



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Spark Coordinator

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Wid Yaseen  
SUBJECT: Spark Report #6  
DATE: Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### **UPDATE**

This is officially my last EB report as the Spark Coordinator! Since my last report, we've had 4 weeks of sessions, launched exec applications, and are currently wrapping up for the school year!

### **SERVICE USAGE**

#### *Session attendance*

Average turn out has remained consistent this term for Spark (4-5 students/group). As I've previously mentioned, this is often because Spark runs on a weekly basis and inevitable conflicts with midterm dates, etc.

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

#### **Mentorship Program**

Since my last report, we've had 4 sessions:

#### *Session 5: Social Awareness*

This session was focused on facilitating conversations regarding diversity and identity. Students engaged in what this means for them and in the context of university.

#### *Session 6: Break from Reality*

This was a Discover Your City part 2! TLs were given the freedom and flexibility to take this session anywhere outside their usual MUSC room. We provided a light activity regarding time management; however, most groups decided to take a break from structured activities and unwind with their students. This fell at a busy midterm week, so it was very appreciated by students.

#### *Session 7: Support*

This session facilitated discussion regarding mental wellness, support services, and stressors we experience as students. Unfortunately, McMaster was closed Monday evening and Tuesday of that week because of the snow storm, and sessions did not take place on those two evenings.

#### *Session 8: Trust and Risk*

In this session, students revisited their goals from session 3, and engaged in activities that challenged them to think about the challenges that come with trusting others.

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

#### **Mentorship Program**

We have two sessions left for the year (wow).

*Session 9: Life After First Year*

This session, we will be collaborating with Mac Bread Bin once again to discuss meal preparation! Groups will be making smoothies and granola oat balls, and discussing their goals for the upcoming year.

*Session 10: Closing*

Last session of the year! Sadness. But also excitement – students made it through their first year, and it will be a fun way to wrap up!

**Executive Hiring**

Applications for the Spark executive team for the upcoming year are open until Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be held the weekend of April 1<sup>st</sup>, and hopefully we’ll have a team hired by the last day of class!

**Closing Ceremonies Student Social**

On Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a final social event for all first year students in the mentorship program. We’ve booked out a room on campus and will be providing tons of free food for students. TLs have been reaching out to their Term 1 and Term 2 students to invite them to the event.

**Volunteer Social**

On Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>, we are hosting our end of year staff social. We’ll be at the Phoenix – there’ll be free food, a final end of year gift, fun awards, and potentially some feelings. Our team will also be heading to Sangria later that evening.

**BUDGET**

***For the Nine Months Ending January 31, 2017***

	Prior		Prior			%
Current	Yr.	Current	Yr.	Prior Yr.	Approved	Budget
Month	Month	YTD	YTD	YE	Budget	Used
January	January	2016-17	2015-16	2015-16	2017	To Date

All:

5003-0125 SPARK - OFFICE SUPPLIES		27.12			60.00	45.20%
5101-0125 SPARK - TELEPHONE			225.76	225.76	60.00	0.00%
6103-0125 SPARK - ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS	1,051.51	606.87	340.95	2,430.91	3,000.00	20.23%
6501-0125 SPARK - ADV. & PROMOTION	63.60	2,030.20	2,289.59	2,693.67	2,400.00	84.59%
6802-0125 SPARK - LEADER TRAINING	181.26	635.57	395.63	395.63	720.00	88.27%
7001-0125 SPARK - WAGES	344.09	338.82	3,960.19	5,575.31	7,786.32	60.00%
7101-0125 SPARK - BENEFITS	24.29	25.09	279.08	441.14	603.19	51.68%
<b>Total All</b>	<b>1,664.75</b>	<b>363.91</b>	<b>7,539.03</b>	<b>9,268.38</b>	<b>14,135.48</b>	<b>13,380.00</b>

75.00%

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The Spark Team Leaders are some of the most compassionate and hard-working volunteers. Being a TL isn't easy – they train every single week for their weekly sessions, and are often supporting students well beyond their structured session time.

To give you an idea of the sort of impact they have on students every day, here is what some first-years in the mentorship program had to say about their TLs:

“Thank you for reaching out to us outside of spark and always being up for a chit chat with me and keeping us a family even after our spark session ended. You've sacrificed so much of your time to help us and am very grateful for meeting someone so amazing. You've helped me a lot this first year and I really appreciate everything that you've done for me and our Spark group.”

“Thank you for everything you did. You've been a true role model for me this year. I look at how involved you are here at Mac and it really inspires me to do the same. Thank you for being super friendly when I see you around campus and planning Spark dinners!”

“Thank you for being such an awesome TL/mentor/friend! I loved getting to know you this year. Thank you for helping me transition from high school to my first year of university with ease. I'm so glad that we've gotten the chance to catch up a couple of times and I hope to see you soon :)”

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

The last weeks of the term are hard to push through especially because a lot of us are burnt out. My exec and I are doing our best to keep the team motivated and engaged despite this.

## **SUCSESSES**

Lindsay D'Souza, the incoming Spark Coordinator, will take the service to new heights.

I couldn't be happier with what we've accomplished this year. Anyone who knows me knows how important this service has been during my undergrad and how much it has meant to me. I have a few thank yous for some important people who have made this journey as impactful as it has been:

- Thank you to the BoD for their support this year. Special shout out to Shaarujaa for always listening and responding to my messages at unusual hours of the night. Thank you to Ryan for always pushing me to dream big and for answering my (often dumb) questions about finances.
- Thank you to the accounting department for being so good at everything you do – our services could not function without you. Kevin and Sean, you two rock.
- Thank you to my execs for putting up with me, and for putting your 110% into making sure this service is the best that it can be for students.
- Thank you to the Team Leaders for being the best Spark team I've ever worked with.
- Thank you to my 2015-2016 exec for being endlessly supportive of me, and for being people I can unconditionally rely on.
- Thank you to the 2014-2015 Spark team – to Jimmy Long for putting so much into a service that became the most important part of my undergrad.
- Finally, thank you to my friends and family for always trying your best to understand the work I do. For helping me drive unusual session materials to Hamilton (diapers, yarn, eggs – you name it). For always supporting me in success and in hardship.