



YEAR PLAN

MSU SRA | Science Caucus

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2024-2025

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OFFICE OF THE SRA SCIENCE CO- CAUCUS LEADER INTRODUCTION

DEAR ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES,

As the newly elected SRA gears up, we in the SRA Science Caucus are eager to share our Year Plan for the 2024-2025 term. Building on last year's initiatives and valuable lessons learned, we are committed to making a significant impact on the student population, with clearly defined objectives that reflect our dedication to serving our community effectively.

Our focus this year is on two main themes: enhancing engagement among Science students and strengthening relationships with student groups and clubs within the Faculty of Science, especially with the McMaster Science Society (MSS). We have already initiated discussions with the Associate Dean of Science and MSS President Visali to ensure our roles and responsibilities are well-defined and aligned to serve the student population better.

A primary goal is to establish a robust presence among students as their link to the MSU, addressing their needs and concerns proactively. We aim to increase our visibility within the community through strategic use of social media and various in-person events, enhancing our outreach. Our plan includes fostering more collaborations with MSU clubs and providing robust support for science students at MSU.

We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated, intelligent, and capable leaders this year, who are ready to drive positive change at McMaster. We count on the SRA's support and collaboration as we move forward. With these initiatives, we are committed to reinforcing SRA Science's role in improving the university experience for over 6,600 Faculty of Science students. We also look forward to collaborating with other SRA faculties, buoyed by a vibrant and enthusiastic group of SRA members eager to make a significant impact this year.

Best regards,

Handwritten signatures of Parth Arora and Jazzlyn Abbott. The signature for Parth Arora is on the left, and the signature for Jazzlyn Abbott is on the right, featuring a stylized star or asterisk.

Parth Arora & Jazzlyn Abbott
SRA Science Co-Caucus Leaders 2024-2025

GOALS



Objective 1	Provide support to science-related MSU Clubs
Description	The SRA serves as an organization that is willing to support all Science-Faculty students, including those who participate in and/or lead clubs within our faculty. Our goal is to connect with MSU-affiliated science-faculty clubs as well as the MSS (McMaster Science Society) to provide any support that the MSU and SRA can bestow.
Benefits	McMaster science students are always eager to learn, engage, and lead in their own ways. One large aspect of this is clubs. Whether students are participating in clubs to learn something new, or if they're trying to run a club with their leadership prowess, the SRA wishes to be a pillar for them to lean on for support. By working with clubs both MSU and non-MSU affiliated, the students in the science faculty can help plan better events and improve event turnout throughout the year.
Difficulties	The sheer number of MSU-affiliated science-faculty clubs make this a daunting task. To mitigate this, our goal is to focus primarily on establishing a strong relationship with the MSS to facilitate impactful events to a large audience of science students. We also plan to communicate with 10-15 MSU-affiliated clubs over the course of the year to ensure that all MSU-related funding, logistic, and administrative support is being conveyed while actively serving as a liaison between the aforementioned clubs and the MSU.
Long-term implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clubs will be appropriately educated as to the support that the MSU and SRA can provide, as well as establishing an easy form of communication to have any questions answered. 2. Many clubs are not utilizing all the money that they have been given. With the additional funds being presented to the clubs, this goal will help SRA encourage all science-related clubs to make full use of the budget provided to them. 3. The Science Caucus within the SRA will expand its presence simultaneously as collaboration with clubs within the science faculty expands.
How?	MSS:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings have already begun with MSS executives. Discussions have already begun for SRA-MSS collaborative events, and as the relationship continues to flourish, bigger and better events will be facilitated. <p>MSU-Affiliated Clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A few members of the SRA caucus will work independently or in pairs to reach out to clubs within the science faculty that are agreed-upon by the entirety of the caucus. These SRA members will work towards scheduling a meeting with some SRA-caucus members and some members from the clubs respective parties. This will take place periodically throughout the year to provide attention and effort towards all 10-15 clubs.
Partners	MSS, 10-15 MSU-affiliated Science-Faculty clubs (TBD)

Objective 2	Engaging Students Through Drop-Ins at MUSC
Description	During exam season, partner with the MSS to offer drop-in science tutoring for people who have questions. After discussions with the MSS president, there may also be opportunity to do monthly Q/A's in exchange for periodic office hours to better address student concerns.
Benefits	Students would be able to access help without having to pay, schedule an appointment with a professor or watch countless YouTube videos. It will also be done in a casual and informal setting.
Difficulties	It will be challenging to have mentors agree to volunteer during the time when they are also busy.
Long-term implications	Improve student wellbeing by reducing stress and increasing academic success.
How?	Speak with the MSS to find tutors. Also reach out to other caucuses (most likely engineering) to increase the team working on this.
Partners	MSS, SRA Engineering Caucus

Objective 3	Increase follower count on @srascience (IG) to 1200
Description	While this may be a large step up from our follower count as of May 2024 (~800), we do not believe it is unattainable. Our



	goal is to establish the strongest social media presence we can on Instagram
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students kept informed on internal updates and how it affects them - EC/ academic/ social opportunities provided to students - Promotion for SRA Sci / other MSU events/
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoiding plateau of following rate - Frequent development of posts
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase our span of reach to student this year and for future years
How?	Over the course of the term, we will carry out several social media campaigns and generally aim to be more active on our Instagram. Our first action will be to roll out post introducing the members of SRA Sci and continue from there. Further activity may include reels or posts about SRA recaps, internal updates, introducing opportunities/ resources students have through the MSU, and how certain MSU/SRA related developments may affect them.
Partners	Other MSU-affiliated/ FoS social media accounts

Objective 4	Providing Student Opportunities (Academic Research Poster Symposium)
Description	Providing opportunities for science students to succeed is one of the cornerstones of the SRA's goals. To work towards establishing a positive relationship between the SRA science caucus and the at-large McMaster science population, the SRA science caucus wishes to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their research and presentation abilities. Academic posters serve as an illustrative representation of weeks, or even months of research in a condensed, readable, and informative format that can easily be reviewed by readers for feedback and comments. The SRA science caucus would like to set up an Academic Poster Symposium to showcase several of our students' research through academic posters with an audience of professors, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
Benefits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will continue to develop effective, efficient, and concise researching skills within the field of



	<p>science while actively applying their research in a real-world simulated academic conference event.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Students' research will be viewed by professors and graduate students that can offer further opportunities to students to pursue future research, and develop their professional networks. 3. Students will receive feedback on their research and presentation abilities to support them in their future research endeavors. 4. SRA Science will be the sole lead for this event, and if large participation is achieved, it will help establish SRA Science as a vital resource for all MSU science students.
Difficulties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding. As the fine details of the event continue to unfold, several budgeting items can become a concern. For example, should this event be free-of-charge to participants, SRA would have to reserve a space to hold the event, print all the academic posters and offer prizes as incentives. Alternative budgets outside of SRA science may be tapped into. 2. Personnel. It is not clear how many people will be needed to successfully run this event, but it definitely exceeds the 7 within the SRA science caucus. Support from groups such as the Maroons, EB, and BoD can greatly help with day-of operations.
Long-term implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater SRA exposure to MSU science students. 2. Can use this experience to create bigger events that further support the education of our students. 3. Potential future collaboration with other SRA caucuses and MSU clubs. 4. Long-term relationships between professors and the SRA Science caucus to provide science students with greater access to opportunities.
How?	<p>Logistics are still being ironed-out, but the current standpoint is to run this event near the middle of the academic year after the first semesters exams. This event will</p>



	<p>be funded by tapping into the SRA science caucus budget, as well as potential MSU budget depending on communication with the EB and BoD. Professors will be informed of the event throughout SRA outreach and the event will be publicized through relationships with the MSS and MSU. Social media will be the primary method of outreach, however, posters can be printed and put up all around McMaster in accordance with the respective guidelines. A participant cap will be made based on the budget given, and selected students (most likely through random selection) will be required to submit their academic posters for SRA to print. A venue will be booked, and the posters will be hung for viewing and presenting on the agreed-upon symposium date.</p>
Partners	TBD.

Objective 5	Faculty of Science Feedback Surveys
Description	We look to release surveys to gather insight into what the science student population needs from the SRA. We plan to release one with gift card incentives at the beginning of the school year, and one at the start of second semester.
Benefits	This allows us to update our year plan with real feedback about what students need, as opposed to just what the science caucus feels that students need.
Difficulties	Getting engagement is difficult with surveys, and we want diverse feedback (from different years, programs, etc)
Long-term implications	Knowing students' needs are important for creating long-term goals, and may change our direction going forward. For instance, if science students are wanting more social opportunities, we may focus on more socials and less academics.
How?	By using gift card incentives/prizes, students are much more likely to fill out the surveys. We will also promote the surveys on social media, ask our science partners to promote it, and advertise it at a booth in MUSC.
Partners	SRA caucuses and science clubs for promotion

Long-Term Planning



Overarching Vision 1	Increasing Student Population Engagement
Description	<p>Our long-term goals for the upcoming year encompass expanding our social media presence to establish stronger connections between the governing body of the MSU and the students at McMaster. We are exploring the possibility of diversifying the social platforms utilized by the SRA Science caucus, thereby ensuring broader accessibility and reach. Additionally, we are actively considering collaborating with the McMaster Science Society, as this collaboration holds the potential to significantly increase interactions with the student body. Our overarching aim is to continuously improve upon our past achievements, recognizing that engagement with the student population is essential for fostering growth within our communities and maintaining transparency within the student union.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A broader social media presence and the utilization of diverse platforms enable more efficient and inclusive communication with students. - Increased student engagement allows for a better representation of their diverse perspectives and needs. - When students are engaged, they form connections not only with the governing body but also with their fellow students. - Student engagement empowers individuals to voice their opinions, concerns, and needs.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create/take over social media accounts for SRA Science - Posting regularly about what happens at each meeting and the implications
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting events for student engagement, possibly collaborating with the MSS and multiple Science Clubs to host events
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze what works and what can be reevaluated
Partners	MSS, Other SRA Caucuses, MSU, Other Science Clubs



Overarching Vision 2	Consolidate Relationships with Student Groups in the Faculty of Science
Description	<p>We believe in providing the most inclusive experience for students and feel that the best way to execute this would be to work alongside other Science clubs and councils at McMaster. Executing events in alliance with other Science-focused clubs increases student engagement of events and creates a large platform for like-minded students to participate and showcase their talents and passion for Science. Our focus is to expand the reach of SRA throughout the MSU and to create a solid foundation allowing future alliances to occur.</p>
Benefits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased student engagement. More students will be aware of the events that are being run by SRA, when they that we are collaborating with clubs that they participate in. 2. Funding. The Special Projects fund and the funding used by clubs will be shared for collab events. This will ensure that the money used by clubs is spent efficiently, as it was brought to attention at the SRA meeting that clubs often have extra money that is not put to good use. 3. Increased social media engagement. Conducting collaborative events, allows us to post more content on our IG and making sure students are aware of the SRA and our initiatives 4. Feedback. Having in-person events allows for us to get insight on what types of Science-related projects interest students.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reach out to the Science clubs or councils at McMaster to get their stance on this collaboration - Have meetings with their teams to share ideas for future projects
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create social media posts announcing collaboration with the clubs and get student feedback on what type of collaboration events interest them
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host in-person collaboration events - Pave a path to ensure this collaboration instills for future SRA Science caucus members
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSS, LSS, FOMSF, and other Science clubs



GOALS to strive for

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September

- Clearly established roles/ responsibilities and regular communications between SRA and relevant MSS members
- IG intro posts and video created
- Surveys prepared for fall/winter
- Drop-in tutoring format determined
- Confirm booking for booths

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)

- Set up first booth in MUSC to engage students
- First survey rolled out and data collected
- First MUSC drop-in session
- First major event in partnership with MSS
- Planning finished for research symposium

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)

- Second major event with MSS
- Second survey rolled out and data collected
- Research symposium done
- Finalize report on survey results
- Second MUSC drop-in session

Master Summary

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reach out to MSU admin for booth in MUSC atrium for beginning of September
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of introduction posts for Instagram ● Film introduction video During welcome week ● Work on first semester survey
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roll out introduction posts for SRA Sci members on IG



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First MUSC atrium drop in (advertise survey) • Work on video introduction • Ask science and SRA partners to advertise survey
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post video introduction on IG
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post interactive stories
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on secondary semester survey • Reach out to MSU admin for MUSC atrium • Reach 1000 followers on IG (half of goal)
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUSC drop in session • Ask science and SRA partners to advertise survey
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research symposium
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach 1200 followers on IG