

PLATFORM

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Here at McMaster, we are becoming increasingly aware of the stigma surrounding mental illness, and fighting to break down that wall. Now it's time to focus on treatment. We acknowledge that there are many aspects of mental health, and as such, it is challenging to receive personalized care. It is time that we start treating people for what it is they are struggling with, and removing the assumption that all mental health issues can be treated equally. We will be advocating for more specialized professionals to support students with mental illness, we hope to also ensure current staff at SWELL are well-trained in various supports (i.e. for eating disorders, trauma, etc).

Our immediate priority is to pilot the presence of additional mental health staff supports within residence quads who will provide support for first year students transitioning into University. This role will be able to guide students through finding specific supports on campus in reducing the the impact of difficulties and impairments that hinder academic performance and social life. Most importantly, it will be instrumental in making campus mental health support accessible to first students seeking treatment.

In addition, we also want to focus on improving our peer support services in order to provide a secondary resource for individuals seeking counseling. Training for the peer support services currently involves a long chain of undergraduate students training one another. This system would be much more reliable if a **full-time professional** were hired to train and manage all student staff and volunteers. Although that is the ideal solution, unlike many of our peer institutions, financial limitations hinders our ability to expand with respect to staff support. Although it will continue to be a long term goal for the organization, to see immediate impacts on the quality of our service provisions, we need to elevate the level of training provided to our volunteers. We want to advance our campus in responding to student suicide ideation. By working with the SWELL staff members, the student support and case management director, the associate dean of students, and the peer support services, we can provide more student groups the opportunity to get **ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)**.

STAYING SAFE

Student Safety is a concept that should be a priority at all universities. McMaster is home to over 20,000 students who are on campus throughout various times. It is incredibly important that we protect these students and ensure that they feel safe whether they are on campus, or in the neighboring area. We will implement several improvements in the current model for student safety on campus by providing **shuttle bus services** during exam hours and providing **sexual violence prevention and response training** to student groups. The measures and services we currently offer do incredible things to ensure the safety of all students, but there are ways to expand and improve these programs to reach an even larger group of students. It is our commitment to make every student feel safe as possible on campus and off campus.

There are a large demographic of students who currently feel unsafe off-campus. SWHAT is a student service that operates under the goal of providing students with safe walks home in the evening. This service currently runs from 7PM to 1AM every day of the week. I would like to create an extension of this service that allows students to have access to safe-home programming for longer periods of time. I would like to implement a shuttle bus system that runs a route around campus to popular student housing areas. The shuttle bus would run after 1AM, allowing our SWHAT volunteers to get home and rest while still allowing the students who are on campus late to not have to go home alone. The busses would be especially useful during exams, when 24-hour libraries keep students on campus much later.

Lastly, new research from Ottawa concludes there are 25% reported cases of sexual assault that happen at or around mass gatherings and big events. We will work to prevent and better respond to sexual violence at mass gatherings and events by training and educating student groups, volunteers and paid staff. This past year, we've successfully implemented bystander intervention training for Campus Event Representatives and Welcome Week student groups facilitated by Project Soundcheck, Ottawa's Sexual Assault Network. In the future, we will mandate that training is required annually for these student groups but also Community Advisors and 1280 Security Guards. We hope to work with the Office of Equity & Inclusion as well as WGEN (Women & Gender Equity Network) on campus to produce training materials that exist to help our volunteers, staff and other individuals add sexual violence prevention to the list of ways we look out for one another.

WOMEN & RESILIENCE

Under-representation within the MSU and its governing bodies, has been a perennial issue that has warranted long-standing conversations. McMaster University has ranked eighth from nine prominent Ontario universities for equal gender representation within student government, mainly within higher standing positions (i.e. vice-presidential, presidential). The underrepresentation of voices and identities also extend beyond governing positions and into services, faculties and higher administration. It's crucial to understand that as an organization, we can better work to ensure decisions are representative of the student body. That said, there is no shortage in ways we the MSU can work towards building resilient and stable communities. We hope to foster a diversity of voices and identities by supporting grass-root initiatives (i.e. Women In Engineering) and social/cultural clubs, continue to work with our elections department to break down the barriers in running for elected positions , and opening up the conversation with different indigenous representative groups on campus on how to integrate their voices more in the governance side of the organization.

Student unionism has been a major force behind numerous social movements for equity and justice. While advocacy has largely been facilitated through our organization, it has also been the result of many grassroots organizations and individual activists. If elected, I will collaborate with student groups and community organizations to combine mobilization and lobbying efforts within the landscape of diversity-related issues. We believe in the tangible changes, reaching parity, and in making identities feel safe on campus. In supporting these groups, we the

MSU will be able to support an important component of student life, helping various students find community while supporting commitment to equitable leadership.

AFFORDABLE FOOD & CATERING

A study that assessed the prevalence of student food insecurity on five Canadian post-secondary campuses revealed that there is a troubling trend of students compromising food security to access post-secondary education. Food insecurity is a symptom of financial stress, with over 52% of students across five universities have reported that the cost of food is the barrier that limits the quality and quantity of foods they consume. This trend is especially prevalent amongst international students and students that require financial aid. Our short-term goals to minimize food costs are prioritizing space for Mac Bread Bin to operate their Food Collective Centre (FCC) and integrating local food into our business units. Mac Bread Bin recently lost their FCC space and it's impacted their ability to create a dignified, welcoming environment where students are offered support and affordable foods. We intend to first and foremost, prioritize an alternate location for them to operate a critical component of their service. In addition, integrating Mac Farmstand's leftover local produce into our business units will thereby provide locally sourced ingredients for Twelve Eighty to use as well subsidize costs associated with supply purchases.

Our long-term goal is dismantling the Paradise Catering monopoly over campus by lobbying for affordable and reasonable catering services for student groups and clubs. Numerous problems stemming from the agreement continue to persist by impacting our services and the clubs community by exhausting their budgets. As a result, funds that should be used for promoting the student groups and carrying out events for their respective members often go toward supplying food via Paradise Catering. In the past, some clubs have even paired up just to afford the cheapest Paradise Catering option. Through previous negotiations with Hospitality Service, the MSU was able to provide an alternative catering service at Twelveeighty; however, the extent of their services are limited. It's time that we advocate and push to remove this monopoly on campus and reclaim spaces for student groups and clubs to use for programming. Through lobbying, advocating and working with Hospitality Services/Administration, we will reduce the excessive costs associated with our current food and catering provider.

OPTIMIZING STUDENT SPACE \$\$

Student space is a perennial issue within our students union for a multitude of reasons. There are often talks of expanding services, supporting clubs, supporting student priorities; however, with minimal space on campus it proves to be extremely difficult to support our growing needs and demands. To mitigate this, our short-term goals are optimizing the space we have. Currently, we see an inefficiency in the way space is used near the newly renovated area within MUSC (close to Starbucks). There is ineffective and limited seating arrangement for students and clubs to utilize. We are proposing a new overhaul in the layout of this area to better support clubs and student groups that are tabling. By adding more tables for clubs to utilize, it will support them in connecting and reaching

out to students during high traffic. As well, we will decrease booths and increase single seating arrangements by incorporating lounge and bar-style furniture to maximize seating availability for students in general.

In addition, we hope to evolve and innovate Twelve-eighty's current business plan from being a student restaurant and bar to one that meets the demands of our changing audience. Twelve-eighty currently faces a deficit from year to year due to low turnout at programming and poor alcohol sales. We hope to remodel the business unit into one that appeals and provides use to the larger student body. We hope to transition the business area into one that will provide an atmosphere for recreational activities, space for student/clubs programming and studying late hours. With, 24-hour study areas and campus safety being expressed as student priorities and concerns, this change will allow us to provide a secured and safe space on campus.

Lastly, with the proposal to construct a Student Activity Building, our main priorities for the new available student space will be a multi-faith centre, expanded peer support and wellness space, unprogrammed venue space, a community kitchen and off-campus or commuter lounge.

COMMUNITY & CITY ENGAGEMENT

McMaster is located in an amazing city that is full of opportunities for students. As it stands, we have done a great job with engaging parts of our community that help to increase the student experience. However, there is still much to be desired when it comes to municipal affairs and relationships. Recently, the City has integrated more bylaw officers in the Westdale area, perpetuating the idea that McMaster students are "terrorizing" the community; whether it is through noise complaints, parking violations, or other bylaw infringements. The consensus is that university students are causing problems, and the municipal government is quick to punish by giving out large fines to students who break the rules.

In other university towns such as University of Waterloo, they operate on a principle of restorative justice, where students who violate bylaws are allowed to make up for their infraction through communication with the party that was harmed in order to come to an agreement for the right course of action. The students are able to make up for their mistakes through things like community service and written apologies instead of paying money to the city. This system allows students to learn from their errors without putting them in positions of financial burden, and also seeks justice where it is due. We will commit to lobbying the municipal government to give McMaster students a chance to be seen by others as contributing members of the Hamilton community instead of as a source of trouble.

In the upcoming school year, we will place more emphasis on bettering our relationship with the City of Hamilton by focusing on our municipal advocacy and supporting student initiatives and programs that exemplify student talents and capabilities.

SUPPORTING CLUB EVENTS

On campus, our student clubs historically face serious challenges with finding space for programming, seeking affordable catering services and as a result, their capacity to connect with their respective communities is limited. Therefore, we want to connect the **Clubs Department with Campus Events** to find alternative solutions to hosting events and organizing programming. Al Legault, the Campus Events director is excited to provide assistance for club representatives in navigating the different organizational and networking components of event planning. Moreover, additional support will also provide clubs with more opportunities to run more collaborative large scale event programming with each other.

In addition, we also want to confront the lack of space for **storage** for clubs particularly. Currently, there are 300+ clubs and not enough storage compartments provided. By working with the University, we will allocate some university locker space for club-use and also renovate the current lockers in Club space to allow more room for storage. All clubs are also mandated to undergo **Clubs training**; however, this training often takes far too long. To streamline this process, we will work with Clubs Administration to provide blended online resources to shorten training periods and increase accessibility for all clubs to be trained.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

Our campus has undergone enormous physical and infrastructural changes, such as MUSC's recent renovations, the construction of the LRW building, the Hatch Centre, the upcoming Living & Learning Centre and more. In the upcoming changes to our campus's landscape, we want to support and promote building sustainable infrastructure, controlling campus energy and employing sustainable principles and practises on campus. Some of our short-term goals are working with McMaster's Energy Management Plan administrators to determine reduction targets and develop initiatives to reach those targets such as installing lighting sensors to turn off lights in unoccupied space and adding the next generation LED-based lighting to MSU spaces. Some of our long-term goals are furthering the priorities of the MSU and University in placing photovoltaic and thermal solar panels in surrounding parking lots and upcoming buildings. We will strive to mitigate wasteful energy practises on campus by doing this and will work with the Dean of McMaster and Facility Services towards accomplishing it.

In addition to the energy-efficient installations that we are proposing to the present and upcoming infrastructure on campus, we also believe there needs to be a long-term vision to sustain this priority. Currently, the policy paper that outlines the University's stance on sustainable buildings is outdated and doesn't encompass a lot of principles that it should nor does it keep the University accountable in the way it can. This is why, in addition to sustainable light fixtures and implementing solar panels, we will establish rigorous guidelines and changes to the University policy for future construction and renovations to be as energy-efficient as possible. We have a more sustainable campus today than ten years ago and in collaboration with the Sustainability Department of Facility Services, we hope to continue meeting our aggressive goals.



Women & Resilience

Building resilient and stable communities by supporting grass-root initiatives and increasing representation within student governance.



Staying Safe

Shuttle bus service during exams and providing sexual violence prevention and response training to student groups to ensure on-campus, off-campus safety.



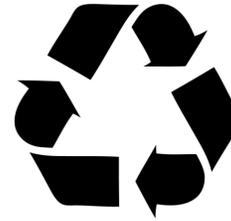
Community & City Engagement

Strengthening our relationship with the City of Hamilton and surrounding communities through restorative justice and municipal advocacy.



Optimizing Student Space

Optimizing and re-purposing campus space to accommodate and the diverse needs of student groups.



Energy-Efficient Infrastructure

Ambitious and feasible short term and long term goals such as, sustainable lighting fixtures, solar panels and improved policies.



Supporting Mental Health

Mental health staff support in residence, specialized professionals and improving our peer support network will ensure that we're prioritizing treatment and wellness.



Affordable Food & Catering

Integrating our business units as competitors in dismantling the Paradise Catering monopoly.



Supporting Club Events

Connecting the Clubs Department with Campus Events to support programming and outreach with various student communities.

Research. **Ideas.**

Things to know:

- Titles of each platform are subject to change because we'll give our written platforms to the communications team to come up with creative one-liner titles that'll catch student attention.
- Write as long as you please and we can cut them down after: be sure to include explanations for each sub-topic.
- Include **what** the problem on campus is, **why** it's important to focus on it and **how** we hope to resolve it!

Examples from Justin:

Increasing training for our peer-support services (SHEC, WGEN, PSL, SWHAT, QSCC) is vital to improving mental health practices at McMaster. By empowering these organizations, we can help alleviate the high number of mental health cases seen at the Student Wellness Centre (SWC). Increasing training across these services would form what we envision, as a Peer Support Network: a clustering of the many peer-support services offered by the MSU to streamline the process for students seeking help, advice, knowledge, etc.

Additionally, we wish to hire another psychiatrist at the SWC. Currently, students have very long wait times during drop-in hours for counselling appointments. Also, students must attend a drop-in appointment before booking future appointments, which can create more stress. By adding another psychiatrist, we hope to alleviate long wait times to faster address student care. With possible funding from the Graduate Students' Association, we hope to make this a reality for students soon so that getting an appointment for counselling services at the Student Wellness Centre stops a stressful experience and is a step towards good mental health.

In the learning environment, we believe it is vital to ensure that those in higher roles of responsibility are adequately prepared to deal with changing circumstances due to mental health concerns. Therefore, we want to advocate for increased TA mental health training, as they are often the first avenue through which students address their concerns about their academic success as caused by mental health issues. Another concern is the MSAF and its recent changes in the past year, with applicable assignment percentages dropping from 29 to 25%, and the length of time shrinking from 5 to 3 days. We would like to re-enter conversations with the university to see how students can be more effectively accommodated in the event of reduced physical and mental wellness.

Examples from Sarah:

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. 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. 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.

Examples from Mike:

1. **Energy-Efficient Infrastructure - Ryan**
 - a. Solar panels
 - b. LED lighting
 - c. Peak Hours
2. **Mental Health/Disorders - Nathalee**
 - a. Qualified full-time staff for our mental health services with managerial and mental health experience because they could enhance peer support training for volunteers (use existing staff in the university to serve that role)
 - b. Effective Mental Health Campaigns
3. **Governance Reform - Preethi**
 - a. Supporting grass-roots initiatives (Mac Womanists, Women In Engineering)
 - b. Indigenous Seat on SRA (International Students, LGBTQ+)
 - c. Subcommittee comprised of service exec members who are political advocates.
 - d. Accessible Electoral Processes
4. **Food Security - Preethi (complete business unit overhaul) DONE BY JAN 6**
 - a. Food Waste Management
 - i. Facility services report (from Preethi)
 - ii. https://www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability/documents/Waste_Audit_Report_2015.pdf
 - b. Advocating for eliminating paradise catering monopoly
 - i. New advocacy initiative
 - ii. Clubs are forced to use it
 - iii. It is expensive and exhausts budget - should be another way around this
 - iv. Will be a priority to navigate this issue
 - v. <https://www.thesil.ca/taking-down-the-catering-monopoly>
 - c. Cheaper & Local Food
 - i. Find a way for mac bread bin and mac farm stand
 - ii. Food bought by 1280 so that they are using locally sourced food
5. **Campus Safety - Jess**
 - a. Home Safe Bussing (for emerson)
 - b. Off-campus Emergency Poles & Street Lights
 - c. Responding to Sexual Violence on Campus
6. **Community Engagement**
 - a. Municipal Affairs (Student Gentrification, Retention, Student Housing, Landlord Bylaws, Transit, Hamilton Community, City of Hamilton)
 - b. <https://issuu.com/mikegill16/docs/mikegill2016-platform>
 - c. You can mention how we've made incredible progress with federal and provincial lobbying for students but want to prioritize municipal lobbying this year especially with the new bylaw officer enforcements in the westdale area because the city is branding students as "terrorizing the community"
(<https://www.thesil.ca/more-by-law-officers-coming-to-westdaleinslie-wood-area>)
7. **Optimizing Student Space**
 - a. Moving Twelve Eighty and repurposing it to be more event and student lounge space
 - b. SAB Statement

- i. Multi-faith centre (you have one in thode)- it's not good and this is basically if it passes this would be my priority as a president (gotcha) also it relates to a) work i did with the space audit and b) connects with how do you continue the work of the last president to your term
- ii. Unprogrammed event space
- iii. Community Kitchen and Food Collective Centre
- iv. Expanded Peer Support and Wellness Space

8. Clubs Support

- a. Increased collaboration between our campus events and clubs department to provide programming support (additional staff support focusing on how to RUN programming or financial support or attaining physical space?)
- b. Online training for clubs
- c. Increased storage space for clubs

Input from the team: the only thing I see missing is a fee and a specific academic related point, so is that necessary/ do people have thoughts on that

- Environmental Sustainability (i.e. Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Infrastructure, Energy Strategy & Renewables <https://www.pwc.com/us/en/corporate-sustainability-climate-change.html>) LEED street lamps, green policy (what buildings, how?) - Norm, Ehmada, Facility Services
- **Affordable Presto Costs**
 - Negotiation efforts with Presto
 - Student Union lobbying
 - Union-subsidized presto
- **Part-time Employment (?)**
 - Volunteer Honoraria
(http://www.usc.uwo.ca/government/documents/policies_procedures/Honoraria_Policy.pdf)
 - Work-study Opportunities ?
- Diversity In Governance: Electoral Reform: Indigenous Students Studies Representative (i may as well do this as bylaws/ops), subcommittees of diverse underrepresented groups (lack of international students is a direct influence on the efforts and initiatives we support) (all of the certain identities you lack on the sra, you miss some elements, building an advocacy model in a governance structure but allows their voice to be heard).
- Continuity:
<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/ua/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Indigeneity-and-Allyship-2016-Report.pdf>
- Queen's Platform:
<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SSMU-Executive-Goals-2016-2017.pdf>
- Community Engagement/Student Programming: Concerts (vote on genre), typical standard programming to be out and new unique, off-campus and commuter students
- Study Spaces (second club space, meeting rooms. Business units)
- Food Insecurity: diversity of food
<http://www.macleans.ca/education/four-in-ten-university-students-lack-food-security-as-education-costs-skyrocket/>
- <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/margin-notes/the-disappearing-university-newspaper/>
- Sexual Violence Prevention & Response

- Commuter/Off-Campus Students: GoBus/University negotiation to reduce costs of presto?
- <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/from-the-admin-chair/part-2-international-students.aspx/>
- <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SSMU-Policy-and-Plan-Book-2016-06-28.pdf#page=76>
- Women in Governance: the idea of reserved seats
<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Report-on-Alternative-Equitable-Governance-2016-08-15.pdf>

Outreach Calendar - SN2017

Campaign Day # - date	Theme	Event/Theme Details
Day 0 - January 15	Campaign Launch	<p>Campaign Team Meeting & Introductions in Hamilton Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3rd floor lecture hall/Glass room ● Pictures with campaign team member ● Walk-through of different exec team member
Day 1 - January 16	Campus Safety	<p>Pin the Tail on the Problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Map of campus, students can pin places on campus where they feel unsafe ● Portable sign? Replace signage at table
Day 2 - January 17	Mental Health	<p>Franklin Friday and Hashtag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Photos with Franklin at campaign table ● Hashtag on social media separate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #HaveSomeFire ○ Tweet at Shaarujaa and a campus or community service
Day 3 - January 18		<p>Video Release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video outlining either Shaarujaa's history of community engagement at McMaster OR instances or her engaging with the community in the present day
Day 4 - January 19		<p>Blog Posts on the Website (TwelvEighty Club Night)?</p>
Day 5 - January 20	Artistry	<p>ShaaruJaam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music at campaign table throughout the day ● Get volunteers, exec, voters to display their musical talents ● Reach out to clubs like mac beat or macapella

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have this in JHE lobby• Transition between buildings
Day 6 - January 21	Weekend	
Day 7 - January 22	Weekend	
Day 8 - January 23		
Day 9 - January 24		
Day 10 - January 25		
Day 11 - January 26	Campaign Ending	

Real Budget			
Promotional Materials			
Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Underground			206.5
Buttons 1"			30
Website- Domair			16
Website- Server			16
Tape rolls	7-8		0
Tablecloth			0
White foamboard	5	1.25	3
Total			268.5

Shaarujaa2017

Shaarujaa

FOR MSU PRESIDENT



shaarujaa2017.ca

**HAVE
SOME
FIRE**

SHARUJAA2017



shaarujaa2017.ca

Student space is a perennial issue within our students union for a multitude of reasons. There are often talks of expanding services, supporting clubs, supporting student priorities; however, with minimal space on campus it proves to be extremely difficult.

We are proposing a new **overhaul to the layout of MUSC** (in front of Starbucks) to better support clubs and student groups that are tabling.

We hope to **evolve and innovate Twelve-eighty's current business plan** from being a student restaurant and bar to one that will provide an atmosphere for recreational activities, space for student/clubs programming and studying late hours. With, 24-hour study areas and campus safety being expressed as student priorities and concerns, this change will allow us to provide a secured and safe space on campus.

Lastly, with the proposal to construct a Student Activity Building, our main **priorities for the new available student space** will be a multi-faith centre, expanded peer support and wellness space, unprogrammed venue space, a community kitchen and off-campus or commuter lounge.



shaarujaa2017.ca

Student Safety is a concept that should be a priority at all universities. We will implement several improvements in the current model for student safety on campus by providing shuttle bus services during exam hours and providing sexual violence prevention and response training to student groups.

An **exam shuttle bus system** that runs a route around campus to popular student housing areas would allow our SWHAT volunteers to get home and rest and be especially useful during exams, when 24-hour libraries keep students on campus much later. New research from Ottawa concludes that there are 25% of reported sexual assault cases, which happen at or around mass gatherings and big events. In the future, we will mandate that **bystander intervention training** is required annually for student groups such as, Community Advisors and 1280 Security Guards. We hope to work with the Office of Equity & Inclusion as well as WGEN (Women & Gender Equity Network) on campus to produce training materials that exist to help our volunteers, staff and other individuals add sexual violence prevention to the list of ways we look out for one another.