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.

Vice Presidential elections will be held April 2 and 3. To be considered for a VP position, simply email your intent to the Speaker via speaker@msu.mcmaster.ca. At the last SRA meeting, an amended operating policy was passed, bringing with it exciting changes to the electoral process. Starting in this year’s election cycle, VP elections will take place over two days and a debate will replace the old pooled question model. In addition, transparency tools have been added: SRA members’ votes will be published, and any SRA member who is also running in a VP election will be required to abstain. We think these changes will help the student body better engage in the process and hold their elected representatives accountable.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
To run, please email the MSU Speaker (speaker@msu.mcmaster.ca) for more information, and attend the SRA meetings of April 2 and 3.

March 29 & 30
VP Meet and Greet in TwelvEighty, 5PM-8PM (Free food!)

April 2
(VP Election Day 1)
Presentation and Debate

April 3
(VP Election Day 2)
Speaker Election, Individual Questions for VPs, Voting

GIULIANA GUARNA
Vice President (Administration)
vgmon@mcmaster.ca
ext. 23250

As the Vice President (Administration), there are three overarching areas for which I am responsible: overseeing the political aspects of the MSU, and planning Welcome Week. The portfolio is extremely vast and extremely varied, which at times can be overwhelming; however, it presents the opportunity to work on many different projects and grow as an individual. There is also room in the portfolio to work on one’s own personal projects. One such example for me was overhauling the MSU’s peer support services. In addition to the formal management tasks and priorities, a great deal of the role involves building relationships with MSU staff and volunteers, so that the organization can run smoothly. Through my time as the VP (Administration) I have realized that organizational skills, approachability, event planning abilities, and an open mind are core requirements for the role. If you have these skills I encourage you to run for the job. It has helped me grow immeasurably as a person and is an experience I will cherish for a lifetime.

SPENCER NESTICO-SEMIANIW
Vice President (Education)
vped@mcmaster.ca
ext. 24017

The Vice President (Education) role is usually divided into two parts, termed the ‘external’ and ‘internal’ portfolios. The former includes advocacy to the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, while the latter focuses on McMaster-specific initiatives. Together, these two portfolios include hosting municipal relations events, writing policy papers, running advocacy campaigns, improving support for mental health and accessibility, and advocating for better financial aid. This position requires extensive knowledge and experience of post-secondary education, as well as a willingness to learn and adapt to changing circumstances. Commuting between multiple cities each week can be tiring and difficult; candidates should be hard-working and handle stress well. Lastly, preparation and professionalism are essential, as the VP (Education) often meets with Ministers, MPs, MPPs, City Councillors, and University representatives to advocate for student interests. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

DANIEL D’ANGELA
Vice President (Finance)
vfinance@mcmaster.ca
ext. 24009

Being the MSU Vice President (Finance) is unlike most other professional opportunities for a recent university graduate. Very few positions offer as much authority or autonomy. This position tests, defines, and enhances one’s leadership, management, and communication skills.

The VP (Finance) is responsible for overseeing the financial direction and strategy of the organization. With over $15 million in yearly revenue, representing fees from over 22,000 full-time undergraduates and 30 services and departments, the VP (Finance) must respect student money and be diligent in its use. The position requires a strong fiscal steward, in order to ensure that the organization is stable and steady financially. However, a formal background in finance or commerce is not necessary. The VP (Finance) must be a strong advocate, working with the University and external partners on transit, student space, financial accessibility, and many other issues. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss the role.