Hi, I’m Ehima Osazuwa, and I’m the President of the McMaster Students Union. Today, I’m going to run over my platform points. Two key principles I ran on, and two key principles I believe in, are the power of Diversity, and the power of Discussion. McMaster is a very diverse campus, and it is important that we recognize that. McMaster is also a place where we try to encourage discussion, and that’s something I want to continue to do as the MSU President.

The first platform point is Interfaith Accessibility. I believe that, irrespective of your religion or what faith you believe in, you should be able to practice that faith or religion without any hindrance. That’s why I want to do two things. The first thing I would like to do is provide more Halal and Kosher food options on campus, and the second one will be to try to advocate to the University to provide a central prayer space on campus.

The next platform point is Food on Campus. There are three things I would like to do about food. The first one is having more kitchen stops on campus. What do I mean by kitchen stops? I mean more microwaves, more toasters, more kettles on campus, so that people can warm up their food that they bring from home, so that people can make teas and coffee on campus. The second one, which is a long-term vision of mine, is to have a community kitchen on campus. A community kitchen is a place where people can go to cook, a place where people can teach each other how to cook. Finally, late night food on campus. Currently on campus, after midnight, there’s no longer food on campus, but as your MSU President, I would like to change that. I would like to make sure that if you’re studying past midnight, there can be food options on campus for you to eat.

The next platform point is about Clubs. Clubs are the backbone of student life and student enhancement here at McMaster, and that’s why I feel it’s important that we try to improve the club system here on campus. [Speech bubble: “FACT: The MSU recognizes over 300 clubs!”] On the second floor of the student centre we have a place called Club Space – Club Space is like the hub for clubs, and that’s why I feel it is important that we move it to an online booking system. Moving it to an online booking system makes booking of the place more efficient. Also, we need to look at getting a newsletter for clubs. We can use these newsletters to advertise the events and the programming that clubs are currently offering. The final thing we can do to enhance the club system here at McMaster is to assist clubs in the purchasing of capital equipment.

Tuition is the single biggest platform point I ran on, because tuition is something that affects every single person here at McMaster. Tuition is also something that we need to tackle short-term and long-term. In the short-term, I would like to see a textbook policy created by the MSU – this is a policy that the MSU would use to lobby the University. Another way in which we can tackle tuition is the
creation of a Tuition Task Force. The mandate of the task force is to look into ways in which we can ease the financial burden on students, be it through loans, bursaries, scholarships, doing research on tuition and providing students information as to where their tuition dollars go to. Finally, working with various stakeholders, the various partners we have, be it OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance), be it the University, and see how we can lobby the provincial government on tuition. [Speech bubble: “FACT: MSU VP (Education) Spencer Nestico-Semianiw was elected President of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)”]

Let’s talk about Physical Accessibility and (In)visible Accessibility. The first one is TA Training – I would like the training that TAs receive to be efficient and to be sufficient. The second thing I would like to do is create an app – an app that provides real-time updates on accessible routes on campus. The third thing I would like to do is to lobby the University to remove the keys to the elevators on campus. This way we can make lifts and elevators more accessible to students.

The next platform point, and a platform point I hold close to my heart, is Women in Governance, and I feel it’s the job of the MSU to empower women to run for these positions. I would like to work with various campus partners to try to tackle this issue. [Speech bubble: “Women will hold a majority on the 2015-2016 SRA. -The Sil”]

The washroom is something that everyone uses, it is a place that everyone should feel comfortable at, and that is why I think it is important that we should have Gender-Neutral Washrooms on campus. [Speech bubble: “FACT: The Department of English and Cultural Studies (Chester New Hall 3rd Floor) installed their own gender-neutral washroom.”]

To recap my platform points:

- Interfaith Accessibility
- Late Night Food on Campus
- Improved Club Support
- Affordable Tuition
- Physical Accessibility & (In)visible Accessibility
- Women in Governance
- Gender-Neutral Washrooms

Thank you very much for reading. My office is on the second floor of the McMaster University Student Centre, room 201. Please drop by to say hi, or drop by to ask questions. You can email me at president@msu.mcmaster.ca. Thank you again!

For more information, visit www.msumcmaster.ca.

Visit www.ehima.ca for a more detailed look at Mr. Osazuwa’s platform.