**Report of the Department of English Students’ Association (DESA),**

**October 5th, 2016**

The elected DESA executives decided in September to fill the vacant VP Academic position by holding interviews on Friday, September 30th. Eight candidates were interviewed during this process, and the association is currently in the process of deciding who will fill the position. We are also considering the addition of a U1 Representative to our team, so as to have an executive who can promote DESA’s events in Rez and specifically among first year English students.

DESA completed its first collaborative event of the year on September 23rd by participating in Le Six, a welcome-back event that was hosted alongside PSSA, ESA, HSA, IDSSA, and SSA. The event brought several students from multiple departments together, and was an overall success. DESA will be holding its first bake sale on Tuesday, October 4th in the Leacock lobby, during which both baked goods and used books will be sold throughout the day, from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

In the hopes of fostering a more productive relationship among the DESA executives and English profs and students this year, the DESA President sent out information slides last week to every English professor, which included DESA’s contact information. DESA has encouraged professors to post the slides on MyCourses for their students to see, and the DESA executives have been using these slides during English class announcements to introduce DESA to every English class.

DESA has been planning various upcoming events as well. DESA has its first Wine & Cheese event coming up on the evening of November 2nd in Arts 160. We are aware that this coincides with Edward Snowden’s video conference, which will be happening down the hall in Leacock 132 during our Wine & Cheese, but we hope this will lead to more traffic in the building and ultimately greater attendance at our event. In addition, the DESA executive are in the process of planning an executive retreat for the weekend of November 5th to November 6th. More details surrounding the retreat will be organized shortly.

Our main area of focus now is completing the renovation of the DESA office and lounge space. The current executives are working to finalize a list of furniture that meets our budget requirements, and we will be ordering the items as soon as possible. DESA plans to host an open-house style event to launch the improved space, in the hopes of fostering an environment in which all English students can work and relax together throughout the year.

Overall, DESA is working on furthering the development of its visibility on campus. Our goal is to increase student interest in all three English streams (Literature, Cultural Studies and Theatre), to encourage all students to get involved in various English events, and to help foster stronger working relationships between English students and their professors.

DESA’s next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6th in Arts 305 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Madeleine Cruickshank** (DESA VP External)