



REPORT

From the office of the...

Health Sciences Caucus

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Arzoo Alam, SRA Health Sciences
SUBJECT: SRA 19K Report
DATE: October 29, 2019

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

One of the long-term goals we listed on our year plan was to bring updates/renovations to the Health Sciences Home Base (aka "Lounge"). For the first year of this plan, we aimed to distribute a Google Form asking students what changes they wish to see. We recently met with the BHSS Chair to brainstorm potential ideas of what some of these changes may include. We will be presenting them to the rest of the BHSS Executive Team at the next meeting to get their input on the survey questions and the feasibility of this project. Once we have determined how we will get the funding, we will present this information to the BHSc Office to get their input and approval to launch the survey. We hope to promote the survey on all SRA Health Sciences and BHSS social media pages, as well as on Avenue to Learn.

We also met with the Associate Dean of Health Sciences, Stacey Ritz, to discuss potential areas of collaboration for our year plan. We discussed the possibility of including a land acknowledgement, as well as a short mental health statement with a list of on-campus and local mental health resources students can use, in all course outlines. We are currently in the process of accumulating evidence about the benefits of this, as well as some exemplar statements to include in the course outlines. We will be meeting with the Equity & Inclusion Office in the near future to draft a suggested statement for professors within our Faculty, in an attempt to pilot its use. We are aiming to have the research distributed to all Health Sciences professors by the end of this year so it can be included in Winter 2020 course outlines.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

In our meeting with Stacey Ritz, one of the things we discussed was the feasibility of our idea of creating a Centralized Research & Community Engagement Database. With the discontinuation of LearnLink, we were unsure where these postings would now be made. However, over the summer, the BHSc Office worked hard to revamp the Thesis & Project Courses Hub on the BHSc website to make it easier for students to have their questions answered. Currently, the Hub doesn't include any project/thesis course opportunities, but they are posted on Avenue in the BHSc Community section instead by both faculty and students. This made our goal much easier. To make things more accessible, we suggested that a separate "Research Opportunities" channel be made on Avenue so students can easily find those opportunities. Stacey gladly accepted this recommendation and also added a blurb on the Thesis & Project Courses Hub to

redirect students to Avenue for opportunities. Though it's not exactly what we had in mind, we believe this accomplishes our goal of creating a centralized thesis hub.

In addition, as a part of our year plan to increase transparency, our caucus helped a group of SRA members with planning and filming an SRA Transparency video, which was organized by SRA Commerce member Brittany Williams. We are pleased with the level of engagement that the video has gotten and hope that it has helped to inform our constituents about what it is that we do.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

One challenge we continue to face is connecting with some stakeholders via email. This has put a pause on one of our initiatives: "Intro to the MSU" class talks. We were hoping to give these talks in the first few weeks of September, however, due to it being difficult to reach all the first-year inquiry facilitators, this initiative has not happened yet. We still want to give these talks and are hopeful we will have the opportunity to do so in the future. We met with a coordinator in-person and are now awaiting approval to give these talks.

SUCCESSSES

As indicated on our year plan, one of our goals is to increase transparency and outreach. Our Instagram giveaway was a huge success and we have gained 350+ followers (if you don't follow us yet, please do so)! We have also begun to release our monthly meeting recap infographics to keep students engaged and informed!

Best,

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