



REPORT

From the office of the...

SRA Engineering Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Desmond Flowers and Sarah Kula, Caucus Leaders
SUBJECT: SRA 16F Report
DATE: September 6, 2016

We hope the assembly has had a fantastic summer thus far! We want to thank you for this opportunity to present our progress, and welcome any questions you may have concerning our report, or suggestions concerning our current challenges.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Better Communication – Pre-Summer Term

We released the VP elections survey, and the homecoming 2016 survey. These received 37, and 203 responses respectively. We were also able to attain 34 student emails for our mailing list from these initiatives.

Better Communication – Post-Summer Term

The SRA Engineering Facebook page has promoted many student involvement opportunities through the summer months. It has increased by 64 likes this past Welcome Week, and 170 likes since our term began in March. We participated in the Horizon's Success Fest, and Welcome Week. During Welcome Week, we conducted a two minute promotional speech, and attained 41 student emails for our mailing list. In these initiatives, we let students know what the SRA is, and what our year plans are.

We are hoping to establish our SRA Engineering Committee in the first week of October, and will formalize the plans for the committee in September. We are planning to meet with the MES PR in September to discuss having a page on the MES website. We hope to have a policy written in October that will keep SRA Engineering accountable every year for attending, and contributing meaningfully to MES meetings. We will also discuss the benefits of having an official observer status at these meetings.

More Accessible Resources

We are planning to have a meeting with Ryan MacDonald in September. At this meeting, we plan to discuss service opt-in, and opt-out opportunities for students away on internships and co-ops. We are planning to contact different groups on campus in September that are involved in deciding Thode library hours, and starting conversations concerning the campus expansion plan.

More Academic Support, and Addressing Financial Barriers

We are planning to have meetings with the BOD in September concerning how to best facilitate affordable Test Review Sessions without being able to subsidize the cost of TA facilitators. We are planning to strike a research committee within the SRA Engineering Committee that will be involved in platform points that excite them, some of which include a new introductory engineering elective course, and affordable Test Review Sessions. We are planning to meet with the BOD in September to discuss how to best lobby the university, and Campus Book Store stakeholders in the efforts to reduce the cost of text books.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Pre-Welcome Week

A representative of our caucus promoted the SRA to students at the Horizon's Success Fest, and students learned more about what the SRA is, and how to get involved. After discussions with the Engineering Welcome Week Planners, we were able to find a representative from the Student Success Center that facilitated Anti-Oppressive Practices training for Engineering Welcome Week Reps.

Welcome Week

Space was provided to conduct a two minute speech during Faculty Day. The speech was conducted to educate students of what the MSU is, and what the SRA, and SRA Engineering Caucus does through the year. A table was provided during Faculty Fest, and was complete with a table poster printed by the Underground, and passive reading material taped to the table. The material included our year plans printed in layman's terms, and the MSU Student Fee Breakdown Sheet.

Many engineering students remembered us from our speech conducted the day before, and expressed interest in getting involved in the SRA, and/or the MSU. Our three available caucus members rotated between a table beside the MES, a table with the Elections Committee, and the Speed Networking Event. The Speed Networking Event allowed students to start conversations with faculty leaders, including club presidents, faculty administration and SRA Engineering. Through Welcome Week, we wore our SRA shirts which proved to be a great way to promote ourselves!

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

We plan on having two meetings in early September. One meeting will be as a caucus to discuss the finalized dates/times for our year plans, including who will be taking lead on particular points, and how we are supporting each other as a team. The second meeting will be with the MES to discuss in detail how we intend to collaborate through the year, and how we will continue to be a resource for each other during the year.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- We hope to discuss with the BOD the benefits of having service opt-in, and opt-out policies for students that are away on internships and co-ops.
- We don't currently have a plan for subsidizing the cost of TA facilitators in our goal of creating affordable first year Test Review Sessions, and appreciate any suggestions.
- We don't currently know the best groups on and off campus to contact concerning the forming of a coherent campus expansion plan, and appreciate suggestions.
- We hope to discuss with the BOD strategies for lobbying the university, and/or the government through OUSA for more affordable textbooks.
- We want to lobby the university to take the responsibility upon itself to provide Anti-Oppressive Practices training every year, for all Welcome Week reps. There is an inconsistency concerning to whom, and when this training will be provided, and it has depended upon the interest of student leaders which change annually.
- We don't yet know how to tackle larger projects, including the establishing of new complicated initiatives, such as the engineering conference and new introductory engineering class. We appreciate suggestions.

SUCCESSSES

We have had many meetings over the course of the summer and have built good rapport with the MES, and the Engineering Welcome Week Planners. We have also had many positive conversations with first year students during Success Fest, and Welcome Week. Some of these conversations revealed that many engineering students really do want to engage more with their SRA, and the MSU, and are excited by the opportunity to do so. We are excited to continue these conversations in September!

We thank you for reading our report!

Best,

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