

**YEAR PLAN**  
MSU *Vice President Education*  
*Blake Oliver*  
2016-2017  
(submitted *Tuesday, June 14, 2016*)



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OFFICE OF THE *Vice President Education*  
INTRODUCTION

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Dear Assembly,

I am so grateful and looking forward to being your Vice President Education in such an exciting, promising, and eventful year for post secondary education in Ontario.

At the time I am writing this letter, Kathleen Wynne has just announced the outcome of a cabinet shuffle, which has restructured the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities into the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The new Minister in charge of this portfolio is the Deputy Premier, Deb Matthews.

While this may seem like a largely bureaucratic change, believe me when I say that this is symbolic of what I have seen from the Ontario government during my relatively short career in the sector. Deb Matthews is not a newcomer to post secondary education - in fact, last year when OUSA was lobbying to cancel tax credits and move the money into upfront grants, Deb was a key champion in ensuring that our ask was reflected in the budget. This brought in the largest win for students in post secondary that this province has seen in a long time. That the Deputy Premier has now become the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development is no coincidence - to me, it is a sign of the Premier's continuing commitment to listen to students and make improvements to our sector.

I don't mean to spend the lion's share of this letter discussing a recent political move, but rather, to demonstrate that this year as a whole is one of the upmost importance for post secondary in our province. The funding formula and the tuition framework are two major pieces of this puzzle. Other areas include the TRC's calls to action for universities for improved Indigenous access and education, the OHRC's call to universities for better academic accommodation processes, the COU's position that the sector needs an influx of additional resources, and the province's bill for specific sexual assault protocol on campuses in Ontario.

In addition to the possibilities opened up by other groups, as a student leader this year my mandate is focused on a few key areas: affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. The first two are principles that I've held close to my heart as a student leader over the past year. The last is something that our MSU President featured heavily in his campaign, and something that I am excited to bring to the organization with him this year. We have some great ideas that we are excited to work on to bring lasting change on campus.

I'd like to finish off by saying that the group I'm most excited to work with is not the new Ministry, not the COU, and not even the rest of OUSA's Steering Committee - it's you; it's the students. I will be forever thankful for the trust

that you have put in me to represent you this year. It's a responsibility that I take seriously. I can't promise that every ask we have of the administration, of the city, the province, and the country will be realized this year - but I can promise that I will work tirelessly with the Board of Directors to make an impact for you this year. I promise to listen to you. I promise to work with you and work for you. I promise to empower you to advocate for the students who elected you. I promise to take every inch and ounce of passion that I have for this role and put in it every single day.

Forever yours,

Blake Oliver  
Vice President Education  
McMaster Students Union

## GOALS

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Objective 1	<i>Policy Passing Conference Weekend &amp; Streamlined Policy Process</i>
Description	<p>The MSU's General Policies outline our organization's official stances on a variety of student issues. The current process for passing these policies is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The University Affairs Committee or External Affairs Committee will decide to revise an old policy or write a new policy</li> <li>2) The committee will complete the policy under whichever way they see fit</li> <li>3) When the policy is complete, it is passed through the committee</li> <li>4) It is brought to the next SRA meeting to be passed by the Assembly</li> </ol> <p>I would like to change this process to allow SRA members and MSU members to better engage in the process. What I suggest is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In the summer, the University Affairs Committee, the External Affairs Committee, and the Vice President Education each pick one policy paper to either revise or create</li> <li>2) Throughout the first term, the authors do research and write the policy via the MSU research assistants, forums, surveys, etc.</li> <li>3) At the end of October, the policies are completed by the authors and drafts are sent to SRA members</li> <li>4) The Saturday before one of the final SRA meetings of the term, a conference is held for SRA and MSU members with breakout sessions for each of the policies, so that SRA and MSU members can ask questions and provide feedback to the authors about the policy (similar to OUSA GA)</li> <li>5) Overnight, the policy authors will revise the policy</li> <li>6) On the Sunday of the SRA meeting, the authors will present changes to the paper to the assembly</li> <li>7) The Assembly will formally debate and pass the papers</li> <li>8) The process begins again for the Winter term - therefore</li> </ol>

	six (6) papers are passed each year
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA members are aware of the contents of the policies</li> <li>• MSU members are given the opportunity to have input into the policies (beyond coming to the SRA meeting to speak to it)</li> <li>• Great preparation for any SRA/MSU members interested in attending an OUSA General Assembly</li> <li>• Ensures that 6 policies are passed each year (no longer just left up to the discretion of the commissioner)</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring deadlines are met for policies</li> <li>• Attendance at the conference</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Long term, the goal is for this to occur each year, and for the policy bank to become extremely important in our advocacy efforts.
How?	By planning an engaging conference with guest speakers, food, and good advertising, I believe we can entice SRA and MSU members to attend and provide feedback on vital policy - thus ensuring our policies are truly student-centered.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA University Affairs Committee (Megan Hsu and committee members)</li> <li>• SRA External Affairs Committee (Vicky Liu and committee members)</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator (Sandy Tat)</li> </ul>

Objective 2	<i>Annual Campaigns Operating Policy</i>
Description	Creating an operating policy to outline all of the campaigns that the MSU intends to partake in annually.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaigns are student-driven (the SRA has the directive to change the policy based on what they'd like to see)</li> <li>• Services and commissioners can better plan their years</li> <li>• Targets and specific goals for campaigns to measure success</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all campaigns are annual - some are intermittent or based on the year</li> <li>• Requires liaising with every service</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Annual campaigns will have designated goals, people responsible for them, and a mandate for them to run.
How?	This policy will require heavy consultation with the SRA as well as all MSU services as well as the Advocacy Coordinator and

	Commissioners.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator (Sandy Tat)</li> <li>• All MSU Service Part Time Managers</li> <li>• Student Representative Assembly</li> <li>• SRA University Affairs Commissioner (Megan Hsu)</li> <li>• SRA External Affairs Commissioner (Vicky Liu)</li> <li>• SRA Operations Commissioner (Preethi Anbalagan)</li> </ul>

Objective 3	<i>Long-Term Advocacy Plan</i>
Description	Creating a three-year plan that outlines the MSU's advocacy goals and priorities that will take more than one year to complete.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy priorities are not lost in transition</li> <li>• The organization is more consistent in its asks towards the University, external stakeholders, etc.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The turnover in our organization can cause priorities to shift from year-to-year - one elected President or VP could completely disagree with a long-term priority</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future candidates for election will likely view the long-term plan to figure out how to incorporate priorities into their platform and vision of the organization</li> <li>• Priorities will be more consistent from year to year</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Board of Directors and SRA to come up with our biggest priorities</li> <li>• Creating something like a general policy with a 3 year expiry date (similar to how OUSA creates a long-term plan)</li> <li>• Looking at Western USC for an example</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• Student Representative Assembly</li> <li>• Education Team</li> </ul>

Objective 4	<i>Education and Advocacy Team Restructuring</i>
Description	Something I ran on this year was the idea of splitting the External Affairs Commissioner role into two roles - the Municipal Affairs Commissioner and the Provincial & Federal Affairs Commissioner. I would like to bring several proposals to the SRA surrounding this, but I still think this is likely the best

	way to go.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More opportunities for SRA and MSU members to be involved in committees (4 more SRA seats, 2 more MSU seats)</li> <li>• More resources dedicated to these portfolios and to the Education Team</li> <li>• Specific person for Municipal Advocacy efforts</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belief of some that the Education Team should not have more resources than it currently does (largely about funding)</li> <li>• Intersection with SCSN and the Community Engagement Coordinator</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another committee and another commissioner</li> <li>• The MSU making municipal advocacy and federal advocacy a priority</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to Bylaw 3 (SRA) in order to expand the number of standing committees</li> <li>• Changes to the Advocacy &amp; Education Department Policy</li> <li>• By-election for a Provincial and Federal Affairs Commissioner and committee</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External Affairs Commissioner (Vicky Liu)</li> <li>• MSU Education Team</li> </ul>

Objective 5	<i>Academic Affairs Council: Project-Based Meetings</i>
Description	Making the Academic Affairs Council more project-based by grouping members based on their platforms and what they want to work on throughout their term.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More engaged members</li> <li>• Work being completed by the Academic Affairs Council</li> <li>• More productive meetings</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may still be issues with participation in the committee</li> <li>• Members may not agree on how to complete projects or dedicate time to projects outside of meetings</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Affairs Council will not act as a body that all works on the same project, but rather one with a variety</li> </ul>

	of different projects that various members are a part of
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with all members in the summer (already started) to hear about their platforms and put together common themes</li> <li>• Allowing members to create a small year-plan with projects they are interested in</li> <li>• Using meetings to check in on progress, provide advice and support</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VP Academics of Faculty Societies</li> </ul>

Objective 6	<i>Teaching Awards Committee Expansion (MSU Macademics)</i>
Description	Expanding the Teaching Awards Committee from a committee to a full service that deals with MSU Teaching Awards, MSU Course Wiki, Course Evaluations, Academic Resources, and the Promotion of Teaching, Pedagogy, and Quality of Education.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MSU Course Wiki will have a dedicated space for promotion, moderation, and upkeep</li> <li>• The MSU will have a service that ensures promotion of McMaster Course Evaluations</li> <li>• The MSU will promote quality of teaching and learning to students, and gather information on student experience in the classroom</li> <li>• The MSU will compile resources on campus to help students excel academically</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could increase the budget of the service, additional cost</li> <li>• Potential replication of other services on campus (resources)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	A new service for the MSU means new executive positions, more volunteer opportunities, and more events. This service will undoubtedly grow and development into the long-term into a service that truly provides MSU members with the tools to ensure they are getting the best possible quality of education.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Operating Policy for the service - brought to Executive Board</li> <li>• New Job Descriptions</li> <li>• Changes to the Advocacy and Education Department Operating Policy to include the MSU Macademics Coordinator</li> </ul>

Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Board</li> <li>• MSU Teaching Awards Coordinator (Rohoma Zakir)</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> </ul>
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Objective 7	<b><i>Tuition Task Force: Project-Based Meetings</i></b>
Description	Having members of the Tuition Task Force take on leadership roles on projects that the committee will be taking on this year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More work accomplished over the course of the year</li> <li>• Members feel more engaged with the work of the committee</li> <li>• Committee is more student-centred</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always difficult to ensure that volunteers are able to complete work on time and within deadlines</li> <li>• Although the committee is smaller this year, there is still a rather large amount of members (14 in total)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	The future of this task force - is this something that should be struck every year? How many members? Etc.
How?	<p>The priorities (draft) for this year are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancillary Fees (policy and MSU CAF agreement)</li> <li>• Information availability on tuition and ancillary fees for students</li> <li>• Needs-based scholarships (vs. merit-based)</li> <li>• Tuition Campaign</li> <li>• Indigenous Student Financial Aid (policy)</li> <li>• International Student Tuition and Financial Aid (policy)</li> </ul> <p>Each of these priorities can be grouped into a project (policy, campaign, infographic, etc.) which will be delegated to 1 - 3 committee members to complete. Meetings will be used to update on progress, ask for advice and help, and debrief about progress.</p>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the Tuition Task Force</li> </ul>

Objective 8	<b><i>McMaster Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities</i></b>
Description	<p>I sit on a working group called the "Academic Accommodations Working Group" which is revising McMaster's current policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. I hope to accomplish through this group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stopping the process where students must disclose their</li> </ul>

	<p>diagnosis in order to receive accommodations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring students do not have to hand-deliver accessibility letters to professors in order to receive accommodations</li> <li>• Ensuring a clear process for students for retroactive accommodations</li> <li>• Stopping the mandatory yearly intake appointment at Student Accessibility Services</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I could write a whole policy paper on why these changes will benefit students with disabilities. In fact, you can check out the MSU University Accessibility paper for more information! 😊</li> <li>• In short, these changes will make the process for academic accommodations much more equitable and fair, and they all fall in line with our policy</li> <li>• They also all fall in line with recent research on this topic, and most are also backed by the Ontario Human Rights Commission</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pushback from University administrators who believe that students will use the system to their advantage</li> <li>• Extra support needed at Student Accessibility Services</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<p>A campus that is more accommodating to students with disabilities. This doesn't necessarily mean that it is more accessible - all of these recommendations and asks will make it easier for students with disabilities to succeed academically via accommodation, but will not actually make the classroom a more accessible place the way that Universal Design of Learning would.</p>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending meetings and speaking in favour of changes</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other members of the Academic Accommodations Working Group</li> <li>• MSU Maccess Coordinator (Alex Wilson)</li> </ul>

Objective 9	<b><i>Assessment of Blended Learning Courses</i></b>
Description	Assessing our blended learning courses (CHEM 1A03, etc.) via survey to put forward recommendations about their delivery.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies show that blended learning is extremely effective in the classroom, but students indicate that sometimes the delivery of these courses is not</li> <li>• By putting forward recommendations to improve these</li> </ul>

	classes, we can improve quality of education at McMaster
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are difficult to survey (do not always fill out surveys or respond to emails)</li> <li>• Professors may not be willing to make changes to their classroom</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	McMaster using blended learning correctly to ensure that all students are obtained a high quality of education while they attend this institution.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a survey that will ask students about their relationships with blended learning in general (what they like, what they dislike)</li> <li>• Asking students about specific courses that use blended learning</li> <li>• Compiling this information into a report</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator (Michael Wooder)</li> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>• MSU Macademics Coordinator (Rohoma Zakir)</li> <li>• SRA University Affairs Commissioner (Megan Hsu)</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator (Sandy Tat)</li> <li>• MSU First Year Council</li> </ul>

Objective 10	<i>TA Training</i>
Description	This year, CUPE 3906 (the union that represents TAs at McMaster) and the University are renewing their collective bargaining agreement. In the past year, the MSU has worked with CUPE 3906 and the University to ensure that paid TA training is a priority for both groups during the collective bargaining.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better quality of education for students in a class with a teaching assistant</li> <li>• More hours for undergraduate TAs</li> <li>• More accessible classroom if TAs are trained in mental health, referrals, resources on campus, how to navigate academic accommodations, etc.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive for the University to pay for 3 hours of training for each TA</li> <li>• After conversations with CUPE, I have learned that this is</li> </ul>

	a secondary ask in their collective bargaining agreement (i.e. not a primary priority for the group)
Long-term implications	Formal, across the board TA Training at McMaster would be a first across the province and would hugely improve the undergraduate experience in the classroom. As well, this would work to improve our relationship with CUPE by bringing in a win together.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with CUPE during the collective bargaining process to support this objective as much as possible</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CUPE 3906</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> </ul>

Objective 11	<i>Course Evaluations (Teaching Evaluation Committee)</i>
Description	<p>I sit on a committee called the Teaching Evaluations Committee in order to put recommendations forward on the evaluation process for instructors (this includes course evaluations, which students complete, as well as other forms such as peer evaluations). From the MSU's perspective, the goals for changes to course evaluations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of mandatory midterm (formative) course evaluations</li> <li>• Implementation of TA evaluations</li> <li>• Release of course evaluation data to students (first question)</li> <li>• Ensuring all course evaluations are online</li> <li>• Time in class to complete course evaluations</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More student evaluation of teaching</li> <li>• Opportunities for students to provide feedback that will actually impact them in their course (formative evaluations)</li> <li>• More data in terms of selecting courses (release of course evaluations data)</li> <li>• Higher rates of course evaluation completion</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators (faculty) who do not wish to be evaluated by students/do not believe that students are fair evaluators</li> <li>• Resources (i.e. ensuring that the system will function with all courses using midterm evaluations, TA evaluations, etc.)</li> </ul>
Long-term	If these asks were implemented, students would have a wider

implications	opportunity to engage and provide input on their quality of education at McMaster.
How?	As someone on the committee, I provide student input and influence the direction of the committee. I will work with relevant bodies to construct reasonable arguments for our advocacy stances.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Affairs Council</li> <li>• McMaster AVP Research (Arshad Ahmad)</li> <li>• Members of the Teaching Evaluations Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 12	<i>PepplePad</i>
Description	PepplePad is the new software for McMaster's Learning Portfolio. I would like to ensure that this version of the Learning Portfolio is easy to use and well-loved by students, as opposed to the previous version which was largely underutilized due to issues with usability.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students taking advantage of a program that the University has seriously invested in</li> <li>• Students using reflection tools to enhance their learning</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may not engage with the tool even if it is easy to use</li> <li>• There may be a limit of changes that can be made to the tool since it is relatively new</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	A reflection tool within the mandate of Patrick Deane's Forward with Integrity that students use and enjoy using.
How?	Justin and I will sit on the Provost's Learning Portfolio Committee, which will be an advisory group to MIETL who currently oversees the program. The committee will be tasked with building on and developing an implementation plan for the new software. Through this avenue, we will be able to promote and advocate for student input with use of the tool.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster Provost and Vice-President Academic (David Wilkinson)</li> <li>• MSU President (Justin Monaco-Barnes)</li> <li>• Laura Harrington</li> <li>• SRA University Affairs Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 13	<i>Mandatory Indigenous course requirement &amp; other Indigenous-student specific issues</i>
Description	Last year, the MSU released a set of recommendations through

	<p>working with the McMaster Indigenous Student Community Alliance (MISCA). One of these recommendations was for McMaster to implement a mandatory Indigenous course at McMaster University, something that has been done at other universities across the country and province. I hope to support the External Affairs committee in growing these recommendations into a full policy paper and advocating on our asks.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for our Indigenous student community (over 600 students at McMaster)</li> <li>• In line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report released last year - University is interested in taking action this year</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot of pushback from the administration, particularly with the mandatory course from certain staff members</li> <li>• We want to ensure that we are doing adequate consultation with Indigenous students and advocating for what they want, including a wide variety and collective of voices as each student will have a different experience of McMaster and their journey here</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<p>The current policy paper has expired due to being older than three years. The next policy paper will hold the MSU's stances on Indigenous students for the next three years, and will have to be comprehensive and address a wide variety of student issues as the time for action is coming up now.</p>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting frequently with MISCA and the President of the University to discuss priorities and solutions</li> <li>• Discussing with other student unions of schools that have successfully implemented an Indigenous Course Requirement (ICR) such as Laurentian University, University of Winnipeg, and Lakehead University</li> <li>• Working with the External Affairs Committee to ensure a comprehensive paper</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MISCA</li> <li>• McMaster President and Vice-Chancellor (Patrick Deane)</li> <li>• McMaster Senior Advisor to the President (Esme Davis)</li> <li>• Indigenous Studies Program</li> <li>• SRA External Affairs Committee</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

Objective 14	<i>Plastic Water-bottle Free Campus</i>
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Description	As many as 41% of University campuses in Ontario have implemented a plastic water-bottle ban in an effort to reduce waste and improve sustainability. This would require all campus vendors (including Union Market and TwelvEighty) to refrain from selling bottled water.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental sustainability</li> <li>• Has been accomplished elsewhere (i.e. very achievable)</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial implications from stopping the sale of bottled water</li> <li>• Students accessing water (may need more water-bottle refilling stations, more options for buying reusable water-bottles, etc.)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Important to consider the potential loss in profit for Union Market specifically, but also the impact on campus sustainability for both the MSU and McMaster.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the implications of a plastic water-bottle ban being completed by Jeevika Goyal, MSU University Affairs Research Assistant</li> <li>• Myself and Justin will work with Facility Services to implement a phase-by-phase ban of plastic water-bottles on campus</li> <li>• We will also look at replacing the plastic water-bottles in Union Market with boxed water</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>• MSU President (Justin Monaco-Barnes)</li> <li>• MSU Union Market Manager (Shaina McDonald)</li> </ul>

Objective 15	<b><i>Sustainability Fee</i></b>
Description	At the University of Guelph, students pay \$10 to the University, which is then matched. This is called the "Green Gryphon" initiative. The money is used to retrofit buildings to conserve energy. The project began in 2009, and to date has reduced electrical consumption by 8.04%, electrical demand by 13.93%, natural gas by 2.32%, water by 7.79%, and in total has saved the University \$21,141,978. We would be interested in a similar program at McMaster, aimed at building a more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable McMaster.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saving money, energy, CO2 emissions, and water use</li> <li>• More sustainable infrastructure on campus</li> </ul>

Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students have to pay into the project for a period of time</li> <li>• The University would have to agree to match the funds, which would likely be a large amount of money upfront for a few years on their part</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Long-term, this project would save the University money and make McMaster much more sustainable. This would make the University a leader in sustainability across the province and pave the way for other Universities to do the same.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, MSU members pay \$9.22 annually into the Marmor, McMaster's yearbook. Based on discussions with the Board of Directors (see Ryan's year plan), we no longer believe in the value of this fee for students. One option could be repurposing this to become a sustainability fee on the condition that McMaster matches the fee.</li> <li>• The MSU University Budget Submission (see below) will include a section on sustainability - this would be one of our asks.</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility Services</li> <li>• McMaster President (Patrick Deane)</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• MSU President (Justin Monaco-Barnes)</li> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> </ul>

Objective 16	<i>Earlier Exam Schedules</i>
Description	Currently McMaster releasing exam schedules mid-way through the term; an earlier schedule would have numerous benefits for students (see below).
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For International Students in particular, an earlier exam schedule would allow students to book a flight home earlier or arrange to stay longer in the country if needed</li> <li>• For students who feel unable to take exams back-to-back, earlier knowledge of the exam schedule could help them to plan out when to take their courses</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convincing the University to figure out the logistics for this earlier</li> <li>• Issues with MOSAIC</li> </ul>
Long-term	More accessible University for international students and all

implications	students in general.
How?	Doing research at other Universities to see when they release their exam schedule, how this is possible, and how we could implement this at McMaster.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>• The Office of the Registrar</li> </ul>

Objective 17	<b><i>Gender Neutral Washrooms</i></b>
Description	Gender-neutral or all-gender washrooms are washrooms that anyone can use, regardless of gender. They are an important piece in ensuring that trans people feel welcome and included on campus. We would like for McMaster to ensure that all single-stall washrooms are gender-neutral.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trans students, faculty, community members, etc. are able to feel more included on campus</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of replacing signage</li> <li>• People might complain for no reason</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	We hope that this project continues and that some multi-stall bathrooms on campus are also converted into gender-neutral/all-gender washrooms. For now, we are focusing on single-stall as these are the easiest to convert without pushback.
How?	Currently we are completing a report from last year's University Affairs Committee which will outline all single-stall washrooms on campus that can be changed to gender-neutral washrooms. As well, the report will contain recommendations for what signage will be most inclusive. We will then work with Facility Services and HRES to implement this more inclusive signage.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>• MSU Queer Students Community Centre Coordinator (Aly Khalifa)</li> <li>• McMaster Human Rights and Equity Services</li> <li>• McMaster Facility Services</li> </ul>

Objective 18	<b><i>Entrance Scholarships (merit-based) to Needs-Based Bursaries</i></b>
Description	Currently, all entrance scholarships at McMaster are entirely based on high school GPA (i.e. they are all merit-based), which

	is inequitable. We would like to advocate for these scholarships to be reallocated into McMaster's needs-based bursary program, to ensure that public funds are going to students who need it the most.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who are in the most financial need will receive more bursaries - McMaster will be more financially accessible</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance scholarships are often used as a recruitment tool to attract the "best and brightest" students to McMaster, so the University may be hesitant to stop offering such high amounts to incoming students who performed well in high school</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	McMaster will become more financially accessible and equitable to low-income students, ensuring that all willing and qualified students are able to attend this University.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be included in the budget submission to the University</li> <li>• I sit on Enrollment Management Team (EMT) which recruits students to McMaster, and will speak on behalf of eliminating or reducing merit-based entrance scholarships</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>• MSU President (Justin Monaco-Barnes)</li> <li>• Tuition Task Force</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> </ul>

Objective 19	<b><i>University Budget Submission</i></b>
Description	<p>For the second year ever, the MSU will submit a budget submission to the University highlighting areas that we wish them to allocate money to. This year's priorities (may) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Teaching Track Faculty</li> <li>• Funding for Peer Support and EFRT</li> <li>• Student Financial Aid</li> <li>• Student Affairs</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to effectively communicate with the University what the MSU's priorities are and provide <i>educated solutions</i> to problems that the University and students are facing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respected way of showing what we value in the budget and what we wish to change</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some priorities will be more difficult than others to get the University to agree to</li> <li>No guarantee that any of our asks are reflected in the budget</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	As this will be the second year in a row that we complete the budget submission, it will likely (hopefully) become a staple of the MSU and continue to live on long past my personal time with the organization. It is a very effective tool for advocacy.
How?	This year we plan to release the budget submission much earlier, by the end of August, in order to have the largest possible impact on the budget. We have decided on priorities and we will be researching and putting the submission together over the rest of the summer.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board of Directors</li> <li>MSU Communications Officer (Sarah Mae Conrad)</li> <li>MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>SRA University Affairs Commissioner (Megan Hsu)</li> <li>SRA Finance Commissioner (Matthew Brodka)</li> </ul>

Objective 20	<b><i>MSU First Year (Transition) Policy Paper</i></b>
Description	My second semester policy paper will be on the theme of first year students and their transition to University from high school. This paper will build off of the findings from the MSU's First Year Feedback Forum with MSU Spark and the SRA University Affairs Committee.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passing stances specific to first year students and their unique experience and circumstances in the University environment</li> <li>Able to explore mentorship, blended learning classes, off-campus resource centre, residence life, etc.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very wide range of experiences from this group - may be difficult to capture in a paper and represent all views</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Will be used for the next three years to advocate on first-year specific issues.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Releasing a survey in late first semester to first years in order to learn about their first year experience at McMaster</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the findings from the SRA University Affairs Committee First Year Feedback Forum Report from 2015-16</li> <li>Authoring the policy with another interested author</li> <li>Will bring to the second semester policy passing conference</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>SRA University Affairs Commissioner (Megan Hsu)</li> <li>MSU First Year Council Advocacy Director (currently vacant)</li> <li>Society of Off-Campus Students (SOCS)</li> </ul>

Objective 21	<i>MSU Ancillary Fees Policy Paper</i>
Description	My first semester policy paper will be based on Ancillary Fees. This paper will replace an expiring paper that we currently use on the same topic. An ancillary fee are defined as a fee imposed or administered by a given institution, or one of its constituent parts or its federated or affiliated institutions, in addition to regular tuition fees, which a student is required to pay in order to enroll in, or successfully complete, any credit course.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define the MSU's stance on Ancillary Fees in a year that we are very concerned with financial accessibility in the institution</li> <li>Able to explore various issues relating to ancillary fees such as agreements between faculty societies and their faculties when it comes to additional fees, courses that require additional materials, residence-specific additional fees, etc.</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collecting data to ensure we are accurately representing student views on Ancillary Fees</li> <li>Implementing recommendations within the University</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Will be used for the next three years to advocate on ancillary fees to the University.
How?	Will be using my research assistants to compare McMaster to other institutions and see where we can improve.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>MSU Federal &amp; Provincial Affairs Research Assistant</li> </ul>

	(Aryan Pour-Bahreini) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition Task Force</li> </ul>
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Objective 22	<b><i>Strategic Mandate Agreement: MSU Submission</i></b>
Description	This year, the University will be entering a new Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (I can only assume, as previously the agreement was with the now non-existent Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities). As the SMA details the areas that the University will focus on, I believe the MSU should create a submission that details what students believe should be included in the SMA, such as themes and metrics that would be particularly important.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be able to influence a document that holds the University specifically accountable for various metrics</li> <li>• Provides a student voice to a government to University document</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New system, so the University may not take our input seriously, especially if the funding formula disincentivizes our asks</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	In the future, the MSU could provide a submission to the University for each SMA (likely every 3 years) and be involved in the future differentiation of McMaster University and other documents that detail its path.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with partners to determine smart student-centric asks to include in the submission</li> <li>• Working with David Wilkinson to determine an appropriate time to release the submission for the most impact</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU University Affairs Research Assistant (Jeevika Goyal)</li> <li>• MSU Federal &amp; Provincial Affairs Research Assistant (Aryan Pour-Bahreini)</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• McMaster Vice President Academic and Provost (David Wilkinson)</li> </ul>

Objective 23	<b><i>MSU Sexual Violence Working Group</i></b>
Description	Creation of a Sexual Violence Working Group made up of MSU members, SRA members, and other various and relevant stakeholders to promote student safety.

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifying points of access on campus for survivors</li> <li>• Assessing McMaster’s new sexual violence response policy in the fall</li> <li>• Ensuring the MSU has a dedicated body to addressing sexual violence on campus</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding a unique mandate for the group</li> <li>• Deciding who will sit on the working group</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	This group will likely be struck every year in the future to continue to address sexual violence on campus, so the structure and mandate of the committee this year will live on in some form for future years.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting an Operating Policy to detail membership and mandate of the committee</li> <li>• Holding an election for the membership of the committee at the SRA</li> <li>• Releasing reports and priorities from the committee throughout the year</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA Operations Commissioner (Preethi Anbalagan)</li> <li>• MSU President (Justin Monaco-Barnes)</li> <li>• MSU Vice President Administration (Shaarujaa Nadarajah)</li> <li>• MSU Women and Gender Equity Network Coordinator (Lainey Stirling)</li> </ul>

Objective 24	<b><i>New Compulsory Ancillary Fees Agreement</i></b>
Description	This year we will likely move into a new Compulsory Ancillary Fees Agreement with the University. This agreement is required by law at all universities across Ontario because the province requires Universities to formally consult with students before implementing ancillary fees. The agreement exists to detail what that consultation means. The ideal new agreement would be more transparent and ensure that student funds are going into core services when possible, while still being overseen by student leaders.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More transparency and accountability for student dollars</li> <li>• Smaller threshold for fees going to referendum</li> <li>• More money going into essential services such as Student Wellness</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring there is still significant student oversight over dollars that are going into core services managed by the</li> </ul>

	University
Long-term implications	This would likely be the agreement for several years and continue to have implications on students. The agreement itself is quite long and would have implications on which fees could be raised by the SSC, which could be raised by the SRA, and which raised by referendum. It would also indicate how much money is directed into SLEF vs. other areas.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Student Affairs to come up with an agreement</li> <li>• Getting the SRA to give us permission to sign the agreement</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster Student Affairs</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• Student Representative Assembly</li> </ul>

Objective 25	<i>Expanding Advocacy Opportunity for First Years in Residence</i>
Description	As the Inter-Residence Council (IRC) has ceased to exist this year (pending an appeal process), the MSU will step in to provide more advocacy opportunities for first year students living in residence. This will be done by expanding and revamping MSU First Year Council.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing more opportunities for students</li> <li>• Improving MSU FYC and giving them more responsibilities and possibilities with programming and advocacy</li> <li>• Making MSU the main advocate for residence students</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of resources to ensure this happens correctly</li> <li>• Coming up with a structure that is fair to both residence and off-campus first year students, as well as residence students who are not in first year</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Will have a long-term impact on First Year Council as there will be significant structural changes. Could also impact the way that MSU Spark operates and provides programming.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking to partners (other student unions) about how they advocate for residence students and first years</li> <li>• Designing a structure for FYC</li> <li>• Working over the summer to rebrand FYC</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator (Michael Wooder)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• Executive Board</li> <li>• Residence Life</li> <li>• OUSA SC members</li> <li>• MSU Spark Coordinator (Wid Yaseen)</li> </ul>
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Objective 26	<b><i>Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Workforce Development</i></b>
Description	The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Workforce Development has the mandate to address Hamilton's workforce development needs and co-ordinate a collaborative response to "upskilling" the local labour force. I would like to work to gain membership on this task force in order to ensure that employment of McMaster graduates is made a priority of the city.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better connections with the city of Hamilton</li> <li>• Tackling student employment with a local focus</li> <li>• Able to ensure that the task force is actively recognizing the value of student retention from McMaster</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster University has a seat on the taskforce and it may be difficult to convince the membership to add the MSU as a separate member</li> <li>• Once on the taskforce, some members may not see the value in targeting McMaster graduates</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Increased student retention in Hamilton, and increased employment outcomes and opportunities from recent McMaster graduates.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce to lobby for membership in the group</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamilton Ward 1 Councillor (Aidan Johnston)</li> <li>• Hamilton Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator (Labika Ghani)</li> </ul>

Objective 27	<b><i>Attend three City Council Meetings</i></b>
Description	Hamilton City Council meets typically biweekly and discusses a variety of issues pertaining to the city. Students are a large stakeholder in the city, with issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student employment</li> <li>• Student retention</li> <li>• Student housing/rental housing bylaws</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory budgeting</li> <li>• Transit</li> <li>• Safety</li> </ul> <p>Giving a delegation from the floor once per term (summer, fall, and winter) will allow us to tackle some of these issues and be heard by council.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council and the city is more aware of what the MSU is and what we do</li> <li>• Council is aware of the various issues that are facing students and what they can do to help</li> <li>• Great opportunity for advocacy</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some councilors (especially from further wards) may not see the value in the student voice, may disagree with our asks</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<p>A better relationship and more visibility with the city council opens up doors for continued relationships. In the future, the MSU may even choose to attend council meetings more often. In the past there has been talks of having one MSU representative present at each meeting. This year I felt as though that was unnecessary but in the future, this may be something to consider and this year can be used to see if this model is worthwhile for municipal advocacy.</p>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator currently goes over all meeting agendas for city council and the General Issues Committee meetings and reports if anything on the agenda is particularly relevant to the MSU</li> <li>• If something is relevant, I will attend or she will attend</li> <li>• If we needed to speak on something, we will prepare and ask to attend</li> <li>• For delegations from the floor, we will choose a pertinent topic each term and ask to be added to the agenda</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamilton Ward 1 Councillor (Aidan Johnston)</li> <li>• MSU President (Justin Monaco-Barnes)</li> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator (Labika Ghani)</li> </ul>

Objective 28	<i>Municipal Advocacy Week</i>
Description	Last year the MSU ran its first ever Municipal Advocacy Week,

	where the Education Team met with various MPs, MPPs, City Councillors, and other stakeholders within the city. Last year this week had many meetings but did not have a solidifying advocacy priority like other lobbying weeks we would typically engage in. This year, I would like to pick 2-3 municipal priorities and ensure we are lobbying on them to all of our stakeholders throughout the week.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific, targeted outcomes</li> <li>• Able to measure success of the week</li> <li>• More targeted briefs and prepared lobbyist</li> <li>• Able to engage more MSU members from the External Affairs Committee by inviting them to attend meetings and speak on briefs</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We meet with people from different levels of government (municipal, provincial, federal) so it may be difficult to collate asks the way we would at Queen's Park</li> <li>• The week itself is a large undertaking and difficult to plan - stakeholders are often busy, do not have time to meet, etc.</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	By ensuring Municipal Advocacy Week is an annual staple for the MSU, we can continue to grow our municipal advocacy efforts and build our relationships with stakeholders in the city.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MSU Community Engagement Coordinator will be coordinating meetings and scheduling, logistics for the entire week</li> <li>• The Board of Directors along with the Education Department will discuss the most relevant priorities for the week</li> <li>• We will do training with all volunteers who are going into meetings to ensure that they are well equipped and well versed in the priorities</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA External Affairs Commissioner (Vicky Liu)</li> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator (Labika Ghani)</li> <li>• Education Department</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator (Michael Wooder)</li> </ul>

Objective 29 *ChangeCamp*

Description	<p>This will be the third year that ChangeCamp is run by the MSU in partnership with many other stakeholders (Redeemer, Mohawk, McMaster, the city of Hamilton, etc.). Change Camp is a participant-driven dialogue between various community members and representatives between all stakeholders - faculty, staff, and students. It is meant to build partnerships, provide outcomes for roles and expectations, as well as community expectations of campus initiatives.</p> <p>In addition to running ChangeCamp for a third year, we will also be working on implementing the recommendations from last year's report.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building relationships with various community partners</li> <li>• Allowing students the opportunity to connect with stakeholders in the city</li> <li>• Bringing real change to campus-community relationships and initiatives</li> <li>• Meaningful dialogue between residents that typically don't interact</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bigger difficulty with this event is always the follow-up - how can we ensure that the recommendations from the previous year don't fall through the cracks?</li> <li>• Last year was extremely successful with an at-capacity event (over 200 participants) - we can't really grow the event without moving to a different venue</li> <li>• Changes to the event this year including more events spaced throughout the year - challenge to promote and ensure participation from students</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<p>As ChangeCamp is undergoing large structural changes this year with more events throughout the year and a focus on implementing recommendations, this year will set the tone for the future of Change Camp and how it evolves in years to come. If this year is successful, it is likely that Change Camp will become not just an annual event, but a constant initiative that is giving back to the community and tying campus initiatives with community initiatives.</p>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I sit on the Change Camp planning committee with a variety of different stakeholders</li> <li>• Within the MSU, we will be working on some specific recommendations with interested students (Hack the City conference, for instance)</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster Network for Campus-Community Partnerships Coordinator (Dave Heidebrecht )</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSA President (Kyle Datzkiw)</li> <li>• Redeemer Student Senate President (Jessica Mostert)</li> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator (Labika Ghani)</li> <li>• City of Hamilton (Irene Heffernan, Annelisa Pedersen)</li> <li>• Other community stakeholders (there are a lot!)</li> </ul>
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Objective 30	<b><i>Municipal HPSAG</i></b>
Description	HPSAG is short for the Hamilton Post Secondary Advisory Group. This group consists of representatives from the McMaster Students Union, the Mohawk Student Association (MSA), and the Redeemer Student Senate (RSS). These groups currently engage in a Provincial and Federal HPSAG (see below) but not a municipal HPSAG with local leaders like Aidan Johnston, Fred Eisenburger, etc. The idea of a municipal HPSAG is that all groups would sit down with relevant city leaders and discuss municipal advocacy priorities.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another opportunity to formally lobby to the municipal government</li> <li>• Building our relationships with RSS and MSA</li> <li>• As our municipal asks are more likely to be similar than our provincial and federal asks, there is an opportunity to collaborate with RSS and MSA to align our priorities and lobby on common goals</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trying to organize this is very difficult as these leaders are extremely busy and do not always respond to communication in a timely manner</li> <li>• We may not align, or may even disagree with the MSA and RSS on some priorities or asks</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Once this is set up, it will likely be a long-term project that the MSU partakes in every year (similar to the Provincial and Federal HPSAG). This will lend itself to building long-term relationships with our ward councillors and mayor, as well as giving us a direct opportunity to lobby.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Advisor to the Mayor to set up a time</li> <li>• Meeting beforehand with RSS and MSA to discuss shared priorities and how we can lobby effectively</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisor to the Mayor of Hamilton (Chris Cutler)</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• Mohawk Students Association</li> <li>• Redeemer Student Senate</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator (Michael Wooder)</li> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator (Labika Ghani)</li> <li>• Hamilton Ward 1 Councillor (Aidan Johnston)</li> <li>• Hamilton Mayor (Fred Eisenburger)</li> </ul>
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Objective 31	<b><i>Provincial &amp; Federal HPSAG</i></b>
Description	As discussed above, HPSAG is short for the Hamilton Post Secondary Advisory Group. This group consists of representatives from the McMaster Students Union, the Mohawk Student Association (MSA), and the Redeemer Student Senate (RSS). This group meets with local MPs and MPPs.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal opportunity to lobby to MPs and MPPs outside of OUSA Lobbying Week</li> <li>• For MPs in particular, it is a chance to lobby federally (doesn't happen often especially now that we are no longer with CASA)</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal and provincial asks tend to be quite different (for example, we wouldn't ask the federal government for a tuition freeze). So it may be different to continue to hold the provincial and federal HPSAG groups together</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	If we continue to hold these groups together, we should come up with a strategy to separate the two asks that we usually have. If we decide to separate them, we should consider how the stakeholders (MPs and MPPs) will react, and how that will affect our relationship with them moving forward.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These meetings are set up every few months by our Student Life Development Coordinator</li> <li>• Prior to the meetings, the Board of Directors prepares our asks and priorities</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• Mohawk Students Association</li> <li>• Redeemer Student Senate</li> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator (Michael Wooder)</li> </ul>

Objective 32	<b><i>Student Housing</i></b>
Description	Student housing continues to be an issue for McMaster

	<p>students as students need safe and affordable housing in the near-campus neighbourhood (Ainslie Wood - Westdale). Based on the results of last year's Your City Survey, many students feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods. As well, as many students struggle financially, and so keeping housing affordable is extremely important.</p> <p>We would like to lobby the city to create a rental housing bylaw that would enforce landlords to register and meet a standard to rent housing in the city.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing student safety</li> <li>• Ensuring that there are mechanisms in place to prevent absentee landlords</li> <li>• Improving community relations, challenging the notion that students cause houses to decay in Ainslie Wood - Westdale (when in fact it tends to be bad landlords)</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not be an appetite from council to implement this</li> <li>• Want to ensure that there is nothing negative towards students (no artificial increases in rent, imposing a limit on number of people that can rent in one building, etc.)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	A win in this area would be huge for students and long-term would lead to more accountable and safe housing for students in the areas surrounding campus.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with our municipal partners via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presenting at City Council</li> <li>○ Municipal Advocacy Week</li> <li>○ Municipal HPSAG</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA External Affairs Commissioner (Vicky Liu)</li> <li>• MSU Community Engagement Coordinator (Labika Ghani)</li> <li>• Education Department</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator (Michael Wooder)</li> </ul>

Objective 33	<b><i>Membership on AWWCA</i></b>
Description	The Ainslie Wood - Westdale Community Association is composed of residents of the two communities most close to campus. I would like to pursue obtaining membership for SRA External Affairs Committee members to sit on this committee and represent students.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving strained community relations with permanent residents in the Ainslie Wood - Westdale community</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving students an opportunity to advocate on behalf of their constituents</li> <li>• It's only \$30 for a 3 year membership - very easily found in the budget</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some residents harbour unfriendly feelings towards students in the neighbourhood</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Better relationships between residents and students in the community and more opportunity for interaction between these groups.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing 2 - 3 memberships for committee members to attend meetings</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA External Affairs Commissioner (Vicky Liu)</li> </ul>

Objective 34	<i><b>Tuition Framework</b></i>
Description	This year, the provincial tuition framework is expiring. This document is what allows Universities to raise tuition by a certain amount every year. Under the current framework, institutions can raise tuition by 3% each year for domestic undergraduate students. The new framework could be the same, could increase the cap, or could lower it. It is the MSU's position, as well as OUSA's, that tuition should be frozen under the new framework.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will eventually stop being the primary stakeholder in post secondary education in Ontario</li> <li>• Benefits affordability</li> <li>• Big win for students</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COU is very much against it because they want more money</li> <li>• The Universities need more money to be able to continue operating each year with various rising costs (mostly staff salaries) and the province is not giving them any</li> <li>• When tuition was deregulated, some schools raised tuition by a lot, and some schools didn't. Under regulation, schools that didn't now can never catch up to schools with higher tuition. This results in a disparity of resources that these schools can provide, with the lower tuition schools simply not having the resources to offer more academically or for student life. This is one of the challenges when we ask to freeze tuition.</li> </ul>

Long-term implications	If this happened it would be a huge win for students and would lead to a shift in the way that the sector is currently run - switching back to a more publicly-funded model. In the end this would be a huge asset to students.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making this an OUSA priority</li> <li>• Lobbying during OUSA lobby week</li> <li>• Creating a submission from OUSA and putting it out</li> <li>• Tuition campaign (working title: "Freeze Please!")</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Tuition Task Force</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator (Sandy Tat)</li> <li>• MSU Education Team</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 35	<i>Provincial Funding for Student Support Services</i>
Description	<p>At McMaster specifically, there are two student services that are chronically underfunded: Student Wellness Centre and Student Accessibility Services. For the former, it is paid for half by the University and half by students (these are rough numbers, ask me if you want to see a breakdown). For the latter, student ancillary fees cannot pay for this, so it is split between the University and the government (again it is a rough split but roughly down the middle - just ask if you care to go into detail).</p> <p>In order to allow these services to operate at a larger capacity with more resources, we need to lobby the government to provide envelope funding specific to these services.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Wellness can hire more mental health frontline care (counselors, psychiatrists, mental health nurses, etc.)</li> <li>• Student Accessibility Services can see students within a reasonable time, and can also give a much more reasonable caseload to case workers</li> <li>• McMaster University is a more accessible place for students</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government does not seem extremely interested in giving universities more money in order to do this</li> <li>• The university may want this (specifically SWC) to fall onto the backs of students rather than waiting for the government to possibly give funds</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Long-term this would be a huge win for students as it would be recognized that these services are essential to student

	success and that students should not be paying such large fees to access them. Additional mental health supports and accessibility case workers will make it much easier for students with disabilities to study at McMaster.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making this an OUSA priority</li> <li>• Working with OSCA (Ontario Committee on Student Affairs) which comprises all deans of Students</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> <li>• McMaster Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (Sean Van Koughnett)</li> <li>• OSCA</li> <li>• COU</li> </ul>

Objective 36	<b><i>Provincial Support for Sustainable Infrastructure</i></b>
Description	<p>On university campuses, there is currently little to incentivize new or existing infrastructure to be environmentally sustainable - both building new capital projects as well as retrofitting old buildings is expensive, and without monetary benefit or some other type of incentive, the University may not partake in this type of investment. Even if it does mean savings down the road, the upfront cost of these projects is largely prohibitive.</p> <p>With that in mind, we would like to lobby the province to create more incentives for both a) building new sustainable infrastructure, and b) retrofitting old buildings to become more environmentally sustainable.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More environmentally sustainable buildings on campus</li> <li>• Cost-savings for the university in the long run</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government dislikes giving money out for projects</li> <li>• Other OUSA schools may not support this type of project being a lobbying priority as it doesn't exactly fit under OUSA's mission statement (affordability, accountability, accessibility, and quality of education)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	In the long-term, this type of project would save money for Universities and indirectly the province by lowering the operating costs of buildings. This could offset costs in other areas.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with OUSA schools to try to make this a priority</li> <li>• MSU Federal and Provincial Research Assistant is working on a report to showcase options for how the province could create programs that would incentivize</li> </ul>

	more green infrastructure
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Federal and Provincial Research Assistant (Aryan Pour-Bahreini)</li> <li>• SRA External Affairs Committee</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 37	<i><b>OUSA Ancillary Fees Policy</b></i>
Description	One of the policies coming up this fall at OUSA General Assembly is OUSA's policy on Ancillary Fees. I would like to be an author on this paper to ensure that the paper reflects the MSU's vision for ancillary fees in Ontario.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper will be reflective of our current issues with ancillary fees at McMaster University</li> <li>• Final paper with a focus on student affordability (we recently finished Tuition and Student Financial Aid)</li> <li>• Will go hand-in-hand with our own policy on Ancillary Fees which I am also writing in the fall (see above)</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be a big project</li> <li>• If someone else on Steering Committee really wants to do it, I will have to fight them for it (not physically)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Will be OUSA's policy and advocated on for the following three years (until it expires).
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will ask to be an author on the paper at Stratcon (July)</li> <li>• Will write the paper throughout first term with the help of OUSA Home Office</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> <li>• OUSA Research Analyst (Danielle Pierre)</li> <li>• Other authors</li> </ul>

Objective 38	<i><b>Attend CASA Stratcon</b></i>
Description	Although we are not members of CASA, we still have a good relationship with the organization that is important to maintain without a formal federal lobbying organization. With that in mind, we should attend CASA Stratcon to influence the priorities of CASA for the upcoming year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to have MSU input into federal advocacy priorities</li> <li>• Build relationships with other student unions</li> <li>• Assess CASA for future decisions on membership moving forward</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a positive relationship with CASA</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibly expensive</li> <li>• Two days out of the office for myself and another BoD member</li> <li>• The BoD may not totally agree with me that this is a benefit to the organization for the cost</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	Last year, the MSU attended CASA's Get Out the Vote conference. If we attend another CASA conference this year, we will likely start to do that annually to maintain observer status with CASA.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls with the CASA Executive Director and Chair</li> <li>• Discussions with the BoD about allocation of time and resources for travel</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CASA Chair</li> <li>• CASA Executive Director (Michael McDonald)</li> <li>• Board of Directors</li> </ul>

Objective 39	<i><b>ADVOCAN Lobbying Week in Ottawa</b></i>
Description	<p>Last year, ADVOCAN (comprised of University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, University Students' Council at Western University, Queen's Alma Mater Society, University of Toronto Students' Union, University of Waterloo Federation of Students, and the McMaster Students Union) organized a lobbying week for federal advocacy in Ottawa in March. This year, we would like to:</p> <p>1) Expand membership to include Dalhousie, Manitoba, Alberta, and Calgary  2) Hold the lobbying week in early November</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger impact on the budget</li> <li>• Stake in federal advocacy for the MSU</li> <li>• Way to advance federal priorities directly (see below for federal advocacy priorities)</li> <li>• Working with more schools gives more legitimacy to the coalition we hope to create</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta schools may not want to join due to strong relationships with CASA</li> <li>• The CFS is holding a "day of action" (read: protest) the week prior to the week we would like to lobby - may shift the focus away from our asks</li> <li>• Costly to travel to Ottawa for an extended period of time for</li> </ul>

	two board members
Long-term implications	In the future, this would become an annual lobbying week that hopefully all students unions from top 15 research intensive schools in Canada would participate in. By increasing membership and having an earlier lobbying week, we set the group up for success and a large impact on the federal budget.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with schools to have calls and decide on priorities and briefs</li> <li>• Using our own resources from our organizations to promote and do research for the group</li> <li>• Deciding on a week and setting up meetings with various MPs</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society</li> <li>• University of Saskatchewan Students' Union</li> <li>• University Students' Council at Western University</li> <li>• Queen's Alma Mater Society</li> <li>• University of Toronto Students' Union</li> <li>• University of Waterloo Federation of Students</li> <li>• MSU Federal and Provincial Research Assistant (Aryan Pour-Baherini)</li> <li>• SRA External Affairs Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 40	<b><i>Federal Bursaries for Students with Disabilities</i></b>
Description	Many bursaries for students with disabilities exist at the federal level. The eligibility criteria for these bursaries is typically that the student has a permanent disability. We would like to lobby for the government to expand this criteria to students with temporary disabilities (as well as other asks for this particular umbrella of funding).
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More equitable funding for students with disabilities</li> <li>• University is more financially accessible for those with increased costs</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government may not be interested</li> <li>• Other ADVOCAN schools may not agree that this is a priority for our organizations</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	More funding essentially going into this pot, will cause more students with disabilities to be able to access post secondary in Canada.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doing research on these bursaries in Canada (MSU Federal and Provincial Research Assistant)</li> <li>• Asking ADVOCAN to make this a lobbying priority</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing this priority at ADVOCAN lobbying week as well as CASA StratCon</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society</li> <li>• University of Saskatchewan Students' Union</li> <li>• University Students' Council at Western University</li> <li>• Queen's Alma Mater Society</li> <li>• University of Toronto Students' Union</li> <li>• University of Waterloo Federation of Students</li> <li>• MSU Federal and Provincial Research Assistant (Aryan Pour-Baherini)</li> <li>• SRA External Affairs Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 41	<b><i>Federal Elimination of Cap on the PSSSP</i></b>
Description	The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) is a fund that provides support to Indigenous students to access financial aid in order to be able to attend post-secondary. This fund increases by 2% each year, but the cost of tuition as well as the number of Indigenous students accessing post secondary in Canada rises by more than 2% each year. Last year, the Liberal government campaigned on eliminating this cap by increasing the funding by \$50M, but in the budget that was not reflected. We would like to advocate for the cap to be removed in the next budget.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Indigenous students will be able to access post secondary in Canada</li> <li>• Students who wish to access post secondary will be given enough resources to be able to do so</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government may not wish to put more money into this program (I can't imagine why not considering it was a campaign promise, but they didn't in the last budget for whatever reason)</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	If the government simply injects \$50M into this program, it will be an improvement but still will not solve the issue of the cap in the long-term. This should continue to be a priority until the government commits to increasing the fund in line with tuition costs and students who wish to enrol in post secondary.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking ADVOCAN to make this a lobbying priority</li> <li>• Discussing this priority at ADVOCAN lobbying week as well as CASA StratCon</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society</li> </ul>

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|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of Saskatchewan Students' Union</li><li>• University Students' Council at Western University</li><li>• Queen's Alma Mater Society</li><li>• University of Toronto Students' Union</li><li>• University of Waterloo Federation of Students</li><li>• MSU Federal and Provincial Research Assistant (Aryan Pour-Baherini)</li><li>• SRA External Affairs Committee</li></ul> |
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## GOALS to strive for

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### List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September

- 1) MSU Macademics Operating Policy and job descriptions updated for the new service
- 2) First municipal HPSAG completed with RSS and MSA
- 3) Budget Submission completed and sent to the University
- 4) Gender Neutral Washrooms in L.R. Wilson Hall
- 5) One City Council Meeting attended

### List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1<sup>st</sup>)

- 1) First policy-passing weekend conference for the SRA/MSU members (MSU Ancillary Fees policy passed)
- 2) OUSA Ancillary Fees Policy passed
- 3) Advocacy Restructuring complete
- 4) ADVOCAN Lobbying Week in Ottawa
- 5) Municipal Advocacy Week complete

### List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2<sup>nd</sup>)

- 1) Second policy-passing weekend conference for the SRA/MSU members (MSU First Year Transition policy passed)
- 2) ChangeCamp complete
- 3) Strategic Mandate Agreement submission completed and sent to the University
- 4) Annuals Campaigns policy completed
- 5) Long-term Advocacy Plan completed

## Master Summary

(calendar and checklist)

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA Transcon</li> <li>• Transition into the role</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Teaching Awards becomes MSU Macademics</li> <li>• SRA retreat (consultation on Annual Campaigns policy)</li> <li>• First Tuition Task Force Meeting</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA Stratcon</li> <li>• CASA Straton</li> <li>• MSU retreat</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to First Year Council</li> <li>• University Budget Submission Complete</li> <li>• Presentation to City Council</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Academic Affairs Council Meeting</li> <li>• Gender Neutral Washroom Submission to the University</li> <li>• Sexual Violence Working Group Policy completed</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Passing Weekend (Ancillary Fees)</li> <li>• TA collective bargaining complete</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Advocacy Week</li> <li>• ADVOCAN Lobbying Week</li> <li>• OUSA GA</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster Academic Accommodations Policy for Students with Disabilities completed</li> <li>• First Year Experience Survey</li> <li>• Presentation to City Council</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition Campaign</li> <li>• Long-term Advocacy Plan completed</li> <li>• OUSA Lobbying Week</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Mandate Agreement Submission Complete</li> <li>• Policy Passing Weekend (First Year Transition)</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA GA</li> <li>• Presentation to City Council</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .Transition for Successor</li> </ul>