

the PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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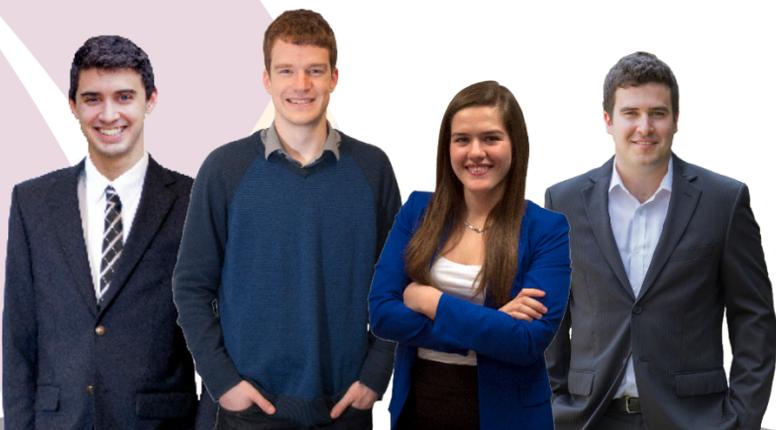
Mid-Year Report

Pinned to the wall of my office is a list of seven items. It is the list of promises I made to students during my MSU Presidential election campaign. With December upon us and grades starting to pour in, I think it's only fair that I provide a report of my efforts thus far.

Below is an update on the seven platform points I put forward while running for MSU President. Keep in mind this is far from all of the work that the MSU has been up to this year (some of which can be found in past President's Pages). Instead, this is an update on those promises I made to you eight months ago.

I am proud to have completed or be near completing all of the promises I made to students. My platform is not the only aspect of my job, but it is still an important reflection of my values and the standards I set for myself. With MSU Presidential elections taking place in January, hopefully we will see Presidential candidates with well-researched and ambitious platforms, so that come next November they can have an even better report card than mine.

PLATFORM POINT	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	
SAVING STUDENTS' SUMMER FEES	✓		This September, the SRA voted unanimously to rescind the agreement with the McMaster Association of Part-Time Students (MAPS) that forced full-time students to be charged part-time fees for summer courses. While the fee schedule for the upcoming year has not yet been decided upon by the University, we fully expect that the decision of students will be respected and that students will no longer be charged these redundant fees.
LONGER LIBRARY HOURS	✓		In July, McMaster Libraries announced new improvements to hours of operation for the school year. Mills, Mills Learning Commons, Innis and Thode all have been operating with increased service hours (particularly on Fridays and at key midterm times during the semester). These increases were a great start, but there is still some work to be done. The MSU will be continuing to lobby for more access to essential study space on campus.
BETTER TEACHING QUALITY		✓	The University has established the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning (MIETL), formerly the Centre for Leadership in Learning. We are working closely with the Institute to establish greater training for Teaching Assistants. Establishing teaching-focused faculty is a longer-term priority. The MSU is currently developing policy and working with University Administration about the importance of these positions to students.
BIGGER HOMECOMING	✓		For the first time ever, the MSU organized the Homecoming Expo, which included games, giveaways, live performances by McMaster bands, and food trucks. The event was very successful, with thousands of students attending throughout the day. The MSU also hosted a concert (Dean Brody) and worked closely with Alumni and Ath & Rec to promote the weekend. I hope these efforts will continue to expand to make Homecoming an even bigger and better celebration.
IMPROVING THE STUDENT CENTRE		✓	Surprisingly, this has been the most difficult platform point to complete. The process for making improvements to the building is unfortunately very slow-moving. However, some progress has been made - a new set of outlets will be installed soon in the cafeteria along the Gilmour Hall wall. Also, microwaves will be permanently installed behind Tim Hortons in early 2014. Where possible, unused space will be transformed into casual study space during exams. Despite these accomplishments, changes to the Student Centre remain my biggest challenge. I will continue to foster improvements throughout second semester.
BETTER BUS SERVICE ON CAMPUS	✓		Hopefully you've heard by now about the negotiations between the MSU and the HSR. The options to expand service will be put to students via a referendum in January, which will coincide with the Presidential election. I think we've reached some amazing potential deals for students, and now it's up to all of us to decide which deal suits us best!
SUSTAINABILITY IN TWELVEIGHTY	✓		Shortly after my election, TwelvEighty made the switch to compostable takeout containers. Cups on bar nights are being recycled at far greater rates than previous years. The TwelvEighty menu is increasing its use of locally-sourced ingredients. Moving forward, one more area of improvement will be finding a sustainable method of composting in the TwelvEighty kitchen.



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