



REPORT

From the office of the...

SRA Science Caucus

TO:	Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	Gilbert Kobina Baiden, Caucus Leader
SUBJECT:	SRA 16F Report
DATE:	September 6, 2016

Dear Assembly Members,

On behalf of the entire SRA Science Caucus, we would like to thank each MSU member for taking the time to read our report. We hope that this summer has been good to you all and that you are all ready to start the new school year. Over the course of the summer, the Science caucus has held several caucus meetings and has made some big steps towards the enhancement of student life through our personal and caucus year plans. We would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support in our initiative thus far and any questions, suggestions or concerns regarding our report are gladly welcomed.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

As a caucus this year, SRA Science has decided to focus on four main themes: Academics, Diversity/Representation in Governance, Outreach, and Working with the MSS. Throughout the course of the summer, our caucus has been working towards each of these platform points by taking some inaugural steps.

Theme 1: Academics

As part of our Academics pillar, throughout the summer Preethi and I have been consulting with the Life Science Administration team about working towards inquiry courses and making them accessible to the students within our faculty. Accessible blended learning is going to be done through the University Affairs committee this year lead by Meg Hsu another SRA Science member and some of our members on the committee will be helping to push that forward this year. Aquino Inigo and I will be meeting with Blake sometime during the first week back to discuss how to approach the faculty and dean regarding this platform point. We will also be sitting in on the MSS meeting with the Dean of Science this year and advocating our issues to the administration directly. These meetings will allow for us to advocate our academic platforms in a much more efficient way.

Theme 2: Diversity/Representation in Governance

We are currently in the process of discussing what the best way is to increase diversity and representation of minority groups within the MSU. Our hope is to discuss the barriers students face in terms of student involvement and come up with solutions on how we as a student body can overcome them. We are working on having one event on this theme each term. One will be sometime in October and the other will be held during presidentials.

Theme 3: Outreach

The SRA Science newsletter is set to launch for the upcoming week. In it will be involvement opportunities, big events, and things the SRA is discussing as well as our first meeting for the SRA Science Committee. Our social media range has expanded. We plan to keep branding ourselves by doing videos before each meeting to tell student what we will be discussing and getting them to know a bit more about who we are and what our responsibilities are on the assembly. We are currently in the midst of conversation on how and when our outreach hours are going to be held but we do know that we want to involve our students in the discussion we have while we are on the assembly. We will be starting our open SRA Science meeting in the 3rd week of september to get students more involved with our caucus this year.

Theme 4: Working with the MSS

Throughout the course of the summer I have been having meetings with Patricia Kousoulas, the MSS President to discuss our working relationship for the year and how SRA and MSS will be collaborating with eachother. The SRA has earned an office hour with the MSS on friday's which will count towards one of our outreach hours. We have created our own webpage on the MSS website that gives students all the information they need to know about the SRA and MSU. We will be continuing to work with them on SRA representation throughout the year as well as Welcome Week representation for next year. We are also using the MSS as a way to receive student feedback for policy implementation.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Since our initial report on our year plan was submitted, we have been having meeting biweekly and communicating online to discuss our year plans (individual & group) and caucus expectations/guidelines. We have set a precedent amongst our members to ensure that we are held accountable for our own projects as well as group projects. We have worked with the MSS to create an SRA page on their new website and are getting ready to release our first SRA monthly newsletter for science students starting the 2nd week of school (Sept. 12th). Our facebook likes have also increased to 805 from it's previous 600. Unfortunately we we unable to speak at welcome week this year, but we will be making SRA presence known at the MSS opening ceremonies as well as speaking with next year's science planners about having SRA as apart of their faculty day/faculty fest for the following year. We have also been invited to have a table at the MSS SciFest being held during the second week of September.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

SRA Science Monthly Newsletter

Each month the SRA Science caucus will be releasing a newsletter informing students of what's going on within the MSU, what we have been up to in terms of platform points, and what they can look forward to with regards to the SRA meetings. This is apart of our outreach platform and we will be collaborating with the MSS Graphic Designer to create these pages for us and the first one should be released for the month of september sometime next week.

Open Meetings

This year I hope to get students more involved with SRA Science by having open meetings. These meetings will be taking place on Tuesdays at 8pm biweekly in the Wilson Building. We will be discussing platform points, things student want to see from the SRA, their opinions on our discussion topics for the week in SRA meetings and assisting in the implementation of platform points of their interest. We hope that through open meetings we can engage students more with the SRA this year.

Diversity/Representation Event

As apart of our platform we want to address the importance diversity and representation in governance. We will be having one event/campaign per term to discuss these topics with students and get students with intersecting identities of minority groups to consider position within student governance. The term one event will be held sometime in october and the second during presidential campaigns.

Academics

Through our biweekly meetings with the Dean of Science this term and throughout the year. Thursdays at 9am we are hoping to tackle some of our larger academic focused platform points. (i.e Inquiry Courses, Blended Learning, Teaching Focused Faculty, Podcasted Courses, Program on Degree)

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Academics

- Knowing the appropriate way to advocate and approach the university officials with our concerns/solutions
- Most of our Academic goals are very long term focused and we are unsure if they will all be accomplished by the end of our term.
- This pillar has been the hardest to get started on so far, but we are hoping that as the school year progresses we will be able to make some important decisions on how to go about these larger platform points

Diversity/Representation

- Knowing what we want to do and what we want students to get out of it but how to go about it in the most clever way that will catch student's attention

SUCCESES

So far, so great! The SRA Science caucus has been working together flawlessly throughout the summer and we are hoping to continue this working relationship throughout the year. Each caucus member adds their own unique perspective and we are always willing to help eachother where we can. This is why our greatest success so far has been our collaborative efforts and ability to work together as a team. I am more than confident that this year for SRA Science will be the most successful yet. Our pillars on Outreach and Working with the MSS are both nearing completion and our other 2 pillars are going to be the focus for majority of the year. Thank you all for taking an interest in our progression this summer and we hope that you will take a look at future SRA Science reports.

Best,

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