

The McMaster Students Union

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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The past seven months as MSU president have been filled with both challenges and successes. It is surreal to think that at this time last year, I was in the process of finalizing my platform for the presidential election. What began as plans on paper, have transformed into realities, within the scope of improving student life. I look forward to the next five months, as there will be various opportunities to further satisfy my commitments to students. That said, I feel it is important to acknowledge that thus far, my values and vision for the MSU and the University more broadly, have at times faced unique challenges, encouraging me to adapt to dynamic circumstances in order to continue doing what I believe is best for McMaster students.

This year witnessed many significant developments in the world of politics. We had a change of government at the provincial level. After 14 years of a Liberal government, the Progressive Conservative party won

a majority government. In addition, there have been changes to Hamilton City Council, which included the election of a new Ward 1 Councillor. Rather than viewing change as a barrier, I see it as a chance to ask ourselves how we can build relationships with those who do not view students as stakeholders, while simultaneously advocating for students and their priorities. Reflections are necessary in order to determine new and improved ways to support and uplift the voices of students.

I came into the 2017-2018 academic year as a fourth year student who knew she wanted to make a difference on campus. At the centre of this desire was my want to give back to communities often forgotten within presidential platforms. My time as president and the actions I have taken therein, focused on putting those goals into action.

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It took more than a few words of encouragement from trusted voices for me to embark on my journey to become MSU president, a path I once thought I would never pursue. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that undoubtedly, there will always be people who cause you to doubt yourself and make you believe you don't have the necessary experience or skills to successfully attain a dream. Personally, believing in myself was the most difficult challenge I had to overcome, as I set my pen to page in drafting my

plans to pursue the MSU presidency. When I lacked confidence and faith in myself, it was difficult to actualize my goals. Though, over my time on campus, I have come to find it helpful to use this period of time in December to consider how I can take initiative and pursue my future goals, rather than focus on the expectations or criticisms of others. Believe in yourself, never doubt your capabilities, set expectations, and hold yourself accountable. That is the formula I used to turn plans into action.

I challenge everyone to embark on new journeys in order to grow in healthy and positive ways. Stepping

out of my comfort zone in order to pursue the role of MSU president was the best choice I ever made. I want to encourage others to take the necessary actions in order to realize their potential, whether that is getting involved in a service, speaking your thoughts and feelings out loud, or applying for that summer job opportunity that thus far, makes you doubt your 'qualifications'. With a clear vision and a heart full of determination, you won't lose. As always, if I can help or support you as a student of McMaster University, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or visit the MSU office in MUSC 201.



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.



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