Every year the president tries to help describe what to look for in a candidate during the election cycle, hoping that their insight will help potential voters. With that in mind, here is my attempt:

The President of the McMaster Students Union has an incredibly challenging and rewarding job. Every day you get to think of new ways to better student lives, and actually try to do something about it. Think about it - my job (for a year) is to fight for student interests in every way possible. To defend students from things they believe are wrong, and to promote initiatives which will help them. When looking at a candidate, almost everything is important to some extent. You must examine every element of a candidate's campaign. From their posters to their platforms, from class talks, the way they speak to a one-on-one conversation. Each of these aspects are close as to how they will perform on the job.

Platform is a representation of what a candidate believes is important, and the feasibility of their platform is indicative of what they know can be accomplished. An immense number of issues will arise throughout the year that have nothing to do with someone's platform. There will be surprises, difficulties, and challenges that will test his or her capabilities, and you need to believe that your candidate can weather the storm. You must believe that he or she will consistently represent you in a positive and effective manner. The president is meant to serve students at their very best, and this is why we expect so much of them; they are a reflection of our values and principles.

Furthermore, the president must be able to deal with high pressure situations and must be able to remain calm and fight for what is best for students. The president must be able to bring all students together, as they are not here to represent a small portion of the community, but rather the entirety of the undergraduate population. The president must be able to listen to students every day, at every hour, as the job never ends. You represent the heart of McMaster, and as a president you must be willing to go to hell and back for them.

I have loved every moment of this job. It has been the opportunity of a lifetime and the most rewarding job I have ever had. I hope that however has the position next year is passionate about students and student issues. I hope that next year’s president is someone who will listen to you no matter what the issue. I hope that the 2012-2013 MSU President is a leader who constantly looks to foster community amongst the student body. Whoever this will be, it is your decision to make. Choose wisely, examine everything, and I am sure you will make the right choice.

**THE NEXT GREAT STUDENT LEADER**

MSU President discusses what to look for in his successor

Matthew Dillon-Leitch
President
president@msu.mcmaster.ca

It's that time of year again – teaching awards are in the air! Until February 6, you can nominate your favourite professor for an MSU Teaching Award by going to [https://msumcmaster.ca/teachingawards](https://msumcmaster.ca/teachingawards).

So, why nominate your professor? The purpose of these awards is to call attention to the importance of teaching, as well as to recognize those who have demonstrated excellence in the field of education. As we fell into the routine of school, it is often easy to criticize professors for giving too much homework, making us write too many tests or papers and quite possibly forcing us to fail a class. Open and frank discussions on what does and does not work – both on a faculty and student perspective - are valuable tools to ensure high quality teaching and learning. The Centre runs a number of sessions designed for professors and graduate students to enhance their teaching abilities and get the most out of the knowledge and experience they bring into the classroom.

On a personal level, I can confidently say that there are a few professors who have made a real difference in the way I perceive the world around me. Oftentimes, I have made a real difference in the way I say that there are a few professors who have made a real difference in the way I perceive the world around me. Oftentimes, I have made a real difference in the way I see the world that have nothing to do with someone's platform. There will be