



REPORT

From the office of the...

President

TO:	Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	Joshua Marando, MSU President
SUBJECT:	SRA 19K – President Report
DATE:	November 3 rd 2019

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I can't believe it is the start of November already! As of this meeting we are already half way done our terms and let me tell you it has been quite the whirlwind. I hope you have all found some cool opportunities for growth yourselves this year and are all reved up for the last month before exams! It's been a while since my last report and I am excited to update you all on the work that we've been able to get done. I am proud of the progress I have been able to make, and despite the challenges grateful for the support I have received from so many people. I also want to thank the SRA for their support this year, as many of you have been very helpful through your committee roles, advancing your yearplans, and talking and brainstorming issues with me.

I highlighted some projects that have new updates at the time of writing this report. If you have any additional questions please feel free to ask or send me an email afterwards.

Thanks y'all

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Marando".

Joshua Marando
President & CEO
McMaster Students Union

Progress on Year Plan

Revitalize MUSC

There have been lots of changes to MUSC so far and some exciting things to come!

Third Floor Terrace

We have been able to work with Lori Diamond the MUSC Director, to build upon the work we did this summer and approved a feasibility study to be done on the space. It is looking like the original proposal might be quite expensive and not the best use of capital improvement funds, so we are bringing in an architect to conduct a feasibility study. This will show us some things we can do and what estimated costs for those changes will be. We are still prioritizing making the space a multiple season space, allowing for study space, and ensuring the it remains bright and not just another study room. Hopefully we are able to conduct the study this semester so some plans can get in motion for next semester. Right now, I am hopeful it may be able to be completed by September 2020 but we will see.

Furniture Improvements

This plan is still on track, with the MUSC budget finally approved we can start some movement on revamping the furniture in MUSC outside clubspace and on the third floor in the same way the furniture outside the MSU office was re-done.

Infrastructure

As I mentioned in my previous report, we had many issues with the infrastructure of MUSC over the summer. The pipes have now all officially been replaced and grease traps moved to they are easier for hospitality services to maintain. The project manager assigned to the project is also developing a long term plan to further improve the piping infrastructure of the space to prevent further issues from happening. This is a long term change, as the replacement pipes will be good for at least a few years, so we will be extending the life and utilizing the long term plan in a few years for a more sustainable solution.

We also have issues with pests over the summer. One of the largest problems identified was the waste management systems in MUSC as they could not accommodate the large amount of service usage of the space. MSUC Board of Management has just approved a capital project to re-do our waste management system to make it far better, which is very exciting.

Along with this we are increasing storage space available allowing for MUSC to bring in more revenue.

Student Mental Health

Some good movement on this point as well. Myself and Sean are still working to see how increased staff could be best used – with the thought currently being increased councilors in SWC specifically focusing on indentity representation as that is something many students have indentified as a barrier to accessing support from their councilor. That will hopefull be suplimented by increased resources for SAS to allow for more support academically for student seeking acomodations. Along with this, we have been beginning conversations about additional methods of support that can be indtocued to expand what is offered through the Student Assistance Plan and allow students to access support without having to go through the SWC. Along with this there has been a new committee struck as the second phase of the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will focus on mental health education for educators and with hopefully help reduce the barriers folk face in the classroom and allow for a more accessible education.

Advocacy

Lots of things going on in the advocacy front, with Shemar and I continuing our efforts throughout the federal election. We continue to advocate for post secondary affordability, student health, sexual violence prevention and response, and experiential education. I have also had the opportunity to attend a few of our municipal lobby meetings for our pre-budget submission, where we advocate for transit, sustainability, accessibility, work-opportunities, and bylaw education. Overall, meetings have been going well, some contentious points, but would prefer to have these conversations now and unpack some of their thinking prior to the delegation and presentation to all of council.

In terms of our avdovcacy organization, I am either at OUSA GA or just got back from GA (depending on how long plenary is) and hopefully I don't get into any fights this time! I also now sit on the UCRU Adocacy Committee who is tasked with the creation of our lobbying priorities and briefs at the federal level for our UCRU Federal Lobby Week that will be happening second semester. In the meantime, we are preparing for our provincial lobby week which will be happening in November where Shemar and I will spend the week in Toronto lobbying to MPPs on our Provincial priorities.

Campus Accessibility

Shemar sits on the McMaster Accessibility Council and I sit on the McMaster Age Friendly University Committee, both which are working together to improve the physical accessibility on campus. MAFUC just completed a walkability study of campus and study on the usability of mobility aids in different areas. Together they will collaborate on completing a campus accessibility audit in the next few years which is a part of the EDI Strategic Framework that Arig presented on at the last meeting.

Food on Campus

TwelvEighty to go is well underway and going quite well, we have seen lots of people using it and overall it's looking like higher sales in twelveighty this year. The \$5 dollar meal system through hospitality services and is going well, I am overall pleasantly surprised with the quality of the meals and is a good steps towards making hospitality services more affordable.

Organizational Structure

Alex and I have been working on re-vamping our organization structure and have made some pretty good progress. People have strated sending in their proposals for review, and Alex, John, and I have started to collect relevant documents and important information that they will need to hopefull expedite the process. I am hopeful that it will really help restructure the organization and allow for more efficient work, better revenue generations, and overall a improved impact on student life. Along with this, given staff turnover I have been sitting on many interview panels for full-time staff as well as in discussiong about restructuring specific departments that have had large turnover to see if it can be an opportunity to revise roles to make this as efficient as possible

Additional Projects

Clubs policy review is still going on as well as work regarding current club issues to ensure all our policies are being followed. Overall, I am hoping to have a bulk of the policy writing time in December, with conversations happening during November. We are looking at how funding works, improvements to reatifications, how and who ratifies clubs, the clubs executive council, and what qualifies a regonized club. Overall we have the most lenient club regonition policies, which causes issues with resourcing. Alex and I are also exploring some options for additional

resources for central clubs operations in the hopes that it will also free up time to deal with escalated issues.

I have attended/presented at a few conferences this term: I was able to talk about the MSU to engineering students at the First Year Engagement Conference, I discussed academic freedom and the Magna Charta Signing, and discussed the future of work, work-integrated learning, and liberal arts education at an event by John Stakhouse. Those were three of the larger ones but always lots of things to go to. I also helped with the promo of sustainability week and have been helping with the promotions of quite a few initiatives that I think will have large benefits to the student body.

Committees

I have lots of committees I have been sitting on this semester:

- Student Success Center Advisory Committee
- Campus Wireless Enhancement Steering Committee
- UCRU Advocacy Committee
- EDI Strategy Steering Committee
- President's Advisory Committee on Community Relations
- Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Advisory Committee
- Ombuds Supervisory and Review Committee
- General Assembly Planning Committee
- President's Award for Outstanding Service
- University Memorial Committee
- Age Friendly University Committee
- Volunteer Day Committee
- Other ones I'm sure I'm forgetting

Notable Advocacy meetings

- Michael Couteau
- David Piccini
- Will Bouma
- Alvin Tedjo
- Doly Begum
- Federal Candidates
- Maureen Wilson
- Terry Whitehead
- Chad Collins
- John Danko

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

- Reviewing proposals
- Provincial lobby week

- Policy review

Current Challenges

I am having a really tough time with the amount of work and expectations placed on this role. I have found that I am had to deal with situations that I doubt many people would have the capacity to deal with and that has been hard. Along with this, the job is increadibly demanindg and I want to ensure that I can improve the experience of all students on campus, but often find the demands of the job have come at a price to my physical and mental health. This was expected when I came into the role and is a part of the responsibility I took on when running for the positions, but overall the toll it has taken has been challenging. I am working to find a better balance and am exploring options to avoid getting burnt out by second semester. Also, as I have quite a bit of meeting, event, project, collaboration, and other requests on a day-to-day basis, I have found it challenging to follow up on many of my year plan objects, but overall am proud of what we have done despite the challenges we have faced.

Closing Remarks

These are the notable things that have happened over the past couple moths! There have been lots of other things / one off stuff that I haven't included to be more conises, but if you have any questions or would like elaboration of anything in this report or otherwise, please let me know!

Best,



Joshua Marando

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