TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Alex Wilson
SUBJECT: MSU Maccess Report 2
DATE: Monday March 30th 2016

Progress UPDATE (small year plan)
1. Hiring a volunteer team (almost complete)
2. Acquiring a Permanent Service Space (???)
3. Designing the Maccess Website (Back burner)
4. Design of a service logo and development of social media (Almost complete)
5. Review and Revision of MSU Accessibility policies (complete)
6. Building Partnerships with Student Accessibility Services, MIETL, Student Wellness Centre, Human Rights and Equity Services, and the Hamilton Mad Students Collective (ongoing)
7. Determine the role of Maccess in Welcome Week (some work done waiting on new VP admin)
8. Develop a rough outline of the events and campaigns taking place next year as well as services offered (some work done waiting for executive team)

1. Hiring a volunteer team. Exec applications have closed. There were a total of 13 applicants for 6 positions. Interviews conclude this week and offers will be sent out on April 4th. Some really amazing people applied and I believe the team will be very strong.

2. Acquiring a Permanent Service Space. (???)
Update from board.

3. Designing of the Maccess Website (not yet)
The following from my last EB report remains true: The website currently refers users to the abilities pillar of Diversity Services. It is my goal to have a fully accessible website with a unique resource tab that has hundreds of resources available by September. I think that it is important that we redefine resources are not just referrals, they can be educational content, steps on how to be an Ally, etc. This initiative is currently on the back burner as service space and job descriptions are more pressing at the moment. In addition, the University is hiring a web accessibility specialist who I plan to consult with heavily before making large plans for the website. This goal will shift to become a goal in march and be worked on throughout the summer.

4. Design of a service logo and Development of Social Media (almost complete)
Facebook and twitter pages exist but aren’t officially launched yet. I have two favourite logo designs and refining them is all that is left.

5. **Review and Revision of MSU Accessibility Policies.** (done!)
   The policy passed! I think it is a much more comprehensive framework moving forward.

6. **Building Partnerships with Student Accessibility Services, Student Affairs, MIETL, Student Wellness Centre, Human Rights and Equity Services, and the Hamilton Mad Students Collective.** (ongoing)
   - **HRES:** Most of my time every week is spent meeting with relevant University stakeholders and discussing how we can collaborate moving forward. I am currently representing the MSU at the Access and Accommodation and Mental Health Equity and Inclusion PACBIC working groups. In addition, I meet with the Accessibility Specialist in HRES once a month to ensure service work and design meets best practices.
   - **SAS and SWC:** In the coming weeks I hope to touch base with Tim Nolan from SAS and the Counselling team in Student Wellness specifically to talk about defining the role of the itinerant peer support volunteer. Before this I want to have a meeting with the incoming and outgoing VP admin to ensure the MSU supports advocating for this role to exist.
   - **Student Affairs:** I sit on the Student working group of the Academic Accommodations Policy Review, with the VP (Education). A lot of strong positive change has occurred, and the goals of new MSU accessibility policy are being met, but I look forward to continuing to sit on this group throughout the summer as the final drafts of the policy are reviewed.
   - **MIETL:** I have had the opportunity to sit and talk with Mark Castordale the Accessibility and Pedagogy Research recently hired at MIETL. I have been invited to sit on a working group that will guide where his research goes and am excited to bring MSU voices to that discussion. I will be partnering with Mark in the creation of critical disabilities studies workshops.
   - **Hamilton Mad Students Collective:** I’ve been attending HMSC events as frequently as possible to build community ties.

7. **Determine the role of Maccess During Welcome Week.** (waiting on new VP admin)
   The current MSU accessibility policy recommends a Maccess representative sit on WWPIC to help improve the accessibility of Welcome Week programming. As the incoming VP admin will also sit on this body, I hope to talk with them about how to best divide our roles there. My current thoughts are that I join the emailing list and give any relevant feedback to the VP admin to bring forward over the summer.

8. **Develop a rough outline of the events and campaigns taking place next year as well as services offered.** (waiting on new exec team)
   Similar to last time: While some initial planning has been done most of this work will occur later in my term and in collaboration with the soon to be hired Executive team. With some updates: There will be 4 advocacy themes/initiatives throughout the year. One in second term will be a Mad history week, One will be a series of critical disabilities studies workshops scattered throughout the year, and the other two will be decided upon with the executive team. In addition, most community programming will be decided
BUDGET
Maccess has no budget for this year. Operating costs like logo design are coming from executive budget lines and costs for the Maccess event during MacTalks were covered by the University Affairs budget.

CURRENT CHALLENGES
I would have liked more applicants to executive positions and I am concerned about the promotional outreach of the service. In order to engage students more effectively I believe we need SAS to send an email update about us out in August/September. Working on negotiating this will be a new project.

SUCCESSES
- Amazing exec Applicants
- Accessibility policy is huge (the OUSA policy that just passed also aligns with it a lot)
- HRES is such an beautiful creation and every time I get to interact with Raihanna or Vilma my heart weeps with joy
- MARK IS SO COOL