Last week, I attended the Youth Employment Strategy conference, and was delighted to participate in the Community Engagement Session - focused on improving Hamilton’s youth retention strategy. At the conference a number of issues were discussed, but there seemed to be some confusion as to how Hamilton can entice youth to stay in the city post-graduation. Some people argued for increased transportation, others that are already available and others should do a better job at promoting the number of issues were discussed, but this change will fundamentally alter the educational experience of Mac students for the better.

At the conference, another idea proposed was to create different forums for students to provide their feedback on the direction of Hamilton. This is a great idea and would make for an amazing opportunity. It would certainly be helpful in gathering student opinion in the short term, but if we really want to see students care about the future of Hamilton, then they must engage with the city. By developing experiential educational opportunities, I feel we can help more students outside of the McMaster bubble and ensure that they engage with the city of Hamilton. This change in pedagogy will help to create a more engaged student, and a more engaged community.

I hope to see a continuation of this discussion, as it will hopefully influence the future of this school, and the role of McMaster in the Hamilton community. As a student’s union, this is precisely the type of discussion we should facilitate, in order to develop student opinion. Our first opportunity to do this is on Monday 24th, in Gilmore Hall room 111 (Council Chambers) from 7pm to 8pm. There both Patrick Deane and myself will host an open forum on education and the community. I hope to see you there, as it is your thoughts and opinions that will help shape the future of McMaster.

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AN OPEN CALL FOR STUDENT IDEAS TO ENHANCE YOUR STUDENT CENTER

Here’s your chance. Is there a change or innovation you’d like to see in the MUSC? Do you have a fantastic idea that will improve student life or contribute to the student experience involving MUSC? Let us know! Please contact any member of the MSU Board of Directors, you can find all of our contact info on this very page. Or visit us at www.msumcmaster.ca; on the banner menu find ‘MSU’ then select the sub-heading of ‘Government’.

As well, you can start a thread on our new website module, MyIdeas. This forum allows students to create, view and/or vote on ideas thread about any topic you may have in mind or a plan for MUSC, but you still have a great idea nonetheless? Check out MyIdeas on the MSU website – where you can make all kinds of suggestions and watch your MSU Board of Directors take those ideas and make them realities.

Free feel to use MyIdeas at your leisure or a student’s union, this is the type of discussion we should facilitate, in order to develop student opinion. Our first opportunity to do this is on Monday 24th, in Gilmore Hall room 111 (Council Chambers) from 7pm to 8pm. There both Patrick Deane and myself will host an open forum on education and the community. I hope to see you there, as it is your thoughts and opinions that will help shape the future of McMaster.

Since 1989, the undergraduate students that have passed through the various doors of this campus have been paying a fee contributing to the creation of the McMaster Student Centre (MUSC). Since opening, that same fee has been used towards the sustained operation of the Student Centre and the growth of a pool of reserve capital. The building to which McMaster students have so generously contributed is set to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Now that several generations of undergraduates have had the opportunity to explore and use the MUSC to its full capacity, Music Administration and the MSU are looking for improvement ideas from students. Who better to suggest potential changes and/or renovations than the very students who use the building on a daily basis?

We can help more students inside and outside of the McMaster bubble and ensure that they engage with the city of Hamilton.

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