



REPORT

From the office of the...

Vice President (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ryan Deshpande, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: Report #1
DATE: July 12, 2017

Dear SRA,

The first two months in office has flown by so quickly. Orienting myself to this job hasn't been easy, but I finally feel confident in my knowledge and skills in order to do an effective job at representing all of you this year. Thank you for your continuous questions and passion for making change on this campus: it motivates me to do better every day, and always try and be the advocate students need. I'm very excited to tell you about what I've been working on and setting up. The past two months haven't seen direct action, but every day I am setting up this year for success. With reading, planning, researching, and beginning to chip away at my platform: below is a summary of what I've done for the past 2 months. If you have any questions, you know how to contact me.

Best,

Ryan Deshpande
Vice President (Education)
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Hiring & Transition

As all of you know, I created the job descriptions and made sure wages were assigned to new Ed Team jobs. The positions are:

- Advocacy Project Assistant
- Advocacy & Policy Research Assistant

For the past two weeks we were collecting applications – and got quite a lot! With 50 applications across the two positions, I'm lucky to have so many passionate students interested in advocacy. Thank you for all you did in promoting the jobs. Ideally, the full team will start on Monday, July 17.

In addition, I have begun having meetings with my AVPs, helping prepare them for the year and supporting their transition.

Education Department's Online Presence & Marketing

In anticipation of hiring, I worked with the AVPs to revamp the Ed team's online presence. We have created the "MSU Advocacy" Facebook page, replacing the old standing committee pages and the Advocacy Street Team page. This page was incredibly useful in promoting applications. In addition, you will notice a revamped [Advocacy Tab](#) on the MSU website. This includes info about each AVP portfolio, as well as the newly restructured policy bank. In addition, we are working on Maroon Papers for last year's policies.

I also created physical promotional materials that highlights the advocacy we do. Please come by my office and check it out, I'm quite proud of them.

Change Camp

One of our many initiatives with the Office of Community Engagement, Stephanie (AVP Municipal Affairs) and I have been attending Change Camp planning meetings. Change Camp is an initiative dedicated to engaging students and community members in community development in Hamilton. This year, CC will take place in September, as opposed to Term 2 as it's traditionally been. It also has a focus on the Neighbourhood Action Strategy. The new resources in Municipal Affairs are well equipped to plan and assist with CC. Once the project assistant is hired, they will be able to help with logistics as well. If you want to take part in Change Camp, contact Stephanie!

Community Engagement Toolkit

The Office of Community Engagement is working on a toolkit for those who want to take part in community engagement. We are hoping to develop one specifically for MSU clubs, who often go into Hamilton but are not well equipped to do so. This often reflects badly on the University and students, so

we are trying to mitigate that through this initiative to better prepare students who want to engage with their community.

Bay Area Economic Summit

The Board & I attended this conference on June 27 to see how we can better meet the needs of students through economic engagement, as well as assert McMaster students as stakeholders in Hamilton. I was one of two people who asked a question to Kathleen Wynne publicly, and specifically about Work Integrated Learning. She mentioned the need for skills development amongst students, and how the government is committed to improving that gap. Check out this picture we got with her afterwards!



Economic Engagement Strategy

Since May, Tuba and I have been meeting with the SSC, Alumni, Office of Community Engagement, and the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce to develop an Economic Engagement strategy for McMaster students. Its goal is:

Develop an economic focused network that encompasses McMaster, the MSU, and City Partners with the goal of better connecting students to various industries in the City of Hamilton.

This will take many forms, and Tuba and I are working hard at making it a reality. We will report on it in the future once its set up!

Off Campus Student Support

As you all know, I created a new committee called the *Neighbourhood Assistance Advisory Council* with the purpose of bringing together service providers for off-campus students. This committee has yet to meet, as we are waiting for the SCSN Coordinator to be hired.

Meeting with our Local Representatives

I have been scheduling lunches alongside Urszula (AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs) with our provincial and federal representatives, Ted McMeekin and Filomena Tassi. I have met with Ted once, and some cool partnerships have sprung out of it – as you can see in my year plan. With a provincial election around the corner, I hope to use the political momentum for the good of our membership. A good relationship with our federal representative is important because we do not have easy access to the federal government (not being part of a formal organization).

Federal Advocacy

I have been liaising with the ADVOCAN schools, having been in 3 conference calls already. Though we were not a part of it last year, this year they have welcomed the MSU as a member and granted me a vote for the chair, who is Antonio Brieva, Waterloo Feds President. The members of ADVOCAN are:

- University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society
- University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
- University Students' Council at Western University
- Queen's Alma Mater Society
- University of Toronto Students' Union
- University of Waterloo Federation of Students
- University of Manitoba Students Union

I am trying my best to get our priorities on the table for ADVOCAN, particularly with regards to Indigenous students.

In addition, I have been in contact with the CASA Executive Director and Chair, and will be assessing CASA in the future.

Education Department Training

If you are a member on UA, MA, PFA – I'll be contacting you soon to take part in a detailed training to prepare you for your role this year! I'm hoping to get a presentation from the Mayor's office or have our MPP come and give a talk. I want to properly prepare you for policy writing, lobbying, running campaigns,

and achieving your platforms. So, if you're not on one of the committees, join now! Nonvoting members are invited to training, just contact the AVP.

Work Integrated Learning

I will be working with Student Affairs to develop a proposal to the provincial government regarding the Career Kick Start funding. We are hoping to prioritize career services for marginalized groups including students with disabilities, people of colour, indigenous students, and first generation students.

Indigenous Affairs

I have met with Dr. Vanessa Watts, Director of Indigenous Studies Program to discuss putting the flags on campus and it looks like that is going to happen! I'm really excited to see this come to fruition. Vanessa will be taking the lead on liaising with Facility Services on this matter.

This is an overarching summary of what I've done. Outside of this report, I'm continuously meeting with stakeholders, my AVPs, and reading and researching so that I can effectively represent you. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.