The McMaster Students Union

The President’s Page

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Vice President (Education)

Over the last several years, the MSU has participated in several advocacy weeks as part of both its provincial and federal advocacy organizations. Through the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, the MSU has sent delegates to participate in the annual provincial advocacy week at Queen’s Park. These delegates have advocated to MPPs, Cabinet Ministers, civil servants, and others on a variety of student issues. While the MSU was a member of CASA, this advocacy was mirrored at the federal level on uniquely federal student issues. This week, the MSU is proud to make its first foray into municipal advocacy, with a fully fledged Municipal Advocacy Week.

During the week of November 16-20, representatives of the MSU will meet and discuss student issues with over a dozen municipal decision-makers, including the Mayor, MPPs, Ward Councillors, City Managers, and community foundations. First and foremost is a discussion on the role of students in the McMaster and Hamilton community. The MSU would like to discuss ways to improve neighbourhood-student relations. Student employment and retention will be key to our discussions, where we will engage on ways to better provide jobs to both undergraduate and recent graduates of McMaster University. Other areas of discussion throughout the week will also include transit, the downtown renewal, entrepreneurship, and bylaw review.

Apart from the tangible benefits of each of these meetings, I strongly believe that this week provides great benefit to our own student leaders. Although other Board members and I will attend several of these meetings, the goal of this week is also to place emerging student leaders in the room with key municipal decision-makers. Members of the MSU’s Education Team, as well as volunteers from the External Affairs Committee, will have the opportunity to take part in these meetings, and I am proud of the impact and experience this will provide them in their advocacy journey. All of the agendas and talking points for these meetings were student-driven and designed, to ensure that our requests represent students’ interests.

After the week of meetings is complete, the student leaders who have participated will compile their discussions and the MSU will release its first-ever Municipal Advocacy Week Report. The goal of the report is to provide students with an understanding of the work the MSU has done within our municipality, as well as where we see the MSU’s growth when it comes to future municipal work. There is also the exciting opportunity to introduce some of these outcomes into the upcoming ChangeCamp conference, which will place students, university members, and Hamilton staff together in discussion on ways to continue Hamilton’s remarkable revitalization. I look forward to engaging more MSU members in advocacy throughout the year.

PARTNERS IN MUNICIPAL ADVOCACY

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- Student Housing
- Student Employment and Retention
- Hamilton Transit

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- Student Housing
- Student Presence in the Downtown Core
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- Accessible Transit
- Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee
- Student Integration in the Community

The President's Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board’s projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.