



REPORT

From the office of the...

Vice President (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ryan Deshpande, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: Report #3
DATE: January 17, 2018

Dear SRA,

Since my last report, there has been significant activity within the education department and my own portfolio. With term 1 finished, we are starting new projects, and continuing existing ones.

I went on a trip to Myrtle Beach during the winter break, and while it was chilly, I missed the -30 weather here, so I am eternally grateful for that. I've also started a course! Feels weird to be a student again, but I gotta get this degree, you know?

MSU Policy Conference

Policy Conference happened on November 5, 2017. It was incredibly successful. Over 60 students attended the conference, and we were able to get a diverse range of perspectives influencing our lobby policies.

The day consisted of:

- Breakfast & lunch
- an orientation to the MSU policy process, the education team, advocacy, and the papers
- three breakout sessions (one for each policy) where delegates rotated



Following the conference, I sent out a survey to attendees to gather feedback for the next term. 19 attendees filled it out. The results were generally positive, with the conference receiving a 4.32/5 rating for the respondents' satisfaction with the overall organization of the conference. Delegates also had the opportunity to provide comments to elaborate on their responses, which allowed us to get more detail and improve for this term.

The *Academic Success*, *Health & Wellness*, and *Experiential Education* papers were passed at SRA 17J with little to no concerns! The papers are now

available on the MSU website at msumcmaster.ca/policy. We will be putting together the Maroon papers shortly so there is a summary.

Term 2 Policy Process

The policy development for term 2 has started. As per my platform, we are writing *Sexual Violence Prevention and Response, Transit, and Environmental Sustainability*.

After the last policy cycle, I sent a feedback form to the authors and have adjusted the timelines based on their feedback, including more time for writing the both the PCR's and the body text. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback for the roles of the Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants, and I am grateful for their excellent work.

The timelines for the policy cycle this fall are as follows:

Task	Date
Think Tanks	Week of January 8
PCR's due	January 21
Rough drafts due	February 4
Final drafts due	February 18
Policy Conference	March 4
Paper approval	17P - March 11

All the policies are underway, with authors selected and think tanks done. I am attempting to access our Presto usage data from Metrolinx in order to inform *Transit*, and we are working closely with WGEN on *SVPR*.

Academic Affairs Council

We have had two AAC meetings so far, and I will be scheduling our third for some time in January. As intended, I have been using AAC to work on OERs. It is also being used as a space to share best practices. I have looped AAC into the #TextbookBroke campaign, which I will be talking more about later in the report.

First Year Council

On November 23, I delivered advocacy training to the four FYC members. We had a really engaging discussion and I hope they learned a lot from it. I'm excited to see where they take the knowledge to make changes for first years.

Ed Team Bonding

Ed Team had a secret santa gift exchange and a party at my house before the break! We made hot chocolate by melting Lindor into milk, and it must say it was delicious.

Indigenous Affairs

I have been continuously going to CISSA meetings and maintaining a relationship with the members. I'm excited to support the development of the Indigenous Students Confederacy. I also continue to sit on the Indigenous-

Administration Consultation Committee, which consists of the Provost, VP Research, Chair of the Indigenous Education Council, Director of the Indigenous Studies Program, and Director of the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute. We have met several times, discussing scholarships for Indigenous students, research opportunities, increasing Indigenous faculty, and the development of graduate programs within ISP.

University Budget Submission

The Board, David (AVP University Affairs), and Tiffany (Advocacy & Policy Research Assistant) are all working on the University budget submission. The timeline is a little off, but we want this document to be a reference material as departments and ancillary groups develop their budgets. I anticipate David will go into detail on this in his report.

University Library Advisory Council

This committee exists to advise and assist in the direction of the University Libraries. It has representation from the faculties and the libraries. I also serve as the student representative on the committee. We met last term on December 4, and discussed their archiving and, data availability, and research updates.

Ombuds Office

This year, myself and the Dean of Students want to undertake a review of the Ombuds Office. Currently, the Ombudsperson reports jointly to the President of McMaster and the MSU, and has a management team consisting of the Dean of Students and the MSU VP Education. Myself and David are the students on this committee.

Experiential Education - Hire McMaster

In conjunction with Tuba, I have been attending several of the “Hire McMaster” steering committee meetings. This is a committee of the Student Success Centre, which is focusing on work-integrated learning and promoting McMaster students to employers. We worked on a submission to the provincial government to get some of the Career Ready envelope funding. They also hired an individual charged with developing a brand for McMaster students, which the university can use to promote to employers.

Vice Provost (Equity and Inclusion) Hiring

We have finally selected a candidate for this position. Arig Al Shaibah will start her term in April.

Relationship Building with Other Student Unions

On December 8, I arranged a tour of the Ryerson Student Union’s building with the rest of the board. We specifically wanted to see their equity service centres and food centres to get ideas for the SAB and our peer support services. We later got lunch with the President and VP Equity!

Municipal Advocacy

Stephanie and I delegated to Hamilton City Hall on October 3 to speak against the expansion of the bylaw enforcement program in the communities around McMaster. This program has two Mohawk college co-op students issuing tickets in Ainslie Wood and Westdale for bylaw infractions such as lawn maintenance and garbage disposal. It has been piloted since April. Our major issues with the program was that it was unfairly targeting student neighbourhoods, and that costs were getting offloaded onto tenants which the landlords were supposed to be paying. In addition, the report on the pilot won't be completed until December, so a decision was made to expand it without the pilot being evaluated. Until these issues were fixed, we were against expanding the program to 4 students. However, the motion passed and the program has been expanded.

Since then, there has been a lot of media attention. I did a radio show with CHML as well as a TV segment with Cable 14's *City Matters*.

HSR Emergency Riders Meeting

On November 14, Stephanie and myself attended a meeting at City Hall where we presented to interested HSR riders on the HSR crisis. We spoke about how cancelled buses affect students, and made recommendations for system-wide improvements.

On January 10, Stephanie and I attended a subgroup of these stakeholders, where we intend to form an transit riders' group who can discuss issues and bring them to the HSR, as well as the transit union. The exact shape and name of this will be determined soon. This is being organized by Environment Hamilton.

Landlord Wiki

The Landlord Wiki questions will be sent to the website developer shortly. While we are slightly behind schedule, we will hopefully have a soft launch of this before the end of the term.

Municipal/Provincial Advocacy

On December 7, the Board met with Councillor Judi Partridge. Judi is the current Ward 15 councillor, and the future Liberal candidate for the provincial Flamborough-Glanbrook riding. We discussed transit to rural areas, open educational resources, tuition and university funding, and bylaw enforcement.

Hamilton Post-Secondary Advisory Group

On November 17, the Board (minus Preethi) along with the Mohawk Student Association, and the Redeemer University Senate met with MPP Ted McMeekin, a representative from MP Filomena Tassi's office, and a representative from Mayor Fred Eisenberger's office. We discussed the *In it Together* report, Open Educational Resources, and International Student (tuition and healthcare). I also recognize how overwhelmingly male this picture is.



OUSA Advocacy Week

On November 27-December 2, Chukky and I attended OUSA's Advocacy Week in Toronto. A separate report will be brought to this meeting.

OUSA - In It Together Report

On November 2, OUSA launched the [*In It Together: Taking Action on Student Mental Health*](#) report at an event in Queen's Park. This report was created in collaboration with the College Student Alliance, Colleges Ontario, OUSA, and the Council of Ontario Universities. It contains 26 recommendations to different ministries in the provincial government. I have brought the report to this meeting for information.

OUSA General Assembly

On October 26-29 I took the MSU delegation to OUSA GA to debate and pass the *Indigenous Students, Accountability, and System Vision* policy papers. The delegates were absolutely fantastic, and I am so proud of all of them. I have already submitted a separate report about this. Here is a picture from GA! I'm including this picture because we look great despite some of us getting one hour of sleep (myself, Urszula, Piers, and Hannah - the authors).



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Panel

On December 8, I took part in a panel organized by OCUFA on student-faculty solidarity in the event of a strike. Inspired by the college strike, OCUFA invited students from OUSA and CFS-Ontario to participate in their Collective

Bargaining Committee meeting. Myself and Landon (Vice President, Western USC) attended the meeting on behalf of OUSA and discussed student-faculty solidarity during labour disputes.

#TextbookBroke Campaign

My absolute pride and joy. This campaign has seen huge online success. The MSU is leading the OUSA schools in online engagement for the campaign, and this is due entirely to the hard work that Atherai (Advocacy Project Assistant) and the Provincial & Federal Affairs Committee did in planning it. The Campus Store has been a great partner in running this campaign, allowing us to table in front of their store, and purchasing t-shirts for our volunteers.

On twitter, we have had 70 tweets from McMaster students using the [#TextbookBroke hashtag](#). We are running events for students to learn more about OERs and advocate for them. We are also running an event for faculty to be engaged with OERs and learn how to incorporate them into the classroom.

While the online engagement for this campaign has been great, the in-person engagement at the events has not been. There is a lot of information coming from the MSU Advocacy page regarding the campaign, and I relied on SRA members sharing the events on their pages. Frankly, you have all failed to do your job in supporting the work of the standing committees in this aspect. I'm not too sure how many more times I can ask your support in engaging your constituents. If you have ways in which I can do it better, I'm happy to hear it.

If you have any questions, you know how to reach me.

Best,

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