



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**First Year Council Chair**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Maxwell Huang, Chair of the First Year Council  
SUBJECT: SRA End of year report Report  
DATE: 3/20/2024

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## **Past Events, Projects, & Activities / Progress on Year Plan**

This year has been a relatively successful year. Here's the recap for the year:

- 12 res events, should've been 16 but we had some difficulties in the second semester because the idea that the residence chairs had would've been too difficult or costly to implement.
- A couple of major full council events:

First Year formal where we teamed up with spark

House hunt where we helped first years with advice on housing

A first year Ping-Pong tournament

Finals distress event is coming up next week on Wednesday

## **Outreach & Promotions**

We're currently in the process of sending out the first year reflection survey.

## **Successes**

In terms of the Reslife committee. We've had some success with discussing changes to the residence prices for next year's cohort of first years, as well as proposing some other changes like a vacuum rental for the residences.

We're also going to help with Housing and Conference services for deciding on if we should bring board games to residences.

House hunt was a massive success with both a large turnout rate, and a

## **Current Challenges**

The First year council really wanted to host a club night, but we ran into many difficulties for this. First, when factoring in the costs of such an event we simply didn't have the funds for a club night, so we had to get special permission to move some funds from our volunteer budget to our main events budget.

After that, we had to contact a variety of different people and sources to discuss the feasibility and date of the event. First we talked to campus events and discussed the feasibility and next steps for such an event. Then we reached out to several DJ's, some

of them didn't respond and for some of them only a couple of dates we proposed worked.

We reached out to the venue twelveEighty and they were essentially booked except for the week before exams started and we thought that the attendance for that event would be really low.

So we decided to not host the event because of these challenges.

## **Volunteers**

### **Reflection**

On reflection, Overall the year went relatively well, but there were a lot of extenuating circumstances that lead to a lot more failure than should've happened. Such as the replacement of our coordinator and having nearly no idea what our duties are.

I think personally for the council the biggest takeaway is that we should focus our efforts on big events that everyone would actually care about. So first year formal was decently popular because a lot of people are interested in dancing and meeting new people at university. The house hunt was super popular because pretty much everyone wants to figure out how to find housing for next year.

We also needed to advertise these events harder.

Some structural changes that could help are:

1. There was quite a bit of confusion as to what exactly the duties of the chair are vs the first-year council coordinator, as well as some of the things I was expected to have/do
2. There was absolutely no transition for us. There are supposed to be 3 advisors in the bylaws, but we didn't really have those, and their roles were hazy at best. So each advisor should come to the first 3 or 4 of meetings of the council as well as possibly the chair to lead the council along the right path, and give advice.
3. Some of the subcommittees and the main council had massively overlapping priorities. Especially the events subcommittee and advocacy committee. Perhaps we could get rid of those and just have a second meeting every week.
4. Just a personal thing but perhaps 1 or 2 international student reps could be added just for more representation among the council.

Best,

Max

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