



Report

From the office of the...

Vice-President (Administration)

TO: Members of the Assembly
FROM: Giuliana Guarna
SUBJECT: VP Admin Report
DATE: November 23rd, 2015

Dear Members of the Assembly,

Welcome to the last meeting of the year! I hope that I am in attendance to share this report with you, however Spencer and I will be going to Toronto for OUSA Lobbycon. It promises to be an exciting week spent with our peers and a number of government officials! I want to once again take the time to thank you for all of the hard work that you have done throughout your first semester on the assembly. Balancing extra-curricular involvements with your academics is no easy feat, but this campus is immeasurably better because of your commitment to improving the student experience.

Keeping a blog has been more challenging than originally anticipated. I will always continue to have an open-door policy as I believe it is critical to supporting PTM's and SRA members. However, as mentioned in my last SRA report this does at times hinder my ability to complete work during the day and has resulted in blogging falling to the bottom of my list! I'm hoping to pick it back up for the remainder of my term!

PLATFORM/PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

Anti Oppression Training

Conversations with Nishan, Ryan, and Glenn have been underway. We have discussed looking at having "levels" of training, so that students who have taken the "101" course could have more nuanced learning opportunities. We will also be re-naming the training to Anti-Oppressive Practices Training. The facilitation of AOP training has been put into the Job Descriptions for both the Director and Assistant Director of Diversity Services, therefore institutionalizing the training.

Peer Support

Since the last report we have officially welcomed Maccess to the Peer Support family. With five peer support services, the need for increased support in this department has become evident.

1. Peer Support Resource Coordinator: I am continuing to develop the peer support resource coordinator job description. I am hoping that the finalized version will be passed sometime in the new year and that hiring can take place shortly after PTM hiring. This role will function similar to the research assistants in UA. They will not "oversee" the peer support services, but rather will support them from a research oriented perspective. There has also been conversation to expand this role into an overall "training" resource coordinator for the entire organization and this change is something that I am actively pursuing.
2. Peer Support Policy: This policy has come a long way since my last update. Both Spencer and Blake have taken a look over it and provided me with recommendations on improvements. I am hoping that this policy will come forward next semester. It will hopefully help in our lobbying efforts with university admin in regards to the support of our peer support initiatives in the future.
3. Peer Support Line: The PSL has been allocated \$4800 from EB to bolster their suicide intervention training. 30 peer listeners will go through ASIST training in the coming months.
4. Reaching out to peers: I have been able to reach out to a number of other institutions and organizations to better understand how they conduct training, their staffing requirements, and their staffing structures. I continue to be in close contact with the Western USC VP Internal who oversees their Peer Support Centre which just launched this year.

Exec Mixer

Upon some reflection, I decided to expand this initiative further to all volunteers of services. The event was held at 1280 and there was some free food for all volunteers. Lesson learned, we need a lot more food! Overall I think that the event was a success and I look forward to having a more refined version next semester.

PTM On-boarding Package

This idea originally came from my pre-election conversations with incoming PTM's (thank you Serena!). Jess and I have worked over the last two months creating an on-boarding package that will be given to PTM's upon being hired. It will contain the "must-dos" upon first being hired, as well as explain the processes for some common procedures. It has been circulated to the CLAY, Horizons, and Maccess PTM's and will shortly be circulated to all PTM's for their feedback. This is intended to be a living and breathing document that can be added to each year. It is my hope that this becomes a very helpful resource for years to come.

Clustered Think Tanks

I tried this at the MSU Orientation this summer and it didn't really work. If there is one thing I've learned in this role, is that in order to grow we have to try new things, but most importantly, we need to be critical of everything we do to ensure that we are doing things efficiently and effectively.

MISC

SLC: The annual McMaster Student Leadership Conference will be taking place on January 16th. If you are interested in attending, please send me an email as your attendance will be sponsored.

MSU and YOU radio show: Every week Dan and I host the MSU and You Radio Show on CFMU from 12-1. If you would ever like to be on the show, please don't ever hesitate to meet us outside the door right before the show.

SRA Social: We held our first SRA social at Serve ping pong a few weeks ago. Thanks for all of you that came out. Overall a third of the SRA attended and it was a great night of food, drink, and socializing!

Best,

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