It has been six months since you voted on a referendum to expand the Pulse Fitness Centre and build a new Student Activity Building. There have been multiple significant developments since the referendum passed. Over the summer we have been working incredibly closely with Facility Services, Athletics & Recreation, and the University to move this project forward in the most effective way possible. During that time, we interviewed a number of renowned architects from across the country with impressive portfolios and ended up selecting MJMA – an extremely qualified architecture firm that has designed buildings around the country, such as the new University of Guelph Athletics Centre and the new Student & Fitness Centre at Dalhousie University.

The MSU will host two town hall meetings at which students can give their feedback on the layout of the building directly to the architects. Student consultation was a central aspect in the original proposal of this plan, and continues to be a critical element of this project as it progresses. Throughout the last two months we have consulted over 1400 students through surveys and in person pop-up booths, in addition to a large number of clubs, several faith groups, and industry experts in order to gather student feedback during the pre-design phase of the project. The MSU will host two large town hall meetings during the last two weeks of October, after the fall reading week. At these meetings, students can give their feedback on the first drafts of the layout of the building directly to the architects.

This exciting project will result in a multi-story student centre with a fantastic view of campus, a large multi-faith prayer space, grocery store, and thousands of square feet of brand new study and social space for students to enjoy. The Pulse itself will be 2.25x the size of what it currently is, with additional fitness studios, a women’s only fitness centre, and a brand new gym. The expanded Pulse and the Student Activity Building will be built as an addition to the west side of the David Braley Athletic Centre, close to where the Living Learning Centre is currently being constructed. The two parts to this project are set to be finished in two to three years.

We are incredibly excited to be a part of McMaster’s history with all of you, and hope to see you take part in the two town halls later this month to have your voice heard in the creation of this future central hub of student life.