



REPORT

From the office of the...
Vice-President (Finance)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Craig Dawdy, Vice-President (Finance)
SUBJECT: SRA 23E Report
DATE: July 20, 2023

Hello SRA!

I hope you all find yourselves seated in a comfortable ergonomic chair this weekend while we undertake quite the marathon of trainings and agenda length. There is a fair few thing to discuss and what this meeting has to offer in quantity it also has to offer in quality. Do not covet those absent's leave of absence, pity them for missing a quality weekend indoors and snuggled up to the grainy audio of Microsoft teams.

To address what has been circulated in a recent email from myself, yes, my time is officially drawing to an end. It is unlikely that this will be the last time I address the SRA so I will save my autobiographical eulogy for another email. While I circle the drain my confidence in the remaining team grows and my expectations of them could not be higher.

On the topic of active replacement. There was a great deal of LinkedIn hustling and marketing material circulation that has taken place in the last month. Thankfully, the Instagram stories have paid off. From my understanding there will be at least two candidates at this weekend's meeting dueling for the VP finance position over Microsoft teams.

Progress on Year plan

Clubs

- Have met with many different campus stakeholders at this point that interested in supporting and collaborating with different club groups. This will greatly boost the availability of resources available to clubs and the programing quantity and quality they can offer.
- Clubs training that is set to be executed in September is still in development. An interesting aspect of this we have talk about, especially when considering the willingness of campus stakeholders to participate in the training session is avoiding the overload of content, causing clubs' leaders to miss important info. A solution being investigated is to offer additional trainings with more targeted specific content for certain groups.
- Clubs Accountant has returned to office recently and budget discussions will commence soon.

Operating Budget Evaluation

- General structure is in development, aiming to have underway by the end of September with the appropriate groups being fully in place (VPF, AVPF, FC)

Mental Health, Menstrual Equity, Health Care

- Met with Western USC to discuss their methods of equitable menstrual product disbursement, ironically found better solutions to their implementation issues than ours. Was provided info on how their program works, general cost concerns.

- Attended Health Care conference to learn about product offerings for therapy options and digitized health care solutions. Many digital offerings still in the early adoption phase so costs are vague and buy-in would be substantial, will monitor new information as it arises but was not understood to identify and cover any gaps in health care at McMaster.

Website Redevelopment

- A lot more info has been collected on specifically what the issues are. This information is now at a level that it can be adequately communicated when asking for quotes for development. Quotes are being pursued by MSU IT.

AVPF

- By the end of this weekend's meeting, there should have been 4/5 B9 groups who participated in the summer meeting initiative. I would hope this has been of value in communicating info and makes budget meeting slater on much more efficient.
- Transparency weeks will hopefully be locked into the calendar by the end of this week and some more granular plans can be worked out as we collaborate with different campus groups

VPA

- All services have been trained in finances and how to use their budget trackers which is cool! A lot of work has been done with helping them get their plans for the year off the ground with relation to spending and budgets.
- With a great insurmountable sadness, we mourn the loss of Sugarman.
- There has been some cross collaboration driven by the increased transparency of all service budgets which also good to see, hopefully this continues.
- Also being collaborated on is the appreciation of volunteers. Working on merch orders and welcome week rep appreciation/support.

President

- A lot of different avenues are being looked into and floated to different groups on the enhancement of varsity presence on campus. Almost everyone we talk with seems to like the idea of building community through athletics. Planning with 1280 leadership will hopefully see this fulfilled.
- Athletics and Recreation is also open to the idea of pushing greater numbers into intramurals and have indicated a willingness to expand capacity.
- Volleyball courts in the Oval by September confirmed with facility services. It has been indicated that there is a general acceptance that further development of that space can be pursued with caution towards budget, management, and public relations with neighbors.
- Also, VPA, President, and I are lobbying McMaster while their new academic dishonesty policies in relation to AI are being developed, outcomes to come

SRA

- With new VPF in the works, I was hoping to hold the brainstorming session I mentioned with everyone in August so that there can be a holistic perspective on SRA initiatives.

Best,

Craig Dawdy
MSU Vice-President (Finance)
McMaster Students Union
vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca