



REPORT

From the office of the...

SRA Humanities Caucus Leader

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Zach Rudge, SRA Humanities Caucus Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 16F Report
DATE:

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

This summer, SRA Humanities has made significant progress towards completing each goal in our year plan. Under our theme of community engagement, the SRA and MHS have agreed on a plan to have an increased digital presence online with joint newsletters and video updates. Rudge and the MHS are currently finalizing templates for these digital mediums, with our first products set to be released by mid September. As for our goal of increasing our on-campus visibility, Bengizi has been arranging class talks for the caucus to introduce themselves to first years, as well as identifying events that would be beneficial for us to attend. SRA Humanities also received great news about our new lounge in LR Wilson Hall. While it was once understood that the lounge would require key card access to enter, we have learned from the Office of the Dean of Humanities that it will be an openly accessible space to all Humanities students throughout the entire day. This is fantastic news for us, as our original platform point on this was centred around making the lounge available to as many students as possible. We hope to work with the MHS, MSSS and SRA Social Science now to repurpose our previous platform point on keeping the lounge open to better suit these new circumstances.

This summer, Rudge presented the SRA year plan to the Associate Dean of Humanities, who was very supportive of our set of goals for the upcoming term. In reference to our group of goals on professional development specifically, SRA Humanities and the Dean's office share many of the same objectives. They too identified professional development as an area in need of improvement, and have already taken strides to this end in reforming the Humanities career office. SRA Humanities is now supporting the Dean's office in the creation of a Professional Resources website that will connect Humanities students to job offerings and resources to help them succeed in their job search. The Associate Dean was also very impressed by our Humanities Job Fair proposal, and sees it as another potential collaborative initiative in the second term. Rudge and the Associate Dean discussed having more regular meetings this year to develop these projects, and we are excited to see the benefits to Humanities students that arise from this closer working relationship.

There is still much work to be done for our goals under the theme of advocating for the arts. Thus far, we have not heard back from Facility Services on having more student art placed around campus. While the MHS is fully on board with the idea and eager to help with the call for submissions, the SRA Humanities caucus will continue to work on

making contact with Facility Services to move this project forward. Members Bengizi and D'Souza are still in the brainstorming phases of their advocacy projects on degree specifications and extended library hours. We understand that other SRA members might also be working on similar projects, and invite those members to contact us if they are interested in collaborating to achieve these goals.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Over the summer months, SRA Humanities did not hold any events or activities. However, we did make progress in planning Arts Matter Week and the Humanities Job Fair. Rudge met with the MHS to discuss the potential of transitioning Arts Matter Week from an SRA-led initiative to an MHS-led initiative (because as a faculty society, they simply have more resources available to them to coordinate and execute a large scale event like this). They were open to this suggestion and tentatively agreed to the 2-year transition framework outlined in our Year Plan. In this meeting, the MHS and SRA had a great discussion on the pros and cons of last years events, and the various changes we could make to improve the next Arts Matter Week.

As mentioned previously, Rudge also talked to the Associate Dan regarding the Humanities Job Fair. They seem to be very excited about the event and willing to support us in the planning and execution of the event. More meetings will be held between the Dean's office and the SRA Humanities caucus to determine the nature of collaboration for this event, as well as to begin the actual planning of this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

This month, we are planning to increase our digital and on-campus presence with a series of videos, newsletters and class talks in Humanities lectures. Beyond this, we are also exploring the possibility of a Lounge-Warming event for our new space in LR Wilson Hall. Since it is not yet clear when that space will become available to us, planning this event has been difficult. We hope to have more information on this shortly to share with you all.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

One major challenge facing SRA Humanities lies in our goal of placing more student art around the hallways of campus. So far, it has been difficult making contact with the appropriate people in Facility Services. Our concern is that even once we do establish contact with these individuals, we might receive pushback on the idea. For now, SRA Humanities will continue to try and make contact with people within Facility Services who can help us with our cause, and we may reach out to the BOD for further assistance if progress is not seen.

SUCSESSES

When our caucus sat down this summer and assembled our year plan, we knew that we were being rather ambitious. We were unsure about how much of this year plan we would be able to accomplish and if we were being unreasonable to hold ourselves to so many large goals. After working together this summer, I am thrilled to see the amount of progress we have made on all fronts. Under each of our three main themes (community engagement, professional development and advocating for the arts), the SRA Humanities Caucus has made big strides towards completing each goal we set out for ourselves. This wouldn't be possible if it were not for the respect and teamwork exhibited by each caucus member, as well as their dedication to thinking big and pushing ourselves to achieve those goals regardless of their perceived difficulty. I would like to

thank each caucus member for their strong efforts thus far, and I can't wait to see what we achieve together over the course of the year.

Best,

Zach Rudge
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