



MEMO

From the office of the...

Vice-President (Education)

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Vice-President (Education)
SUBJECT: Policy Paper: Student Engagement & Retention
DATE: November 21, 2018

Dear Student Representative Assembly,

The Student Engagement & Retention Paper is one of three policies that the Education Department has been working on through the term. As the old policy paper was expiring, it was necessary to prioritize revisiting this topic. The last paper was quite short, with only seven recommendations all directed at the municipal level. Several of these recommendations are now covered by other policy papers including the Student Employment & Experiential Education paper and the Transit & Transportation paper. As a result, we spent a significant amount of time broadening the scope of this new edition of paper to focus on student engagement both on and off campus and considered new areas of focus.

To inform the paper, we used data from the 2018 Your City Survey and the 2017 Ontario Post-Secondary Student Survey as well as consultation with authors and their networks. Sections of the paper include student drop-out rates, on-campus engagement: services & faculties, promotion of university events, off-campus engagement, and election engagement. The election engagement section is particularly timely after the municipal election and allows us to have a formal stance as the MSU that we support on-campus polling locations and ranked ballots. Recommendations throughout the paper are primarily targeted to the university and the City of Hamilton. These recommendations will help us advocate for students to have equal opportunity to excel academically, socially, personally, and professionally.

Thank you to Takhliq Amir, the Advocacy & Policy Research Assistant, who has worked tirelessly on researching and facilitating the writing process of this paper. Additionally, thank you to the authors on the paper, Marina Gandzi, Shamar Hackett, Fawziyah Isah, Bronte Johnson, Sharon Sarjinsky, and Josh Yachouh for all your work to make this paper a success.

Best,

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