



# Memo

*From the office of the...*

## SRA Health Sciences Caucus

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
 FROM: David Lee and Ashley Eom  
 SUBJECT: End of the Year Update  
 DATE: March 26, 2017

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Dear Members of the Student Representative Assembly,

Today I am presenting you Ashley and I's progress to the Year Plan.

Year Plan Objective	Description	Status
Burst the "MSU and Health Science Bubble"	It is clear that there is some difficulty in engaging the Health Sciences community in becoming more involved in the McMaster Student Union. We would like to support the Board of Directors in creating more inclusive MSU by doing our parts as SRA Health Science Representatives.	<p><i>Completed</i>            From the start of the term we wanted to ensure that we engaged as much as BHSc students as possible. We released a guide in the beginning of the year to have BHSc students join committees both as voting members and volunteers.</p> <p>During Welcome Week, David wrote a section on the Health Sciences First Year Handbook to give students an introduction to the MSU.</p> <p>We also have done class talks throughout the year ensuring that our constituents were aware of current issues. Furthermore, our outreach hours have been very well attended and we have seen more BHSc students engaged with the MSU.</p>

		<p>We also collaborated with the Nursing Caucus throughout the semester to really establish an interfaculty relationship and even helped them with their nursing event.</p>
<p>Increase Transparency</p>	<p>Health Sci students seem to be unaware of the structure of the MSU and the issues which affect their daily lives. Students seem disengaged and confused about the various operations of student governments.</p>	<p><i>Completed</i>  This is an objective that we are most proud to have made strong strides for this year. We have hosted numerous events during not only Presidentials and referendum election periods, but also Vice President elections to aid in informed voting while providing transparency of our own votes on the assembly. Our events were incentivizing, engaging, and well-attended. Delivering coffee and cookies to students around HSC for asking questions to candidates was a highlight during the information sessions. The below is a feedback from a Level 3 student: <i>Shoutout to <a href="#">Ashley Eom</a> and <a href="#">David Lee</a> for being such great SRA Health Sci reps - I've never felt so informed about referenda before!! Not to mention the hard work they're always putting in and critically engaging with student and community issues.</i></p>
<p>MSU Peer Support/Mental Health for Health Sciences Students</p>	<p>Many of the peer support services at McMaster are underutilized by Health Sciences student in Nursing and BHSc partly due to the fact that many students are unaware that these resources are available to their disposal.</p>	<p><i>Completed</i>  In collaboration with the Nursing caucus and SHEC and Advocacy Street Team, we held an event in the lounge to promote de-stressing and healthy choices. The event was held during MacTalks to further refer students to other workshops and resources that were available to them. This was a great way to have students engaged and also</p>

		share their tips on how they cope with stress.
Promote the MSU to First Years and First Year Workshops	<p>First year is a tough time – coming to a completely new environment is an extremely difficult time for many. Most MSU positions that are reserved for first years (ie. SHEC, FYC) usually come out in September but many first years are still adjusting to McMaster. Moreover, the MSU is an integral organization at McMaster that many first year students are unaware of.</p>	<p><i>Partially Completed</i>  We made every effort to promote MSU opportunities to all years of Health Sciences students. However, we wish that we had held dedicated in-person events to introduce MSU in a State of the Union style to first years who may be particularly unfamiliar with the organization. During the nomination period for SRA Generals, one of our objective was to break the notion that only upper years are “qualified” to run for SRA. After class talks in first year classes and both of us actively promoting MSU: How To Conference, we were happy to receive increased attention and inquiries from first year students than previous years, with Francis Lao (1st year student) being acclaimed into the assembly for the 2017-2018 year.</p>
Gender Representation and Diversity in Leadership Positions	<p>There is an undeniable lack of women and diversity in elected student government position at McMaster. McMaster prides itself in having a diverse campus, a progressive culture and we should also reflect that in our student politics. Most executive roles in the BHSS were acclaimed – we should aim to address this apathy/unawareness.</p>	<p><i>Partially Completed</i>  Ashley joined the MSU Governance and You Committee to carry this particular platform forward. The committee includes representatives from Maccess, Elections, WGEN, Diversity Services, QSCC, and Advocacy with the mission to increase diversity in governance for underrepresented groups. A big project that came out of this committee was MSU: How To Conference. While the conference served as a great resource for those wishing to run for SRA Generals, we feel that it didn’t actively meet the</p>

		<p>goal of reaching out to diverse groups.</p> <p>David has been facilitating relationships with the BHSS and attending meetings throughout the year. He has found that students have been more engaged with the BHSS especially and has been making sure that the BHSS is incorporating and considering the SRA and MSU in decisions. We have seen more equity groups run for BHSS positions this year which we are proud of.</p>
<p>Improvement and Upgrades to Health Sciences Library</p>	<p>We would like to improve and expand the current structure to be more functional for student needs and also address the high demand of student space during exam season.</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>David initially met with the Director of Health Sciences Library along with Justin to discuss the potential of extending library hours in the future. The Director had expressed interest in addressing student concern and Justin has also decided take on this task as part of his year plan. He is currently in consultation with the Director in terms of how we could extend library hours given that the library is operated outside of McMaster Libraries and has staff that are part of the hospital.</p>

Regards,

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