Accessibility in Teaching and Learning Roadmap Project

Strategic Excellence and Equity in Recruitment and Retention (STEER/R) Program

Sparks! Presentation

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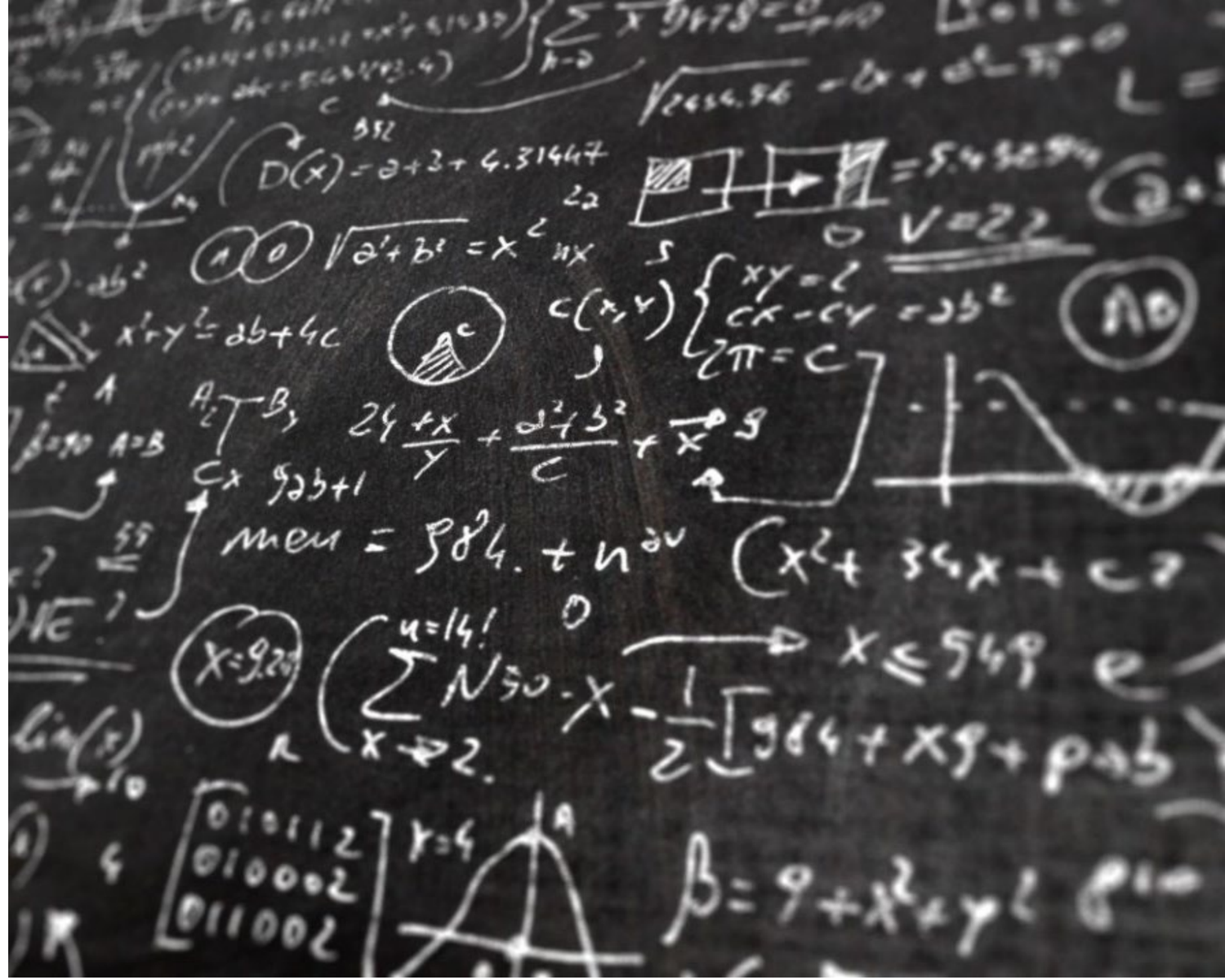
Brighter World | McMaster University

Identified Challenges

- Increasing complexity of accommodation needs
- Persisting graduation and employment transition gaps for students with disabilities
- Strain on existing accommodation supports
- Systemic barriers across policies, processes, and environments



The Opportunity

- Anticipated AODA Postsecondary Education Standards
- Shifting approach for only individualized accommodations to complementary system-level accessible design
- Strategic investment to enhance inclusion and institutional leadership

Our Work to Date

- 150+ hours of consultation
- 220+ stakeholders engaged
- Engagement with sector experts
- Integration of lived experience of disability in project and activities design, as well as in analysis

60+

AODA PSE Recommendations analyzed through the ATL Project as intersecting with the mandate of the OVPTL

Key Findings

Need for a coordinated accessibility ecosystem within the University where accommodation and accessible design approaches complement each other

Urgent need for policy and infrastructure alignment related to accessibility and accommodation in teaching and learning

Material supports for Faculty should be prioritized early on moving into Phase 2 (implementation phase) of the ATL Project

Need for ‘Disability’ to be understand as an integral component of building diverse and inclusive institutional cultures

The Road Ahead: Strategic Priorities Emerging from the Roadmap Project

- Embedding accessibility in governance
- Policy and standards review and reform
- Support for accessible course and program development
- Enhanced faculty development
- Incentives for leadership in accessibility

Question and Answer Period

Question Prompts

- What opportunities do you see for further embedding accessibility principles within academic governance structures at McMaster?
- How might we better support and recognize faculty leadership in accessible teaching and learning practices?

Thank you for your time and the wonderful discussion!

Please follow-up with Kate Brown, Project Lead, for any project-related questions: brownk33@mcmaster.ca