



REPORT

From the office of the...
University Affairs Committee

TO:	Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	Stephanie Henry, AVP University Affairs
SUBJECT:	SRA 24N Report
DATE:	January 26, 2025

Dearest SRA,

I hope everyone had a restful break! As the winter term is now in full swing, I'm excited to continue working on our ongoing projects and initiatives, and I look forward to what we'll accomplish!

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

- **SSCxSpark Collaboration**

Through existing collaborations within the Ed team and SSC, we wanted to create more expansive programming for first years (i.e. preparing them for exam season). We've reached out to Spark and have collaborated on sessions with the SSC Writing and Academic Skills Centre. We've held one session so far this term and with our next session coming at the end of the month we are looking to increase turnout by promoting more across our socials as there was difficulty in having students access event information through OSCAR plus.

- **MSU Policy Conference**

After a long hiatus, MSU Policy Conference was back this year (virtually) as we held the event a week ago today! We were able to receive lots of feedback on the International Students Policy Paper and the Transit and Transportation Policy Paper. I wanted to extend a thank you to everyone here who was able to attend as we appreciate your perspectives and feedback as we create policy to guide our advocacy efforts. We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Policy Con with four new papers!

- **MSU Exam Care Day**

The UA Committee was able to help with the BoD/Services Exam Care Day event in December. Through this we were able to discuss projects and initiatives under the UA portfolio (i.e. OERs, AI advocacy, Student Affairs). From this we've recruited some new faces to the committee! I'm looking forward to starting the term off strong with our team!

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

- **SWC (Health Services Report)**
 - After consulting with SWC (Student Wellness Centre) Director, Rosanne Kent, the Education Team and University Affairs Committee will be working with SWC to consult on the Health Services Research Report and Health & Wellness Policy Paper. With this, we're hoping to take on a collaborative approach to better advocate on behalf of students.
- **Open Education Resources – McMaster Libraries**
 - Earlier this month, I worked alongside McMaster Libraries to conduct student OER advocate hiring. We are hopeful that the OER advocates will continue to build onto current initiatives that exist at McMaster to promote OERs and engage the student body. Through this we were also able to engage students in conversations on how to best engage in advocacy efforts to the student body and interest in the UA committee.
 - **Open Education Week**
 - With Open Education Week taking place from March 3rd-March 7th 2025, our goal is to have OER advocates collaborate with the UA committee on creating engaging workshops for students. More to come on potential avenues for collaboration.
- **SSC Gen AI**
 - SSC and the UA committee will work over the next couple of weeks to prepare an AI awareness campaign. This campaign will serve as a guide on how students navigate the use of AI at McMaster.
- **PACBIC Collaboration (EDIA Portfolio)**
 - Picking up from last year, we continued consultations with Cheryl Louzado, Director of Equity, Inclusion and Anti-oppression. With our most recent meeting we were able to include some service Director's and Assistant Director's in meetings to review the strategic plan for 2025-2027. We hope to continue to include various student perspectives into the strategic plan.

Successes

MSU Policy Conference comeback! Thank you to everyone in the Education Team who came together to make it happen! This term we're looking to bring the conference in-person, stay tuned for more on this throughout the next month as we'll be diligently planning for Winter Policy Conference to take place in March.

A huge thank you to all SRA and MSU members who were in attendance and those who participated in the sessions. Alongside UA committee members who participated in policy conference and more recently, our Women in Politics Conference! I was lovely to see familiar faces engaging at the inaugural conference.

Current Challenges

No present challenges.

Volunteers

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the UA committee for their continued advocacy efforts and participation!

Warm regards,

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