



REPORT

From the office of the...

AVP: Municipal Affairs

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Shemar Hackett, Associate Vice-President: Municipal Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 18N Report
DATE: February 3rd, 2019

Dear Members of the Assembly,

As this is my first report of 2019, Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a great and relaxing break. These past two months have been a nice break, but there was still plenty to do. The following includes everything that I've done since the last time I reported (which was all the way in November). As always, if there is anything you would like me to elaborate on, email me and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

Presence at Community Meetings

Community meetings can be difficult to keep up with as the meetings don't always align with my schedule. I have attended a few community meetings for the new term and will maintain communication through email when I'm not able to physically attend.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Meeting with Terry Cooke

This meeting was supposed to be a part of advocacy week, but due to schedules not being aligned we moved up the meeting to better accommodate Terry. Terry Cooke is the president of the Hamilton Community Foundation, a local organization in Hamilton that aims to better the lives of Hamiltonians by investing in various projects across the city. We met with him to discuss building stronger relationships between the university and the City. We also discussed getting HCF to fund CLAY through their ABACUS program.

Municipal Budget Submission

Our Municipal Budget Submission is finished! The final report will be posted on the MSU website within the next two weeks for everyone to look through. Our priorities are the same as previously stated, except we removed our section on waste management and replaced it with a section on lighting off-campus. We will be using our budget submission to lobby stakeholders for the rest of the semester.

Landlord Rating System

Many of you saw that we launched the Landlord Rating System at the beginning of the month. We had numerous students join the website and review their house. I have asked Haley to make another general graphic to be posted online for the rest of the semester to periodically remind students to review their student house. I'm also looking into filming a short video, depending on time, highlighting why students should go on the website and review their house. There service is great and we are currently focused on building a strong foundation of reviews for the website before using the website's full features of finding a student house. I'm very happy that we finally have a rating system!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Municipal Advocacy Week

From February 5th-16th my committee and I will be having our second annual Municipal Lobby Week! We have set up meeting with a series of stakeholders and councilors in Hamilton and will be meeting with them to discuss various student issues from bylaws and enforcement to transit in Hamilton. I will send a report to the SRA at some point in march highlighting the talking points of all of the meetings.

Public Delegation

On February 11th City Council will be holding a public delegation to all Hamiltonians to discuss the upcoming budget. I have written a letter and will be briefly presenting to council on this day. If you are interested in speaking or coming out to the delegations, please let me know! Delegations should start at 3:00.

Policy Paper

This semester I'm an author on the *Student Housing in Near-Campus Neighborhoods* paper. We have recently had our think tank and have started writing our body paragraphs. Policy Con is scheduled for the last week of February and I'm excited to write this paper as housing in Hamilton has seen many changes over the past 3 years.

Fred Eisenberger

Maureen Wilson will be presenting at this upcoming SRA meeting and Fred Eisenberger should hopefully be attending our February 24th meeting to give a short presentation. I highly encourage everyone to do a little bit of research ahead of time and think of a few questions to ask Maureen in preparation for this meeting. If you wanted insight on a few topics to mention or wanted to run a question you had in mind by me, feel free to message me!

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Everything seems to be going well thus far. The only challenge I'm experiencing is time. There are so many local events, city council meetings and projects here at Mac to be a part of and it's difficult prioritizing what should be done and what can be passed off.

VOLUNTEERS

Special shout out to my committee for being amazing thus far. It can be difficult to balance writing policy papers, working on committee projects and be a full-time student. I really appreciate all their help so far and look forward to a great term!

SUCSESSES

Finishing the budget submission is a major success as we have been working on it for quite some time now. Another success is the launch of the Rating System. Though we still need to do lots of work promoting it and getting it up and running, this has been a project that took years to implement. It's great to finally see this come to fruition.

Best,

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