

*The McMaster Students Union*

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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As the Vice President (Finance), I am responsible for overseeing the revenues and expenditures of our business units and services. This year, under a new directive from the Government of Ontario, student union funding has changed drastically. Previously, the McMaster Students Union (MSU) operated under a single user-fee in which service budgets were allocated by elected student leaders, monitored by professional accounting staff, and audited by experts on an annual basis. However, under the directive of the Student Choice Initiative, many services offered by the MSU are now deemed non-essential. These changes could result in the elimination of important services which aid students, as well as the loss of advocacy efforts.

As a student, I remember struggling to understand what exactly the MSU did and how it impacted me. It wasn't until later in my undergraduate career that I realized the concerts I attended or the clubs of which I was a member, existed because of the MSU. Upon

reflection, I realized the true extent to which the MSU influences the student experience, whether that be in large or small ways. The diversity of services, business units, and extracurricular opportunities supported by the MSU allows for an enhanced undergraduate journey that is unique to each student.

**“You have the power to ensure the best possible student experience for yourself, the thousands of other undergraduate students on campus, and future Marauders.”**

For this reason, when I was elected into my current role, financial and operational transparency was one of my most important platform points. This year as Vice President (Finance), I will be running a Financial Transparency Week in both September and January. Coming up this week, I will be working with the Finance Committee to engage with students about what the MSU is and how our 2019-2020 fees have

been allocated. We will be seeking feedback from students about how they think we can improve. This will be an opportunity for students to learn more about the different aspects of the MSU and better understand how fees are utilized. It is my hope to engage with as many students as possible

throughout the week. You can find us in different locations across campus on the following dates from 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM:

- **September 12: Mills Plaza**
- **September 16: Mills Plaza**
- **September 17: JHE Lobby**
- **September 19: MUSC Atrium**

Additionally, if you're considering opting out of a particular MSU service fee, I encourage you to use these opportunities to seek further information to help make an informed decision. Although the MSU has made a promise to students to continue operating all MSU services for the 2019-2020 year, the future of student life may look vastly different. The MSU may have to change its service delivery to include a pay-for-service model, increased ticket prices, and a reduction of services offered to students, all of which would result in an overall decrease in student life initiatives. However, as a student, you have the ability to help prevent these changes by remaining opted-in to our services. You have the power to ensure the best possible student experience for yourself, the thousands of other undergraduate students on campus, and future Marauders.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca). I welcome your insights and feedback.

**Choose**  
*Student Life*



**#ChooseStudentLife**  
[chooselife.com](http://chooselife.com)

**Your student services are at risk.**

The future is **uncertain**. Student union services may be forced into **pay-for-service models**, have to **increase costs** and/or **reduce student jobs**.

You can help prevent drastic changes to the **cost, quality, and availability** of services.



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msumcmaster.ca

text "MSU" to 71441

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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President



**SARAH FIGUEIREDO**  
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VP (Education)



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