



REPORT

From the office of the...

Maccess Coordinator

TO:	Members of the Executive Board
FROM:	Calvin Prowse
SUBJECT:	MSU Maccess Report #1
DATE:	June 26

Year Plan Update

The primary focus for Maccess has been determining what our service will look like over an online environment. We have spent the past two months exploring which tools and technologies will be best suited to offering programming online, with a priority on accessibility and ease of use. As of right now we will be using Google Meet to run community groups. We are currently exploring which tools will be best suited toward offering peer support meetings.

I have created a Year Plan for our service, which will serve as a guideline for our year. However, this year plan will need to be updated once we know whether second semester will be online or in-person.

I have begun reviewing the Executive Team roles, in order to explore what unique skills will be necessary for online programming, and determine how these roles may differ from what they have looked like in previous years. This is necessary so that candidates will have a sense of what their role will look like, and interview questions can reflect the needs of Maccess. Executive Team applications have opened and will close on June 30.

I have started building relationships with the other Peer Support Service PTMs, and we have begun planning potential areas for collaboration. Additionally, I have reached out to the Equity & Inclusion Office and we have begun preliminary talks of running a Disability Discussion event to explore the challenges students are facing as a result of the transition to remote learning & community environments.

On May 15, we ran our first event of the summer, a screening and facilitated discussion of the film *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, in collaboration with the Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO). On June 18, we began running one of our summer peer support groups, with more groups to begin over the coming months.

Service Usage

Our May 15 *Crip Camp* event had 4 people join the facilitated discussion. We had 5 people join the screening; however, this only includes those who also participated through the chat box (as Netflix Party does not have a function to see how many people are watching the film). These numbers do not include the 3 facilitators, from both Maccess & DJNO.

On June 18, we launched the first of our summer peer support groups: Coping in Isolation and General Peer Support. We had one space user attend. This low engagement is likely due to a combination of factors: time of year (summer), the format of the group (online), and because the group was not announced until the day prior of it running. I believe we should have higher engagement in the following weeks, as more people become aware of this group.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

On May 15, we held a movie night and facilitated discussion in collaboration with DJNO. We watched the movie *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* over Netflix, using Netflix party to synchronize our viewing experience and providing us with the option to chat in real time. Following the film, we hosted a facilitated discussion exploring some of the themes of the film and how they relate to the principles of the Disability Justice movement.

Upcoming Events, Projects & Activities

We are currently connecting with the Equity and Inclusion Office to plan an event for students to share their concerns and experiences with remote learning environments, as a part of our Disability Discussions series.

We are also planning to hold an event to celebrate Mad Pride, which traditionally is celebrated on or around Bastille Day, July 14. We are hoping to celebrate this on either July 14, or the weekend prior (July 11 and 12).

Currently Working On

We are currently planning our summer community groups. Maccess will be running one general peer support group, and two collaborative groups with the PCC and WGEN, for disabled 2SLGBTQIA+ students and disabled BIPOC students, respectively.

Additionally, we have just opened applications for our executive team, which will close on June 30. The next few weeks will be spent creating interview questions for these roles.

Budget

At the time of writing, Maccess has utilized very little of our budget. We have spent a total of \$75, which went toward creating promotional material for our Executive Team hiring. As we will be running programming entirely online for at least the first semester, our budget for this year will likely look quite different compared to those from previous years. We are currently determining different ways that we can utilize our budget within an online environment.

ACCOUNT CODE	ITEM	BUDGET / COST
5003-0118	OFFICE SUPPLIES	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$100
6102-0118	ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$2,800
6494-0118	VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION	

	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$750
6804-0118	TRAINING EXPENSE	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$500
6501-0118	ADVERTISING & PROMO	
June 10	<i>Executive Team Hiring Promo</i>	\$75
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$75
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$1,625
6603-0118	SPECIAL PROJECTS	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$750
TOTALS		
TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$6,600
TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$75
REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$6,525

Volunteers

We have yet to hire our executive team or our peer support volunteers. We anticipate that hiring will be a difficult process this year, as students may not feel comfortable committing to Maccess when they are unsure what their classes or life will look like in the fall.

Additionally, summer is typically a time of low engagement, as many students are not in classes and are not following McMaster services as closely. As we have been told to have our volunteer team hired by the end of August, I anticipate these we will receive fewer applications than previous years. Nonetheless, we hope to have our executive team fully hired by the end of July, and our peer support volunteers hired by the end of August.

One of our challenges for the summer will be running support groups without a volunteer team yet in place. The facilitators of these groups will be either the Maccess Coordinator, members of the Executive team (once hired), or volunteers from the previous year. As last year's peer support volunteers will have received training less than 12 months ago, we will consider them qualified to continue their role over the summer.

Current Challenges

We have had challenges getting our events approved via EOHSS. For simple events such as our support groups, approvals have been taking up to 12 days. I have been informed that events deemed "low-risk" may be automatically approved; however, none of my requests have been automatically approved despite being low-risk. I am not sure of what the requirements are for an event to be automatically approved.

We anticipate having difficulties recruiting volunteers this year, as a result of our online-only context, and because students may not feel comfortable committing to a service when they do not know what their semester will look like.

Maccess has also been experiencing issues with our Instagram account, as we are unable to share posts to our story. This seems to be because I am using an Android device, as both Michael Wooder and the previous Maccess Coordinator are unable to replicate the issue on their iPhone devices. We have completed basic troubleshooting (including testing with a different Android device) and reported the issue to Instagram with no improvements. This feature is integral to building engagement through Instagram, and with our services moving exclusively online, this becomes more important than ever. I am hoping that our Promotions Coordinator will have a device that is compatible; however, this cannot be guaranteed.

Lastly, I have been having challenges keeping my hours to those listed in my employment contract. This year has created numerous challenges for us, as our services need to be delivered exclusively online for the very first time. In addition to trainings, committee meetings, and planning programming for the upcoming year, PTMs have had to completely redesign their services from the ground up to accommodate this new digital environment. As these decisions require careful considerations of accessibility and the needs of our communities, I have found myself consistently going over hours.