To the most honorable Assembly,

This is a list and highlights of milestones as of 16th of July.

**Vision Conference –**

On the 17 of June the McMaster Students Union hosted the Vision 17 conference. The conference, open to undergraduate student leaders from all areas of campus, was a day of workshops, networking events, punctuated by a keynote speaker, culminating in a collective visioning exercise. The purpose of Vision 17 is to focus on collective impact programs, strategic visioning, and collaboration between student government, student life staff, faculty society representatives and Clubs, and community leaders. Vision 17 provided numerous opportunities for student leaders to share best practices, and brainstorm opportunities for the upcoming year. The day culminated with the participating students, drawing from the day’s discussions, engaging themselves in a final vision session to guide student life. The Vision Conference was a response to the disconnect that student leaders from across campus often feel with themselves. This was a space for networking, creative thinking, and visioning. This event helped student leaders make key connections to university initiatives and stakeholders.

There were 3 incredible wins that came out of this. We were able to connect in a tangible way to student leaders who decided to collaborate on key initiatives for the year. MIX, and SOCS both reported fantastic connections. We were also able to connect MIX with the welcome week club integration levy. They had no prior knowledge this new program existed. The VP Administration was integral to the success of this project as it aligned with her need to have more conference style training. This conference was combined with SRA training to give SRA members a richer learning experience. I hope it worked, and our successors continue it for the coming years. Planning for this event was my priority for much of May, and June. Emma F, Jenna C, Monica C, Anushay IK, and Preethi A were all integral to the massive success of this program. They dedicated their time, intellectual property, intelligence, and grace to this event. Marauders are extremely grateful for their service and continuous dedication to improving student life.

**Executive Board training –** There has been consensus from previous executives to improve the quality of training provided for the Executive Board. This has also been a concern from PTMs at the level of engagement provided from the executive board. As part of my dedication to improve governance in the MSU, I had coordinated with the general manager and the administrative services coordinator for the executive board to re-evaluate, and improve the training component offered to
the executive board. We introduced the case study component which highlighted some of the issues EB will usually have to attend to. This gave the executive board more context as to their role and responsibilities. EB members all commended this new and improved training. We are also encouraging EB members to be more engaged with services and attend their events to have more context as to how students are receiving these services.

**OUSA Transition conference** – Myself and the most honorable VP education took a pilgrimage to Toronto to connect with our counterparts at OUSA. This conference was extremely useful. On one hand, we got to meet our counterparts from OUSA schools. It prodigiously increased my confidence in our Union and the MSU is significantly ahead of our university counterparts. As an executive, we decided the VP Education does not need to contest for elected leadership in OUSA. This does not weaken our hand in provincial advocacy. We are still looking to engage with our provincial partners and work intentionally this year to build our internal advocacy leadership team.

**Post-Election Consultation and Year Plan** – I had spent a considerable amount of time following up with individuals and groups to further strengthening my agenda for the year. These included service managers, full time staff, past MSU executive, university faculty and administration. These consultations are ongoing, as student feedback and continuous correspondence are an integral part of my agenda for the year. These consultation process has provided me with a more robust, and clear agenda for the year. Thins like my new focus on post-secondary access, the strategy around the expansion of Bread Bins delivery program, and our commitment to improving service delivery all have come out of candid conversations with internal and external stakeholders.

**Wi-Fi Upgrades** – This was the first point on my agenda I moved on. To be clear on this point, the university had made significant financial commitment to improve service delivery and wi-fi coverage on our campus. My point was not one of advocacy, but rather, supporting this process and performing an audit on our campus to find where the points of weakness are, gap in service delivery, and opportunities for improvement. I have only received the results of this survey as of 11/07/2017. In the coming weeks, we will be reconnecting with service providers at UTS to ensure student-centered investments in wireless service on campus. The goal for the University is to have campus wide fast, reliable coverage. As a result of UTS surveying campus, there will be upgrades to MUSC, Thode & Mills as these were identified as being the most problematic spots. 80 new access points are in the process of being installed. Users can now connect to MACWIFI, instead of MacConnect, for faster, more reliable coverage. Range is only 5 Ghz though so not ideal. Pauline T the network administrator has been watching this closely and updating me on the progress of this file.

“A Campus License agreement with Microsoft has been approved and funded by the university. Expected to be signed and in place by September. This license will grant access of Office 365 to all students/staff/faculty at no charge. Windows OS software will be included. It will likely be different that the Office 365 version the MSU purchased last year but if we’re included in the campus agreement, it will save us approximately $13,000 per year. Details should be posted soon.” Pauline T

**International Student Strategy Advising** – Although my platform did not have a significant focus on international students, this has become a key priority going forward, and this is also shared by the VP Education. The priority is to create an international student advisory board. I have been in conversations with Robert Wood Form Student Affairs, and Teddy Saul from the university advancement office. 7 students were appointed by me and recommended to their office. These
students are serving as a defacto advisory board. They will serve as a space to raise concerns on international student issues as the year goes ahead. We are currently in conversation as to whether this board should be a university board under the student success center or a committee under the MSU. I will continue to advocate for international student’s issues and have placed priority on creating an advisory board.

**Hiring of Knowledge Broker – OCE** – I have been engaged in a rigorous hiring process with campus partners to hire a knowledge broker for the office for community engagement. My goal on this committee was for the individual to be able to articulate the value of students to the Hamilton community and McMaster community engagement priorities. Dave H and Sheila S have the final say on the hire. All members of the hiring board were duly consulted, and formed an efficacious and dynamic team. McMaster will be expecting a new knowledge broker to start with the OCE in the near future.

**Off Campus Issues;**

**SCSN Revamp / NAP** – Marauders want to see the off-campus experience improved. Resources dedicated to off campus communities are few and far between. The current actors do a fantastic job in ensuring they meet the demand to support off campus students. Still their capacity is limited. In partnership with the most honorable VP education and the BOD we have streamlined the services provided by SCSN. The advocacy pillars in their portfolio are removed. The changes include a mandate to work with other groups on campus, including the SRA Municipal Affairs Committee, the Off-Campus Resource Centre, the Society of Off Campus Students, and the Commuter in Residence Experience program. It also includes a new objective to assist in the development and maintenance of a Landlord Wiki, as outlined as priorities by myself and the honorable VP Education. We believe SCSN is a good place to house this initiative, similarly to how the Course Wiki is administered by Macademics. Administrative changes were also made to the OP to align it with more recent operating policies. The new operating parameters read as follows:

2.6 SCSN shall work collaboratively with McMaster’s OffCampus Resource Centre to facilitate and disseminate services to off-campus students;

2.7 SCSN shall work collaboratively with the Society of OffCampus Students and the Commuter in Residence Experience (CoRE) program to coordinate events and programming to engage off-campus students;

2.8 SCSN shall assist in the creation and maintenance of a landlord rating system. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to

**Off Campus Move-In** – I hoped to provide more feedback with regards to this, but things have been moving slowly on this file. Primarily because of the amount of people we have to coordinate, we also do not yet have an SCSN coordinator at this time. It has been a lot of lobbying on my end, the SOCS president, and welcome week planners, are all on board, and they will run this program. Dates have been selected and a temporary plan is created. The off-campus resource center and residence life is also on board. This came out of significant lobbying from my side. Now we are waiting on risk management to give us a go ahead, and liability concerns be taken into consideration as a plan is made.
Affordable textbooks- I have been in conversation with partners from the campus store, and we all agree that both students and the campus store benefits from having affordable textbooks and competitive pricing. Oddly enough, the more affordable the textbook for students, the better for the campus store is. We are exploring all options in ensuring textbook affordability for students. The first item on our agenda is creating a textbook library and encouraging faculty societies to start a campus wide textbook swap. For this to be successful, I would need all faculty societies on board. This is an arduous process and is a priority of mine next week. Now we have 3 out of 7 faculty societies on board with this project and 2 out of 7 faculty societies with textbook libraries.

McMaster Used Textbook Page Shared administration- Marauders want the MSU to provide stronger advocacy for textbook and course materials. This includes providing more resources and enhancing currently existing ones. Under the recommendation of the executive board; The VP administration has directed the Macademics service manager to perform a feasibility study over shared administration with the McMaster Used Textbook Sales [All Years] Facebook page. This is one of many steps we can take to ensure marauders can access affordable textbooks. This will also help for timely coordination between students who would like to make money by selling their used textbooks. We can use this page to better coordinate with the campus store, and other service providers to ensure students are aware of academic resources available to them. I have been the lead on this project and in the next couple of weeks there will be updates regarding the outcomes of this study. The administrator of this page, Rachel Ireson reached out to the MSU to ask for shared administration of this page. This is a new, and exciting opportunity. I approach it with caution, but with optimism, as the opportunities are endless.

Good Food Delivery ft Bread Bin - Under the recommendation of the executive board; The VP administration has directed the McMaster Bread Bin to investigate options, and perform a feasibility study for a good food delivery program. They have also been directed to create a strategy for implementing this service expansion and make necessary changes to operating policy. They have also been asked to provide a variety of service options that will benefit students. Although the EB has directed the VP administration to make such changes, I have been the primary contact person on this project working with the Bread Bin leadership (Who are incredibly awesome). I also attended the annual training both executives attend in Guelph. Although I am advising on this file, Bread Bin executives are making all the recommendations, and we are deciding as a collective on what direction this delivery program will go. We have met several times to decide on our priorities and what type of program we want to see created.

Access Strategy / Clay Extension – Expanding the scope of CLAY has been at the top of my agenda in my first 90 days. A memo to shift CLAY’s mandate from an isolated impact model to a collective impact model is central to this goal. Shifting from isolated impact to collective impact is not merely a matter of encouraging more collaboration or partnerships or more opportunities to source delegates from. It requires a systemic approach to social impact that focuses on the relationships between organizations and the progress toward shared objectives. And it requires the creation of a new set of nonprofit management organizations that have the skills and resources to assemble and coordinate the specific elements necessary for collective action to succeed. CLAY can move away from being an isolated initiative, to being the end, or the beginning, of something bigger, and something more collective. The Executive Board has been briefed on this direction and deliberations are on their way.

Clubs Integration into WW – The Welcome Week Special Projects & Initiatives Fund has been made available for clubs to apply to. The Welcome Week Special Projects & Initiatives Fund allows orientation planning groups, who are not represented by the Welcome Week Planning and
Implementation Committee (WWPIC), the opportunity to acquire additional funding. This funding will be used to support innovative programs and initiatives that will improve the orientation experience of first year students. This is the first time these funds have been made available to clubs. Currently 3 student groups have shown interest in this fund. We have made this information public through the club’s social media pages. The criteria for selection will be strict, and groups who have a record of independent WW programs will be given access to this fund.

**Insights, Opportunities, Rants, and Other Things** – Being the MSU president is a tough job. More tough than most people may admit to themselves. I must balance holding my truth, and being under scrutiny. It is important for you to know that I truly care about your wellbeing and your success as a student, a marauder, and more fundamentally a human being. It is entirely easy to sit on my desk and curl into my own reality and be removed from your experiences. I am learning that timing and balance are key to be successful in this role. I cannot do everything, and I need help, and if you are in a position to help, please offer your services. People often forget that as a member of the BOD, we also go through the same thing that other students go through. There have been nights I have come home hungry, days where I feel to mentally sick to show up to life. I have been in the classes, I have decided not to buy textbooks because I have to buy groceries and pay my rent. The more people treat us like “the system” the less effective we become at doing our jobs, and the more we become the “system.” I do hope this year as the MSU president I can engage with you first as a human, and a fellow marauder. If you have any concerns with me, please shoot me a facebook message, and ask questions. If you go for the jugular, you will seriously play yourself. If you treat me like a meta human, you will not be able to engage with me in a meaningful way. I am the MSU president, that means a lot of things. I am also a person, and that should be just as important. I will engage with you as a human being, and I hope you do the same.

**Secondly,**
I am extremely proud of the success we have had on the club integration to welcome week. This is a conversation that happened in passing with me and an executive of the MSA. He told me that Muslim students on campus sometimes feel difficulty participation in mainstream welcome week events. This was a conversation that happened in passing, he was not even asking me to do anything about it. I found out that many international students, especially students from china had the same concern. I raised this concern with the BOD, and the honorable VP Admin and VP Finance raised this concern with WWAC – Welcome Week Advisory Committee, and the Planning and Implementation Committee. Initially we had decided to make clubs funding available, but WWAC had $10,000 left over from the previous year. They had offered we use these funds to run a pilot and evaluate this pilot to give better direction for next year. This happened because there was a student who felt comfortable enough to share their concerns with their friend, who happened to be involved in the MSU. The point is, I care about you, I want to listen to you, and I want to make your experience here at McMaster a tad bit better.

Peace and Love. I am your friend now and always. And the MSU has your back. Go, and be dope!
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