



REPORT

From the office of the...
Executive Board

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Simranjeet Singh of SRA Science
SUBJECT: Summary of EB 19-10 and EB 19-11 Meetings
DATE: October 20th, 2019

The Executive Board has only met twice since the previous executive board report was given to the SRA. Within this report, I will be summarizing the events at Executive Board meetings EB 19-10 and 19-11, meetings which occurred on October 2nd and October 9th respectively. Please contact me or the Executive Board at large if you have any questions!

EB 19-10

The agenda for this meeting included discussion of reports from the Maroons, SHEC, Pride Community Centre, Farmstand, and Wage Review Committee. PCC did not submit their report, and thus the item was moved to the next meeting.

MAC Farmstand Report

Farmstand reports preparations are going well for the annual Local Food Fest, and resources have been moved more from the school year to the summer to account for demand. The August financial statement has shown increased revenue, with sales doubling. September is expected to also have had increased revenue when final numbers come in. There have been approximately 100 sales a day, with about \$1000 in revenue weekly. Challenges are limited to difficulties in finding time to plan with the executives of the service. Successes include the volunteer recruitment going well and increased sales. Approximately 2/3 of budgeted spending has been used, with \$6,378.68 remaining for the rest of the year.

Maroons

Welcome Week went very smoothly, as did Clubs Fest and Intramurals signups. The Community Cleanup was a success with high turnout, and the maroons increased their presence at Football games this year. The Maroons Facebook Page has gained more likes and 250 new followers on the Instagram page. The Maroons are going to be working with other services to market for the Federal Election campaign. Approximately 1/6 of the total budgeted spending has been used, with \$12,567.94 remaining for the rest of the year.

SHEC

Usage of SHEC has increased massively since last year, with 214 visits in September, compared to 131 last year. Menstrual products, pregnancy tests, and condoms were the three most commonly used items. Volunteer hiring went well, with a record number of (about 50) volunteer applications. The SHEC

space has been partially renovated to make it more welcoming and cozier, and Welcome week programming went well. SHEC is planning to make videos to market the service, set up a Naloxone distribution site, and hold an election education event. Main challenges include finding how to properly use volunteer resources and distribute workload, as well as properly transitioning the execs into their positions. Successes include high usage of service spaces, and volunteers integrating with their roles well.

Wage Review Committee

The WRC recommended that the Administrative Team Research Assistant should receive a B2 salary, which is \$117.20 for about 6 to 8 hours of work.

EB 19-11

This meeting began normally and the agenda included discussion of reports from WGEN, Spark, SWHAT, Pride Community Centre, and Diversity Services as well as the approval of minutes from EB 19-09. In addition to this, there was a sponsorship and donations request heard by EB. PCC (who did not submit their report at the last meeting when scheduled) and Diversity Services submitted their reports late.

EB 19-09 Minutes

The minutes from the previous EB meeting were approved with no changes.

PCC

PCC is undergoing a rebranding process, and Mac Pride Week is being moved to the second week of November. As of now, qualitatively there has been a lot of usage of the space, though quantitative variables will not be known until the next report. Volunteers seem very engaged and training was a success. The focus of Mac Pride week from November 11th-15th will be queer and trans BIPOC. In addition to this, a speaker will come to lead a workshop to discuss decolonization and pride. PCC hopes to hold an 2SQTBIPOC Art Exhibition and is looking for additional speakers for the event. PCC hopes to hold a volunteer appreciation event that helps volunteers de-stress during midterm/exam season. Community groups have been off to a slow start due to delays in hiring. PCC has gotten positive feedback as they reorient towards racialized queer and trans individuals. PCC hopes to work with McMaster Muslims for Peace and Justice as well as with the Black Students' Association in the future. About 1/7th of budgeted discretionary spending has been spent, meaning \$5,390.36 remains to be spent.

Diversity Services

Facebook page had 188 views in the last 28 days. There was a meeting with the President's Advisory Community on Building an Inclusive Community as well as numerous events in Bridges. Future events include an online giveaway to increase engagement on Instagram, an interfaith council event, *Taking Up Space*, and execs decided on future events during reading week. Some great volunteers have been hired, though keeping execs focused has been hard due to many being busy with other commitments. A major success is that Diversity Services has more than 1000 followers on Instagram now. Only \$280 has been spent, meaning the vast majority, \$14,220 of budgeted discretionary spending remains.

Spark

Service usage has increased greatly from last year. Welcome Week events went very well, with the attendance at our various events varying from 100 to as many as 500 individuals. The First Year Formal is a main upcoming event, with 300 tickets on sale for \$32 each. Volunteers have integrated phenomenally. EOHSS communication as well as communication with the Underground are still major problems that delay initiatives. Booking of rooms also is an issue, as ClubSpace is not available, IAHS rooms now cost money, and the MUSC admin isn't as helpful as would be ideal. Increasing retention of students is great, but it is difficult to supply them all with Spark's resources due the budgeted supplies being insufficient for so many students. The work done so far has been successful and the execs like their positions overall. Virtually all of discretionary spending has been spent, with only \$71.09 left.

SWHAT

Everything is progressing well so far and in accordance with the year plan. There are about 10-15 walks on week nights, with fewer on weekends. Peak hours are from 9PM to midnight on weekdays. Volunteer hiring is normally done for first years first, and vacancies are then filled with upper years. This often delayed volunteer hiring completion, as many first years backed out. Because of this, we conducted all hiring of volunteers from all years together to reduce the amount of time needed to fill up volunteer slots. A record breaking 104 volunteer applications were submitted. \$5,069.35, more than 5/6 of the remaining budgeted spending remains to be spent. Problems include the lax work ethic of some returning volunteers who skip shifts sometimes without informing execs. Successes include positive collaboration with other walk home initiatives at other universities to share ideas and improve our services.

WGEN

WGEN conducted a lot of promotional work during welcome week and has completed hiring of various volunteer groups for several different initiatives of the service. The WGEN space was also opened and has been officially running 5 days a week from September 17th onwards. On the night of the concert there were about 10 instances in which support was required either in the tent or out on the concert field. WGEN collaborated over the summer with SACHA and EIO in a pre-event for the Take Back the Night event on September 19th. This pre-event was for poster making, and snacks before the TBTN event. WGEN hopes to have a Halloween-themed movie night on Tuesday, October 29th. This event will have pumpkin carving, a Halloween movie, snacks, and will include a feminism-themed game/activity. A bra drive infographic and poster, as well as mini-video about WGEN are all planned. WGEN is also planning to hold a 2SLGBTQIA+ resource fair near the Pride crosswalks on October 10th in collaboration with EIO. WGEN will be working with Karen Balcolm of the Women's Studies Course to collaborate with her class. Two support groups, *Black and Gendered*, as well as *Survivors* will be launched the first week back from reading week. A volunteer social is planned to allow volunteers to better get to know each other and bond. A main challenge is that the WGEN space uses harsh fluorescent lighting which has caused problems for some individuals, including migraines. WGEN is looking at possible switching them out for less harsh lighting. Finally, WGEN has only spent \$775.30, only about 1/9th of their budgeted discretionary spending.

PROGRESS

The Executive Board has adjusted well to the school year and the new, weekly schedule. Due to a last minute change in Simranjeet's class times, he is now forced to attend meetings half an hour late, arriving at 4 PM while the meeting begins at 3:30 PM. This so far has not resulted in any problems.

Everyone has become very comfortable in their roles, speaking well, voicing their perspectives and opinions, as well as respecting the order of speaking.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Few challenges of note as everything is progressing well.

SUCSESSES

The transition to the weekly meeting schedule has occurred well, and everyone is respectful of others in meetings. In addition, despite often differing opinions on contentious topics, especially within Closed Session, everyone on the executive board is able to voice their perspectives without fear of being unfairly judged or reprimanded by others. This allows for a positive environment with free discourse in which difficult conversations can be had if necessary. The positive environment ensures executive board can be efficient and productive when conducting business.

Best wishes,
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