



REPORT

From the office of the...
President & CEO

TO: Members of the Assembly
FROM: President
SUBJECT: Presidents Report
DATE: September 7, 2016

Dear Members of the Assembly,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all back to campus for another school year - now the real fun begins. I really am excited to work with each and every one of you on a more regular basis. Like many of you, this is my first year on the Assembly, so I am delighted to bring a fresh perspective to current ideas and challenges we come across over this next school year. Though I am grounded in my beliefs as an individual, I always make it a priority to challenge those vary beliefs on a constant basis just to reaffirm I am there for the right reasons. With new information, as well as diverse perspectives, it is important that I am constantly evolving my way of thinking to match the climate that revolves around me. We are defined by the challenges we face as individuals, and it is those very challenges that shape who we are moving forward. Roosevelt said it best when he stated that, "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor". It is all of our responsibilities to not only serve each and every undergraduate student for this upcoming year, but to also take this amazing opportunity, and grow from it.

Now, after my long winded rant, I am going to talk a bit about some of the projects I have been working on over the summer months. These projects include other individuals ranging from in the MSU, to McMater University, to our different level of governing bodies. I will focus on three of the big picture ideas, even though they are still on going and will take a bit more time to complete. If you have any questions, or want to learn more about other areas I have not touched on in this report, do not hesitate to reach out and ask me. Thank you for your time, and I can't wait to spend this year with all of you.

PROGRESSION ON YEAR PLAN:

1) Sustainability

Two areas that I am going to focus this topic on are still areas that are ongoing. One of the topics is reducing our single use plastic water bottle consumption here at McMaster University. Single use plastic water bottles is one of the top contributors to our carbon footprint. By eliminating single use water bottles at both the MSU level, as well as the McMaster level, we will in turn be doing a great service to our environment. Almost half of the Universities in Ontario have adopted this policy, and I think it is time that we follow suit. One of the challenges that other Universities have faced is that when they got rid of the water bottles, students just bought more pop instead. This goes against our model of encouraging a healthy active lifestyle as pop is not a healthy choice with regards to liquid consumption. Our resolution for this is to introduce boxed water. Boxed water is a much more sustainable way to consume water in multiple ways. By the MSU and McMaster adopting a ban on single use plastic water bottle through creation of a policy, and introducing a boxed water alternative, we are in turn taking great steps in reducing our carbon footprint, as well as providing a healthy alternative for students eager to purchase water. By also providing refillable water bottles (5000 free during Welcome Week to first years) at a low cost of \$5 per bottle (cheapest on campus), we are also providing a second alternative for students with regards to water consumption.

The second sustainable project is infrastructure based. Over the summer, I have been working with the Federal Government, as well as McMaster Government Relations in order to bring large changes to campus through infrastructural upgrades. As this is a project that is still being finalized, I can't go into much detail other than to say that it will bring substantial changes to campus impacting our overall energy consumption.

2) Pulse Expansion

This is a topic that Ryan and I have been working on all summer. We have made great headway, but still are not quite there yet. We are confident that we will be able to take it to the students in the January referendum, it is just a matter of ironing out the details to make sure we are getting the best possible deal for students. Not only are we looking at expanding the Pulse itself by a significant amount, but we are also looking at creating much more student space that will address many of the areas students are constantly inquiring about. Like I stated

earlier, we are nearing the final stages, it is just a matter of making sure that everything is getting addressed in the most effective way.

3) Courseware

As the year approaches, so does courseware season. Despite there being hiccups along the way, we are making headway on this topic. It is my goal by the end of the year to be printing/selling courseware for many of the first year science courses, as well breaking into introduction psychology. I have also been in talks with other faculties who are interested in pursuing the MSU as an avenue for courseware production for future courses as well. This is a project that will take the full year to fully get going, but I will be working to set up next spring/fall term for success. The paper we use for our courseware is all sustainable, so this point works along side the first point in keeping with the spirit of environmental friendliness.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The main event from this summer which is worth noting is the CASA conference that Blake and I attended at the end of July. As a group that is focused on federal advocacy, we thought it would be in the MSU's best interest to not only see if there was anything we could add to their priorities, but to also evaluate the usefulness of the group itself. As members of OUSA which focuses on provincial lobbying, we lack a voice on the federal stage, so we wanted to see if CASA was a group that could fill that gap for us - it was not. After spending the weekend learning about CASA, and speaking to its members, Blake and I learned that even though federal advocacy is important to us, this wasn't the avenue to take.

The other events/activities that I was a part of this past summer are generally pretty standard with regards to this role and my platform. Again, if you have any questions about anything in particular, feel free to ask.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

At this point in time, as far as upcoming events goes, our main focus is Homecoming. This is a project that the BOD (Ryan in particular) has been working on throughout the summer, and we will continue to work as hard as we can to make sure that everything about this event is a success. From providing students with an experience they won't forget, to creating a space that is safer for everyone, this year's Homecoming is going to be very special.

Of course, our clubs and services will also be holding many events over the next term, so if there is anything I can do to help in order to ensure success, do not

hesitate to ask. I want to make sure that we can be successful together this year, and that involves a healthy collaborative nature.

Some other areas of note that the myself and the other BOD have been working on over this past summer has been: creating/revamping our own MSU services, increased funding for MSU clubs, more support at the full time staff level, lobbying various levels of Government for student priorities, assisting with creating an official McMaster University Sexual Assault Policy to be rolled out in January, improving hiring practices, strengthening community relations, Welcome Week preparation, sorting out multiple HSR issues, working alongside Student Success Centre on various wellness campaigns, and general connection to the student body.

Again, if you have any questions, or want more details on a certain area that may not have been highlighted in great detail, feel free to reach out to me at any point.

Like Shaarujaa's window, my door is always open.

Talk soon,



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