

# YEAR PLAN

## MSU Engineering Caucus

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2015-2016

(re-submitted July 14th/2015)



## OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING CAUCUS

Dear Reader,

Firstly, the engineering caucus would like to thank you for your support this year in electing us to the Student Representative Assembly as your voice in the McMaster Students Union's (MSU) governing body.

This year our caucus' main goal is to strengthen the ties between the McMaster Engineering Society (MES) and the MSU. We plan on leveraging the differences and similarities between these two organizations to create a climate for Engineering students to feel informed and integral to the decision making bodies at McMaster University.

As a caucus we are working on many ambitious goals to improve the day-to-day lives of engineers. Our projects fall under two few main categories: creating a better campus climate and creating a better external image and reach for Mac Eng.

For instance, our caucus is helping pioneer the creation of an inclusion council within the MSU which will work to make our campus a more welcoming place for whomever sets foot here. Another project which has similar aims is the to evaluate the services provided on-campus that promote healthy living such as the food options and the quality of our athletics and recreation services.

Some projects we are pursuing within our other focus area are improving the reputation of Mac Eng by increasing our portfolio of partner companies and creating promotional materials to attract partners. Another project we are taking on is to create and make available more professional development activities for Mac Eng students so we can make ourselves more marketable on the competitive job market when we graduate or start seeking co-op positions.

This along with a myriad of other opportunities we will be involved in through different SRA committees will aid in achieving a better experience for Mac Engineers. The caucus hopes to finish our term leaving Mac Eng better connected to the greater McMaster Community and more in-demand within the Greater Engineering Field.

Sincerely,  
Souzan Mirza  
Caucus Leader 2015-2016  
Electrical and Biomedical Engineering IV

## GOALS

Objective 1	<i>Healthier Lifestyle on Campus</i>
Description	The concept behind achieving this goal is to tackle it through different aspects given the three dimensions; food, physical activities, and mental wellness.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food Accessibility:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allows students to have healthier options, and deviate from unnecessary unhealthy food options.</li> <li>- Helps decrease the probability of being susceptible to FROSH 15.</li> <li>- Provide students with food options at night</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Physical Activities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to absorb student needs, which encourages students to reach out and get involved in physical activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mental Wellness:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decrease stress</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Educates students on the number of options available to them</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dealing with Athletic and Recreation's stigma and tendency to resist change</li> <li>- Getting students engaged with the survey</li> <li>- Staying involved with potential stakeholders</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campus that nourishes and advocates for healthier food options</li> <li>- Students become more aware of available options about healthier lifestyle and its importance</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food Accessibility:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with University Affairs Commissioner</li> <li>- Extend union market hours</li> <li>- Kitchen stops</li> <li>- Community Kitchen</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Physical Activities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with VP Finance</li> <li>- Create survey to gather feedback from students on the Pulse's quality of service</li> <li>- Process data, and meet with Athletic and Recreation to discuss issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mental Wellness:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with VP Admin</li> <li>- Publicise on available services, such as Peer Support Line</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athletic and Recreation</li> <li>- VP Finance</li> <li>- VP Admin</li> <li>- Finance commissioner</li> <li>- University Affairs commissioner</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer Support Line</li> <li>- Twelve Eighty &amp; Union Market</li> </ul>
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Objective 2	<b>Professional Reputation of Mac Eng</b>
Description	Address issues that are directly relevant to the image of McMaster as a serious Engineering school.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Categorization and association of “Engineering” with “McMaster” as common knowledge</li> <li>- A formalized tie between companies and the school to strengthen the co-op program</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Fulfilment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pride in Mac Eng</li> <li>- Inspiration for innovation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dealing with bureaucratic delays from funding and from companies unwilling to commit to a co-op a priori</li> <li>- Changing a general attitude toward a very well established institution</li> <li>- Changing some of the negative aspects of Mac Eng culture</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Better Opportunities for Grads and higher enrolment
How?	<p>Target the relevant demographics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- McMaster Engineers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perpetuate a culture that does not view excellence as something unachievable</li> <li>- Focus on developing an engineering pride that is not unfounded, but through recognising their achievements [ZEHONG]</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Potential and Prospective Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a competitive engineering contest and scholarship for prospective high school students</li> <li>- Advertize this competition to students</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Employers and Co-ops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The top prizes for the engineering contest include a guaranteed co-op placement at an engineering company</li> <li>- Contact companies that are willing to take a few students a year</li> <li>- Develop a relationship with engineering companies through this regular co-op relationship</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The General Public and their Media Outlets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advertize and proliferate any and all distinctions and achievements of McMaster Engineering Students through newspapers, websites, and the encouragement of journalistic coverage</li> <li>- Dedicate a social media geared towards McMaster Engineering students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Partners	
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Objective 3	<b>Gender Equality as a Core Pillar of Welcome Week</b>
Description	Women are a growing minority population in Engineering, there needs to be a shift in the programming to assure their comfort coming into this discipline
Benefits	WW is the gateway to involvement within the university and acceptance within the organizational structures that exist. Historically the super frosh and lady godiva go on to higher positions of power within the MES (current MES President for example). If WW is an alienating experience for students they are not able to get involved and enriching their student experience at Mac. As one of the largest and most diverse faculties we represent a lot of minority groups which should be acknowledged and break the cycle of alienation via WW as their first impression of Mac Eng.
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finding how I fit into the current planning structure</li> <li>- Staying constantly involved</li> <li>- Balancing other things I'm doing</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Creating a better culture for women engineering students as well as shifting the mindsets of their male peers which will be reflected in their working lives. Increasing retention within the industry.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- talk to eng WW planners about training</li> <li>- develop a consultant group to give a diverse perspective of opinions to commission</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eng WW planner and commission</li> <li>- VP Admin</li> <li>- SSC</li> <li>- SACHA</li> <li>- WISE</li> <li>- WIE</li> <li>- Carm - Mentorship program</li> <li>- WGEN</li> <li>- Diversity Services</li> </ul>

Objective 4	<b>Dialogue among women engineers</b>
Description	Women are a growing minority population in Engineering, at present there are no spaces that exist which allow women to discuss issues related to the gender divide within the discipline
Benefits	We have done a lot of work in attracting more women to the profession but there is still an issue with retention. Most women do not feel comfortable in this environment and at times feel disadvantaged because of their gender. Identifying these issues and creating a formal report that can be shared. Also creating a different kind of space where women can engage with each other and share

	experience and create a network outside of the traditional and in some case exclusive events that women in eng does (re: wine tour).
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrating there is a need for this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how to overcome? gather info and show there is a need for this in a report form</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Integrating this into a pre-existing group or structure</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Creating a community for women engineers which will enable a better working/school experience.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact these groups to find out how they want to be involved/what resources they can contribute</li> <li>- WGEN for the space/resources</li> <li>- Develop a theme/outline for these conversations with end goals</li> <li>- Find out logistics of booking/hosting these events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What money sources?</li> <li>- Booking/spaces?</li> <li>- Type of space - food? conversation? professional?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Create a report to give to MES and faculty to help them understand there is a need for this kind of cultural change</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WISE/WIE</li> <li>- WGEN, Diversity Services</li> <li>- AWSM</li> <li>- Devreve - Shann</li> <li>- Carm - Women Mentoring Program</li> <li>- Sacha</li> </ul>

Objective 5	<b>Dialogue Series for Greater Engineering Student Body</b>
Description	Take the learning from the conversations with women and share them with the greater public to start a cultural shift.
Benefits	Steps towards creating a more inclusive environment. Conversations need to be had between men and women and people in power to start a cultural change within the engineering student body and by consequence the engineering profession.
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance</li> <li>- Understanding of value</li> <li>- longevity of the project - who will continue it?</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Cultural shift within the engineering Sector.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- research prior/similar programs</li> <li>- contact WIE/WISE to find out what they do in this area</li> <li>- Talk to dean - get his understanding of the cultural climate</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WISE/WIE</li> <li>- WGEN, Diversity Services</li> <li>- AWSM</li> <li>- Devreve - Shann</li> <li>- Carm - Women Mentoring Program</li> <li>- Sacha</li> </ul>

	- Faculty?
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Objective 6	<i>Helping Spectrum grow</i>
Description	- look at ways in which students and the MSU can help Spectrum grow so that it can offer more to students in the future
Benefits	- Resource for innovation and entrepreneurship for students including: physical resources such as 3-D printers, software, etc. As well as guidance from professionals and mentors
Difficulties	- Space allocation - Shaping the direction of Spectrum
Long-term implications	- Having a room full of resources and guidance will benefit many students looking to test their ideas - Help grow the innovative and entrepreneurial community at McMaster
How?	- Different groups of people will be consulted to determine the direction of Spectrum and set up milestones to reach in the future. McMaster is putting in a lot of money to Spectrum and it would be beneficial to give students a voice on what direction they would like to see Spectrum take.
Partners	- Justin Policarpio - Manager of Spectrum - Spencer Nestico-Semianiw - MSU VP Education - Consultation of various student groups - Sean Van Koughnett - McMaster Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students - Daniel D'Angela - MSU VP Finance

Objective 7	<i>Gathering information on what engineering students would like to see</i>
Description	- Gathering information on what engineering students at McMaster would like to see in regards to services, events, conferences, etc.
Benefits	- Increased awareness on what students' feel that they need so that we can better serve them
Difficulties	- Gathering large amounts of data that will be representative of the population will difficult

Long-term implications	- Creating a system where students can give constant feedback throughout the year and reviewing the feedback every year or two will allow the MES/MSU to better serve their students
How?	- I will consult with different groups to coordinate different ways to collect feedback
Partners	- Mitchell Kurnell - MES VP Academic - Spencer Nestico-Semianiw - MSU VP Education - Michael Wooder

## Long-term planning

Overarching Vision	<i>Cultural Shift in Engineering with respect to gender equality</i>
Description	Creating a more accepting culture allowing women to thrive and pursue STEM careers/education.
Benefits	- Gender Equality - Deconstruction gender norms around educations/occupation - Better environment for all
Year 1	Conversation circles + Report Created
Year 2	Dialogue Series (if not in Year 1)
Year 3	Equality Allies within Engineering at all levels - students, MES, faculty, etc.
Partners	- AWSM - Faculty - Carm - WIE, WISE - MES - WGEN - SACHA - PACBIC

## GOALS to strive for

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September

- Welcome Week Inclusivity Council
- Have themes/partners for conversation circles
- Participate in Planning of Eng Rep training
- Athletic and Recreation Survey
- Setup tasks with UA commissioner about food accessibility
- Have research done on what to include on survey
- Get input from MES Exec on projects
- SRA Engineering meet and greet event as part of Welcome Week

**List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1<sup>st</sup>)**

- Run 2-3 Conversation Circles
- Process data and meet with Athletics and Recreation
- Extend Union market hours
- Provide alternative food options than junk food
- Complete and present information gathered from students regarding what they would like to see
- Complete information medium
- Complete consultation of students and staff regarding Spectrum

**List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

- Finish Report and recommendations on gender equality within engineering
- Publicise on Mental Wellness initiatives
- Keep in touch with Athletic and Recreation progress
- Present information on Spectrum
- Distribute information medium
- Complete feasibility report on long term project (engineering showcase)