



REPORT

From the office of the...

Health Sciences Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Arzoo Alam, SRA Health Sciences
SUBJECT: SRA 19H Report
DATE: September 17, 2019

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

The Health Sciences caucus is excited to announce a great start to the school year and share some updates regarding our progress. In addition to heavily promoting the MSU over Facebook throughout the past few months, Rhea and I have made strides introducing First Year BHSc students to the SRA and MSU during Welcome Week and on social media.

Furthermore, Rhea and I met with the Health Sciences Library (HSL) Director over the summer to iron out some details regarding the hours of operation changes. We are excited to announce that HSL will now be open for an extra hour on Saturday evenings! We later hope to implement a feedback form to have student input on this change to see if these adjustments should be made permanent.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

During Welcome Week, the Health Sciences Welcome Week Coordinators organized an event similar to “ClubsFest” specifically for BHSc students. Rhea was able to attend to our booth at this event to promote the SRA and what we do. We had a lot of engagement during this event and hope to continue our engagement on social media and through first year-specific programming.

Within this same vein of thought, we recently updated our social media accounts, namely Facebook and Twitter. Since we were not currently on Instagram, we decided to create an Instagram account (@srahealthsci – follow us!) for students that prefer this mode of receiving updates. To increase our engagement on this platform, we are currently hosting a Union Market gift certificate giveaway on our page to help increase our following and create awareness about the SRA.

We also promoted First Year Council (FYC) elections on the BHSc Class of 2023 group on Facebook and some students reached out to us with questions regarding the election, marking a notable increase in engagement. Furthermore, I was able to attend and assist with the Elections 1A03 event and had the chance to speak a little bit about my experiences running in the SRA election, as well as answer any questions the students had.

Lastly, Rhea and I have been present at the Bachelor of Health Sciences Society (BHSS) meetings and have been giving our input on faculty-related discussions. We hope to continue to strengthen our relationship with our faculty society moving forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Rhea and I are currently in the process of organizing “Intro to the MSU” class talks for HTHSCI 1E06 (Inquiry) to introduce ourselves and the MSU to first year students. We look forward to being able to engage with first year BHSc students on a more personal level. We have also planned to meet with the BHSc Assistant Dean and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences to consult them on certain areas of our year plan. We are also hoping to meet with the second year statistics professor to discuss accessibility concerns, particularly the potential of podcasting, as this was not an option last year.

Additionally, in terms of transparency, we will be releasing “SRA Monthly Meeting Minutes” to recap the two meetings from each month in relatively frequent intervals to engage with our constituents. We hope to release the first set of infographics at the end of this month to recap what was discussed at the September meetings so constituents are aware. Additionally, in the upcoming months, we will also be releasing an anonymous SRA Health Sciences Feedback Form to provide constituents with the platform and space to honestly reflect on our work and give feedback.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

One challenge we are currently experiencing is difficulty reaching stakeholders via email and organizing meetings with them. We experienced this issue over the summer and hoped it would improve with the start of the school year; however, it continues to persist. We hope to combat this by finding other ways to get in contact with key stakeholders – perhaps through in-person visits, if feasible.

SUCCESSSES

One huge success was bringing the HSL hours redistribution to fruition. Our predecessors laid most of the groundwork for this project, but due to the long-term nature of the product and transitioning of caucuses, it was difficult to ensure continuity in their work. In a few months, we hope to release a feedback form regarding the new changes to see if students would like these alterations to be made permanent to the library. Furthermore, Welcome Week outreach was also successful and first-year students know more about the SRA and MSU. Lastly, as we previously mentioned, we are continuing to strengthen ties with our faculty society through regularly attending meetings.

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N/A

Yours Truly,

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