REPORT

From the office of the...

SRA Health Sciences Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: David Lee, SRA Health Sciences Caucus Leader
SUBJECT: SRA 17P
DATE: March 5th, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Podcasting Courses

Francis and I have done separate initiatives in advocating for more podcasted courses in Health Sciences. Francis has contacted professors, such as Dr. Joseph Beyene for HTHSCI 2A03 - Statistics, to request course podcasting in response to feedback we have received from second year students. Francis has contacted with Zeinab from the BHSc Office regarding this.

Food Security

Francis has worked with MacBreadBin under the Second Course Program to help distribute food, while raising awareness for food security issues across campus. He is considered a strong asset to the team and his collaboration with NoLunchMoney has been extremely valuable.

Learnlink Access BDC Students

Learnlink is now accessible for BDC Students. I have made a joint announcement on this along with the BDC Society. I am happy to announce that this will make more opportunities more accessible for BDC students as well outreach from us!

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Continued work with the BHSS

We have continually been involved in matters related to BHSS. Apart from attending weekly meetings, I have also been involved in Pathogen selection this upcoming term. I will be involved in the hiring process and will continue to strengthen our connection with the BHSS.

Continued work with the BHSc Mental Health Committee
Francis has been attending weekly meetings where he contributes to developing mental health initiatives within the Health Sci community. Currently, Francis is helping to pilot the “Countdown to BHSc Project” which aims to prepare incoming BHSc students for the program during the summer leading up to welcome week.

OUTREACH

SRA Meet the Presidents and Information Event collaboration SRA Nursing

Francis and I hosted our Meet the Presidents and Information regarding referendum. We are extremely happy with the engagement we received from BHSc students during this time and how willing they were to learn more about presidential and the MSU. We find that these events gain the most outreach and started handing out cookies in HSL to even promote the election in the end.

Part of the success of the event was also done due to SRA Nursing. We found that more nursing students are now accessing the lounge after our event. Thank you, Sharon!

Midterm Report

Francis and I crafted a midterm report this semester which I am happy to say that several SRA Candidates are using in terms of informing their platform points
SRA Q and A

Francis and I held an SRA Q and A session with Health Sciences students on Feb. 15 to advertise SRA Generals further. This was an extreme success as we had interested candidates come to us and ask us about our roles. Even when students were not interested in running, we were able to educate them about our roles as the SRA and they had a better understanding of the MSU. This was especially important as several expressed interest in joining future services like Clay and Horizons.

SRA Generals

I am happy to announce that we had one of the highest turn out of candidates for SRA Generals. A total of 9 candidates had originally signed up for SRA General however this number has scaled back to 6 with other candidates choosing to run for the BHSS Election instead. Nevertheless this is a big win our end, perhaps one of the biggest turns out for 2 seats in our election, and I am happy to see such interested students in our roles.

PSL Feedback Form
Francis and I received several emails from BHSc Students regarding the rescinding of PSL. Keeping in mind that we wanted to hear the sample size of all students, we decided to release a feedback form for students to complete. We received just under 80 responses, attached below with some students responding over page long responses. We recognize that several Health Sciences students utilize and also volunteer for PSL. Seeing the responses of these students made us realize that they do understand the complexity of the issue at hand and are making informed decisions due to our outreach.

![Google Forms - create and analyze surveys, for free.](https://accounts.google.com)

We've received a lot of positive feedback from students regarding our decision during the meeting. Attached are testimonials:
Hey, just want to say thank you for speaking on behalf of PSL the way you did, and taking into account what I and other constituents said!

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Irina Sverdlichenko
Thank you David Lee for sharing this information for the sake of promoting transparency!

Like · Reply · 5d

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Valerie Kim
February 27 at 2:11 am

This past weekend, the Student Representative Assembly voted to rescind the MSU Peer Support Line. In the last 24 hours, I've felt a range of emotions - frustrated, confused, devastated - but as upset as I am, I realize that I am equally grateful.

I'm grateful to the MSU Peer Support Line for reinforcing my hope that students can support students. I cannot express how much this service - or more specifically, its sense of community - inspires me. To the callers, chatters, and listeners, I hope we can continue to foster the opposite of loneliness through the support we offer each other (Marina Keegan).

I'm grateful to all the students who expressed their thoughts on rescinding/continuing PSL. I recognize that it isn't always easy to voice our ideas, especially conflicting ideas, so I appreciate each discussion and each concern. To both supporters and dissidents of PSL, thank you for posting, tagging, commenting, messaging, and emailing; thank you for sharing your perspective.

I'm grateful to the SRAs who considered and represented our perspectives. To my caucus (Wash D.C.), SRA Health 5c. I'm especially grateful to David and Francis for their efforts in reaching out to us and not only collecting but also sharing our feedback. Thank you for hearing us; thank you for making us feel heard.

If you, like me, are feeling a range of emotions, please feel free to reach out! The MSU Peer Support Line is still open 7 days a week, 7am-1am, for the rest of the year, at 506-525-5140 x3008, or at msu@master.ca. We're still here to listen.

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UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Social Media and Learnlink Updates

The Health Sciences caucus has been hard at work in integrating the MSU within our program. We have constantly updated Learnlink with takeaways from SRA Meetings and also post updates on opportunities and events on Facebook, Learnlink and Twitter. In our takeaways on Learnlink we try to highlight key decisions like the Maroon minutes that were posted before.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Several Heath Science

SUCCESSES

Positive Feedback on Events and Outreach

We received constant support and positive feedback from our events that were hosted. We are happy with the collaboration with the BHSS and SRA Nursing which has allowed us to have a large exposure to the BHSc community and McMaster community. We hope to continue this in the future as we see more BHSc students as part of the MSU volunteer base.

Regards,
David Lee
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