especially useful around midterm and finals season)
Difficulties	• Collecting enough data was the biggest hurdle we noticed last year • Placing an effective method to guarantee the silent spaces remain silent
Long-term implications	• Students are guaranteed a silent study space
How?	• Last year, Mills Library and Artsci SRA collaborated to make posters to place all around the silent study space. Each poster had a QR code that students could use to access a feedback form.

	• The feedback form consisted of questions that gauged how often students were met with disturbances when using the silent study space • Last year, the virtual posters were only promoted on the Artsci SRA social media account. This year, to engage more student feedback, we can hopefully get other SRA members to promote the posts on their social media accounts as well
Partners	• Mills Library • (Hopefully) other SRA members and student volunteers (promoting through social media)

Objective 4	**Making Arts and Science Space Inclusive**
Description	- Make the Artsci Space more welcoming! Not all Artsci students have been or used LRW 3038 which should not be the case. - Add some (comfy) lounge seats - Bring in more storage space (especially needed for SASSEx materials) - Bring stationery items and a charging station for Artsci students to use - Work with SASSEx to establish mental health and wellness initiatives and events
Benefits	- There is limited storage space to keep materials purchased for SASS events. Adding more storage space would prove beneficial as it will not require SASS to repurchase products that they have already bought - Adding some additional comfortable spots can make the space more inclusive and welcoming - Bringing in stationery items and a charging station can also help to make the space more inclusive - Having mental health and wellness initiatives can help relieve students of stress they are facing. Overall, this helps foster a welcoming and inclusive community
Difficulties	- Keeping items permanent to its respective study space - Bringing in storage space may pose some difficulty, especially with the already limited space

Long-term implications	- Makes LRW 3038 more inclusive - Provides storage space for future SASSEx committees
How?	- Apply for the SRA funding to purchase the necessary items - Collaborate with SASSEx and the Artsci office to understand what would be most beneficial to upgrade around the space, and discuss future steps that will have to be taken - Collaborate with SASSEx to work on mental health and wellness initiatives
Partners	- SASSEx - Artsci Office

Objective 5	Student Engagement
Description	• Promoting SRA and other related MSU services and clubs to incoming first-year students during Welcome Week - Promote SRA so that students follow Artsci SRA and other SRA caucuses on social media platforms - Raise awareness and educate incoming students on MSU, SRA, and student government - Host a give-away so that students are more inclined to follow and participate • Throughout the school year, host events in collaboration with SASS events to promote Artsci SRA
Benefits	• Improves student engagement (Last year, we saw that not many Artsci students were aware of SRA or had interest in being involved). By exposing students to SRA, it may spark an interest for the future
Difficulties	• Planning events that work with all Artsci students' schedules such that no one is hindered from participating
Long-term implications	• Enables students to feel involved with the SRA • Promotes student engagement
How?	• Apply for the SRA funding to purchase give-away items • Collaborate with SASS Welcome Week planners to find ways to promote Artsci SRA engagement during Welcome Week • Collaborate with SASS establish events that promote the SRA
Partners	• SASSEx, SASS Welcome Week Planners

Long-term planning

Overarching Vision 1	Involve the opinions and thoughts of the Artsci community through various platforms
Description	• To ensure that all initiative reflect the wants and needs of my constituents, the SRA Observer will post monthly feedback systems (google form) to gauge an understanding of what is needed • Last year, posts were made through Instagram only. However, to make it more inclusive, this year we will be reaching out through various mediums to cover as many constituents as possible
Benefits	• Increased transparency and accountability within Artsci • More direct in addressing student concerns and response/feedback to SRA efforts
Year 1	• Creating monthly feedback forms Artsci students can fill out • Post feedback form on all Artsci SRA social media platforms, and send out an email with the feedback form for those who may not use social media • Having an Instagram poll and Google form with very specific questions rather than broad questions can encourage students to fill it out as many students will not know what to write if it is entirely open-ended • Putting up Instagram polls and Google forms when relevant
Year 2	• Feedback form system is still in use
Year 3	• Feedback form system is still in use
Partners	Artsci SRA Observer

Overarching Vision 2	Conducting an Artsci Caucus transition session near the end of the Winter term for Artsci students interested in running for the Artsci Caucus and Observer position
Description	• With only one Artsci representative on the Assembly, it is crucial that new Artsci Caucus reps are guided through their new position from the former Artsci SRA representative and Artsci SRA Observer

	• This transition session provides insight and guidance to future Artsci students interested in joining the SRA in some capacity
Benefits	• This transition session provides insight and guidance to future Artsci Caucus leaders, and helps build off from the previous Year Plans • This transition session encourages Artsci students to be involved in the SRA
Year 1	• Send out an email to all Artsci students with information regarding the transition session • Provide a presentation and host a Q&A session to best support Artsci students interested in the role for the next year
Year 2	• Transition session is held for students interested in joining as the 2024-2025 SRA representative/observer
Year 3	• Transition session is held for students interested in joining as the 2025-2026 SRA representative/observer
Partners	Artsci SRA Observer

GOALS to strive for

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September
- Get an update with MUSC Maintenance to see where the extension cord project is currently
- Prepare to set a promotional booth for SRA during Welcome Week
- Elect an Artsci SRA Observer
- Create a feedback form with the SRA Observer
- Community engagement with the Artsci community through social media platforms

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (2nd)
- Extension cords in MUSC are implemented
- Meetings with the Mills Library team to form engaging methods to collect feedback for objective 3
- Post and email feedback forms for Artsci students to fill out
- Meet with Artsci program director and SASSEx to improve Artsci lounge space
- Plan events for Artsci students to get them involved with SRA through SASS events

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)
- Collecting data regarding objective 3
- Implement a response based off the collected data for objective 3
- Projects to upgrade the Artsci space have been completed
- Conduct transition session (overarching vision 2)
- Post and email feedback forms for Artsci students to fill out

Master Summary

May	● n/a
June	● n/a
July	● Nominations submitted for Artsci SRA Observer ● Plan with Artsci Welcome Week Planners for Objective 5 ● Apply for grant needed for the give-away for Objective 5
August	● Conduct elections for Artsci SRA Observer ● Promote SRA during Welcome Week (hand out give-away) ● Work on Instagram page
September	● Extension cord project is running! ● Send out feedback form
October	● Plan with Mills staff to work on Objective 3 ● Send out feedback form
November	● Work on Objective 3 ● Plan with Artsci program director and SASSEx to work on upgrading Artsci lounge space ● Send out feedback form
December	● Apply for any grants needed for Objectives 3 and 4 ● Send out feedback form
January	● Work on objective 3 ● Work on objective 4 ● Plan events with SASS to promote SRA Artsci ● Send out feedback form
February	● Work on objective 3 ● Work on objective 4 ● Carry out SASS x SRA events ● Send out feedback form
March	● Finalize objective 3 ● Finalize objective 4 ● Carry out SASS x SRA events ● Send out feedback form
April	● Overarching Vision 2 will be carried out during the last

	SRA office hour sometime in April ● Send out feedback form