

# YEAR PLAN

## SRA Science

### 2019-2020

**19E**  
July 21st, 2019

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## INTRODUCTION

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Hello,

You're looking at the SRA Science 2019-20 Year Plan! The following year plan has been constructed based on our year long plans and ways in which we plan to execute them, along with goals and a master timeline. The following year plan consists of a few overarching themes that relate to improving the student experience at McMaster.

The main goals we hope to achieve are to increase student engagement at the university and government level, improve educational experiences through advocacy, and improve science education. We hope to achieve the first by improving relations with the MSS, reaching out extensively on social media, and conducting campaigns to help better inform the student about the SRA, what our role is, and how we can help create positive change for students. Our second main goal is to improve the educational experiences of students. This will be done through various methods, including longer library hours, better access to student academic resources, and better access to mental health resources. Finally, our third main goal is to better educate the student body about science through improved advocacy to governmental bodies, campaigns focused on climate change, food waste, and ecologically conscious food options.

We are excited to step into our roles of leadership this year while collaborating with numerous campus partners, the Student Representative Assembly, and the various perspectives, ideas, and opinions of the student body to deliver on our promises. Within this year plan, there is emphasis on 16 main objectives as well as the members who plan to push for these changes. We hope you take the time to read through the objectives and if you have any questions or would like to join us in any of our points, please feel free to reach out!

Yours in governance,

**Ashley Reddy**

Caucus Leader, SRA Science

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## GOALS

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<b>Objective 1</b>	Student Engagement with the SRA
SRA Members	Ashley, Nicolas, Sonya, Joseph, Simranjeet Singh
Description	A vast majority of the population we represent don't understand who the SRA are, what we do, and how beneficial we are to student life and academics. The goal is to get students more involved, ensure that students are aware of the prominent issues within the school, and provide support for students.
Benefits	The assembly represents the undergraduate student body, thus bringing more awareness opens up opportunity to students to voice their opinions about topics the SRA discuss. It provides students with an avenue of support necessary to allow for student success and wellness.
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scheduling within the caucus due to time conflicts and academic priority</li> <li>● Reaching a large number of students is hard especially in science where students are spread out across a variety of disciplines and Majors</li> <li>● sometimes engagement efforts can become apathetic due to repetition so the goal is to keep things difference by using perspective from different caucus members</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Less miscommunication between the MSU and its students, a resource students can use throughout their education at McMaster, strengthens relations and hopefully negates some negative images of the MSU and SRA. Effective communication of issues, events, and opportunities for students.
How?	Through the provision of weekly update posts that are brief and provide an overview of what the SRA is currently working on and updates on topics discussed during SRA meetings/ new policies that are passed. In addition, office hours held by SRA science will have topics bi-weekly pertaining to relevant issues the SRA is working on to not provide information, get student opinions, and involvement. The weeks without topics will be dedicated to direct student feedback and engagement. Office hours will also be held in central locations like MUSC as often as possible in order to increase accessibility and engagement. Better promotion of SRA events, issues, and news such as videos, pictures, and campaigns with the help of the communications department. These promotions will include an introductory video for the new science caucus as well as increased presence on social media through videos and pictures. Collecting feedback for various issues through various platforms such as social media or physical feedback boxes in central areas on campus. The key to sustainable engagement is engaging with first year students as much as possible, thus when MSU events are happening and issues affecting students come up, promotion through classroom talks will be utilized and by making specialized posts on social media geared toward first years. This also means reaching out to the first years through our social media.

Campus Partners	McMaster Science Society, Office of the Dean, MSU, Communication Director
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<b>Objective 2</b>	Textbook Accessibility and OERs
SRA Members	Ashley Reddy and Simranjeet Singh
Description	Students have constantly reported never using their textbook, and this is especially the case in first year when almost every course has a "required" textbook! Many students complain about spending hundreds on textbooks that are left unused. Continuing with the strides made in past years to advocate for Open Education Resources (OER's), there needs to be greater efforts to reach students and teachers get rid of unnecessary textbooks and implement OER's. OER's are essentially a free online textbook created by professors and the whole program is funded by the Ontario government. These online, free, and easily accessible textbooks which contain similar information to textbooks sold in the bookstore can be a substitute and by doing this, classes become accessible for students with financial need while also having all the information necessary for student success!
Benefits	Textbooks are extremely expensive and many students can't afford to purchase all the required textbooks that professors list off. This increases accessibility to these classes for students with financial need and decrease the stress involved with financial insecurity. OER's improve on student success as it provides relief from costly textbooks. It continues to allow students with physical accessibility needs from carrying heavy books throughout campus.
Difficulties	Advocating to professors has been hard in the past due to concerns about how OER's work and whether or not it is beneficial to both students and the University. Advocating for OER's has proven difficulty on a large scale. Small scale booths and some social media promotion has been effective in the past, but reaching a large number of students at once while trying to keep confusion to a minimum has been difficult.
Long-term implications	By reducing textbook costs, students will be able to pick from a wider range of courses throughout their University career. Through continued advocacy efforts, slowly students and professors will become more familiar with the idea and a sense of confusion and mistrust in OER's will begin to fade. This will allow opportunity for implementation of OER's first at a small scale, for example a few professors in a few departments and will hopefully grow to impact every department at the University.
How?	Through the help of the education department, in past years there has been an OER campaign that essentially spreads awareness of OERs to the student body through a joint i-person, booth and social media campaign. It allows students to gain a better understanding of what OERs are and allows them to begin advocating for them. It also provides a platform for discussion as to why McMaster hasn't implemented them already and inform unaware professors about them too. Another thing I

	would like to do is advocate to professors directly by going to their office hours and not only telling them about OERs but also collecting their concerns and having discussions.
Campus Partners	MSU education team, MSS, Office of the Dean, bookstore

<b>Objective 3</b>	Diversity In the curriculum
SRA Members	Ashley
Description	Within STEM fields, there is a focus on educating students about research, lab skills, science communication, discovery, and more but rarely is there a focus on matters regarding systematic oppression, minorities, diversity, how to create inclusive environments, and how to promote equity. These topics are experienced in day to day lives, in class, volunteering, but there is an extreme lack of discussion within science. This past year I worked on the “Racial, Cultural, and Religious Equity Policy Paper” and want to continue advocating for the implementation of diversity into the curriculum.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● prepares and educates students on issues of equity before entering into fields without prior knowledge and feeling equipped to handle challenges such as discrimination, ignorance, and lack of inclusivity and acceptance</li> <li>● allows students to gain different perspectives which will help them navigate their future careers</li> <li>● reducing the gap between student education and success</li> <li>● educating students on ways to identify and remove barriers both in their education and futures</li> </ul>
Difficulties	Students within science are quite overloaded with coursework as is, so it may prove difficult to implement another part to their curriculum. Professors and the University may not be interested in pursuing this due to lack of interest and views that education in equity and inclusion is unnecessary.
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- advocating for diversity in small ways now allows for discussion about implementing diversity into the curriculum</li> <li>- improves opportunities for students and educates all on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion which has long-term impacts on student success and future careers</li> </ul>
How?	By advocating to the University about this issue, it opens up avenues for discussion and innovation for new ideas of how McMaster will choose to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into the curriculum for Science students and eventually, all McMaster undergraduate students. Discussions with students, professors, and faculty members about interest, concerns, and essentially advocating through these discussions. This discussion will be held through the caucus’ social media and through office hours with students, approaching professors while also attending conferences and forums that bring students and faculty together. Beyond advocacy, I would like to bring the idea to the office of the dean and form connections within the faculty of science, while also reaching out to the proper partners on campus to begin looking at feasibility and first steps.
Campus Partners	Equity and Inclusion office, Office of the Dean, MSU education team

<b>Objective 4</b>	Continued MSS Relations
SRA Members	Ashley, Simranjeet Singh, Christy, Joseph, Nicolas, Sonya, Armand
Description	As SRA Science we believe it is essential to sustain and nurture strong relations with the McMaster Science Society (MSS) executive.
Benefits	Increased communication between the faculty society and the MSU Opportunities for collaboration on complementary projects Strengthened advocacy for science students SRA Science participation in MSS activities An increasingly informed student populace
Difficulties	Both the MSU and MSS are frequently subject to large amounts of new information and reformations, concisely and consistently keeping all relevant information adequately communicated may prove difficult
Long-term implications	We could have better relationships with the MSS and thus have more institutional memory when there is a transition to a new team. This could be the start of joint advocacy that should've been more prominent before.
How?	Various efforts by both SRA Science and the MSS to interact together with science students (I Love Science Day, Science GA, other social and political events), using individual SRA Members' pre-existing relationships to promote cross-education, concurrent meetings with the Dean of Science.
Campus Partners	MSS, Dean of Science, Associate Dean of Science

<b>Objective 5</b>	Education about Climate Change and its Implications on the World
SRA Members	Simranjeet Singh, Ashley Reddy, Sonya Grewal, Joseph Vincent De Fazio
Description	The purpose of this initiative is to essentially showcase the importance of environmental education and protection. We hope to inform students about the value of protecting the Earth's planet, and the importance of reducing waste, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and overconsumption. This will involve educating students about how waste is created, how GHG emissions cause long-term heating, and how human impacts are causing havoc on the planet.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Informs students of the importance of reducing waste production.</li> <li>● Gives students the background knowledge to understand what GHG emissions are.</li> <li>● Helps students learn about and understand the mechanisms behind climate change.</li> <li>● Educates students about the human impact of climate change.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Informing a large portion of the McMaster student body will be difficult with relatively few resources.</li> <li>● To keep with the ideas of this initiative, we hope that the environmental footprint of this information campaign are low. This will reduce our ability to use many paper flyers/posters.</li> <li>● Engaging with the university and trying to influence it to reduce its environmental impact (even in small ways) may be quite difficult.</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● McMaster student body will be more educated and informed about the environment, climate change, and the impacts on humans as well as the planet as a result of climate change.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be able to make more informed decisions in the future. This will encompass everything from clothes and consumer goods purchases, to transportation and diet choices.</li> <li>• The goal is that the information campaign will result in a student body that is less polluting and more understanding of what climate change is.</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with the university and Facility management staff as to how to effectively communicate to students.</li> <li>• Information brochures can be handed out at SRA office hours to inform students who may come to visit.</li> <li>• Tabling can be done periodically by the SRA in public areas to raise awareness. Brochures and other information could also be given to students if they stop by.</li> <li>• This information could be sent to a student via email instead of through a paper brochure when they visit office hours or come to a SRA table.</li> <li>• Social media and periodic class talks can also be used to help inform more students. These could also be used to direct students to SRA members when they are tabling.</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	VP Finance - Alexandria Johnston AVP and Chief Facilities Operator - Debbie Martin Director of Engineering Operations - Joe Emberson

<b>Objective 6</b>	Improvement to Club Ratification, Monitoring, and Management
SRA Members	Simranjeet Singh and Brittany Williams (from SRA Commerce)
Description	<p>There are over 300 clubs registered with the MSU, and they offer a great opportunity for students to share experiences with other students in their various interests and hobbies. While the Clubs registration process has multiple steps, there are improvements that can be made to ensure clubs are held to higher standards to prevent mismanagement or other problems. In light of the incident in 2019 with multiple clubs contacting the Chinese consulate, possibly to intimidate a student McMaster consulate, we believe there are clear improvements that can be made to hold clubs to higher standards. While the EIO did not find any definite proof of wrongdoing, the investigation has not been made public. There is probable cause to believe such an event may have been malevolent in nature, and thus it demands a review of club ratification and monitoring policies to reduce the likelihood of such events happening in the future.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the likelihood of clubs committing actions that may be intended to harm other clubs, students, individuals, or groups.</li> <li>• Create more oversight of clubs and make the process of submitting complaints more accessible.</li> <li>• Help to prevent students in clubs be better informed of what actions against other bodies, clubs, or individuals are considered acceptable.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring clubs can freely express beliefs, views, interests, and topics of varying social, religious, political, and economic</li> </ul>

	<p>perspective may be difficult when restricted very finely worded bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring changes to bylaws can actually consequentially benefit the goal will be difficult and will require external advice.</li> <li>• Improving club monitoring will be difficult due to their large number and lack of resources to monitor them.</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing likelihood of intimidation being carried out by clubs for nefarious reasons.</li> <li>• Creating a more welcoming environment for students in and not in clubs by reducing the likelihood of pernicious actions by clubs.</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with Internal Governance Committee, and Clubs Admin on changes to legislation and club ratification.</li> <li>• Introducing a method to periodically audit club actions, events, and connections to other bodies (how this will be done is not yet finalized).</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Clubs Administrator Equity and Inclusion Office Internal Governance Standing Committee, and specifically the AVP of Internal Governance, Graeme Noble.

<b>Objective 7</b>	Extension to Club Fest Schedule
SRA Members	Simranjeet Singh
Description	Clubs Fest is a great opportunity at the beginning of every school year for students to learn more about the various student groups that exist at McMaster. Clubs offer students a huge variety of different opportunities to be involved in topics and activities that interest them. Because of this, I hope to work with the MSU Clubs Department to institute a 2-day Club Fest in the first semester of the school year, as well as a secondary 1 day club fair at the beginning of the second semester.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students often have extensive class schedules with multiple classes in one day. This prevents many students from having enough time to learn about the various clubs that exist at McMaster on Club Fest Day. Extending Club Fest by a day will increase the opportunities students have to learn about different clubs at McMaster and become more engaged in the McMaster community.</li> <li>• Adding a second Clubs Fest day in second semester will allow students to learn about clubs and join them after they have better settled into the McMaster community. First year students especially need first semester to adjust the large transition from high school to university. A second semester Club Fest will give them the opportunity to become involved after they feel more comfortable.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will require more logistics and management from the Clubs Department to successfully hold an extended, plus a second Clubs Fest.</li> <li>• Clubs may find it difficult to table for two days in a row and again in second semester due to limited student resources within clubs and due to conflicts with classes as well as other commitments.</li> </ul>

Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When done successfully, an Extended Clubs Fest accompanied by a second semester Clubs Fest will help more students become involved in clubs.</li> <li>• It will allow for clubs to be more well known on campus, and foster a more welcoming and expansive McMaster community with more student involvement.</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will work with the Clubs Department, and specifically the Clubs Administrator to inform clubs of the opportunity to table for two days and to be table again in second semester.</li> <li>• We will also work with the Clubs Department to manage costs, expenses, and tabling space to ensure clubs can fairly use the time allotted to market themselves.</li> <li>• The marketing campaign for Clubs Fest will clearly inform students of the extended nature of Clubs Fest, giving them foreknowledge to be able to attend.</li> <li>• A second semester “Mini-Clubs Fest” was trialed in the 2018-2019 school year, so we will use the knowledge gained from that to best enhance the 2019-2020 Clubs Fest.</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Clubs Administrator

<b>Objective 8</b>	Extended Thode Library Hours
SRA Members	Simranjeet Singh
Description	Thode Library is a bastion for student learning. The library is filled with countless helpful resources and study spaces that are a huge boon to student learning. However, due to budget constraints, McMaster university planned to phase back the opening hours of Thode Library from 2 AM on weekdays (during the 2018-2019 school year) to 11 PM (as in previous school years). While late night studying is not always ideal, many students prefer later studying, and Thode library is a great environment to allow this. Due to his student need, we hope to propose an extension to Thode Library hours to 3 AM to the Office of the Dean of Science.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extended hours will allow students access to library study areas, areas which are often much more quiet and peaceful than loud student homes or residences.</li> <li>• Students can study in a safe environment even later at night, without having to disturb their roommates or housemates by studying late at night at home/residence.</li> <li>• Gives students longer access to library resources without necessarily having to check them out of the library.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be difficult to persuade Dean of Science due to budgetary constraints.</li> <li>• Questions do exist about how many students may remain at the library late at night, and thus if there is even any reason to even keep the libraries open late into the night.</li> <li>• It is important that extended library hours do not encourage bad habits such as students leaving garbage in libraries late at night, or possibly even sleeping in libraries.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is also important that late opening hours don't cause libraries to be perceived as areas to simply socialize as this may reduce the quality of the learning environment they have.</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will have greater access to library resources and be able to spend more time studying effectively.</li> <li>This will give them more support, allowing them to be more academically successful.</li> <li>Students will have access to a safe studying place even at night, without having to disturb fellow roommates/housemates.</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will write a formal persuasive letter to the Dean of Science. This letter will include library survey data, cost data, and library use data that has been acquired to present a picture to the Dean that there is a great need that the extended hours be maintained and not rolled back.</li> <li>This will be done in conjunction with Connor Maclean, who has done previous work on the topic.</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Connor Maclean Office of the Dean of Science Associate University Librarian - Anne Pottier

<b>Objective 9</b>	Extended IAHS Library Hours
SRA Members	Simranjeet Singh
Description	Just as Thode Library, the IAHS library is also a great resource for students. It offers a unique learning space, and is especially useful to Mohawk-McMaster students as well as Mohawk College students who attend classes at McMaster. However, it closes at about 8 PM on weekdays, quite an early time that prevents students from having access to helpful resources they will be unable to find anywhere else. We hope to extend their hours to at least 10 PM, the time that the IAHS building closes on weekdays. This will allow students from Mohawk College, Mohawk-McMaster, and McMaster students as well to use the space more effectively and have a more positive educational experience.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will have another option for a library to study in. This library is generally not as busy as larger libraries on McMaster's campus, making it especially beneficial if it stays open longer.</li> <li>Longer hours will give students greater access to the services offered by Mohawk college they desire if they are affiliated with the college.</li> <li>In addition, it will give McMaster students an option of another location to study if prefer a less busy, and smaller library.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will have to engage with Mohawk College, which may be difficult as they do not have as large of a student advocacy history as McMaster. This may make it more difficult to persuade the college of changes.</li> <li>There has been no research or surveys done as of yet about the student opinions of the library. This is unlike with Thode library, where much work has already been done. This may complicate the process and extend how long it takes for changes to be made.</li> </ul>

Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students, whether from Mohawk college, McMaster University, or affiliated with both institutions will be able to spend time in a smaller, more private library for longer periods of time. This will undoubtedly have a positive impact on their learning experience.</li> <li>Mohawk College and Mohawk-McMaster students will be better able to use the resources offered to them by Mohawk college in a safe environment even at later times in the night.</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will work with Mohawk College administration to both communicate the student need for extended library hours, as well as to advocate for extensions.</li> <li>This will involve meeting with Mohawk College administration at the college, conducting library surveys, and holding polls of both McMaster students and Mohawk-affiliated students who use the library's services.</li> <li>Cost analyses may also be conducted to assess the increased cost of maintaining and running the library during extended hours.</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Various members of Mohawk College Administration, such as Leslie Marshall, the Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning at Mohawk College

<b>Objective 10</b>	Increasing Student Engagement with Provincial and Federal Politics
SRA Members	Nicolas Belliveau, Joseph Vincent De Fazio
Description	During my time at McMaster, I have found that, in comparison to other university campuses, students are less politically engaged and are generally less interested/knowledgeable in provincial and federal politics. This is an area that I believe McMaster needs to improve and ultimately pursue in order to cultivate a passionate student body and future student leaders.
Benefits	The benefits of trying to get students to engage more with provincial and federal politics are that, firstly, we create a more informed student body. Additionally, students will be more aware and get a better understanding of how the decisions of our elected representatives affects their day-to-day lives. The issues that we relay to the student body may increase student engagement as these are issues that students may feel passionate about and would want to improve and pursue. As a member of the Provincial and Federal Affairs committee, I want to ensure that the students are aware of the specifics of our advocacy efforts and that there is transparency to help potentially eliminate the "MSU bubble".
Difficulties	Some difficulties that may arise when pursuing this goal is that it is important to remain neutral and not let our personal biases influence us when relaying information to the student body. Additionally, it will be difficult in deciding which information/stories we would like to relay to our constituents.
Long-term implications	This objective will help to reduce the divide that is often felt by students between them and the MSU. We hope that we will foster a more transparent environment and that students will feel more engaged and informed in the decisions being made on their behalf on provincial and federal matters.

How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making use of social media platforms (Facebook page and Instagram page) to get the most outreach</li> <li>• Referencing credible news outlets and summarizing relevant information that would affect constituents</li> <li>• Working with the Provincial and Federal Affairs committee and keeping up to date with their projects and advocacy efforts</li> <li>• Possibly start a weekly newsletter and a LISTSERV?</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	The Silhouette, the Provincial and Federal Affairs committee, VP Education.

<b>Objective 11</b>	Tackling Social Media and Its Effects on Student Mental Health
SRA Members	Nicolas Belliveau, Ashley Reddy, Joseph Vincent De Fazio
Description	During my campaign for SRA, I advocated for greater and more accessible mental health resources on campus. However, after speaking with former SRA members and learning about the financial and space constraints of such pursuits, I wanted to take a different approach into addressing increased mental health issues facing students on campus. As such, throughout the year, I want to find alternative ways to address mental health needs by researching other schools and their approaches, by relaying different mental health resources to students, and to promoting healthy living.
Benefits	With mental health issues and illnesses on the rise within student bodies on campuses, I believe it would be a disservice not to address this increasingly demanding issue as representatives of the undergraduate body. The benefits of pursuing such an endeavour would benefit a large majority of the student body and would help any student feeling alone and helpless in their struggles. As someone who has had to navigate the Student Wellness Centre to find the essential help I needed to cope with my mental health issues, I know how daunting and overwhelming it may be to find the right resources. However, once I took those first few steps, I realized how many resources McMaster offers that are oftentimes unknown to students.
Difficulties	The difficulties that come with addressing student mental health on campus are many. Firstly, it is an issue that former caucuses have attempted to address with many broken promises made along the way. Making systematic change has proven to be difficult and oftentimes unfeasible given the current space constraints. Also, addressing social media use and its effect on mental health will also be tricky as us students rely HEAVILY on social media for almost everything, from upcoming campus events to course group chats. As such, creativity and originality will be key in finding alternative ways to address student mental health.
Long-term implications	All students will feel less alone and will be less overwhelmed when trying to find the right resources that benefits them. We will also attempt to cultivate a more welcoming and less stressful environment within the faculty, prioritizing student mental health. With increased social media use becoming more and more inevitable within future generations, this is an

	important step that needs to continue to be worked on to make environmental shifts.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using social media platforms (and possibly email) to relay mental health resources to students</li> <li>• Looking at other universities and the steps they have taken to address growing mental health needs on campus</li> <li>• Looking at possible events that may cultivate inclusivity and community-building within the Faculty of Science</li> <li>• Posting weekly productivity/healthy living tips that are appealing and quick to read</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Student Wellness Centre, University Affairs, VP Administration, MSS

<b>Objective 12</b>	Student participation in SRA meetings and General Assembly
SRA Members	Christy Au-Yeung
Description	Many students are unaware of what goes on during SRA meetings and initiatives that MSU are working on. Thus, students are reluctant to participate in GA. This problem is two-pronged resulting in the general student body feeling that their concerns are not being heard or met, and those on the MSU/ SRA not receiving appropriate feedback, or enough student support to pass new policies (i.e attendance at GA not meeting quorum). By engaging students in MSU initiatives and increasing their participation in SRA meetings and general assembly, student feedback can be collected in order to guide new policies and decisions being made!
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness that the student body has towards current issues at the university and allows them to more actively participate in such decision making processes</li> <li>• Allows SRA members to collect more feedback from students in order to guide the creation of new policies and initiatives</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among many other clubs and events on campus, it is difficult to pique the interest of students</li> <li>• Difficulty in conveying the importance of certain events to students</li> <li>• Scheduling GA during times that allows for the most students to participate</li> <li>• Encouraging students to attend SRA meetings despite long meeting hours</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to better serve the student population</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving quality &amp; accessibility of live streams: using better quality microphones, providing timestamps for when each topic is discussed</li> <li>• Providing summaries of each meeting in an easily accessible format (ex: Description on the facebook page, SRA instagram stories etc)</li> <li>• Creating more incentives for students to participate in GA</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing students to provide feedback in feedback boxes (located in libraries), Snapchat, Instagram dm's, facebook</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	MSS Different clubs/ faculty societies Other SRA members

<b>Objective 13</b>	Reducing food waste
SRA Members	Christy Au-Yeung, Simranjeet Singh, Joseph Vincent De Fazio, Sonya Grewal, Ashley
Description	According to the Food Recovery Network, college campus dining leads to 22 million pounds of food waste yearly. In an age where waste reduction is gaining more awareness in society (ex: widespread use of reusable straws and containers), it is important that our university also keeps up in such efforts.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing food waste</li> <li>• Informing students about different ways to reduce food waste which can be applied to lifestyle choices off-campus</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring these changes are long term</li> <li>• Bringing to light the importance of such issues</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing food waste on campus</li> <li>• Encouraging future no-waste lifestyles for students as they leave university</li> <li>• Encouraging further conservation efforts</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving promotion on take-out containers</li> <li>• Selling reusable take out containers for a week at different campus locations (MUSC, campus restaurants)</li> <li>• Providing option of smaller food portions</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Hospitality services University Clubs focused on conservation (Zero Waste McMaster Club)

<b>Objective 14</b>	Increasing food security and providing economically-feasible healthy food options on campus
SRA Members	Christy Au-Yeung
Description	With the increasing concerns with food security it is extremely important to ensure that students are able to access healthy foods (that are both filling and nutritious) at competitive prices. Students spend a majority of their time on campus, and during busy seasons (i.e midterms, finals) many students rely on food options on campus. Currently food prices are extremely high, and there is not as much access to healthy food options. By allowing for students to choose healthier food choices, students are able to maintain good physical health which is beneficial for multiple aspects of their lives.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved physical health for students resulting in improvements in multitude of different aspects</li> <li>• Increased on-campus food purchases</li> </ul>

Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating healthy food options that can be economically feasible for the university</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing accessibility to healthy food options</li> <li>• Healthier lifestyles taken by students beyond their university careers</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring more students participate in bi-annual food surveys</li> <li>• Discussing new menu options with Hospitality Services</li> <li>• Incentivizing healthier food choices</li> <li>• Increasing promotions on Mac Food Collective</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	<p>Hospitality services  Mac Farmstand  VP Finance  MSU president- Josh Marando  Mac Food Collective</p>

<b>Objective 15</b>	Improving the availability of archived course reserves
SRA Members	Sonya Grewal
Description	The McMaster University Library currently has course reserves which contain material that are set aside by professors to help students excel (readings, textbooks, assignment questions/solutions, lecture notes, practice tests, etc.). In a sense, these tools can help optimize a student's learning experience and academic success. However, these archives have not been updated and are currently lacking material for upper year science courses. These course reserves should be used to the best of their abilities and to their full capacity. For this reason, I would like to improve and update the archives to enhance the learning experience.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides students with easy and accessible help outside of the classroom setting</li> <li>• Additional resources may help students get a better understanding of course content if needed</li> <li>• Will allow students to get the most of their course</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiating between resources that are appropriate to share with students and those that are not</li> <li>• For example, some professors tend to reuse their exams so it would not be appropriate to provide students with previous exams as practice tests</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will provide students with a large pool of resources collected throughout the past years</li> <li>• Can give students an idea of course expectations</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak to a representative at the library to learn how course reserves are constructed</li> <li>• Determine which courses are currently lacking in material</li> <li>• Speak with upper year science professors to see if they have any additional resources that may help students in their class excel</li> </ul>
Campus Partners	Upper year science professors Library representative

	Office of the Dean of Science
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<b>Objective 16</b>	Increased Representation of Student Advocacy and Humanitarian Efforts
SRA Members	Joseph Vincent De Fazio
Description	Increasing communication between the SRA and clubs, councils, and other on-campus and in-community organizations with the common goal of promoting student advocacy for humanitarian purposes
Benefits	The MSU will promote the ideal of students being better global citizens. Assisting communities in need of humanitarian assistance, strengthening general student voices, providing the MSU the opportunity to better promote humanitarian efforts
Difficulties	Promoting consistent communication, deciding which humanitarian efforts to promote when considering opposing values and interests
Long-term implications	Increased success of humanitarian efforts on campus, more opportunities for students to get involved in humanitarian organizations who have more success, potentially assembling an official Humanitarian Committee composed of SRA Members, Clubs' Leaders, and Members of the Community
How?	Gather contact information for heads of clubs/organizations; streamline communication efforts; provide resources for development, advice for efforts; allow humanitarian efforts voices to be better heard by members of the SRA
Campus Partners	Clubs Department, Municipal Affairs

## **GOALS to strive for**

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

1. Promotional video about the SRA
2. Finalizing extension to Club Fest Schedule.
3. Beginning dialogue with Mohawk College to discuss extension of IAHS library hours.
4. Having persuasive letter submitted to the Dean of Science to extend Thode Library hours to 3 AM on weekdays.
5. Begin discussions about promotion of takeout containers
6. Having promotional and template backgrounds prepared for when we are posting content on our social media pages.
7. Speak to a library representative to learn how archived course reserves are constructed.
8. Develop a contingent plan for Humanitarian Outreach, including a resource sheet.

### **List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1<sup>st</sup>)**

1. Consultations for the diversity and inclusion integrated into the curriculum
2. Completing enhancements to club ratification and management policies.
3. Finalizing extension to Thode Library hours and possibly finalizing extension to IAHS library hours.
4. Planning and action plan completed for Climate Change Education Campaign.
5. Begin promoting reusable takeout containers.
6. Contact Humanitarian partners and form bridges for united communication
7. Targeting first-years and others on what the SRA does so that we have more engagement in the winter semester.

### **List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

1. OER campaign
2. Finalizing extension to IAHS library hours.
3. Implementation of Climate Change Education Campaign.
4. Using improved equipment for SRA livestreams
5. Complete research and bring alternative ways to address student mental health
6. Discuss with SRA the possibility of implementing a committee for Humanitarian Efforts

**Master Summary**  
(calendar and checklist)

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reached out to the Dean of Science to meet and discuss the caucus year plan.</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete SRA Science year plan</li> <li>Reach out the McMaster Science Society to discuss student engagement and joint promotion strategies</li> <li>Reach out to the Diversity and Inclusion office to set up meeting</li> <li>Plan out office hours in coordination with campus partners</li> <li>Reach out to Mohawk College to discuss IAHS Library hours extension.</li> <li>Submitted persuasive letter to the Dean of Science to extend Thode Library hours to 3 AM.</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make promotional/introductory video for MacSci Students</li> <li>Begin preliminary meetings with Mohawk College to discuss IAHS Library hours extension.</li> <li>Consult with Clubs Department to complete enhancements to Clubs Fest schedule</li> <li>Discuss office hours and plan when they will occur</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release promotional video.</li> <li>Discuss and brainstorm new social media promotion strategies and begin implementation</li> <li>Work with the Dean of Science to ensure Thode Library hour extension will occur.</li> <li>Begin planning for Climate Change education campaign.</li> <li>Conduct surveys and polls of Mohawk-affiliated and McMaster students about IAHS library use.</li> <li>Begin discussions on reducing food waste</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Internal Governance Standing Committee and Clubs Department to enhance Club ratification and management policies.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research for Climate Change education campaign</li> <li>• Continue to work with Mohawk College to research costs and expenses of extended hours at the IAHS Library.</li> <li>• Find out about the process for acquiring better recording equipment for SRA livestreams</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize plans for changes to Club ratification and management policies. Propose these to the SRA to be passed.</li> <li>• Form action plan for Climate Change education campaign.</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose Climate Change education campaign to SRA/Executive Board if action plan involves changes to bylaws, or requires significant funds.</li> <li>• Finalize Thode Library hours extension to 3 AM on weekdays.</li> <li>• Begin promotions for use of takeout reusable containers in winter term</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin to implement Climate Change education campaign</li> <li>• Sell reusable containers for a week</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin assessing impacts and success of Climate Change education campaign through surveys, polls, and other forms of data collection.</li> <li>• Make enhancements to Climate Change education campaign if it is less effective than anticipated.</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with Internal Governance Committee to plan for possible implementation of Climate Change Education campaign into MSU bylaws to ensure long-term Climate Change advocacy.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize IAHS library hours extension.</li> <li>• Complete Climate Change Education campaign and possibly implement it into bylaws to ensure the MSU continues to advocate about Climate Change in the extended future.</li> </ul>