

YEAR PLAN

MSU SRA Humanities Caucus

Rachel Black & Olivia Dodd

2024-2025
September 8, 2024



OFFICE OF THE HUMANITIES CAUCUS

CAUCUS LEADER INTRODUCTION

Hello all! My name is Rachel Black, and I am the current Humanities caucus leader for the 2024-2025 academic year. I am starting my third year in Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law, and I am very excited to begin this school year with the SRA alongside my caucus member, Olivia Dodd. Hopefully in October we will be able to gain another member to fill the empty seat on our team, however until then Olivia and I are ready to represent the faculty of Humanities to the best of our abilities.

As VP External of the McMaster Humanities Society (MHS), as well as one of the Navy Nation Logistics Officers for this year's Welcome Week, I have a passion for providing the best student life experience for all students within the faculty. Our year plan for this term reflects this, as many of our goals reflect working alongside the MHS and other organizations within Humanities to try and bridge the gap between our caucus and the undergraduate student body. Olivia and I are very keen on becoming more involved with the faculty and ensuring that students understand what the SRA is and how we can help them.

I hold a great amount of love for our faculty deep in my heart, and I believe that this year Olivia and I (as well as our future third member) will be able to make long lasting, meaningful connections with our fellow undergraduate students. Our year plan this term is hyper fixated on our faculty's organizations and bringing MacHum closer together to benefit the student body and make it easier for all of Humanities to connect with each other and get to know us as a caucus better. If you have any suggestions, ideas, thoughts, or questions, don't be afraid to reach out! We are here to represent YOU as Humanities students.

With love, Rachel and Olivia

GOALS

Objective 1	Promote the SRA to all undergraduate students, and achieve measurably higher rates of student engagement in both nominating themselves and voting in SRA elections
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Olivia's first election in 2022, only 74 Humanities students voted - There is a worrying lack of interest in student government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Typically, less than 3% of eligible student voters use their votes in SRA elections <p>We would like to see that number rise to 5%</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will make SRA seats more desirable and competitive, which makes sure students are able to choose the best people to represent their interests - Will increase awareness about the SRA and its importance, and subsequently increase student engagement with SRA in general
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenging to get students to care about the goings-on of their student union - Difficult to promote to our faculty especially, which has a history of little interest in SRA - Will not be able to gauge the percentage of students that voted until after elections, and it will be hard to glean why students were not voting
Long-Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase student engagement in MSU elections - Promote SRA seats to students from all caucuses, but humanities in particular
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote elections through our social media and class talks - Work with other caucuses to promote byelections and general elections
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other caucuses - McMaster Humanities Society - Other societies/clubs based in the faculty of Humanities (e.g., JPPL Society)

Objective 2	Record another episode of SRA Humanities' podcast and hire a humanities student to help create and edit the podcast through SRA honorariums
Description	Utilize the Lyons New Media Centre to record another episode of our podcast and support the talents of Humanities students by using honorariums to pay one or more students to help with this project
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raises awareness about SRA - Gets students involved with the SRA - Gives a humanities student(s) unique opportunities for a paid role which are seldom available to students from our faculty
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to find a special guest and source a student with the skills to produce a podcast
Long-Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could become customary for the humanities caucus to record at least one podcast episode a year
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find a special guest whose interest and expertise will promote values/initiatives that our caucus believes in - Book out (and promote) the Lyons New Media Centre podcast studio and record there - Source a student(s) editor/producer via our social media to help us with this project - Get permission to use SRA Special Projects Fund line to pay for student honorarium(s)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or more selected humanities students - Potentially MHS to help advertise the paid role

Objective 3	Integrate Bounce with program societies and other faculty organizations
Description	The MSU has signed a contract with Bounce in recent months to get all clubs and organizations on board with using the app to run events. Knowing this, we would like to ensure that Humanities societies are using it, as it is an easy platform for organizations to use for events.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy organization features for societies to use - All event info can be found in one place

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Makes it easy for students to find and attend events for their programs - It is already being used by the MSU, so integration shouldn't be too difficult
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting outreach to organizations might be difficult as many organizations are in busy stages of hiring execs
Long-Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All clubs and societies will be on the app, making it simple for students to find information
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making posts on the SRA Humanities Instagram account regarding the switch-over to the app - Rachel works for the company, making outreach easier
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bounce - McMaster Humanities Society - Other faculty clubs and societies

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Overarching Vision 1	Establish a long-term partnership with the McMaster Humanities Society
Description	There has been a divide between the MHS and Humanities caucus of the SRA, and we aim to bridge this gap and form the foundations for a long-standing relationship between both groups
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will better connect us with Humanities students and their needs by expanding our reach - Will expand our potential for holding and collaborating on events as we work with our faculties' biggest and most funded student-run organization - Will raise awareness about SRA so that our elections can be more competitive, and our three seats remain filled
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Rachel's position of VP External of the Society to establish connections with other execs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make it routine for Humanities SRA reps to attend occasional MHS meetings
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to attend MHS meetings at least twice a semester - Become more integral in the planning and execution of MHS events
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to attend MHS meetings at least twice a semester - Remain integral in the planning and execution of MHS events
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - McMaster Humanities Society

Overarching Vision 2	Firmly establish plans and procedures to help future Humanities SRA members and caucus leaders move into and thrive in their new roles
Description	It is important to collect and organize the documents we are currently using so that they can be used for reference by future SRA Humanities members. We are going to create a Microsoft Office folder organized by school year to store our reports, year plans, transition reports, and other notes and documents that we often use throughout the year. This will ease the difficult transition into SRA for new members as they will have examples of previous reports which will help them write their own.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the continuity of our long-term goals as a caucus, including this one - Increase organization within the caucus, helps everyone be on the same page - Increase collaboration between team members as everyone has access to important files
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a folder (through Mac emails) where previous year plans, reports, and transition reports are stored - Ensure easy access is granted to all incoming SRA Humanities representatives
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that the expectation is clear that our team's relevant documents are consistently uploaded into the folder for future years

Year 3	- Ensure that the expectation is clear that our team's relevant documents are consistently uploaded into the folder for future years
Partners	- Incoming SRA Humanities representatives

GOALS to strive for

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

1. Begin conversations with McMaster Humanities Society about being more active in their meetings
2. Promote SRA during Welcome Week through promoting it on our socials and by having SRA featured on rep suits
3. Begin creating content to store and post throughout the upcoming semester, especially related to promoting committee seats to MSU members as well as SRA byelections

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

1. Become accustomed with meeting with MHS execs
2. Collaborate with MHS on one or more events
3. Promote the October By-Election
4. Record an episode of the SRA Humanities podcast and hire a humanities student to help edit it (through honorariums)
5. Re-introduce Outreach Hours

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

1. Collaborate with MHS on one or more events
 - a. Including Arts Matters Week
2. Attend the McMaster Humanities Formal and connect with students
3. Be more active on the Instagram page and gain double the current following
4. Ensure Outreach Hours are consistent

MASTER SUMMARY

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize year plan
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin conversations with MHS about participating in their meetings come September
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First meeting with MHS - Begin planning stage of podcast episode - First Outreach Hours
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on promoting SRA by-elections to Humanities students - Hire student(s) to help with podcast - First event with MHS
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film and edit podcast - Post podcast if ready in time, if not post in December
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post podcast if not already completed in November
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pick back up with meeting often with MHS
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second event with MHS - Attend MHS formal
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate and attend with MHS for Arts Matters Week - Work on promoting general elections for SRA 25-26