



REPORT

From the office of the...
**Associate Vice-President Provincial
& Federal Affairs**

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Angel Huang
SUBJECT: SRA 19S Report
DATE: Tuesday, March 24th, 2019

Dear Members of the Assembly,

What an unexpected end to an otherwise fabulous year! I hope that everyone is doing their best and supporting each other from afar as we all grapple with these unusual circumstances. I hope that we're all doing our part to keep ourselves and our communities safe during this public health crisis.

It brings me great pleasure to submit my final report of the year and reflect on the work that the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee and I have accomplished. I've organized my final report into four sections: administrative items, PFA Committee work, OUSA work, and UCRU work. As an overview, I've provided a quick synopsis of the most recent work completed under each heading:

Administrative Items

- Interviews for the incoming AVP PFA will take place next week over Zoom, thanks to Shemar's expert rescheduling skills!
- After this report, my final writing task will be to complete my Transition Report, for which I have been making notes for all year. It will be a robust package of resources, data, and guidance that will hopefully provide helpful instruction and ideas for the next AVP PFA.

PFA Committee

- MacTalks ran successfully from March 4th-11th. It consisted of an online story- and resource-sharing campaign on Facebook, four in-person events, and week-long tabling in MUSC. Students were able to share suggestions for improving mental health support and infrastructure at the table, and over 100 ideas were collected. This data will be passed down to the incoming AVP PFA to work into policy and advocacy.
- MacTalks was PFA's final project of the year, and I am so proud of the team for their efforts!

OUSA Work

- OUSA GA at Western University was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19, but will now be taken online in the coming two weeks! I will continue to work on revisions to the Gender-Based and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Policy, for which I have been a supporting author.
- Following OUSA GA, I will continue to communicate with OUSA until the end of my term.

UCRU Work

- The meeting we were supposed to have was cancelled due to COVID-19 interruptions. I do not anticipate any more tasks related to UCRU, but will be keeping up with all communications until the end of my term.

More details on these items are included below. Thanks all for a terrific year! Please stay safe and well, everyone - health is wealth!

Warmest regards,

Angel Huang

AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs

McMaster Students Union

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PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN and COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

MacTalks Campaign

The MacTalks campaign was successful in promoting positive mental health and holistic wellness, and also solicited a great selection of student feedback on how health infrastructure can be improved at McMaster, in the province, and across Canada. Overall, It ran smoothly, but the most significant lesson learned was In regard to the scheduling of the campaign. We found that the beginning of March was not an ideal time for a weeklong campaign, and recommend that similar events in the future are scheduled before Winter reading week before engagement falls away to the busyness of the last months of the year. Please find below a breakdown of the campaign activities:

- **Online campaign throughout the week:**
 - Facebook video and photo posts highlighting student experiences with self-care, promoting conversation and sharing stories to destigmatize mental health
 - This was successful, with views ranging from 115-3500. We posted 6 students' stories, and the one with the highest engagement was shared 14 times with 739 engagements.
- **Tabling throughout the week:**
 - Activities at the table include a vision board for what students would like the MSU to advocate for on the university, provincial, and federal levels, as well as a yoga mat giveaway.
 - We collected 110 student suggestions on Improving mental health support, including reduced wait time for counselling, more green space, and more affordable education.
- **Stress relief workshop on March 4th, 5pm-6pm in MUSC 311/313:**
 - MSU services (including Maccess, Spark, SHEC, WGEN) facilitated a free drop in stress-relief activities and coffee/tea.
 - This event was not very well-attended, but the workshop itself was smooth and well set-up, with colourful and interactive stations for those who did attend.
- **Skills for academic success workshop on March 5th, 3:30pm-4:20pm in SSC:**
 - The Student Success Centre hosted a tour of the SSC and Library resources with free resources and coffee/tea.
 - Not well-attended, but we attribute this to the timing of the event.

- **Wellness Fair March 10th in MUSC Marketplace:**
 - The SRA Health Sci and ArtSci Caucuses organized a wonderful fair about mental health and wellness resources and services on campus and in the community. They did an MSU Instagram takeover to showcase resources, and stationed the fair with a therapy dog, origami, and other fun and informative activities!
- **Panel event in 1280 on March 10th, 6pm-7pm:**
 - McMaster staff/faculty (OMBUDS, EFRT, Dr. Mat Savelli, SWC Taryn Aarssen, and SRA Science Nicolas Belliveau) discussed questions about mental health and wellness from different perspectives to cap off the campaign. This was relatively well attended, and the free food was very appealing as an incentive to come. The audience was very engaged and the panel discussion was interesting, informative and nuanced.

PFA Committee Updates

I'm so proud of all members of PFA this year! I was disappointed not to have had an opportunity to celebrate their successes given the COVID-19 disruptions, but I have had a most enjoyable time working with each and every individual on the team. I will be passing along tips and lessons learned from my experience chairing the committee this year onto the next AVP PFA, as I received feedback before the Winter Break and observed changes and trends after analyzing the survey results.

OUSA Spring 2020 General Assembly

VP Education, Shemar, and I are still working on the OUSA Gender-Based and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response (GBSVPR) Policy. The MSU OUSA GA Delegation did not make it to Western University, as the conference was cancelled and moved online due to COVID-19. We will be convening on Zoom and through Google Drive at the end of March and early April to complete GA business as needed. I am looking forward to discussing and hopefully passing the policies which include GBSVPR, International Students, and Rural and Northern Students!

UCRU AdvoCom

My work for UCRU has ceased, as the most recent meeting that was scheduled was cancelled due to COVID-19 interruptions. I will be maintaining communications with the team, but do not expect any more UCRU tasks to arise during my term.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- OUSA General Assembly - Online
- Finalize hiring + transition

SUCSESSES

1. MacVotes and MacTalks have both been absolute joys to facilitate. The MacVotes campaign was an incredible experience to bring to life, and it was definitely my favourite initiative all year!
2. Working with the fantastic individuals on the PFA Committee and Education Team made my time in this role 110% more exciting and valuable. I am so grateful to all the support, laughs, and incredible ideas shared amongst these lovely folks!
3. I feel proud to have accomplished everything I was able to this year, even though I may have steered away from my initial year plan. Being adaptable and always ready to say a resounding "Yes!" to new projects helped me build new skills and achieve more for McMaster students.