



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**First Year Council**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Selene Dominguez Florean, Chair of FYC  
SUBJECT: SRA 16F Report  
DATE: Tuesday November 22, 2016

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## **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

When I ran for the position, one of my platform points was about first year student's mental health. Many of the events that FYC is planning is to ensure that first year students are always taking care of themselves by having a nice quiet space to study, or by voicing their concerns and getting advice from upper year students.

Together, FYC is planning events that range from informational events like our fishbowl night to fun events like coffeehouses or formals.

## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

In the last month we had a launch event. This was a free cupcake giveaway with each like that we got on our Facebook page. We got over 300 likes, reaching 1000 likes in our Facebook page. This got our names across to students, and we were able to reach over 400 students who did not know of First Year Council.

Last week, Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> FYC also held a safe(r) quiet space, this idea resulted from all of the world events that happened all of this month. Therefore, we wanted to create a safe(r) space where people could come and talk, do homework, and meet FYC. In this event we offered a study space with tea, and it proved to be very successful. Many students came, and expressed their gratitude that we had a space where people could sit and study during the busy school hours.

There have also been many initiatives within the residences that our residence chairs have started. This year, one of our main tasks is to allocate where the residence life fee should go. The residence chairs are holding round table nights, and conducting surveys to get some of the concerns of first years voiced. The Les Prince residence chair has conducted a survey, and found out that many students need tutoring help. It is because of this feedback that during our Fishbowl night we are going to mention the tutoring services offered at McMaster.

Our Bates and Mary E. Keyes got together and held an event. They both sat in the lobby of their residences and asked students to give their feedback as they were coming in. They also advertised our events that were coming up. These are only two examples of many initiatives that are happening within residences.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

FYC has a couple of events coming up. We have an event this Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. On Wednesday we have a Fish Bowl Night, which consist of a Q&A panel with upper year reps. First years get a chance to ask their questions anonymously. We have a panel of reps, one per faculty who are there to answer faculty-related questions. We also have a representative of SHEC, in case students ask any questions related to mental-health, sexual-health, substance abuse and so on. This event is meant for students to provide support in first year problems. During the event, we will also have activities to de-stress. This includes a creative station, a relaxation station, a board game station, and so on.

We collaborated with SPARK to create a formal for first year students. So far, it has proven to be very successful. All of the tickets were sold, and we had to release extra tickets because of the great demand. This formal is happening Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

This December 1<sup>st</sup>, we are also starting an event with AI, the MSU events coordinators. We are planning to do a Marauder's Nest; this initiative is to encourage a group of students to come together and compete and come up with a student event in McMaster. Whoever wins will get a pizza party for their group of friends.

We are also planning on collaborating with Maroons in their December events. We will probably join them in an event like decorating gingerbread cookies. We will have rave cards that say something like, "FYC wishes you a great holiday!".

Coming back from the break, we are also planning to have a coffeehouse, a club night, McMaster Amazing Race, and an event empowering first year women to run for elections. These are all events that we are trying to plan when we come back.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Currently, we are struggling to get all of the events across to first year students. There are so many things that are happening in McMaster that the events just get buried within social media.

We are also having difficulties reaching out to the SOCS students. Many of our events and our mandate applies to residence students, now we are trying our best to include SOCS in all of our events.

Another challenge that we are facing is the restriction of our mandate. We all have so many ideas that sometimes it is very difficult to distinguish between doing an event that is a personal event and what is an event that we can hold as FYC.

## **SUCCESSSES**

So far, many of events have been helpful for students, which in itself is a success. We are trying our best to be as active on social media, and in person to get first year students involved within the MSU.

All of the events that we have held have been successful and we have learned more each time we hold an event

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