

- **Money**
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Money

Tuition

Problem:

Although we currently are working on reducing tuition here at McMaster, progress is slow and nothing concrete has been accomplished yet.

Solution:

As MSU President, and through cooperation with universities across Ontario, I will lobby the government for a tuition freeze while working towards ultimately lowering tuition.

Long term plan – Attacking Tuition with Student Unions Across Ontario

According to the MSU tuition policy paper: “Student contributions to McMaster’s operating budget are increasing substantially and have surpassed government contributions.” (MSU, 2015) Because of this, it is clear that pushing for a tuition freeze will not be a solution due to the fact that Ontario has the highest tuition in the country. We need to work toward pushing for more government contributions toward tuition.

As the MSU President, I will work with each student union across the province to form a working group focused on lobbying the provincial government for a subsidy program that would aid universities in lowering tuition. The working group would work in conjunction with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and OCAD to create this plan for lowering tuition. Right now, Brock University, UOIT, and the MSU are interested in participating.

I ran this idea by Patrick Deane, President of McMaster University, to make sure that our lobbying efforts on this issue would coincide with the work already being done by the university, and he thought that efforts from both students and university administration would work well together.

Emergency Meal Plan

Problem:

There are many students off campus, or in upper years who struggle to budget effectively, and this can sometimes lead to a lack of food.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with Hospitality Services to develop an Emergency Meal Plan fund, where students can apply for an Emergency Meal Card for the month, based on need.

Short term plan – Implementing an Emergency Meal Card Program

The cost of food is expected to rise in Hamilton up to three hundred percent within the next two years (source). A significant amount of the cost of living is spent on food. As MSU President, I will work with Hospitality Services to create an Emergency Meal Card Program. This means that if a student is in a situation where they cannot afford the cost of food for any particular reason, they could apply anonymously for a pre loaded meal card. This system would be implemented at a first come first serve basis.

Student life

Specification on Degree

Problem:

Currently when you receive your degree at McMaster it will only indicate what faculty you were in along with your degree designation (Bachelor of Arts, Sciences, etc.) however, they do not display your program.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with the Office of Registrar to make sure that every degree represent the programs of study that graduating students receive here at Mac. Other universities have already instituted this change.

Implement Specifications on Degree

There is inconsistency within the faculties when one receives their degree at the end of their university career. Some degrees will state your program, some will not. As your next MSU President I will bring consistency to the students simply by giving credit where it is due. I will work with the Registrar's office and university administrators to get everyone's program on their degrees when they graduate.

\$5 Meals

Problem:

Many students at McMaster have difficulty eating regularly and eating healthily every day. For many of us, this is due to being unable to afford to eat on campus and it is difficult to carry enough food to last you all day.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with Hospitality Services to provide a food service for McMaster students where they can get one meal a day for five dollars, guaranteed, similar to Ryerson University's Friendly Fiver program.

Implement a Five Dollar Food Plan

According to McMaster University's 2015/16 consolidated budget, one of Hospitality Services' strategy contains a focus on leadership development to align Forward with Integrity. One of the key pillars of Patrick Dean's Forward with Integrity fund focuses on collaboration for the benefit of student life. As well, according to the consolidated budget, Hospitality Services is also committed to further enrichment of program elements in the areas of community, diversity and sustainability (Page 31).

Despite these principles, here are the facts: the average meal at McMaster University costs nine dollars (with water as a beverage). Even with student employment, most students can only afford to eat once a day at this price. Lastly, though the cost of living in Hamilton is lesser than that of the Toronto area, Ryerson University has still managed to provide their students with a subsidized Friendly Fiver meal program that provides hot, healthy, meals at the cost of five dollars flat.

In order to stay true to the principles of Forward with Integrity and Hospitality Services, as MSU President I will lobby Hospitality Services to introduce a five dollar meal program in partnership with the MSU that is healthy, and also offers the opportunity to increase student employment on campus.

Commuter Students

Problem:

Right now commuting students are getting short shift at the university. They already have to coordinate their day around their bus schedule. On top of that, they lack space on campus, and some struggle to find stable student housing.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will have heaters in every bus shelter on campus, similarly to the heaters in our GO Bus shelters. In addition, I will work with Metrolinx to replace the GO schedules framed near the shelters with a live feed of the current GO Bus schedule.

I will also work with Residence Life to introduce an Emergency Lodging System, where any student who is at risk of being evicted from their home or student house could apply to sleep temporarily in residence.

Commuter Student Needs – Emergency Lodging System

Commuter students make up a large proportion of undergraduates at McMaster University and yet they are very rarely discussed on the level of the MSU.

As MSU President, I'll work with Residence Life to implement an emergency lodging system for commuter students who need a place to crash overnight because of emergency circumstances that have left them without a place to sleep. This system would be need based.

Commuter Student Needs – Add Bus Shelter Heaters to HSR bus stops & a Live GO Bus Schedule

The winters are cold, which can be brutal when waiting for city transit. Similar to the bus shelter heaters that exist at the GO Bus Shelters in front of the Mary Keyes residence, as President I will work toward adding bus shelter heaters to the HSR bus stop shelters. As well, I will work with the university and community partners to add a live GO Bus schedule that allows for real time tracking of GO bus arrival times.

Clubs Needs

Problem: Clubs at McMaster are a major part of everyday student life, but there are many difficulties in the face of their regular operation. There are too few offices on campus to accommodate our clubs, in addition to the clubs administrator being swamped with too many concerns and without the requisite help to be able to sort through it all. There is also a real lack of promotion or advertising for existing clubs on the part of the MSU.

Solution: As MSU President, I will work with the Clubs Administrator to turn the small board room in Clubs Space either into a communal storage space for club materials, or into an extra office housing three more clubs. As well, I will work to hire a second Clubs Administrator, replacing the two Clubs Assistants. Lastly, I will introduce a communal bulletin board for clubs, so that it is easy to spot when certain events are happening.

Create an Internal and External Clubs Administrator- The Clubs Administrator puts in thirty-five hours a week while each assistant puts in ten. This is a total of fifty-five hours a week dedicated to clubs. By replacing the assistants with two Club Administrators, there would be an increase of 25 hours a week dedicated to clubs. Doing this also means that one Club's Administrator will always be physically present in Clubspace to address club related concerns and questions, which currently is not the case. Tasks the assistants performed, such as booking out Clubspace, are set to be moved online which takes away from their already limited capacity.

Creation of a basic training handbook- Clubs training is long and boring if you are a seasoned executive member but new executives tend to be overwhelmed by the amount of information. Creating an online booklet with all the basic information should sum up the information better than in previous years where the presentation slides were emailed out. This booklet should also be available in hardcopy in Clubspace with one remaining in a pocket on the Club Administrator's door. This is to reduce the number of people looking for answers to basic questions about running a club that they should have already learned in training but may not remember. They can look through the booklet BEFORE taking up the Administrator's time so more complex matters can be dealt with.

Revamped Ratification Review Process - Applications for new clubs and new club interviews should be reviewed and carried out by more than the Club Administrator. Right now the only person with jurisdiction over which groups are recommended for

ratification is the Clubs Administrator. With only one person calling the shots yet over three hundred clubs there have been some uninformed decisions made. For example, a key factor in becoming a club is your club's purpose is not too similar to another club's purpose. Some clubs that are not similar to others have been denied ratification because the Clubs Administrator did not know enough about the existing club to know that the club asking for ratification was filling a different niche. If there are multiple people it provides an opportunity for discussion on the merits of the club seeking ratification which covers more bases and results in more nuanced decision making.

Convert the small meeting room in Clubs Space into another club's office or a communal storage space- The small clubs meeting room is rarely booked out to clubs. The space could be better be used to help alleviate storage issues. Many clubs do not get an office, but a locker may not be a big enough space to store large equipment. The furniture currently in the space could be moved out and the space could become a communal storage area. Record of who has access would be kept in case anything goes missing. Clubspace already has cameras installed so that quells security issues.

Creation of a form and dropbox for space related issues- The Clubs Administrator spends a lot of time in Clubspace but in that time they are holed up in their office and may not realize what is happening around them. Clubs often have complaints about things like broken furniture, broken outlets, or their office-mates but never know who to send it to. If there are paper copies of a form and a dropbox in Clubspace for them then next time someone notices something that needs improvement they can just fill it out while they're there. The Clubs Administrator can check the box at the end of each day to see if there is anything they need to investigate then contact the necessary people. This helps keep their brimming email inboxes free of the numerous space complaints.

Creation of a community board- There is currently a clubs newsletter but it is mostly just updates from the Administrator that could be sent out in an email. Clubs want to know what other clubs are doing but, with over three hundred of us, the community is spread out all over campus. It is time to treat Clubspace like the community hub it was meant to be and put up a large (okay, very large) corkboard where things can be shared from all facets of the community. Each of the 5 divisions can have a section dedicated to them so people can put up notices and there can be a small corner for announcements from the clubs staff. Clubs can share that they're looking for members, having a cool open event, getting new social media platforms, fundraising, or anything else they'd like to

shout to the world. Now when you scream into the void, the void can scream back and become a new friend.

Revitalisation of social media- When was the last time you saw a post from the department? How often do you see a post from the department? The answer is almost never. Chairs of club divisions on the Club Executive Council need to be given access to the social media so they can update it with happenings within their division. This way it is more community updates and less administrative updates once in a blue moon. A club would just shoot a message to their respective chair and ask for their post to be shared, much like how services ask the MSU social media coordinator to share their events over the official MSU social media accounts.

Services

First Generation Students

Problem:

First generation students are students whose parents did not attend post-secondary education within Canada. Here at McMaster we don't have nearly enough programming for the many students here who fall into this category.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with the Student Success Centre to revitalize their First Generation services in order to provide more social activities, mentorship opportunities and academic aid.

Revive the First Generation Student Service within the Student Success Center

As defined by the Student Success Centre, a first generation student is someone whose parents have never attained post-secondary level education in Canada. There are needs experienced by first-generation students that universities should do more to meet. First generation students report feelings of isolation upon transitioning to post-secondary education. They experience all of the normal pressures of incoming first years, with the added stressors associated with their backgrounds.

Despite these facts, McMaster's First Generation Students Centre was absorbed by the SSC due to budgetary restrictions. The programming currently being offered to First Generation Students are the peer-mentoring programs, which are offered to all students.

As your next MSU President, I will work with the Student Success Centre to create a mentorship and academic programming that is specific to First Generation Students.

Indigenous Student Services

Problem:

The main support for Indigenous students on campus comes from the Indigenous Studies Program, but not everyone who is Indigenous is enrolled in the program, leaving a gap in support for many Indigenous students

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with the McMaster Indigenous Community Alliance (MISCA) club to investigate the need for an Indigenous Student Service through the MSU, which would offer support, networking, and advocacy for Indigenous Students

Investigate the need for an Indigenous Student Services through the McMaster Students Union

Canada is a country that was founded through colonization and oppression of Indigenous peoples, which continues to this day. We are on Indigenous land and we must acknowledge the rights of the Indigenous community. The McMaster Indigenous Community Alliance (MISCA) is a club of indigenous-identified students and their allies on campus. They have expressed the inadequate ability of the MSU to meet the needs of indigenous-identified students. The Indigenous pillar through Diversity Services does not do enough to create a safe space for Indigenous Students. Rather, they work with the club to hold sporadic events.

Having a service would allow for more consistent and traditional programmings, such as an open sharing circle, teachings, drumming, singing, craft making, and stories. It could also help students find resources on campus as well as providing an opportunity to learn and experience the culture with other individuals in a similar context. The service could also help to advocate for students toward the institution. The service could also host educational field trips to, and events on, first nation areas, (for example Six Nations Reserves).

As President, I will launch an investigation into building better supports for indigenous students through the MSU. Specifically, I would like to look into the creation of a service composed of Indigenous members (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), that is consensus-based, and is a safe space for Indigenous students to talk and relax

Universal Design

Problem:

Universal design is the concept that all spaces should be designed in a way to be accessible to as many people as possible. For example, building a ramp as opposed to building a staircase helps more than just those that have mobility issues, it also helps parents with strollers and people using crutches. Another would be class that has microphones – this doesn't only help people who have hearing difficulties, it also helps those seated at the back of the class.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will create a committee that will work parallel to the McMaster accessibility council whose aim will be to investigate solutions to accessibility concerns that are not being addressed through AODA.

The McMaster Accessibility council is a collaborative effort with a number of departments and groups taking shared responsibility to advance the University's 3rd strategic goal of "Building an Inclusive Community". The council addresses issues from the lens of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance but does not look at accessibility concerns outside of the legislation. This means that if a student has an accessibility concern that is outside of the boundaries of the McMaster Accommodation Policy or outside the AODA legislation, they have to file individual complaints at Human Rights and Equity Services for a human rights violation claim. An example of an issue around accessibility that is not addressed through AODA or McMaster University's Accommodation policy is Residence accessibility. When students in residences have accessibility concerns about residences, they have to go to Housing Services (which is not an expert service inaccessibility), because SAS has no jurisdiction to make changes to accessibility in residences.

Individual student and staff complaints will not help deal with accessibility issues on a structural level because the approach is reactive instead of proactive. As President, I would like to create a committee to deal with accessibility concerns that are not dealt with in the realm of AODA, and that are not strictly related to classroom education strategy. Furthermore, this committee will look into proactive approaches to accessibility on campus, specifically the implementation of universal design structurally throughout all aspects of campus life. This committee would also facilitate better communication

between all university departments and the MSU on the issue of Universal Design. The committee should submit recommendations for changes each year to the various sector in the university.

Course Transparency

Problem:

Right now students don't have a clear idea of what they're getting into when they sign up for a course on Mosaic. Although they may get an idea of what the course is about from the description listed, they will not know whether or not the tests are take-home or open book, if the class has a podcast, and other details that would influence their decision.

Solution:

In order to improve classroom accessibility, both physically and otherwise, As MSU President, I will to require professors create a course preview that will be available on Mosaic. This preview will specify the details of the course and make it clear what teaching style and methods the professor will be using.

Registration for courses is a stressful time period for students with a variety of disabilities. For example, a student with a visual impairment may not find out until already registered that the final project in a course requires readings from an inaccessible website. Students with hearing impairments may not realize until already registered that their professor refuses to use PowerPoint slides or any other form of visual aids in the classroom. Different teaching styles can greatly hinder a student's ability to learn.

As President, I want to work with MOSAIC, the Office of Registrar and Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to ensure that the following information is displayed online before students register for their courses at the beginning of each term: information on Classroom Accessibility, Lecture Style and Provided Media/Material, Detailed Breakdown of Testing/ Grading, Major Accommodations Used, and Availability of Note Takers in the class who are registered with SAS.

Student Wellness

Problem:

It can take months for students wait for an appointment with a counsellor at the Student Wellness Centre. During this time their situation and needs may change, and right now the system is too inflexible to adapt for this. In addition, having to wait for a month or

months for an appointment means the average student would only be able to get in a few appointments each year which is a big problem if they need regular meetings.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with existing student wellness groups on campus in order to build a centralized peer support network. We will also get two additional counsellors for the residences, one for North Quad and one for West Quad.

Student Wellness – Lobby for Psychiatrists on Residence

First year is a vulnerable time for students. On top of dealing with the high amounts of stress caused by the transition between high school and university, as youth between the ages of eighteen to twenty four they are more at risk of experiencing mental health concerns. At McMaster, our Student Wellness Center has wait times of 3-5 weeks to get a session with a counselor. This is simply not good enough, especially since it can have serious effects on students' health!

As MSU President, I will work with Residence Life, Housing Conferences, and the Inter-Residence Council to hire two new counselors on campus, located in residence, one in the North Quad and one in the West Quad. These counselors will be available for students in residence to book appointments. This will also have the added benefit for ALL students because it will cut down the long wait times at the Student Wellness Centre. In addition to offering counselling services, these counselors will also develop programming and foster community in residence to make accessing this resource less intimidating and to take a more preventative approach to mental health care.. This would be a pilot for the future plan to hire a counsellor in each Faculty, similar to the system that currently exists at Waterloo.

Student Wellness – establishing a Peer Support Centre at McMaster University

The McMaster Students Union has established five new peer support services within the last two years. To be able to keep providing high quality service, we need to adapt to the changing needs of our student body.

As MSU President, I will work towards creating a Peer Support Centre to centralize all peer support related services of the MSU. Currently, this model is working very well at Western to make it easier for students to access these services. This centre would offer peer support from highly trained student volunteers as well as advocacy and community building activities organized by the peer support services – WGEN, QSCC, SHEC, Diversity, Maccess and PSL. The centre would be managed by a full-time MSU employee who will be responsible for coordinating all part-time managers of the services and training the peer support workers in the centre.

AskMSU

Problem:

It is often difficult to find important information on the MSU website, and the current search features are obtuse and ineffective.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will provide a new search bar on the website – AskMSU. It will work much like the current Google search but you'll use it much like you would a help desk, by asking it questions and it providing relevant answers.

AskMSU

Being a first-year student is confusing when trying to learn about all the services that the MSU and McMaster University have to offer.

For example, if a student has a vague question about student life and is looking for answers, "I am stressed, how do I time manage?" The correct places to be referred to would be, the Student Success Centre for time management workshops. But it would be hard to find this out without doing a lot of digging through different links, as different university departments and services have separate links. Adding a layer of complication, these links are entirely separate from information about MSU services.

This is why I would like to create a search bar for students that is shared between the university and the MSU. Students would be able to type questions or phrases into the search bar and have results that show from all areas of the university, making the information more accessible and easier to look through. It would lead to a better digital referral process to different MSU and University departments and services.

According to Pauline Taggart, the Network Administrator of the MSU, The MSU President gets 100 hours of pre-paid development hours per year which would make this easy to implement. This is also a feasible replacement to the Google search bar on the MSU website, which only brings back general results.

IRC & SOCS

Problem:

The Inter Residence Council (IRC), the McMaster Student Union, and the Society of Off Campus (SOCS) Students have historically not been great at communicating with one another, leading to overlapping events, and missed out opportunities on collaboration.

SOCS students also have a lack of space on campus for their off campus students, leading many to hang out in Clubs Space instead.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will create a consultation framework between SOCS, IRC, and the MSU to make sure that we are communicating effectively. I will also institute swing space for SOCS students, freeing up Clubs Space for club usage.

Restructuring the Inter-Residence Council (IRC) Dining Committee

Earlier in the school year we saw much feedback on the class of 2019 Facebook page with regard to food service in Centro, including the food prices and quality.

As MSU President, I will make sure there is a proper way for students to have their concerns sent to Hospitality Services and to have their say in food related issues on campus. I will do this by restructuring the IRC Dining committee to involve the MSU, the President's Council, and the Society of Off Campus Students.

HSR/ Presto

Problem:

Earlier in the year we saw outrage from students as the new bus pass card system was released in order to reduce fraudulent activity.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with Metrolinx to implement a PRESTO card system instead. This would mean that when students loaded onto the HSR, they would only have to tap their PRESTO card, instead of showing their student card and bus pass.

HSR Presto

We saw outrage earlier this year from more than one thousand students when the new two card bus pass system was implemented in September. A more efficient way is needed to ensure that students who have already paid their HSR fee can easily utilize HSR Services as efficiently as possible.

As President, I will work with the HSR to allow the pass to be a part of the PRESTO system. This would allow students to buy into the discounted McMaster HSR bus pass

as paid for in our student fees on the PRESTO website and be used as a part of the PRESTO tap system.

The MSU would provide each student with a Presto Card at the beginning of the school year in September. This Presto card will be un-activated and will come with an individualized code on the back of the card. The fee for this card will be included in our student fees that go towards paying for our transportation. Similar to the Opt-Out system for our health and dental plans, students will have the opportunity to opt out of the initial Presto Card cost if they already own a Presto Card.

MSAF Change

Problem:

The changes to the MSAF instituted last year were made without the input of student groups and with very few student representatives. These changes have made the MSAF more cumbersome to use, in addition to making it less effective for students who really need it.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will roll back the MSAF from what it is now to how it worked last year. In addition to this we will also work with both students and staff to find a way for the MSAF to be effective for both parties. We will improve the process by which the MSAF is changed by collecting metrics on its use in order and creating an MSU Working Group to study it, in order to make future changes based on both fact and student need.

MSAF

On May 4th 2015 the MSAF was changed to allow students only use it during a 3-day span of time instead of 5 days, and only for assignments up to 25% instead of 30%

According to Mr. Van Koughnett, these changes were made because professors were unhappy with the MSAF to begin with, and students were unhappy with the change, so we reached a compromise. Despite this, there was no quantitative or statistical analysis done to weigh the effect that the MSAF changes would and have had on students and professors. These changes were created with very little student input or consultation, coming out of a committee that was mostly comprised of staff and faculty. Student consultation is required and this is why the MSU is there and this is why I, your next MSU president, will work to make sure this is the case. I will push for the immediate reversal of these MSAF changes until such a time when data is collected on the impact of the MSAF changes and its need for reform.

I will also work to host focus groups or send out a survey to all MSU members, asking about their experiences with the MSAF, and collecting their opinions from this feedback. We will then use this information to set new parameter for the MSAF, as opposed to setting the parameters before consulting with students.

Campus Safety

Problem:

Campus safety is a problem universal to post-secondary education, both in Canada and abroad. Here at Mac, there are many who feel unsafe walking through the surrounding neighbourhood at night and we have experienced problems with safety on campus as well.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will leverage the fact that the university has each student's phone number on file and have them send out texts about safety alerts and security issues as they happen. In addition to this, we will work to put some of the red security poles visible on campus into the surrounding neighbourhood. We also plan to work with the existing program on campus, Perspectives on Peace, to create a campus-wide dialogue about what safety and peace mean to each student.

Campus Safety- Adding in Off Campus Emergency Poles

Safety is paramount for every student. With the recent scare of a stranger posing as a Student Walk Home Attendant Team (SWHAT) member and offering to walk students home from pubs and bars, I would like to ensure the safety of off-campus students, by installing Emergency Poles in the Westdale area, which is heavily populated by students.

Campus Safety Perspectives on Peace Student Driven Initiative

This year an initiative was created by the university and the McMaster Students Union called 'Perspectives on Peace'. It was heavily academically focused, focused on essay writing contests, model United Nations, and more, instead of allowing students to develop the parameters for dialogue themselves. When talking to Patrick Deane, President of McMaster University, he acknowledged issues with this model, saying that the initiative "should not be run out of the President's Office for good", inspiring me to come up with the idea of launching the initiative.

As President, I want to build off of the work of Perspectives on Peace and relaunch the second branch of this campaign in the 2016/17 year that is not focused on education, but is instead focused on student-led dialogue. This will happen through the creation of a working group with a membership that is mostly from each religious, and cultural club

on campus, but that also includes university stakeholders. This working group under my leadership will launch in the 2016/17.

Equity Officer

Problem:

Right now at McMaster we do have strictures in place for how professors and staff should accommodate students when they are require it, whether they need it because of mental illness, physical disability or religious reasons. However, there is currently no governing body on campus that will ensure that teachers and staff will comply with these rules.

Solution:

Following in other university's footsteps, As MSU President, I will create a position at the university level, an Equity Officer, whose role is to sit on boards such as the President's Advisory Committee for Building an Inclusive Community (PACBIC) and mediate discussion between both student leaders and university staff, while also answering human rights complaints and ensuring that student's voices are heard.

Lobby the University for the creation of a Equity Officer

In support of the idea of a Vice President of Equity position at the University level, the Chair of the President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community (PACBIC) Jane Aronson said that PACBIC has, for many years, been concerned to see

attention to equity and inclusion issues represented in a sustained way in the senior levels of the university's administration.

Right now, we have no person on the senior level of the university administration responsible for issues relating to inclusions and equity. This means that every time a student or staff member has a concern relating to these issues, they are required to go to the Human Rights and Equity Service Office to file a complaint. This would include having a person on the level of administration responsible with the issue of Equity and Inclusion who would work in partnership with the Human Rights and Equity Service office. They would make sure that the onus is not always on students and staff to file complaints about related issues and that the university is doing its due diligence in making sure policies are created as well as being implemented from an equitable lens.

This is why, as President I would lobby for the creation of this position, similar to the existing position at Ryerson University.

Religion

Problem:

Right now there is a lack of space for religious groups on campus. Much of the space available to them is out of the way or poorly maintained by the university. There is also a lack of kosher options on campus, with only La Piazza having any kosher meals.

Solution:

As MSU President, I will work with Bridges to use some of their excess space as an additional prayer space. In addition to this we will work with the food providers on campus in order to deliver more kosher meals for students on campus. We also intend to work alongside the Chaplaincy Centre in order to make it more inclusive and useful

for students of non Abrahamic faiths, by increasing the number of staff and areas of religious focus.

Prayer Space in Bridges

The religious communities at McMaster that I have met with have identified some gaps in service between the University and the respective religious and spiritual clubs. These gaps lack adequate prayer space on campus that is accessible, well maintained and present on the major areas around campus. Although there is a multi faith centre in Thode Library, it is tiny. There is also the case of the McMaster Muslim Association's women's prayer space in T-13 that has been closed for eight months due to mold concerns not addressed by the university.

As MSU President, I will work to implement prayer space in Bridges Cafe that can be booked by any religious club.

Advocate for improved food services relating to religious accessibility

In 2015, we saw a motion brought forward to the general assembly asking for better religiously accommodative food options at McMaster. Though Hospitality Services has begun offering Kosher food in the student centre, the President of Hillel has stated that this is not enough. Kosher food options must be present on our campus.

As your next MSU President, I will push, in conjunction with the Inter-Residence Council, for more kosher options to be offered near residences.

Lobby for Better Supports to be offered to the Chaplaincy Centre

The Chaplaincy Centre at McMaster is funded through a variety of religious organizations, but is not reflective of all faiths. As well, research has demonstrated that there is a lack of ongoing communication between the MSU and the University regarding the issues that students with different religious faiths experience. For example the female Muslim prayer space that has been shut down for eight months due to mold, and the issue was not dealt with through the MSU or through the Chaplaincy centre.

As President, I want to lobby the University to improve Chaplaincy services, by expanding and adding in representation from broader communities. More specifically, as President, I will lobby for more support staff to be housed in the Chaplaincy Centre who specializes in diverse faiths.