Dear members of the Assembly,

I am excited to be updating you with a report from the Executive Board, detailing our meeting on November 1st. I will be reporting on the operations of Advocacy Street Team, Mac Farmstand, Macademics, and Maccess. The Executive Board also received updates on the Training Resources Research Assistant position, a newly created position last year.

**Advocacy Street Team— Sandy Tat**

Since the completion of the last report, the Advocacy Street Team has hired its Street Team members and completed training for upcoming campaigns. The Mental Health at McMaster Survey received over 100 responses, most of which emphasized the issue of raising awareness for financial advising services. Other services like WGEN and Maccess have reached out to receive survey results relevant to their fields to improve their own peer support services. With much consultation with students, peer support services, as well as the feedback from the survey, the strategic themes for MacTalks campaign (November 7th–11th) have been established. The campaign will focus on a discussion about mental health and illness on campus, address the stigma around mental health and illness, the resources available for students to access support, as well as the institutional barriers and structures within McMaster. They aim to prepare “tangible asks” resulting from the campaign, which is a first for MacTalks. Other upcoming events are the MSU Policy Conference (November 12th), Work Integrated Learning Campaign (November 21st–25th), and the Community Engagement Campaign (November 28th–December 2nd). The Coordinator has found difficulties in carrying out scheduled promotional efforts due to delays in responses from campus partners, but has been very satisfied with her executives and volunteers.

**Mac Farmstand— Kaitlyn Zarcone-Beam**

Mac Farmstand has successfully completed their operations for this year. In the final three operating weeks, they released another recipe video (*Stuffed Burrito Bowl*) and a promotional video for the Local Food Discount Card (*Scoring a Goal for Local Food*). It is projected that after volunteer recognition and wages, the service will break even or have a small profit for this year. The need to fix the student card reader at the stand
The Mac Farmstand Director is extremely happy with her term this year and has seen huge success in her volunteer team as well as the Local Food Discount Card. If you see her, please give her a huge congratulations and high five for a successful service!

**Macademics – Rohoma Zakir**

The service saw incredible results after the nomination period: 386 TA nominations and 624 professor nominations! The Course Wikithon at 1280 was postponed due to insufficient responses and challenges in communicating with the VP Academic Coordinators of many faculties. The Coordinator is working on increasing promotional efforts to make this event successful in the future. The Course Evaluation Campaign is in preparation, with a video emphasizing quality over quantity of course evaluation. Macademics has also been collaborating with different campus partners, such as Residence Life to help first years with learning strategies and MacTalks to discuss mental health in academics.

**Maccess – Alex Wilson**

Since the last update, the service has been piloting their space hours in SWELL, MUSC, WGEN, and MAPS. They are gearing up for their (In)Accessibility Week (November 7th – 11th), which will include interactive displays highlighting physical inaccessibility, accessibility forum, photo-campaign on Facebook, and a recap video of the week. Another event in preparation is Disability Studies 1A03, which is a lecture-style event introducing disability studies through an interactive learning experience. A Maccess coffeehouse, Speaking for Ourselves, will take place on November 23rd. Upcoming projects in consideration include creating a weekly Chronic Illness Group and a secret Facebook group for community building.

**Training Resources Research Assistant**

This is a position created by last year’s Executive Board to provide ongoing support and training to part-time managers. VP Administration will continue to provide updates on the position to evaluate the future of this position at the end of the year. Initial training to PTMs in September was well-received and the TRRA is looking to collect feedback to prepare for the January re-training. Additionally, accessible peer support modules are underway to serve as supplementary training resource. A debrief group for PTMs of peer support services is being formed to discuss the unique experiences of managing a support service. Lastly, Suicide Awareness training is being evaluated to determine whether or not it is a viable alternative in the event that ASIST training cannot be provided to all peer support volunteers.

Please feel free to ask any questions should you have any.

Sincerely,

Ashley Eom  
SRA Health Sciences  
McMaster Students Union  
srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca