



REPORT

From the office of the...

President

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ikram Farah, President
SUBJECT: SRA 16F Report
DATE: Sunday, July 15th, 2018

Hi all, the summer has been great and extremely productive. I am using the summer to plan for projects that would affect folks in the fall as well as re-visit the conversations that I had with major stakeholders during my campaign. One thing that I will mention candidly is that there is a fundamental difference between being the candidate and then being the President. By revisiting some of these conversations with key stakeholders, you are not just going into them “reminding” them of what you talked about, you are now trying to collaborate and work together to ensure that you have shared priorities. That is an important tool that I learned very early on. If someone is not as passionate as you are regarding a particular issue, the likelihood of them wanting speed up the process is minimal. That being said, I have had great success thus far in finding common grounds with a lot of the University partners and ensuring that their year plans align with ours so that there are better outcomes when we are aiming towards enhancing student life.

Extending Go Bus Hours

Myself and Stephanie had a meeting with key members from Metrolinx that the Mayors advisor, Christopher Cutler had set up. At this meeting on Tuesday, May 5th we addressed the following issues:

- Extending service on Bus 47 to accommodate classes that end late
- More service (specifically later) for the express bus that goes to Mississauga
- Express service to Toronto from McMaster University

And we required follow up on:

- Extending service on Bus 47 (both locals and express) to accommodate classes that end at 10:30 p.m.
- Data sharing (we were told that we would be connected to the particular contact for that)
- Dates for the on-site surveys that are conducted by Metrolinx - the hope is to have student reps alongside to both recognize and support the needs for students.

Metrolinx had advised me that they are working towards one later weekday eastbound Route 15 trip to connect with a later train and one later weekday eastbound Route 47 trip to York University. This is a great start.

On June the 12th, I had been made aware that: express trips to Toronto are out of the picture due to the overlap with Route 15 and train service and that GO will extend our eastbound Route 47 service by adding 3 later trips departing McMaster at 2310, 2340 and 0010 hours for high turnout welcome week events, Wednesday August 29th (Airbands), Thursday, August 30th (Faculty Night) and Friday, August 31st (Concert). They will also have some extras on hand to protect these trips – just in case. These trips will start at McMaster (not Hamilton downtown) and they will serve all Route 47 stops enroute to York University. These trips will be reflected on the GO schedule closer to. This is fantastic news and great progress. I am still awaiting news from Trevor on the extended service for the year.

International Student Support

I wanted to have the international student shuttle bus ready for welcome week; however, as a part of the international student strategy that is lead by the office of Student Affairs, I have been made aware of the other steps and long term goals this office has. Since then I have been a part of several discussions regarding the pre-orientation week for international students. I am currently an admin on the iCent app and the MSU will be sharing resources such as landlord information, our services and clubs so that incoming international students are aware of the MSU and what services we provide. It is through my involvement with Student Affairs and their pre-orientation week, I will be able to determine the logistics of a shuttle bus for the following year and hopefully pave ways so that at least a departure bus can be a priority for this year. I will have more answers on the next report as it is hard to determine the success of this program when it has not happened yet. The success of this program can determine and shape the success of getting shuttle busses or any sort of organized transportation for folks to and from the airport.

Vision Conference

Getting traction in the summer is difficult. This was a project that has developed over the years. From Mary, Teddy to Chukky and now me. The goal behind this is to create opportunities for student groups to connect and to showcase that the MSU as an organization is prioritizing the development of student leaders and to better resource folks. It is a dream to see tons of student groups collaborate with their events so that there are diversifying their outreach. Student leaders on campus are so passionate and they are all doing incredible things and it is my goal to ensure that they are recognized and well-resourced. This year's conference theme is "Professional Development" and it is a networking opportunity for clubs to decrease duplicity in events, an opportunity to

gain skills and share best practices. I will update the group on the conference; however, I am going to encourage next year's president – if they decide to do it – to consider doing it in the school year.

Food on Campus:

Tax-Free-Tuesdays and Increasing Healthier Food Options is a go. After meeting with Chris Roberts this summer, we both agreed that November would be the best time to pilot Tax-Free-Tuesdays. That way, it is a full month and students are well-settled into campus and they are aware of the food options that we have. As for an increase of healthier foods, Chris had informed me that this project and operating out of Bridges is not the most ideal as they have limited staff in Bridges. However, Centro is introducing two new stations, Simple and Plantree. These are vegetarian options and one of the stations is actually free of the 20 most-common food allergies. Centro has the capacity and the staff to prepare these meals on the go. The start date of this is undetermined, Chris and I have scheduled a meeting in mid-September to discuss further. There is no "launch date" for this as this will be on-going but in terms of promotions, when I am given that information, I will let the SRA and students at large know.

Bus Shelters on Campus:

This was a project that Chukky had ran on; however, not fully completed. It is my belief that great projects should not just disappear because there is new leadership. That has been an on-going issue within our organization. Due to turnover, there are projects that have started and not been completed and I see value in upholding the promises made to our student's body to ensure that there is trust between the union and the students at large – this is important.

In the beginning of my term I had reached out to Robert Craik who had done a walkthrough with Chukky. Initially the project was meant to be split between the city, the MSU and the University. However, there has been no precedent where our organization has paid for infrastructure. The MSU should not be paying for bus shelters as this is University property and a service provided by the City. While working with Gord Arbeau, Robert Craik, Aidan Johnson and Stephanie Bertolo, the City and the University had secured funding for the bus shelters. The MSU will be contributing a symbolic donation and these bus shelters are on its way to be refurbished and placed in the following areas:

- University and Forsyth (both sides)
- Sterling at Forsyth
- Sterling at University

Best,
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