

YEAR PLAN

MSU SRA ArtSci
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2020-2021
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Introduction

If you're reading this: thank you, wow.

Being involved in student politics sometimes brings the curious mentality of believing "Man, these changes are super important and will really make a major difference!" and then getting whiplashed with the thought "Wait, people don't *really* care".

(You reading this intro shows a lot of care though, so again, thank you!)

Both mentalities were considered while writing. What can make a positive difference? And what do ArtScis truly care about? Hopefully this Year Plan strikes the balance.

This plan is definitely more vague, because of the fluidity and changes that await this uNpReCeDeNtEd school year. Bear with me as goals are delayed or priorities are shifted.

Two quick shout-outs: 1) The incoming class of 2024. You've made some of the biggest decisions in the weirdest times possible. And yet, you made it. The student union is for you too. We're here to make whatever student life and experience you can have excellent. Please reach out.

And 2) Vikita! The SRA Observer for this year who has some awesome stuff in mind and briefly touched on in this plan. The two of us make up the whole ArtSci SRA caucus. She is a great resource to reach out to as well.

Before I was acclaimed, I envisioned my platform shaping around the word **peace**: policy, ease, arguing (for ArtSci voices at meetings) and continuity (sustainability, long term stuff). You'll see them well reflected in this Year Plan.

I guess eep is gone. It was about making student politics something that more people want to engage with, more exciting and down to earth! But you know, COVID and all, keeping folks at home and distant. Eep might be the biggest challenge this caucus has faced since conception.

So that's where I end. Relevant change + *pizzazz* = a successful year in my books. So talk to me—whaddya want to see this year? How can I help? Best,

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SRA ArtSci 2019/2020 Caucus: At a Glance

Outline Of Goal	What Was Done in 2019-2020	What Will Be Done in 2020-2021
Study Space for ArtSci students	✓ Secured access to LRW room booking	Moving forward → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make room booking more accessible, promoted and efficient (open later? artsci exclusive? Etc.)
Bi-weekly videos	✓ SASSwatch Podcast, available on the SASSweb WIX site and Spotify	Completed → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good engagement (over a total of 5 episodes, we got 13 followers, 42 listens and 112 starts). • Integrated SASSex members by inviting them to talk and the ArtSci community on a special elections episode
Revamping SASSweb for information	* SASSwatch Podcast (the get to know section was MSU/SASS information focused) ✗ Website info was not completed (due to issues with the new site and the mid-year deletion and switch to WIX)	Redirection → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a survey/event at the start of semester to see if information about MSU/academics is something wanted by ArtScis
Professor Meetings	✗ Inconclusive result after meeting with Dr. Wilson (met with the advocacy team of SASSex later to discuss this, but it was in January, so not much time was left to take action)	Moving Forward → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if entrance into professor meetings is needed with a survey/event • Touch base with previous SRA caucuses to see what progress was lost in transition
Mental Health and Wellness	✓ Creation of a Mental Health and Wellness SASS committee (SAFETalks and MacAssist with high turnout)	Redirection → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technically complete, and we hope the new SASS committee will thrive in their ArtSci focused mental health initiatives.
Long term planning	✓ Step 1 was the mental health work mentioned above	Completed → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHW Committee was focused on this and will be moving forward

Goals

SASSex Specific

Objective 1	Communicating SRA Information
Description	<p>Determining a way to share SRA information (like meetings, events, etc.) in a clear, consistent and engaging way on social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting more Twitter & Facebook engagement• Determining if an ArtSci SRA Instagram is necessary• Bite size meeting summaries before and after <p>Also, maintaining office hours.</p>
Benefits	<p>We need to reach as many ArtScis as we can, as often issues directly impact students and their campus life.</p> <p>More student involvement and awareness of the SRA!</p>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining consistency and quality
Long-term implications	<p>Modelling good engagement for future caucus' to continue to improve upon.</p>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking to transition the podcast to the SRA Observer in September• Consult constituents about the desire of a SRA instagram
Partners	<p>SASS Communication Director</p>

Objective 2	SRA Observer Projects
Description	

	<p>Vikita, the ArtSci SRA Observer, has her own platform points that we're just formalizing here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding and better advertising study spaces and room booking • Improve ArtSci classroom equity for those who have to miss class for various reasons (cultural, religious, mental health, etc.) • Promoting the use of SAS through informational campaigns • Improving menstrual equity with informational posters and better access to products
Benefits	Improve equity and accessibility for ArtScis and the general McMaster community.
Difficulties	Long term implementation
Long-term implications	Generally improved equity and accessibility
How?	<p>My role as SRA will be to support the Observer as she undertakes these tasks, alongside basic Observer duties.</p> <p>Consultations will probably be step one.</p>
Partners	<p>SRA Observer</p> <p>SASS Pres</p>

Objective 2	ArtSci SRA x SASS Event
Description	<p>Holding one event at the beginning of each semester to get feedback and advice on student wants and needs.</p> <p>Could be paired with Milk & Cookies.</p>
Benefits	Reinforce and focus our advocacy priorities for each semester. Finding out what ArtSci's really want to see

Difficulties	<p>It will have to be online!</p> <p>If an online seminar is held, it's likely there will be very minimal turn out.</p> <p>So taking time to re-adjust to figure out what will get the most engagement (and then actually doing it) will be the hardest thing.</p>
Long-term implications	Continuing to build a good rapport with the ArtSci student body
How?	<p>Best guess would be to speak with SASS VP Functions to see how they plan to host online events and partner with them.</p> <p>Also looking to perhaps get into Welcome Week events.</p>
Partners	<p>VP Functions</p> <p>SASS President</p> <p>WW Planners</p>

SRA Specific

Objective 3	Meeting Sustainability
Description	<p>2019/2020 SRA meetings used a lot of paper, from ballots to reports and memos. For the 2020 VP elections and all meetings prior, voting has been done through Google Forms and gmail.</p> <p>This initiative wants to look into alternatives to remove waste from SRA meetings and larger MSU proceedings from now on.</p>
Benefits	Larger environmental policy change must be matched with smaller scale significant sustainable action.

	The environmental impact will be a net positive, along with the hope that the MSU can set the precedent of sustainability that they champion.
Difficulties	<p>Take care not to violate the laws of proceeding and maintain user ID (mitigated by consulting various knowledgeable stakeholders)</p> <p><i>NB: This goal might take a completely different form than expected with COVID, as many things are naturally shifting online. This could shift into keeping some of these MSU proceedings online (such as voting) after things return to in person.</i></p>
Long-term implications	Sustainability! But also some way in place to ensure things that transition online, stay online.
How?	<p>Continue conversations with Speaker and AVP IG. Start conversation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>First step is just a general assessment of where the SRA (then the MSU) is being unsustainable.</p>
Partners	<p>MSU Speaker</p> <p>AVP IG & Committee</p> <p>Sustainability Committee</p> <p>BOD (Board of Directors)</p>

Objective 4	Observer Role Exploration
Description	<p>SRA Observer is a role unique to ArtSci, because the program has a very small caucus. The Observer supports the SRA member with the aims of maturing into the role the following year.</p> <p>I believe other faculty societies (HealthSci, Nursing and perhaps even Humanities) might greatly benefit from this role, so helping them to implement it is this goal.</p>

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals getting familiar with the SRA makes the one-year turnover less of a complete restart • Then you have individuals with more upfront knowledge of SRA able to start to make change faster
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the caucus members decide they don't want or don't think they need the role, then the goal naturally ends • However, these observer roles could also be elected/hired through the MSU
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More informed and prepared SRA members • Could also foster a greater engagement with SRA from members who aren't directly involved on the assembly
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term initiative, where I can ask current members if they feel they struggle with any part of their role (around Dec) and suggest their faculty society adopt a new role (SRA Observer) - to be implemented for election time in March
Partners	Aforementioned Caucuses BOD

McMaster Wide

Objective 5	SWC Accessibility
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Student Wellness Center, there is currently an accessibility issue for deaf, HOH and/or visually impaired students to know when their name is called for an appointment. • We want to promote accessibility in the SWC through either a TV screen to display the name or number of the person being called (such as done in government registration places) or through an incorporation of a Bistro vibrating plate system
Benefits	

	Accessibility! Would also make things easier for the SWC staff.
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing the system and practically introducing it, but this will depend on how consultations go (may require SRA budget for startup costs) • OH ALSO COVID LMAO - starting this plan when the SWC opens could also delay it being finished • However, If we do end up choosing the Bistro system, we would also have Food Services as a resource to see how they finance it, maintain it, etc
Long-term implications	Maintenance costs! To keep in mind/factor in
How?	First consultations with EIO, VP Finance, then SWC to determine feasibility and options.
Partners	VP Finance SWC Manager

Objective 6	Student Input on PULSE Events
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster Recreation and DBAC provide group exercise initiatives such as spin classes, HIIT training and Zumba. Currently, those classes times are posted at the beginning of each semester • I would like to introduce a system where students can vote on which pre-selected dates work best for them at the beginning of each semester.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We pay for these facilities, it is more equitable to get students input on which times work for them • Additionally, some activities might be getting a lower turnout than they could because of commuter

	students or class interference, even though there is desire to attend
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, COVID affecting if/when the PULSE will be open, affecting the completion of this project • Getting online voting disseminated/advertised to everyone who needs it
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopefully if this system can be implemented this year, students will be more familiar with voting at the beginning of each semester • This would lead to increased turnout in these facilities
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to the Rec Director and PULSE Programming Manager • Get information on how these services are currently run • Suggest a pilot of voting with a popular class (such as Spin) • Determine which voting system is accessible, cheap and user friendly • If it is successful and we see higher turnout in first semester, expand to more classes in second semester
Partners	PULSE Programming Manager Recreation Services Communications and Marketing Director

Long-term planning

Overarching Vision 1	Anti-Racism Working and Planning
Description	<p>The MSU needs formalized systemic and radical change. This is very much beginning stages, bare bones ideas but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pools of fundings solely for anti-racism plannings • Explicit operating policy changes of peer support and equity-based MSU programs to center BIPOC voices • Independant POC legal representatives to help BIPOC student interpret any legal sides of issues

	<p>The goal of having this stated here is to have a commitment to the guiding principle of centralizing anti-racism, however it may shape after initial consultations.</p>
Benefits	<p>The PCCs operating policy doesn't mention race once. This doesn't line up when we consider the unique challenges that racialized queer students face.</p> <p>This plan wants to aid the intersectionality of MSU services and have explicit policy backing for anti racist initiatives.</p>
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many consultations with both internal and external groups and individuals • Relevant policy reviews
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti racism included into the budget • Implementing policy and events
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just surveying how the project is going
Partners	<p>SRA SocSci BOD HCCI PCC Coordinator and various other equity based MSU groups</p>

Goals to strive for

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

- Determine if SRA ArtSci Instagram is a go
- Promote present SRA ArtSci social media through SASSex
- Know on what format to hold first SRA x SASS event
- Understand the re-opening plan for the SWC and DBAC is
- Chosen one Observer project to begin

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)

- Hosted one SRA x SASS event
- Been consistent with social media and office hours
- Completed at least two Observer projects
- Finished consultations for SRA sustainability, SWC and PULSE
- Reached out to appropriate caucuses regarding Observer positions
- **Bonus:** Determine whether or not PULSE and SWC will be open

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)

**McMaster wide plans are written assuming winter semester is in person*

- Test trial PULSE voted events
- Continue SWC accessibility
- Complete SRA sustainability
- Determine conclusion of Observer roles
- Look into sustainability of Observer projects
- **Bonus:** Kept up office hours, information and perhaps another SRA x SASS event

Master Summary

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRA Training and transitions• Year Plan Consultation
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRA summer meetings, committee elections and training
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chosen one Observer project to begin
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine if SRA ArtSci Instagram is a go• Know on what format to hold first SRA x SASS event• Understand the re-opening plan for the SWC and DBAC is
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote present SRA ArtSci social media through SASSex• Hosted one SRA x SASS event (October is okay too)• PULSE consultations
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various consultations (sustainability, SWC)
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reached out to appropriate caucuses regarding Observer positions• Determine next course of action after consultations
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed at least two Observer projects• Test trial PULSE voted events•
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow courses of actions for various plans and consultations
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow courses of actions
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probably nothing, busy month - wrapping up loose ends and determining what will need to be carried over
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition