

COMMITTEE YEAR PLAN
MSU AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs

Urszula Sitarz

2018-2019

(submitted September 4, 2018)



OFFICE OF THE AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs

INTRODUCTION

Dear Members of the Assembly,

It is with great excitement that I share the plans for the 2018-2019 SRA Standing Committee of Provincial & Federal Affairs. I am honoured to be in this role once again and I greatly look forward to working with each of you.

My goals for this year are outlined below, but what I really want to focus this letter on is my support of you. As a returning member of the Education Team, and returning to the same role, I would like to express my support for you in completing your year plans. Having read yours, I see that there is overlap. As we go through this year, I ask that you consider myself and the rest of the Education Department as a resource.

For the members of the Assembly on this committee, I am so excited to get started! Our year is going to be whirlwind and so fulfilling. Our political climate is quite interesting, to say the least, and election years bring so much opportunity, much like your roles on the Assembly and on this Committee.

Best of luck this year! I can't wait to see what we accomplish.

Yours,

Urszula Sitarz

AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs

McMaster Students Union

COMMITTEE GOALS

Objective 1	UCRU Budget Submission in Advance of Budget 2020
Description	On behalf of the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities, the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee will prepare a Budget Submission to the federal Standing Committee on Finance in advance of Budget 2020.
Benefits	An official budget submission to the Finance Committee is the most direct method of advocacy at the Federal level. Submissions are reviewed by the committee, with the possibility to present the submission to the committee. As an experienced writer of federal budget submissions and policy

	knowledge, the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee is well-suited for this task.
Difficulties	The Fall 2019 Federal Election creates some uncertainty in advance of Budget 2020; however, our evidence-based methodology provides strong arguments for our recommendations.
How?	After UCRU Lobbying Week 2018 in Ottawa, the UCRU Steering Committee will decide on the recommendations to be put forth in the Pre-Budget 2020 Submission. This project will be completed in the Winter term, with ample time for the outgoing executives to review and revise the submission.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial & Federal Affairs Committee • UCRU Steering Committee

Objective 2	Plan and execute #textbookbroke campaign with OUSA
Description	After the inaugural #textbookbroke campaign in Winter 2018, we will run the campaign in September 2018. In partnership with OUSA, the Campus Store, and McMaster’s OER Committee, we are encouraging professors to adopt/adapt OERs while raising awareness of the eCampus Ontario textbook library. The key messages of this campaign are: informing students of OERs and the textbook library, which is ideally searched before students purchase their textbooks; that OERs are peer-reviewed, quality, and adaptable; and that open textbooks can reduce the financial barrier of textbooks. Following up with professors will be a key part of this campaign to ensure that they feel supported and have the resources necessary to adopt Open Resources in their classroom.
Benefits	The second #textbookbroke campaign in one calendar year will build on the momentum built from the first campaign. As different partners become more invested in OERs, such as the MacPherson Institute and the librarians, Open Access will become more prevalent at McMaster.
Difficulties	As this campaign occurs at the beginning of the school year, we won’t have our Advocacy Ambassador volunteer base. We will have to rely on the members of our Education Team Standing Committees. This means that our volunteer base is smaller, but it is quite dedicated.
How?	Through the OUSA campaign package and working with our partners, we will develop a tabling schedule for the week of September 10-14 and social media schedule from September 10-21. We will adapt the OUSA resources and work with the Campus Store to best suit the campaign to McMaster.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Education Stephanie Bertolo • OUSA • Advocacy Coordinator Elisha Martin • Campus Store • MacPherson Institute

Objective 3	Preparation for Federal Election 2019
Description	In Winter term, the committee will prepare for the MacVotes campaign to be run during Fall 2019. In partnership with our Advocacy Coordinator Elisha Martin we will design the campaign, including any advanced logistical problems, including an on-campus voting booth, candidates' debate, and so on.
Benefits	The 2019 Federal Election will be in October at the latest and to be best prepared, it is important to start planning early. This provides ample time to be well-prepared, especially if the election is called earlier than expected. The 2015 Federal election was largely decided by the youth vote. A high youth voter turnout is incredibly important for our advocacy efforts and a well-run campaign greatly helps with that.
Difficulties	To ensure that the next AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs and Advocacy Coordinator have autonomy, the campaign plan will have a great deal of flexibility.
How?	I have experience planning MacVotes and in partnership with Stephanie, Elisha, and the committee, we will develop a campaign outline by the later half of the Winter term.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster Elections Committee • VP Education Stephanie Bertolo • Advocacy Coordinator Elisha Martin • MSU Communications Department

Objective 4	Student Perceptions of Data Collection
Description	Use the survey developed by the 2017-2018 Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee to determine student perceptions of data collection, particularly with regard to demographic data. The data from this survey will be compiled into a report.
Benefits	The report that results from the survey can be used to support lobbying efforts for data collection with the Ontario Education Number (OEN).
Difficulties	The future uses of the report will be determined by the outcome of the survey. Student mistrust in data collection speaks to a greater problem and will require further understanding of where the mistrust comes from and how to gain trust.
How?	The survey questions were written by past committee members, but the Education Team should be consulted on them before the survey is released. Work with the Underground, Stephanie, and the advocacy team to promote the survey. Leave the survey open for approximately three weeks (or have it open for a while and do promotions at different times).
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU Education Team • The Underground • Advocacy Coordinator Elisha Martin • Education Team Research Assistants

Objective 5	Plan and execute OUSA Experiential Education campaign
Description	OUSA is executing an Experiential Education campaign in the Winter term and to prepare for it, our committee will map out what experiential education looks like at McMaster. This will highlight gaps in opportunities and successes across campus. The information will be used in the campaign to inform students of the opportunities available to them, as well as in lobbying efforts to reduce the gaps.
Benefits	Experiential education is an incredibly important part of the current post-secondary landscape and with the current government, employability is a critical outcome of post-secondary education.
Difficulties	There are significant gaps in experiential education at McMaster and highlighting these gaps can be difficult. Further, reducing the gaps is a lengthy process. However, the gaps cannot be closed without understanding them and where they come from.
How?	The committee will complete a report, which will involve student testimony and consultation with faculty partners. We will work with Elisha, our Advocacy Coordinator, and with OUSA to prepare for the campaign execution on campus.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster Experiential Education Offices • OUSA • Advocacy Coordinator Elisha Martin

Objective 6	Metrolinx and Provincial Transportation
Description	Get in contact with Metrolinx to see when they plan on visiting McMaster University. The purpose of this relationship is to obtain data specific to McMaster University and the use of Metrolinx by MSU members.
Benefits	Provincial transportation is an issue relevant to many McMaster students, specifically as a high-commuter campus. An established relationship with Metrolinx can help with access to McMaster-specific data, which can further any transportation-related advocacy.
Difficulties	In the past, developing a relationship with Metrolinx has been a challenge. However, the relationship would be mutually beneficial. It is critical to emphasize the mutual benefits that can come from the relationship and to establish goals for the partnership, including a better experience for McMaster students using Metrolinx services. Metrolinx comes to campuses with GO stops at least once a year and through shared efforts, we can collect more comprehensive data.
How?	This begins with reaching out to Metrolinx and working to develop shared goals. This will be a dynamic process and I will work closely with Stephanie to make the most out of it.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP Education Stephanie Bertolo • MSU President Ikram Farah

GOALS to strive for

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September

- Year plan
- Outline for student perceptions of data collection survey
- Prepare for the school year
- Complete individual AVP tasks

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)

- Close student perceptions of data collection survey
- Complete experiential education at McMaster report
- Finalize Experiential Education Campaign plans
- Develop partnership with Metrolinx
- Report of follow up in the aftermath of #textbookbroke

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)

- Complete UCRU Budget Submission
- Complete data collection report
- Execute experiential education campaign
- Finalize plans for MacVotes 2019
- Report in the aftermath of Experiential Education campaign

Master Summary

May-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began communication and scheduled term 1 meetings • Consulted Stephanie, my transition report, and my committee • Wrote year plan • Co-planned #textbookbroke campaign
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute #textbookbroke • Follow up with professors and campus partners • Finalize data collection survey questions with committee and Communications • Promote OUSA General Assembly delegate applications • Reach out to Metrolinx • Begin report on experiential education at McMaster

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop promotions for and open data collection survey • Consultations for experiential education report • Continue Metrolinx partnership, including data sharing • Follow up with professors and students about #textbookbroke, develop master summary of results • Prepare for OUSA Experiential Education Campaign
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUSA General Assembly at McMaster University • Complete experiential education report • Complete MSU policies, including policy conference • Close data collection survey and begin to analyze data • Finalize plans for OUSA Experiential Education Campaign at McMaster
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection survey analysis • Determine recommendations for UCRU Budget Submission in Advance of Budget 2020
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute OUSA Experiential Education campaign • Start UCRU Budget Submission in Advance of 2020 • Start preparations for Federal Election 2019, including the elections committee • Continue data collection survey analysis and start report • Promote OUSA General Assembly delegate applications
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete UCRU Budget submission by late February/early March • Consultations with elections committee • Continue planning for Federal 2019 • Continue data collection report • Follow up with faculty and students after experiential education campaign
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUSA General Assembly at the University of Waterloo • Complete UCRU Budget Submission (if not by end of February) • Complete MSU Policies, including policy conference • Finalize plans for Federal MacVotes 2019 • Complete data collection report
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete transition report • Revision of UCRU Budget Submission with the incoming UCRU Steering Committee