

YEAR PLAN

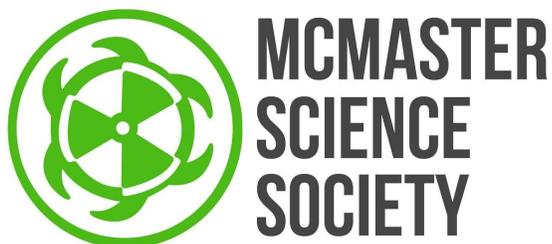
VP Student Affairs

Alexis Chacon

McMaster Science Society

2020-2021

(submitted June 12, 2020)





1280 Main St. West
Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8
905-525-9140 Ext: 23322
Burke Science Building (BSB), B108

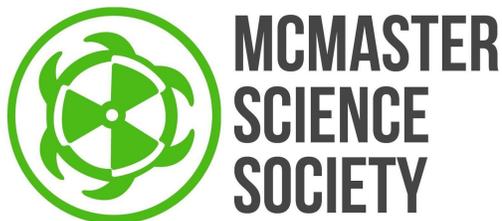
2020-2021 Year Plan

Letter from the Position

Hey there! Hope you are doing amazing and I'm so glad you found your way to the Student Affairs Year Plan for 2020-2021! My name is Alexis Chacon, and I am a Level 4 Honours Molecular Biology and Genetics student. I'm incredibly honoured and excited to be taking on the role of MSS VP Student Affairs for this year!

Last year, Sarah was incredibly successful in her role as she led an amazing team to plan fun events like ILSD, Bob Ross Paint Night, MacSci Musical and so much more! Unfortunately due to COVID-19 limitations, some end of the year events such as MacSci Appreciation Night couldn't happen. Since fall semester will be taking place online, this year will look completely different from previous years but I am excited for the challenge and ready to bring new and creative ideas to the table. This year I would like to focus on increasing collaboration among the MSS members, program societies, other faculties, MSU and alumni in planning and promoting events, make events accessible to a wider range of people, and increase opportunities for student engagement and involvement.

My amazing and incredible Student Affairs team will be working tirelessly with me to create the best possible year for all of you! I am beyond confident in the abilities of these five individuals, who will be working tirelessly to support, diversify, expand, and craft their visions for the 2020-2021 school year. Sandy Brassel is our new Arts Director and will be working to expand arts initiatives within the MSS through online platforms. Our Athletics & Wellness Director, Raika Bourmand, will be organizing at-home workouts, wellness tips, how-to videos and hopefully sport tournaments and science intramurals in the winter semester. Keira Mattook, our Formaldehyde Coordinator, will be busy crafting a magical night for you at McMaster's largest faculty formal. Our Musical Director, Khoi Hoang, will be orchestrating a musical which will leave you begging for an encore. Devena Mahabir is our Special Events Planner, and will be planning an online I Love Science Day and MacSci Appreciation Night! I am incredibly eager to have the opportunity to support and work with this enthusiastic, unique, and dedicated team to enrich the overall science student experience at



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McMaster. If you have any questions or just want to chat, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Alexis Chacon
 Vice-President Student Affairs
 vpstudentaffairs@mcmastersciencesociety.com

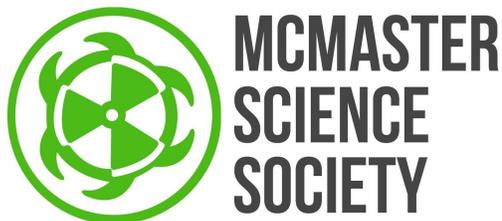
OBJECTIVES:

Increase Student Involvement and Engagement Opportunities within the MSS	
Description/ Current State	Currently, the MSS is a very small group of students representing a very large number of students. Oftentimes, those applying for future positions with the society are those that have been previously involved. Given these facts, including a larger number of students within the planning processes for events will allow for a better representation of students and an increase in involvement in topics they are passionate about. Each position in the Student Affairs portfolio will hire volunteer teams to help plan and implement these events. Additionally, due to the fall semester being online, we want to include as many engagement opportunities as we can to science students, in particular, first-year science students.
Goal	To increase the number of opportunities for students to be involved with the MSS, and to increase the different ways students can engage and participate in various online and in-person MSS events and initiatives.
Barriers to Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Musical exec committee is hired during exam time which is an inconvenient time for students to apply - Special Events committee is hired during the spring/summer which means incoming first years won't have the opportunity to apply to those positions - Some students may not be active on social media so may not see the content that we post, thus won't have a chance to participate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some students are also more reluctant to participate in online events
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formaldehyde committee, Athletics and Wellness committee and Arts committee will all be hired in the Fall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring will follow standard MSS practices, including a written application and interview. - The written application will be marked blind. - All applicants will be scored by the MSS Exec running that team as well as the VP Student Affairs. - Include a variety of different ways students can be engaged in the content such as contests with prizes to win, social media take over, a chance to get featured on our page, trivia, and much more. - Post a variety of different content on multiple social media accounts so that it can gain a lot of student outreach and cater to their interests
Long Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing opportunities for involvement will allow for more students, opinions, creative ideas, and perspectives to be brought to the teams. - This will allow for events to continuously improve and strengthen, and allow more students to have a direct hand in directing the course of MSS events. - Increasing first-year involvement will also spike interest in future years for that cohort of students. - Might not become as familiar with the MSS as we would like due to events being online rather than in-person
Partners	<p>Devena Mahabir - Special Events Planner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specialevents@mcmastersciencesociety.com <p>Khoi Hoang - Musical Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - musical@mcmastersciencesociety.com <p>Sandy Brassel - Arts Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - arts@mcmastersciencesociety.com <p>Keira Mattook - Formaldehyde Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formaldehyde@mcmastersciencesociety.com <p>Raika Bourmand - Athletics and Wellness Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - athleticsandwellness@mcmastersciencesociety.com

	Nathalie Abasto - VP Communications - vpcommunications@mcmastersciencesociety.com
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Increase Collaboration among Positions, Programs and Faculties	
Description/ Current State	The MSS members are a very tight-knit community, and allowing multiple MSS positions to collaborate on events will allow for a more cohesive team. By also collaborating with people outside the MSS such as program societies, other faculties, MSU and alumni, it will allow for a greater outreach towards students at McMaster.
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To plan and prepare various MSS events with multiple members of the MSS, allowing for a variety of different strengths and ideas - To communicate with program societies more, giving them a chance to showcase their program to incoming first years - To increase awareness about the MSS and what we offer by collaborating with other faculties such as Social Science and Engineering, as well as collaborating with the MSU and McMaster alumni.
Barriers to Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the fall semester being online, collaborating with various members outside the MSS may be a challenge - Students may not notice the MSS coming together with another faculty if they aren't active online or don't follow to the MSS social media platforms
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By collaborating with organizations outside the MSS, we can ensure that they post on their social media as well as ours to gain a larger audience - Consistent communication with program societies about ways they can showcase their program - Post on various different platforms and host a variety of different events and initiatives to cater to student interests
Long Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Larger awareness from science students about the MSS and what we do, as well as a larger awareness from non-science students as well - Higher rates of engagement from students and increased interest for future years



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Increased Student Feedback for Events and Initiatives	
Description/Current State	<p>Currently, many events are run by the MSS Student Affairs Portfolio where feedback forms are provided, but many other events do not provide an opportunity for constituents to voice their thoughts and opinions for feedback on the event. Thus, the value of each event cannot be accurately determined or evaluated.</p>
Goal	<p>By implementing a feedback form for each event run in the Student Affairs portfolio, the thoughts of the attendees will be shared with the MSS, and their considerations will be taken into account when determining the future of the event. Thus, science students will all have the ability to shape the future of MSS events to best suit their needs. When planning events for the 2020-2021 academic year, we will be looking back at</p>

	<p>previous feedback/notes to ensure that the event is the best it can be.</p>
Barriers to Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compiling and condensing results may be difficult if there is a wide variety of inputs, or a large amount of responses - Students may not want to fill out tedious or long forms.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By working with the Communications team, feedback forms can be provided on social media as well as emailed to registered attendees where applicable. - The forms will be made available 1 day after the event and be open for two weeks. - This time is close enough after the event that anyone with feedback will be able to complete the form. - After this point, the Coordinator, Planner, or Director will summarize the feedback and include it within the event transition report.
Long Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By incorporating feedback from previous years into planning for the event, the event will be directed in a manner to best benefit science students. - Altering events in this manner will allow for the larger improvements to be made on events in the future. - This will allow students to get the most out of the events, as they are the ones directing their interests.

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GOALS TO STRIVE FOR

5 things that you wish to have prepared for the beginning of September:

1. Full exec committee for Musical and Special Events
2. Venue booked for Formaldehyde (and date finalized) and Musical
3. Work with the program societies to facilitate a communication system and establish working relationships for the rest of the year
4. Complete planning for all later fall events
5. Lots of online ideas brainstormed and able to be executed

5 things to be completed during the fall term (1st):

1. Hiring of committees with the Arts Director, Athletics & Wellness Director, and Formaldehyde Coordinator.
2. Successfully host online ILSD
3. Successfully host Pumpkin carving and Bob Ross Paint Night
4. Successfully post online athletics and wellness content
5. Plan for all winter Student Affairs events (prepare for it to be online)

5 things to be completed during the winter term (2nd):

1. Successfully host Formaldehyde
2. Successfully host the Ultimate Arts Show

3. Successfully execute the MacSci Musical
4. Successfully host the Winter Sports Tournament, Winter intramurals, and one Wellness Event
5. Successfully host the MacSci Appreciation Night
6. Assist with new periphery team applications and interviews
7. Transition the next VP Student Affairs

TIMELINE

Month	Objective/Project/Event/Goals
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire the Musical Executive team - Book Formaldehyde Venue
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire Special Events Planning Team - Book Musical Venue - Reach out to program societies about their experiments for ILSD - Reach out to people for at-home workout videos or wellness activities - Book Formaldehyde band/DJ
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online ILSD planning - Online Athletics and Wellness content planning - Complete planning for all fall events and initiatives
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire the MacSci Musical team (cast and orchestra), Athletics & Wellness Committee, Formaldehyde Committee, and Arts Committee - Start posting bi-weekly experiment videos - Start posting bi-weekly athletic and wellness content
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post bi-weekly experiment videos - Post bi-weekly athletic and wellness content

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host Pumpkin Carving event - Rehearsals for musical - Plan Formaldehyde with team
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post bi-weekly experiment videos - Post bi-weekly athletic and wellness content - Host Bob Ross Paint Night - Rehearsals for musical - Plan Formaldehyde with team (start selling tickets) - Planning for winter events and initiatives (online or in-person)
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exams! - Finalize Formaldehyde planning
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host Formaldehyde - Finalize planning for all winter events and initiatives
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host the Ultimate Arts Show - Hopefully host an in-person ILSD - Hopefully have in-person tournaments, intramurals and wellness events
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host the MacSci Appreciation Night - Host the MacSci Musical - Transition the next VP Student Affairs - Assist with new periphery team hiring and interviews
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exams! - Complete the Student Affairs financial report - Officially pass my baby over to the next VP