It seems that for too many students, particularly those with great ideas and ambitions, there is a lack of funding. What is even more tragic is the fact that there is funding out there and most students simply do not know about it. Both the MSU and Student Services have money allocated in their budgets specifically designated for student initiatives, i.e. your chance to get your idea off the ground. The first and biggest source of funding administered by the McMaster Students’ Union is the Student Services Committee. This committee is a partnership between the McMaster Students’ Union and Student Affairs. Together, representatives from both groups for the committee administer funding to projects that promote and encourage student opportunity. McMaster students pay a $4.07 fee per unit (to a maximum of $122.10) to Student Services. Of this pool of funds, 16% is allocated to special events and projects undertaken by Student Services and the University. Some recent examples include funding the laptop lending program in MSU Learning Commons, start-up funds for the McMaster Marketing band and Quater Students Community Centre library, Off-Campus Support, and funding for the creation of Bridges Café. For more information on this fund and how students and student groups can apply, please contact MSU President Vishal Tiwari, or the Director of Student Services, Gina Robinson.

There is also another fund that is tailored specifically to help subsidize programs and events. This is known as the Student Service Program Support Fund. Events such as conferences, a lecture series, or cultural shows are great examples of programs facilitated through the Student Service Program Support Fund. As long as you are an undergraduate student of McMaster University, you are eligible to apply for funding from this pool. Students are encouraged to visit the Student Affairs website or contact the office for application forms and more information on application requirements.

Both funding options I discussed above are constantly in need of good ideas. The money allocated to these accounts is there to support of student initiatives, whether they be on campus programming or special projects. So please, do not be afraid to apply. All projects and events will - at the very least - be considered.

In addition to those funding options, your very own MSU provide opportunities for special project funding to both MSU Clubs and individual students. First of all, the McMaster Students’ Union supports one of the largest clubs system in the country, with currently over 200 student groups benefiting from the opportunity. Moreover, in addition to the clubs you may be aware of the MSU also offers club-specific special project funding which is used as a means of support for those groups who need a little extra money to help their numbers achieve larger projects or goals. The MSU is looking for proposals from those groups with larger ambitions, and we are dedicated to making an effort to ensure that clubs who take the extra initiative have the proper support.

All clubs are encouraged to email the MSU Clubs Administrator with a proposal for special project funding, and all applications will be reviewed for consideration. Finally, the Executive Board of the MSU, comprised of the Board of Directors, as well as five representatives from the Student Representative Assembly (SRA), dispense funds for sponsorships and donations. This fund is intended to support students in any type of initiative(s) imaginable, from running an event, to developing a new campus or community project, or perhaps attending a conference.

All MSU members are eligible to apply. Simply visit the MSU website at msu.mcmaster.ca, find the tab for Student Government on our homepage, then look under the Executive Board section to find the application.

There is a lot of money out there, go get it!

Andrew Caterine
VP Finance
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24109

Arkells live at twelveighty

with Life in Sound and Sandman Viper Command | Friday, October 23rd | 9 p.m.  | $10 (students), $15 (guests), at Compass

Both the MSU and the university have funds to help you get your projects off the ground - Andrew explains how to get your hands on them.