BYLAW 4-OFFICERS

1.4.5.1 The Chief Executive Officer shall deliver a written report outlining Executive and Board decisions and activities including, but not limited to, signed contracts, new employees hired and negotiations concluded and in progress.
THE McMASTER STUDENTS UNION
STATE of the UNION '16
MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the MSU is to draw into a true society all students at McMaster University. In pursuit of this, it will foster activities and events, which will enhance the University experience of its members and contribute to the life of the University as a whole. Further, it will seek to facilitate communication between the student body, the University, and other organizations and will organize and regulate student self-government.

Welcome to the State of the Union,

The 2015/2016 State of the Union is a document intended to provide an authoritative perspective on the business conducted by the McMaster Students Union, including its officers, directors, staff and volunteers, since we took office in May of 2015. We have endeavoured to make this rather extensive document as readable as possible, in hopes that the large amount of information contained herein will provide a clear understanding of the depth and scope of the MSU’s operations.

What follows is an account of the efforts of 40 full-time staff, 300+ part-time staff and hundreds of volunteers who are instrumental in making the MSU one of - or more likely the most - professional, transparent, inclusive and fiscally responsible student association in the country. As always, the Board of Directors welcomes comments, feedback and criticism of our efforts as stewards of the organization. Please do not hesitate to connect with us, as all members of the Board would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss any matter related to this document, student life or political advocacy.

Our mission statement reads, “[t]he purpose of the MSU is to draw into a true society all students at McMaster University”. It is our hope that the following pages will accurately depict the huge variety of voices, initiatives, projects, challenges and accomplishments that define student government at McMaster University.

Sincerely,

THE 2015/2016 MSU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ehima Osazuwa Giuliana Guarna Daniel D’Angela Spencer Nestico-Semianiw
President Vice President Vice President Vice President
(Administration) (Finance) (Education)
STRATEGIC THEMES

Whereby the MSU is driven to provide a service to the McMaster University undergraduate community, several strategic themes will be applied to ensure a holistic approach is taken in regards to its operations. These core values will be communicated effectively to all services and employees and as such, their mandates will reflect the essence of the McMaster Students Union.

*Transparency*
MSU operations, finances, milestones and tribulations will be disseminated to the general public without bias or misrepresentation. Any and all decisions which directly impact the mission statement of the MSU will be accessible to all students, unless in violation of legal conduct.

*Accountability*
MSU stakeholders, directors and any subsidiary members will be held responsible for decisions made, both personally and on one’s behalf. As the Board of Directors are the officers of MSU Incorporated, their responsibility is to ensure the functionality and fiscal stability of the MSU as a whole.

*Affordability*
The MSU, where possible, will investigate the viability of any project or service – both economic and non-economic – to ensure that the benefits outweigh the costs.

*Inclusivity*
The MSU will place a large emphasis on maintaining neutrality on contentious issues unless undergraduate students are greatly disadvantaged by its outcome. The MSU will create a community that is welcoming of all and as such, will not discriminate against any group of students or contribute to any organization in breach of its mandate.

*Sustainability*
MSU operations shall prosper and survive. This will not inhibit innovation, creativity or risk, but proper research and analysis must be conducted to ensure longevity of the organization.
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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

What is the MSU?
The McMaster Students Union is the largest student organization on campus. All full-time undergraduate students (enrolled in 18 units or more) at McMaster University are members of the MSU.

What does the MSU do?
The McMaster Students Union serves students through two main functions: political representation and the enhancement of student life. The MSU provides political representation and advocates for decisions that are in students’ best interests at the university, municipal, provincial and federal levels of jurisdiction.

The MSU also offers many of the student services available at McMaster University. One might get to know the MSU through Welcome Week and the Campus Events department, visiting the Compass Information Centre, having lunch at TwelvEighty, listening to CFMU 93.3FM, volunteering with more than 30 distinct student services, the funding and assistance of more than 300 clubs on campus, or as a major partner in the McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC). The MSU employs more than 300 students each year to run committees, oversee student services and work at businesses, such as the Union Market convenience store or Underground Media + Design. The MSU provides health and dental plan coverage and a universal bus pass with the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR). As a member of the McMaster Students Union, undergraduates have a student-run, multi-million dollar organization at their disposal to help navigate through the challenges, provide services, and protect their interests within and outside the walls of McMaster.

For more information, as well as a complete list of MSU businesses, services and volunteer opportunities, please visit www.msumcmaster.ca, or contact a member of the Board of Directors:

MSU President, Ehima Osazuwa president@msu.mcmaster.ca ext. 23885
Vice President (Administration), Giuliana Guarna vpadmin@msu.mcmaster.ca ext. 23250
Vice President (Finance), Daniel D’Angela vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca ext. 24109
Vice President (Education), Spencer Nestico-Semianiw vped@msu.mcmaster.ca ext. 24017

How does the MSU represent students?
The Student Representative Assembly (SRA), the governing body of the MSU, is composed of 35 undergraduate students elected by their peers, inside each academic division. The SRA works to provide the best possible MSU services and departments, address undergraduate students’ concerns and lobby the University to improve McMaster’s academic quality. The MSU exists to represent undergraduates and to help build a better community for all students.

During the academic year, the SRA meets bi-weekly in Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111. SRA meetings are open, public forums, to which anyone can attend without invitation or reservation. General elections for the SRA are held every March. Seats on the SRA are allocated by population; larger academic divisions have more representation. If seats become vacant, by-elections are held during the school year.
Questions about the SRA and/or faculty representation can be directed to the SRA faculty representatives at the following email addresses:

Arts & Science: sraartsci@msu.mcmaster.ca
Business: sracom@msu.mcmaster.ca
Engineering: sraeng@msu.mcmaster.ca
Health Sciences: srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca
Humanities: srahuman@msu.mcmaster.ca
Kinesiology: srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca
Nursing: sranursing@msu.mcmaster.ca
Science: srasci@msu.mcmaster.ca
Social Sciences: srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca

In addition, please feel free to contact the MSU Speaker at speaker@msu.mcmaster.ca or phone extension 24118 with any SRA related inquiry.
SETTING THE CONTEXT: McMaster UNIVERSITY IN 2015/2016

It is impossible to discuss a year in the MSU without referring to the broader context of McMaster. In an effort to keep this section concise, yet relevant, only points of major impact will be discussed. Naturally, given the size and complexity of the institution, some details and events will inevitably be left out.

Access Copyright
Access Copyright is a copyright collective providing licenses for universities to make copies of print and digital works, including magazines, newspapers, and most notably, textbooks. After years of lobbying by the MSU, along with multiple legal challenges to the copyright agency, McMaster University ended its agreement with Access Copyright on December 31, 2015. Due to concerns around costs and accountability regarding the agreement, students were pleased with the University’s decision to end its relationship with Access Copyright. This represents a change that the McMaster Students Union had advocated for through its policies and meetings with the Administration, and it will now simplify and improve McMaster’s copyright compliance process, including a savings of approximately $1 million a year.

Canadian Federal Election
On August 4, 2015, the writ dropped for a federal election. This began one of the longest election campaigns in Canadian history, and had significant impacts on both students and the Ontario post-secondary sector. The October 19 election outcome saw the Liberal party forming a majority government, with Justin Trudeau as the new Prime Minister. The Liberal platform covered several student-focused initiatives, such as a $300 million investment in the youth employment strategy, increasing Canada Student Grants for low-income and part-time students, and investing $50 million into the Indigenous Post-Secondary Student Support Program. These platform points can significantly impact Ontario post-secondary education, and the change in government will mark a change of approach around student advocacy towards the federal government.

Forward with Integrity (FWI)
In September 2011, President Patrick Deane published Forward With Integrity: A Letter to the McMaster Community. This letter served as the overarching framework for the plan, priorities, and principles of the University, and acted as a call to action. The key priorities of this letter were added to the Strategic Mandate Agreement between the University and the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities that was signed in 2014. In October 2015, Patrick Deane released Forward with Integrity: The Next Phase. This letter outlines the areas of focus and priorities for the next phase of FWI: Research, Community Engagement & Internationalization, Focus on the McMaster Community, Integrity as a Precondition for Success, and Reputation & Branding. To date, 148 projects have been funding under FWI totaling more than $731,330 in investments.

Hamilton Light Rail Transit (LRT)
On May 26, 2015 the Government of Ontario announced an investment of up to $1 billion for a Light Rail Transit system for the city of Hamilton. Announced at McMaster University by Premier Kathleen Wynne, the LRT line will extend from McMaster University to the Queenston Traffic Circle, with a potential subsequent expansion to Eastgate Mall. This would also include a spur line to connect the new James St. N. GO Transit terminal to the LRT line. The current timeline for the project is completed procurement by 2017 and initiate construction by 2019.

Mental Health & Well-Being Strategy
After years of heightened need and discussion around mental health on university campuses, McMaster, in partnership with the MSU, unveiled its Mental Health & Well-Being strategy. The strategy included several priorities: mental health and well-being training, a review of McMaster’s academic accommodations policy,
and increasing the Student Wellness Centre’s frontline care capacity. Many of these initiatives have begun and are on their way to completion through the 2015/2016 academic year. The mental health strategy should present significant changes to the way McMaster supports mental health and well-being for students, faculty and staff.

**New McMaster University Budget Model**

After almost a decade of research and discussion, McMaster University implemented a new budget model. The new model is activity based, wherein operating revenue is distributed based on activity of the faculty or department, or activity units. Central administration departments, or support units, receive funding from deducting a standard percentage of revenue from each activity units. This model was implemented to provide greater transparency, oversight and predictability, as well as promote institutional innovation, collaboration and creativity.

**Perspectives on Peace**

Last year, the MSU in partnership with the University started an initiative called Perspectives on Peace. The project was intended to provide people an opportunity to participate in an ongoing conversation about the complexities of peace building and conflict-resolution from a wide array of perspectives. This initiative has continued, as both parties look to take proactive approaches on how to strive for peace. Various MSU services such as MACgreen, Diversity Services, and the Women and Gender Equity Network are running programs and events to support Perspectives on Peace.

**Syrian Refugee Crisis**

The antecedents of the Syrian refugee crisis began with the Arab Spring protests of 2011. What developed into a civil war, and subsequently a larger conflict involving both various other countries/non-state actors, has led to millions of Syrian people fleeing the country. Approximately four million people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries in both the Middle East and Europe. The newly elected government of Canada promised to admit 25,000 Syrian refugees within the first few months of forming their government.

**University Funding Formula**

Early in 2015, Ontario’s Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities announced a consultation for the way universities are funded by the province. As the university funding formula is integral to the way universities operate, this consultation process was seen as vital for the future success of post-secondary education. Alongside universities, politicians, and employers, students were an active voice in the consultative process, and provided numerous recommendations for the formula. As areas such as tuition, financial assistance, student employment, and experiential education were all intrinsically linked to this review, much of the sector’s behaviour was contingent upon the new formula. Currently, the Ministry has provided a proposal for the new funding formula, which will be discussed by stakeholders and Cabinet in the coming months.
2015/2016: A YEAR IN REVIEW

STUDENT LIFE

Campus Food
Improving the accessibility of food on campus was a priority for the MSU this year. Union Market and Centro both featured extended hours during exams to cater to students studying late at night. In addition, a community kitchen is in development in Bridges Café. In such a space, students can drop in to cook, as well as participate in cooking workshops offered by professional chefs. Finally, more microwaves were added to the Student Centre, catering to both on- and off-campus students.

Clubs Department Enhancements
The MSU Board of Directors made it a priority to focus on supporting the Clubs Department, through which the MSU facilitates more than 300 clubs on campus. Through the efforts of the Student Life Development Coordinator and the Clubs Administrator, the MSU was able to provide massive upgrades to the department. The creation of a new logo, the hiring of a second Assistant Clubs Administrator, upgrading club emails, purchasing a new projector, and a new button maker are just some of the improvements the Clubs Department received this year.

In addition to the numerous upgrades to department infrastructure, more money was allocated to MSU clubs than ever before. Over 65% of clubs received more money than they had in the past, and more than half of all clubs received 100% of their funding request. Every club was also given an extra $100 on top of their approved funding, through a new fund called MSU Dollars. The first $100 a club spends inside MSU services is absorbed by the MSU and is not deducted from a club’s budget.

Moreover, an online booking portal was developed to help clubs book ClubsSpace and adjacent rooms, as well as reserve rental equipment from the department. To help increase communication, a monthly newsletter was introduced to update clubs on deadlines and happenings in the department. Finally, a new online club registration process will debut this year, making it easier and faster to process club applications and integrate the approved clubs into the MSU’s Clubs Directory and Clubza.

Course Wiki
Over the past three years, the MSU has been developing a Course Wiki, an online database composed of nearly 3,000 McMaster courses. Each course shell includes information on instructors, prerequisites, course overview, required materials, evaluation, student ratings, and comments. This year, the MSU finalized creation of each course shell, as well as hosted two events at which students pre-populated the Course Wiki. In second semester, the MSU will host a launch of the wiki to the general student population, which will allow students to fill out courses, update them, and benefit from the up-to-date information on courses they are either taking or considering taking.

Exam Support Upgrades
During the December exam period, various campus partners, through consultation with the MSU, implemented a series of upgrades. Innis library extended hours during the exam period, providing students with increased late-night study options. Additionally, Centro maintained longer exam hours, extending service to 2am. Both Mills and Thode libraries operated 24/7 throughout the exam period.
Fall Break
During the 2015/2016 academic cycle, McMaster implemented its first full-week Fall Break. The break occurred from the Thanksgiving weekend, through Saturday, October 17. As opposed to the trials of the last two years, this new break is both earlier and longer than previous Fall Breaks. It is now a permanent addition to the yearly academic cycle. Overall, the MSU and University received mixed feedback from students. Many felt that the break was an important resting period during the busy academic season, while others found it reorganized course structures in challenging ways. As more data is collected, McMaster will continue to assess how to best use this tool for the benefit of students.

Frost Week
Repeating the trend of the past few years, Frost Week continued its revitalization and took the form of a multi-partner approach. Starting in May 2015, various campus partners came together through the Student Relations Committee to prepare a week of balanced, inclusive and exciting programming. The majority of programming saw high attendance, due to the coordinated promotional effort, spearheaded by the MSU. Additionally, new programs were born, such as a McMaster Night at the Hamilton Bull Dogs game. The MSU hosted two concerts this week, featuring DJ Don Diablo in Sport Hall and Alessia Cara in TwelvEighty.

Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) Bus Pass
The MSU, HSR, and McMaster University changed the MSU bus pass administration in 2016/2016. Due to the phasing out of the student card sticker, and unwillingness of the Registrar’s Office to print stickers for students, the MSU and the HSR implemented a separate bus pass card, which was distributed by the Campus Store. The MSU was able to create a $15 first time replacement fee, one of the lowest costs in the province for the replacement of a lost bus pass. This system proved to be very successful, and will be continued into the foreseeable future. As of January 2016, more than 20,000 bus passes have been distributed, indicating a very strong ridership amongst McMaster students.

Increased Health Plan Coverage
In the last MSU Presidential Election, students overwhelmingly voted in favour of increased health care coverage. These increases included additional paramedical services, eyewear coverage and contraceptive coverage. The increased coverage comes with a higher premium, as students now pay $109.95 per policy year, up from $58.08. That said, the plan offers considerable upgrades, and may save a student thousands of dollars over the course of their undergrad, while continuing to function with an opt-out option. To ensure students were aware of the value their plan provided, the MSU increased promotion and outreach for the health and dental plans in September 2016.

Light Up the Night
Last year, the McMaster University Alumni Association, the Student Success Centre and the McMaster Students Union partnered to create one of the largest, single day events in McMaster history - the inaugural year end block party. Light Up The Night: The Second Annual Year End Block Party will occur on April 8, 2016. It will feature carnivalesque rides, games and food. This is a free event, all students and alumni are encouraged to join the party and celebrate the end of classes with a night of fun.

LINK Conference
In October 2014, a large contingent of McMaster’s student leaders, representing groups from across campus, gathered at the first LINK conference. LINK was designed to promote collaboration and foster mutual support within the development of student life at McMaster University. Based on feedback from student leaders, the conference was moved to earlier in the school year. It was hosted in September 2015 by the MSU in partnership with the Student Success Centre. Members of various student groups such as the Society of Off-Campus Students, Inter-Residence Council, and faculty societies attended the conference. The event included a number of sessions from University and industry professionals, that gave attendees the opportunity to learn from experts. The day finished with a closing keynote from McMaster alumna Paige
Burgess, formerly the McMaster Science Society President, currently studying medicine at the University of Toronto. LINK helped build stronger bonds between the respective student groups, while highlighting the contribution that each of these groups plays in the enrichment of student life at McMaster. In the future, the LINK conference may offer a training date in late March or early April, closer to when individuals begin their positions of leadership.

**Maccess**

Maccess is the newest MSU service, geared towards students who identify with a visible or invisible disability. The Part-Time Manager of the service was hired in November 2015 and has been working closely with MSU Diversity Services to transition programming related to their Abilities pillar to Maccess. The service has an expected launch date of September 2016 and in addition to programming, will provide peer support and resources to help students enhance their self-advocacy skills.

**McMaster Student Leadership Conference**

Slated for second semester of 2016, the conference is being planned by a variety of campus partners, including the MSU, the Student Success Centre, Residence Life and Athletics & Recreation. It will serve as a professional development and training opportunity for staff and volunteers. All students are welcome to attend, regardless of campus affiliation. Over the past four years, the conference has grown to engage more than 400 participants. This year, the theme will be *cultivating ideas*. The day will begin with a keynote address, followed by students’ choice of workshops. The afternoon will be an entirely new format, featuring the integration of a community hack component. This aspect allows people to put their leadership and critical thinking skills into practice.

**McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC) Upgrades**

The MSU has prioritized making MUSC a better space for students. This has led to numerous upgrades to improve the space. This past year, the MSU successfully worked towards confirming several enhancements. Totalling over $1.1 million, these changes include: creating a *Times Square* in the atrium (large screen and sound system), a south entrance expansion into Mills Plaza, additional seating, and a second staircase at the Arts Quad entrance. These improvements will help make MUSC a more usable, useful and efficient space. All changes are to be completed by the end of Summer 2016.

**MSU Emergency Bursary**

In 2015, the MSU created the Emergency Bursary. Established with the principles of ease of access, anonymity and accessibility, the bursary was created to provide an option to students facing short-term cash flow problems. There were no restrictions on who could apply, and an individual could receive a maximum of $500 per year. In its first year, the bursary received multiple applications, and gave out over $12,000 in bursaries, which was more than 50% over the fund’s original budget of $8,000. Due to such a large demand, the MSU is looking at ways to improve the bursary in the future, including a possible collaboration with McMaster University.

**Off-Campus Safety**

The MSU worked with Hamilton Police Services to increase the presence of police, specifically outside of the typical weekend routine. During exam season, Hamilton Police patrolled campus and the community. Furthermore, following continued conversations with the Chief of Police, all police units patrolling the area were staffed with additional auxiliary police officers, thereby increasing the physical presence of police in our area. The police presence was both an avenue to increase safety, as well as a way to deconstruct the myth that police target students. Media by both the MSU and Hamilton Police Services encouraged students to stop and chat with police officers, in hopes of breaking down pre-concieved notions. To that effect, many officers were kind enough to escort students home from the library and otherwise work to ingratiate themselves to students. As daylight savings time occurred in the fall, police were on hand to distribute free bike lights, while promoting cycling safety. Beyond these tangible steps forward, the MSU President filmed regular videos with the local crime manager, informing students of seasonal safety concerns.
Peer Tutoring Network
The MSU has been working with the Office of Student Affairs to implement a peer tutoring program. The purpose of this network is to increase availability of tutoring services to McMaster undergraduate students. The program shall be run in partnership with a third party Help Hub, who will also assist in the development of the McMaster Tutoring Program. There will be a soft launch of the program in February 2016, targeting specific subjects and tutors. The program is slated for full implementation in September 2016.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence on Campus
The MSU played an active role related to the issues of sexual harassment, assault, and gender-based violence during 2015/2016, through the implementation of recommendations from the “IT’S TIME to End Violence Against Women on Campus” campaign and through the formation of the Women and Gender Equity Network. The MSU also worked with the University to create the Sexual Violence Response Coordinator position, housed in the Human Rights and Equity Services office. Meaghan Ross was hired in late summer 2015 and the department launched a new website that outlined the steps of McMaster University’s new Sexual Violence Response Protocol. The MSU and its services also played an active role in Welcome Week events that focused on consent and sexual violence.

Student Life Enhancement Fund
The Student Life Enhancement Fund (SLEF) is a pool of money set aside to support projects, innovations and ideas that enhance the student experience at McMaster University. This fund is administered by the Student Services Committee (SSC). Membership of the SSC consists of both MSU and University representation. Traditionally, this fund has been accessed by various staff members of the University, as well as managers within the MSU. This year, the MSU made it a priority to ensure that all the ideas that were submitted came directly from students. In October, the MSU began canvassing the student body for ideas, a process that resulted in about 60 submissions to the enhance.mcmaster.ca website. After consulting with the relevant University departments to determine feasibility, the MSU Board of Directors vetted the ideas and developed a list of high-impact projects. Those ideas that are within the scope of funding and timelines of SLEF will be brought to students for voting during the MSU Presidential Election. The top two ideas will receive guaranteed funding.

Valedictorian
The MSU is responsible for supporting the graduate valedictorian awards in first semester, as well as organizing all valedictorian awards for second semester. In the first semester of the 2015/2016 academic year, the Vice President (Education) served on the selection committee for graduate valedictorian candidates. In second semester, the MSU will work with each faculty society and University department to ensure valedictorian awards are well promoted to students. The MSU will facilitate the selection committees in order to ensure that successful candidates are chosen and prepared for valedictorian speeches for the appropriate ceremonies.

Welcome Week
Once again, Welcome Week was a huge success for the MSU. This year, the Welcome Week Advisory Committee selected three strategic priorities that were incorporated into all facets of Welcome Week programming and training: Alcohol Awareness, Mental Health, and Sexual Violence & Consent. Once again, training for Welcome Week representatives was given in a conference-style approach. Reps self selected into a number of workshops, many of which were led by the MSU’s Vice President (Administration) and several of the MSU’s Part-Time Managers. The intent was to provide a more engaging training experience for student leaders. This proved to work well and will continue in future years.

This was the second year that the MSU hired the Welcome Week Faculty Societies Coordinator position. This position was created to help support and coordinate with faculty societies during the planning and implementation of orientation. This is a position that the MSU will continue to fund for Welcome Week 2016 and in fact, the role has been expanded by five hours per week over the summer months. In addition, the
start date has been advanced from May 1 to February 1 to better align with the hiring schedules of faculty coordinators and Welcome Week timelines.

MSU Campus Events continued to offer highly attended programming this past Welcome Week. One exciting component was the partnership with the Westdale BIA to create WestFest. The PJ Parade was routed down Sterling Street directly into Westdale’s WestFest, wherein a festival with vendors, performances, and food for both students and the community took place. By the end of Welcome Week 2015, the MSU-led Shinerama campaign raised over $130,000 for cystic fibrosis research.

**MSU Services**

**Accounting Department**
The Accounting Department manages all financial transactions, reporting and payroll. As well, the department assists the General Manager and Vice President (Finance) in long-term financial planning of the organization. Be it helping coordinate Shinerama collection efforts, departmental deposits or processing the weekly cheque run, all financial activity flows through the Accounting Department located in the MSU Main Office. In May of 2015, Marn Lawton, Accounts Receivable Supervisor retired. Sean Duncan was subsequently hired. Through a strong transition into the role, along with added support from the Accounting team, the MSU Accounting Department hasn’t lost a step and continues to operate with tremendous efficiency.

**AVtek**
Thanks to the efforts of a strong staff and increased training, AVtek now executes larger and more comprehensive shows, including motor controlled flying grid systems and mobile stages. AVtek has also seen more support from outside clients, both in the Hamilton community and beyond. This has led to growth and experience for the staff, as well as promotion and income from sources outside the University. Recently, AVtek added live-streaming services to its repertoire.

**Campus Events**
Campus Events has had another incredible year, providing two concerts during Welcome Week with over 6000 students in attendance for both. In addition, Campus Events partnered with the Westdale BIA to host WestFest for students and members of the community. While fostering their strong relationship with Alumni Advancement, together they provided the biggest Homecoming Expo to date. The Campus Events Department continues to work closely with all levels of Welcome Week planning, as well as co-chairing the “Light up the Night” end of year block party planning team.

**CFMU 93.3FM**
CFMU continues to increase its role on McMaster’s campus and in the Hamilton community. Student volunteer teams continue to expand, and as always, the station has music, issues, and multicultural programming from both the community and student body. Some highlights from this past year include: coverage of the federal election, live-to-air “Supercast” from Supercrawl, participation on the Hamilton Media Advisory Council, initiation of “CFMU Outside” at the Jack and Lois diner, involvement in the Hamilton Independent Media Awards, and winning “Station of the Year” at the 2015 Hamilton Music Awards. This year, CFMU released their 10th and final edition of “Everybody Dance Now”, a compilation CD of Hamilton artists, including Arkells, Caribou, and more.

**Creating Leadership Amongst Youth (CLAY)**
CLAY has experienced a tremendous amount of growth over the course of the past four years. In late 2014, the MSU Executive Board approved a plan to move the CLAY conference to an off-campus location. This was to ensure that CLAY could continue to focus on leadership development for youth in the Hamilton and broader GTHA communities, while removing some financial barriers. In 2015, over 50% of CLAY delegates had their fee sponsored either through their school board or the MSU. CLAY is working diligently to make partnerships within the community, who may be willing to sponsor students to attend the conference.
Clubs
The MSU Clubs Department began the academic year with 305 status clubs. With the implementation of Clubza, students can now easily find their interests in a quick and convenient method. Thousands of students attended ClubsFest ’15 and witnessed the amazing opportunities these groups have to offer. This year, clubs have attended hundreds of events, competed (and won) on the international, national, and provincial levels, and will have held over 1000 club events by year’s end. Dramatic changes came to the management of Clubs this year, including additional funding, staff resources, digital enhancements and improved departmental infrastructure.

Compass Information Centre
Compass continues to provide general information and ticketing services to the McMaster community. Compass has been the one-stop-shop for all things transit, including: HSR, Burlington Transit, GO Transit, Greyhound, and Megabus. Compass has also added the ability to instantly load PRESTO cards. Compass has been an avenue for campus groups and clubs to sell tickets and advertise for their events. They have partnered with the Hamilton Bull Dogs and Hamilton Tiger Cats, along with other attractions such as Canada’s Wonderland and African Lion Safari, to bring new and exciting entertainment opportunities to students. Compass has worked with Campus Events to manage the sales of their concerts and Charity Ball tickets. Compass is gearing up for an impressive set of renovations, slated to begin in April 2016.

Diversity Services
MSU Diversity Services has been able to gain strong volunteer support and interest from students this year. Programming has been offered for each of the four pillars of Multiculturalism, Interfaith, Abilities and Indigenous Affairs. This year, Diversity Services participated in the annual Indigenous Cultural Gathering and Holocaust Week. In addition, Diversity Services held a successful “Post Racial” event. Notably, the service has begun hosting bi-weekly AbiliTEAS events for students who self-identify with a disability. This program offers peer support, resources, and snacks for students in the WGEN space (MUSC 204). This programming will likely be incorporated into the newly created Maccess service next year. Diversity Week will be running throughout the third week of January, coinciding with the first week of the MSU Presidential election.

Elections Department
The Elections Department began their year with First Year Council nominations and SRA by-elections. The department continued to facilitate a number of external elections for MSU clubs and faculty societies. Additionally, the department is continuing on the success of two exciting initiatives from last year designed to get students more engaged and informed about elections at the MSU. First, Elections 101 nights are held wherein students can find out how to run in an election and ask any questions they might have. Second, the “MSU Wants You” campaign continues, along with the support of a number of different stakeholders. Finally, the Elections Department updated their logo to conform with MSU brand standards in the fall of 2015.

Emergency First Response Team (EFRT)
The MSU Emergency First Response Team reached a significant milestone in 2015 by helping 10,000 people in the team’s 32 year history. Throughout 2015, EFRT was dedicated to improving the care provided to the campus community. Ten new volunteers were selected and trained, while simultaneously improving training for all volunteers. EFRT has increased its focus on mental health assistance when responding to calls and for responder self-care. In November, EFRT attended the MIXER conference, where a team with McMaster responders placed third. Additionally, EFRT continued to provide excellent first aid and CPR training to the community. The call volume has been higher year-over-year but the activation of outside medical attention has remained static, meaning that people are more aware of the service and comfortable calling EFRT.
Horizons
Horizons had an incredible year of growth. For the first time, the conference expanded registration to 200 student spaces, all of which were filled ahead of the registration deadline. By expanding the number of first year spots, Horizons also increased the number of opportunities for upper year students to act as volunteer staff. In addition, Horizons implemented payment plan options and created bursaries, which helped increase the financial accessibility of the conference.

Mac Farmstand
Mac Farmstand ran a weekly local food market on campus from June through October, offering a wide variety of in-season fruits, vegetables, preserves and baked goods. The service made enormous strides in increasing its advocacy efforts through informative events and partnering with campus and community stakeholders to host “Local Food Fest” in early October. At the event, nearly 750 people learned about and celebrated local food. Through promoting the benefits of local eating, along with the addition of accepting electronic payments including McMaster’s meal plan card, use of Mac Farmstand grew by 75% over the previous year.

Mac Bread Bin
Mac Bread Bin has completely revamped their service. In May 2015, Mac Bread Bin exclusively offered an anonymous food security service to students. By the end of first semester, Mac Bread Bin launched the Food Collective Centre in Bridges Café that provides a grocery shopping style experience for Mac Bread Bin clients, providing more choice in how users can access support. Mac Bread Bin also launched the Mac Community Kitch(in) in Bridges Café in hopes to engage students and community members to learn how to cook. Mac Bread Bin also continues to participate in traditional events like Trick-or-Eat and the Good Food Box program.

MACgreen
Conserving green space and making McMaster a more sustainable institution continues to be the priorities of MACgreen. The service ran several clean-ups throughout the year, and expanded their stewardship efforts in collaboration with Athletics & Recreation. MACgreen also worked closely with Engineers Without Borders on a sustainability conference, taking place in second semester. In January 2016, the SRA voted to discontinue MACgreen as a service. It will conclude operations at the end of the 2015/2016 academic year, as most of its functions have evolved into service offerings in other areas of the MSU and the University.

MACycle
MACycle continues to foster relationships with both on- and off-campus partners, such as the McMaster Cycling Club and Social Bicycles (SoBi). The complement of MACycle volunteers are now accustomed to the service’s space under Ron Joyce Stadium, and the number of co-op members and volunteers continues to grow steadily. MACycle sponsored prizes for Ride the Hammer, an indoor biking event raising money for Start the Cycle. MACycle continue to repair bikes for EFRT, used to respond to emergency calls on campus.

Marmor
The 2015 edition of the Marmor yearbook is well underway. Thanks to recent vetting efforts, there are less lost addresses in the alumni list, meaning more graduates are receiving their yearbook. The Marmor team currently consists of an Executive Editor, an Assistant Editor and a Photographer and plans to add an additional photographer.

Maroons
The Maroons played an instrumental role in the facilitation of Welcome Week. This year, the Maroons started a new initiative called First Year Friday, wherein Maroons shared their office space with the First Year Council and Spark, better connecting the MSU’s upper year students to its first year population. The service continued to run its Maroon Monday promotional campaign throughout the year and offered promotional / volunteer support to Campus Events and other MSU Services. Finally, the Maroons continued their strong partnerships with Alumni Advancement, along with Athletics & Recreation.
Network / Information Technology
This year, the MSU needed to source new suppliers to replace depreciated workstation and server hardware. As a result of McMaster students voting in favour of adopting a BDS (Boycott, Divest and Sanction) motion presented to the General Assembly in March of 2015, several new suppliers were required. The spirit of this motion recommends that the MSU refrain from supporting companies that support or profit from policies that the BDS movement opposes. As such, the MSU has changed computer suppliers from Dell and HP to primarily Lenovo. Work is ongoing to complete the scheduled equipment replacements slated for this year.

The MSU continues to work closely with its developers at Factor[e], in order to improve the MSU website. Functionality continues to expand and MSU departments have access to a wealth of web services, including online registrations and payments, digital job application processes, surveys, event listings, social media integration and more.

The transition of student-run club e-mail accounts from Univmail to Gmail is finally complete. This was a long and challenging process and much more labour intensive than expected, given the challenges presented by the UTS changeover to Mosaic. The Gmail migration will have a positive impact on student clubs as well as the MSU’s ability to provide clubs with the support needed each year.

Ombuds
The University Ombuds office is a service available to students, staff, and faculty whose primary function is to find just, fair, and equitable resolutions regarding University-related complaints and concerns. The office is co-funded by McMaster University and the McMaster Students Union. Over the last year, the Ombuds Management Team, comprised of McMaster’s Dean of Students, the MSU’s Vice President (Education), and current Ombuds, have reviewed the role of the McMaster Ombuds office. During 2015/2016, the MSU and Student Affairs conducted a review of the office, and assessed areas such as capacity, purpose, clientele, resources, and functions. This review led to a proposal to the Presidents of the MSU and McMaster, and action will be taken during second semester to ensure the proposals are implemented.

Peer Support Line
The Peer Support Line fields calls seven nights a week, from 7pm to 1 am. This year, all volunteers received SafeTalk Suicide Alertness training and 30 volunteers received Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training. The Peer Support Line continues to maintain an online resource library on their webpage. Both call and online chat support were operational throughout the examination period.

Queer Students Community Centre (QSCC)
In October of 2015, the Queer Students Community Centre celebrated its seventh MacPride week. It was the largest yet, as more than 300 participants were on hand for the Pride March. Over the summer, QSCC attended Toronto Pride. Throughout the term, QSCC hosted multiple events such as Gayzer Tag, social dinners, intramural sports, workshops, movie showings, and spoken word events. QSCC partnered with the Hamilton AIDS Network, wherein a Men’s HIV Outreach Worker occupies the space twice a month to engage men who have sex with men about safer sex and overall health. The QSCC also continues to offer peer support with all volunteers trained in SafeTalk.

Shinerama and Terry Fox
The MSU continued to support both the Shinerama and Terry Fox initiatives in 2015. Shinerama is an annual fundraiser held by universities across the country. After having a record-breaking year in 2014, the 2015 Shinerama team worked diligently to have another successful year. The MSU’s Shinerama efforts for 2015 are currently at $130,000 and are expected to grow slightly over the remainder of this academic year. The Terry Fox campaign was also expanded this year with the addition of Zumba and music to make the event fun for all who participated.
Student Community Support Network (SCSN)
SCSN endeavoured to inform students about housing by-laws and help improve community relations. SCSN’s Community Assistants have been busy patrolling neighbourhoods, ensuring students are having positive interactions with the community. SCSN ran programming for the Discover Your City program, hosted a campaign in November to educate students on their rights as tenants, and continues to be an active member of the President’s Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR). Additionally, SCSN will host the Leavin’ The Nest program in residences for first year students in the spring. The program will offer tips for finding off-campus housing and provide knowledge about the rights of tenants.

Student Health Education Centre (SHEC)
SHEC continued to offer engaging and relevant health education and support for McMaster students. Again this year, SHEC recruited first year student volunteers during its Welcome Week promotions and almost tripled the number of volunteer applications compared to last year. SHEC maintains its peer support program, with all volunteers receiving SafeTalk training. Looking ahead, SHEC will be updating the resources available in the centre and will work on making the SHEC space more inviting and better aligned with the service’s goals.

Spark
MSU Spark experienced an incredibly successful period of growth and expansion over the past year. The service has more than doubled the number of students it supports, while also doubling its volunteer base. Spark aims to mentor 500 first year students. Spark has also introduced multiple large workshops open to all first year students, on topics such as exam preparation, wellness, and life after first year. The program has also released guidebooks with advice on how to make the most of first year university. These guidebooks make the support Spark offers accessible at any hour, and for students who would rather not seek help in-person.

Student Walk Home Attendant Team (SWHAT)
SWHAT continues to provide a safe walk home for students, seven days a week, from 7pm-1am. As of September 2015, SWHAT relocated to MUSC 226, in order for WGEN to move into MUSC 204. SWHAT held a housewarming party, including snacks, a photo booth, and raffle prizes, to introduce the space to its users. The service has revamped the relationship between dispatchers and executives to increase the autonomy and responsibility of dispatchers. SWHAT also held their annual fall Walk-A-Thon with all donations benefiting Movember.

Teaching Awards Committee (TAC)
New this year, TAC meets regularly with the Education Department and is actively looking for ways to promote best practices in teaching. TAC is looking forward to a strong second semester nomination period, which will run from January 31 to February 19. As per tradition, TAC will end the year off with hosting the awards ceremony on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 The event should run more effectively than in the past, as TAC now boasts an executive structure that helps with the logistics and planning of the ceremony.

The Silhouette
Currently in its 86th volume, The Silhouette is celebrating 85 years on campus. After leaving behind broadsheet, it continues to publish as a tabloid-sized paper, which better fits students’ on-the-go lifestyles. The slightly smaller size allows the publication to focus more on multimedia projects, online exclusive content, annual magazines, and a crisper overall design. Reception to the new format has been overwhelmingly positive, and The Silhouette plans to continue to improve the ways it delivers information to the student body. The Silhouette is currently working to further develop its video production capabilities and online presence.
TwelvEighty
TwelvEighty has dedicated the last year to improving the restaurant experience. In late summer 2015, TwelvEighty underwent renovations to revitalize its booths and apply fresh paint to much of its interior. The restaurant continues to offer a new and improved drink menu and daily specials that are different, delicious, and affordable. Rotating these specials on the campus screen network, as well as TwelvEighty’s social media channels has kept students in the loop with the great promotions and specials that TwelvEighty has to offer.

Underground Media + Design
Underground Media + Design continued its tradition of success in 2015/2016. Underground is the go-to destination for large format printing and design materials. Underground also offers a number of retail goods to meet a variety of needs, such as pens, printer ink and notebooks. It operates as the central hub for advertisement and design via their poster and design via the campus screen network.

Union Market
Union Market provides coffee, tea, snacks, light meal items and cold beverages, all at an affordable, student-friendly price. Union Market has expanded their grab-and-go options to meet the needs of a busy student lifestyle, including healthy options for students with dietary restrictions. Union Market continues to provide students with a positive customer service experience, flexible employment and a welcoming atmosphere on campus.

Women and Gender Equity Network (WGEN)
The Women and Gender Equity Network has been operating successfully in its first full year as an MSU service. Notably, the service now occupies a physical space in MUSC 204, where it offers a safe(r) space, a resource library, and peer support. The resource library contains over 100 books, all of which can be checked out for a two-week period. All peer support volunteers received training from SACHA on dealing with disclosures, Trans 101 training, and SafeTalk Suicide Alertness. WGEN also hosted a number of events and campaigns, some of which included the Voices Against Violence; for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Trans Visibility Week, and a Halloween-themed event, ‘Spooptacular’. WGEN finished up last semester working closely with Women Studies 1AA3 students on Feminism 1A03, a workshop on the various aspects of feminism.
ADVOCACY

Advocacy is an integral aspect of the daily operations of the MSU, particularly at the level of the Board of Directors. For the purposes of this document, advocacy should be understood as any effort to effect change or ameliorate policies, funding levels, opportunities, programs and/or legislation as they pertain to the undergraduate students of McMaster University. The Advocacy section of the 2015/2016 MSU State of the Union is sub-divided into two parts: internal and external. Internal advocacy will refer to the work done at and within McMaster University, while external advocacy will highlight the MSU’s efforts at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of jurisdiction.

Internal Advocacy:

Academic Affairs Council
The Academic Affairs Council (AAC) is chaired by the Vice President (Education), and consists of the VP Academics or equivalents from each of McMaster’s faculty societies. The AAC serves as a body for best practice sharing and networking. During the 2015/2016 academic year, the AAC took on several projects. The first was a course evaluations campaign aimed at increasing the number of course evaluations filled out by students. The campaign aimed to change the perception that course evaluations are ineffective. The campaign included videos with professors and faculty-specific events for course evaluation completion. In second semester, the AAC plans to complete two projects: advocating for different sustainability initiatives within their faculties and programs, and completing a report on reflection in their courses to improve uptake around McMaster’s Learning Portfolio.

Accessibility
One of the largest projects around accessibility was Maccess, a week-long campaign advocating for better accessibility, which made students and staff at McMaster cognizant of the physical barriers that remain on campus. The campaign included speakers, events, sessions, social media outreach, and interactive activities. The MSU also hosted its second Accessibility Forum and received student feedback around accessibility at McMaster. To support the University’s review of the academic accommodations policy, the MSU created a student working group to provide recommendations to ensure the review was student friendly. Additionally, the MSU provided student representation on the McMaster Accessibility Council. The MSU also conducted a gender neutral washroom audit, to help support advocacy in the area of gender neutral washrooms on campus. Lastly, OUSA’s Students with Disabilities policy paper will be edited by the MSU Vice President (Education).

Advocacy Street Team
During the 2015/2016 school year, the MSU Advocacy Street Team achieved several objectives. First, the team completed a number of comprehensive and successful campaigns on campus. The most notable campaign was the MSU’s MacVotes campaign. This campaign involved social media promotion, a half dozen events, an all-candidates debate, distribution of information and materials, and promotion of the on- and off-campus polling stations. The Street Team also supported the MSU’s student housing campaign, including development of promotional materials, material distribution, and idea generation. In second semester, the team will be heavily involved in the MacTalks campaign, which will focus on mental health and well-being awareness, supports, and programming. The other major campaign of second semester will be OUSA’s Time Out Tuition campaign, which will involve swag distribution, social media awareness, and the collection of signatures for a letter-writing campaign. Lastly, the Advocacy Street Team will be involved in awareness campaigns around sustainability initiatives and gender neutral washrooms.
Affordability
To address internal affordability, the MSU took several steps. First, the MSU presented to the University’s Board of Governors to discuss tuition and financial aid issues. Second, the MSU advocated for a transition of public funding from merit-based scholarships to needs-based scholarships, as well as the removal of interest for deferred tuition payments for students in need. The MSU also partnered with the Student Success Centre to improve Mac Money Centre, and jointly promoted notable financial aid timelines for students. Finally, through the creation and management of the Tuition Task Force, the MSU has developed a long-term tuition advocacy strategy, and a research report will be released in second semester concerning tuition at McMaster.

Career & Co-op
Through the Academic Affairs Council, the MSU developed a list of student recommendations for career and co-op at McMaster University. The recommendations are currently being discussed with the University for future implementation. The MSU also worked with the Student Success Centre on events such as virtual chats between students and alumni, as well as focusing on skills-based over knowledge-based learning. Additionally, the MSU sponsored a delegate to attend the local Action Conference.

First Year Forum
Similar to the Accessibility Forums that the MSU hosts on an annual basis, the MSU will host the inaugural First Year Forum in the second semester of 2015/2016. The concept of this forum is to gather extensive feedback from first year students, both in terms of their transition into university, as well as their in-class and on-campus experiences. After the forum, a report will be released detailing the conversations that occurred. Based on the findings of the report, the MSU will be empowered to take advocacy and programming actions around the challenges and suggestions provided by first year students.

Indigenous Student Advocacy
The MSU strengthened its relationship with the McMaster Indigenous Student Community Alliance (MISCA) by attending meetings and ensuring a MISCA representative was able to attend SRA meetings. The MSU, in partnership with MISCA, also hosted two sets of Indigenous focus groups to collect feedback around the challenges Indigenous students face at McMaster. These focus groups asked questions about student services, on-campus culture, Indigenous student funding, ease of access to McMaster University for incoming students, and in-course experiences. In second semester, this feedback will be developed into the MSU’s renewed policy paper on Indigenous students.

McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning (MIIETL)
MIIETL is the institute in charge of providing teaching and technological support to instructors, as well as performing research surrounding innovative teaching and learning practices. The MSU continues to work closely with MIIETL to ensure that students are engaged with the institute’s initiatives. For instance, this year the MSU will attempt a close collaboration between the MSU Teaching Awards Committee and MIIETL by creating a Best Practice Sharing event with the winners of MSU Teaching Awards. MIIETL is prepared to help facilitate and support this event, and the MSU will be finalizing details in early 2016. In addition, the MSU works closely with MIIETL during the planning of the annual Teaching Awards ceremony, as well as the advocacy the MSU has done around teaching assistant training.

Mental Health
In partnership with the Student Wellness Centre, the MSU created a Student Mental Health Network to develop student-centered projects and next steps to improve mental health and well-being on campus. This network has yielded projects around peer support programs, capacity for the Student Wellness Centre, evaluation of Mental Health First Aid training, and the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). The MSU also organized Mental Health First Aid training for approximately 25 full- and part-time staff. In second semester, the MSU will host its MacTalks campaign, which will include events, social media outreach, student stories, and activities around mental health and well-being. Finally, the MSU serves on the University Mental Health Equity and Inclusion working group.
MSU's University Budget Submission
In late December 2015, the MSU released a McMaster University budget submission. This document was created to present to the University as an articulation of student priorities for the budget. The submission proposed alternate expenditures, as well as sources of revenue for the institution. The major themes of this submission were better financial accessibility, improved teaching and learning, more student space and more student services.

Presidents’ Council
The Presidents’ Council brings together student presidents from faculty societies, the Inter-Residence Council and the Society of Off-Campus Students to discuss issues pertaining to the student experience on campus. The council meets to discuss university issues and policies affecting undergraduate students at McMaster, with an emphasis on policies and issues affecting student life outside of academics. Presidents’ Council meets bi-weekly and also addresses important issues such as student fees and finances, un-programmed space and programming.

Programming and Activities Council
The Programming and Activities Council (PAC) is a new initiative spearheaded by the Vice President (Administration), which brings together the person responsible for event planning and programming in each faculty society and the Inter-Residence Council. PAC provides a unique avenue for students leaders to share best practices, discuss program specific initiatives, and ask questions. One of the PAC’s priorities for the year is to host an inter-faculty event. With the help of MSU Campus Events, all faculties will participate in a snow tubing event in February. PAC looks forward to other ways in which programming across faculties can be integrated into future planning.

Quality of Teaching
The MSU’s Vice President (Education) was a main author for OUSA’s new Teaching & Assessment policy paper, which included McMaster-centric recommendations around differentiated evaluation, bell curving, and assessment variety. The MSU also developed recommendations through the Academic Affairs Council around teaching and course evaluations, which have then been integrated into the University’s official policy recommendations. The MSU has also served on the Teaching Evaluation Committee, to better integrate student feedback into how faculty and instructors are evaluated.

Student Space
One of the largest priorities of the MSU is to ensure that McMaster provides enough student and study space. McMaster has identified that it has a large deficit in this regard, with the largest shortfalls being student-focused space, such as recreation, lounge and study space. To better understand this deficit, the MSU is conducting the MSU Space Survey and undertaking a student space capacity study in cooperation with Alumni Advancement and the Office of Student Affairs. The outcome of these efforts will provide valuable insight into what students need and want, as well as potential areas to address based on Council of Ontario Universities standards.

Sustainability Campaign
In March 2015, the Student Representative Assembly passed the MSU’s renewed Sustainability Policy, which contained a number of principles, concerns, and recommendations surrounding sustainability at McMaster. To ensure the policy recommendations are being appropriately addressed, the MSU will be launching a campaign in second semester. The purpose of this campaign will be to raise awareness for sustainability issues, and to make tangible changes on behalf of students, staff, and faculty of the University.
TA Training
The MSU has made it a priority to advocate for mandatory paid training for undergraduate and graduate teaching assistants. This took the form of strong recommendations in the MSU’s University budget submission, as well as advocacy and discussions with McMaster’s Associate VPs, MIIETL, CUPE 3906, and students. The MSU hopes that this dialogue will be part of the collective bargaining process between the University and CUPE 3906. In addition, the MSU will be working with MIIETL to provide shorter and more targeted TA training programs that can benefit all undergraduate and graduate teaching assistants.

University Administration
An integral component of the MSU’s advocacy effort lives within the University. Senior administrators play a critical role in the allocation of resources on campus. As such, they are the access points for many of the MSU’s advocacy initiatives. The MSU proudly maintains thriving relationships with all members of the University’s senior leadership team. These relationships are thanks in part to a team of administrators committed to providing a world class student experience, a strong core of MSU full-time staff providing continuity from year-to-year, and passionate group of student leaders, working in the best interest of McMaster students.

Welcome Week Advisory Committee
The Welcome Week Advisory Committee (WWAC) has taken on a variety of projects this year related to the Orientation Levy and general policies. The WWAC has confirmed the three strategic themes for next year’s Welcome Week: mental health, alcohol awareness, and sexual violence & consent. WWAC is also exploring the introduction of measurable targets that will ensure all planning actively includes groups that are typically underrepresented during Welcome Week. WWAC also updated the Memorandum of Understanding previously signed by the MSU and Student Affairs, outlining the expectations on food expenditures from levied monies. The document reaffirms the MSU’s belief that monies acquired via the Orientation Levy must be used to create high value, high impact programming for incoming first year students.

External Advocacy:

Federal Advocacy
The MSU attended CASA’s Get Out the Vote conference in August 2015, in part to reform relationships with the organization and to assess the MSU’s a potential future place within CASA. Leaving the conference, the MSU remained committed to maintaining (non-formal) ties with CASA, while exploring other avenues for federal advocacy. Issues concerning the Canada Student Loans program, international and Indigenous students, tax credits, and data collection for post-secondary institutions all falls into the realm of the federal government. To that end, the MSU began a relationship with student unions from Canada’s 15 research-intensive universities, known as the U15, in hopes of forging a collaboration. This will culminate in visit to Ottawa in second semester, where the MSU will advocate alongside similar institutions on several federal advocacy priorities. The MSU will then assess the success of the endeavour and possibly work to formalize a partnership with U15 student unions in the future.

Hamilton Post Secondary Advisory Group (HPSAG)
The MSU has an established and long running Hamilton Post-Secondary Advisory Group, composed of the MSU, Mohawk Students’ Association, Redeemer Student Senate, and local MPP Ted McMeekin. This group meets every four months to discuss student issues and advocacy priorities of each student union within the provincial context. During the 2015/2016 year, the MSU established both a municipal and federal equivalent to this group. The municipal equivalent will include the three student associations, the Mayor, and City Councillors where relevant. The federal version will boast the same student groups, as well as newly elected local MP Filomena Tassi. The MSU plans to discuss student engagement, retention, and employment at the upcoming municipal HPSAG, while Canada Student Loans, international students issues and Indigenous students issues will be the focus of the federal HPSAG.
Municipal Advocacy Week
In November 2015, the MSU engaged in its first Municipal Advocacy Week, which included meetings with the Mayor, City Councillors, City staff, community organizations, and other student unions. The advocacy priorities of the week included student employment, student housing, student-community relationships, retention and engagement, and local transit. The week had several notable outcomes, such as the creation of a local Hamilton Post-Secondary Advisory Group between the Mayor, MSU, Mohawk Students’ Association, and Redeemer Student Senate, as well as the revival of the Youth Advisory Council with the City. The meetings also established the MSU as an important stakeholder in the upcoming housing bylaws and Light Rail Transit discussions. After the week concluded, the MSU released a summary report detailing the conversations and outcomes of the event.

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)
This year, the MSU took a leadership role in OUSA through the Vice President (Education), who served as President of the organization for the 2015/2016 year. This contributed to several of OUSA’s annual advocacy priorities, which focused on the tuition framework, the university funding formula, work-integrated learning, credit transfer, and student union autonomy. Through the MSU’s involvement, there was also the creation of a new OUSA event called the Best Practices Sharing Day, which allowed student union executives from each member institution to share updates and gather feedback and guidance around their various initiatives. OUSA also completed its 2015/2016 Annual Plan, as well as its 2015/2016 long-term plan. In addition, OUSA will have completed six policy papers by the end of the year: Teaching & Assessment, the Broader Learning Environment, Student Financial Assistance, Students with Disabilities, Student Employment, and Online Learning. OUSA also released its biannual Ontario Post-Secondary Student Survey, which collected over 9,000 responses. Lastly, through the MSU’s leadership, OUSA completed its annual campus visits to each of its member institutions.

OUSA General Assembly
OUSA’s General Assembly is a semi-annual event that allows student delegates from each member association to gather and act as the highest governing body of the organization. In March 2015, the MSU hosted OUSA’s General Assembly at McMaster, an opportunity each school receives every three years. The General Assembly focused on three policy papers: Tuition, LGBTQ+ Students, and Mature Students. All policy papers passed at plenary, with the Tuition policy specifically influencing the MSU’s advocacy priorities for the 2015/2016 school year. OUSA’s fall 2015 General Assembly occurred at the University of Waterloo and discussed three policy papers: Teaching & Assessment, the Broader Learning Environment, and Student Financial Assistance, of which the MSU Vice President (Education) was an author for Teaching & Assessment. The outcome of the conference was a discussion and approval of all the papers. Lastly, OUSA’s spring General Assembly is planned for March 2016, where the three papers slated for approval are Online Learning, Students with Disabilities, and Student Employment. The MSU President is an author for Student Employment and the MSU Vice President (Education) will be an editor for the Students with Disabilities paper.

Policy Papers
During the 2015/2016 school year, the MSU reviewed and completed multiple general policy papers. These included policy papers on Tuition, International Students, Anti-Oppression, Student Engagement & Retention, and Student Housing. Each of these papers includes principles, concerns, and recommendations around issues relevant to students. In addition, the MSU completed Maroon Papers for each of the policy papers. The Maroon Papers are shortened briefs that provide an efficient and reader-friendly version of the policy’s main points. Lastly, the MSU is redeveloping its policy process by defining the lifespan of MSU policies and the order in which they must be reviewed or risk losing their relevancy.
**Provincial Lobbying**
OUSA’s lobbying practices took several forms this year. One of OUSA’s largest advocacy events was its annual Advocacy Week, where student union executives coalesced at Queen’s Park for a week of meetings with MPPs and political staff. This year OUSA lobbied on three priorities. Topics included a call to eliminate the tax credits associated with tuition, textbooks, and education, specifically in hopes of using the associated funding towards a fully funded tuition freeze, and the expansion of financial aid. Second, OUSA advocated around the upcoming university funding formula and the metrics students would like to see included. Lastly, OUSA advocated for an increase in funding for work-integrated learning opportunities for students. In January 2016, OUSA ran a campaign around a fully funded tuition freeze, which included social media promotion, ‘Time Out Tuition’ swag, and letters to the Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities. Lastly, OUSA set up a number of advocacy meetings throughout the year, including meetings with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, MPPs, civil servants, the Council of Ontario Universities, and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations.

**Your City Survey 2.0**
In 2011, the MSU released its first Your City Survey, which asked students about their experience living in Hamilton and what they believe were the priorities for Hamilton’s future development. The survey informed a Your City Survey report, which has helped position the MSU for effective student-centered municipal advocacy. In 2015, the MSU released a follow-up, the Your City Survey 2.0, which asked very similar questions as a means of determining the change in student perceptions and experiences around the City of Hamilton. This data is currently being used in the MSU’s Student Engagement & Retention and Student Housing policy papers, which will allow the MSU to have accurate data about the student experience in Hamilton. The MSU will also release a second report on the Your City Survey 2.0 by the end of 2016.
COMMUNICATION

#MacVotes
The 42nd General Election took place on October 19, 2015. Canadians elected a majority Liberal government with a total voter turnout of nearly 70%. Keeping with the effective promotions strategy deployed over the last few election cycles at the provincial and municipal levels, the MSU developed a comprehensive communications plan to promote the election to the student body. The hashtag #MacVotes served as the cornerstone of the campaign, which featured a dedicated website, videos, additional online content and graphics, branded lawn signs and multiple on-campus debates and forums. In addition, this year marked the first time that a satellite polling station was located on campus. Satellite polls differ from advance polls, in that a satellite poll runs for multiple consecutive days, and can accommodate a vote from anyone, for any riding. As a featured event inside #MacVotes, McMaster's satellite polls proved to be very popular with students.

Board of Directors Engagement
In addition to the more centralized and specified modes of communication utilized by the MSU, each Board member designed and implemented personal communication strategies. The MSU President made it a priority to maintain an open line of communication with students, faculty and staff. In doing so, the President utilized an array of channels including maintaining a blog, creating a vlog series, attending student-run events, and fostering an active and responsive social media presence.

The Vice President (Administration) communicates formally with students through her “A Month In Review” blog updates on the MSU website. She incorporated platform updates as well as general day-to-day enhancements within her portfolio. Fostering a approachable demeanor in her work, one can always expect to find a .gif, photo, or Youtube video Easter egg within each of her posts.

The Vice President (Finance) used budget townhalls and monthly financial statements to communicate his portfolio. Two separate budget townhalls were planned, each highlighting specific parts of the budgeting process. One event was held to better inform students about how and where money was spent in the last fiscal year. The second townhall, slated for February of 2016, will garner feedback on where students want to see money spent in the upcoming year. This process should add greater student involvement into the MSU budgeting process. The monthly financial statements are condensed statements sent to the SRA and posted online every month.

The Vice President (Education) used several methods of communication. Monthly blogs were a large component to his communication, which included updates on his work, platform, and next steps. Social media was also key to sharing updates and promoting events, as was email to SRA members and Part-Time Managers. Lastly, sharing updates and information through the SRA was another method to disseminate the work done within this portfolio.

Campus Screen Network
The campus screen network continues to grow in usage by both internal and external users. In partnership with Security Services, as well as the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Public Relations, the McMaster Students Union designed a Student Life Enhancement Fund proposal to create the system in 2012. The network, with its 29 screens in 17 major buildings across campus, is available for use by all departments and student groups. Underground Media + Design revamped its pricing model in 2015, now offering a subscription option for campus users, in order to provide a more cost effective marketing option for both internal and external clients. Costs are subsidized for MSU clubs, making the screens an affordable option for student advertising. In the case of an emergency, the system can be requisitioned by Security Services to broadcast important and/or critical information or instructions.
Ehima Talks
In effort to fulfill his campaign promise of connecting with students who don’t maintain a strong connection to the MSU, President Ehima Osazuwa set aside at least an hour per week to walk through the Student Centre, meeting with students to discuss relevant issues affecting their undergraduate experience. On certain days, Ehima was armed with a question pertinent to the MSU’s operations, while on others, he would invite students to share general concerns. The product of these talks was that he was able to keep an ear to the ground and use the stories he heard from students to propel advocacy asks across all domains of the MSU’s jurisdiction, from University administrators to external partners.

MSU & You Radio Show
A tradition for each year’s Board of Directors, the ‘MSU & You’ radio show on CFMU 93.3FM continued every Monday from 12pm-1pm. This year, the show was heavily driven by the VPs (Finance) and (Administration), with guest appearances by the President, VP (Education), SRA members, and Part-Time Managers. The show typically addresses current topics in the MSU and pop culture, while also introducing listeners to local and Canadian artists. The radio show aims to have a guest each week to allow for new perspectives to be showcased.

President’s Page
The Board of Directors continued to make use of The Silhouette as a means of communicating timely information about projects and events in the MSU to the student body. Located opposite the editorial inside of each issue of The Sil, the President’s Page features graphics and articles relating to issues in post-secondary education, updates on MSU events, financial reports and project briefings. The page is published weekly.

SMS Communication
The MSU renewed its partnership with On Campus Text, continuing the SMS service offered to students and campus community members. Approximately 5000 people have texted “MSU” to 71441, thus registering for the MSU’s text based message system. MSU Administration and Campus Events use the SMS system to advertise events, promotions and important news at a rate of one or two texts a month to all users.

Social Media Presence
The MSU continued to place an emphasis on utilizing and expanding its social media presence. Through active and engaging use of both @MSU_McMaster and facebook.com/MSUMcMaster the MSU has grown its followership considerably. Now boasting 8400 followers, the MSU’s Twitter account is a campus staple for information, contests, give-a-ways and updates. The MSU’s Facebook page is approaching a reach of 7000 this year. The use of social media tools within individual MSU services has also grown in prominence, as Part-Time Managers receive greater amounts of support and training in the conduct of their service’s social media accounts. Moreover, thanks to the MSU, partnership programs such as Welcome Week, Homecoming and Frost Week all operate under respective hashtags, establishing greater community and popularity of the events.

Video Production
The relatively new role of MSU Communications Officer continued to provided substantial benefits to the organization, by acting as a resource to both Administration and service mangers in the creation of video and photography. The MSU has tripled its video output and doubled its YouTube subscribers since creating the role. In addition, while most videos average hundreds of views, some productions boast thousands of views, making MSU video content a strong communications tool.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Change Camp*
The second annual Change Camp will take place on March 3, 2016. It will occur inside the David Braley Health Sciences Centre, in downtown Hamilton. The intent of this event is to discuss areas of the City of Hamilton’s evolution, amongst students, McMaster staff, community members, and political representatives. This year, table topics will include Our Future Hamilton themes, as well as student priorities such as employment and retention, support for students and faculty regarding community engagement, and the roles and responsibilities for those involved in academic community engagement. This event will also include follow-up from last year’s Change Camp, representation from City Councillors and City staff, and higher connection of outcomes to students. The outcomes of the event will also be included in the MSU’s second Change Camp Report.

*Federal Election Awareness*
The MSU’s work with MacVotes during the federal election campaign involved a high level of community outreach. The MSU worked with Elections Canada to set up the satellite polling station on campus. The MSU made efforts to promote the initiative to community members and students, as anyone was able to vote in any Canadian riding. Finally, the MSU’s volunteers provided walks to students to the off-campus polling stations throughout Election Day as well.

*For Ward One - Participatory Budgeting Advisory Committee*
For Ward One is the Participatory Budgeting Advisory Committee for Hamilton’s Ward 1. The participatory budgeting process engages the community and helps Ward 1 Councillor, Aidan Johnson determine the best way to distribute the Area Rating Dollars that Ward 1 has been assigned. As McMaster is a key feature inside Ward 1, the MSU’s Community Engagement Coordinator has a seat on the committee. At this point, the 2015/2016 committee has been selected and has started organizing this year’s process. For Ward One has divided into subcommittees, and the MSU will be meeting with the Engagement subcommittee in early December, to ensure that student outreach remains an important part of the process.

*Leadership Summit for Women*
The Leadership Summit for Women is an annual intergenerational community-wide event that aims to create a safe space for the diverse voices of women, trans* individuals and their allies. Participants in the event are actors and catalysts in guiding the creation of a more just and equitable society. The Summit’s vision is that all individuals, regardless of gender, have the capacity, efficacy, and equitable opportunity to be leaders in the communities of which they are a part. This year, the conference theme was Make It Happen: Hamilton. This joint initiative between the MSU, Student Success Centre, Alumni Advancement and YWCA was ultimately a success. Approximately 160 people attended the event, and were able to engage in the productive discussions on how to empower and encourage women-identified individuals to take up leadership positions.

*Light Rail Transit (LRT) Subcommittee*
After years of lobbying and advocacy, the Province of Ontario made a $1 billion investment into a Hamilton LRT. As a sign of the MSU’s advocacy efforts and importance as a community stakeholder, the MSU was included as a LRT subcommittee official observer, with other community partners, such as the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and McMaster University. The MSU will continue to work with all members of the community, Hamilton City Council and Metrolinx, to ensure that the LRT plays a catalyzing role in continuing Hamilton’s renaissance, as well as better connecting students to the city.
McMaster Innovation Park (MIP)
Near the end of the 2015/2016 academic year, the MSU will host a conference at McMaster Innovation Park with the intention of encouraging students to better utilize the space, as well as connect with off-campus employers and McMaster staff. The conference will be a strong collaboration between the MSU, McMaster University, and the City of Hamilton, and will aim to give students the entrepreneurship and employability skills they need to thrive after graduation. Based on the outcomes of the conference, the MSU will work to ensure that next steps are taken and the students who attended are well poised to use their skills to find meaningful employment.

Network for Community Campus Partnerships
The MSU has served on McMaster’s Network for Community Campus Partnerships since its inception. Multiple projects have occurred during the 2015/2016 year. First, the network held a research and education retreat in fall 2015, where the MSU established high student representation at those discussions. The MSU also hosted its own community engagement student retreat, which collected feedback from dozens of students around their priorities for institutional and academic community engagement. The feedback from this event is now being integrated into the Network’s long-term plan to ensure a student-centered focus. Lastly, the MSU will be positioning student representatives on each of the network’s incoming working groups, which will focus on impact and sustainability, coordination and principles, as well as capacity building and accessibility.

Syrian Refugees and the 20 for 20 Campaign
The McMaster Students Union and the Immigrants Working Centre (IWC) partnered to bring 20 Syrian refugee families to the Hamilton community, through Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s community sponsorship model. The model will enable the IWC-MSU Syrian refugee partnership to match 20 community sponsors, such as businesses based in Hamilton, with 20 co-sponsors, such as local family members of Syrian refugees. The McMaster student community will then assist in the logistical responsibility of resettlement and integration. The aim of the partnership is to develop synergies while mobilizing an enthusiastic student community, which has been seeking avenues to contribute to the nationwide humanitarian initiative of welcoming refugees.

The 19th Annual McMasters: MSU Charity Golf Classic
For the past 19 years, the MSU has run a charity golf tournament with all proceeds benefiting the MSU Child Care Centre. Since 2011, the MSU’s Shinerama campaign as also benefited from the charitable efforts of the MSU. In 2015, The McMasters continued to generate proceeds to both entities, and helped contribute to the $130,000 raised by MSU Shinerama this year. The MSU is grateful for the tremendous support that campus and community partners continue to bestow on this special event.
THE WORKPLACE

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Compliance
All volunteers and staff of the MSU are required to complete the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) modules, offered through the Human Rights and Equity Services office. All AODA compliance standards must be met by 2025. The MSU is currently undergoing an audit by an external agency to review all MSU spaces for compliance with AODA. The auditors will provide what is still required to become barrier free, the estimated construction requirements, as well as estimated construction costs.

Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)
The Joint Health and Safety Committee continues to operate in a very timely and efficient manner. The committee works to ensure that the MSU is a leader in providing a healthy and safe working environment for all our staff: full-time, part time and volunteers. The committee has recently been revitalized with student staff and full-time staff members participating on the committee. The JHSC does periodic and systematic reviews of all MSU work space to ensure compliance with provincial legislation.

McMaster University Hiring Boards
The MSU was asked to provide student representation on several hiring boards for senior positions and various staff within the University in 2015. Specifically, the MSU served on the hiring boards for the Employer Relationship and Engagement Coordinator (Emily Shaw), the Leadership Development Program Coordinator (Anushay Irfan Khan), Director of Housing and Conference Services (Kevin Beatty), AVP & Chief Human Resources Officer (Wanda McKenna), and Director of Parking and Security Services (Glenn De Caire). The MSU is delighted that the University values student opinion on these important decisions and looks forward to providing the student perspective on future hiring boards.

MSU Hiring Boards MSU
This year, the MSU has actively worked to create a more transparent and fair selection process. There is a mindful focus on the integration of Behaviour Descriptive Interviewing (BDI). BDI operates under the premise that people’s past behaviour in a similar situation is the best predictor of future performance, and therefore interview questions are designed to understand past performance. Thus far, the MSU has used this strategy to hire all of next year’s Part-Time Managers, and the Welcome Week Faculty Coordinator. In addition, members of the Executive Board who sit on hiring boards now receive a hiring training booklet in advance of the selection process.

Student Representative Assembly (SRA) Professional Development Day
In early January 2016, the MSU held the first SRA professional development day. The Speaker of the MSU worked diligently with MIIETL to develop sessions on how to debate and conflict resolution. Ward 3 Councillor Matthew Green acted as the keynote speaker, presenting to members of the SRA.

Training Resources Research Assistant
Beginning in May 2016, the MSU will create a student position, dedicated to developing training resources for the organization. Primarily, the focus of this role will be the development of peer support training materials. However, the position will also act as a resource for all training efforts throughout the MSU. Working 30 hours per week in the summer and 10 hours per week during the academic year, this position will be able to create valuable resources and training sessions for the organization. In addition, the support for the Vice President (Administration) will be welcomed, as the MSU has added two new peer support services over the last three years.
FINANCES

Audited Statements
Each year, the MSU is audited by an external professional auditing firm (KPMG LLP) to ensure and maintain a high level of fiscal accountability and present accurate, transparent documents for release to students and the public. The audited statements for fiscal year 2014/2015 were presented to the SRA on September 27, 2015. As an organization, the MSU generated a surplus of $773,804. While some of the surplus is associated with the premiums tied to the MSU’s health and dental insurance plans, $414,294 is specifically attributed to gains inside the MSU’s investment portfolio. Excluding investment income, and insurance related funds not tied to the MSU’s operating fee of $124.33 per student, the MSU had an operational surplus of $59,325. This number can be expressed as a surplus representing only 0.6% of the MSU’s expenditures in the fiscal year. This is an ideal situation for the MSU, as it indicates that the organization is effectively budgeting and managing financial resources across dozens of business and services. In addition, the MSU implemented all recommendations by its auditors from previous fiscal years, ensuring the organization has the utmost in financial accountability, transparency and controls.

Budgeting Process
Following recommendations from our auditors, the MSU has begun the 2016/2017 budgeting process. The process will engage budget managers to determine plans and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to consultation with budget managers, the MSU also engages part-time employees, as well as elected representatives about the direction the organization should take. This year, the MSU will have a budget townhall in February at TwelvEighty to gather student feedback and consult with students to better understand their priorities in relation to the MSU’s budget managers’ perspectives.

Corporate Bylaw 3 – Finances
This year, the Vice President (Finance), as well as the Comptroller and the General Manager are working together to put in place rules regarding procurement for the MSU. The changes are being made to better align with recent changes in the public sector. This will ensure that all purchases by the MSU will be transparent, accountable and cost-effective. It will formally outline requirements for supporting documentation and vendors for each capital purchase.

Sponsorship and Donations
The MSU continues to operate the Sponsorship and Donations Committee, and receives a high volume of requests. Sponsorships are requests that the MSU receives that provide promotional opportunities and donations are requests that the MSU receives that provide a benefit to students and the greater community. This year, the MSU has distributed approximately $3750 to students and student groups, and will be accepting requests until the end of the academic year.

Transparency and Accountability
The MSU has been focused on transparency and accountability in their spending over the past two years. This year, we continued the “Your Money” info-graphics so that students could easily see how money is distributed within the MSU. In addition, the audited financial statements are posted online, and highlights are printed in The Silhouette. In addition to these steps, the MSU created two budget townhalls to better inform students of the MSU’s finances and understand where and how students want future money allocated. Additionally, the MSU now posts its monthly financial statements online, in addition to its annual audited statements.
CONCLUSION

As a student union, the MSU is not alone in the challenges it faces regarding transition and continuity within the organization. The fundamental pillar of its identity, that it is run by students, remains to be both the strongest asset of the organization, as well as its largest obstacle. As such, institutional memory and a thorough transition process are cardinal to the organization’s success and relevancy. Strategy plays an important role in making positive, sustainable improvements to the organization as well. In order to secure the long-term viability of projects and initiatives, the responsible individual(s) must take the necessary steps to ensure their projects evolve in a strategic manner, whether through a comprehensive transition report, changes to Bylaws and Operating Policies, or a document outlining a long-term plan.

The State of the Union also plays an important role in improving continuity by outlining the events and challenges of the previous year while describing areas which warrant further attention and work. Given that the majority of terms within the MSU last less than a year, the completion of certain projects is not feasible within such a timeframe. While it is important to continuously evolve in response to student opinion, the completion of relevant projects already begun cannot be neglected.

The coming months will bring forward many new ideas, opinions and criticisms of the MSU. As MSU members, students should immerse themselves in the debate and devote time to making an informed choice in all forthcoming elections. There are many areas in which the MSU can focus, and which priorities are eventually pursued is determined by the individuals elected to represent the student body. McMaster University boasts an abundance of different opinions and values. In order to ensure one’s views are adequately represented, it is essential to engage in the democratic process and hold elected representatives accountable.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. Given that undergraduate years are numbered, the MSU exists to help students get the most out of the university experience. This document was established in part to help students be active participants in deciding how the MSU goes about doing just that.
APPENDIX A:

BREAKDOWN OF FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FEES (2015/2016)

(A full-time student is enrolled in 18 units or more)

McMaster University Fees (approved by referendum or quorate MSU General Assembly):
- Administrative Services Fee: $1.21 per unit to a maximum of 30 units
- Athletics & Recreation Activity Fee: $116.09
- Orientation Levy (first time Level I students only): $115.36
- Sports Complex Building Fee: $4.67 per unit to a maximum of 30 units
- Student Health Services Fee: $59.39
- Student Services Fee: $4.53 per unit to a maximum of 30 units
- University Student Centre Building Fee: $0.63 per unit to a maximum of 30 units

McMaster Students Union Fees:
- CFMU 93.3FM Operating/Capital Fund: $12.80
- Dental Plan Premium: $118.90 (refundable with proof of coverage)
- Health Plan Premium: $109.95 (refundable with proof of coverage)
- HSR Bus Pass: $138.65
- Marmor Operating Fund: $9.22
- MSU Operating Fund: $124.33
- WUSC Student Refugee Fee: $1.53

Non-MSU / Non-University Fees:
- Engineers Without Borders: $0.38
- Incite Publication: $0.99
- McMaster Solar Car: $1.10
- McMaster Marching Band: $0.92
- Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG): $7.83 (refundable)

Faculty Society and Support Fees:
- Arts & Science Society: $28.11
- DeGroote Commerce Society: $200.40
- McMaster Engineering Society: $192.17
- McMaster Humanities Society: $60
- Health Sciences (Honours) Society: $30
- Nursing Society: $195.19
- McMaster Science Society/Kinesiology: $50.60
- Medical Radiation Science: $147.04
- McMaster Social Science Society: $65.76
APPENDIX B:
MSU OPERATING BUDGET 2015/2016 - NET
Infographic: Per Student Breakdown of MSU Operating Fee

Fee breakdowns are approximate and may be rounded
Statistics based on 2014/15 finances (May-April)

*Administration = majority of overhead and staffing costs
*Executive = MSU/SRA management as well as membership in OUSA
2015-2016 Approved Operating Fund: Larger Services – Net

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clubs Department (including OUSA)</td>
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<td>Executive</td>
<td>-$469,530</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
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<td>TwelvEighty</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Silhouette</td>
<td>-$183,700</td>
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Total: $0.00
### 2015-2016 Approved Operating Fund: Smaller Services – Net

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<th>Service</th>
<th>Net Amount</th>
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<td>Union Market</td>
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<td>SWHAT</td>
<td>-$15,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>-$6,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGEN</td>
<td>-$11,760</td>
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APPENDIX C:
PERSONNEL

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY (SRA) (MAY 2015 – PRESENT):

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ehima Osazuwa, MSU President
Giuliana Guarna, Vice President (Administration)
Daniel D’Angela, Vice President (Finance)
Spencer Nestico-Semianiw, Vice President (Education)

Arts & Science
Pearl Almeida (elected October 2015)

Business
Jethro Krause
Brandon Stegmaier
John Tambakis

Engineering
Omar Ali
Zehong Cao
Jason Dales (elected October 2015)
Uzair Faruqui
Sarah Kula
Souzan Mirza
Victoria Wojciechowska (resigned September 2015)

Health Sciences
Blake Oliver
Yishi Sun

Humanities
Bianca Caramento
Lindsey D’Souza
Ali Yazdankia

Kinesiology
Raymond Khanano (resigned August 2015)
Rina Muramatsu (elected October 2015)
Natasha Ngo

Nursing
Kayla Enriquez
Angela Mutoigo
Science
Matthew Brodka (resigned September 2015)
Miranda Clayton
Megan Hsu
Kevan McDougall
Shaarujaa Nadarajah
Naz Pakkal
Kathleen Pita
Aryan Pour-Bahreini (elected October 2015)

Social Sciences
Nicole Burke
Chukky Ibe
Sarah Jama
Eric Gillis
Jordan Manning

Speaker
Inna Berditchevskaia

COMMISSIONERS
Standing Committee on Bylaws & Procedures: Carter McInnis
Standing Committee on External Affairs: Saad Syed
Standing Committee on Finance: Jethro Krause
Standing Committee on Operations: Miranda Clayton
Standing Committee on Services: Brandon Stegmaier
Standing Committee on University Affairs: Blake Oliver

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Daniel D'Angela
Lindsay D'Souza
Eric Gillis (elected September 2015, resigned November 2015)
Giuliana Guarna
Megan Hsu (elected November 2015)
Chukky Ibe
Sarah Jama (resigned September 2015)
Raymond Khanano (resigned August 2015)
Shaarujaa Nadarajah (elected October 2015)
Spencer Nestico-Semianiw
Ehima Osazuwa
Brandon Stegmaier
FIRST YEAR COUNCIL (FYC)

Chair - Jessica Loiseau
Vice-Chair - Connor Maclean
Advocacy Director - Joseph Paganelli
Communications Director - Rhea Deshpande
Events Director - Balie Tomar

PART-TIME MANAGERS (PTMs)

Advocacy Coordinator - Christine Yachouh
Creating Leadership Amongst Youth (CLAY) - Jonathan Davis
Diversity Services - Nishan Zewge-Abubaker (Director);
                   Ryan Deshpande (Assistant Director)
Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) - Sachin Doshi
Elections Department - Priya Gupta (Chief Returning Officer);
                        Helen Zeng (Deputy Returning Officer)
Farmstand - Jonathon Patterson
Horizons Conference - Michael Coulson
Mac Bread Bin - David Cheng (Director);
                Veronica Van Der Vliet (Assistant Director)
MACCESS (pre-pilot year) - Alexander Wilson
MACycle - Justin Phan
MACgreen - Michele Zaman
Maroons - Nicole Vandenheuvel
Peer Support Line - Geneva Neal
Queer Students Community Centre (QSCC) - Emily Smith
Spark - Michael Gill
Student Community Support Network (SCSN) - Daymon Oliveros
Student Health Education Centre (SHEC) - Emma Mitchell
Shinerama / Terry Fox - Riley Armstrong
Student Walk Home Attendant Team (SWHAT) - Serena Arora
Teaching Awards Committee (TAC) - Alexander Wilson
Women & Gender Equity Network (WGEN) - Hayley Regis

NEW FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES HIRED

Accounts Receivable Supervisor - Sean Duncan
TwelvEighty Night Club Manager - Andrej Vilks
FULL-TIME STAFF

(APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF SERVICE)

Accounts Payable/Payroll Supervisor – Kevin O’Mara (4 years)
Accounts Receivable Supervisor – Sean Duncan (<1 year)
Administrative Assistant – Victoria Scott (8 years)
Administrative Assistant – Jess Bauman (4 years)
AVtek Coordinator – Jeff Cudahy (10 years)
Campus Events Director – Al Legault (6 years)
Campus Events Office Manager – Anthony Scime (Student Opportunity Position)
CFMU Administrative Director – Sandeep Bhandari (18 years)
CFMU Community Outreach Coordinator – Ingie Metwally (Student Opportunity Position)
CFMU Program Director – James Tennant (18 years)
Child Care Centre Cook – Marlene James (25 years)
Child Care Centre Director – Debbie Thomson (34 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Emily Young (30 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Karen Iles (28 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Lisette Ann Madore (32 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Michelle Fairbairn (23 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Miranda Vanderveen (7 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Peggy-Sue Paterson (19 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Sharon MacDougail (33 years)
Child Care Centre Early Childhood Educator – Sherri Huffman (3 years)
Clubs Administrator – Josh Patel (Student Opportunity Position)
Communications Officer – Mike Beattie (Student Opportunity Position)
Compass Manager – Debbie Good (29 years)
Comptroller – Maggie Gallagher (7 years)
Food and Beverage Manager – Richard Haja (6 years)
General Manager – John McGowan (14 years)
Network Administrator – Pauline Taggart (24 years)
Silhouette Editor-in-Chief – Amanda Watkins (Student Opportunity Position)
Student Life Development Coordinator – Michael Wooder (8 years)
TwelvEighty Assistant Kitchen Manager – Stuart Gold (5 years)
TwelvEighty Night Club Manager – Andrej Vilks (<1 year)
TwelvEighty Restaurant Manager – Jen Simas (2 years)
Underground Media + Design Designer – Dave Dedrick (8 years)
Underground Media + Design Manager – Sandro Giordano (29 years)
Underground Media + Design Multi-Media Designer – Rebecca Arboly (4 years)
Underground Media + Design Production Manager – Lesley Lilliman (26 years)
Underground Media + Design Service Coordinator – Justin Monaco-Barnes (Student Opportunity Position)
Union Market Manager – Hooria Raza (Student Opportunity Position)
University Ombuds – Carolyn Brendon (12 years)*

*Ombuds is co-funded between the McMaster Students Union and McMaster University

After 37 years with the organization, Marn Lawton, Accounts Receivable Supervisor retired in May 2015. Marn leaves the MSU as the longest serving employee of all time.
BYLAW 4-OF OFFICERS
1.4.5.1
The Chief Executive Officer shall deliver a written report outlining Executive and Board decisions and activities including, but not limited to, signed contracts, new employees hired and negotiations concluded and in progress.