Dear Members of the Assembly,

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate Justin Monaco Barnes on getting elected as the MSU President for the 2016/17 school year. I have gotten to know Justin for a little over a year and he is a tremendous person and more importantly leader. The MSU is in safe and great hands with him as the next president and C.E.O. of the organization. I am certain that he will do tremendous things for the MSU. Also a big shout out to the CRO, DRO and everyone in Elections committee for being professional throughout the whole process.

The past couple of months have been busy with a lot of. Here is a snapshot of what I have been up to in the past couple of months:

1) Transition: With Justin becoming the president-elect of the organization, I will be spending a significant amount of my time transitioning Justin into the role. I have a transition plan lined up that will work out best for Justin and I. The first month will consist of just Justin and I, the second month will be me bringing Justin into the various MSU sectors and the third month will be getting Justin more accustomed to various university policies and staff.

2) Peer Tutoring Network: As Spencer presented in his last report, we have been able to make progress on the creation of a Peer tutoring network. After the report was presented we were approached by a Canadian company Class Tutor, who were interested in offering up a peer tutoring network. After much deliberation by the group, we finally settled on Helpbub over class tutor as it provided all the functionality we desire. The network is slated to be fully launched in September of 2016 with a soft launch happening before then.

3) Syrian Refugee: We are currently in the process of approaching various corporations to sponsor incoming Syrian Refugees to the city of Hamilton. We have approached Cogeco, Cable 14 and a couple of other local Hamilton organization. So far the reception has been positive and we have been able to secure some small donations but still hoping to donate a massive donation sometime soon.
4) Space. Daniel and I both seat on the design committee for the Living Learning Centre. The building is set to be completed in 2019, and some of the departments slated to move into the building are student accessibility services and student wellness centre. Once these two services vacate, space will open up in the basement of the student centre in the centre. I am of the opinion that the MSU should look into acquiring that space for our services and clubs as well as off campus students. Obviously this is something that is far in the future but one that we may need to start discussing soon as an assembly.

5) Keys for lifts on campus: Upgrading the lifts on campus was one of my platform points when I ran for president. Earlier this year funding was allocated to upgrade all the lifts on campus as well as make the keys more accessible to people who need it. After meeting with the director of SAS, the accessibility specialty at HRES and the asset manager of facilities services we were able to confirm the specific upgrades that are going to be occurring to the lifts on campus. The renovations and upgrades is slated to occur starting in May and is expected to conclude before the start of the school year in September.

6) Community Kitchen Launch: Another platform point, but credit has to go to David Cheng and his amazing Mac Bread Bin team for pushing this initiative forward. The community kitchen is expected to launch on Thursday, the 4th of February 2016. The community kitchen available in the student centre will be an accessible and inclusive space on campus where students can meet up and learn how to cook delicious, local and healthy food. Booking for the community kitchen will be available later on in the semester.

7) SLEF: Voting for the final ideas for SLEF is now available online. You can vote at enhance.mcmaster.ca. The top 5 ideas available for voting are a nap station, a permanent bandshell in faculty hallow, outdoor volleyball court, the renovation to the Mac Bread Bin’s Food collective centre as well as the painting of murals in the stairwell of the student centre. I encourage you all to vote if you have not and also promote this to your constituents.

Random Tidbit:
- If anyone is interested a trivia night in Westdale on the 11th of February, please let me know.
- Applications to be an OUSA delegate for the spring general assembly are now available. If you have any question, please feel free to ask the VP Education or I.
- If being part of a working group for the Canadian Mental Health Associations Ride Don’t Hide program interests you please let me know and I can get you a spot on the committee.

As per the norm, if you have any questions please

Best Regards,
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