



MEG
HSU

for UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER

HELLO!

Dear members of the Assembly,

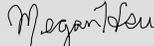
I am so excited to work with all of you this upcoming year! You are all such intelligent and dedicated individuals and I am really looking forward to all the work we will do this year to improve student life. Thank you for taking the time to read through my University Affairs Commissioner package. I am so thrilled to present my platform to you and share some of my experience, my leadership style and my ideas for the position.

Last year, I was a voting member on the University Affairs Committee. Through this experience, I really developed a solid understanding for the role of University Affairs and a passion for internal advocacy. As an active member on the committee, I got the chance to work on a variety of different projects and play a key role in their success. To name a few, I was involved in the First Year Feedback Forum, the Accessibility Forum, the Share Your Story Campaign, the TwelvEighty Nutritional Information project, and the Gender Neutral Washrooms report. I believe that my experience with these projects is crucial to continuing their success and speaks to my strong work ethic.

I was also a SRA Science member last year and received Caucus Leader of the Year for my work on SRA Science. This experience taught me a lot about my leadership style, my approach to team management and supporting others. I am excited to run for University Affairs Commissioner because I truly believe my leadership style and ability to motivate others is a true asset to the committee.

I decided to run for University Affairs Commissioner because I believe I have the necessary experience, leadership style, and passion to be a student leader in internal advocacy. I believe I can make big strides forward to improve post-secondary education issues on our campus. I believe in the ideas I have presented in this package and I am so excited to share them with you. For anyone who is interested in participating in the University Affairs Committee this year, I encourage you to please reach out because I would be so happy to discuss my ideas and talk about your goals and plans for the year as well! I believe that when we are provided with the strong leadership and empowerment, together, we can make student voices heard.

All the best,



Meg Hsu

LEADERSHIP

One of the challenges of the University Affairs Commissioner role is managing the committee and ensuring that members are continuously motivated to work on projects. As a member of the committee this past year, I understand that committee members are often involved in other commitments as well. SRA members have their own platforms to complete on top of committee work and prioritizing their academics. In order to ensure we have a productive and incredible year, I would like to share with you my approach to leadership and my experience with supporting others.

In my opening statement, I mentioned that I was the Caucus Leader for SRA Science this past year. As Caucus Leader, I was given the unique opportunity to evaluate the structure of the caucus as well as provide support for fellow SRA Science representatives. In past years, there has not been a solid structure for the role of the caucus but I recognized that many of my fellow members would have lots of commitments including being service executives, club presidents, commissioners and also students. In order to ensure I could provide continuous support for the caucus, I developed a committee structure within our caucus to ensure we were taking full advantage of the size of our caucus. At the beginning of the year, we developed our three priorities for the year and each priority had a corresponding committee. I changed the meeting schedule of our caucus to alternate between meetings with the entire caucus and individual meetings between myself and the three committees. For me, this meant an additional two hours of meetings on the weeks that I had SRA Science committee meetings but I believe this was an investment in the success of my caucus members. I am happy to invest an extra two hours if it means that my caucus members are able to accomplish an extra ten hours of work. Through this structure, I was able to continuously provide support, stay updated on all projects and ensure that there was consistent communication between the different projects. Through feedback from SRA Science caucus members, they were overall pleased with this structure and felt it was effective in providing support for the team.

I would like to implement a similar structure to the University Affairs Committee. Based on the positive feedback I received from SRA Science members, I believe this is a great way to ensure that the committee is held accountable for projects and empower my committee members to do more so that they can really get more out of their committee experience.

FOOD SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY

This past year, I had the opportunity to be an executive on Mac Bread Bin. Through this experience, I really learned about the challenges of food security that students face on a regular basis. I realized that this is an issue that would benefit from strong advocacy efforts from the MSU. In conversations with the incoming PTM of Mac Bread Bin, Veronica van der Vliet, we have discussed the opportunity to host a food feedback forum in the upcoming year to receive student feedback on the systemic barriers they face in accessing food. From this forum, I hope to develop a report and policy centered around student feedback to advocate to the university for easier access to food for students. From this policy, I would like to advocate for lower food prices on campus, more nutritious options for students and better support for students who struggle with food insecurity. In addition, I would like to provide more support for Local Food Day to encourage more students to engage with the programming and ensure that students are aware of the sustainability associated with local food.

LGBTQ2SIA+

As an organization that prioritizes strong support for the LGBTQ2SIA+ community, I believe the MSU should develop a policy to strengthen our advocacy efforts. In conversations with Aly Khalifa, the incoming QSCC Coordinator, we are excited to work together on a LGBTQ2SIA+ forum, which would include roundtable discussions on various topics that may affect LGBTQ2SIA+ students. In the past, when I have been involved in the Accessibility Forum and the First Year Forum, these types of events are typically well-attended and a great way to collect student feedback. I would like to use the University Affairs Committee to take notes from the roundtable discussions, and use this student feedback to form the basis of an MSU LGBTQ2SIA+ policy.

TRANSITIONS

This past year, University Affairs partnered with Spark to host the First Year Feedback Forum. Our Vice President Education-elect, Blake Oliver, ran on a platform point to write an MSU Transitions policy based off of the feedback from this year's feedback forum. As a notetaker and a co-author for the report, I feel uniquely qualified to support Blake in this policy and I am excited to support any advocacy efforts regarding the first year transition process.

BETTER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EFRT

The Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) is a critical service for everyone on our campus. Currently, it is completely funded by undergraduate students. As the MSU is set to undergo budget cuts in the upcoming year, every service is projected to have less allocated money in the upcoming year. I was the SRA representative on the EFRT Advisory Committee this past year and had the opportunity to work closely with the executive team and the outgoing PTM, Sachin Doshi, to revise the operating policy of the service. Moving forward, I envision pushing for better financial support from the university for this service. With the new MSU budget, EFRT is set to have a 15% (\$1,250) decrease in conference expenses and a 7% decrease (\$1,000) in volunteer training. These conferences provide EFRT responders with an amazing opportunity to compete against other response teams and share best practices. Training is also a crucial part of ensuring that the EFRT responders are performing to the best of their abilities. In order to ensure that the quality of care that EFRT responders provide is not tied to the financial success of the MSU, I would like the university to play a greater role in financially supporting the EFRT as it provides critical first aid care to not only full-time undergraduate students but also graduate students, part-time students, community members on our campus, faculty and staff. In consultation with the incoming PTM, Stephanie Black, and the outgoing PTM, Sachin Doshi, they are excited to work with the University Affairs Committee to provide data and support this advocacy initiative.

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Over the past year, the current Vice President Education, Spencer Nestico-Semianiw, has worked with the McMaster Indigenous Students Community Alliance (MISCA) to form recommendations about how we can advocate for a number of issues on campus for Indigenous students. These recommendations need to be formulated into a policy and formally adopted by the Assembly in order to continue our support for MISCA. As well, the Vice President Education-elect, Blake Oliver, ran on a platform to further support these recommendations and advocate for Indigenous students. I would like to support Blake in growing these recommendations into a full policy paper.

EXTENDED LIBRARY HOURS

Many SRA members, including myself, have identified this as a critical issue on our campus and included this as a platform point in our campaigns. This is an initiative that I am excited to take on in the upcoming year as the University Affairs Commissioner. The Vice-President Education is one of the student representatives on the University Library Advisory Council (ULAC) and I would like to work very collaboratively with Blake to ensure that extended library hours is a priority in the upcoming year by attending the ULAC meetings as well.

OPSSS RESULTS

Last year, our provincial lobbying organization, OUSA, ran the bi-annual Ontario Post Secondary Student Survey (OPSSS). This survey captured the feedback of over 2,000 McMaster students on a variety of different student issues, including financial assistance, employment, quality of education, credit transfer, municipal relations, and more. In order to have the best understanding of what our students think of these issues, I would like to analyze the McMaster-specific data that OUSA collected and put out a report on what the biggest issues for McMaster students are. As well, since there is a section in the survey specific for Indigenous students to complete, this analysis can help inform the upcoming completion of the MSU Indigenous Students policy.



THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME
TO READ MY PLATFORM

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS

