



**Final Report**  
**SRA Science 2019-2020**

**SRA**  
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## Introduction

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Within the past year, SRA Science has worked hard to try and improve the academic lives of science students through many of the initiatives we have listed below. Working as a team we have not only gotten to know each other but also the opportunity to get to know the issues that surround our science peers. We have learned about how receptive the science faculty is to helping students within their academics and with mental health. The following report is short but it outlines the most important initiatives we accomplished this year and goes through some of the recommendations we have for the incoming SRA Science. Unfortunately, due to the situation the world is in right now, we hope that those reading this report can understand that it was hard to come together collectively and give a thorough review of our year. It is a difficult time for many of us right now and we know how stressful a pandemic can be (believe us, we're stressed too), but with that being said, we hope that everyone continues to be safe.

It was a pleasure working with everyone on the SRA this year and we will miss you all a lot, for anyone reading this right now, stay safe and we miss you!

SRA Science 19/20,

Ashley, Simranjeet, Christy, Nicholas, Joseph, Sonya, Denver

## Progress through Year Plan

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Member	Platform	Progress
Ashley	Continued MSS Relations	<p>This goal was accomplished throughout the year and continues to be a strong relationship that hopefully the next SRA can continue. I attended MSS meetings with the executives and kept up communications for initiatives through email and Facebook. The SRA attended both MSS general assemblies which was an efficient way to reach hundreds of science students and ensure students were aware of the initiatives we had for them. This relationship was continued into the end of the year where a few SRA science members attended the MSS annual academic round table which provided an excellent platform to discuss hot topic issues within the science faculty and how to improve the curriculum. At the round table, we had a very important discussion about how the MSS and SRA could engage more students, we noticed the drop in student engagement in leadership roles both within the SRA and the MSS. This is a point that the incoming SRA could collaborate with the MSS on further.</p>
Christy	SRA engagement goals (Complete)	<p>These goals were accomplished this year through initiatives such as the SRA Transparency week, SRA accessibility survey and increased social media presence. The SRA accessibility survey revealed issues with SRA audio issues, and more appropriate microphones for the space are being implemented next school year. The SRA transparency week was successful, and there was a good turnout for the meet and greet SRA event. Several MSU members were able to get involved in standing and/or sub- committees following the event. This year we also tried to post informally on social media more frequently through instagram stories.</p>
Simranjeet and Christy	Sustainability Composting initiative (Semi-complete)	<p>The sustainability committee had the goal of increasing the usage of composting bins throughout campus. A pilot project for the use of extra composting bins in libraries and other buildings was planned, which could lead to permanent implementation of new compost bins. Unfortunately, since the project was planned for finals seasons Winter term, it had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Returning SRA members, Christy Au-Yeung and Simranjeet Singh hope to resume this project in their new SRA term.</p>

Simranjeet	Environmental Awareness Initiative (Semi-Complete)	Simranjeet began the year with a plan to have an initiative to raise awareness about environmentally friendly power sources. He hoped to inform students about the existence of these forms of energy, and motivate them to become more involved with environmental causes. This manifested through his solar panel initiative. He worked with external organizations, student groups, and the MSU to secure funding for his initiative, and got immense support from McMaster Facility Services as well. He managed to procure all of the goods he wanted to use for his initiative, and was in the process of working with Facility Services to install the Solar Panels near the Burke Science Building. The project is currently on hold as the closure of in-person activities at McMaster has prevented him from meeting with Facility Services to plan installation of the solar panels. He hopes that after in-person activities resume at McMaster, he will be able to complete the project in his next SRA term.
Simranjeet	Extension to Club Fest Schedule (Complete)	To help increase student involvement in clubs and give students more opportunities to explore clubs available at McMaster, Simranjeet wanted to work with the Clubs Admin to both extend Clubs Fest to 2 days and introduce a second Clubs Fest in the second semester. Both of these ideas were accomplished as the Clubs Admin was very receptive to the idea and revealed she had actually already begun working on such an initiative. Thus, this initiative was a complete success!
Simranjeet	Extension of Thode Library Hours (Complete)	Simranjeet wanted to work with the MSS and other bodies that had advocated for increased library hours at Thode to ensure library hours would indeed remain extended. Luckily, due to advocacy work he did, help from individuals previously involved in the initiative, and due to the support of McMaster, this initiative was also a complete success!
Simranjeet	Extension of IAHS Library Hours (Failed)	In-line with the extension of library hours at Thode, Simranjeet also wanted to extend hours at the IAHS library. This was so students such as his constituents in Med Rad could have greater access to study spaces as well as some of the more specific resources afforded by Mohawk College. Sadly, Mohawk College was not receptive to the idea and did not let it proceed. However, he did gain extensive experience from the advocacy work done relating to this initiative. Simranjeet who is a part of the incoming SRA, will work to ensure future initiatives take into account what he has learned from this incompleting goal.

General	Student Mental Health	Mental health is something that science students continually advocate for because of the stressful environment of university and the intense academic stress placed on students. This was one of the topics that SRA science discussed at the academic roundtable, with notable issues on how the MSAF helps students and whether faculty members should get more involved in students' mental health. There was also discussion about more engagement initiatives with the mental services offered already on campus, specifically the group counselling available. Many SRA science members also got involved in the SRAs mental health campaign that ran through a week of promotions and events.
General	Improving promotions	One of our goals this year was to increase the amount of promotion via Instagram and Facebook. We tried to keep our social media accounts, especially our Facebook and Instagram account more active than it had been in previous years by providing students with updates and opportunities within the MSU.

## Recommendations for Incoming SRA

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**SRA engagement** should be a point of continual focus, especially with the ever-increasing use of social media. Initiatives such as the meet and greet SRA event and video summary of meetings should continue being implemented. The weekly office hours are another way for science students to get involved as they are able to raise their concerns and learn more about the SRA.

**Continued MSS relationship** should be important for the next SRA. The MSS is a great source of information and when the SRA and the MSS have a good relationship it can also effectively help in many engagement initiatives. The incoming SRA should communicate with the MSS about student engagement and brainstorm ideas to use the two very large platforms to engage more students. As opposed to working as two separate platforms, it is recommended that they use each other's social media to advertise to more students.

**More class talks**, but not too many. We recommend that the incoming SRA utilise the available advocacy platform that is class talks to engage more students for events and internal positions such as committee seats. Furthermore, this will ensure students are not only continually interested in the SRA, but also see their representatives actually putting in the effort to represent their constituents and try to make positive change for them. This action will increase how positively the MSU in general is seen and increase student trust of student organizations, especially the SRA.

**Reach out for more external resources.** Simranjeet noted in his solar panel initiative the difficulty in obtaining support from many different parties. Thus, we have learned that it is pertinent future SRAs reach out to as many external, non-student group, and non-McMaster organizations to procure funding or support, especially if a project is large and/or expensive. Future SRAs should focus on bursaries, competitions, the provincial and federal governments, as well as corporations that may be interested in supporting their initiatives. Getting support from them even before reaching out to McMaster or student groups is vital to helping see any goals they have come to fruition.