



REPORT

From the office of the...
MSU Spark Coordinator

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Mike Gill
SUBJECT: MSU Spark Report 5
DATE: January 11th, 2016

UPDATE

Spark Registration for Term 2 just closed, and we had 287 students enrol in the program! That means 527 students total have been accepted in to the Spark program this year – which is massive. Our Third workshop is happening on January 12th, and we're preparing for First Year Feedback Forum on February 1st.

SERVICE USAGE

Spark largely hasn't been operating between now and the last Executive Board report. However, we've had quite a bit of success with our media and promotional activities. Our exam pump-up video reached over 1,200 views, and our term 2 registration video got over 900 views.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Winter Re-Training

We spent 4 hours in a very intense, not very long training on Sunday January 10th. This involved facilitated conversation/bonding time for new co pairs, an indepth chance to run activities, debrief them, and reflect on that debrief, as well as some fairly hefty situational question discussion.

All in all, I felt it was fun, engaging, and a very positive use of Team Leader time. I think we have to be critical of how much time we ask from volunteers, and exactly what is necessary in offering a re-training.

Co-Shuffle

The vast majority of our Team Leader co's have been shuffled up this term – an idea that is credit to Jack. This will hopefully provide Team Leaders with a clean slate, while also allowing us to bring some new energy and excitement in to the team. We hope that a shuffle will not only keep things interesting, but also create more opportunities for learning and growth.

Session Re-Design

Kevan and Lindsay have invested considerable time in revamping our sessions for term two. As a result, they've come up with some wonderfully insightful activities, and also introduced a session on positive psychology and mindfulness. I think that this is a very valuable, mature session that not only will be

engaging, but also will offer a tonne of real-world value to participants. I'm very proud of the work they've done.

Guidebook #3

Helen continues to be a self-directed star. We released a guidebook during exams with tips and tricks for making the most of the season. It received high interest on our facebook page. However, I would really encourage the MSU to invest in a pro issuu account so that I can do more to film the team.

Off Campus Living Workshop

Over 50 students attended our Off-Campus living workshop on January 12th. The workshop featured a session by BreadBin on eating health on a budget, as well as a session by SCSN on leases and legal rights as tenants. We're grateful for both their support, and students had a very positive response to the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Opening Ceremonies & Post Session-1 Social

Jack and Jonathan have been doing amazing work more-less non-stop since the break. As a result, they've revamped opening ceremonies to provide a bit more studcture and support for TL's. Furher, it doesn't look like people are excited for me not to be there.

Learning To Fly / Share Your Story Launch

Helen has been hard at work collecting stories from TL's and first years regarding the experiences they had during their transition in to university. These stories are soon going to be released to the public, and featured as a central component of the first week of MacTalks in February.

First Year Feedback Forum

We've confirmed funding from FYC and participation from all our facilitators. We've had training for our facilitators, and will be training our note takes in late January. We've spent ~800 dollars on food, and we're very excited to see this huge event go live.

BUDGET

Category	Ytd	Pr. YTD	Approved Budget
Special Projects	329.38	\$503.01	\$4,000
Advertising Promo.	2,289.59	\$1,090.48	\$2,400
Leader Training	395.63	\$175.74	\$500
Wages	4397.91	\$3709.12	\$6600

VOLUNTEERS

I think our team is in a great place at the moment – people are well rested after the break, and excited to start working with a new co. At the same time, seeing that groups have 14 people in them is a very heartening reality for Co's some of whom struggled with low turn out last term.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

First Year Feedback Forum is a lot of work – and some of it will definitely need to be continued after I take my leave of absence. Not so much a challenge, but definitely the largest source of anxiety moving forward.

SUCSESSES

Our squad is amazing. Getting 50 people to show up for the Off-Campus workshop, with over 80 RSVP'd, is a stellar feat – especially considering Residence Life didn't promote it for us.

Our registration numbers are MASSIVE, and students have continued emailing me asking for a spot in the program after it closed.

Our sessions are looking great, and we've prepped 100% of the materials necessary for the next two weeks already.

Our guidebook was well received, and our two promo videos were incredibly popular – receiving a combined view count of over 2,100.

Our service has not only a huge presence on campus, but a very positive one – and that is something our team should be very proud of.