



REPORT

From the office of the...
Maccess Coordinator

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Lauren McClinton
SUBJECT: Maccess Report #5
DATE: November 28, 2017

UPDATE

Since the time of my last report, space usage has increased, as well as attendance at after hours programming. We have sent out offers of positions to successful candidates poised to start in January. We have planned a number of exciting events, including a week-long campaign, and confirmed logistical details of the Accessibility Forum.

SERVICE USAGE

Space usage has continued to increase! Our space is consistently populated with between 3-10 community members, in addition to volunteers on shift. Space usage fluctuates depending on the time of day, with most visitors accessing our services in the afternoon.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Support group programming has continued to grow in popularity. Attendance ranges between 3-4 individuals in the Chronic Pain, Chronic Illness, and Personality Disorders groups and 8-10 individuals in the Depression and Anxiety/OCD groups.

This month, we also added an additional hour of support group programming for students looking for support in the areas of Eating Disorders and disordered eating.

Topic Tuesdays this month have included disability representation in media, disability in art, and disability and queerness (in collaboration with the QSCC).

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

December 5th's Topic Tuesday will discuss disability and family and will be the last of the term.

During the exam period we will host de-stress programming on Tuesdays & Thursdays:

Study & Chill: Once classes finish we plan on hosting Study & Chill space hours – open, unscheduled hours during the exam period where students can relax and decompress during the exam period. Study & Chill will take place on December 12th and December 19th (filling in where Topic Tuesdays leave off).

SLIME: An acronym for “Students Lounging in Maccess during Exams”, SLIME will feature two separate de-stress workshops where students can come and complete crafts. December 7th will be a workshop on creating actual slime (similar to therapy putty!), and December 14th will be a painting workshop.

Term 2:

Currently, our SPA Executive is working on a training manual/resource for our support group facilitators and, once edited and finalized, we plan to release this to those individuals in January.

Support Group programming graphics will be launched in early January.

The last week of January, we will host a coffee house where disabled students can share their own stories. This will tentatively take place in clubspace.

DisVisibility Week is planned to run from February 26th – March 2nd. This week will function as a disability pride campaign and will be composed of a combination of online promotion, open and closed events. Our goal is to showcase diversity in disability. Rare Disease Day is on February 28th, and we will use facebook to feature stories from Maccess Community Members who experience a rare disease. This campaign was very successful last year and was really well received. The campaign will also feature Mad Pride events and a movie night focused on disability in media.

The 4th Annual MSU Accessibility Forum will take place in CIBC Hall on March 20th, 2018 from 4:00PM – 7:00PM. Following the forum, we will complete an Accessibility Report.

BUDGET

Since the time of my last report, I have not used any additional money in my budget. Preethi and I have confirmed a January 31st deadline for all purchases from Maccess' SLEF resources, and I have been working on the planning of these purchases with my Resources Executive.

In December, I plan on spending roughly \$200.00 to execute our de-stress workshops.

VOLUNTEERS

We have completed another round of volunteer hiring, and offers have been sent out! New volunteers will complete our online training modules by the end of December 2017, and will then undergo three hours of AOP/Peer Support hybrid training from the TRRA, Merima, in early January. In early January, we will also host one more short training session to update ALL volunteers on new space policies, followed by a social where volunteers hired in each round can get to know each other. New volunteers will begin their shifts in Term 2.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

As mentioned in my last report, we are still having some challenges with the staffing of volunteers in the space, but I think this will be alleviated once we are able to integrate our new volunteers.

SUCSESSES

I entered this term with the goal of strengthening and solidifying the peer support that Maccess offers, and I do feel strongly that we have been able to do this! I'm really proud of the growing success that I've noticed in after hours programming, as well as the consistent number of folks who populate the space. I feel strongly that we've created consistent, reliable programming that has filled a long-empty gap in support on campus. From here, I'm really excited about the events and campaigns we have planned for next term!

OTHER

A solution has been found in regards to my last report's issue of space access challenges for volunteers running after-hours programming. There is no issue with the space accessibility button, lock, or door. I have confirmed that it isn't broken, but the button's override of the door's lock is purely a design feature of this accessible entrance. To work around this issue, Preethi has approved the purchase of a lockbox and I will be setting up a meeting with Victoria to work out the logistics of the purchase and installation of this lockbox.