



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

President & CEO

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TO: Members of the Assembly  
FROM: Justin Monaco-Barnes, MSU President  
SUBJECT: Presidents Report  
DATE: February 21, 2017

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Dear Members of the Assembly,

My apologies again for the delay in this report, as explained at the previous meeting, between taking a two week leave of absence right after the winter break, and coming down with an pneumonia immediately following, there was simply no time to write a thoughtful report. Now that I have taken some time to recover, and with the help of proper medication, I am starting to feel healthy again. We are getting to the point in the year now where there the light at the end of the tunnel is finally beginning to emerge. With two and a half months left, there is still plenty of time to get lots of work done - and I don't plan on slowing down until my final day as President. The last period of this term will be focused on transitioning the new President-Elect, finalizing the extending of library hours for the second exam period, working closely with the Equity and Inclusion Office in order to make McMaster University a safer campus for everyone, and building a solidified foundation for future progress to grow upon.

As always, feel free to ask any questions today after going over this report, or anytime outside of this SRA meeting as well. With regards to assistance and support, my door is always open, and I look forward to seeing how the rest of you carry out the remainder of your terms.

## PROGRESSION ON YEAR PLAN

### *1) Pulse Expansion + Student Activity Building*

This project was a very large pillar of my Presidential platform, so to see it fall short in the referendum by just 10 votes short was quite devastating. As all of you know by this point, this project was an attempt to take large strides forward in the ways of student lounge space, study space, activity space, as well as addressing other areas of concern on campus such as food security, accessibility improvements, infrastructural sustainability, multi-faith needs, student autonomy, and more. As an advocate for this project as whole, I sincerely hope that this is not the last we see or hear about this idea moving forward. There have been months upon months of hard work put into the

creation, and implementation of this project, so to see it all go to waste would be an extremely sad realization. I wholeheartedly believe that this project will drastically improve the experience of all students here at McMaster University. I am extremely proud of everyone who was a part of this project - from the beginning stages of turning this idea into something real and tangible, to the students who were on the front line campaigning each and every day for its first breath of life. Though the result we got was not what these students who campaigned their hearts out were hoping for, I don't see this as a failure but rather, an awakening. Students have just sparked life into a conversation that is only going to grow and expand. The problems that this project was going to tackle still very much exist within our campus, and are not going to go away on their own. I am excited to watch current and future McMaster students implement their own ideas on how to improve these problems in order to make the student experience the best it can possibly be moving forward.

## *2) Sustainability*

The single use plastic water bottle free campaign has finally begun. Orders of these plastic bottles have officially stopped being purchased from our supplier as of now, campaign materials has been made and are now being displayed, and the official operating policy will soon be finalized. This is a great step in the forward direction of making McMaster University as sustainable as possible by eliminating something that is so harmful to our environment. This is only phase one to a multi-phase approach, and building that foundation will be a large part of the overall focus during my final months in office.

Had the upcoming space referendum been successful, there was a substantial commitment to sustainable infrastructure that would have again taken great steps in making McMaster forward thinking when it comes to environmentally friendly building/planning. The construction of ABB will be starting shortly as the window for completion on that project is fast approaching. The cogeneration system will also do wonders for campus with regards to reducing our overall carbon footprint institutionally wide. The conversation for more composting options is still something I plan on evaluating before I leave in May as well.

## *3) Health Science Library Hours*

I am currently wrapping up a commitment made with HSL to seal the deal on making that space 24/7 during the final exam period of this term. The challenge with this has been the fact that HSL works with the hospital rather than McMaster University. This means that there are additional unions that need to be consulted, various levels of approval, advanced consultation, etc. I am confident however that moving forward this will be something students

will have access to come April as it remains one of my top priorities until that point in time.

#### *4) Safer Campus*

Sexual violence prevention, response and education still remains one of mine, and the MSU's top priorities. With the rollout of McMaster's official sexual assault policy in January, individuals who specialize in that area on campus can finally work within a framework to tackle these issues accordingly. I have recently spoken with Vilma Rossi who is the Senior Program Manager of the Equity and Inclusion Office on ways we (the MSU) can collaborate together to not only inform more students about what this policy is and entails, but to also educate a wider range of groups along the way. We discussed the idea of working together for the remainder of the year to build an educational component for various groups around campus, and the diverse culture that surrounds them (student athletes for example). I will also be working alongside Vice President Administration, Shaarujaa Nadarajah with the creation, and implementation of sexual violence prevention and response training for the MSU, as well as additional campus patterns. Working with Vilma and Shaarujaa will be a great way to collaborate using a wide range of education and resources in order to build upon what we already have, and to lay a foundation for years to come.

Vilma, Meaghan Ross (Sexual Violence Response Coordinator), myself, and others are also going to explore ways to strengthen McMaster's and the MSU's relationship with SACHA (Sexual Assault Centre Hamilton Area) in order to provide additional support and resources for students as well. At our last meeting we discussed what this relationship could look like moving forward, but at this point we are still evaluating all of the components in order to see what is the best fit for everyone. Now that the official policy is launched, and time has freed up for everyone who needs to be involved in this conversation, we can all now really begin to shape this dialogue, and plan for what this is going to become as we navigate into the future. As far as detailed timelines or landscapes go with SACHA, it is still too early to answer that right now. The ball is rolling however on all of our ends, and those are still concepts that we are now in the process of developing.

#### PAST/UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

January is always a busy month for the MSU. We saw an election unfold providing us with our new MSU President-Elect, the success and shortcomings for various referenda, the finalization of the new sexual assault policy on campus, and the implementation of Boxed Water at Union Market.

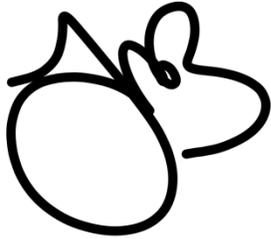
Personally, I was on a two week leave of absence, then was down with pneumonia which delayed my return by a week and a bit (it was a rough one).

With our final OUSA GA of the academic year slowly approaching, our General Assembly, as well as the planning for Light Up the Night already

beginning, time certainly seems to be flying by. Besides various platform points that I plan on working on to finalize for the remainder of the year, there are not really any big events that I will be the lead on. Like I stated earlier, LUTN is an event that we will be working on for the next couple of months, and GA planning is already starting to wrap up, therefore I am left with a fair amount of time to develop, and finalize projects, as well as transition our new President-Elect to the best of my abilities.

I want to reiterate to everyone that they can reach out to me at any point in time if there is anything I can do to help, or support you with an idea, or project you are looking to complete. If anything, I can at least help guide you in the right direction, or connect you with the appropriate individuals.

Thank you,



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