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*From the office of the...*

## SRA Arts & Science Caucus

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TO: Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Pearl Almeida, Arts & Science Caucus Leader  
SUBJECT: SRA 15J Report  
DATE: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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Dear Assembly,

Thank you for taking the time to read through my report. With the results of the October by-election, I have been quick to adjust to the role as the new SRA Arts & Science member within a short time. Fortunately, the role is tied closely with SASSex, enabling us to all work as a cohesive unit to support each others' goals and help ideas come to fruition.

1. Transparency is a primary concern for all SASSex members, including myself. Since Spencer Nestico-Semianiw's assumption of the VP Education role, Facebook and Twitter accounts were not in use for the entire first term of this role. There were no updates from the summer meetings, however, the SRA Arts & Science Observer (non-voting member), Emile Shen, sent emails of updates once the fall term commenced. Having assumed the SRA seat, the Facebook and Twitter accounts have been updated and posts are released fairly regularly. In my regular emails to the entire program, in addition to informing them what the SRA is doing, I have made an effort to include as many MSU events and/or workshops being held as possible. A lot of Arts & Science students feel a great disconnect from the MSU, and I received feedback from students who have stated that sending information about these opportunities over email has been quite helpful. Any necessary additions or changes to how transparent the Society is will be addressed after the winter break, once results from the mid-year satisfaction survey are released.
2. SASSex has various committees that students can join in order to help our efforts, as well as increase student engagement in our affairs. One of my goals for this year, as it has been for other SRA members, is to create an SRA Caucus Committee. Many Arts & Science Students are interested in governance and advocacy, so the creation of this committee would better connect students to the MSU and its internal and external affairs. This committee will also increase the legitimacy of my vote on certain stances, as

students within this committee would be responsible for starting their own discussions with peers about MSU and SRA affairs. The SRA Caucus Committee will be created in the winter term.

3. The Community group has been going to great lengths to help students integrate themselves within the Hamilton community. Recently, the Society of Arts and Science Students held our annual Progressive Dinner. The event was the most successful it has been in years, with a high turnout of first year students. We raised over \$300 dollars, which was donated to SACHA, the Sexual Assault Center in Hamilton.
4. Welcome Week Planner 2016 applications will be released soon. The deadline for applications is on January 5, 2015. Structure of the presentations and pair interview will be slightly modified from last year's model in order to increase efficiency, and create a more effective hiring process.

If you have any questions regarding the report, or my personal progress, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pearl Almeida  
SRA Arts & Science Caucus Leader  
McMaster Students Union