



— the — PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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STATE OF THE UNION

MSU to present annual document outlining organizational decisions, achievements and goals of 2012/2013



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January is always an exciting time on campus. The MSU presidential race kicks off on Monday, January 21, and during the campaign period the MSU will be continuing the tradition of presenting our annual State of the Union address. The State of the Union will take place inside TwelvEighty at 2:30pm on Wednesday, January 23. Complimentary food and soft drinks will be available.

The State of the Union was adopted during the 2010-2011 academic year as a way for the current MSU executives to reflect on and present some of the significant changes that have happened during their term. The document and subsequent presentation are primarily methods of communicating to you, the undergraduate student body, what your student union has been working on this year to improve the student experience at McMaster. It includes information on services' accomplishments, where and how your money is being spent, what projects have begun and have been completed, and how the post-secondary landscape has changed over the last eight months.

The State of the Union is also a historical document. It is a snapshot of the MSU at a particular point in time and gives future students and student leaders a brief look into the issues that were faced by their predecessors. It is our belief that the State of the Union is an important reference document for anyone hoping to take up a student leadership position to read, in order to gain a better understanding of how particular issues have developed over the past few years.

The release of the State of the Union is often accompanied by a number of questions, some of which are answered here.

Why release the State of the Union now?

The timing of the State of the Union is of particular importance as the election process of the 2012/2013 MSU President is set to begin and the election of the future Vice Presidents is only a few weeks away. It is crucial that students have the necessary information available about the workings of the MSU in order to make informed choices about their student union. As

well, it will likely give you as a student a source for questions that you can ask of your candidates in order to determine whether you feel a candidate best represents your interests.

Why is the State of the Union important?

Given the transient nature of the organization and its membership, the specific priorities of the McMaster Students Union are bound to change with time. As such, the State of the Union is to serve as a general guideline and to be published annually by the MSU Board of Directors. In addition to serving as a foundation for long-term planning, the State of the Union is an important piece of institutional memory, summarizing the priorities and events of that particular year. With the high rate of turnover and the challenges inherent in our short institutional memory, it is crucial that MSU members and student leaders refer to this document and others to gain the historical insight needed to make informed decisions.

What is in the State of the Union?

This year's State of the Union holds some exciting and intriguing information on a wide variety of topics. This past year we've seen McMaster's 125th anniversary, the production of the Forward with Integrity task forces & their subsequent projects, the resignation of the Premier of Ontario (and ensuing leadership race), plans for a new Liberal Arts building and the relocation of The Phoenix. Additionally, the MSU has worked on creating a Fall Break, established plans for a green roof on the Student Centre, digitized the archives of The Silhouette, ramped up our efforts to communicate via social media, and initiated open forum discussions with President Deane. These topics only scratch the surface of the projects that have been taken on this year and the events that have shaped our educational experience. You can expect much more in the official State of the Union document that will be released next week as the Board of Directors take the stage to present our year in review.

What can I expect to see next week?

There are two main components to the State of the Union. The first is a presentation, chaired by MSU President Siobhan Stewart, on the major points contained in the State of the Union document. This will occur in TwelvEighty at 2:30pm and will be followed by Q&A with the Board of Directors. Complimentary food will be provided both before and after the State of the Union. The second is

a document encapsulating all of the information that summarizes this year's accomplishments. The document will include briefings on a number of topics, financial information, and updates on the terms of service of some of our employees. A limited number of copies will be printed but the information will also be available online at

www.msumcmaster.ca.

These are only a few of the questions that arise each year, and no doubt there will be more substantial inquiries on the content of State of the Union once it is released. I encourage you to drop by TwelvEighty for the presentation and stay for the question and answer session.



THE McMASTER STUDENTS UNION

STATE of the UNION

WED, JAN 23RD
2:30PM IN TWELVEIGHTY

Presentation followed by Q & A
with the MSU Board of Directors

**COMPLIMENTARY APPETIZERS
AND SOFT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED**

ALSO ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR...

At this time of year, the MSU presidential election tends to get most of the press, but it is also important to draw attention to referenda that will run concurrently with the election in late January.

First, there is a proposal coming from the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) to reduce the CFMU 93.3FM fee from the current \$17.29 per MSU member to \$12.50 per MSU member. Second, the McMaster Marching Band is requesting a \$0.90 per student levy to help support their events and operations.

Both of these referenda will appear on the online ballot which will be emailed to each MSU member, in conjunction with the presidential ballot. Voting occurs on January 29, 30 and 31, so before then be sure to get informed! Information on all the candidates and the referendum questions will be available on the MSU Elections website www.msumcmaster.ca/elections. Also, you can always speak to your elected representatives on the SRA to get a better perspective on these issues.

Don't forget to vote!

FOR UPDATES ON YOUR 2013 MSU PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
STAY TUNED TO
www.MSUMCMASTER.CA/ELECTIONS



The President's Page is sponsored by the McMaster Students Union. It is a space used to communicate with the student body about the projects, goals and agenda of the MSU Board of Directors.

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