MSU VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

David, Huzaifa and Jeff reflect on daily responsibilities and opportunities for impact within the organization.

While Presidential and SRA elections may be over, the race for office isn’t quite finished yet. The elections of the three Vice Presidents, as well as the MSU Speaker remain. Any MSU member (an undergraduate student enrolled in 30 units or more) may run for the election of a Vice Presidential position or for the role of Speaker. Elections will be held at the Student Representative Assembly meeting of Sunday, April 7, 2013 beginning at noon in Council Chambers (Gilmour Hall 111). You need only make your presence known at this meeting if you wish to be considered for any of the positions.

As a result, I become involved in a huge array of projects on campus, often through sitting on committees or providing advice in order to help facilitate the work of those involved. This role to the MSU, the VP (Administration) job entails. So much of my time is spent jumping between committees and meetings, working on initiatives and projects that span over a period of months, or adjustments to budget lines that are flagged for review at the end of the year, and my job is to keep track of all of these and update the paperwork accordingly at the appropriate time. Attention to detail and a good memory are necessary to keep the MSU running smoothly. It is imperative to having the MSU function well.

Another important aspect of my job is in the planning of Welcome Week. Welcome Week at McMaster is a collaboration between many different stakeholders in the University, the MSU, and the community (the VP (Administration), it is our job to lead the planning of Welcome Week from the MSU side, as well as work with other teams in order to ensure that Welcome Week is effectively run. The final part of my job can perhaps be most accurately described as a facilitator of projects. The MSU is a hub for all of the fantastic student initiatives on campus, and as a hub internal role to the MSU, the VP (Administration) often becomes the point person on the Board of Directors for collaborating with outside groups.

It’s hard to describe just what the Vice President (Administration) job entails. So much of my time is spent jumping between committees and meetings, working on initiatives and projects that span over a period of months, or adjustments to budget lines that are flagged for review at the end of the year, and my job is to keep track of all of these and update the paperwork accordingly at the appropriate time. Attention to detail and a good memory are necessary to keep the MSU running smoothly. It is imperative to having the MSU function well. However, it can be a way to make a significant impact in many different ways. In any given hour I might go from a meeting about Welcome Week, to helping a service with an issue; to booking space for an event, then returning to my desk to find a dozen other issues have popped up needing attention! Nonetheless, I will try and break down my role as much as possible.

The first and most important role of the VP (Administration) is as a manager. My role supports (or co-support) almost every student part-time manager within the MSU, more than twenty staff in total. These colleagues in turn are each in charge of the services the MSU provides to students, from Diversity Services and MACycle to the MSU Maroons and the Horizons conference. These services are some of the most active ways that the MSU reaches out to students, and supporting these managers is one of my key responsibilities.

Apart from serving as a member of the Board of Directors, Executive Board and SRA, the Vice President (Education) (VP (E) as we are known at this meeting if you wish to be considered for any of the positions. The President) the spokesperson responsible for articulating the ‘student voice’ to stakeholders, meeting committees and lobbying various students. To give some insight as to what specifically the VP (E) does, I can tell you that at the municipal level I’ve worked with the City on mental health initiatives and the rental housing bylaw. Provincially and federally I am the primary McMaster delegates for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Association (OUSA) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), where I coauthored four policy papers, participated in convention lobbying meetings with Members of Parliament and MPPs, as well as civil servants. I helped design a successful mental health campaign for Welcome Week along with a WiS initiative and am strongly involved with MSU’s role in the Forum with Integrity process and the Systems Renewal Initiative. Moreover, the VP (E) is able to make a student voice to the students, to stakeholders, to the government, to the public, and to a collegiate body and its concerns and challenges with large number of post-secondary education stakeholders.

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The President’s Page is sponsored by the McMaster Students Union. It is a space used to communicate with the McMaster undergraduate student body about the projects, goals and agenda of the MSU Board of Directors.

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