YEAR PLAN
MSU PRESIDENT
JUSTIN MONACO-BARNES
2016-2017
(Submitted June, 2016)
Dear members of the Assembly,

This year as President of the MSU, my focus revolves around nine core concepts:

1) Sustainability  
2) Increased Financial Accessibility  
3) Pulse Expansion  
4) Enhancing Mental Heal Services  
5) A Safer Campus For All  
6) Creating a More Inclusive MSU  
7) More Student Space  
8) Additional MSU Club Support  
9) MSU Presence on Campus

Within each core concept, there are multiple branches consisting of plans, ideas, and solutions. This document was created in order to not only expand upon each concept, but to give further insight on to how we are going to be accomplishing each objective. Not only is this year plan meant for you to be updated on what we will be accomplishing as a team, but it is also meant for each of you to hold me accountable on the platform I was voted in on by the student body.

I am excited about this upcoming year because there are going to be so many positive changes that will impact all students with their day to day lives. And, like any team, this cannot be done alone - all of my success along the way is really our success. 2016/17 is going to be an extremely important year for the SRA, and you all are going to have a powerful voice with regards to some incredible ideas. Furthermore, I can confidently express that I would not want to go through this year with anybody else but yourselves.
If you have any additional questions with regards to this year plan, please do not hesitate to reach out. My goal was to summarize the fundamental framework of each idea to help create a mental map. Without writing a Tolkien sized novel, I tried to condense my ideas so they would be more palatable and therefore more straightforward (that’s how my brain works at least).

Again, thank you for taking the time to go over my year plan, and thank you for holding me accountable. I look forward to working with each and every one of you, and together I know we are going to make 2016/17 unforgettable.

Thank you,

Justin Monaco-Barnes
MSU President & CEO
## GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1</th>
<th>SUSTAINABILITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Improved sustainability is a crucial toward building a better tomorrow for everyone. With a heavy focus from our current government (both provincially and federally), it is evident that this is a shared priority on multiple levels. By working to make McMaster more sustainable than it already is, we are in turn improving the lives of students even after they have graduated.</td>
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| **Benefits** | • Reduced operating costs by undertaking initiatives that cut down on waste, water, and energy consumption.  
• Demonstrating leadership, and taking a sound stand on an issue that is so important toward restoring global balance.  
• Putting McMaster at the forefront of innovation, and therefore increasing national/global reputation. |
| **Difficulties** | • Sustainability changes are often long-term solutions  
• Upfront costs are typically high  
• This issue is often politicized making forward progression sometimes difficult (i.e. investments with oil companies) |
| **Long-term implications** | • A reduced carbon footprint  
• Continuing to expand the dialogue around sustainability, and the importance it carries going forward |
| **How?** | • Infrastructural upgrades/creating incentives for building environmentally friendly structures  
• Investments into clean energy  
• Fossil fuel divestments  
• Working with our services to ensure reduced carbon consumption  
• Look into making MUSC a water bottle free zone  
• Printing all courseware on paper that is 100% recycled |
| **Partners** | • Municipal, Provincial, and Federal Government  
• McMaster’s Office of Sustainability  
• Various MSU Services (Union Market, Underground, twelvEighty, Silhouette, Farm Stand, etc.), and MSU Clubs  
• McMaster Athletics & Recreation |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Objective 2</th>
<th>INCREASING FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Lowering student costs is a very important element for this year’s Board. Not only do we want to continue the work that the previous Board accomplished with regards to student costs, but we want to build upon it. This year’s focus is to not only look into the cost savings of the tuition framework, but to also look into reducing costs for courseware, and student fees.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits</strong></td>
<td>• Continuing to make tuition more affordable though freezes • Reduced courseware costs which allow for students to spend their money in other ways • Reduced fees for students going forward</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Difficulties</strong></td>
<td>• Freezing tuition increases is a multi-level process which must have various partners all on the same page (thankfully our VP Education Blake is amazing at what she does) • Bookstore does not like the idea of MSU getting into the courseware market which can pose a challenge communicating with professors • Finding distribution space with regards to selling courseware that is in high demand • Which students fees are essential, and which could be reduced is a challenging question that will be considered this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long-term implications</strong></td>
<td>• Savings from courseware and fees gives students more disposable income to spend on other necessities they may have in life outside of their academics • By making the academic year more financially accessible for students, we are in turn creating a better overall experience that impacts many lives in a positive way • Courseware revenue will also positively impact the student experience through increased funding to services, clubs, and events</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How?</strong></td>
<td>• Working with OUSA in order to lobby the provincial</td>
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### Objective 3

#### PULSE EXPANSION

**Description**
Anyone who goes to the Pulse during the school year understands how congested it can be. This level of congestion is not only discouraging to students who want to become more physically active; it also damages the experience of those who continue to go regardless. Countless studies show the direct correlation between living a healthy active lifestyle, and being academically successful. By expanding the Pulse, we will essentially be creating a better experience for those who use the facilities, as well as encourage new students to come and improve their own sense of health, and wellness.

**Benefits**
- Encourages students to improve their health, fitness, and wellbeing
- Creates a better experience for students, and community members who use the facilities
- Addresses an important student space issue

**Difficulties**
- Cost of total renovation
- Timeframe from start to finish could take up to two years

**Long-term implications**
- A much improved facility that will provide a space that is double the current size
- Increased health and wellbeing for students

**How?**
- A plan will be devised, and will then be brought to a referendum for the students to vote on

**Partners**
- Athletics & Recreation
- Student Affairs
- MSU Elections
**Objective 4** | **ENHANCING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
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**Description** | In the learning environment, we believe it is vital to ensure that those in higher roles of responsibility are adequately prepared to deal with changing circumstances due to mental health concerns. Therefore, we want to advocate for increased TA (Teacher Assistant) mental health training, as they are often the first avenue through which students address their concerns about their academic success as caused by mental health issues. Additionally, increasing training for our peer-support services (SHEC, WGEN, PSL, SWHAT, QSCC) is vital to improving mental health practices at McMaster. By empowering these organizations, we can help alleviate the high number of mental health cases seen at the Student Wellness Centre (SWC). Increasing training across these services would form, what we envision, as a Peer Support Network: a clustering of the many peer-support services offered by the MSU to streamline the process for students seeking help, advice, knowledge, etc. Looking into more professional counseling is something that will be looked into quite heavily as we strive to cut down wait times.

**Benefits** | • Improved mental health is something that will translate into better grades, and an overall better experience on and off campus  
• Providing MSU services with more resources ensures that we will be doing our best toward improving the lives and wellness of those who are in need  
• Teaching Assistants with more mental health resources will be able to do a better job with helping, and guiding students to getting the assistance they may be needing  
• Reduced wait times for counselors will provide students with the assistance they need in a more timely fashion

**Difficulties** | • Additional resources will cost extra time and money  
• Providing TA’s with extra training can sometimes be difficult  
• Clustering peer-support services will take a the year to complete in order to ensure it is done properly

**Long-term implications** | • Better trained TA’s who will be able to provide resources to students who come to them for support  
• A peer-support network that is able to work together in order
to achieve an increased level of wellness on campus

- A camps where students feel like they have the tools and resources they need in order to be successful

### How?

- Working with the VP Education with regards to TA resources
- Working with VP Administration in order to figure out the best ways to provide additional resources to our peer support services
- Continuing a positive dialogue with the Student Wellness Centre and SAS to further our knowledge base toward support

### Partners

- MSU peer support services
- Student Affairs
- Board of Directors for various responsibilities
- SAS
- Student Wellness Centre

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<tr>
<th>Objective 5</th>
<th><strong>SAFER CAMPUS FOR ALL</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Sexual violence is a prevalent issue on campuses across Canada, and Mac has taken large strides in the past few years to promote healthy relationships between students. However, we think that even more should be done. We want to establish a working group within the MSU striving for a campus environment in which individuals feel comfortable coming forward with their experiences. Thus, students affected by trauma will receive much-needed assistance, and the institution is supported in identifying perpetrators. Also, creating an official policy that follows specific guidelines will help aid the process for those who wish to seek further action.</td>
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| **Benefits** | • A campus environment where everyone feels safer  
- Creating an official policy to follow is essential toward determining a consistent process going forward  
- Working with outside agencies such as SACHA will bring in different perspectives, as well as offer additional professional support |
| **Difficulties** | • Coordinating with SACHA can sometimes be difficult with regards to scheduling conflicts  
- This can often be a sensitive topic, so it is extremely important that we make sure that we are talking about it, and |
| Long-term implications | We will be creating a culture for McMaster students where they not only feel safer, but they also know who to contact with regards to any issues they may be dealing with. With focus on creating an official policy, we will be streamlining our communication for those who are seeking answers to their questions.  
• This is a process that we will be constantly improving upon, so it is our responsibility to make sure we are always challenging our current systems. |
| How? | Working with various partners around campus, as well as the Hamilton community in order to constantly improve our practices  
• Working alongside HRES to develop a policy that is reflective of what is needed going forward |
| Partners | HRES  
• Various MSU Services (Diversity Services, QSCC, Peer Support Line, SHEC, WGEN, etc.)  
• SACHA  
• Student Wellness Center  
• McMaster University  
• McMaster Security Services |

**Objective 6**  
**Creating a More Inclusive MSU**

**Description**  
The McMaster Students Union is supposed to represent the interests and provide services to 22,000+ undergraduate students. We want to ensure our Student Union is representative of this diverse growing student population, and that leadership and growth opportunities in the Union are accessible to all. Our current Vice President of Administration (Shaaruja Nadarajah) has continued working on a significant remodelling of our hiring practices for part-time managers of MSU services to ensure a fair, and equitable application processes for all MSU paid positions. We would like to continue this conversation of accessibility of positions in the Student Union to our volunteer positions and focus on those not previously involved and discuss what can be changed with respect to our model. By clustering our MSU Services, and establishing that an individual can only hold one executive position on an MSU service within each cluster, the number of
students involved within the organization would increase dramatically, thus diversifying experiences within the organization. This goal aligns with the university’s core values and provides equitable opportunities to students who may feel discouraged from applying to these service positions because they feel they do not have the “insider advantage.”

**Benefits**  
- A diverse MSU that represents all students from all areas of McMaster’s campus  
- An inclusive culture that welcomes students from all walks of life  
- Applicants who apply for a job, or volunteer opportunity within the MSU feel as though they have an equal shot despite their lack of prior MSU insider knowledge  
- Clustering various services together will allow for more opportunities to be given to a wider range of students who might never have had a chance to take on a leadership role before

**Difficulties**  
- Changing all the hiring practices, as well as the culture within the MSU will take a fair bit of time (will most likely have to be continued by next years Board as well)  
- Changing the MSU service model to resemble more of a clustered system will take a concerted effort from various board members throughout the year

**Long-term implications**  
- An MSU that connects to more students around campus, as well as makes each and every student feel as though they have equal opportunities to get involved with various services

**How?**  
- Working with the current board to brainstorm the best way to approach this restructuring  
- Getting feedback from those involved with services in order to understand each of their own individual needs

**Partners**  
- Board of Directors (working extensively with VP Administration)  
- Students involved with services  
- General Manager of the MSU

**Objective 7**  
**MORE STUDENT SPACE**  
**Description**  
In order to address the high volumes of traffic during exam times, we would like to expand library hours so that the Health Sciences Library (HSL) operates as a 24-hour facility during
this period of the semester. We would also like to see the improvement/expansion of current infrastructure to be more functional for student needs (ie. expanded student center). The incoming Living and Learning Centre at Mac will provide lots of new opportunities for student groups to have a space to themselves. When this happens, we want to ensure that vacant spaces left by groups in the original Student Centre remain in the hands of student affairs, to combat the high demand for spaces by clubs and services of the MSU. By prioritizing these groups to have spaces of their own, instead of sharing space with 2 or 3 other bodies (the current situation for many clubs and services) we enable these groups to function at their best and empower them to be successful. Finally, since student space is in such high demand, we will be perusing additional space in the Ivor Wynn Centre, which will accompany the Pulse expansion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Difficulties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• More study/leisure space for students</td>
<td>• Space upgrades cost additional money</td>
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<tr>
<td>• More space for off campus students who need to spend full days on campus</td>
<td>• Time and construction can sometimes be daunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 24/7 HSL (Health Sciences Library) during exams will provide students with much more additional study space that is convenient, and quiet</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improving space we already have is cost effective, and efficient</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-term implications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A more functional student center that has increased seating, as well as better flow</td>
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<td>• A better all around experience for commuting students, as well as students who live on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increased study space during exams will aid students in being successful during their finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Setting up for future success by reserving space that will aid further growth of the MSU</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>How?</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Taking an active role on the MUSC Board of Management in order to represent the student voice in a meaningful way</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Working with HSL and SRA members in order to figure out the best plan going forward</td>
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<td>Objective 8</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
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</table>
| Benefits   | • MSU Clubs are a great way for students to connect to their school by participating in something they love. Joining the right club can significantly improve a students experience at McMaster, so we want to make sure each club has the tools, and recourses to engage with their members  
• More space and funding will provide the essentials needed to create a better student experience. |
| Difficulties | • Securing space in the basement of MUSC will be a 2-3 year process - but is essential to reserve it within this year |

- Adding an Ivor Wynn expansion that is student focused alongside the Pulse renovation
- Evaluating current space, and how it is being utilized

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
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</table>
| • Health Science Library  
• MUSC Board of Management  
• SRA - Health Sciences  
• Student Affairs  
• Athletics and Recreation |
• Additional funding will cost the MSU more money, so it is important for us to ensure that we have the resources required to do so

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<tr>
<th>Long-term implications</th>
<th>• An overall improved experience for every club, as well as the many students who are actively engaged</th>
</tr>
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</table>

| How?                   | • Working with Student Affairs to ensure space allocation  
|                        | • Working with the Clubs Administrator to understand the clubs needs  
|                        | • Working with the VP Finance, as well as the finance team to find ways to increase club funding |

| Partners               | • VP Finance & Finance team  
|                        | • Clubs Admin  
|                        | • Student Affairs |

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<tr>
<th>Objective 9 MSU PRESENCE ON CAMPUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
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| Benefits                           | • More engaged with student life  
|                                    | • Connects more students to the MSU  
|                                    | • Demonstrates support form the MSU as a whole |
| Difficulties                       | • Time constraints, and scheduling can often be an issue with planning |
| Long-term implications             | • A better relationship with the student body |
| How?                               | • Making an effort to get to as many things as I can |
| Partners                           | • The student body |
GOALS

List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September:

1. Courseware distribution locations.
2. An official sexual assault policy.
3. A confirmed Pulse expansion blueprint/layout with prices.
4. Active steps toward reducing our carbon footprint via infrastructural upgrade proposals, as well as in house sustainability changes.
5. Additional MSU Club funding is provided to all clubs.

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term:

1. Additional courseware sales.
2. A final floor plan + referendum proposal created for the Pulse expansion/Ivor Wynn space upgrade.
3. Impactful sustainable changes made to campus, and MSU services (i.e. Union Market). As well as plans for infrastructural changes moving forward.
4. TA’s provided with additional mental health resources to provide to students who may come to them.
5. Peer support services are being given more support and resources in order to provide students with the best assistance possible.

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term:

1. Second round of courseware has been distributed successfully providing various services, clubs, and events with additional revenue.
2. Pulse expansion/Ivor Wynn upgrades will begin shortly after a successful referendum.
3. Proposed green infrastructural changes have been approved, and will be moving ahead, and the MSU/McMaster University is on track to take the number one spot for “Greenest University in Province” (sorry Ottawa).
4. MSU services have all successfully been clustered which will in turn create a more inclusive, diverse, and expanded MSU culture.
5. Student space is becoming less of a problem on campus due to the changes that were made this year, and years to come.
6. Mental health and wellness is improving on campus due to improved wait times, peer service support, and TA assistance.

7. Students feel safer on campus knowing there is an official process that takes place with regards to sexual assault. Being able to have a direct contact with various MSU Services, HRES, and SACHA provide students with a better understanding of where they can go if they need any questions answered.

8. My approval rating is off the charts due to the fact that I was able to run a campaign that focused on real, tangible change. Students are able to recognize how hard the Board, SRA, and I have worked all year in order to improve their overall experience here at McMaster. Showing my support through attending many events, charities, fundraisers, etc. over the year, and speaking to thousands of individuals, I was able to connect with the student body on a level that made them feel part of something special. It is indeed my sincerest hope that these students understand how much I appreciate them, and their support for me during this past year as well.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Projects/Initiatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>• Sustainability projects begin&lt;br&gt;• Courseware for start of school year&lt;br&gt;• Finishing projects that were carried over&lt;br&gt;• Pulse Expansion early stages&lt;br&gt;• Drafting sexual assault policy&lt;br&gt;• Upgrading student space for start of school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>• Upgrading student space for start of school year&lt;br&gt;• Pulse Expansion plans&lt;br&gt;• Courseware for start of school year&lt;br&gt;• Sustainability projects continue&lt;br&gt;• Revising and creating new hiring practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>• Upgrading student space for start of school year&lt;br&gt;• Courseware for start of school year&lt;br&gt;• Collaborating with SACHA&lt;br&gt;• Sustainability projects continue&lt;br&gt;• Looking into student fees, and additional club support&lt;br&gt;• Discussion around improved mental health on campus begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>• Courseware for start of school year&lt;br&gt;• Sustainability projects continue&lt;br&gt;• Getting prepared for Welcome Week&lt;br&gt;• Homecoming preparation&lt;br&gt;• Finishing upgraded student space&lt;br&gt;• Finalizing sexual assault policy to be active starting Sept 1, 2016&lt;br&gt;• Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>• Pulse expansion plans continue&lt;br&gt;• Sustainability projects continue&lt;br&gt;• Homecoming preparation&lt;br&gt;• Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus&lt;br&gt;• Being active in the community, and showing support to students</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>• Pulse expansion plans continue&lt;br&gt;• Sustainability projects continue&lt;br&gt;• Begin looking into a clustered system for MSU Services&lt;br&gt;• Being active in the community, and showing support to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Tasks</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</table>
| November   | • Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus (looking into additional professional support)  
• Working with Health Sciences Library to be open 24/7 during exams  
• Wrapping up final plans for the Pulse expansion  
• Sustainability projects continue  
• Continue work on the clustered system  
• Being active in the community, and showing support to students  
• Working with HRES and SACHA in order to build a safer campus |
| December   | • Getting courseware ready for term 2  
• Ensure Health Sciences Library is open 24/7 during exams  
• Sustainability projects continue  
• Getting Pulse expansion ready for referendum in January  
• Continuing work on the clustered system  
• Being active in the community, and showing support to students during exams  
• Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus |
| January    | • Term 2 Courseware distribution  
• Sustainability projects continue  
• Referendum for Pulse expansion  
• Clustering services continue  
• Being active in the community, and showing support to students  
• Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus  
• Additional work with HRES and SACHA  
• Securing space for future years to benefit from |
| February   | • Sustainability projects continue  
• Pulse expansion plans and timelines begin  
• Services are nearing the final stages of being clustered  
• Improved hiring practices begin  
• Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus  
• Preparation for Light Up The Night begins |
| March      | • Sustainability projects continue creating a foundation for future years to build open  
• Pulse expansion plans and timelines continue |
| Light Up The Night work continues  
| MSU Services at final stages of clustering  
| Revised hiring practices are nearing end stages  
| Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus  
|  
| Sustainability projects continue (for new Board to expand upon)  
| Looking to build upon last years courseware model  
| Pulse expansion begins in the coming months  
| Continuing initiatives to improve mental health on campus  
| Continuing to work with HRES and SACHA in order to make McMaster safer each year  
| Revised hiring practices are now in effect, clustered system now in place  
| Health Sciences Library open again 24/7 for exams  
| More club funding will continue to be available for upcoming years  
| Being active in the community, and showing support to students |