



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Science Caucus

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TO:	Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	Ashley Reddy, SRA Science
SUBJECT:	SRA 19I Report
DATE:	October 6th 2019

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### **PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN**

We are excited to be reporting for the first time this year with a pretty good start to the year, it was a bit slow in the beginning but we are picking up new projects and our office hours have started up this week. I have been working with the science society to hold our office hours within their office and looking into holding specific themed office hours each month in BSB lobby. This touches on the specific year plan geared to more engagement from the SRA Science caucus to our constituents.

We have also been working on continued relationship with the MSS by attending their biweekly meetings and keeping them informed about our projects. Throughout the summer we were in communications with the MSS and the Office of the Dean to see how our goals and year plans align. As such, we have a meeting coming up with the Dean of Science and executive members of the MSS to discuss how we can help one another.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

One of the projects that SRA Science is looking forward to is Transparency week, which Christy is co-heading with the help of other members of the assembly. The week will consist of daily infographic releases highlighting different relevant information about the SRA, tabling and an event to meet SRA members. We have a meeting on Monday to discuss the logistics of the week long event.

Along the lines of increasing engagement between SRA and the student body, Christy is co-running an SRA accessibility survey with Eric Sinnighe (SRA Engineering). The goal of the survey is to receive feedback on physical and digital accessibility gaps within the SRA in hopes of addressing these issues. We are currently looking into improving the microphones used during the livestreams. During the last meeting, Sarah began updating the times where specific agenda items are being discussed using pins on the facebook livestream videos, which we hope to continue doing in future meetings.

Simranjeet has also reached out to Mohawk-McMaster students (especially those in his program) to begin planning for an information campaign to possibly extend library hours at the IAHS Library. So far there has been some evidence suggesting an hours extension is unnecessary, so Simranjeet will do more research to determine whether an hours extension is actually necessary based on a cost-to-benefit analysis.

In addition to this, Simranjeet has begun work on his environmental awareness initiative. This has involved him reaching out to MSS for funding, and getting in touch with Joe Emberson, (Director of Facility Services at McMaster) as well as Lori Diamond, (MUSC director). The end goal of this is to install solar panels on campus to show students an example of green energy being applied in practice.

Simranjeet is currently doing research to figure out costs and how the project will actually occur. Christy has expressed interest and may play a role in managing this initiative in the future as well. This topic will be discussed with the Dean of Science as we foresee she can help manage university bureaucracy and increase the likelihood of this project's success. Simranjeet will also reach out to other faculty societies and work with constituents interested in the project to help find other sources or funds and to help bring the project to fruition.

Simranjeet is still working on the final report to be sent to the Dean of Science to finalize library hour extensions at Thode. He will bring up the progress in our meeting with the Dean.

Finally, Simranjeet has been using Internal Governance Committee resources and communicating with the committee's AVP, Graeme Noble, to help devise an action plan to modify and improve Clubs Ratification policies. This will hopefully allow openness, fairness, diversity (of thought, topics, and perspectives) and inclusivity in clubs in the future just as we have now, while reducing the risk of potentially dangerous clubs being ratified.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

A current challenge we have been facing has been coordinating a specific time to meet amongst the seven of us to discuss our plans due to differing schedules and with midterm season around the corner communication has been difficult. As we get deeper into the semester, getting in contact with different stakeholders on campus has been a challenge we encountered, especially with the delayed access to our caucus email.

## **SUCSESSES**

A recent success we had in the beginning of the year was when Simranjeet coordinated with the clubs coordinator to increase clubfest from a one day event to a two day event.

## **OTHER**

A brief update on the IT Student Advisory Committees first meeting. Ashley recently attended the monthly ITSAC meeting which gave valuable insight into the IT services and McMaster websites that are available to all undergraduate students, much of which students do not know about. We discussed ways in which we could disseminate this information to students and discussed ideas of creating an online platform for McMaster community support. There was also feedback given on how the Student Choice Initiative was going, PebblePad, and improvement of WiFi.

Best,

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