Every January, undergraduate students have the opportunity to elect the President of the MSU, who will represent the interests of the student body by acting as their primary spokesperson. Later in March, three Vice Presidents are elected by the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) to assist, in different capacities, with representing McMaster students. These four individuals form the MSU Board of Directors, who work together to advocate on behalf of undergraduate students to the University, in addition to the municipal, provincial, and federal governments.

To some, what happens after those elections is less evident. Progress on year plans may not be evident until a significant change is made, such as the introduction of a fall reading week or a referendum is held to build a new student centre. Over the past few years, those elected to represent the MSU have been working to make ongoing projects and initiatives more visible.

One of our biggest priorities as elected representatives is to ensure transparency. Our goal is to help students understand how fees are used. It is important for leaders to articulate how much progress has been made on stated goals and projects.

This year, the MSU will host an Open House from October 30 to November 2, taking place in a different area of campus each day. On Monday, you will be able to meet the architects designing the new Student Activity Building. They are excited to hear student comments, suggestions, and critiques regarding the proposed design and floor plans.

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From Tuesday until Thursday, students can visit our Pop-up Showcase, featuring an immersive layout that illustrates how student fees are allocated. This is a great opportunity to learn more or provide feedback on MSU finances. The Board of Directors and SRA members will be on-hand, available to discuss progress concerning their plans for the academic year.

For those that prefer a presentation, there will be a Town Hall at Bridges on Wednesday night. Students can hear firsthand from the Board of Directors more detailed and nuanced information as to the operations of the MSU. The Board looks forward to hearing student perspectives and answering questions following the presentation. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. Visit msumcmaster.ca/learnmore for further details, including the full schedule for MSU Open House.