



# FINAL REPORT

*From the office of...*

## SRA Social Sciences

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Uwais Patel, Caucus Leader  
SUBJECT: SRA 17Q Report  
DATE: March 20, 2018

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### **Hello Members of the Assembly,**

Time has passed quickly on this assembly and I certainly can't believe we are approaching our last meeting. The following report is a summary of what we have completed this past year as well as next steps for the incoming caucus and directions the future assembly can/should take. Overall, this year was good and although it could have been better, I think we laid a good foundation for the incoming caucus and had a phenomenal presence on campus this year.

Fawziyah, Jess, Shemar, Justin, and Arjay, my caucus and I wish you all the best next year.

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback for myself or caucus, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at your earliest convenience.

It has been great.

### **Uwais Patel**

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## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

### **Transition with the Incoming Caucus**

Within a week of our new seats being acclaimed, I was able to meet with the incoming caucus to transition them into their new roles. I went over the job description, what to expect with VP Elections/first meeting, and answered any questions they had. Shemar will be the incoming caucus leader!

## **UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

### **L.R. Wilson Lounge Opening**

We are still in communication with the Dean's office and other stakeholders to have an official opening event for the Student Lounge, as well as increase signage for this space. We still hope to co-host an event with the incoming Soc Sci Caucus (and other folks) by the end of the year, should our communication attempts be followed up on.

### **Joint Office Hours with the MSSS**

Starting January 16, 2018, we began conducting joint office hours with our society partner, the MSSS. Though they don't normally do office hours, they appreciate engaging with students and have joined us in doing our outreach with constituents. This has since resulted in us collaborating on the LR Wilson "Thank You" project that was a continuation of the campaign to bring awareness and gratitude to the government's contributions to the creation of the LR Wilson building.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

The end of year, job applications, and graduating for Kirstin (hopefully) has proven to be an obstacle course of barriers, but we know that we have still fulfilled our duties as SRA members. It's hard not to feel as though we needed more time, as the end of our term is so near.

## **SUCCESSSES**

We have recently received praise for our Twitter usage and our communication with constituents. We'll miss the honour of blessing your timelines.

Increasing the communication with our faculty and faculty society has been going well this term, especially through the LR Wilson project(s). We look forward to seeing the incoming caucus continue fostering these relationships

Additionally, this year we have had tremendous success with our office hours. Our constituent outreach on the ground has led us to have many positive interactions with the people we serve. From having joint office hours with the MSSS, to having our office hours in various places on campus, I believe we did good on engaging social science students.

## **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

### **Communications and Engagement Strategy**

Since the beginning of our term, our communication and engagement with our constituents has been phenomenal. With the plan to formalize a communications and engagement plan in writing, the health of our caucus leader taking lead on this project took a nosedive and was unfortunately not able to be completed.

### **MSU 'How To' Guide**

With the social sciences seats on the assembly being acclaimed, many of the resources we intended to put up had no use as they were meant for students in the process of running in an election. This project is better suited to be taken on by the Elections Department to have the most impact with students. We'll be reaching out to the incoming Returning Officers to see if they can take this project on.

### **Student Representation at the University Level**

Kirstin has met with the Provost's assistant and other stakeholders since our last update, and continued to be informed and raise issues to the University level, including extending the add/drop deadline.

### **Accessibility for Courses/SAS Capabilities**

Kirstin has continued to support students who work with SAS, and continued to advocate for improved accessibility in courses and provided by SAS.

### **Improved Course Evaluations**

There is planning in process to incentivize students to complete course evaluations in collaboration with the MSSS and the Social Sciences Faculty.

### **L.R. Wilson: Hours & Lounge**

This initiative has slowed over the past month, but plans are in place to continue this work and hopefully have the signs in place by the end of our term. We are still planning on doing a soft launch of this space to promote its use, but the details of that and timeline are still in the process of being finalized. Necessary communications with various stakeholders have stalled and are making it difficult to go forward with this initiative, but we are doing our best to move forward regardless.

### **Experiential Opportunities**

Kirstin is a member of the Experiential Education Governing Council (for Social Science's EE Office), and the meetings have been fruitful. The incoming caucus is recommended to connect with EE to continue this engagement.

### **Optimizing Various Rooms for Studying Purposes**

As stated in the previous memo, I have been talking with the appropriate individuals regarding this. Sadly due to time constraint I am unable to continue this as an SRA member. However I have full faith that the next administration and SRA will pursue this when I meet with them next year.

### **Healthier and Cheaper Food Options on Campus**

In regards to cheaper and healthier food options, I feel the VP Finance or AVP finance be able to communicate this better as they took the lead on this platform.

### **Reconstructing the Application Process for Welcome Week**

As we last reported last time, the 2018-19 Social Science planners have been chosen. We are very happy that we got to be apart of that process and help our faculty in their decision. This point has been very rewarding, and we feel that if we had an entire year to complete it, more could have gotten done. We reached out to help our faculty with Rep interviews but have not gotten a response back yet. Welcome Week takes a significant amount of time to plan and organize and if this was on the year plan from April we would have been able to complete significantly more; as a result, we will be suggesting to the incoming caucus to add this to their platform point and build upon existing work and connections made throughout this year.

### **Increasing Engagement with Mental Health Services**

This platform point was one of the more difficult points to accomplish this year for two reasons, the first being that it was added to the year plan after our October by-election. Many events for semester 1 and even large-scale events happening in term 2 were already established by early November, which made it difficult to assert ourselves in the conversation. Additionally, communicating with multiple individuals proved to be a struggle as getting constant replies from people was rare. Despite these constraints we still reached out to numerous services on campus and was told to primarily help with promotion for already established events. Outside of services, we all attended policy con in first semester and contributed to the discussions surrounding our health and wellness paper, which was later approved by the SRA. We also attended the Mental Health Roundtable discussion held by COPE McMaster which was very rewarding and pinpointed various systemic issues on campus when it comes to mental health. Given the communication and time barriers, we are happy with the contributions we have made this year!

### **Increase Turnout to Events and Build Relationship with MSSS**

Building our relationship with the MSSS has overall gotten significantly better than what it was at the beginning of the term. Last semester there was many difficulties with communication and finding representatives to attend their core executive meetings. With the help of Linda Cabral, VP-External, we were able to organize joint office hours on a consistent basis this semester and have attended a few core exec meetings. We hope that the incoming SRA members for Social Sciences will be able to build on our work and ensure that the connections between our faculty and the SRA is efficient.

## Overview of Progress on Year Plan

Objective	Status
Communications and Engagement Strategy	On Going
MSU 'How-To' Election	Completed
MSSS Partnership	Completed
Faculty Connection	Completed
Student Representation at the University Level	On Going
Accessibility for Courses/SAS Capabilities	On Going
Improved Course Evaluations	On Going
L.R. Wilson: Hours	On Going
L.R. Wilson: Lounge	On Going
Experiential Opportunities	On Going
Rooms for Studying Purposes	On Going
MSSS Welcome Week Application	Completed
Engagement with Mental Health Services	On Going
Increase Turnout to Events	On Going

Before September Goals	Status
WW Communication Plan	Completed
Calendar of Events	Completed
Open Seat Recruitment Plan	Completed

End of Winter Goals	Status
MSSS Winter GA	Completed
Continuous Caucus Outreach	Completed
Caucus Transition Plan	Completed
600 Facebook Likes	Completed

End of Fall Goals	Status
MSSS Fall GA	Completed
SRA By-Election Transition	Completed
SRA By-Election Outreach	Completed