



REPORT

From the office of the...

Municipal Affairs Committee

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Kerry Yang, AVP Municipal Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 24K Municipal Affairs Report
DATE: November 13th, 2024

Dear members of the SRA,

I hope you are all tolerating Daylight Savings Time. It's been a busy period for the MA Committee with lots of ongoing projects. There are currently 3 priorities for this semester: Your City Survey, Housing Campaign, and the Pre-Budget Submission. We've been having lots of in-person student engagement recently to promote these campaigns and will continue engaging directly with students to share the MA portfolio. Engagement within the committee has been great and I'm super lucky to have very knowledgeable committee members.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

Explore Hamilton– This started as a summer campaign for the committee but has been ongoing when the opportunity arises. I recently heard from First Year Council that they found it very useful and want to share and promote. I'm hoping to bring it back for an exam destressor event that BoD and the services are running in early December. We will also hopefully be able to film some content about it in the new year when other projects settle down.

HamontYouth Model City Hall– A handful of committee members volunteered as facilitators at the HamontYouth Model City Hall. This was a great opportunity to engage with high school students about municipal engagement and advocacy, as well as network with city officials and groups. I'm hoping to continue connecting the committee with opportunities within the city that go beyond McMaster, such as collaborating with Engage Hamilton to facilitate better youth engagement in the city.

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

Your City Survey– This is 1 of 3 ongoing projects. The Your City Survey runs every few years to gain insight on the student experience in Hamilton to better inform our advocacy, namely the pre-budget submission. We ask students about housing, transit,

food security, policing, etc. We're currently sitting at 330+ responses. We have social media posts, posters, digital displays, and table toppers in the Hub and 1280 to promote the survey via a QR code. We also had a full-day event in Campus Connect to encourage students to fill out the survey with rave cards and drinks. Most recently, we filmed a jeopardy video asking students questions about housing, transit, and food security to promote the survey (coming out next week). We'll continue doing passive promo and maybe do a last push at the exam destressor event before wrapping it up to do the analysis and final report. Excited to share more about that then!

Housing Campaign– We are starting to think about the Housing Campaign as students begin to look for housing for next year. The VP and AVP Finance were very kind to invite us to Financial Literacy Day to share Housing Campaign materials with students. First Year Council's advocacy team was also very generous to offer to help out and came all-day to engage with students and learn more about the campaign. We had a lot of engaging conversations with students and many expressed interest in SRA, MA, and general MSU involvement.

Pre-Budget Submission– This is the 3rd project that we are working on currently. We have been working in collaboration with the Mohawk Student Union on doing a joint pre-budget submission. There have been some challenges but overall, we hope to amplify the power of student voice by combining our submissions through shared priorities. The committee has been helpful in shaping the priorities and recommendations with unique solutions to long-term problems. I'm very grateful to their expertise and experiences.

Exam de-stressor– I inserted the MA committee into the BoD and services exam destressor event. I think the Education Team has a lot to share– specifically Explore Hamilton, Housing, and Your City Survey materials for MA. This is also an opportunity for the committee to engage with students.

Successes

We have been lucky to adopt a committee mascot– Maple the corgi! This has made meetings much more exciting, and Maple is the bestest dog ever. If this is not allowed– please disregard this paragraph.

We've had great success with uptake in the Your City Survey. Historically, surveys have closed with around 200 responses. We surpassed 300 responses this week and hope to hit 500.

I'm also really happy to see general interest in the committee even though we haven't promo'ed seats. Lots of passing MSU members have asked to join in on meetings or on other ways to get involved with the MSU. Similarly, it's been great to see my committee get involved in other opportunities within the Ed Team, such as authoring policy papers.

Lastly, I've received a lot of feedback from students and university staff on the housing guide and Explore Hamilton guide. It's always nice to hear that advocacy campaigns are actually helping students.

Current Challenges

Given recent events surrounding poor policing, I would like to adjust the pre-budget submission to reflect student priorities. Although this is not a big challenge, it is something that has been changing with municipal events.

There have been some challenges working with the MSA, given their impending strike action and some communication barriers. However, things are moving forward.