



REPORT

From the office of the...
President

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
 FROM: Ikram Farah, President
 SUBJECT: Year End Report
 DATE: March, 24th, 2019

International Student Support

Objective 1	<i>International Student Support (Transit)</i>
Description	This initiative aims to make students feel welcome before they even get to McMaster. With the help of the Student Affairs Office, namely the International Student Services (ISS), I will be partnering with a Transit company to alleviate the cost of transportation for international students by picking and dropping them off at the airport during peak times of the year. The McMaster Students Union will support this initiative by providing transportation during Welcome Week and the end of the school year.
Benefits	The cost of transportation to and from the airport is a large expense on top of the thousands of dollars' international students are spending on tuition. As a part of our strategic planning to better support international students, this initiative will serve as an opportunity to decrease some costs that would have otherwise been spent on Ubers, Taxis etc... Also, by coordinating rides, there are opportunities to strengthen the international community.
Difficulties	During the campaign, the transit company that was mentioned was Airways Transit Limited; however, during my time here in office I have been reached out to by several start-up companies that are coordinating "ride-shares" and partnering up with bus companies at a lower cost. The issue here is that these startup companies and the sustainability of their projects are unforeseen. That being said, the difficulty s finding the appropriate partnership and through an organizational lens, a sustainable partnership to

	ensure longevity of the program.
Long-term implications	This is just one part of the “International Student Strategy” that is an ongoing report with the Student Affairs to better support international students.
How?	Currently I am an Admin on the Student Success Centres(SSC) app called “iCent” that they have developed as a part of their goals in better supporting international students for orientation. I have been a part of the planning process for the pre-welcome week orientation and will be a key speaker at their events. It was through these discussions that I was able to demonstrate the need to add shuttle busses as a part of this strategy.
Partners	Office of Student Affairs International Student Services (ISS) Transit Company(tbd).
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Still awaiting follow up

Objective 2	<i>International Student Support (Student Life)</i>
Description	Establish an International Student Advisory Group at the undergraduate level (there already exists one at the graduate level), with a diverse range of representatives to ensure representation. This group will be used to seek feedback on the challenges faced by International Students and the supports they need.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger connection, exchanges, and information-sharing between the clubs. • Stronger voice for International Students • Clearer communication channel between students and administration • More responsiveness to international students’ concerns, and more informed decision-making by administration • Increased opportunities for international students to

	become engaged in decision-making at McMaster.
Difficulties	The logistics in getting all the key stakeholders together would be a difficult task. However, I will group some of the concerns associated with international students and make sub groups within the committee to ensure that these meeting are useful and productive.
Long-term implications	International Students are provided an official forum where their voices and concerns are addressed and that they are the key drivers for that change to reflect the needs of this group. This is a part of our organization's strategic plan to better support international students.
How?	International Students Forum that will occur in first semester(new) and through the International Students Advisory Committee(new).
Partners	The Clubs Department, i.e SAGE (Student Advisors on Global Engagement), Student Affairs(ISS) Global Hamilton Connect(GHC).
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not formally completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Throughout the year I have consulted these groups in any initiatives pertaining to international students. ○ One relationship I have formed was with MELD and have been able to support their integration within the MSU as they are paying MSU members.

Objective 2	<i>Extended GO Bus Hours</i>
Description	The last bus for a variety of GO Buses routes leaving Hamilton is at 10:45 p.m and commuter students pay into many on-campus services that extend past this time. I want students to be able to participate in student life without the worry of missing their ride back home. I will reach out to Metrolinx to extend Go bus hours during welcome week and to review the services that we currently offer and determine the appropriate routes to expand for the year.
Benefits	Students who commute are able to participate in campus life longer as they are paying into the services that occur past bus hours.
Difficulties	Go transit is always looking to expand their services,
Long-term implications	It will benefit students and their integration to the McMaster community because the barriers of going home are no longer a larger issue. This is one step towards a better support network for commuter students; however, it is a start.
How?	We will continue to build our relations with Metrolinx. Currently the main individual that I have been speaking with is Trevor Pereira who is the manager of bus operations and planning. He has a relationship with the University, specifically the Director of Security Services Glen DeCaire and this is great strides in ensuring that we are key stakeholders to communicate with regarding additional services provided by GO transit. Through this relationship and by receiving data, it will be easier to make our asks.
Partners	Trevor Pereira ,Metrolinx Stephanie Bertolo, Vice President Education
STATUS :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As per my last report, more times have been added

	<p>in the morning and the afternoon to ease the flow of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go Bus Hours during welcome week have not been finalized and it is unclear if this is going to happen again; however, there are opportunities for follow up and to transition Josh with.
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Food on Campus

Objective 1	<i>Tax-Free-Tuesdays</i>
Description	There is no doubt that campus food is expensive. Continuous advocacy and plans to regulate and lower food costs will be a priority while in office. Chris Roberts, the director of hospitality services, has agreed to pilot Tax Free Tuesdays - an initiative that allows students to purchase food from hospitality services on Tuesdays, tax free.
Benefits	This is a creative approach to tackling the expensive food on campus and a feasible one at that.
Difficulties	The spirit behind this is to address food on campus and the increasing cost, we have to be careful in not suggesting that this is a win for the students union but more so a start. Also the continuation of this pilot is dependent on the revenue, i.e students purchasing food on Tuesdays. I was transparent during the campaign about this not being a permanent project if students did not buy into it.
Long-term implications	This is one step towards creative projects that address food cost on campus.
How?	We will pilot this project in November for one month, Chris and his team will determine the revenue and benefit from a financial standpoint. From there, we will determine if the project will continue.
Partners	Chris Roberts, Hospitality Services

Objective 1	<i>Healthier Food on the Go</i>
Description	Students on campus have diverse dietary restrictions that must be met. Students require friendly and on-the-go food options that are both tasteful and meet their nutritional needs. The demand of diverse and healthier food options is an ongoing conversation that we aim to address. One way in which we will do this is by increasing and providing different options for “hot-to-go” meals.
Benefits	This will feed the demand of healthier food options. Hospitality services will be able to showcase their new vendors, Simple and Plantree and students with a variety of dietary restrictions are able to
Difficulties	This is not a project that the MSU is directly doing, therefore ensuring a stakeholder will deliver on the promises will be the only difficulty I foresee. Nonetheless, Chris Roberts has been fantastic to work with so far and I look forward to strengthening our relationships.
Long-term implications	This will address students concerns of wanting more healthy options on campus.
How?	Through Centros new stations, Plantree and Simple We will have Centro staff prepare meals that will be available at popular on campus food locations such as La Piazza and Mini Mac. This new initiative will provide students with a larger variety of quick, healthy, vegetarian food options located in key campus areas.
Partners	Chris Roberts, Hospitality Services
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Project = Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As per my campaign objectives, I communicated to students a Pilot Project with the hopes of it being continued. As of now, it is unclear whether or not this initiative will be continued for the next year.

Objective 1	<i>Earlier Bursaries</i>
Description	<p>Currently, the bursary cycle occurs in February, which is not beneficial to students because it does not align with current McMaster tuition deadlines. The MSU will work with the financial aid office using their advocacy tools to alleviate financial burdens for students and push the bursary date earlier so that student's financial needs are met. Students who do not receive the appropriate amount of funding are guaranteed bursaries; however, they are charged interest for these shortcomings. Students should be offered the available resources from our institution to ensure that they are not paying more than they need to.</p>
Benefits	<p>The university is required to fill the financial gap when OSAP does not deliver (due to the disparity in programs). This is called an "enhancement fund/grant"; however, it is not available for release until February, when other bursaries are expected to be released. The benefits of the earlier bursary release is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support students who do not receive their full amount of OSAP (variety of reasons) and therefore the University is required to fund them through this bursary. However, if a student does not have those funds when their second installation of their tuition is due, they accumulate interest. This is to ensure students are not further pushed back in their finances. • The bursary has multiple purposes and by receiving it in January, we are allowing students to better plan for their finances for their second semester.
Difficulties	<p>Currently the need for an additional staff member seemed like -at the time- the only viable option. However, in trying to get more answers in the summer (planning stages) there are numerous University staff that are away for vacation. I will update the SRA accordingly should my approach on how to get this done change; however, the merits still stand.</p>
Long-term implications	<p>We are extending our resources to better fit the needs of students on our campus.</p>
How?	<p>When discussing this issue with the financial aid office, their main concern was surrounding the logistics of it and due to the amount of work they would require additional staff. Through the University Budget Submission myself, the AVP UA and VP Ed will</p>

	demonstrate the need for an additional
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Access Grant was distributed earlier before the winter break. ○ Timelines for General Bursary remain unknown

Objective 1	<i>Increasing Sexual Violence Support</i>
Description	<p>The MSU is committed to fostering a campus where student safety is a priority. The sexual violence policy was introduced to our campus and since then, student's concerns surrounding sexual violence on campus has grown. Currently we have one Sexual Violence Response Coordinator (SVRC). The MSU advocating for another SVRC is by no means suggesting that the current SVRC isn't effective in their role. Sexual violence response should not come down to one individual; with the addition of a new sexual violence coordinator, the role of providing education and additional support resources can be better distributed. By allocating more resources to sexual violence response, the university is demonstrating that this is an area of priority. The end goal should be to have more resources provided by the university. Peer support, while effective, has inherent limitations, as services like the Women Gender and Equity Network (WGEN) are staffed by student volunteers who are often asked to perform tasks well beyond the scope of their roles. Peer support should be a compliment to more formalized resources and not one of the exclusive forms of supports.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better support our peer support department, i.e WGEN • Ideally this new SVC will focus on more educational and training component so that our campus can further foster an environment free of sexual violence.
Difficulties	<p>Advocacy is difficult as there are multiple stakeholders along the process and the timeline is often hard to determine. We believe however, that given the results of the survey being released</p>

	soon, we are in a perfect advocacy position to leverage the data to ensure students safety is a priority.
Long-term implications	Create a safe(r) space on campus where we are increasing our supports for survivors.
How?	With the Student Violence on Sexual Violence Survey coming out this summer, we will have data to support our advocacy. Another avenue where there is opportunity to ensure success is through the University Budget Submission.
Partners	Meagan Ross, Sexual Violence and Response Coordinator Stephanie Bertolo, Vice President Education Kristina Epifano, Vice President Administration David Farrar, Provost
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the recent release of the Climate Survey by the provincial Government, we are in the process of setting up meetings discuss additional support for the campus.

Objective 1	<i>Opt-out of Back to Back Exams</i>
Description	The current examination policy states that “three consecutive examinations over two days” is a conflict. While altering all problematic elements within exam scheduling is a long term goal I am going to work towards revising the examination policy and suggest that students with two consecutive exams in one day is grounds for rescheduling.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The break between exams are vital to resting our body and mind before the next round of studying or to prepare for the next upcoming exam. Will help address some of the concerns surrounding students increase of stress during this period
Difficulties	As this is an advocacy goal and has multiple stakeholders, there are foreseeable challenges. With working with University stakeholders and amongst their diverse portfolios, it is important to shape this narrative to make it fit what their priorities are. However, given our preliminary discussions, it seems as though

	there are multiple avenues to address these concerns and that there is interest in this topic.
Long-term implications	One step towards revisiting and altering all the elements within the examination period. I call this, "Re-Examining Exams" and this will be a year-long priority for me and I will encourage future MSU Presidents to take this on as we have been testing students the same way we have in the past 100 years.
How?	There are multiple avenues and I will update the SRA accordingly, but the merits remain the same. However, here are a few options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through the Budget Submission in hiring a part-time worker (i.e summer student) to work throughout the summer in proactively planning to ensure students are not receiving this conflict and to for careful consideration. 2. The Provost Council
Partners	Bernadette Belan, Associate Registrar (Scheduling and Examinations) David Farrar, Provost
STATUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President-elect Josh M will be continuing this work. As stated during my campaign, this is not a year long project but we have set an appropriate foundation.

Academic Support

Objective 1	<i>Extended Study Break Before Exams</i>
Description	Students need a break and time to study in between the last day of classes and the first day of exams.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can ease academic stress/burden • Gives students the opportunity to catch up or have a break
Difficulties	As addressed during the campaign, this will not be able to happen for the 2018-2019 year. As such, it will be a part of my long-term planning. The difficulty with long-term projects is that i am committed to reporting and paving the way for this; however, the true success will depend on next years leadership in ensuring this is a priority. That being said, I will finish all preliminary

	conversations to be proactive.
Long-term implications	This addresses my long-term plan of “Re-Examining Exams” a strategic plan that will address the concerns regarding the examination periods.
How?	I will be examining other schools and how they administer their exams to review their practices. As such, please review the chart below for a visual on other schools schedules. As mentioned, I will begin the preliminary and planning stages and will create a thorough transition for next years executive to ensure this is in place for next year.
Partners	David Farrar, Provost Registrar’s Office
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President-elect Josh M will be continuing this work. As stated during my campaign, this is not a year long project but we have set an appropriate foundation.

The chart below is a comparative of other Universities to put into perspective.

	Class Starts	# of FB Days	Class Ends	1st Day of Exams	Gap Days	Start Class	# of WB Days	Class Ends	1st Day of Exams	Gap Days
McMaster University	Sept 6	Week	Dec 6	Dec 8	1	Jan 4	Week	Apr 6	Apr 11	4
<u>University of Toronto</u>	Sept 7	Week	Dec 6	Dec 8/9	1/2	Jan 4	Week	Apr 5	Apr 9	3
<u>University of Waterloo</u>	Sept 7	3	Dec 4	Dec 7	2	Jan 3	Week	Apr 4	Apr 9	4
<u>University of Ottawa</u>	Sept 6	Week	Dec 6	Dec 8	1	Jan 8	Week	Apr 11	Apr 13	2
<u>University of British Columbia</u>	Sept 5	NA	Dec 1	Dec 5	3	Jan 3	Week	Apr 6	Apr 10	3

<u>WesternU</u>	Sept 7	Week	Dec 8	Dec 10	1	Jan 8	Week	Apr 11	Apr 14	2
<u>Queens University</u>	Sep 11	NA	Dec 1	Dec 7	5*	Jan 8	Week	Apr 6	Apr 12	5
<u>Trent University</u>	Sept 7	Week	Dec 6	Dec 8	1	Jan 8	Week	Apr 6	Apr 9	2
<u>York University</u>	Sept 7	Week	Dec 4	Dec 6	1	Jan 4	Week	Apr 6	Apr 9	2
<u>Ryerson University</u>	Sept 5	Week	Dec 4	Dec 5	0	Jan 8	Week	Apr 13	Apr 16	2
<u>UOIT</u>	Sept 7	Week	Dec 4	Dec 6	1	Jan 8	Week	Apr 9	Apr 11	1

Objective 1	<i>Brighter World Transcript (Co-Curricular Record)</i>
Description	The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) is an official document that recognizes skills, experiences and achievements gained both inside and outside of the classroom during one's undergraduate career at McMaster. Currently, McMaster uses digital badges on Avenue to Learn to document skills, experiences, and achievements that are only issued in the classroom. The MSU will work with the University, the MacPherson Institute, and the Student Success Centre to ensure that an official record will be developed that acknowledges the achievements of McMaster students both in and outside of the classroom.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCR is an official document, complementary to your academic transcript, which recognizes and records learning that you have achieved through co-curricular experiences, usually outside the classroom. Digital badges are a way to document skills, experiences and achievements. At McMaster digital badges are issued through Avenue to Learn, where students or other users can then export badges to their personal Mozilla Backpack, for display elsewhere. https://wiki.mcmaster.ca/avenue/badges

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivates and encourages student involvement • Identifies developmental and leadership skills gained from “out of class” involvement • Tool to market themselves to prospective employers, graduate and professional schools • Official and validated record of student involvement
Difficulties	<p>My concerns remain the same and unanswered. It is very different running in an election vs. actually being in the role. That being said, my goal was to re-introduce myself to the key stakeholders while actually being in these roles. I will follow up with the SRA Accordingly on the actual step-by-step of how I am going to accomplish, but the merits are still the same and the stakeholders remain the same. Here are some of the concerns that I wanted answered prior to this report and thus, being some of the difficulties. While these questions remain unanswered, I am still confident in our organization’s ability to push this for our students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will host it? • Who will pay for it?
Long-term implications	<p>This is a part of the <u>MSU Experiential Learning Policy</u> The MSU passed a policy advocating for the following things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should receive recognition for skills and achievements they gain both inside and outside the classroom that they can demonstrate to potential employers. • The University has no formalized way of acknowledging students’ soft skills that are learned in the classroom and are recognized by outside parties • The University has no formalized way of documenting a students’ extracurricular activities • MacPherson Institute should develop a robust badge system to document students’ skills and achievements. • McMaster university should develop a co-curricular record
How?	<p>Working with the University, the MacPherson Institute, Student Success Centre, and the MSU, we would develop a record that incorporates the stance of the MSU and creates a tangible product.</p>
Partners	<p>McPherson Institute - Currently, Instructors should consult with Jon Kruithof, kruithj@mcmaster.ca, for badge creation and access to issue badges. Student Success Centre Stephanie Bertolo, Vice President Education</p>

STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not completed
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Objective 1	McMaster Student Absence Form
Description	<p>McMasters Student Absence Form (MSAF) acts as a powerful tool in reducing student stress when unforeseen situations arise. Currently, MSAF requires each student to contact their professor to discuss the extension and fails to provide consistency amongst professors which often results in further stress. Firstly, we will work to incorporate a section in the MSAF that outlines the student's personal estimation of assignment completion. This will provide the instructor with the necessary information to assess and make an informed decision regarding the accommodation while aiming to reduce the worry of the student. Secondly, the MSAF policy will be altered to clarify the current policy which states that the MSAF can be used to cover work missed in the 3-day period. The MSU will work towards ensuring that this 3-day period is clarified to 3 business days all across the board as it provides students more opportunity to finish assignments and ensures consistency amongst instructors and throughout courses.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors outline in the syllabus and the first class the options available to a student when they MSAF an assessment similar to RISO. • Establish consistency and clarification regarding the counting of the days (i.e counting the first day) • More clarity on the policy and practice will require less of students to "pimp out their trauma." • Create consistency i.e Reweighting exams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MSAF becomes questionable when the weights of assessments get pushed into the final exam
Difficulties	<p>Consistency in faculties. Each program and even profs administer the MSAF differently. There is tension between policy and practice.</p>
Long-term implications	<p>Altering the MSAF the clarity and conditions of the this form in order to best support the students and do what is best for their mental health</p>

How?	Through the Provost Academic Council, I will make these recommendations. The final changes will have to be approved by the Senate.
Partners	Tim Nolan, Student Accessibility Services David Farrar, The Provost Susan Giroux, Vice-Provost (Faculty)
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President-elect Josh M will be continuing this work. As stated during my campaign, this is not a year long project but we have set an appropriate foundation.

Objective 1	<i>Supporting Student Accessibility Services</i>
Description	Bettering the Note-Taker initiative at McMaster is a critical priority of this campaign and will be done so by collaborating with Student Accessibility Services. Through conversations with SAS, an area they expressed needing support was through awareness and knowledge of their note-taking positions. With more than 1,800 students registered with SAS, the student's union should work towards supporting SAS and the important services it provides. In collaboration with SAS, we will increase outreach and awareness of Note-Taker Volunteer positions on the MSU website with a summarized job description created by SAS using the MSU Job Description Template. Continuing to advocate for better support of student services is a priority. However, our interim solution is to incentivize note-takers by giving them MSU Courtesy Cards which offer discounts at MSU businesses.
Benefits	Strong partnership between the MSU and SAS
Difficulties	Getting people to sign up, the MSU will help with promoting and advertising their jobs via the MSU portal
Long-term implications	Better supporting Student Accessibility Services
How?	By providing the SAS with courtesy cards that the MSU administers we are demonstrating that this is a collective partnership and that this is one-step in the right direction for incentivizing note-taking

Partners	Tim Nolan, Student Accessibility Services Kristina Epifano, Vice President Administration
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed

OUSA

Objective 1	<i>International Student Support (Financial Aid)</i>
Description	Tuition fees for international students remain at an all-time high. Ranging anywhere between \$25,000 to \$40,000, the cost of learning at McMaster is exponentially high. Over the past decade, tuition fees for Canadian students have continued to rise past the rate of inflation. More recently, the Ontario Government brought forth legislation that regulates tuition fee increases. Unfortunately, international students have been left out of the equation and their fees have increased annually, unregulated. The student's union will make the regulation of international student tuition as an advocacy priority.
Benefits	This is a shared priority between the MSU and OUSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to OUSA on their International Student Policy, "International students should have the same predictability in their annual tuition costs as domestic students, and should only be paying for the true cost of their education(2017)."
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition costs for international students are controlled by the University but are not regulated by the provincial government
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a part of our strategy to better support international students
How?	Through the Vice-President Education and via the Tuition Framework Policy Paper that OUSA will be writing, we will ensure that the MSU's stance (through collaboration with our international students via the international students advisory committee is demonstrated thoroughly.

Partners	Stephanie Bertolo, Vice President Education OUSA, Advocacy group
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added to policy paper and is discussed at lobby meetings. Due the recent changes towards the affordability of education, there are no material outcomes of this.

Objective 1	<i>Program-Based OSAP</i>
Description	This point is an advocacy priority of the union that looks at the way OSAP allocates its funds for students. At the moment in OSAP's distribution, they use an average tuition amount in their disbursement of grants and loans. Students in some faculties receive enough funding to cover tuition expenses while students in other faculties barely scrape by. For instance, many students, including those in programs like Engineering and Business, don't get their full tuition amount covered for their studies i.e "free tuition." The tuition amount that is calculated by OSAP should be an amount set by the student's institution and incorporates their program costs and expenses. This would level the playing field for all students as they would receive an equitable amount of grants and loans that they require to complete their studies.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of tuition for McMaster students varies by faculty and program. Currently, OSAP's free tuition model does not account for individual program funding and professional programs are capped at 5% increases per year by the government while nonprofessional programs are capped at 3% increases. In addition, collaborating with the Financial Aid Office will ensure that students who are in these circumstances and do not have the finances to pay their full tuition will not be charged interest until they have received financial accommodation Would create equitable financial disbursements for all students, regardless of program Students would not have to seek alternative financial sources to pay for their students
Difficulties	With the change in Government, it is hard to determine where they fully stand regarding the Liberal's "Free Tuition" and while discussing these concerns with the Liberal candidate Eleanor

	McMahon, who was the President of the Treasury Board she had not considered the concerns that Stephanie and I addressed. That being said, currently folks are lauding the Liberal Government on their “Free Tuition” model; however, there are more efforts to be made. The difficulty is a challenging one with the new Conservative Government.
Long-term implications	Students from both professional and non-professional programs who require financial support, will receive it accordingly.
How?	My priority is to reevaluate the current OSAP structure to ensure it takes into account the financial disparities between programs and that the old Government’s promise for “free tuition” is reflective of that and students in professional programs are getting an increase in their grants that is related to their program. Through OUSA Student Financial Aid Policy, Stephanie will be providing input on our priority regarding this matter.
Partners	Stephanie Bertolo, Vice President Education OUSA, Advocacy group
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added to policy paper and is discussed at lobby meetings. Due the recent changes towards the affordability of education, there are no material outcomes of this.

Repurposing Space

Objective 1	<i>Increasing Outlets</i>
Description	It’s evident that there are not enough outlets on campus which result in ineffective spaces for students to work. Through conversations with facility services, we have discussed the feasibility of implementing more outlets in the McMaster University Students Centre, and both Thode and Mills library. We will be implementing power bars to maximize the amount of electronics that can be charged on campus, creating more effective study spaces for students.
Benefits	With every chair or group study table, there should be a working outlet for effective use.
Difficulties	Do not foresee any for this project, it has been straight-forward and the University partners have been receptive.

Long-term implications	More effective study spaces/working spaces on campus for students
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovations for MUSC is SLEF Funded with a total of 100,000, we will use some of this to increase outlets. • With the Library spaces, I will go on a walk-through with Anne and or Vvian who are the head librarians. They directly consult with facilities services and were more than open in hearing my ideas to do this so we can identify key areas that students have been complaining about.
Partners	Lori Diamond, MUSC Director Anne and Vivian, Librarians
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are funds allocated but the renovations themselves have not been done.

Objective 1	<i>More Group Study Space</i>
Description	Through collaboration with MUSC Administration, students will be able to book out study rooms to have a quiet study space or for group work throughout the year. This will allow students to book rooms with their Mac ID from the hours of 7p.m.-12a.m during midterms.
Benefits	Currently during exam times, there are extended hours where MUSC Admin is open and takes on the administration component. We have recognized that there is a demand to have these services during the midterm season as well.
Difficulties	Identifying when “midterm season” is difficult as some people enter midterms third week of September.
Long-term implications	Increasing study space by better utilizing the ones that we already have.
How?	Through MUSC Board of Management and through 1:1 meetings with Lori Diamond who handles MUSC Administration, we will determine the appropriate timeline and ensure that promotion is being done so that there it benefits students.

Partners	Lori Diamond, MUSC Director MUSC Board of Management
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will evaluate by end of term

FACILITIES

Objective 1	<i>Increasing Bus Shelters on Campus</i>
Description	This was a project that Chukky had ran on but did not complete. This was one of the first things I did while in office and made great strides in ensuring that the promises made to students were achieved. I will be securing the funding for the bus shelters and finalizing the locations.
Benefits	Some areas on campus do not have bus shelters and for harsh winters this is a severe health and safety issue as well.
Difficulties	The cost of rebuilding new shelters
Long-term implications	This will benefit students in the meantime before we move into the creation of the transit hub which is a long-term project for the University.
How?	We will be refurbishing old Limeridge shelters that are not in use to match the ones on campus so that students can use them. They will be placed in locations where there are no shelters and myself and the stakeholders have identified the key areas that will be discussed in my report.
Partners	Aidan Johnson, Ward 1 Councillor Robert Craik, Facilities Services Gord Arbeau, Director of Communications Stephanie Bertolo, Vice President Education
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed

Objective 1	<i>Decreasing Physical Barriers on Campus</i>
Description	Currently there are areas on campus that remain inaccessible to folks. Through conversation with McMaster's Director of Maintenance, this initiative is targeted towards investing more money in physically accessible pathways, roads, stairways and parking lots, in order to increase safety and physical accessibility throughout campus.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more physically accessible campus
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred maintenance has and will be an ongoing list as mentioned in a report by Roger Couldrey (VP Administration) at the Senate and Board of Governors when they were approving the Universities budget. However, this is about ensuring that we have shared priorities so that we are a part of these conversations.
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the deferred maintenance concerns
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through my conversations with Craig, he had mentioned that there is money invested each year for pathway repairs, roads, stairs, parking lots etc. • "All in the name of repairing the infrastructure back to original conditions to make use safe for all. We did an large investment this past summer. You will see a number of areas on campus where complete repaving and new concrete was installed to deal with potential slip, trip and fall hazards. • Investments are made annually so, I will go on a walkthrough with Craig and or a member of facilities services so that we are on the same page of where students main concerns are.
Partners	Craig MacDonald, Director of Maintenance Roger Couldrey VP Administration of the University
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially Completed

Lighting

Objective 1	<i>Better Lighting On Campus</i>
Description	Students have identified the need for increased lighting in low-traffic areas on campus i.e behind bates and thode.
Benefits	An ongoing student concern is addressed.
Difficulties	Ensuring that the requested locations are shared priorities with the University so that there is a reasonable timeline. So far, no difficulties and facilities has been great to work with. I will also be suggesting a walk-through with John.
Long-term implications	A well-lit campus
How?	I have identified key areas during the campaign and will be taking feedback as we go. Facilities services have already replaced the following lights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The front of the hospital at the crosswalk and along Forsyth Ave. • The lights on the poles at the bus stop are on Sterling between Divinity College and the Museum. • Lot M light replacement project is ongoing.
Partners	John Hemmer, Facility Services Roger Couldrey, VP Administration of the University
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not all lights have been changed to LED but is in transition to.

Objective 1	<i>Better Lighting Off Campus</i>
Description	Students have identified the need for increased lighting in low-traffic areas at off campus student-populated areas. The issue at hand is that poor lighting, broken lights and lack of light poles are contributing to the safety of students on and off campus. The City of Hamilton is currently beginning to upgrade street lighting on residential streets throughout the city over the next three years. However, while in office, the MSU will prioritize working with the Hamilton municipal government to implement more LED lighting

	off campus within the next year
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The McMaster community will benefit from having well-lit street lights
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At first this was a project discussed for many years, council was concerned about student engagement and once our relationship with the council had strengthened we have seen an increase of shared priorities. This being one of them. For now, no foreseeable difficulties for this project.
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great municipal advocacy on an ongoing student concern.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through conversations with Aidan Johnson, our Ward 1 councillor, the city has committed in adding the lights in the surrounding McMaster community where there are heavily populated students. We will however push that these are in place when the days are shorter (i.e winter when this becomes more of a safety concern).
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aidan Johnson, Ward 1 Councillor
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of it is completed

Objective 1	<i>Vision Conference</i>
Description	<p>Vision Conference is aimed at bringing faculty societies and clubs together for an all-day conference. This years vision conference is branded as a "Professional Development" and it aims at providing resources to clubs and faculty societies. Feedback from last year demonstrated that the key sessions should highlight areas that both groups can relate to. As a result, we developed programming that touches on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marketing and Outreach: Diversifying your programming 2. Sponsorship and Fundraising 3. Promoting wellness in student groups

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A day-long event where different leaders can network
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This event happens in the summer
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger relations between campus groups so that duplicity in event-programming decreases and groups can collaborate
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the special projects fund and Student Affairs, we are able to make this conference free.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josephine, Clubs Admin. • Emma Ferguson, Executive Assistant
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed

Objective 1	<i>Expanding Clubs Fest</i>
Description	<p>Clubs fest is an opportunity where clubs are able to showcase what they do and who they are to students for about 5 or 6 hours. This project is new and was created to expand that opportunities to clubs to really showcase who they are and what they do. Clubs fest should be just that, a fest. We are going to expand clubs fest and open up a call for talents so that clubs that can perform or in a creative way demonstrate their mandate can sign up to have "stage time" at one of our three stages throughout clubs fest. We will also be booking out JHE so that more clubs have the opportunity to participate in clubs fest.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More exposure for clubs/student groups
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because this is new, we want to ensure that groups are signing up their talents.
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs fest from now on will actually be a fest and there are more opportunities for growth
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through collaboration with AVTEK, Josephine and I were able to get three stages at a reasonable cost and by doing a walkthrough, we mapped out a new and readable map

	so that student groups/clubs are able to navigate clubs fest easier.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josephine, clubs admin and AVTEK
STATUS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed

Best,

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