



REPORT

From the office of the...

SRA Science Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Sabra Salim, Caucus Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 17H Report
DATE: October 15, 2017

Dear Assembly Members,

On behalf of the SRA Science Caucus, I will be reporting for 17H. We have made a lot of progress on our year plan in these past two months. We have had many successes and are looking to continue fulfilling that which we have promised to our constituents and the union alike. Below, you will find the projects we have been able to accomplish in reference to our year plan presented at 17E, as well as some current challenges and current projects.

PAST AND CURRENT PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN + SUCCESSES

Theme 1: Course Registration and Management + Theme 4: Accessibility

The initial plan listed that we would attempt to add the assessment ban period to syllabi as well as recommended courses onto Mosaic. This issues were brought forward for the Academic Policy paper for the MSU to take a stance on which I am currently authoring. In terms of Mosaic (Theme 4 and Theme 1), Amanda Baldwin (Senior Manager, Implementation IT Services Review) has been reached out to in regards to scheduling a meeting to discuss potential improvements that can be made to Mosaic (awaiting response). More so, after meeting with the Dean of Science Maureen MacDonald, we were informed that both these issues are on the radar of the Undergraduate Council. This gives us a great opportunity to put pressure on the University through these outlets to fulfill these platforms and give students what has been asked for. In terms of our platform on earlier course syllabi and our later drop add date, Alex has reached out to the authorship committee about bringing this idea into a policy paper. They would be happy to write with them if the authors already feel at capacity. More so, Alex has also continued to work on the Health and Wellness Policy paper. Nothing was done currently as the VP Education's interests in setting this paper aligned with the platform. They are currently authoring the health promotion, peer support and connection to off-campus resources sections.

Side Note: We are also currently building a survey to amalgamate information for these platforms. This will give us data that we can present to support our platform claims. The rough draft for this is complete and will go through editing and consultation.

Theme 2: Constituent Outreach

We are continuing to work on inviting members to our Facebook page and increasing our like count. We look forward to working with Sunny Yun, (Arts and Science) as well as other faculties in assisting video production in the future. Some of our successes include hitting our target of

about 1500 likes on Facebook for our first reporting period. By the start of the new semester we hope to hit the 2000 mark. We also accomplished our platform on attending the MSS GA. There, we made a presentation alongside Chukky on what the SRA does and things to look forward to in the coming weeks. In addition, we also restructured our first office hour and had a combined one. This was very successful and we had a few other SRA members drop by and inform students about the assembly. We were also able to acquire cookies and coffee through special funds which many enjoyed. We hope to continue these efforts for the next semester, however, we have hit all our goals making this our first semester platform completion!

Theme 5: Career Networking Night

I am continuing to work with Sabrina Campbell, the Academic Events Planner of the MSS in coordinating this conference. We have reached out to the Dean and the SCCE who are interested in working with us to build this conference. After reaching out to Scott (AVP Finance), we are currently building our MSU sponsorship form to request funding for the venue. Many other program societies have also listed interest in this platform. We hope to host this at DBHSC and will be going for a viewing in the next two weeks.

Theme 6: Diversity in Governance

Sabrin has met with Chukky and they are working on rebranding the Governance and You committee to “The People Project”. They are currently considering whether they think this group will succeed more as a working group or as an actual Club. They have also looked into restructuring the committee as a whole, while also working on asking previous MSU president candidates to release their platform points. They still hope to create a minority-centered approach to this committee while working towards collecting data (currently also working on a survey).

Theme 7: Housemate Connector

Sinthu met with Jennifer Kleven from the Off-Campus Resource Centre to discuss improvements that can be made to the Housemate Connector Service, which also includes better promotion. She has also reached out to the FYC and Spark Sessions Coordinators to include promotion of this service during their “Life After Spark” session for first years.

Theme 9: Providing Resources to Clubs

Myself, Max Lightstone (Caucus Leader, Engineering) and Chukky have been able to host two Interfaith Council meetings. This group has been really successful and we were able to meet with the MJMA Architects to build a sketch of what the Multifaith centre in the SAB will look like.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Some of our current challenges primarily involve planning logistics for meetings. We are trying to be accessible to students by moving meeting times around, but we also have to continuously coordinate with one another to organize this.

In terms of the Housemate Connector platform, as of last year, the “Systems Analyst” position is no longer filled, and until a new person is hired some of the more technical aspects of improving the Housemate Connector cannot be done. For example, increasing the number of questions asked in the survey used to connect students is not possible until a new analyst has been hired. Sinthu is looking into the possibility of hiring a student intern in the meantime

For the Podcasted Courses platform, Maureen MacDonald, the Dean of Science, says that the only struggle with getting this going as said by the Undergraduate Council would be to get the equipment available in all rooms. They have also discussed video recordings of classes.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Housemate Connector - Sinthu: I will be reaching out to SOCS and Horizons to see if Housemate Connector can be promoted better at their respective events.

Upcoming Meetings- Caucus: Another meeting with the Dean of Science, acquiring funding and booking DBHSC for Quantum Leap, continued Office hours, one-on-one meetings with each Caucus member

SUCSESSES

Constituent Outreach- Caucus: As mentioned above, we have been able to increase our Facebook like count drastically within the course of a month. We are very happy to have hit all our platform points for the Constituent Outreach Theme.

SRA Banner – Sabra: As per the idea that I gave out in 17E, the SRA Banner design is complete and is ready for printing at the Underground. I'd like to thank Scott Robinson for assisting me in maneuvering this idea. I hope that this assembly will enjoy this for our office hours. I will also work with the Board to establish a sign out sheet for this banner for our office hours. Although, keep in your hearts that SRA Science should have been the first name.

Meeting with the Dean – Sabra: It was wonderful being able to share our year plans with Dean. There was a lot of reassurance from her. It was also great seeing that many of our platforms aligned with ideas she had for the coming year.

Housemate Connector- Sinthu: Jennifer Kleven has agreed to start running the service for a much longer period, so now it will run from December to August of every year, instead of just May to August as it was previously. This allows more students to find housemates during peak lease-signing times.

iSci and Open Educational Resources (OERs)- Alex: In collaboration with the VP academic of iSci, we discussed the potential for integrating open educational resources into the iSci Curriculum. We have already had one very successful meeting and there is a lot of interest in non traditional usage of OERs as a result of their capacity to be edited. After the break we will be doing a second meeting with a majority of the programs staff to explore specific methods of implementation and a timeline. This project will start saving iSci Students money in the 2019-2020 year, but will be engaging students in for credit work starting 2018-2019 and potentially even as soon as later this term!

I am very proud of the work that my caucus has done so far. We have been able to make some very large strides in the past two months and I hope we can keep this motivation up for the rest

of the year. We are also still open for any sort of collaboration and take any feedback. Thank you for reading our report!

Cheers,

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