



REPORT

From the office of the...

Vice-President (Administration)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: **Adam F. El-Kadi, Vice-President (Administration)**
SUBJECT: SRA Report - SRA 23K
DATE: **November 21st, 2023**

Dear Members of the Student Representative Assembly,

I trust this report finds you well, and I hope your spell of midterms have gone well as well. As is tradition, I shall impart on you a piece of wisdom by Pericles to keep with you over the holidays, “What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance General Assembly

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) is an alliance of students’ unions in Ontario, representing the interest of over 150,000 students. General Assembly (GA) for OUSA is held twice a year, one in the fall and one in winter. (The next one will be held at McMaster!)

I, along with the Board of Directors (minus Sefa) and OUSA delegates, attended this year’s OUSA GA at the University of Laurier. Our time there was very productive, with all day sessions where we reviewed authored papers on important topics faced by students. On Sunday, delegates attend a 12-hour plenary session where they reviewed 100+ amendments (some stupid, some logical) with plenty of moaning and groaning. I, unfortunately, or perhaps rather fortunately, had the privilege of seeing your beautiful faces instead of attending *the* plenary.

Overall, the experience was a great way to advocate for provincial policies that matter most to our students, as well as strengthen key connections with other student unions.

Day in the Life

Over the past several weeks, I have attempted to spend a *day in the life* of the PTMs and learn more about their service day-to-days, the successes and challenges they are currently facing, meeting their teams and introducing myself and the Board. I worked with them to find a time at their convenience to tag along without being overbearing to their already busy schedules.

I had the chance to join SWHAT, EFRT, Maroons, DEN, PCC, FCC, and Spark so far. I continue to strive to understand the day to days of our services and the needs of our student leaders in order to better support them and grow the organization.

Student Representative Assembly Resolution

As many of you may be aware, the SRA passed a resolution in support of McMaster students and student groups affected by the Middle East violence. The resolution was the result of numerous hours crafting a statement and multiple rounds of consultations with student groups from various backgrounds. The statement reaching the SRA floor was my stretching over the VP Admin portfolio, forcing me to work much longer hours to ensure that VP Admin work continues to be complete while also giving time to the resolution. In the end, I'm happy the SRA felt confident in the resolution the President and I presented.

Cluster meetings and One-on-Ones

As the PTMs continue to grow and progress through the year, it's crucial they remain connected, share insights, and collaborate among each other. As a way to facilitate this collaboration, I'm excited to introduce the upcoming series of bi-weekly *cluster meetings*.

Services generally fall into two categories: peer-support and student-life enhancement. I plan to hold meetings for each camp's PTMs, and offer a space for sharing updates, addressing challenges, celebrating achievements, encourage cross-team interactions, etc. The meetings will have a structured yet flexible flow to allow room for open discussion. Time commitment I have planned for is 30 minutes, I recognize our PTMs are students first.

Similarly, I plan to hold biweekly one-on-ones (alternating with the cluster meeting weeks) to check-in. These will also be short and non-committal but would like to offer a reserved slot in case the PTMs would like to connect.

MSU-wide Training

I have been working with the Equity and Inclusion Office's Accessibility Project Coordinator, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Program Manager, and Sexual Violence Prevention Education Manager to set up training MSU-wide. The Admin Team Research Assistant, Rachel, has been very helpful in ensuring execs and volunteers are uploaded to our Avenue page, where they will complete the async training. We hope to have everyone trained by the beginning of December.

Bridges Space Opening

With the recent hiring of new Bridges Coordinators, we're hoping to open the space as soon as possible. I am meeting with the director and assistant director of the

Diversity + Equity Network (DEN) and the Clubs Administrator to discuss how we can make best use of the space and align our visions of using it to promote diversity. We hope to further encourage use of the space by clubs on campus.

Provincial Reception

On November 14th, the Board of Directors and the Associate Vice-President Provincial and Federal Affairs (AVP PFA) attended the McMaster reception for provincial partners at Queens Park, Toronto. The event was very valuable in the way of building connections with university admin and key contacts in various ministries. This, we feel, will hopefully fuel this year's education team in their lobbying efforts and provide key contacts for next year's to build off of.

Eggnog

I decided to invite you all (not by my own volition) to a social for all MSU employees! Included in this event will be the competition of the century: **The Gingerbread House Competition**. There will a judging panel, a photo booth, free food, drink tickets, and much more! (Keep an eye out for the OddTrees, who, I have it on good authority, will likely win). I hope you all can attend, and if not... too bad!

Upcoming priorities

First Year Formal

First Year Formal this year will held of November 24th. I'm very proud of our First Year Council (FYC) and Spark teams for an incredible job done promoting the event, they need a shoutout. Wherever I go on campus I've hear students talk about First Year Formal... which is super exciting to see. It is a great event for first years to enjoy a night of fun and meet new people. By the time of presenting this report, the event will have been done, but I hope our first years enjoyed their night and continue to engage with MSU events in the future.

Service Surveys

The service committee and Associate Vice-President (AVP) Services have been hard at work on the service reviews. Exec and volunteer surveys should be sent out sometime the week (of November 20th), with the general surveys planned for the week after. These feedback survey questions will inform statistics, provide a glimpse into the perceptions, and impact of a service on the student population. Exec and volunteer surveys provide an internal functioning view, while the general provides perspectives on a population level. All is on track at the moment with the service reviews, I will continue to work closely with AVP services, the committee, and our Director of Marketing & Communications to ensure they feel supported and are on track.

FCC Move-In to Hub

The Hub! The much anticipated-MSU-operated-McMaster-owned building that should be open in the new year. I have been working closely with our Student Life Director (and previous VP Admin), Mitch, to plan FCC's transition into the new building. It's important we ensure a smooth transition for the team and that all equipment/needs are moved in order to allow FCC to resume its full operations at the start of the new year. I'm personally very excited for this transition, and I feel honoured to be the VP Admin that sees this through. In light of the financial situation in Canada and worldwide, FCC plays an ever-so-important role in our campus today combating food insecurity, and its visible placement in the Hub will ensure more students can access their needs and learn about the resources available to them.

Wellbeing Week

In late January of next year, services will come together for a mega collab for Wellbeing Week. For each day of the week, different services will collaborate on events that promote wellness and teach about different aspects of safety on campus. For example, this year FCC and DEN are working to put on an event that focuses on cultural awareness related to food and the importance of food donations; Macademics and Maccess are working to put on an event on de-stressors and peer support. All in all, these collaborations are what we love to see from services and will only work to amplify our messages to students. I'm really looking forward to seeing this come together, and am thankful for all the amazing PTMs, execs, and volunteers who are working hard to make this event a success.

Search for Next VP Admin

As we near the presidential elections, I am also conscious of finding my successor. I have already identified a couple very capable candidates who I will be arranging consultation meetings within the coming months to best prepare them for the role. One of the difficulties of our one-year-long positions is the perceived lack of continuity of priorities between Vice-Presidents.

Miscellaneous

PTM Chronicles

A fun new newsletter I created to share monthly updates with PTMs. I find it's a lighthearted way to share otherwise long updates via email. In the November Edition, I shared updates regarding service merch, MSU-wide training, Charity Ball, and cluster meetings.

HSR Strike

If you have not yet noticed, we had HSR Bus Strike... update, it's over! This was obviously a challenge for many of our students who commute to school. I worked with SWHAT over the past week to ensure our walkers can return home safely, by

using the corporate Uber account to commute home closer to 1 am, when night shifts typically end.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam F. El-Kadi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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