



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Business Caucus '16-'17**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Scott Robinson  
SUBJECT: SRA 16O Report  
DATE: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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## **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

### Supporting DeGroot Clubs & Committees with Involvement Opportunities

#### September Hiring Opportunities

Within the Commerce faculty, it is common for students studying in their third year to adventure on an international exchange through our BizX program. Additionally, many students participate in an internship or co-op between their third and fourth year. Because of this, and many other circumstances, numerous commerce students are not on campus in second semester to commit themselves to get involved within DeGroot for the following year. Because of this, it has been a goal of our caucus to increase the number of hiring opportunities in September within DeGroot's clubs and committees.

Through collaboration with numerous student groups, we have seen commitments from many clubs & committees to increase the amount of positions hired in the first month, as well as a commitment to advertise these opportunities more effectively to students. Currently, we have worked with the DeGroot Accounting Association, DeGroot Marketing Association, Commerce Formal Committee, DCS Street Team, DeGroot Operations Association & the DeGroot HR Association. Groups whom we have been in contact with, but have not yet committed to increasing their September hiring opportunities include the DeGroot Finance Association, DeGroot Impact, DeGroot Green & the Quarterly Profit.

#### Jobs Portal

Through Collaboration with the VP Marketing and VP Human Resources of the DCS, we have worked throughout the year on a new layout for the DeGroot online jobs portal. With their website redesign set for completion before exams, we will see our work implemented when the website is launched. This new jobs portal will include information on all of the hiring opportunities within the DCS (executives and committees), links to all of the DeGroot supported clubs individual websites and social media sites, as well as a link to the MSU online jobs portal. It is our belief that this new layout will allow students to access a wider range of opportunities within our faculty, as well as throughout the McMaster community.

#### Jobs Preview

Another section of our year plan focused on implementing job shadowing and job previews of important roles within the DCS and DeGroot Community. After talks with past DCS President Jenn Manna, & DCS President Elect Jason Estriga, they both agreed that this would be a welcome addition to the Vice President Human-Resources

role. The incoming president has committed to implementing job shadowing and previews into the hiring over his term next year. Additionally, the DCS executives of this current year have all been holding job shadow hours upon request through email, and this opportunity has been advertised on their facebook page.

#### Hiring Calendar

After pushback from our partnership with the DCS in regards to creating a standardized job description, and adding all descriptions to an online database, Taylor has taken the lead on this and has begun work on an alternative solution. After contacting individual associations, clubs & committees, he has been able to compile the data on when executive hiring happens for each group. This information will soon be aggregated into an online calendar which will be posted on the SRA Commerce page. Our hope is that commerce students will be able to use this resource to apply for the positions that interest them, and reduce a few of the barriers to apply for these positions.

#### Increasing and Enhancing the Communication Towards our Constituents.

Over this past semester, we have worked hard to connect with commerce students, and inform them of the goings on of our assembly this year. Our office hours are held weekly in the two areas with the highest traffic of commerce students – the DeGroote café and the Commerce Lounge. Additionally, we have seen an increase of engagement on our Facebook page, with a 14% increase in Facebook likes over the past month. Experimentation with scheduled posting has proven effective as well. Finally, posted after tonight's meeting you will see the continuation of our SRACommieVLOGS advertising the SRA nominations and campaigns.

#### Supporting Students with more Accessible Food Options on Campus

Jackie has been working diligently to see some tangible successes that will effect students across campus this year. As a member of UA, he has been assisting in writing the Food Policy, which is almost complete. A food policy forum partnered with Mac Bread Bin earlier this year was held which gave him a lot of great insight into the needs of students on campus.

Through collaboration with the Finance Commissioner and committee, we are compiling a list of potential retail vendors that are willing to provide students with a discount through the committed MSU discount card. We have been in contact with perspective vendors and are developing a comprehensive list that contains vendors that are of interest to McMaster students. Additionally within the collaboration with the finance committee, we are collaborating on a feedback forum regarding 1280 and what our MSU members opinions are on the business unit.

#### Increase the Amount of Events Engaging First Year Commerce Students

The groundwork has been set to partner with the DeGroote First Year Orientation program, and collaborate on their end of year celebration. This event will allow the first year students who have been involved with the program, as well as those who have not, to socialize with one another and build a stronger community. As well, representatives from different resource groups and involvement groups will be there to advertise their services to students.

Through collaboration with McMaster Residence Life, we outlined that a large stress on first year students was the uncertainty around second year. This issue was brought to us during our office hours by numerous first year commerce students. To address this, we were able to work collectively with the Enhancing Academic experiences committee to create a very successful event which was held on Febraury

12<sup>th</sup>. This event was open to all faculties, and was very well attended. It involved a 1 hour presentation on how to apply for 2<sup>nd</sup> year programs, and what to expect, and then a drop in Q&A with representatives from all faculties including commerce. We were happy to have SRA representation at this event, as well as we invited members of the DCS to join in and meet first year students.

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

Our largest event since our last report was the “One Fear, Second Year” event which members of our caucus worked on with Residence Life Staff. This event was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and was attended by over 100 first year students. It allowed first year commerce students to learn about how to apply for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year program, and had an informal Q&A period in which SRA representatives talked to first year students and helped answer questions.

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

We are looking forward to working with the First Year Orientation program to collaborate on their end of year celebration.

Before exams in April, we will see the publishing of the new DCS website, which will feature an SRA tab with information about next years caucus, as well as a more effective jobs posting tab!

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Our largest challenge since our last report has been in regards to our first year events year plan point. We initially wanted to collaborate with the DCS and the Greensuits, but we saw no interest on their side for any events. This was an initial setback, but we quickly saw promise with the FYO, and are working to make this relationship work.

### **SUCSESSES**

Once success that was not mentioned above in our year plan update is our movement towards a largest Frost Week Faculty Night. Although this project was not able to come to fruition last year, the new President Elect of the DCS, Jason Estriga, has committed to making this a priority of his society next year!

Best,

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