Dear SRA,

Since my last report, the University Affairs Committee has been working on our projects and we have made significant progress. I’m excited to update all of the SRA on the work that we have been doing and I look forward to your questions.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Project Committees

This structure is still working really well. This was one of my platform points and I’ve been doing this meeting structure for the past term. Based on feedback from committee members, I believe this schedule is working effectively. In fact, this model was one that I used last year on SRA Science as the caucus leader and it has now been adopted by the B&P and Services Committee.

Sexual and Gender Diversity Policy

This policy has been the forefront of the work this term. I recently presented this paper to the SRA and we passed this at the last meeting. This policy encompasses many different topics that affect student issues like gender neutral washrooms, gender neutral residence rooms, improvements to Athletics and Recreation, and mandatory training for faculty and staff. I learned a lot through the process of facilitating the writing of this policy and I’m excited to start working on next term’s policy, Food Security. In the upcoming weeks, I will be working on the changes that were discussed at the SRA to the body text of this policy and Sarah will be formatting the policy to be published on the MSU website under www.msumcmaster.ca/policy
MSU Policy Conference

This year, the MSU held their first ever Policy Conference. This was the day before the last SRA meeting. On November 12, students came out on a Saturday morning to contribute to policy. This is an especially significant milestone for the advocacy of the MSU because this allowed students to engage with the policy writing process and directly provide feedback to the policy in a way that was not previously done at this level. The UA Committee ran a breakout session on our Sexual and Gender Diversity policy to hear the concerns of students. We received a lot of positive feedback on the facilitators of our session and the overall policy paper at the conference. Thank you David and Desmond for facilitating the discussion with me!

After the conference, the authors stayed behind to discuss the necessary changes to the policy paper and we broke off to write the changes. Later that night, the authors sent their changes to me and I compiled them into the policy paper that I presented to the assembly. We are currently looking for feedback on the policy conference so if you attended, please feel free to provide any constructive criticism so we can improve for next term. Looking forward, we heard feedback from authors that they would have appreciated an earlier policy conference date so that they would have more time to make changes that students would like to see. In the future, we will be exploring this option to give both authors and assembly members more time to work on the change as well as read over the documentation.

OPSSS Review

We have set deadlines for this project and authors have been assigned to each section that are responsible for the data analysis and report. I circulated a sign-up sheet earlier this month for authors to fill out. The OPSSS is a survey that was circulated by OUSA last year to gauge the student experience on a number of topics that affect post-secondary education in Ontario. We have received the McMaster proportion of the data and we hope to analyze this and provide a report to the assembly to better focus our advocacy efforts.

Some of the sections still have room for an additional author. If you are interested in this project, I would encourage you to reach out and sign up for a section that you are interested in.
We have also set deadlines on this project to make sure that we are able to move forward.

- Analysis of the data - breakdown of the statistics - November 24
- Rough draft of report - paragraph form - December 8
- Editing - Education team of the MSU and editors who have signed up - Winter break
- Final draft of report - TBD
- Bring to entire committee
- Bring to SRA

Some of these deadlines are flexible. I will be working with the project authors to ensure that we are meeting these deadlines.

**EFRT Budget Submission**

I have been working with Jeevika, the UA Research Assistant, to ensure this will be included on the Budget Submission to the University. I am looking forward to hearing more progress on this from Jeevika in the upcoming term and I will work to ensure this is a priority in the next term as this is a very important platform point that I look forward to working on.

**Extended Library Hours**

In my previous report, I reported to the SRA on the meetings that we had with the Head Librarians. Since then, Blake has been working with the SSC to see where we would be able to find the extra allocation to run this test project. Our greatest challenge with this project has been trying to find the funding allocation to make this a priority for this year.

**Health Services Review**

The Health Services review project is well underway. We have been working on developing a survey with the SHEC Coordinator, Sutina, to gauge student satisfaction on
health services and peer support services provided by the MSU. We have met to
develop the questions necessary for this survey and we are planning on meeting with
Michael Wooder to perfect the survey questions and release them in early December.
We will keep this survey open throughout the winter break to allow for maximum student
engagement. We have also developed deadlines for this project to make sure that we
stay on top.

Survey results - Student Wellness survey
Develop our own survey for student wellness - due November 11
Open the survey and close it early January
Research due January 20
Rough draft due February 3
SRA meeting February 26 (16O)

This report will include training, pregnancy testing, blood tests, long-term nutrition,
counsellors, confidentiality satisfaction, medical prescription/referrals and sexual
violence response. I’m excited to see this project manifest and we will be presenting a
report to the SRA to provide a better understanding of what the current landscape looks
like.

Food Security Policy

We have started to work on the Food Security Policy for next term to ensure that we get
started on the research and student feedback earlier than the Sexual and Gender
Diversity Policy. We have started working with Bread Bin for next term’s policy and we
have booked a location and time for the Food Feedback Forum. On January 13, we will
meet in Council Chambers (GH 111) to discuss topics that effect food accessibility on
our campus. Please assist with circulating this to your networks once the promotions
come out. We will also be releasing a survey around the time of the feedback forum to
ensure that students who are not able to attend the forum are able to provide feedback.

We have also finalized the authors for this policy. I tried to prioritize first-time authors to
allow everyone the opportunity to be able to write policy. Our authors are going to be
Urszula, Eric, Jackie, Alex, David, Preethi and I. I’m excited to work with a bunch of new
authors and incorporate new perspectives into this policy. There are quite a few authors
on this policy because this is looking to be quite a lengthy policy.

We will be discussing the following topics in our policy:
- Price, affordability
- Food accessibility (late night food options, different types of food, cultural/dietary
  restrictions, food sensitivity)
- Ingredient transparency – production, nutritional, local
- Nutritionist on campus
- Local food systems
- Meal plan model
- Evaluate nutritional value of food on our campus
- Educational campaigns
- Emergency meal cards
- Full time space of Farmstand
- Climate survey to evaluate food security on campus
- Food waste

We’ve also updated some of the deadlines for the upcoming Policy cycle based on feedback that I received from the previous authors. We have allowed for more time for authors to write the rough copy of the paper and less time for PCR writing. The new policy cycle is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think Tanks</td>
<td>Week of Jan. 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCRs due (and registration opens)</td>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough copies due (and registration closes)</td>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited papers due (and go out to delegates)</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRA Meeting</td>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
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I have also been in communication with the Mac Farmstand Director to collaborate and get feedback on this policy. We are discussing incorporating a local food policy into our policy. Kaitlyn is also interested in working on a sustainability policy in collaboration with Preethi and Justin and I look forward to helping out with this in any way that I can.

I am particularly interested in seeing this policy come to fruition as many students have reached out to me to indicate that they are very interested in working on this policy. I have tried to accommodate for everyone on this policy. There is always room for editors and consistent feedback throughout the process. If you are interested in seeing rough drafts of the PCRs or an early rough copy of the policy, please let me know and I will do my best to circulate this early to you.

**Academic Services Review**

Over the summer, I discussed this new project with the Macademics Part-Time Manager, Rohoma. We are collaborating on this project with the Macademics team. We had a planning meeting where we met to set a structure for the project as well as set some deadlines. We are hoping to release a survey to facilitate student feedback on current satisfaction with our academic services that are provided by the university.

This project will include reviews of the following topics:
- SSC improvements (transition into and out of university, stream-based workshops, peer tutoring network model)
- Academic advising
- Blended learning models
- Inquiry-based courses
- Podcasted courses
- Effectiveness of tutorials
- Student satisfaction with TA’s
- Library services satisfaction
- Course evaluation process
The deadlines that we have set for this project are as follows:
Questions done by Nov 25
Survey - open all of December, into January
Research done by end of January
Report due February 26

Authors for these sections are in the process of signing up for sections and compiling questions for their section for the survey. I am looking forward to working with the Macademics team on this project.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

All of our projects are well underway and we are looking forward to seeing these come to fruition in the upcoming term.

Volunteer appreciation

All term long, our volunteers have been working very hard to dedicate their time to improving our advocacy to the university. I am hoping to run a volunteer appreciation event for them prior to the end of the term.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

As seen above, there are a lot of projects that we are currently working on. It is a challenge to balance all of these projects and to ensure that we are up to date on all of them. I have been working hard to ensure that every project is given the focus and dedication that it deserves. However, it is very unlikely that I will be able to accomplish any of this in the 6 hours per week that I am allocated. I have been working to empower committee members all year long and I will continue to work on this in the upcoming term. I encourage my committee members to continue to push me to do better and stay on top of the projects. Thank you to all of the UA members who have made this term so successful and rewarding.

VOLUNTEERS (Commissioners only)

Volunteer management continues to be challenging due to the size of the committee. In addition, it is a challenge to manage all of the projects that we are working on currently. However, I find that it helps to have constant communication with all of the committee members and to stay very organized. The size of the committee is consistently growing due to more members being engaged with the projects that we are working on. While more committee members is a good sign of increased engagement and excitement about our projects, it is also a challenge for me as I have to dedicate more resources and more time to managing and allocating volunteers.
**SUCCESSES**

**Sexual and Gender Diversity Policy**

I am proud of the work that we have done on our policy. I am excited to see it published on the MSU website and I look forward to advocating on these changes for improvements to the LGBTQ+ community. Throughout this policy process, we have been able to engage students with this process and incorporate their feedback.

**Volunteer Empowerment**

I am proud of all the work the committee has done this past term. Based on feedback from committee members, we have been able to provide committee members with a meaningful experience and a chance to dive deeper into MSU advocacy.

**OTHER**

**OUSA Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policy**

This past term, I had the pleasure of working with a handful of intelligent authors from across the province. At the OUSA General Assembly, we received lots of feedback and we were able to incorporate their feedback into the policy. The process of authoring was incredibly rewarding and I found that participating in this process has really helped with my understanding and ability to facilitate the policy process. This policy was passed this past General Assembly and I’m so excited to be a published OUSA Author! You can find the policy at ousa.ca/policies

**OUSA General Assembly**

I was also given the opportunity to attend the Fall OUSA General Assembly as a delegate. I was able to provide feedback on several policies including the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policy, the Rural and Northern Students Policy and the Ancillary Fees Policy. This was a rewarding experience and I would encourage anyone who is interested in the MSU Policy Conference or enjoyed that experience to apply for the OUSA General Assembly next term.

**OUSA Work-Integrated Learning Blog**

This past week was the Work-Integrated Learning campaign from OUSA. I hope everyone had the chance to engage with the campaign in some meaningful way. I wrote a blog about my experience with work-integrated learning and I would love it if you could all give it a read if you’re interested in learning about how I would like to see work-integrated learning improved across the province!

**McMaster University Sexual Violence Response Policy**

Earlier this month, I was asked to consult on the McMaster Sexual Violence Response policy. Based on the research, student engagement and work that I did as an author on the Sexual Violence Response and Prevention Policy, I feel prepared to advocate for
necessary changes and I am excited to read through the draft. The policy must be approved by Senate prior to January 2017 based on provincial legislation. I look forward to providing feedback to this policy and I hope that the university will incorporate our changes.

I will also be providing a presentation to the assembly on my current year plan progress and the different projects that I have been working on. Please take the time to read through this report as I have tried to make it very thorough to answer most questions. However, if you still have questions, I look forward to answering them!

Best,

Meg Hsu
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