



YEAR IN REVIEW

From the office of the...
Municipal Affairs Committee

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Kerry Yang
SUBJECT: SRA 24 Report
DATE: March 18, 2024

Year in Review

Hello friends and welcome to the last report for this SRA term. Thank you for your engagement over the past year and I hope you enjoy this last report.

The first project of the year was the municipal pre-budget submission. This is typically done with student and committee consultation to gain student input on yearly priorities to the city. We focused on housing, food security, and policing for the delegation to City Council. We pushed for a renoviction bylaw which was later passed in council to protect students from being evicted under the false pretenses of landlord renovations. We also saw council take our recommendation to provide top-up funding to emergency food providers to tackle food insecurity. Our policing ask was to include racialized and underrepresented voices on the upcoming HPS Community Liaison Panel which was received well. We met with 9 city councilors to discuss our priorities in depth and inquire more about transit (upcoming LRT and fare integration) as well as bringing homecoming back on campus. Aside from one meeting, our priorities were met very well, and we've built on our relationships with the councilors. For future years, I've kept a log of councilor stances and relationships to facilitate more extensive consultation over the year.

In the new semester, the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee ran an in-person engagement event that I was able to collaborate on. We created the Explore Hamilton guide with the goal of engaging students with their municipality and encouraging them to explore local businesses and attractions. This was a great success and something to consider for future Municipal Affairs committees with updated locations and challenges to engage students.

Part of the Explore Hamilton event also included gaining feedback on the Addressing Racism and Religious Discrimination OUSA policy paper. We were able to have productive conversations and valuable insights from students passing by to inform edits on the paper. Throughout the conference, we made sure our student consultation feedback was implemented into the paper.

The final project of the year is the housing campaign. This is ongoing as the Underground designs a social media campaign and physical deliverable for this project. The goal is to share with students' information on finding housing, tenant rights, and tips/common scams. This will hopefully be able to be passed on for future years and reused pending some tweaks and updates. There will be student consultation before the campaigns are released.

In closing, I want to say that I've really enjoyed being your AVP Municipal Affairs this past year and advocating for students through different projects and initiatives. I'd really encourage any returning SRA members to consider joining the Municipal Affairs committee next year. There were some seats that were dropped this year due to SRA members leaving, but otherwise I think there is a lot of potential for the committee to be involved on projects and events.

Thank you for having me and I will miss reporting as an SRA and AVP. I hope to keep working with everyone on SRA and continue the important advocacy work that we've set out in this year's projects. Please reach out if there are any questions and good luck with the end of the semester!

Kind regards,

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