**YEAR PLAN**

MSU President

Chukky Ibe

2017-2018

****

**GOALS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Open UP the MSU**  |
| Description | As an organization, we must be able to continue to position ourselves as a valuable resource to University partners, but most importantly to our constituency. Students should feel we are an organization that cares, and can be meaningfully engaged with. We should not be an organization that has a top down agenda setting regime. We should always seek multiple avenues incorporating student voice in our priority setting agenda. We should also invest in our internal hospitality to make the MSU more appealing, and provides incentives for student engagement. There are two parts to this, hospitality and functionality.  |
| Benefits | Not only will this be a good opportunity to get feedback from students and run initiatives they actually want to see, but it also allows students an opportunity to feel like they have a say in the way their money is spent (because they do!).We can create the programs that people care about.  |
| Difficulties | It is not possible to listen to everyone, and do everything. We are also an organization run by students, so to assume that we do not reflect the priorities of students is counterintuitive. There are an infinite number of small things we can do to make the union more open. Prioritizing the most efficacious items will be necessary for this success.  |
| Long-term | This should be central to our engagement strategy with marauders. We should solicit, and invite students to present us with the issues hey are concerned about. Although this is certainly a viable plan in the few years to come, this is most poignant with our education department. How much is student driven, vs ed team driven. Ed team has more detail and expertise.  |
| How | **Hospitality****Work with the SRA and office clerks** to host MSU open houses, and office and services tours. **Working with the clerk** **and VP Administration** to make the front of the office student friendly, we may consider office renovations, and leaving the front doors wide open to create a more inviting atmosphere. **Functionality****MSYou / SLEF e**xpansion to ensure no good student idea gets left behind during the presidential campaign. After each presidential election, platforms will be given back to students to vote on. This can happen through creating a new platform that will allow students to vote on ideas. It can also happen through extending SLEF for a longer period. **Underground Media Creator Database** - build a database at the Underground of student photographers, videographers, and web designers. This makes digital media services easily accessible and provides media specialists with an avenue to gain freelance work and build their portfolios.**MSU Job Portal Expansion**We want to expand the MSU job portal to student groups campus-wide so they can post their job/volunteer openings all in one place, instead of being lost within a sea of social media. This will extend to faculty societies so students can submit applications to become Welcome Week reps. If your club is looking for a choreographer or a set designer you will be able to post this on the MSU jobs portal.**Service Usage Review** By evaluating what services students use, and how students respond to our services, we will be better able to explore opportunities for improvements and budget allocations. |
| Partners | VP Finance. VP Administration, Office Clerk, SRA - Brian Zheng  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Accessible Campus** |
| Description | I will advocate to the University to revisiting their infrastructure plan to make campus easier to navigate for students with disabilities and mobility concerns, and restrictions form space pace on gender and or sexuality.  |
| Benefits | Making campus accessible is key to ensuring students have the best campus experience.  |
| Difficulties | Most of this will largely be a university priority. Our goal, which is an incredibly difficult one, is to convince the university, facility services, and associated stakeholders to ensure this is a worthwhile venture for the university…especially given other funding priorities. I need to gather more information on what has already been done to this effect, and what the university already has in plan towards this.  |
| Long-term | Students will have a more accessible campus, and the university will only have to make a one-time investment in the space, and relatively little costs for maintenance. We just have to make a good enough case that this is important for students.  |
| How | We would work with SAS and Maccess to ensure students who have disabilities are aware of <http://www.cartographr.ca/> to ensure uptake from this service. Funding for an accessible campus will be prioritized on the university budget submission.  |
| Partners | Facility Services, Maccess, Engineering and Science Faculty, SAS.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Reducing Campus Waste**  |
| Description | We will be expanding the green food box to La Piazza, Bridges, and TwelvEighty We will also be providing information regarding proper ways to rid yourself of your coffee cups. We will be providing students with information, and avenues to rid themselves of their electronic devices.  |
| Benefits | This continues the MSUs commitment to a sustainable McMaster and safer world.  |
| Difficulties | Ensuring this will be possible is a logical challenge. Hospitality Services will be the lead on this project. Even though we often have opposing interests, this is a space we will have to collaboratively work on. We will have to ensure students are not taking their re-usable boxes home, and other logistical challenges are met.  |
| Long-term | It is my hope that any upgrades we can accomplish this year will serve as a pilot for what this project can be in years to come. A successful first year project will create a self-sustaining model.  |
| How | I have contacted the Director of Hospitality Services to accomplish this initiative. This task will also be delegated to the sustainability committee of the MSU to ensure its continuity. We will be working with OPIRGs committees to provide coordinated efforts on accessibility related initiatives.  |
| Partners | Hospitality Services, Sustainability Committee, OPIRG, UTS |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Optimizing Student Technology**  |
| Description | Almost every student on campus owns a laptop and cell phone. We want ensure students have the skills to use their tech to its full potential while protecting their security online.The goal is for the university to provide students with uninterrupted access to hi-quality broadband access on campus. Critical to this, is to ensure that students are centred in UTS service delivery plan. . We are working with University Tech Services (UTS) on a campus-wide WiFi audit to identify spaces on campus that need to be better serviced. We will work with the Hamilton Intelligence community task force to ensure digital equity and inclusion for students, while also involving students with the UTS admin Board to ensure that students have a voice on internet equity. |
| Benefits | This will drastically improve the quality of student’s education, and in general, student life. We are looking for the university to make necessary investments in the PULSE, the go centre, and on BSB field, and Thode library, and Mills Library. These are some spots that have come to our radar as priority areas for students.  |
| Difficulties | There are many moving parts when it comes to a project like this. This mostly is an advocacy point, and ultimately UTS will make the necessary investments.  |
| Long-term | UTS currently has a several years phase in plan for upgrading service delivery of broad band for the university.  |
| How | 1. The MSU will partner with UTS to create a and circulate a wi-fi survey.
2. The MSU will advocate for a seat on the UTS board of directors
3. The University Affairs Committee will be working with partners in UTS to conduct surveys on the tech needs of students. Based on this feedback, we will be making recommendations to UTS and their partners regarding the tech needs of students.
4. We will be partnering with the student and university stakeholders to host a tech support week a semester. This will incorporate workshops to educate students on campus tech support services, how to backup their documents, how to protect themselves from cyber crimes, and how to get the most out of their tech.
5. We will also be working with Phase One and the new Makerspace to help students fix their electronics instead of throwing them away. By setting up a system on campus for students to repurpose old/used electronics and sell them at affordable prices we can provide more opportunities for students and save students’ money
 |
| Partners | University Affairs, Student Success Centre Vice President Education, Phase One, University Technology Services Campus Store, Lyons New Media Centre |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Improving the Off-Campus Experience – Neighbourhood Assistance Program**  |
| Description | Living off campus needs to be a better experience for students. The main objective here is to create an experience that can equally compare to students who live on campus. This support system must be informed by the experiences of off campus students. This program will have students who live in student neighbourhoods to be able to provide support for the students who live in their neighbourhoods. We want to create services localized to student neighbourhoods.  |
| Benefits | This is self explanatory. There is significant understaffing and limited resources dedicated to supporting off campus students. Students who live off campus, can be supported, and set up for academic success here at McMaster. Living off campus should not be a disadvantage.  |
| Difficulties | Progress on this is largely dependent on the support of the off-campus experience office and the housing and conference services office. A large part of it is also dependent on collaborating with SOCS and our ability to be flexible and innovative with SCSN.  |
| Long-term | Central to this plan is to create an off-campus CA / community connector program. This will be like the CAs in residence. They will have phones, and can be accessed by students who live nearby. This can also be an emailed service. A similar program exists in Western University. This will need collaboration from OCRC, SOCS, SCSN, and potentially, the city of Hamilton.  |
| How | 1. This will happen through the creation of a neighborhood assistance advisory committee. They will be tasked with conducting research of issues concerning off campus students, and recommend an appropriate form of action on developing this service.
2. Working with SOCS to create a commuter connector program for off-campus students who missed Welcome Week, and a year-round support network for commuter students
3. Creating a Landlord Rating System / Wiki-landlord rating system to ensure students’ homes are safe and welcoming.
4. We are working with the HSR and the University to renovate and build more bus shelters on campus.
5. We will work with Facility Services to repair the stairs on lot M, and invest in proper lighting in areas on campus where students park.
 |
| Partners | SCSN, OCRC, SOCS, VP education, HSR,  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Ensuring Good Governance** |
| Description | One of the biggest challenges the MSU faces is the yearly overhaul in leadership. I will be working with our internal governance team to review internal processes of the ensure the internal operations of the organization are efficacious. We will also be creating several advisory groups to ensure multiple communities on campus are duly represented on campus, and to the MSU. We also want to show MSU staff and volunteers that we value them so we want to actively invest in their transferable skills by giving them a space for professional development. |
| Benefits | SRA members are better positioned to accomplish their platforms when they can collaborate with other SRA members who share similar ideas. The SRA will be more open, and are better positioned to engage with their constituencies. Elections are more competitive, and offer support to a wider, and more diverse range of students.  |
| Difficulties | We don’t anticipate too many struggles with this. This project will be spearheaded by Kamini Persuad, Makenzy Walcott, and Saima and Sebat Berkri. They will be tasked with creation a constitution, terms of reference, and a year plan. To ensure the project groups are successful, we will need SRA members to take leadership. The success of the projects is solely dependent on them. Our challenge will be getting SRA members to take leadership positions, and seek to push their agenda forward.  |
| Long-term | The long-term goal is to ensure SRA elections are more competitive and well resourced. The people project will be ratified as an MSU club and should be a self-sustaining project.   |
| How | 1. We will be working with campaign managers to create a team (McMaster People Project) to support candidates who would like to run for an elected position. This will range from faculty societies to BOG and Senate positions.
2. The internal governance officer will be working to create project groups for SRA members.
3. Each project group will meet and create a year plan, a list of priorities and a list of actions.
4. I will work with the clubs administrator to create a clubs council for tier 1 clubs (Clubs Presidents Council, Captains Council – for Varsity Teams, Cultural and Religious Clubs Roundtable, Expanding Presidents Council to include Senate and BOG reps, expanding clubs.
5. We want to give SRA members more support in their outreach efforts and will give them a team to help implement their platforms in the form of standardized caucus committees.
6. We will consider the VP elections to see if the timing and training of SRA members can be revised to optimize assembly procedures.
7. We will be working with the speaker to review Roberts rules to ensure floor assembly procedures and debates are conducted effectively.
8. Working to create an international students advisory board and advocating for fair fees for international students.
9. We will be working closely with the past members of the MSU Board of Directors, University staff to upgrade the skills of MSU volunteers so they can get the most out of their time with the MSU.
 |
| Partners | Kamini Persuad, Makenzy Walcott, and Saima, Emma Ferguson, Brian Zheng , Speaker – Helen Zheng  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Strengthening Student Communities**  |
| Description | The success of Clubs, faculty societies, and student communities are essential for improving the quality of life on our campus. We will implement several programs to help support clubs on campus so they can increase their reach and run effectively, and continue to innovate and grow. Students communities will benefit from establishing connections with the student affairs department. Student groups have the audience, student affairs have expertise. There should be intentional idea-sharing and co-creation of resources between these departments.  |
| Benefits | This fosters information sharing across clubs that will emphasize sharing of resources and ideas, co-hosting events, and co-campaigns between clubs and services. |
| Long-term | Ideally, we can get the conversations started this year with both the University and the local government. I also want to see some small projects funded through Participatory Budgeting and similar avenues.  |
| How | 1. Introducing an event loan system for clubs. The Clubs Executive Council will grant loans to clubs who sell tickets for their events. This reduces the out-of-pocket costs for student clubs. We will give the Club Executive Council the powers to determine club funding, this frees up the Clubs Administrator’s summer to better support club training.
2. We will make funds available for clubs and student groups to run programs over the summer and be a part of Welcome Week programs. This will help clubs engage with more students and provide opportunities for more diverse welcome week programming.
3. Service and Club clusters will pool together MSU services and clubs with similar interests and mandates.
4. I will be considering merging the MSU and CLUBS award at the student recognition night. This sends a clear message to our diverse student groups that we see them, appreciate them, value them, and will invest in the work they do.
5. We will open conversations with Greek life (sororities and fraternities) to see how they can best be supported. We can usher in a new era of communication between the MSU, Greek life and the University.
6. Working to create a Clubs roundtable where clubs with similar interests can provide updates, and perspective to each other.
7. Community and campus partners will come together to train students and student organizations who choose to participate in volunteer projects across the city. The MSU will be able to track the amount of funds raised and hours spent by various student organizations, which allows us to see the change that students make in the city. This will happen through a coordinated community action toolkit.
 |
| Partners | Clubs Executive Council, Clubs Administrator, VP Administration, SWELL Student Life Coordinator, Office of community engagement.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Health and Wellness – Caring Communities**  |
| Description | This project is built around the social determinants of health. When people belong to a community, they are connected to a system of support, and resources they can access. Health is as much as a social determinant as it is an individuals endeavour. The project draws from the way McMaster communities support each other. It will entail partnering MSU clubs and student societies with the wellness center. This will entail working with a select group of clubs, say 40 to begin with, to create a community health year plan and a club’s specific health and wellness strategy.  |
| Benefits | We want student communities to be more intentional with the way they take care of the members of their community. We also want them to be aware of the resources available throughout campus partners. As a result, we would have better resourced, and resilient student communities.  |
| Difficulties | The scope of the project is relatively vast. We do not know if student communities will be interested in participating in this project. We also do not know if the student wellness centre has the capacity to do the work.  |
| Long-term | This can be a long-term program that is able to grow, and re-invent itself. If the project is successful, considerations should be given to how it is resourced in the long run.   |
| How | We will have to create a framework for the initiative, and allocate necessary funds to support it. The next steps will be to identify the student groups and clubs that fit the framework. We will connect the clubs to the SWELL – wellness educator program. We will also have to create outcomes, and after the outcomes, create a system of assessment to determine if this exercise was valuable and should be continued.  |
| Partners | SHEC, SWELL, VP Administration, Alison Drew-Hassling  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Creation of the Post-Secondary Access Strategy**  |
| Description | This is a double pronged project. 1. Access to post secondary for non-traditional and underrepresented students on campus.
2. We will also be making new investments in childcare for McMaster students.
 |
| Benefits | Student-parents face the incredible challenge of balancing raising a child, with all other stresses of being a student. We want to make our campus a family friendly space where affordable and accessible child care options will help student parents chances of success in university. |
| Difficulties | **Chlildcare**; This is dependent on our relationship with the GSA, and MAPS and pending on reaching an agreement with them. **Access :** This is a collaborative effort between myself and the various stakeholders, and as always when there are several hands working together, conflict can arise, and competing priorities emerge.  |
| Long-term | Our city of Hamilton, and the post-secondary sector does not currently have an access strategy to post-secondary for its citizens. It is essential we partner with other institutions to enhance the quality of life of our community, and work as a co-creator of knowledge.Develop a sustainable system of governance for the childcare centre.  |
| How | **Childcare**The MSU will work with our campus partners on a joint child care program. We will revisit the MSU childcare costs and hours of operation to ensure that it is accessible, and can accommodate for students with late night classes and exams.We will be looking into creating a child minding program in tandem with the Campus Store. We want to work with the University to provide grants to students who are unable to qualify for provincial and municipal childcare assistance. We will work with campus partners to host a “bring your child to school” day to celebrate student-parents. To make campus more family friendly, we will install change tables in washrooms across campus.We will also explore partnerships with the McMaster Children and Youth University to support student-parents.**Post-Secondary Access Strategy**Our city of Hamilton, and the post-secondary sector does not currently have an access strategy to post-secondary for its citizens. It is essential we partner with other institutions to enhance the quality of life of our community, and work as a co-creator of knowledge. In the short term, we will be working to extend CLAY into a full year service. The goal for clay will be to work with community partners, and student stakeholders to create a yearlong outcome based program that looks to support students in priority neighborhoods in our city. A collective-impact program will be created to be able to support students from across the city and the GTA.  |
| Partners | Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, CLAY, Office of Community Engagement, MSU Childcare Centre  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Affordable Text Books**  |
| Description | Textbooks and courseware is a large hidden cost for many students. This is why we want to work with the Provost and Deans to create a diverse campus-wide affordable textbook strategy.  |
| Benefits | Cheaper textbook for students. This will give students ample time to budget their money for the upcoming year and allows students who are visually impaired to make necessary arrangements for their course materials. This also improves the Campus Store’s ability to source affordable textbooks for students and reduces the wait lines for textbooks in the fall.  |
| Difficulties | This is probably my single most challenging goal this year. It demands a multipronged approach to advocacy. It will also mean coordinating faculty society presidents, under a relatively tight timeline. There is no guarantee that the faculty societies will share the same priority as anyone else.  |
| Long-term | Our faculty societies must take greater leadership on the issue of affordable courseware advocacy to meet the diverse problems that their constituents face. Through the President's Council and the Academic Affairs Council, the MSU will work to provide the faculty societies with training, advocacy and administrative support to ensure our agendas are aligned and students are able to find affordable textbooks.  |
| How | Course materials should be adopted and communicated in the spring-summer. We will be in communication with the Provost, and appropriate Deans to voice this student concern, and have them commit to early adoption.We are also going to work to increase the number of textbooks available in library reserves so students can access textbooks without purchasing them. We will be working with the librarians to partner with faculty societies to create faculty specific textbook libraries. This has to be a collaboration between me, the VP (Education), and the librarians. Professors ought to leverage the volume of their classes to negotiate fair costs for course materials. We will be working with the Campus Store, and faculty deans, and faculty societies to put pressure, and to recommend courses that can leverage such volume. Classes with multiple cores should be coordinated to ensure all classes will use the same courseware and in the long term, McMaster University and the province of Ontario should model successes in British Columbia and invest in Open Source textbooks.The MSU will work through Academic Affairs Council, and Presidents Council to coordinate a university wide textbook swap. We will also be working with the textbook buy and swap page to communicate more options for students who would like to buy textbooks online. We will be working through the courseware committee, and advocating to the university to provide professors with the necessary resources to adopt the open source textbook as part of their course materials.  |
| Partners | Faculty Societies, Provost, Assistant VP Research, Assistant VP Faculty, faculty deans, student faculty societies, the Campus Store, the McPherson Institute |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Objective  | **Good Food Delivery**  |
| Description | We will expand the Mac Farmstand and Mac Bread Bin to deliver locally sourced, healthy, affordable food along with student-friendly recipes to students’ door-steps through our Good Food delivery program. |
| Benefits | This way students can have access to healthy affordable food while saving time on buying groceries. |
| Difficulties | Logistical challenges would be the most severe here.  |
| Long-term | I see this new program being a staple on campus if we can develop a sustainable model for it.  |
| How | We will ensure that the Good Food delivery program is accessible by integrating it into the new Neighborhood Assistant Program, clubs, and faculty societies. |
| Partners | Mac Farmstand, McMaster Bread Bin, Food for thought, Faculty Societies, CSA- Community food shares, agricultural boxes, Community Food centre Hamilton.  |

**GOALS to strive for**

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

1. Planned Off campus move-in day
2. Planned University Wide Textbook Exchange with Presidents Council
3. Planned Tech Week
4. Established Clubs participation in Welcome week
5. Clubs summer funding allocation
6. Commuter Connectors – Off campus Students

**List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)**

1. Green Food Boxes Expansion
2. Good Food boxes delivery
3. Creating Caring Communities partnerships
4. Strengthening internal governance
5. Working with MAPS and GSA to improve childcare

**List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)**

1. Second semester textbook exchange
2. Affordable textbook strategy created, and implemented
3. Creating the neighborhood assistant program
4. MSU Job Portal Expansion
5. SLEF expansion