

YEAR PLAN
MSU Vice President Education
Stephanie Bertolo
2018-2018
(submitted *July 10, 2018*)



OFFICE OF THE *Vice President (Education)*

INTRODUCTION

Dear Assembly,

I am incredibly grateful and excited to be your Vice-President (Education) in this year of immense change. With two elections in my term and one not too long after, we will be seeing great progress on initiatives as elected representatives' terms come to an end as well as new possibilities open up with the new cycle.

I am the first VP (Education) to advocate to a Progressive Conservative majority government in 15 years. At first, this seems daunting. As student leaders, how we advocate will change and our expectations must as well. However, it is most important to see this as an opportunity. With you, the Board of Directors, and OUSA, we will lay the groundwork for the next four years, or even longer. We will be the first to meet with the new government and set the advocacy priorities that our successors will continue to work to achieve. It is important that we communicate the value of universities to the community, the province, and the world. One of the best ways to do so is to be strong and informed advocates that demonstrate that post-secondary education is building the leaders of both today and tomorrow. Investing in us is the best investment that we, as a society, can make in the future.

Those on campus already understand that value. We must show them our vision on how we can make universities even better. Above all else, we are here to learn. Though, at times, we face challenges in doing so. It is important that we advocate that classes are accessible and that we have all the tools we need to succeed. It is also important that we look for new and innovative ways to teach, including experiential learning opportunities, that best prepare us for our next steps in life after graduation. We also need the appropriate resources outside of the classroom. Healthcare, sexual violence prevention and response protocols, access to food, among other programs are crucial to ensuring that students are supported in the times that they need it the most. We must advocate to ensure these supports are in place and best serving students.

As mentioned in my election, I truly believe that we are stronger together. We are all driven by the same passion to improve the lives of McMaster students. By learning from you and with you, we will handle any challenges that this year presents itself in stride. May we strive to push beyond expectation and make meaningful change together.

Always yours,
Stephanie Bertolo
VP (Education)

GOALS

Objective 1	<i>Improving Education Team's Outreach</i>
Description	Many students are unaware of the great advocacy work that the MSU does and the opportunities to get involved. I will better communicate the work of the Education Team to the student body through monthly updates on the MSU website, outlining the student body on our progress, upcoming projects, and advocacy wins. Additionally, I will promote the opportunity to join the Education Team committees to better involve all students. This will be achieved through a comprehensive promotional strategy developed with our Marketing and Communications Team.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better understanding of advocacy done by the MSU from the general student body - Increased engagement on Education Team committees - Increased input from the student body and thus better representation
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the information overload on social media platforms, it may be difficult to get large uptake
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With a better understanding of the MSU's advocacy work, we will see increased engagement and involvement in the Education Team as well as the MSU more broadly, creating a richer and more diverse perspective
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide monthly updates on advocacy work on the MSU website 2. Promote the ability to join committees starting in September 3. Create promotional materials, such as rave cards, to promote the MSU Advocacy pages and the committee 4. Post more frequently to maintain engagement on social media platforms
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associate Vice-Presidents - Advocacy Coordinator - Michael Wooder, Marketing and Communications Director - MSU Underground Media + Design

Objective 2	<i>Support Faculty Societies' Advocacy</i>
Description	Last year, the Ryan Deshpande build the MSU's advocacy capacity to PTMs, SRA, and FYC, which I will continue to do this year. To further expand student advocacy, I will also offer training and support to faculty societies who want to expand the amount of advocacy work that they do.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creates a stronger united front of students advocating for the betterment of student life - Builds stronger relationships with faculty societies
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending on how much support faculty societies need after training, it may be time-consuming for me
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With more students at McMaster advocating in an effective manner, we will be able to achieve greater success
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact faculty societies to offer my support in their advocacy initiatives and offer to provide training 2. With those who express interest in training, arrange a training day with their Presidents or relevant executive members 3. Provide ongoing support throughout the year by being open to meetings and phone calls
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faculty Society Presidents

Objective 3	<i>MSU Policy Development</i>
Description	<p>This is the second year of policy development with the new structure. In order to ensure the policies we write are well researched and accurately represent the views of students, I will make adjustments to the policy writing timeline. In consultation with my Associate Vice-Presidents and Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants, we will be writing the following policies this year, subject to change if required:</p> <p>Fall Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Engagement and Retention • Tuition & Post-Secondary Affordability • On-campus infrastructure <p>Winter Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial, Cultural, and Religious Equity • Accessibility • Student Housing in Near Campus Neighbourhoods

	<p>I want to significantly improve our consultation process with the student body. This will be done in two-fold more effectively engaging relevant MSU Services, such as Diversity Services, Maccess, and SCSN, who will help to co-develop the paper. Additionally, I want to gain more direct feedback from students through online surveys and focus groups. I will also ask interested SRA members to reach out to their constituents about the policy topics and gather input that the policy writers can then incorporate into the policies.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well-developed policies that better represent students' experiences - Decreased stress on Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants and policy authors - More involvement of MSU services in advocacy work
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased responsibilities for already strained MSU services - Potential of lack of engagement with surveys and focus groups as a result of survey fatigue
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More high-quality policies will result in key stakeholders have to lead to stronger advocacy to key stakeholders
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assign Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants their papers in the summer in order for them to complete research packs and initial brainstorming to start the policy writing process sooner during the fall term 2. Consult with relevant PTMs and execs on the best way to go about collaborating on the policies together 3. Work with interested SRA members on a plan to consult constituents, including delivering training about how to conduct focus groups or possible questions to ask students. The feedback will be incorporated into the early stages of policy development 4. Advertise policy brainstorming sessions to all interested SRA and service volunteers rather than just to authors 5. Aim to have the final policies done a week before Policy Con in order to give attendees more time to review the policies
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants - Associate Vice-Presidents - Advocacy Coordinator - SRA members - Maccess - SCSN

	- Diversity Services
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Objective 4	<i>Ombuds Review</i>
Description	Given the passage of time since the last Ombuds review, it is important to understand whether the Ombuds, as currently arranged and funded, is operating as effectively as possible in supporting the needs of the McMaster community. This review has been postponed for a number of years, but we have plans to complete it this year. The process will involve a review committee conducting document review and interviews of the relevant internal stakeholders.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It will be ideal to do this review this year since it has been postponed for a while - This review will help ensure that the Ombuds office is being adequately supported and best-serving students
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There may be conflicting ideas on how to conduct the review
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The changes made in the review will positively impact the Ombuds office in terms of support and management structure
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Sean Van Koughnett to draft the Terms of Reference of the review and get feedback from Patrick Deane, Ikram Farah, and Carolyn Brendon 2. Set up a committee for the review 3. Gather insight from all stakeholders who have interacted with the Ombuds, including students and university partners 4. After the review, determine if there need to be modifications to the mandate and scope of the office, the reporting structure for the office, resources, and office's Terms of Reference.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sean Van Koughnett, Dean of Students - Ikram Farah, MSU President - Patrick Deane, McMaster President - Carolyn Brendon, Ombuds person

Objective 5	<i>Evaluation of New Advocacy Team Structure</i>
Description	After Ryan's evaluation of the Education Team last year, he made modifications to the Advocacy Team structure for this upcoming year. This includes transitioning the Advocacy

	Project Assistant back into the Advocacy Coordinator role, hiring two executives, and implementing Advocacy Ambassador volunteers. To ensure this is the optimal structure, I will evaluate it at the end of the year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures an optimal structure one year after functioning under this new model
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could result in further changes to the Advocacy Team Structure
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Education Team is more successful in advocacy efforts
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect feedback from the Advocacy Coordinator, executives, and the Education Team throughout the year 2. Evaluate the effectiveness of campaigns and volunteer retention as compared to past years 3. Complete a report for the SRA at the end of year with any recommended changes
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy Coordinator - Education Team

Objective 6	<i>Sustainability Committee</i>
Description	With the newly revised Sustainability Policy, the Sustainability Committee has a great potential to create a positive impact on campus through advocacy and support of sustainability initiatives. My platform did not include any sustainability points, though some of the ideas that are included in the policy or have been discussed include electronic waste disposal, the reduction of plastic straws, composting, paper usage, and water-bottle free campus. To ensure that the committee is passionate and focused, the priorities of the committee will be decided in the first meeting.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures a presence of student-led sustainability efforts within the MSU - Brings together stakeholders from across campus to talk about sustainability
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University stakeholders are not always receptive of prioritizing sustainability initiatives if it comes at an increased cost/loss of profit
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The changes brought about by this committee can lead to an

	overall greener campus
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the Advocacy Coordinator call the first meeting and determine shared priorities of the group based off of the Sustainability Policy 2. Connect the committee to Kate Whalen who has projects throughout the year that need student support 3. Involve this committee in the Hungry for Knowledge Survey and subsequent events that promote the reduction of food waste and food insecurity 4. The AVP University Affairs will help arrange advocacy meetings with stakeholders 5. We will run at least one advocacy campaign related to the committee's priorities
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy Coordinator - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs - Kate Whalen, Senior Manager, Academic Sustainability Programs - SRA - Board of Directors

Objective 7	<i>Academic Affairs Council</i>
Description	The Academic Affairs Council is made up of the VP Academics from every faculty society. As suggested by past VP Educations, this council should be project-based which will be determined as a group. Having a project that everyone is passionate about will ensure that they will remain engaged throughout the year. As well, I will ask this council to participate in OUSA campaigns and provide feedback on my academic priorities and platform points. Two priorities I would like see adopted by the council is Open Education Resources and Experiential Education.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased collaboration between faculty societies and the MSU - Increased advocacy for academic improvements - Space for updates across faculties to be shared
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in AAC has been low in previous years despites attempts of engagement
Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement in student life and academics for students in all

implications	faculties
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send out a survey before our first meeting to gather information on VP Academics priorities and what they want to get out of this committee 2. Call the meeting in early September where we will determine our shared priorities and major project for the term
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faculty Societies' VP Academics - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs - Angel Huang, Macademics Coordinator

Objective 8	<i>University Budget Submission</i>
Description	<p>University Budget Submissions have been effective advocacy tools in the past for many Student Unions. In this submission, we will summarize some of our advocacy priorities that require financial investment from the University in a concise document that they can consider and incorporate into their budget.</p> <p>Some of my priorities will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding for an additional Sexual Violence Response Coordinator - Funding to hire a part-time worker in the Registrar's office to schedule exams in a way that reduces conflicts and back-to-back exams - Sustainability initiatives - Remove investment to the Learning Portfolio project
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarizes our advocacy priorities require financial contributions into a concise format that the University can consider as they create their budget
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There has been confusion over the past few years about how and when to submit an effective budget submission, which will require significant research this year - It is unlikely that large budget asks will be prioritized, resulting in us having to make more modest recommendations
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If our priorities are adopted, the investments will positively impact student life on campus and achieve our policy goals
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up a meeting with Deidre Henne, University CFO to learn about best practices on how to influence the University

	<p>Budget</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Consult other Student Unions who have frequently done budget submissions to learn their best practices 3. Develop priorities for the budget with the Board of Directors and my Education Team with input from interested SRA members 4. Research past budgets to determine where money has been allocated previously 5. Send the final submission to the President, Provost, VP Administration, and other relevant stakeholders and set up meetings to discuss with them about implementing our recommendations
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott Robinson, VP Finance - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs - Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants

Objective 9	<i>Unsettling Campus</i>
Description	As an academic institution, McMaster has an important role to play in fostering reconciliation with Indigenous communities and unsettling our culture. I will advocate to include more Indigenous markers on campus, such as signs in Indigenous languages, artwork, and the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe flags on campus. As well, this is the first year that McMaster will be offering Reconciliation 1A03 – to encourage students to take this course, I will advocate to faculties to include to course into program course lists as well as to include the course in the Community Engagement studies minor. I will also build and maintain relationships with the Indigenous student groups on campus and support them as they develop their confederacy. This will include regular meetings and support their advocacy initiatives.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building and strengthening relationships with Indigenous students on campus - Raising awareness and educating students on Indigenous affairs and Canada as a colonialist state
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some individuals on campus may be resistant or against these initiatives - There were roadblocks last year that prevented this project from being completed which may not be overcome this year

Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These steps are part of a broader cultural shift in unsettling Canada and reconciliation
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up meeting with the Indigenous Studies Program and President Deane to follow up on the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe flags and Indigenous markers on campus 2. Set up a meeting with Facility Services to discuss the implementation 3. Discuss with the Office of Community Engagement the possibility of this being incorporated into the minor 4. Set up regular meetings with CISSA and MISCA and attend their meetings on a regular basis
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - McMaster Indigenous Student Community Alliance (MISCA) - Cooperative of Indigenous Studies Students & Alumni (CISSA) - Vanessa Watts, McMaster Academic Director of Indigenous Studies - Patrick Deane, McMaster President - James Knibb-Lamouche, McMaster Associate Director Indigenous Student Services - Office of Community Engagement - Library Services and Facilities

Objective 10	<i>Modifying the exam timelines</i>
Description	Exams are a stressful time for students and many have to write several exams in a short span of time. I will advocate for revising the examination policy to allow students to declare a conflict if they have two consecutive exams in one day. To further avoid conflict, the Registrar should hire a Work-Study student to schedule exams in a way that reduces common conflicts. I will also advocate for deferred exams to be written at the end of the exam period rather than the following term. Finally, the exam schedule should be released when course registration begins.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If these changes are enacted, they will decrease students' stress during exam period and likely result in better academic outcomes
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These changes may be difficult to implement as a result of lack of space for exams to take place and the shortened exam period

Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These changes will have a lasting impact of student success for years to come
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with the Bernadette Belan to discuss priorities 2. Sit on the Deferred Examinations Committee
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office of the Registrar - Bernadette Belan, Associate Registrar (Scheduling and Examinations) - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs

Objective 11	<i>Food Security</i>
Description	<p>According to a 2017 MSU survey, 55% of students identified that they have been worried about running out of food with no money to purchase more. I plan to tackle food insecurity on campus through multiple avenues.</p> <p>In conversations with Mac Bread Bin, they would like to expand their advocacy this year and find additional support for their Food Collective Centre and Second Course. I plan to help them find sources of funding and donated food.</p> <p>To better understand the extent of food insecurity on campus, I will be a project lead on a Sustainability 3S03 course project with Meal Exchange to conduct a Hungry for Knowledge.</p> <p>I will also advocate for an increased access to fast and healthy meal food on campus. I will work with Chris Roberts to provide more substantive meal options in The Reactor (the café located in Thode Library).</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased resources for Mac Bread Bin - Better access to nutritious food late at night - Better understanding of food insecurity on campus - Increased connections between individuals doing both food security and sustainability advocacy
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey fatigue may reduce the number of students who complete the Hungry for Knowledge survey - Resources for food banks in the city are already strained which may reduce the possibility of finding grants - Nutritious meal options are often expensive, which is difficult to advocate against as a result of Hospitality Services being

	required to make a profit
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hungry for Knowledge Survey will provide us with valuable data that better support our advocacy for a number of years - If we find sustainable funding and donations for Mac Bread Bin, we can better support food insecure students
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Mac Bread Bin to connect them to resources in the city and brainstorm ideas about how to find additional funding on campus 2. Be a project lead with Meal Exchange for the Sustainability 3S03 class to conduct the Hungry for Knowledge Survey on campus 3. Meet with Chris Roberts to follow up on providing more substantive meal options in Thode Library 4. Connecting with individuals who are engaged in food security, food recovery, and sustainability initiatives
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannah Philip, Mac Bread Bin Director - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs - Kate Whalen, Senior Manager, Academic Sustainability - Chris Roberts, McMaster Director of Hospitality Services - Roger Couldrey, McMaster VP (Administration)

Objective 12	<i>Experiential Education</i>
Description	The Provincial Government and Universities are interested in increasing experiential education opportunities for students. With this being a large priority, I will work to provide student input on experiential education on a number of committees and documents. This is also an OUSA Priority this year, which will involve a campaign and advocacy on a provincial level as well.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student input provide now has the potential to impact Experiential Education for several years - Having Experiential Education as both a university and provincial priority will increase the attention to the issue and allow for coordinated advocacy efforts
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the change in government, the commitment to increasing experiential education opportunities for university

	opportunities may change
Long-term implications	- Experiential Education will become an enriching component of every students education and better prepare them for the workforce
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide feedback and student input on the Experiential Education Definitions committee 2. Jointly author a resource guide on experiential education with MacPherson Institute 3. Run an OUSA Campaign on Experiential Education 4. Lobby to the Provincial Government for increased investments for experiential Education during Lobbying Week
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anna Magnotta, Manager, Experiential Programs - MacPherson Institute - SRA

Objective 13	<i>Open Educational Resources Advocacy</i>
Description	With past government investments in the development of OERs, it is important that we focus on encouraging their adoption by professors. As well, this will continue to be an OUSA Priority under the priority of Technology Enabled Learning.
Benefits	- Reduces the total amount students need to spend on textbooks for their courses
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are many misconceptions about OERs that prevent professors from adopting OERs that need to be addressed - Some professors make money from textbooks sales or being textbook editors, which may prevent them from being willing to adopt OERs - There are not enough OERs for the majority of courses taught at universities, limiting the scope of which classes we can advocate to
Long-term implications	- With the right advocacy and buy-in over a number of years, the number of textbooks students need to buy significantly decrease
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with the Provost possible ways to support professors in adopting or creating OERs 2. With the OER Working Group in early stages, we will work

	<p>together to set our advocacy priorities and find the best ways to target each faculty</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Discuss with MUFA the potential to include incentives to adopt OERs in their Tenure & Promotion Policy 4. Run the OUSA #TextbookBroke campaign again
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Farrar, Provost - Open Educational Resources Working Group - MUFA - Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance

Objective 14	<i>Pride Crosswalk</i>
Description	<p>Pride Crosswalks are painted similar to the Rainbow Flag, representing LGTBQ+ pride. They are present in a number of cities across Canada, including Western University in London Ontario, Toronto, Grande Prairie, and Regina. We are looking to have a similar crosswalk painted on or near McMaster University. The crosswalk serves to welcome the LGTBQ+ community to McMaster University and the City of Hamilton as well as demonstrate an ongoing commitment to making campus and the city more inclusive. This project was started last year within the Education Team by David Lee, AVP University Affairs (2017-2018) and I will be continuing it with Tasneem Warwani.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomes students from the LGTBQ+ community to McMaster and Hamilton and demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Painting the crosswalk can be costly, limiting the MSU's ability to pay for the crosswalk by ourselves - Some may view the crosswalk as performative
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to start dialogue and foster an inclusive environment on campus and in the City of Hamilton
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Facility Services to get an estimate of how much it would cost to paint the sidewalk 2. Contact different university departments to find funding partnerships 3. Work with City Councillor Aidan Johnson and the City of Hamilton to have a Pride Crosswalk painted in Ward One near McMaster University. Similarly, we would partner to share

	funding
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs - Miranda Clayton, Pride Coordinator - Facility Services - Aidan Johnson, Ward One Councillor - City of Hamilton

Objective 15	<i>Quality of Education</i>
Description	I will prioritize advocacy initiatives that ensure the best academic experience for McMaster students. There are a number of different forms that this could take including course availability and accessibility in courses.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy on the priorities formalized in last year's Academic Success policy paper
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic changes are difficult to implement as a result of it being class-specific
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies and programs in place that better support student learning
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in the review process of MacPherson Institute for Leader, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching to encourage them to better support professors of undergraduate courses 2. Work with the Office of the Registrar to create a Late Withdrawal policy 3. Work with McMaster's Accessibility Council to find unique ways to encourage professors to podcast their courses and upload their notes to Avenue2Learn 4. Work with Student Accessibility Services to create a note repository system 5. Implement an accessible pedagogy award with Macademics and Maccess
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan Searls-Giroux, McMaster AVP (Faculty), Acting Provost - David Farrar, McMaster Provost & VP (Academic) - Arshad Ahmed, McMaster AVP (Teaching and Learning) - Tasneem Warwani, AVP University Affairs - McMaster Accessibility Council - Student Accessibility Services - Maccess

	- Macademics
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Objective 16	<i>Racial, Cultural, and Religious Equity</i>
Description	It is important to acknowledge the ongoing forms of systemic racism, religious, and cultural intolerance on campus. I will work closely with the PACBIC working groups to advocate for a more inclusive campus based on their recommendations. This includes permanent funding for race-focused groups, projects, and events, such as Black History Month and Let's Talk About Race focus groups.
Benefits	- These initiatives start productive dialogue that will raise awareness to racial justice issues
Difficulties	- There may be push back from individuals who do not see the importance of these initiatives
Long-term implications	- Works to build more equitable and inclusive campuses
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write the Racial, Cultural, and Equity Policy Paper to solidify our stances and advocacy priorities 2. Attend PACBIC Race, Racialization, & Racism Working Group to align with their priorities and advocacy initiatives
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ikram Farah, President - Arig al Shaibah, AVP Equity and Inclusion - President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community

Objective 17	<i>Health & Wellbeing Services</i>
Description	All McMaster students should have access to high-quality health services and accommodations for any health-related concern they may have. In order to do so, I will work with Kristina Epifano, VP Admin, and the Training and Resource Research Assistant to conduct a community needs assessment within the MSU and McMaster to better understand where there are gaps in services on campus. Students who need academic accommodations often require a sick-note provided by a medical professional. However, this

	<p>creates an unnecessary strain on students and the healthcare system. I will advocacy for McMaster to implement a no-sick note policy.</p> <p>Last year, when the Education Team wrote the Health & Wellness Policy, they left out stances related to harm reduction for substance use. It is important to have these stances included to ensure the MSU can effectively advocate for students moving forward. I will work with a Research Assistant to revise this policy paper.</p> <p>OUSA has made one of their strategic priorities this year Mental Health. The new provincial government has promised a \$1.9 billion investment over ten years for mental health and addictions services. We will advocate for part of this investment to be spent in cities with universities to increase students' access to mental healthcare.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better informed advocacy for health and wellness services both on and off campus - Decreases burden on students and the healthcare system to obtain sick notes
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There may be resistance from university admin on removing sick notes as a result of a fear of students taking advantage of the system
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better access to health services and accommodations on campus and in the community
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a community needs assessment within the MSU and McMaster to better identify gaps in services to improve advocacy goals 2. Advocate for a no-sick note policy by working with the Academic Accommodations Working group and the Provost 3. Modify the MSU Health & Wellness Paper to include harm reduction recommendations 4. Regularly consult the Training Resources & Research Assistant and the AVP Services to stay up to date common concerns brought up in Peer Support Spaces in order to communicate them to the AVP (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students 5. Gather student feedback after the implementation of the new counsellors on campus to see if wait times are reduced and service improves 6. Advocate to provincial MPPs during lobbying week to increase investments in mental healthcare in cities with

	universities
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kristina Epifano, VP Admin - Sarah Figueiredo, AVP Services - Training Resources & Research Assistant - Sean Van Koughnett, AVP (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students - Academic Accommodations Working Group - OUSA

Objective 18	<i>Municipal Budget Submission</i>
Description	Last year was the first year that the MSU submitted a Municipal Budget Submission. Councillors were very impressed by our work and enjoyed meeting with us to discuss our advocacy priorities. We also learned a number of ways we could improve our submission and process for it to effectively influence the budget in future years. As a result, I will apply these changes and create another budget submission this year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more effective budget submission compared to last year
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determining the proper timeline to submit our submission - Convincing councillors to make motions to amend the budget before its approval
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If fund are allocated by the City to our priorities we will see long term changes to Hamilton that are positive for students
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up meeting with the Municipal Affairs Committee to determine priorities for the budget 2. Consult the City of the best time to submit our submission 3. Write a submission that is well researched with costed out ideas 4. Deliver submission to councillors and relevant staff and present to them in meetings 5. Ask councillors to make amendments to the draft budget to accomplish our budget goals
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs

	- Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants
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Objective 19	<i>Landlord Rating System</i>
Description	The Landlord Rating System (also often referred to as the Landlord Wiki) will be an online platform where students can rate their housing and service provided their landlord. Significant progress has been made on this project last year within the Municipal Affairs Committee. This year, I will work on implementing a pilot project of the rating system and finding university partners for the project.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better accountability for landlords - A system that provides more information to students before they sign a lease to a house - This will provide us with more data to better advocate on housing issues to the City
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining and populating this rating system will take a significant amount of time and work - Other Student Unions who have created similar systems have sometimes been sued for defamation by landlords
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This could be adopted by the Off-Campus Resource Centre of the City of Hamilton in the future
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review questions that will make up the framework of the Rating System developed last year by the Municipal Affairs Committee and make any necessary changes 2. Run questions by the lawyer to ensure they are not leading and will prevent any lawsuits 3. Setting up a meeting with Housing & Conference services to discuss possible collaboration 4. Discuss with Pauline Taggart the best place online to host this Rating System
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Rohan Lohana, SCSN Coordinator - Pauline Taggart, Network Administrator - Kevin Beatty, Director of Housing & Conference Services - Neighbourhood Advisory Committee

Objective 20	<i>Hamilton Youth Strategy</i>
Description	The City of Hamilton is creating a 5 year Youth Strategy, which is being developed with extensive engagement of youth from the ages of 14-29. Last year, I began conversations with the project manager about how the MSU can participate in the development of this strategy and I will continue to do so this year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a great opportunity to have the MSU's student engagement stances formalized in the strategy that the City will agree to act upon
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is unknown how the City will be held accountable to fulfilling this strategy
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This Youth Strategy will be adopted by the City of Hamilton and they will be expected to fulfill the goals it outlined over the next five years
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend Hamilton Youth Steering Committee meetings which will be shaping the direction of the strategy 2. Invite the Committee to McMaster to collect data from students 3. Provide feedback on the final strategy
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Jesse Williamson, Project Manager Strategic Youth Initiatives

Objective 21	<i>Transit Advocacy</i>
Description	The Progressive Conservative Party said during their campaign that they will provide Hamilton with a blank cheque to spend on whatever infrastructure project they would like - whether or not it is the LRT. As a result of this, it is important that the MSU continue its strong advocacy in support of the LRT and improvements in transit across the city. This will certainly be a municipal election issue. It is important that we partner with other groups across the city to demonstrate strong support for the LRT and improvements in transit across the city. Other transit priorities besides the LRT include removing area-rating (a tax that only the old city of Hamilton pays towards transit), redesigning the HSR routes around the LRT to better serve students living in the suburbs, obtaining data from the new presto pass on student service usage, and getting bus stops on

	campus.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City and the HSR will see students as a major stakeholder in transit issues - We will see service improvements to McMaster - More bus shelters will be installed on campus
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is expected that many City Councillor candidates will be running on an anti-LRT platform. If this is the case and they are elected, it will be very difficult to persuade them to vote in favour of the LRT project
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hamilton finally gets an LRT - The improvements in transit will better connect students living in other areas of Hamilton including downtown, the mountain, Ancaster and Dundas.
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend all relevant transit meetings including Hamilton Chamber of Commerce’s LRT Taskforce, the City of Hamilton’s LRT Sub-committee, the Transit Coalition (formed by Environment Hamilton), and the Hamilton Transit Riders’ Union to determine shared advocacy goals 2. Run a #YesLRT campaign to demonstrate to students the importance of transit 3. Attend and delegate at City Council meetings related to transit 4. Provide input to the Faculty of Engineering team who is re-envisioning Hamilton transit routes
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board of Directors - Michael Wooder, Marketing & Communications Officer - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - City of Hamilton’s LRT Sub Committee - Transit Coalition - Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (LRT Taskforce) - Hamilton Transit Riders’ Union

Objective 22	<i>Consistent Municipal Advocacy</i>
Description	One of the biggest advantages to municipal politics is that councillors are located less than a twenty minute bus ride away. While we significantly improved our municipal advocacy last year, I want to continue to make great strides this year with more frequent lobbying meetings with councillors.

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased presence of the MSU in the city - Establishing a reputation as strong and knowledgeable advocates, increasing our success in lobbying meetings
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to students transient nature and low voter turnout, city councilors often do not take us seriously
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSU is approached and is respected by City Council when making major decisions that will affect students
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants read through city council committee meeting agendas and inform me when relevant motions come up 2. When relevant motions come up, I will set up in-person meetings or phone calls with City Councilors to argue the MSU's stance and ask them to vote a particular way 3. Delegate at least 2 times at city council meetings on relevant issues
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants

Objective 23	<i>MacVotes - Municipal Election</i>
Description	October 22nd is the municipal election! Historically, students have a low voter turnout rate, negatively impacting our municipal advocacy. I am committed to a strong Mac Votes campaign that engages students and encourages them to make an informed vote. I will provide student-centric information on candidates and important issues such as transit and student housing. We will also hold a debate for Ward One councilors and partner with the Mohawk Student Association for a Mayor Debate.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engages students in municipal politics and encourages a culture of voting - Demonstrates to candidates that students are engaged and likely to vote - Builds relationships with candidates running to represent Ward One
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With historically low turnout, it may be hard to build a culture around voting in the municipal election - There has been initial resistance from getting a poll on

	campus for the election
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students are seen as a major influencer of municipal elections, which will cause councillors and mayor candidates address student centric issues - The MSU will have stronger municipal advocacy
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summarize ward one and mayor candidates platforms on the MSU website, focusing on their stances on student issues 2. Meet with candidates running in the election to inform them of the MSU priorities 3. Provide external campaign training to volunteers for the Mac Votes Campaign to increase effectiveness
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Advocacy Coordinator - Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants - Advocacy Ambassadors - SRA - Mohawk Student Association

Objective 24	<i>Revamp Change Camp</i>
Description	Change Camp has been an annual event for the MSU for the past 4 years and has undergone several changes since its inception. For the past two years, the event has been mainly lead by the Office of Community Engagement. However, this year, the MSU will be the primary lead. This will give us the ability to change it to better suit McMaster students and connect them with opportunities in the City of Hamilton. One possibility is to have this event be a part of Life After Mac. After this year’s event, I will evaluate the success of Change Camp and make recommendation to the next Board of Directors on if it should be continued and if it should remind under the VP Education’s portfolio.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The event helps to build partnerships between the MSU, students, and the community - Students are able to get involved in long-term projects carried out by the community
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the past, this event has been costly to the MSU - This event continues to have a limited focus on advocacy, making it a question if it should be in the VP Education’s

	portfolio
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students are more likely to be engaged in the Hamilton community, leading to increased student retention - Improves relationships between the MSU and the community
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the Board of Directors and Education Team on our new vision for the event and how it can fit into other programming we are running such as Life After Mac 2. Review past feedback from Change Camp events over the past four years to inform this year's event 3. Determine the roles, responsibilities, and funding with past partners including the Office of Community Engagement, Mohawk College, the SPRC, and the City of Hamilton 4. Based off of feedback, run event while being mindful of budget 5. Gather feedback from event partners, attendees, and the Board of Directors. Write a report based off of findings and make recommendations to the next Board of Directors
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board of Directors - Advocacy Coordinator - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs

Objective 25	<i>Community Safety Reporting Tool</i>
Description	Many students living in Ainsle Wood and Westdale continue to raise concerns about the safety of their housing and neighbourhoods. Often times these concerns or incidents are expressed on Spotted At Mac, which the MSU has no control over and cannot offer students resources or follow-up. I will develop a form that students can anonymously use to report these incidences and note areas where they do not feel safe. They will be able to leave their email for follow-up or resources. Otherwise, the MSU will have more standardized data collection that we can then use to inform our advocacy to the City of Hamilton.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More standardized data collection - Increased support for students
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness of this form may take time, preventing a large volume of responses in its first year

Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With this data, the City of Hamilton will be more inclined to make the necessary changes in the McMaster communities to create safer communities
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With consultation with the Municipal Affairs Committee, the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee, and SCSN, create the form 2. Promote the form through MSU and SCSN channels 3. Provide students resources on an ongoing basis 4. Compile data into a report mid-year to present to the City of Hamilton
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rohan Lohana, SCSN Coordinator - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Neighbourhood Advisory Committee

Objective 26	<i>Municipal Affairs Best Practice Sharing Day</i>
Description	After discussions with Vice-Presidents at Western, Waterloo, and Laurier, something that we were interesting in doing was a Municipal Affairs Best Practice Sharing Day for Student Union leaders. This would be a small scale conference where Presidents, VPs, and AVPs (or equivalents) would gather to discuss some of our common issues and best practices. Ideally, this would occur before the election to allow for brainstorming on how to best engage students in voting.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased collaboration between Student Unions on municipal issues
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinating a time that works for all interested parties
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This could potentially turn into a formalized group of Student Union leaders that discuss municipal issues on a regular basis
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine a date in August or September that would work best for all parties that have expressed interest 2. Brainstorm key discussion items for the event 3. Host event at McMaster and collect feedback about the event 4. Reach out to all attendees to determine if there is interest in creating a network to discuss municipal issues between student unions
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs

	- VPs from Western, Laurier, and Waterloo
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Objective 27	<i>Advocating for SCSN funding</i>
Description	This was an advocacy priority for last year’s Education Team that I will continue this year. SCSN provides a valuable service to both the McMaster students and the community. However, it is fully funded by the MSU, limiting the amount of service it can provide.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership between the City of Hamilton and the MSU on offering a program - Increases budget and thus service from SCSN
Difficulties	- Likely will not be able to get traction on this priority until after the election
Long-term implications	- SCSN becomes a fully funded City program that does proactive education on by-laws rather than penalizing first-time renters
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue discussion around this topic with the Ward One Councillor and City Staff after the municipal election 2. Compile a report on the success of SCSN and propose a number to the City of Hamilton to allow for cost sharing of the program 3. Delegate to the City of Hamilton during the budget cycle to again propose this idea and gain support from other councillors
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Rohan Lohana, SCSN Coordinator - Ikram Farah, President

Objective 28	<i>Join the Town and Gown Association of Ontario</i>
Description	As we continue to strengthen our municipal advocacy efforts, it is important that we connect with other cities. The Town and Gown Association of Ontario represent communities with post-secondary institutions and “shares information and facilitates connections among diverse stakeholders to promote vibrant, cohesive communities for everyone.” A number of student unions, universities, and community associations are already members. I will register the MSU as a member of the TGAO in

	order to demonstrate a commitment to improving community relations and to learn from communities across Ontario.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to a number of resources including webinars, symposia, and research reports - Connections with organizations that also deal with near-to-campus issues - Demonstration that the MSU is committed to improving our community relationships and collaborating on near-to-campus issues - It is free for student unions to join and easy to cancel membership if the MSU does not find it useful after this first year
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No perceived difficulties
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increases MSU prominence as a stakeholder on municipal issues
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pass an Operating Policy within the SRA to approve the organization joining TGAO 2. Join the TGAO 3. Participate in webinars and events throughout the year and update the SRA 4. Evaluate the benefits of being a member of the TGAO at the end of the year
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board of Directors - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs

Objective 29	<i>Joint Educational Campaign on Tenant Rights</i>
Description	University is typically the first time that students are renting a dwelling on their own. As a result, they are often unaware of their rights as tenants leaving them more likely to be taken advantage by their landlords. While SCSN works to educate students, a limited budget prevents the amount of information that can be disseminated. By partnering with the City of Hamilton on an educational campaign, we can create accurate information approved by the City as well as building relationships that could lead to the funding of SCSN.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students are informed of their tenant rights
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple parties may have different ideas on the campaign, creating delays and conflict
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City continues these campaigns and/or funds SCSN
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connect with Councillor Aidan Johnson about this initiative

	<p>and gain initial support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Work with Kelly Barnett and the Hamilton Legal Clinic to design the text for the campaign 3. Print the materials and distribute through SCSN and the Maroons
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shemar Hackett, AVP Municipal Affairs - Ikram Farah, President - SCSN - Maroons - Councillor Aidan Johnson

Objective 30	<i>MacVotes Campaign - Provincial Election</i>
Description	With the upcoming provincial election, we will be running our MacVotes campaign to encourage students to vote. While most students are not on campus during the weeks leading up to election, the MSU can still promote the election through social media. Additionally, for the debate, we can partner with the university and the community to increase turnout. OUSA will also be having a campaign called OUSA Votes, which began last academic term by encouraging students to pledge to vote. We will continue to participate in that campaign and use those materials to supplement the MSU's.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform students how, when, and where to vote in the upcoming provincial election - Provide student centric information on the provincial platforms in a non-partisan way
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our reach will not be as large as a result of students not being on campus
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing youth voter turnout will demonstrate to provincial candidates and parties that we are an important demographic to target when constructing their platforms. This will result in an increase to student-centric priorities among the major parties.
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the MSU's MacVotes webpage with information on HWAD candidates and party platforms 2. Participate in and promote OUSA Votes Campaign, which includes creating videos, pledging to vote, and informative infographics

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Do a large social media push 2 weeks up to the election with MSU and OUSA materials, encouraging students to vote 4. In partnership with the University, meet with provincial candidates from Hamilton and Burlington 5. Host a Provincial Candidates Debate with the candidates from the Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas riding 6. Reach out to media to talk about our campaigns
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Wooder, Marketing and Communications Director - Ikram Farah, President - Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial Federal Affairs - McMaster's Communications and Public Affairs Office - OUSA

Objective 31	<i>GO Transit</i>
Description	Interregional mobility is important for students who regularly commute between Hamilton and other cities. I will strengthen our relationships and advocacy efforts towards Metrolinx by regularly conversing with their staff. Using data collected from the Your City Survey, we will be able to make strong data-informed asks this year. Working with Ikram, I will advocate for extended GO service. As well, by collecting input from students we will be able to provide input on future GO transit services to the lines McMaster students regularly use.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If our suggests are implemented, then students will have better access to GO bus services
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since we have not regularly advocate to Metrolinx, building these relationships will take time
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved GO transit service for students across Ontario
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange meetings throughout the year with individuals working at Metrolinx to introduce ourselves and express our priorities
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ikram Farah, President

Objective 32	<i>OUSA Tuition Policy</i>
Description	One of the policies being written in the Fall term and presented at OUSA General Assembly is OUSA's policy on

	Tuition. I will be an author on this paper with my AVP (Provincial/Federal Affairs) Urszula Sitarz to ensure the MSU's stances and vision are adequately reflected in this paper.
Benefits	- The paper will be reflective of the MSU's stances on tuition
Difficulties	- This will be a time-consuming project
Long-term implications	- This policy will be the stances of OUSA for the next four years and will be actively lobbied on
How?	- Urszula and I will author this paper during first term and have in passed at the Fall General Assembly
Partners	- Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs - Colin Aitchison, OUSA Research Analyst

Objective 33	<i>OUSA Student Financial Aid Policy</i>
Description	In the winter term, one of the potential OUSA policies that will be written is Student Financial Aid Policy. I will request to be an author on this paper. However, I will not get priority since I am writing a policy in the Fall term. If I am not chosen to be an author, I will still attend the brainstorming session and be an editor on the paper.
Benefits	- The paper will represent the MSU stances on student financial aid, including program-based OSAP funding
Difficulties	- If an author, this is time-consuming project
Long-term implications	- The stances in this policy will be actively lobbied on for the next four years
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I will ask for this paper to be on the short list of topics presented to the Fall General Assembly 2. The Fall OUSA General Assembly will vote on if they want this paper written in the Winter Term 3. I will either be an author on the paper or attend the Think Tank to raise the stances of the MSU
Partners	- Colin Aitchison, OUSA Research Analyst

Objective 34	<i>Tuition Advocacy</i>
Description	I will advocate for the tuition increases to be capped at 2%

	annually for domestic students in all programs to slow the drastic rise in the cost of post-secondary education. Additionally, I will advocate for the government to implement a cap on international student tuition fees to 5% a year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an ideal time to do this advocacy with the new provincial government and the expiration of the current tuition policy
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new government may be less receptive to increasing restrictions of the increases of tuition
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tuition framework will be in place for the next 3+ years
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After writing the MSU and OUSA policy papers on tuition, we will raise this as a priority during MSU meetings with MPPs as well as OUSA Lobby Week
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ikram Farah, President - OUSA

Objective 35	<i>Sexual Violence Prevention & Response</i>
Description	It is critical that as the representatives for students we continue to raise awareness of sexual violence and advocate for support and restorative justice for survivors of sexual violence. With the results of Student Violence on Sexual Violence Survey coming out this summer, we will have data to support our advocacy. Also, with the Sexual Violence Response policy being revisited this year, this is a unique time to advocate for policy changes.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The survey results will result in improved advocacy and address any misconceptions individuals have about the prevalence of sexual violence on campus
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a very large and sensitive issue that can be difficult to navigate at times
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create safer campuses with increased supports for survivors of sexual violence
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey with VP Admin, President, and WGEN Coordinator 2. Advocate to the Provost for additional funding and support

	<p>for Sexual Violence Response, including an additional response coordinator</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provide feedback on the Sexual Violence Response Protocol based on the recommendations in the MSU Policy 4. Lobby to provincial government during OUSA lobbying week based on the survey results
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kristina Epifano, VP Admin - Ikram Farah, President - Jocelyn Heaton, WGEN Coordinator - Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance - Meaghan Ross, Sexual Violence Response Coordinator

Objective 36	<i>OHIP+ for International Students</i>
Description	International students currently have to purchase the University Health Insurance Plan at a premium cost. This unregulated private insurance plan provides less coverage than OHIP, preventing international students from receiving the same access to healthcare as domestic students. By having this as a strategic priority for OUSA, I will advocate that international students should be able to opt into OHIP+ by paying a fee for coverage.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International students face decreased barriers from accessing healthcare in Canada - As a new priority for OUSA, individuals in the provincial government may be more interested in this idea
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some individuals in the provincial government may not want international students to opt into OHIP since it will reduce the business of insurance companies and possibly increase cost and risk for the provincial government
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a continual priority for OUSA for a number of years - International students are able to access OHIP+
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult International Student Services and international students about their experiences with accessing healthcare in Canada 2. Write an article in the publication Educated Solutions 3. Sit on a panel to discuss international student healthcare during Policy Symposium

	4. Advocate on this priority during OUSA lobbying week
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OUSA - International Student Services

Objective 37	<i>Building Relationships with MPPs & MPs</i>
Description	It is important that we regularly meet with our local MPPs and MPs outside of lobbying weeks with OUSA and UCRU. After the provincial elections, I will focus on building relationships with the newly elected MPPs in the Hamilton area as well as those from relevant ministries. Similarly, I will reach out to the local MPs. This will be accomplished through regular meetings and presenting the MSU as a key stakeholder that should be consulted when developing policy.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSU is more well-known and seen as a stakeholder by MPPs in government - Building these relationships early will benefit the MSU for the next four years
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduling times with MPPs and MPs
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSU is seen as a major stakeholder who is consulted on any policies that will have an impact on students
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather contact information of the offices of newly elected MPPs and reach out in the summer months 2. Schedule introductory meeting with each MPP with the Board of Directors 3. Follow up with the MPPs on a regular basis 4. Attend any relevant events that we are invited to by the MPPs
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board of Directors - Michael Wooder, Marketing and Communications Director

Objective 38	<i>Federal Election Preparation</i>
Description	The next federal election is scheduled to take place on or before October 21, 2019. While there is only a small possibility that this election will occur in my term, I will begin preparation for it in the case that it does or to best prepare my successor.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSU is in a strong position to engage students if the election is called early

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a plan for the federal election for my successor
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uncertainty of the election time makes it difficult to prepare
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With a strong engagement plan, student will have an impact on the election results and be seen as a major stakeholder in policy decisions for the next four years
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with Party Leaders through UCRU 2. Run a pledge to vote campaign 3. Run a MacVotes campaign if the election is before my term ends
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial Federal Affairs - Advocacy & Policy Research Assistants - McMaster Office of Public Affairs - UCRU

Objective 39	<i>UCRU Advocacy</i>
Description	UCRU, formerly known as ADVOCAN, is a collective of 8 undergraduate student associations from the top 15 research intensive schools that lobby at a federal level. As a new organization, there is still significant progress that needs to be made in order to establish ourselves as a leader on student issues who should be consulted regularly by the federal government. I will continue and formalize our membership with UCRU. As well, I will take an active role in steering the direction of the organization.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSU will have a larger impact on the direction of the organization if I am in a leadership role - Currently, there is no membership fee associated with being part of UCRU - Our advocacy is likely to be more effective if it is partnered with other large student unions
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being Vice-Chair will be a larger time commitment compared to be a general member
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UCRU is seen as a key stakeholder and has a large influence on federal budgets moving forward
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Run for UCRU Vice-Chair 2. Determine shared lobbying priorities with other schools

	3. Attend annual lobbying week
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs - UCRU schools

Objective 40	<i>International Students Work Permit</i>
Description	International students who have completed their university degree are eligible to apply for a three year post graduation work permit. The application process is long and cumbersome. I will advocate for the application to be streamlined or removed entirely, immediately providing every international student the work permit. This will encourage students to stay in Canada.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness of a common issue for international students across Canada
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The logistics of changing the application may be difficult for the federal government
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada has a higher retention of international students
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather further input from international students on this topic 2. Propose this as an advocacy priority for UCRU during our lobbying week 3. Raise this as a priority to local MPs in Hamilton
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs - UCRU

Objective 41	<i>Youth Employment Strategy</i>
Description	In the recent federal budget, the government dedicated funding to modernizing the Youth Employment Strategy, which is committed to help youth successfully transition into the workplace. Since university students are a major stakeholder in this redevelopment, I will work with UCRU to provide input on this strategy through consultation with MPs and staff. In these consultations I will advocate for increased grants for employers to hire recent undergraduate students. This will help increase post-graduation rates and transition students into the workforce.

Benefits	- Better employment strategy for post-secondary students
Difficulties	- Finding the right connections and timeline to provide input on this strategy
Long-term implications	- The Youth Employment Strategy is effective in finding university graduates employment
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact the Youth Employment Strategy Office to determine the best way to provide feedback on the modernization of the program 2. Gather input from McMaster students as well as other UCRU schools 3. Present feedback to the office and follow up on changes
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs - Youth Employment Strategy Office - UCRU

Objective 42	<i>UCRU Federal Budget Submission</i>
Description	Continuing the work done by last year's Provincial Federal Affairs Committee, we will write a submission for the upcoming federal budget as a joint effort with UCRU
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates UCRU as a key stakeholder and advocate - Tangible and costed out advocacy asks summarized in a concise document
Difficulties	- Short period of time since the turnover which could limit changes made to the document created
Long-term implications	- If our priorities are adopted they will impact the budget and programs run by the federal government for several years
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the budget submission written by last year's PFA committee with UCRU and determine if there are any changes in our priorities 2. Submit and present our document to the federal government
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urszula Sitarz, AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs - UCRU

GOALS to strive for

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

- University Budget Submission
- Pride Crosswalk
- Go Bus Advocacy
- Joint educational information on student tenant rights
- Have met with or plans to meet with all local MPPs and MPs

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1st)

- Municipal Budget Submission
- Landlord Rating System
- Ombuds Review
- Hungry for Knowledge Survey
- #MacVotes Campaign

List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2nd)

- Evaluation of the new Advocacy Team structure
- #YesLRT Campaign
- Change Camp
- Community Safety Reporting Tool
- Federal Election Preparation

Master Summary

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Team hiring • GO Transit Advocacy
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial election promotion and candidates debate • Pride Crosswalk Advocacy
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Federal Budget Submission • TGAO Operating Policy • UCRU Operating Policy
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete University Budget Submission • Ed Team Training • Building relationships with MPP
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OER Campaign • Launch Landlord Rating System • Youth Employment Strategy Feedback • Education Team Outreach • Faculty Society Advocacy Support
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #MacVotes Municipal Election campaign • Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Advocacy • Modifying the exam timelines
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete OUSA Tuition Policy • Host OUSA GA • Term 1 Policy Con
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Ombuds Review • Municipal Budget Submission
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit Advocacy • Experiential Education Campaign
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Advocacy • Unsettling Campus
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 2 Policy Con • Evaluate Advocacy Team Structure • OUSA GA

April

- Preparation for federal election
- Transition new VP Education