Life As An SRA Member

I was an SRA member for nearly two and a half years before running for an executive spot in the MSU. There are a ton of skills I learned from the experience that I never would have received in the classroom – an understanding of how lobbying and advocacy works, insight into different forms of corporate governance, how to see a real-world project through from start to finish, and much more. Perhaps what I appreciated most was the opportunity to learn about the McMaster campus beyond my little bubble. In meeting members from other faculties and discussing issues from all around campus, I gained a whole new appreciation for – and perspective on – life here at Mac.

As an SRA member, you have a say in everything that the MSU does. Beyond voting on things at meetings, the SRA gives you the opportunity to drive initiatives that directly impact students. As an SRA member, I ran a successful survey that indicated student dissatisfaction with the lack of TA training at McMaster. The survey sparked an interest within the university community and served as a jumping-off point for productive advocacy work in fixing the problem. If you’re interested in how the SRA works to advocate on behalf of students, I encourage you to run. It’s an awesome responsibility.

Often students wonder what they can do as an SRA member. The reality is, as an individual member you can accomplish a lot. Last year as a Social Sciences representative on the SRA, I pushed forward a motion sending the CFMU fee to referendum to be reduced from $17.29 to $12.50. I took issue with the fact that CFMU was running a structural surplus and not providing appropriate value to McMaster students. The referendum passed, and as a result McMaster students now collectively save roughly $100,000 a year in their student fees. This is just one example of the initiatives that you can champion on the SRA that will have a large impact on undergraduate students.