

# YEAR PLAN

*VP Student Affairs*

*Ava Colangelo*

McMaster Science Society

2023-2024

(submitted September 7, 2023)

**MCMASTER**  
**SCIENCE**  
**SOCIETY**





# 2023-2024 Year Plan

## Letter from the Position

Hi there! My name is Ava Colangelo and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be this year's VP Student Affairs for the McMaster Science Society. If you're reading this, you are most likely interested in the different events the MSS will be offering this year! Together with my amazing portfolio, we are working to bring you all revamped versions of the events you know and love, while also introducing new initiatives for the 2023-2024 school year.

Last year, I served under the 2022-2023 VP Student Affairs, Isabelle Son, as the MSS Special Events Planner, where I was able to organize events such as SciFest, Holiday Hangout, Sucrose Rush, and MacSci Appreciation Night. I learned so much from Isabelle during my time in this position, namely how to be a resource for the rest of the Student Affairs team. I was able to witness her mentor us all, put our needs before her own, and overall bring a fresh perspective into all of our event planning. She successfully supervised the planning of the events mentioned above, along with the annual MacSci Musical, Cootes Paradise Trail Hike, Pumpkin Painting Night, Zumba x Yoga Competition, the annual science formal (Formaldehyde), Skating and Hot Chocolate, the Engineering VS Science Hockey Game, the Ultimate Arts Show, Gym Walkthrough, and Wellness Wednesday Posts. I plan to use the skills I observed from Isabelle leadership, combined with my passion for event planning, to be the best resource I can be for my portfolio.

The Student Affairs Portfolio is made of the most qualified, amazing, group of people who I wholeheartedly trust to carry out the signature MSS events this year, as well as bring fresh new ideas to the team. Agshaya Paven is our new Arts Director and will be responsible for supporting different events and resources which will help to form a connection between the Arts and Sciences. Taking on the role of the MacSci Musical Director is Sarah Menezes; she will be working tirelessly to direct and produce a musical which I can guarantee will be unforgettable. For the first time ever, we have a duo taking on the position of Special Events Planner – Ishan Sharma and Avnit Natt – and they will be bringing back the Hunt, along with hosting some of MSS's most iconic events like MacSci Appreciation Night, while also pursuing interfaculty events. Our Athletics and Wellness Director, Abby Nulle, will be curating several events and initiatives focusing on the mental health and wellness of our students; together, while



prioritizing and giving students mental health resources. Our Formaldehyde Coordinators, Emma Lee and Romik Jain, will be busy crafting a magical night for you at McMaster’s largest faculty formal. I am so excited to learn from this amazing team by working with them this year to execute the best events possible for the MSS community, while increasing student engagement/awareness, reintroducing EDI initiatives, and engaging with sub societies. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, don’t hesitate to reach out!

Ava Colangelo  
VP Student Affairs

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**TIMELINE**

Month	Objective/Project/Event/Goals
June	Events/Projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Musical Exec Team Hiring</li> </ol> Things to complete: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline events for each position in Stu Aff portfolio</li> <li>Train the Stu Aff team on event planning process</li> </ol>
July	Events/Projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Events Subcommittee Hiring</li> </ol> Things to complete: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare presentation for MSS executive training</li> <li>Book Formaldehyde venue</li> <li>Book MacSci Musical venue</li> </ol>
August	Events/Projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletics &amp; Wellness + Formaldehyde Subcommittee hiring</li> </ol> Things to complete: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete all Hunt/DCS Collab planning</li> <li>Have all events planned and ready to be executed for the Fall semester</li> </ol>
September	Events/Projects:



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Hunt</li> <li>2. DCS Collab</li> <li>3. Athletics &amp; Wellness Outing</li> <li>4. Arts Subcommittee hiring</li> <li>5. MacSci Musical cast auditions</li> </ol> <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start posting Athletics and Wellness content</li> <li>2. Formaldehyde planning</li> </ol>
October	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arts Event</li> <li>2. Biweekly Athletics and Wellness content</li> </ol> <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formaldehyde planning</li> </ol>
November	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start MacSci Musical rehearsals</li> <li>2. Biweekly Athletics and Wellness content</li> </ol> <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formaldehyde planning</li> </ol>
December	<p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalize Formaldehyde planning</li> </ol>
January	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formaldehyde</li> <li>2. Biweekly Athletics and Wellness content</li> <li>3. MacSci Musical fundraising event</li> </ol> <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalize planning for all winter semester events and initiatives</li> <li>2. Finalize planning for Ultimate Arts Show</li> <li>3. Finalize planning for MacSci Appreciation Night</li> </ol>
February	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ultimate Arts Show</li> <li>2. Valentines Event</li> <li>3. Musical &amp; Arts coffeehouse (Fundraiser)</li> <li>4. Biweekly Athletics and Wellness content</li> </ol> <p>Things to complete;</p>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete feedback from formaldehyde</li> <li>2. Finalize planning for MacSci Appreciation Night</li> </ol>
March	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MacSci Appreciation Night</li> <li>2. MacSci Musical</li> <li>3. Athletics Tournament</li> <li>4. Biweekly athletics and wellness content</li> </ol>
April	<p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete transition report</li> <li>2. Assist in transitioning incoming VP Student Affairs</li> <li>3. Assist in interviews for new peripheral executives</li> </ol>

**OBJECTIVES:**

Reintroduce Inclusivity, Diversity and Accessibility	
Description/ Current State	After each of the events held throughout the 2023-2024 term, I will ensure an opportunity for student feedback. This will be done via a form on our website/on social media, and will give students the opportunity to let us know how we can Improve our events to make them more Inclusive, diverse and accessible. The feedback will be compiled Into a list and will be considered when planning future events!
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To keep accessibility and inclusivity as a priority in all event planning.</li> <li>- Keep in mind the diversity of the student body in McMaster's science faculty.</li> <li>- Ensuring all events are disability-friendly and organizing arrangements beforehand.</li> <li>- Anticipate needs of students in the McMaster Science Faculty and cater towards that.</li> <li>- Provide an opportunity for students to easily communicate with us about any concerns they may have regarding accessibility and inclusivity in event planning.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate with McMaster's Equity and Inclusion Office</li> </ul>
Long Term Implications	<p>Increased opportunities within the MSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greater amount of resources and events for students to access and benefit from.</li> <li>- Diversifying the MSS team and attendee participation in MSS events.</li> </ul> <p>Point of reference for future events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future VPs have a platform to work off of where accessibility and inclusivity has been made a prominent factor</li> </ul>
Partners	<p>Sarah Menezes - Musical Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:musical@macsci.ca">musical@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Ishan and Avnit - Special Events Planner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:specialevents@macsci.ca">specialevents@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Agshaya - Arts Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:arts@macsci.ca">arts@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Emma and Romik - Formaldehyde Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:formaldehyde@macsci.ca">formaldehyde@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Abby Nulle - Athletics and Wellness Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:athleticsandwellness@macsci.ca">athleticsandwellness@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Luca Bernardini - President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:president@macsci.ca">president@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Equity and Inclusion Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University Hall (UH), Room 104 - (905) 525-9140</li> </ul>

Engaging with Subsocieties	
Description/ Current State	<p>Throughout my time on the MSS, I have made it a priority to collaborate with sub-societies. This term I reached out to them via email to gauge interest in having a series of science socials in the newly renovated science lounge. There was a lot of interest, so it will be a priority this term to make it happen. Not only will students be able to meet their peers from their programs through this initiative, but it will give the subsocieties the venue, supplies, and volunteers to help them carry out events they may otherwise not be able to do.</p>
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide resources to help MSS Subsocieties</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote interprogram friendships</li> <li>- To help students meet fellow MSS members with similar interests</li> <li>- To introduce the student body to the newly renovated science lounge</li> </ul>
Long Term Implications	<p>Increased opportunities within the MSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greater amount of resources and events for students to access and benefit from.</li> <li>- Diversifying the MSS team and attendee participation in MSS events.</li> </ul> <p>Point of reference for future events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future VPs have a platform to work off of where accessibility and inclusivity has been made a prominent factor</li> </ul>
Partners	<p>Ishan and Avnit - Special Events Planner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:specialevents@macsci.ca">specialevents@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Visali Manimaran - VP Internal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:vpinternal@macsci.ca">vpinternal@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul>

Loyalty Card Initiative	
Description/ Current State	As an incentive to come out to MacSci Events, I plan on Introducing the MacSci Stamp Cards! For each event that you attend, you will have the opportunity to “stamp” your loyalty card. The more events you attend, the more stamps you get! At the end of the year, students with a full card will be entered In a draw to win a prize! This will provide an Incentive for students to come to our events, and reward them for having fun!
Goal	<p>To keep students engaged through events organized by the Student Affairs team, as well as increase overall student participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perform a review of feedback forms received from the 2023-2024 school year and incorporate the feedback and suggestions in this year's event planning.</li> <li>- Create fun, different, and innovative ways to engage the student body through brainstorming with the student affairs team.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Host a variety of events that can meet the needs of a diverse audience, ensuring that there is something that interests everyone.</li> <li>- Incorporate incentives which will encourage students to come out to more events.</li> <li>- Create more collaborative ways for students to feel connected to one another             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaborative playlists for events</li> <li>- Post event photo challenges</li> <li>- Bring-a-friend incentive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Long Term Implications	<p>Increased MSS awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through increasing student engagement and participation more students will be aware of the MSS and what it does.</li> <li>- Future students will also be more encouraged to attend events if there is history of involvement and engagement.</li> </ul> <p>Enjoyable undergraduate experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The more people that come out to events, the more likely students are to socialize and meet new people.</li> <li>- Enriches the undergraduate experience in the science faculty.</li> <li>- The MSS acts as a direct point of reference for students in regards to life outside of academics.</li> </ul>
Partners	<p>Luca Bernardini - President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:president@macsci.ca">president@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Visali Manimaran - VP Internal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:vpinternal@macsci.ca">vpinternal@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul>

## EVENTS & PROJECTS

Subcommittee Hiring	
DATE	Early July, Mid August, and Mid September
PURPOSE	To hire a subcommittee for the Arts Director, Formaldehyde Coordinator, Athletics & Wellness Director, and Special Events Planner.
PROCEDURE	The Special Events subcommittee will be done in July. Formaldehyde, and Athletics & Wellness subcommittee hiring will be done in mid-August. Finally, the arts subcommittee hiring will be





	<p>taking place in mid-September.</p> <p>Students will be able to submit applications through a google form advertised on the MSS social media. All applications will be blinded by the MSS president and then marked by the VP Student Affairs and a peripheral exec. Offers will then be sent out and interviews will be conducted by two people on the VP Student Affairs team. Interviews will be marked blindly and the candidates with the overall highest scores will be offered a position.</p>
DIFFICULTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of applicants</li> <li>- Conflicts in scheduling</li> </ul>
PARTNERS	<p>Ishan and Avnit - Special Events Planner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:specialevents@macsci.ca">specialevents@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Agshaya - Arts Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:arts@macsci.ca">arts@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Emma and Romik - Formaldehyde Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:formaldehyde@macsci.ca">formaldehyde@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Abby Nulle - Athletics and Wellness Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:athleticsandwellness@macsci.ca">athleticsandwellness@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>Luca Bernardini - President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="mailto:president@macsci.ca">president@macsci.ca</a></li> </ul>
PROJECTED OUTREACH	25-30 students
BUDGET	\$0

The Hunt	
DATE	September
PURPOSE	To provide an opportunity where students can showcase their love of science through friendly competition.
PROCEDURE	I will be supporting the Special Events Planners, and the Special Events subcommittee in organizing this year's "The Hunt" event. During the Hunt, students are completing a variety of tasks in hopes of winning The Hunt Cup..
DIFFICULTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of engagement</li> <li>- Coordinating all program societies</li> </ul>



PARTNERS	Ishan Sharma and Avnit Natt - <a href="mailto:specialevents@macsci.ca">specialevents@macsci.ca</a>
PROJECTED OUTREACH	1000 students
BUDGET	TBD

Formaldehyde	
DATE	January 18, 2024
PURPOSE	To create a night for students to destress, socialize, and make memories with their friends
PROCEDURE	I will be supporting Emma and Romik, the Formaldehyde Coordinator, and the Formaldehyde subcommittee in organizing this year's formal. I will be assisting in connecting them to sponsors, venues, vendors and in brainstorming general ideas for the event.
DIFFICULTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning a large-scale event</li> <li>- Student engagement</li> </ul>
PARTNERS	I plan to work with the Sponsorship coordinator to support local businesses in hamilton as well as receive some prizes
PROJECTED OUTREACH	750
BUDGET	TBD