

The McMaster Students Union

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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For some, it is hard to believe that student politics can make a difference in student life. However, the results of student politics can be seen every day, from where we decide to eat on campus, to how much we receive in financial aid. MSU presidential elections will continue to shape the student experience at McMaster University. Politics and campaigns undeniably matter.

They matter because two years ago, Justin Monaco-Barnes promised students an expansion to the Pulse and more student space. Soon, we will be breaking ground on the Student Activity Building and beginning the Pulse expansion project. Ehima Osazuwa ran a campaign in part concerned with lowering tuition, and a year later we saw transformative changes to the OSAP program through the MSU's leadership in provincial advocacy. Teddy Saull

wanted to improve student life, and ended up creating Light Up the Night, the annual McMaster block party. David Campbell advocated for and eventually achieved increased transit schedules for students. Siobhan Stewart advocated for and in time got a fall reading week for students. MSU presidential elections matter. These aspects of student life we celebrate and may take for granted began with candidates putting themselves forward, and students voting for them.

As students begin the process of deciding what candidate they believe in and choosing who to rank first, second, third and so forth on the ballot, there are several critical questions that must be asked. What are the motivations behind a candidate running? What have they done in the past to uplift and enhance student life at McMaster? The best marker for future success is past success, combined with lessons learned from previous failures.

The platforms of candidates give students a sense of where their priorities lie, allowing students to decide who will best deliver the change they desire. Nonetheless, the role of the MSU president is only partially related to fulfilling ideas on a platform. Fundamentally, the job is to articulate the concerns of the student body to relevant stakeholders, while be-

Obama shared great wisdom when she said, "The presidency doesn't change who you are, it reveals who you are, and the same thing is true of a presidential campaign." Candidates are permitted to make mistakes, learn, and come back the next day even better. Whether you are running for us, want to fill the gaps, building tomorrow, today, allowing stu-

## MSU presidential elections will continue to shape the student experience at McMaster University

ing an impassioned advocate for such concerns. The job is part advocacy, part representation, part platform, and part student relations. It is essential for candidates to strike a balance throughout these roles.

Students should approach candidates with gratitude for the sacrifices they make to run a campaign. In addition, students should also hold their candidates accountable for their statements, ideas, and priorities. Michelle

dents to raise their voice, believe it is our destiny, or you want to see our community improve faster or step forward, we all want to make McMaster dope. I thank all the candidates for trusting their dopeness, and for the teams that support them. Marauders are in good hands, and I look forward to the process and the result. Visit [msumcmaster.ca/elections](http://msumcmaster.ca/elections) for more information on the OPIRG referendum and details on each of the presidential candidates.

## MSU PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION '18 & REFERENDA

PRESIDENTIAL MEET & GREET

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

MONDAY JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00PM-8:00PM  
TWELVEIGHTY BAR & GRILL

THURSDAY JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
4:00PM-6:30PM  
MUSC ATRIUM

VOTE ONLINE

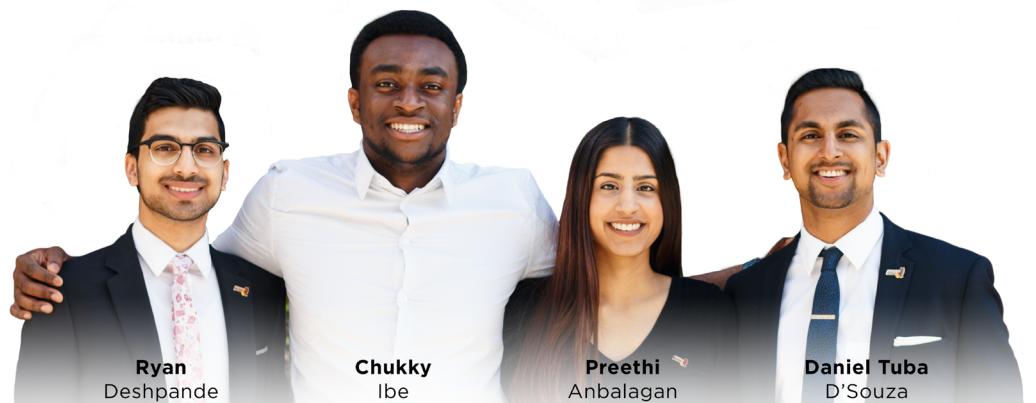
JANUARY 23 TO JANUARY 25 AT 5PM

For more info visit: [MSUMcMASTER.CA/ELECTIONS](http://MSUMcMASTER.CA/ELECTIONS)

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MSU ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT



VP (Education)

President

VP (Administration)

VP (Finance)



The President's Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board's projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.