

Dear Members of the Assembly and of the MSU,

Thank you for being a friend. No but actually, thank you for taking the time to read through this platform. You have a position of leadership on this assembly, and with that comes the unique opportunity to be an instigator of change; by electing the board of directors.

There are a few reasons I am running to be your new VP Administration, the first being that I have had the unique opportunity to grow through our services, clubs, and business units, and I want to support the groups that positively impact student experience on a daily basis. My first involvement with the MSU was at the end of my first year, through the CLAY Conference, although at the time I didn't know it was a service. Entering the Les Prince common room on the first day was intimidating beyond belief, but after pretending I wasn't terrified for a few hours, I started to feel comfortable. CLAY helped me build a lot of friendships with people I still interact with and care a lot about, something I will be forever grateful for. In second year I got involved with MMT and fell back in love with theatre and all of the fun that comes with constantly being in a high stress environment. Further, My time at Union Market was pivotal to my university experience, it is a place I have found a community within a community, and support during the most difficult times. Having the opportunity to interact with a high volume of students every minute of every day allowed me a unique perspective into how students on campus feel. Whether it's offering a free coffee to help keep you awake, or selling a celebratory chocolate bar, I've gotten to experience a wide variety of the student experience in a tiny pocket environment.

Something I place the highest value on in every position I have held is student experience and creating safe and comfortable spaces. Accessible spaces are physically and emotionally accessible, something that is important to consider when engaging students in every aspect of our Students' Union. As the WGEN coordinator I have had the opportunity to directly impact the creation of spaces like these on campus, contributing to my passion and dedication for ameliorating student life at McMaster, and making MSU spaces as accessible and engaging to as many students as possible. I hope to bring this drive to the role of VP Administration, making your MSU one that is engaging to all.

Thank you for having the bravery to run for the SRA, the the dedication to take the time to read this platform, and the passion to stand up and vote for the best candidate. Your work will be appreciated by so many people, myself included. Best of luck in this difficult process, I believe you will do great things and I can't wait to support you as your new VP Administration.

All the best,



Hayley Regis

McMaster Student's Union

Services

<i>Coordinator; Women & Gender Equity Network (WGEN)</i>	2015 - 2016
<i>Promotions and Social Events & Planning; WGEN</i>	2015 - 2016
<i>Working Group Chair; MSU Wants You</i>	2014 - 2015
<i>Leadership Developer; Horizons</i>	2013, 2014, & 2015
<i>Leadership Developer; Creating Leadership Amongst Youth</i>	2012, 2013, & 2014

Business Units

<i>Customer Service Representative; Union Market</i>	2013 - 2015
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Clubs

<i>VP Promotions; McMaster Musical Theatre</i>	2012 - 2013
<i>Front of House Manager; MMT</i>	2013 - 2014
<i>Stage Manager; MMT</i>	2014 - 2015

McMaster University

<i>Residence Orientation Representative: Wallingford Hall</i>	2012, 2013
<i>Residence Orientation Representative: Whidden Hall</i>	2014
<i>Welcome Week Planning & Implementation Committee; Consent</i>	2015

My training mentality is about producing material that is educational, engaging, and provides some format of experiential learning.

Setting Standards

Peer Support Training: *Work with the TRRA and Peer support services to create a defined model of peer support training.*

The value of building our own training is that we can standardize it across the services, as well as adapt it over years. If we have a standardized peer support training, we can customize areas of it to better suit our services. There's also nothing to stop us from extending that training to various exec groups across campus, which means we can provide a unique opportunity for growth and create a campus that can better support its peers. The addition of a position like the TRRA means some of the stress of planning training will be taken off of executives and PTMs, creating standardized training with adaptable parts also means that the TRRA won't explode. We can start with the base model of peer support, and as you identify areas for change and improvement, as well as the key teachables each group wants to embody in their training. PTMs can then work off that model, empowering them and giving them the autonomy they deserve in training their volunteers by providing them the tools to do so.

Takeaways: *standardized peer support, customization, support*

Media Training: *Work with the Communications Department & Student Life Development Coordinator to create a standardized promotional strategy.*

Services and caucuses hold events and programming to connect with the rest of campus, whether that's to provide information about resources, invite people to cool events, or increase the transparency of the MSU. We are lucky to have the support of the Underground designers in helping us craft materials, and the MSU Communications team in helping us make those campus-wide connections, their value is emphasized through the reliance upon them on behalf of services this year.

Through my experience in promotions for McMaster Musical Theatre, and as Promotions exec for WGEN, as well as a PTM with design experience, I can say from experience and consultation that promotions training largely relies on the experience of the PTM and how much they know or care about promotions. Training in past has involved some PR aspects, but as something new for this year I think it's important to produce a standard promotional training for our various services and club execs involved in promotions, collaborating with our communications team to create a holistic and adaptable approach to how we promote and advertise events and positions. Through this we can continue to work towards providing the programming and events we know are necessary and love to attend, while increasing our ability to reach out and connect to students across campus.

Takeaways: *media literacy, student engagement, outreach*

Better Together

Training built on feedback from past SRA as to what needs to change, and current SRA on what you want to have training on.

Talking to past and outgoing VP Admins and SRA members there was a general undercurrent of dissatisfaction with SRA training. We are constantly looking at what to change and how to do it, so that training is the most impactful and beneficial it can be to helping and supporting you in your new roles. I think a large part of that shift is to make sure we are producing training that is accessible and will benefit you outside of this role.

Accessibility

Understanding that a lot of you may be working or taking classes over the summer, having to book off work and potentially commute in can pose financial barriers for members when being able to take part in mandatory training. When we are planning training it's important to take into account the lives of SRA members outside of this position and make the process as accessible as possible. Knowing the groups you're representing is very important, so a proposed improvement would be to work with the Speaker to coordinate availabilities. We could potentially run the shorter training sessions in multiples, like how Robert's Rules training ran this year, and then host additional follow-up sessions for members who may still be unable to attend.

Creating an environment in which you don't feel guilty for trying to support yourself financially or advance academically is an incredibly important aspect to building community among the SRA and ensuring you're all literally and figuratively equipped to fulfill your roles and support the voices of your constituents.

Takeaways: *support, tailored scheduling, make-up sessions*

Benefitting You

Professional development style training. In addition to the mandated training that takes place over the summer retreat training weekend I believe we can really take advantage of our time together by improving your skill sets. We have an amazing community here at McMaster and in the Hamilton community, one I think really lends itself to furthering your own capabilities, developing transferable skills that will benefit you in this role, and in your future endeavours. Two tangible examples of workshops we could run are 'Networking 1B03' and 'Standards of Debate 1A06'.

Networking 1B03 helps to provide the kinds of skills a lot of students will need in working with Faculty and University admin, as well as building on skills with applications in job hunting, and pursuing graduate studies. As several of you have brought up in your platforms, networking skills are also very relevant to your programs. This workshop could be run in partnership with faculty societies and professors apart of the McMaster community. We also have the opportunity to build our Hamilton community connections in choosing to pursue this topic with Hamilton Hive, a group that prides itself on student involvement and increasing opportunities for young professionals.

Standards of Debate 1A06 provides the opportunity for SRA members to improve their skills of debate. A large function of being able to speak on behalf of your constituents is being comfortable in your own voice. Utilising clubs on campus like Model UN and the McMaster Debating society, we can empower clubs to share their skill sets and connect with the MSU, while helping start to build those skills in SRA members. All things are better when practiced, so this is a six unit course. After the initial workshop, we can branch off into small groups with a balance of experience and go through things like the Coke vs Pepsi debate in a way that lets you practice forming arguments and rebuttals quickly, as is often the case during meetings.

Takeaways: *transferable skills, building connections*

Feedback

Constant Improvements: *encouraging the voices of our staff and volunteers leads to a better working relationship and a more cohesive campus.*

Providing opportunities for PTMs and SRA members to connect with the VP Admin for support is a large part of being a good manager. Giuliana did a great job this year of embodying an open door policy and being easy to reach, characteristics appreciated by student and full-time staff alike. I would like to see us improve our methods of feedback and support by facilitating two PTM check ins per semester, as well as having individual feedback meetings with SRA members, but also meetings with the Admin and the entire caucus.

Collecting anonymous feedback from our WGEN Safe(r) Space volunteers was a great way for us to identify areas for improvement and to learn more about things the volunteers were particularly enjoying. I think expanding options for anonymous feedback from volunteers across services is a great way to make sure we are hearing all the voices at the table. This same approach can be applied to SRA members when engaging with constituents. SRA Science did a great job this year with doing their outreach areas in a variety of locations and I think by better promoting those SRA - constituent engagement opportunities we can ensure we are making their voices heard.

Takeaways: *student voice, tangible change*

Hiring

Equity & Time Management: *Along with adapting our competencies and how we promote positions, changing when we hire is a solid plan in ensuring VP Admin can be around when they need to be.*

Here's to the weekend

A change proposed by Giuliana this year is the idea of moving PTM hiring to the weekends. I think this is almost a welcome change. Trying to get ahold of the VP Admin during the hiring period was extremely difficult through no fault of Giuliana's, it was just the nature of interviews. Moving to a system where the Admin is doing at least the majority of hiring on the weekends and then taking some half days or full days off to balance out the extra work being done on weekends. I think this will be ultimately more helpful in terms of knowing where I will be and when I'm available. Of the full time and admin assistants I've talked to they're supportive of

Popping Bubbles

Our president elect, Justin, had a campaign point focussing on how we can focus our efforts on the bubble that exists within our union. In conversations with him, I would like to move towards a clustered system of services that influences our hiring restrictions. I think identifying the various opportunities for growth that our positions provide, we will also be making them more appealing and tangible to the McMaster community.

Takeaways: *increased availability, diversification of opportunities*

Building our community and a cohesive working world

In order to increase the opportunities for collaboration, knowledge across departments, and the ability of the SRA to see services as resources and vice versa I will turn the retreat into a social and bonding experience. This will be organised so as to keep it off campus, avoid all religious holidays, and will have clear and explicit schedules posted around the site. We will focus on developing interpersonal and departmental connections, and utilize the skills of Horizons, CLAY, and Spark PTMs to add session-style workshops throughout the weekend. We will use semi-structured free time to group up and build skills. Goals are to increase inter-departmental knowledge and appreciation for all the cool work we do as a collective.

Early Planning Timeline:

Continue to consult with session planning services and decide on key teachables for programming.

Consult with SRA and conference staff to determine ideal locations for training to be held.

Determine weekends where people are available, accounting for religious holidays.

Inter-Campus Service Conference

Connecting our services: *We are always proud of the work our services do. It would be nice to offer the ability to collaborate and grow by working with other universities doing similar type of advocacy and catering to similar communities.*

- 1** We can run a full OUSA style conference here at McMaster, combining services across Ontario for a weekend of collaboration and community building.
- 2** We can run 'Field Trip TO/Waterloo/Guelph/Ottawa' by sending our PTMs on paid professional development trips to learn how other services operate.
- 3** We can connect our services online over mediums like Slack and by doing webinars, utilizing spaces like MAPS video-conferencing room.

EFRT already runs conferences and competitions at other universities. OUSA is an amazing resource through which I can work with the VP Ed to connect our services. SWHAT and EFRT are already connected to their Ontario and Canada-wide counterparts via Slack. These things are all not just 'do-able', but are already happening in a lot of ways. We also have the potential to use this same planning style in a way similar to the Ontario Science Games, using the opportunity to connect our faculties.

Thank You!

Members of the assembly,

You were elected this year to represent the needs of students; students who were inspired by your passion to create change. By taking on the task of meeting with every VP candidate, and ensuring thorough knowledge of each platform, you have honoured those students and you have inspired me. I am running to be your next VP Administration because I too want to see tangible change at this school, and I cannot think of a better group of representatives to bring that change to fruition. Thank you for believing in the MSU; it means the world to to your constituents, and it means so much to me. I hope to be there every step of the way next year, supporting and empowering you and many others to create an MSU for everybody. I have been so fortunate to have had many experiences at McMaster, in Clubs, in Business Units, and in Services. But it is not these formal positions that has to define the experience of an MSU member. We are all MSU members, and I will continue to strive to make the daily experience of every undergraduate student in our community the best it can be.

I hope that you have the opportunity to reach out to your constituents and gauge opinions on VP candidates; they are the people who voted for you, and they are the people we are both working to serve. If you or any of your constituents have any questions about my platform, I would love to sit down over a burger and chat. I want to make your MSU the best it can be, and this starts with the sentiments of students. Let's make this year the best it can be.

Best,
Hayley Regis

A huge shoutout to all the special folk who helped me in this process and continue to be there for me every day! I love and appreciate you all very dearly. I like you as much as I like burgers.

HAYLEY REGIS

for Vice President (Administration)



McMaster Students Union

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