

# YEAR PLAN

MSU President  
Ehima  
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2015-2016  
(Submitted Soon)



Dear Members of the Assembly,

In the following document I present to you my year plan; these are the things I would like to accomplish this year. A lot of my platform points are advocacy based platform points, but I also have some few project based platform points that I would like to be completed by year end. Below is a summary of the 7 platform points I ran on, with a few edits based on things I have learnt and discovered since I got in the role:

- Interfaith Accessibility
- Improved Club Support
- Gender Neutral Washroom
- Talk Tuition
- Food Enhancement
- Women in Governance
- (IN)Visible Accessibility

In the document presented I have offered ways in which I think we can get to the end goal but we need to be cognizant of the fact that things change. As long as we remain true to ourselves and principles, the means in which we get to the end goal does not matter as much as the end goal itself.

I would also like to use this opportunity to plead for patience, while I know that the nature of the job means that I will be out of office in a year's time, some things take longer than one year to be fully accomplished. The key is remembering that not because we cannot make something 100% should we stop trying. I guarantee to work tirelessly to work on achieving these goals.

Accomplishing platform points are not the only job of the MSU Presidents but the job also has a lot of other responsibilities. The president's job is very diverse; it ranges from advocacy to supervising people while also being the Chief Spokesperson of the organization. While this document is meant to provide insight on what I plan on accomplishing this year, know that I will be doing more as new things will pop up.

At the end of the day, I am just an email or phone call away. My door is always open to anyone, so if you have any question, idea, suggestion or solutions to an issue please feel free to approach me. There is so much that can be done with collaboration and discussion. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Best Regards,

Ehima Osazuwa

MSU President

## GOALS

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Objective	<b>Talk Tuition: Tuition Task Force</b>
Description	The first part of the talk tuition platform is the creation of a Tuition Task force. The aim of this task force is to conduct enormous research into tuition, while at the same time providing students with financial assistance tools to ease the financial burden. The committee will explore both the tuition landscape at McMaster as well as across the province of Ontario. The committee will be chaired by the Vice President Education
Benefits	The benefits of this are tremendous. Students can get engaged in tackling tuition, as well as being equipped to ease the financial burden on themselves and other MSU members. This will also increase and foster student engagement
Difficulties	Is this committee redundant? Direction of the committee? It might frustrate the students on the committee when progress is slow.
Long-term	The long term goal is to have this committee become a permanent committee of the McMaster Students Union. Another long term goal is to have tuition a conversation that every student is engaged in.
How	The committee will be meeting about once a month, and will have a formal report circulated to the SRA at-least once every semester. The committee will also be hosting Tuition focused events that will be open to the general public.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice President (Education and Finance)</li> <li>• Advocacy Coordinator</li> <li>• Student Life Development coordinator.</li> <li>• Members of the Committee</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>Talk Tuition: Textbook Prices and Policy.</b>
Description	The second step in the talk tuition platform is to attempt to regulate and cheapen the textbook prices. Textbooks and supplies cost students a significant amount of money. The aim of this is to find creative and new ways to reduce the prices of coursewares, course packs and textbooks. Underground will be a key player in the printing of coursewares and course packs. As the MSU president I will work with the university to protect the interests of the students and ensure that the prices of textbooks would not affect the quality of our education. Recirculation of former editions will also be encouraged to ensure that senior students will make more money by selling their books when the demand on them is still high, while lower year students can purchase it at an affordable price.
Benefits	Cheaper textbook prices eases the financial burden on students, which can free up more money that can be allocated to the payment of tuition
Difficulties	Upon discussion with some staff in the MSU, there is push back from the university to allow underground to print certain type of materials. Also textbook prices are not completely controlled by the university, there are various external stakeholders that come into play
Long-term	The goal long term will be to have majority of textbooks available online, where students can either pay a cheap subscription fee or get the book for free. Also, a long-term goal will be to have the underground or university sell coursewares and course-packs at a price just above printing cost.
How	I plan on meeting with Sean V.K to see how we can if it is feasible to write a policy on textbook circulation and prices. I will also be reaching out to OUSA to help with the research aspect of things. The MSU will work with the Underground to get more coursewares and course packs printed at the underground. This not only brings money to the MSU but also eases the financial burden on students
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean VK (AVP of Students)</li> <li>• Underground Team</li> <li>• VP Finance (D. D'Angela)</li> <li>• Director of Campus Bookstore</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>Talk Tuition: Tuition Freeze</b>
Description	<p>A few years back the latest tuition framework was released. Under this new framework, annual tuition fee increases will be capped at an average of three percent. Each year at the Board of Governors (the highest governing body of the university) it is decided in how much of that three percent the university wants to increase tuition by. For the upcoming year, the MSU president and VP Education are going to meet with the individual members of the board of directors to discuss the fee, and request that it is frozen for the following year (16/17) and if it must increase it must only increase to a maximum of inflation rate/CPI (2.4%)</p> <p>The budget planning process for the coming year (15/16) happens way before the VP Ed and I got into office, and it would have been nearly impossible to have requested a tuition freeze for the upcoming year.</p> <p>* The tuition fee for the past few years can be found here (<a href="http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/pdf/tuition14-15.pdf">http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/pdf/tuition14-15.pdf</a>)</p>
Benefits	<p>Lower increase helps ease the financial burden on students, but it is more than that. A tuition freeze sends a message to the students that the university and the MSU are listening to their requests.</p>
Difficulties	<p>To my knowledge, University is facing tight financial constraints. They have a lot of fixed cost that must be paid each year, as well as numerous faculties, admin and staff salaries and pensions that must be paid each year. Also the expenses the university pays goes up by inflation/CPI each year. Also there are a lot of voting members at the Board of Governors who will need to be convinced and spoken to.</p>

Long-term	It is my hope the university will listen to the recommendation of not only this year's BOD's recommendation to freeze Tuition, but also that of OUSA's which recommends that tuition is also frozen also and if it must go up, must only go up by CPI.
How	Spencer, the VP Education and I will be working with OUSA for support with the research side of things. We will attempt to use the latest Tuition policy paper that was passed at the last OUSA general assembly.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University Advancement Team</li><li>• Board of Governors Student Rep</li><li>• Office of the VP Administration</li><li>• VP Education</li><li>• CFO of University</li><li>• All voting members at the BOG</li></ul>

Objective	<b>Improved Club Support: 2<sup>nd</sup> Clubs Admin Assistant.</b>
Description	We would like to provide more human support for clubs. In the past, there was only one club administrator and one assistant clubs administrator. Students complained that they felt that the club administrator was overworked. The solution was to add a 2 <sup>nd</sup> assistant this year, and then reevaluate at the end of the year if the addition was sufficient or not. The hiring of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> assistant helps to serve the 300 + MSU clubs better.
Benefits	Clubs can have more support. Clubs are the backbone of student life, making clubs happy makes students happy. Having a second clubs admin assistant speeds a lot of clubs requests.
Difficulties	Is this addition going to be enough? What exactly are the two club admin assistants going to do? How exactly are the roles going to be divided between the two assistants?
Long-term	We think this addition of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> clubs admin assistant is a sustainable project as this can be built into the budget for the upcoming years. Long-term, we want clubs to be able to get the support they need and deserve.
How	During the hiring process, two club admin assistants will be hired instead of one. Also, the Clubs administrator will properly outline the roles of each assistant before the assistants begin their role.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Life Development Coordinator</li> <li>• Clubs Administrator</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>Improved Club Support: Upgrade Club space to an online booking system</b>
Description	Club space is the hub room for clubs to have events and hangout. The aim of this is to move the booking of club space from a manual booking to an online one.
Benefits	By moving it online, clubs can instantly know when club space is available for use. Also by moving it to an online system, the clubs administrator becomes freer and that time could be use on other productive things.
Difficulties	Cost: It costs about \$120/hour for a programmer to code this into the website. So the cost of the project could rise very swiftly.
Long-term	I hope this initiative allows more student clubs to access club space in the future.
How	This is something I will work with the Clubs Admin as well as the Student Life Development Coordinator (SLDC) as well as the Network administrator, Pauline. A request will be sent to Factor(e), the people who operate the website, who will then work on making this a function on the MSU website.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Life Development Coordinator</li> <li>• Clubs Administrator</li> <li>• Network Assistant</li> <li>• Factor(e)</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>Improve Club Support: Clubs Newsletter</b>
Description	Create a biweekly to monthly clubs newsletter to notify the entire school on what upcoming events are happening for our MSU clubs.
Benefits	Having a newsletter helps to inform students on what is happening on the clubs area of campus. This will be another avenue for clubs to promote their events
Difficulties	We don't anticipate too many struggles with this, as this is something that the clubs administrator sees as a feasible project. The major difficulty with this will be distribution and getting the newsletter to the students.
Long-term	This is a really exciting project that will be here for years to come. The hope is that the newsletter becomes something everyone reads frequently

How	The newsletter could either be an online newsletter that will be sent out through email as well as distributed through various social media outlet or it could be printed in hard copy and distributed just like the Silhouette newspaper is distributed.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Life Development Coordinator</li> <li>• Clubs Admin</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>Gender Neutral Washroom</b>
Description	<p>A gender neutral washroom is a single person facility which is not labeled as female or male but instead is available to anyone irrespective of their biological sex or gender identity</p> <p>Accessibility comes in many forms. Arising with each form is its unique level of complexity. I acknowledge I may not be able to understand every layer of accessibility fully. But as an ally of all McMaster Students, I want to work with all groups on campus to ensure a safe space for all to enter. Let us start with the essential basics, gender-neutral washrooms.</p>
Benefits	By doing this we can create a more welcoming space for individuals with non-binary gender identities. This also means that anyone who may not feel safe using a gendered washroom for any reason has a safe place to go
Difficulties	A platform point like this takes a lot of educating and convincing. Individuals might not be inclined to see the benefit and positive impact of this. The MSU controls a lot of the spaces in MUSC but outside this building there are a lot of stakeholders who will need to be consulted with,
Long-term	Ideally there will be a gender neutral washroom in every single building on campus that has a single stall washroom.
How	The plan is to remove the gender signs on the single stall washrooms and replace it with a gender neutral sign or All Gender sign. This process of the platform will be completed with the help of facilities. A committee will be struck that will help tackle this issue with individuals from WGEN, QSCC, Diversity Services, Advocacy and more.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HRES</li> <li>• VP Admin/Education</li> <li>• Facilities.</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>FOOD: Late Night Food</b>
Description	All the food places on campus close sometime between 11pm and midnight. The average student stays up longer than this, and is always hungry. Providing students with late night food = better studying = better grades.
Benefits	Providing students with late night food = better studying = better grades. Also late night food on campus means that students do not have to walk extremely long distances late at night to get food
Difficulties	To keep places on campus open longer means paying more wages. Cost becomes a barrier if the revenue generated is less than the expenses incurred. Also, staff safety becomes an issue when the bus stops running and people need to get home.
Long-term	A food place on campus is open 24/7
How	Initially the plan was to have Mini Mac and Union Market open longer but after speaking to the director of hospitality services it seems that Mini Mac would not be opened longer. Instead we would work to having Union Market open as well as installing state of the art vending machines (with Soda, Sandwiches, Hot Beverages all available). This is a good compromise, as students will still be able to get food on campus.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitality Services</li> <li>• VP Finance</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>FOOD: Food Transparency</b>
Description	The idea behind food transparency is providing readily available and transparent information about the food you eat. This year we will work on providing ingredients and nutritional information for the menu's at TwelvEighty
Benefits	With this students can make informed decisions as to what they consume.
Difficulties	The biggest issue is implementation. In previous years, the nutritional information has been collected but not added to the menu/

Long-term	Expand this to all the food places on Campus.
How	The MSU has control/access to TwelvEighty, so barring any setback this is feasible. The menu would be designed and printed by the underground, and this will be attached to the existing menu that the restaurant has.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner</li> <li>• TwelvEighty staff</li> </ul>

Objective	<b>FOOD: Kitchen Stops</b>
Description	Students bring food from home, and want to be able to heat it up and prepare it quickly. Microwaves, toasters and sometimes kettles would be provided in numerous locations on campus.
Benefits	Reduces waiting time to have food heated up and prepared. Also having numerous food stops on campus encourages students to bring food from home, which is less expensive than the food on campus.
Difficulties	Funding: Who will be providing funding for this project? Also, we would also need to get clearance from various building administrators to have appliances in their space.
Long-term	To have numerous Kitchen stops in all the buildings on campus. A day will come when students do not have to wait in lines to prepare their food.
How	Apply for SLEF funding, or speak to faculty societies and lobby to them to have kitchen stops in their lounges. The funding for this can be split between faculty societies and the MSU
Partners	Facilities and Faculty Societies

Objective	<b>FOOD: Community Kitchen</b>
Description	This is the dream. The plan is to have a community kitchen on campus where students can stop by and cook; they can also use this kitchen as a venue to teach other students how to cook certain dishes.
Benefits	Community building. Students would be able to cook meals to their satisfaction.
Difficulties	It is difficult to find a kitchen space on campus. Space is scarce on the McMaster campus, so there will have to be a lot of consultation in finding out a space Also, there will be a lot of liabilities and insurance that would need to be figured out.
Long-term	There will be a community kitchen in the new Living Learning Centre building or any new building that will be built in the near future
How	Start the conversation with hospitality services, and see where they envision this. Also look at other alternative spaces on campus that can host a community kitchen.
Partners	VP Finance, Hospitality Services

Objective	<b>(IN)Visible Accessibility: Design of MACCESS app</b>
Description	Work with campus partners to design an app to make sure that there is a constant update of elevators that are out of service on campus and that will offer alternative routes to buildings for winter barriers
Benefits	This allows students to figure out the most accessible ways to get to classes before encountering a barrier themselves.
Difficulties	Biggest issue is promotion and getting the word out there to students about the App once it is created
Long-term	The App will encompass other functions that are beneficial to students. The App will also be well known to the students of McMaster.
How	I will be working with a recent grad from McMaster who received funding from SLEF. He has a design team, which assists in the creation of the App. I will be working with him to help promote this to the students at McMaster. I will also be involved in the testing/feedback of the system.
Partners	Nick Schoenhoff , Promotions team of the MSU

Objective	<b>(IN)Visible Accessibility: TA Training</b>
Description	I will work with the University Administration and Student Accessibility Services to update the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act training that is offered to Faculty members and Teaching Assistants at McMaster University and I will work to make this training mandatory for these groups.
Benefits	With the training updates, faculty and TAs will have more awareness in dealing with students who have various disabilities.
Difficulties	Biggest issue is making training mandatory, as employees will need to be paid for this training. This leads to the issue of money and where it would come from.
Long-term	TA's and faculty members will be thoroughly trained in various aspects. They will become properly trained in accommodating students in their course structure.
How	As with a lot of advocacy points, there will be numerous consultations with the various stakeholders. Also the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the TA's and their employees expire this year, so this is a good year for improvement of TA's to be lobbied on.
Partners	CUPE, MUFA, University Admin, VP Admin and Education

Objective	<b>(IN)Visible Accessibility: Keys on Lifts</b>
Description	According to Tim Nolan for Student Accessibility Services, lifts on campus are inconsistent. Some require key cards and others require legitimate keys. For students who require the use of lifts but are not registered with Student Accessibility Services, it can be difficult to access keys for the lifts. A lot of times, keys do not work, or lifts require that one calls SWHAT or Security Services for access to the lifts. For students who need the lifts, waiting for external help can make it difficult to get to class on time. Part of this problem is caused by the fact that all of the lifts on campus are required by legislation to be locked
Benefits	This will eliminate the wait time that students endure when waiting for Security Services to open the lifts if their own key card has malfunctioned or if they are not registered with SAS but requires use of the lifts. This will give students who need access to these lifts the freedom to get to their classes on time without delay.
Difficulties	Biggest issue is that if the lifts do not have keys, people who do not need them might misuse them.
Long-term	The long term goal is to have all the lifts on campus function properly and all lifts should be complying with the standard set out by Ontario government.

How	As President of the MSU and with the advice of Tim Nolan, the Director of Student Accessibility Services, I will lobby to the University to allow open access to the lifts on campus
Partners	Facility Services, Student Accessibility Services

Objective	<b>Women in Governance</b>
Description	The MSU needs more women identified individuals in governance position. In past years, the higher up you go in the MSU the fewer women you find. This is clearly an issue that must be tackled, and will take years to attempt to solve. We need to have a better representation of women in our MSU Governance
Benefits	Women identified individuals bring skills to the table that no one else can bring. It is a massive benefit when these skills are brought to the table.
Difficulties	Tokenism and Tracking Progress. I do not want individuals to feel that they are being tokenized. Also, this is a platform point that might be hard to track the progress over just one year.
Long-term	Better representation of the student body in leadership and governance positions.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentorship Program</li> <li>• Increase Quality and Quantity of talk shops and work shops</li> <li>• Leadership Summit for Women conference</li> </ul>
Partners	WGEN, MSU wants you

Objective	<b>Interfaith Accessibility</b>
Description	The goal is to push for a centralized multi-faith area and ensure dietary and financial accessibility towards all religious groups on campus. One should be able to practice their faith without any restrictions
Benefits	By pushing for a multi-faith area and ensuring dietary and financial accessibility towards all religious groups, McMaster can become a more welcoming place for everyone.
Difficulties	Getting Kosher food options on campus is expensive. Space on campus is scarce; there will be difficulty in finding a centralized prayer space on campus.

Long-term	The long term plan is to have a centralized multi faith area on the McMaster Campus.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Push for more Halal and Kosher Food options on campus</li><li>• Lobby for a prayer space that is in the centre of location</li></ul>
Partners	Chaplaincy Centre, Food places on Campus

OTHER THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON

- Peer Tutoring Network
- Ice Rink
- Space on Campus
- Off Campus Safety

## **GOALS to strive for**

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

1. Creation of Tuition Task Force
2. Have food on campus past midnight
3. Have a second clubs admin assistant
4. Online Booking for Clubs system
5. Leadership Summit for Women Conference planned out

### **List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1<sup>st</sup>)**

1. Peer Tutoring Network Up and running
2. Campus skating rink in pilot phase
3. The MACESS app up and running
4. Newsletter for clubs
5. The introduction of a Gender Neutral Washroom in MUSC

### **List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

1. Request a Tuition Freeze from the BOG
2. Light up the night executed and feedback collected for growth in future years
3. Have a textbook policy in place
4. A plan for a community kitchen on campus
5. A plan for Space on campus which includes a prayer space on Campus.