

**YEAR PLAN**  
MSU Vice President (Education)  
Rodrigo Narro Perez  
2014-2015  
(submitted *June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*)



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## Office of the Vice President (Education) INTRODUCTION

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Dear Reader,

The MSU strives to create the best possible undergraduate experience for full-time undergraduate students at McMaster. This is achieved by providing services to students and by advocating to the university and external bodies the best way to address student needs.

It has been a month since I've started the role of MSU Vice President (Education). Within this month I have been able to gain valuable insight into how versatile and significant this role is. Post-secondary education advocacy does not just include what occurs in the classroom but acknowledges a variety of issues that comprise the broader-learning environment. Issues such as mental health, accessibility, financial literacy and community engagement are, but a few of many, issues that need to be addressed to ensure that every student has a successful and impactful undergraduate experience.

My vision for this role is one where student input, feedback and experiences will be a driving force for my objectives and projects. I am a strong believer that student advocates can make meaningful change. Student advocates are the best advocates for student issues. From the moment I stepped on to campus I was taught that the student voice is a powerful one. I continue to carry this lesson with me and I hope to instil it unto others. Collaboration between students, the university and the government, is, in my opinion, the only way in which innovation and success can occur at post-secondary institutions. Without the student voice, post-secondary institutions lose their direction.

This document will provide you with the framework in which I plan to achieve my many objectives and goals for the upcoming year. I plan on tackling a variety of issues that include, but are not limited to, experiential education, student support, financial literacy, government lobbying, and community engagement. Every day I am thankful to be in this role and I encourage you to read how I envision this role be a conduit for the student voice. I encourage you to hold me accountable to this plan and to engage with me about any issue that you may have. I believe that learning is a life-long endeavour that does not stop after `school` is over. I find myself privileged to have the opportunity to advocate for you and your education`s behalf.

Sincerely,

Rodrigo Narro Perez  
Vice President (Education) & Corporate Officer  
McMaster Students Union

## GOALS

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| Objective 1  | <b>MIIETL and MSU Collaboration</b>  |
| Description  | The McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning (MIIETL) was launched in 2013, taking place of the previous Centre for Leadership in Learning (CLL). MIIETL has two primary purposes. It supports, encourages and collaborates with instructors here at McMaster to improve quality of instruction in the classroom. Additionally, it acts as a research hub where innovation in teaching and learning can occur. MIIETL prides itself in being student-centred and as the MSU we must ensure that we provide student feedback in all their initiatives. We must ensure that we can influence the direction of the institute as it grows. I plan on ensuring that the MSU, through a variety of ways, collaborates with MIIETL as often as possible. |
| Benefits     | MIIETL is one of McMaster's departments whose objectives are exactly what students have been advocating for, high quality teaching and learning. It is in all students' interest to make sure that the work that this institute does has constant student feedback. Additionally, the MSU should collaborate in several of MIIETL's events to ensure that their work always has a student opinion. Students and MIIETL need to work together to ensure that McMaster instructors are aware that we value high quality teaching and that they should seek MIIETL whenever looking to revamp, redesign or create courses.  |
| Difficulties | With less than a year since its establishment, MIIETL is still finding its niche at McMaster. Encouraging faculty and instructors to seek MIIETL has two main difficulties. The first is based on the fact that not all faculty and instructors are aware of MIIETL and what it can provide for them. And the second problem is that for those faculty who are aware of MIIETL, they have some hesitation in reaching out as they have doubts on how efficient they will be as an institute. McMaster has dedicated various resources to ensure that MIIETL is more than capable in providing high quality support to faculty, thus as students we must encourage faculty to reach out to MIIETL.  |
| Long-term    | I hope to continue the fruitful partnership that last year's VP Ed created between the MSU and MIIETL. I hope to establish a formal ways in which communication and feedback can be given between students and MIIETL. I want to ensure that students continue to always be included in MIIETL's initiatives as their work, directly impacts student's learning at McMaster.   |
| How          | After various meeting with MIIETL's director and AVP Teaching and Learning, Dr. Arshad Ahmad, we have established various ways in which student feedback will be present in MIIETL's activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MIIETL will report to the Academic Affairs Council throughout the academic year to inform us of their activities and for us to provide feedback</li> <li>• I will attend regular meetings with MIIETL's administration to</li> </ul>   |

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|          | <p>ensure that students have representation as MIETL moves forward with their initiatives</p> <p>We have created a space in MIETL’s website called ‘Student Voices’ where any student can write a blog about any academic topic of their choosing. This will allow for academics who visit the site to see what students at McMaster are discussing in terms of education.</p> <p>Throughout the year we will hold focus groups where student will be able to provide feedback and their opinion on teaching and learning at McMaster.</p> |
| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of MIETL and AVP Teaching and Learning - Dr. Arshad Ahmad</li> <li>• Associate Director Educational Development - Janette Barrington</li> <li>• Associate Director, Educational Technology - Zafar Syed</li> <li>• Manager of Program Enhancement - Lori Goff</li> <li>• Academic Affairs Council</li> <li>• MSU President - Teddy Saull</li> <li>• Advocacy Coordinator - Jess Shoker</li> <li>• SRA</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 2 | <b>Forward with Integrity and MSU Collaboration</b>  |
| Description | <p>Ever since 2011 when President Patrick Deane wrote his open letter ‘Forward with Integrity’ McMaster as an institution has moved towards various themes (Student Experience, Community Engagement, Research and Internationalization) to enrich the student experience here at McMaster. FWI incentivises faculty, staff and students through funding and support to ensure that Patrick Deane’s vision of McMaster, as expressed in his letter, can become a reality. Currently, FWI is working on various initiatives which I think the MSU should be involved to ensure that students are also driving this institution-wide change. I plan to continue the established relationship between the FWI team and the MSU by providing a direct link to the student voice.</p>   |
| Benefits    | <p>FWI has identified McMaster as a ‘research-focused student-centered’ institution. This statement positions students as the core of what McMaster activities, initiatives and work should be fixated at. As the MSU we must ensure that students are involved in FWI’s initiatives and that as FWI itself evolves, students are shaping its evolution. Additionally, we view two of FWI’s current priorities as beneficial to students and we want to collaborate to ensure these two priorities succeed. The Learning Portfolio is a tool that gives students a virtual space to active reflect about their experience here at McMaster and develop high quality reflective skills that will enrich their academic experience here at McMaster. Additionally, FWI is going to work to expand the Community Engagement Partner</p> |

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|              | Network. This network hopes to ensure that students have community engagement learning opportunities. This network also seeks to further develop McMaster's relationship with the Hamilton community.  |
| Difficulties | One of FWI's main difficulties is engaging students in its initiatives. For example, FWI allows students, faculty and staff to apply for grants for projects and initiatives that in some way share FWI's values. Last year FWI received very little student applications. As the MSU we must create a way to inform students of this opportunity and ensure that student ideas can come to fruition. Additionally, some initiatives like the Learning Portfolio are not the most appealing to students. We must deliver the positive message of initiatives such as the Learning Portfolio in a way that appeals to students and excites them in participating in such initiatives. |
| Long-term    | The long-term goal for the Learning Portfolio is to ensure that the process of reflective learning and the skills learned through reflection become a culture at McMaster. The benefits of this type of learning have been shown to greatly enhance the student experience at various North American schools. This is a goal that will take years to achieve but we can take the right steps to ensure this occurs at McMaster. Additionally, I hope that students are always in the table whenever FWI decides on new initiatives and projects.   |
| How          | I will continue to have regular meetings with the FWI team and University Affairs Commissioner, Alan Rheaume, to always provide student feedback and context in their various initiatives. Additionally, I will be sitting in various committees that FWI hosts to ensure students are represent. For the Learning Portfolio, the MSU will continue the creation of the Learning Portfolio Student Team where students are involved in talking about the Learning Portfolio and reflective learning to other students. The University Affairs Committee will also provide constant feedback and support in various FWI initiatives.  |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FWI Project Manager - Laura Harrington</li> <li>• FWI Public Relations Manager - Erica Balch</li> <li>• MSU President - Teddy Saull</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheaume</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Learning Portfolio Student Team</li> <li>• Community Engagement Partners Network</li> </ul>  |

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| Objective 3 | <b>Faculty Society Advocacy Empowerment</b>   |
| Description | Faculty (and program) societies are student-led organizations here at McMaster that work towards enriching the student experience for their respective students. I believe that faculty societies are very crucial in student advocacy. This year I plan to collaborate greatly with all Vice President Academics (or equivalents), for all Faculty |

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|              | <p>societies to ensure that they have the right tools to advocate on behalf of their students. Additionally, I want to empower them to provide student feedback and their own individual perspectives on a variety of initiatives that are taking place at McMaster. Another task that I want the Academic Affairs Council (AAC) is decide on a few priorities that every member agrees should be addressed. We can then address these issues as a collective body and gain traction with the respective stakeholders.</p>   |
| Benefits     | <p>I believe that if the MSU and Faculty Societies are simultaneously advocating and addressing a variety issues to different university stakeholders, then we will be able to have greater success. Faculty Societies can provide an important perspective as they are more conscious of various academic concerns that students in their respective faculties/programs are encountering. I want to also ensure that these societies are equipped with as much knowledge and tools that they may require whenever they advocate. I believe that by being as prepared as they can be, student advocates can instil great change.</p>   |
| Difficulties | <p>A challenge with this initiative is that each Faculty Society will have different resources, different priorities and a different structure. These may create potential barriers when trying to find consensus. I believe that regardless of these differences, AAC will be able to find common ground on the fact that we all want to make sure our students' education is at a high calibre.</p>  |
| Long-term    | <p>One of the most important long-term goals of this objective is to create a student structure and network for students where student advocacy can have the highest impact. I want to continue the work that the previous VP Ed started. Through AAC, student leaders are able to share stories and best practices on the various issues that they deal within their roles. I also want to ensure that future student advocates will have the right tools to perform their jobs to the best of their ability.</p>   |
| How          | <p>I want to ensure that AAC can provide as much feedback and provide a student perspective to various university stakeholders. For example, MIETL and the Library will look to AAC for student input throughout the academic year.</p> <p>In collaboration with all Faculty Societies, we will be creating an 'Advocacy Guide' where relevant information concerning advocacy, education and policies can be found. This will enable student leaders to have the proper knowledge to succeed in their role.</p> <p>I want AAC to be member driven and allow them to participate as much as they wish in the various initiatives that the council decides to tackle this year. At the same time, I must ensure that AAC stays relevant and can effectively work together to achieve all of the goals for the year.</p> |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Affairs Council + Presidents of Faculty Societies</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheaume</li> <li>• MIETL Director and AVP Teaching and Learning - Dr. Arshad Ahmad</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Librarian - Vivian Lewis</li> </ul> |
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| Objective 4  | <b>OUSA Participation and Leadership</b>  |
| Description  | The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) is an organization that represents and advocates the interest of 7 Ontario universities, as well as the interest of all undergraduate Ontario students. OUSA advocates to, as well as collaborate with, the provincial government to ensure that post-secondary education in Ontario is accessible, affordable, and accountable and of high quality. As VP Ed for the MSU, I sit on OUSA's Steering Committee, the body that directs the organization's vision for the upcoming year. I want to ensure that the interests of McMaster students, as well as our values, are always throughout all of OUSA's initiatives for the year. I also want to ensure that McMaster students are aware of the work that OUSA does. By actively engaging student feedback and opinion of OUSA's initiatives, we can ensure that McMaster students are engaged with post-secondary education issues. |
| Benefits     | OUSA has worked with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and University's to create various initiatives that have benefitted Ontario students. For example, the creation of the 30% Ontario Tuition Grant (OTG) was executed with OUSA's guidance. By being an active participant in OUSA I can ensure that the interests of McMaster students as well as the rest of Ontario students are in the forefront of the government's work. Additionally, educating students about OUSA allows students to be actively aware of post-secondary education issues. By providing feedback, students will also make be able to provide first-hand experiences that OUSA can use when advocating.   |
| Difficulties | Engaging students about OUSA can be challenging if it is not delivered in an easy and informative way. If this occurs, students often feel alienated and will feel even more disconnected from OUSA than before. At the same time, when asking student feedback about post-secondary issues I must make sure that the issues that are being discussed are easy to understand and easy to relate to. If this occurs, students are able to provide more feedback without difficulty.  |
| Long-term    | I want to ensure that McMaster is seen as a leader in post-secondary education advocacy. If McMaster students are constantly providing feedback to large post-secondary education issues, then we are ensuring that our values and vision are present in provincial advocacy.   |
| How          | To ensure McMaster's voice is always present at OUSA, I will ensure that I am an active member in OUSA's Steering Committee. I will ensure that I am always in communication with the EA commissioner as well as Advocacy Coordinator, who will be able to provide valuable insight to OUSA's work. I want to be a co-author to the Student Health Policy Paper. As I will be looking at how McMaster is tackling student well-being, I hope to provide valuable insight to how the Province can also support all undergraduate students. I   |

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|          | <p>want to have various campaigns that promote OUSA’s work on our campus; this will be done by collaborating with the EA commissioner and Advocacy Coordinator.</p> <p>This year McMaster will be hosting the OUSA’s Spring General Assembly. The General Assembly is OUSA’s highest governing body where student leaders from all member associations gather together to discuss OUSA’s policies as well as make binding decisions for the organization. I think that in preparation for this event, we do various awareness campaigns about OUSA.</p> |
| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA Home Office</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Commissioner - Spencer Nestico-Semianiw</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator - Jess Shoker</li> <li>• MSU University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheume</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Committee</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Street Team</li> <li>• MSU President - Teddy Saull</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 5  | <b>Investigate the MSU’s Future in federal advocacy</b>  |
| Description  | <p>Last year’s the SRA decided that the MSU should become an associate member of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). This decision was a result of CASA not complying to various recommendations that last year’s VP Ed, in collaboration with other Ontario schools, made in regards to CASA’s operating structure. After a year of research, it became apparent that CASA has several shortcomings which impede the organization to adequately represent McMaster undergraduate students. Federal advocacy is different from provincial advocacy as there is no direct equivalent to MTCU at the federal level. Despite this, Federal advocacy is still important as the federal government controls various things that pertain to post-secondary education such as the Canada Federal Loan Program, is in charge of Aboriginal Student Assistance, the federal government also oversees student mental health services. This year I must determine the best route for the MSU to take in terms of federal advocacy. This requires assessing if the MSU will go back to full-member of CASA or if we will be leaving the organization. If we leave CASA, I must ensure that there is an appropriate alternative for the MSU to be represented at the federal level.</p> |
| Benefits     | <p>Federal advocacy impacts Ontario students in a variety of ways. The needs and interests of McMaster students should always be represented at the federal level. The current manner in which the MSU advocates federally is not working, I must ensure that this changes and that in future, the MSU is also a leader in terms of federal advocacy.</p>  |
| Difficulties | <p>Federal advocacy itself is not as straight-forward as provincial</p>  |

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|           | <p>advocacy, since there is no MTCU equivalent in the federal level. When advocating to the federal government, finding consensus on what is important for <i>all Canadian</i> university students can be quite challenging. Every province has unique needs, and thus when assessing organizations such as CASA, I need to ensure that the needs of McMaster students will not be diminished as consensus is built.</p>   |
| Long-term | <p>The decision that will be made this year will have a long lasting effect on the future of the MSU's federal advocacy. Whatever decision is made by the SRA at the end of this year, I want it to be the one that best suits the needs of our students.</p>  |
| How       | <p>The first thing that must be done for this project is working with CASA. Last year's VP Ed made various recommendations to CASA Home Office to address the concerns that various Ontario schools had about CASA. If these concerns are addressed and CASA starts operating in a manner that is adequate for the MSU, then the SRA may reconsider going back to full-member. If this does not occur then I must research what alternatives the MSU has for federal advocacy. Some of these alternatives include assessing if OUSA can start representing its member associations at a federal level or if provincial organizations such as OUSA can join together and form an 'association of alliances'. To properly assess the MSU's future I must converse with various other student unions to research the different ways in which federal advocacy occurs at other universities. This project will also rely on consultation and support from the External Affairs Committee and Advocacy Street Team.</p> |
| Partners  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CASA Home Office</li> <li>• CASA Membership</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator - Jess Shoker</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Committee</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Street Team</li> <li>• MSU President - Teddy Saull</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 6 | <b>Engage students during Provincial elections</b>   |
| Description | <p>Student engagement during government elections is not as high when compared to other demographics. This year, the province of Ontario will have elections on June 12<sup>th</sup>. As VP Ed, I must ensure that McMaster students have the right tools and information to make an informed vote for this election. The MSU is a non-partisan organization whose main role during this election is to provide information to students so they can vote rather than instructing them who to vote for. This can be achieved by creating an online campaign that engages students throughout this election.</p> |
| Benefits    | <p>The provincial government plays a large role in how universities across the province are funded and run. As post-secondary students, we must ensure that the government is engaged with student issues. By providing students the information they need to vote, we can</p>   |

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|              | <p>ensure that the student voting turnout is higher than during the 2011 election. At the same time by being engaged during this election period, students will be aware of other public issues that will also be determined by the elections. Lastly, by being engaged in this election we hope that students will continue to be engaged voters as they move on from their post-secondary studies.</p>   |
| Difficulties | <p>Due to the elections being held in June, the student presence on campus is lower than during the academic year. This impedes the ability for us to engage students one-on-one as much as we could have during the academic year. Another difficulty that we will encounter is ensuring that the information we distribute is geared towards students and is both easily accessible and comprehensible, especially for students who are not engaged with politics.</p>   |
| Long-term    | <p>I hope that by establishing this campaign, we can create an effective framework that can be utilized by the MSU for future provincial elections. I also want to ensure that the MSU is a leader in information dissemination for students during election time.</p>   |
| How          | <p>The MSU campaign to engage students is centred around the hashtag #MacVotes. This campaign was made with help from the MSU's Communications Office and SLDC. This campaign is composed of the following components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating of the page '#MacVotes' in the MSU website. This page contains all the information that a student needs so they can vote. Additionally it also includes information regarding why students should vote and how political party platforms plan on affecting post-secondary education in Ontario</li> <li>• On May 28<sup>th</sup> the MSU hosted an All-Candidates Debate where four candidates for the Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale, the riding McMaster belongs to. This debate was live-streamed by the Silhouette as well as being broadcasted by CFMU.</li> <li>• We are making various short videos where we provide information as well as ask students what they are interested in during this election time</li> <li>• We have created lots of media and infographics to share through social media to promote elections and encourage students to vote</li> </ul> |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator – Jess Shoker</li> <li>• MSU Student Community Support Network Coordinator – Josh Patel</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Commissioner – Spencer Nestico-Semianiw</li> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator – Michael Wooder</li> <li>• OUSA Communications Director – Brandon Sloan</li> <li>• MSU Communications Officer – Alexander Young</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Board of Directors</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Committee</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Exec</li> </ul> |
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| Objective 7  | <b>Engage students during municipal election</b>   |
| Description  | <p>McMaster is fortunate to be located in the City of Hamilton. The city of Hamilton is a continuously growing with a promising economy; it has a great art, cultural and culinary scene. This project aligns very well with the previous objective. This year is also a municipal year and on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the City of Hamilton will hold its election. A large proportion of undergraduate students here at Mac are also citizens of Hamilton and thus, as citizens, students will be affected by the results of this election. Similarly, McMaster is an active community member of Hamilton, with active partnerships with both the City and local businesses. The outcome of this election will also have an impact on students as they are McMaster students. Similarly to what is being done for the provincial election, I want to ensure that the MSU provides the appropriate information to students so they can vote and are informed of the various ways in which McMaster and they as Hamilton residents will be impacted by the election results.</p> |
| Benefits     | <p>As with the provincial election, by encouraging students to vote during this municipal election, we can ensure that students have a greater say in the city that they reside in. Students comprised a significant proportion of the City's Ward 1, by making an informed vote we can ensure that students' needs are present whenever important decisions are made in this ward.</p>  |
| Difficulties | <p>One clear difference between this election and the June provincial election is that students will be present during this election period and thus we must ensure that the strategy that will be used to engage students is effective when talking to students one-on-one. Another difficulty that we will encounter is ensuring that the information we distribute is geared towards students and is both easily accessible and comprehensible. While the issues for this election may be more relatable to the student population, if the issues of this election are not student (or McMaster) related, we may encounter some student disinterest, something which we have to fight.</p>  |
| Long-term    | <p>Unfortunately, student voter turnout for past municipal elections has always been very low. I want to make the first step to end this. Additionally, by engaging students during this election, I hope that students continue to be engaged in the city that they reside in.</p>  |
| How          | <p>For this campaign we will continue using the #MacVotes hashtag. We will update the page to contain all the information that a students will need to vote.</p> <p>We will also be doing the following initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create videos that will engage students about the issues being discussed during this election</li> </ul>  |

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|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host an all-candidates for all Ward 1 candidates, and if possible for all mayoral candidates</li> <li>• Create various promotional material that can be put all over campus</li> <li>• Create infographics that contains all relevant information regarding the election</li> </ul>  |
| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Advocacy Coordinator – Jess Shoker</li> <li>• MSU Student Community Support Network Coordinator – Josh Patel</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Commissioner – Spencer Nestico-Semianiw</li> <li>• MSU Student Life Development Coordinator – Michael Wooder</li> <li>• OUSA Communications Director – Brandon Sloan</li> <li>• MSU Communications Officer – Alexander Young</li> <li>• MSU Board of Directors</li> <li>• MSU External Affairs Committee</li> <li>• MSU Advocacy Exec</li> <li>• SRA</li> </ul> |

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| Objective 8  | <b>Collaborate in the creation of the Peer Tutoring Network</b>  |
| Description  | MSU President, Teddy Saull, ran on establishing a Peer Tutoring Network which would allow students to purchase an affordable tutoring service. Students at McMaster who pay for peer tutoring are vulnerable to purchasing services at a very high rate which may not be of high quality. The McMaster Engineering Society (MES) launched a peer tutoring service called Student Academic Assistance Program (SAAP) which connects engineering students with tutors as well as providing affordable tutoring. The society subsidizes \$10 per hour of tutoring (students pays \$5, tutor receives \$15). Additionally, the Student Success Centre currently has a peer tutoring program which connects students to other students who want to tutor. This does not provide affordable tutoring as its sole function is to connect student with tutors and nothing else. This project will be worked on by all four Board of Directors members. |
| Benefits     | Peer tutoring has various academic benefits. For the tutor, it allows them to develop tutoring and teaching skills as they provide academic service to the tutee; additionally tutoring can act as a job for students who wish to be a tutor. If affordable tutoring is established, the tutee does not only receive academic help but also is able to afford it without great financial strain. As the MSU, ensuring that affordable tutoring occurs on campus combines both our pillars of advocacy and service.   |
| Difficulties | This project has various difficulties. The first one is to determine who will be a stakeholder in this project; possible stakeholders include  |

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|           | <p>faculty/program societies as well as various university departments. The second difficulty to ensure affordable tutoring occurs is determining where the funding for the program will come from. This is dependent on how many partners this program has. Establishing a successful peer tutoring network has various logistical aspects that need to be considered when discussing its creation. Tutor coordination, training and pay roll are examples of things to keep in mind.</p>  |
| Long-term | <p>By establishing a successful peer tutor network, we hope to create a program that will allow students to receive affordable academic aid that benefits both the tutor and tutee. By establishing this network we can also ensure that students are not overcharged or taken advantage of when seeking academic assistance.</p>   |
| How       | <p>To attain a clear vision of this project, I will continue to consult possible partners that may want to collaborate in the creation of this network. This includes consulting faculty societies, in particular the MES, and the Student Success Center. Once we have figured out how many partners will be included in the launch of this network, the finances of sustaining this service can also be determined. An online framework needs to then be developed where tutors and tutees can connect. Lastly a communication strategy needs to be created to advertise this network during the academic year.</p> |
| Partners  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Board of Directors</li> <li>• Faculty/Program Societies</li> <li>• SSC Academic Skills Program Coordinator - Jennifer Meister</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheume</li> </ul>  |

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| Objective 9 | <b>Launch the MSU Course Wiki</b>   |
| Description | <p>Last year's VP Ed and I worked on establishing the MSU Course Wiki, which is an online platform that contains information about all of McMaster's undergraduate courses. The content of this wiki would be written, edited and monitored by students themselves (via Mac ID access through the MSU website). Additional to the standard course information, such as course schedule, instructor information and evaluation weightings, but also student feedback and comments on various aspects of the course. This can include personal experiences regarding the course textbook or study tips specific to the course. The MSU Course Wiki was constructed by the company Factor[e], the same company which hosts the MSU website. While there are some last minute bugs to fix, the Course Wiki is ready to be launched. In collaboration with the Academic Affairs Council I want to organize a big launch for this project and ensure that students use and benefit from it.</p> |
| Benefits    | <p>The MSU Course Wiki can provide students with a forum to share their experiences with courses so other students can learn from those experiences. Ultimately we would hope that students can make a more educated course selection based on the opinions they find in this wiki.</p>   |

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| Difficulties | Inputting the content on the wiki will be one, if not the, most important challenges for this project. McMaster offers hundreds of courses and ensuring that every department/program is represented at the start of the launch will be challenging to do. Secondly, I must ensure that students are actively editing and creating content in the wiki. I must ensure that instructions to using the wiki are easy to understand so students will be able use the wiki with ease.  |
| Long-term    | Ultimately, I would want to see the MSU Course Wiki as one of the main sites that students go to gather information about their courses. By providing information written by students for students, we can ensure that students stay connected and are able to share their experiences with one another. This will create an active culture of information sharing.  |
| How          | To ensure a successful launch, I must first ensure that the wiki is ready to be live. This includes constant consultation with Factor[e] and active student volunteers to check if there for any bugs or malfunctions in the platform. I must then engage the Academic Affairs Council and the SRA to start creating content. The first content that will go into the wiki will be pivotal as it will be the first content that students will be exposed to. I must then collaborate with the Communications Officer to create a marketing strategy that will attract students to, not only visiting the wiki, but also actively edit and add content to it. |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Affairs Council</li> <li>• MSU University Affairs Commissioner – Alan Rheaume</li> <li>• MSU Communications Officer – Alex Young</li> <li>• MSU University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Factor [e]</li> <li>• MSU Network Administrator – Pauline Taggart</li> <li>• SRA</li> </ul>  |

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| Objective 10 | <b>Involve the MSU in the University`s Mental Health Strategy</b>   |
| Description  | Student mental health has become an important issue that desperately needs to be addressed by both post-secondary institutions and the Province of Ontario. Various institutions across the province have started to tackled this issue, while the Province has also launched various projects such as the Good2Talk project. In January, Sean Van Koughnett (AVP Students & Learning and Dean of Students) launched the McMaster Student Mental Health Strategy to address the need to evaluate the current services that the university provides to students. As this is a strategy whose impact will have a direct effect to students, it is more appropriate for the MSU to be involved in its development. To that end, I have contacted Allison Drew-Hassling and Dr. Catherine Munn, the leads for this strategy to ensure that student feedback and input is present as this strategy is created. |
| Benefits     | There currently are various services available for students who are   |

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|              | <p>seeking support or aid when coping with their mental health; this includes both services from the University and from the MSU. To properly address mental health services, these services need to be evaluated as there are several shortcomings to these services, for example, there are long waiting periods for counselling in the Student Wellness Center. If we can create a strategy which makes mental health service delivery efficient and of high quality then students will be able to access these services whenever they experience mental health distress. Additionally, this strategy hopes to create an educational program to inform students of the various services that they have access to. In addition, this strategy will combat the stigma associated with talking about Mental Health.</p> |
| Difficulties | <p>Mental health is currently being addressed by various groups on campus. While it is great to see so many services on campus serving students, there exists little communication between the services. Communication and coordination between every campus stakeholder will be challenging. With so many stakeholders to deal with, finding consensus on how to approach this strategy may also prove difficult. Lastly, financial restraint may pose as an important barrier that may affect the ability for service to be enhanced if new resources are needed.</p>   |
| Long-term    | <p>The creation of the Student Mental Health Strategy will allow McMaster to reflect on the current landscape of mental health on campus and create a strategic plan to ensure students are provided with the best available regarding their mental health. This mental health strategy will allow for mental health well-being to become a staple on our campus and thus create an even more inclusive environment for students.</p>   |
| How          | <p>After meeting with Catherine and Allison, we have determined a variety of ways in which students will be involved with Mental Health Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will coordinate the creation of the Student Mental Health Working Group. This working group will provide constant feedback and input to the Mental Health Strategy.</li> <li>• I will be part of the committee that oversees the strategic implementation of the strategy. To effectively do this job, I will be in constant communication with student mental health advocates.</li> <li>• We will hold various focus groups where we will hold open sessions for students to talk about mental health as well as provide feedback to the strategy</li> </ul>   |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Lead Student Mental Health Strategy – Allison Drew-Hassling</li> <li>• Co-Lead Student Mental Health Strategy – Dr. Catherine Munn</li> <li>• Dean of Students – Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• Peer Support Line Coordinator – Ameema Saeed</li> <li>• Student Health Education Center Coordinator – Laura Jamieson</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queer Student Community Center – Daniel McGuire</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner – Alan Rheume</li> <li>• COPE: A Student Mental Health Initiative</li> <li>• Mad Students Society</li> <li>• Student Wellness Center</li> <li>• Student Accessibility Services</li> </ul> |
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| Objective 11 | <b>Supporting the Student Wellness Center</b>   |
| Description  | The Student Wellness Center (SWC) provides primary service to students through counselling services, medical services as well as wellness education. Last year alone, they received over 42,000 visits. They provide essential service to students so they have a successful undergraduate experience. Despite this, SWC would benefit from support by the MSU in terms of providing feedback in service delivery and efficiency. The MSU can also advocate to the university to ensure that SWC is funded adequately to ensure that they are providing adequate service to students and are not financially constrained. By working together in various initiatives and projects I want to ensure that the MSU supports this important service that so many students benefit from. |
| Benefits     | SWC is a primary service delivery for students. They deal with everything from mental health issues to medical issues. If a student's wellness is in jeopardy they are often the first service a student will go to. We must ensure that SWC is providing the best service possible to students. Additionally, by SWC and the MSU advocating together for better from the university we may be able to highlight how important these services are and that students as a whole would like to see these services better supported.   |
| Difficulties | One of the most important things to consider with this is the financial constraints that not only SWC has but those from the university itself. Currently, SWC would like to have more money to have more councillors to serve more students, as some students have long wait times to see councillors. Every department in the university would like to have more money, but the reality is that the university do this to every department. Thus I must strive to highlight the importance of the services SWC provides and how utterly beneficial they are to students.  |
| Long-term    | I want to establish a great working relationship with the SWC team. The MSU advocates for the great undergraduate experience and we acknowledge that SWC provides professional support to students so they can succeed. The MSU must strive to ensure that the university is aware that these services cannot be financially constrained as a student well-being should be their main priority.   |
| How          | After meeting with the SWC Director, Rosanne Kent, we have established a variety of ways in which I believe we can start establishing a great working relationship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A submission to the government outlining an extension in</li> </ul>  |

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|          | <p>OHIP to include mental health counselling for youth (ages 18-22).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietician/nutritionist - we will both work together to advocate that Hospitality Services has a nutritionist/dietician that ensures student food is nutritionally beneficial as well as ensure that there is educational services so students know how to eat nutritionally.</li> <li>• Campaigns and promotion - I will get in contact with Melissa and Pearl to see how we can collaborate on any campaigns and initiatives that SWC will have in the upcoming year and we can see how the MSU can help make them a success.</li> <li>• Constant feedback/communication - I want to ensure that Rosanne and I are in constant communication and collaborate as often as possible</li> </ul> |
| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWC Director - Rosanne Kent</li> <li>• SWC Wellness Education Coordinator - Pearl Mendoca</li> <li>• SWC Wellness Education Assistant - Mellissa Fernandes</li> <li>• Dean of Students - Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheamue</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 12 | <b>Supporting Student Accessibility Services</b>   |
| Description  | <p>Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is a department within Student Affairs that supports students who have been medically diagnosed with a disability or disorder (ex. learning disability, ADHD, mental health diagnosis, chronic medical condition, sensory, neurological or mobility limitation). SAS provides academic and disability-related services such as academic accommodation. SAS serves over 1,200 registered students. The services that they provide are crucial in ensuring students have a successful experience here at McMaster. Unfortunately, SAS has no jurisdiction over campus facilities and maintenance, the place where many accessibility issues occur. As this office provides invaluable service to students, I believe the MSU must not only support this office's endeavours but also advocate to the university to address various accessibility concerns.</p> |
| Benefits     | <p>By supporting SAS's initiatives and work, we can ensure that students are being provided with adequate service and that every student who needs and desires their service is served. Despite being a leader in physical accessibility, McMaster still faces various accessibility issues, such as snow removal. By collaborating with SAS, we can advocate to the university to ensure that these issues cease to exist.</p>  |
| Difficulties | <p>One of the greatest challenges that this project faces is addressing physical accessibility issues to university administration.</p>  |

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|           | <p>Accessibility issues are often very visible and clear to understand; unfortunately the remedy to these issues is often found in monetary resources. Every university department faces financial constraint and capital spending is often not a priority. Regardless of this difficulty, I believe addressing accessibility issues are of outmost importance if this campus is to be truly inclusive.</p>  |
| Long-term | <p>By collaborating with SAS I hope to ensure that every student that needs some sort of accommodation or service receives it to its highest quality. I want to ensure that the university is aware of the many physical accessibility issues that exist on campus, and those which students face on a daily basis. The end goal of this project, one which I hope continues in years to come, is to make McMaster fully physically accessible.</p>  |
| How       | <p>After consultation with Tim Nolan, Director of SAS, we have come up with several initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will write a letter to AVP Facilities, Mohamed Atalla, addressing various accessibility issues on campus, provide feedback and suggestions on the current ways in which Facilities is tackling accessibility issues.</li> <li>• Have constant meeting with Tim where we can update each other on different initiatives and provide feedback for each other.</li> <li>• Converse with the appropriate university administration concerning this specific issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow removal</li> <li>• Lifts</li> <li>• Railings in staircases</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Partners  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Student Accessibility Services - Tim Nolan</li> <li>• Dean of Students - Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• AVP &amp; Chief Facilities Officer - Mohamed Attalla</li> <li>• Director Custodial, Grounds, Logistics and Mail Services - Carlos Figueira</li> <li>• Director of Maintenance - Craig MacDonald</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheaume</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 13 | <b>MSU Partnership in creating Entrepreneurship culture at McMaster</b>  |
| Description  | <p>Entrepreneurship is a type of experiential education, as a student is able to learn in a very active way as well as use a variety of skills. Entrepreneurship does not only encompass the commercialization of a product but also the enterprise of social innovation. Currently, McMaster is tackling entrepreneurship through two main projects. The first is the creation of the Foundry, an entrepreneurship accelerator that has been partially funded through the province by</p> |

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|              | <p>the program Community Linked Accelerator (CLA). The Foundry will be located at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) and will act as a space where student entrepreneurs can work on their projects as well as provide various resources and support that they may need. The second one is the creation of an entrepreneurship program run through Student Affairs that can act as an introduction to entrepreneurship as well as guide students who have an idea and guide them into making that idea into a tangible project. As the MSU I believe that we must support students into having the opportunity to be entrepreneurs and thus we must support this two projects. I want to ensure that students have input into these two projects as they are being developed as well as ensure students are informed and aware of what entrepreneurial opportunities currently exist for the.</p> |
| Benefits     | <p>By supporting the various entrepreneurial projects that McMaster is starting, entrepreneurially-minded students will have the space, and resources to succeed and enrich their undergraduate experience here at McMaster. The Foundry is funded by a CLA; this means that this center must also engage the local Hamilton community by boosting the local economy. By motivating, students, faculty and the community we can ensure that McMaster and Hamilton are seen as centre of innovation and prosperity.</p>  |
| Difficulties | <p>Funding for the Foundry is currently short-term funding which means that other types of funding need to be achieved to ensure the long-term success of this project. If this type of funding is not secure, an entrepreneurial culture will not be able to be established at McMaster. A second difficulty that may arise is engaging students to participate in the Rise program as well as ensuring students are aware of the program. If students are not aware of the program, then the resources and services the program offers will not be utilized.</p>  |
| Long-term    | <p>The end-goal of this project is to create a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation at McMaster. By achieving, this any student who has a desire to undergo an entrepreneurial venture will have the necessary resources to do so.</p>  |
| How          | <p>This project requires attention through a variety of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will partner with the office of the Vice-President (Research &amp; International Affairs) to ensure that other funding is being investigated.</li> <li>• I will be in constant communication with Justin Policarpio, the Student Entrepreneurship Manager, to ensure that Rise is a successful project.</li> <li>• Provide Mo Elbestawi and Sean Van Koughnett with student feedback and input to ensure that they are aware of what students want to see from these projects</li> <li>• Communicate and support McMaster Entrepreneurship Association, a fairly new MSU club, to ensure that these projects support the club's goals</li> </ul>   |

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| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice-President (Research &amp; International Affairs) – Mo Elbestawi</li> <li>• Business Development Manager (McMaster Industry Liaison Office) – Gay Yutitang</li> <li>• Manager (Research Communications) – Lori Dillon</li> <li>• Dean of Students – Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• Manager, Student Entrepreneurship – Justin Policarpio</li> <li>• McMaster Entrepreneurship Association</li> <li>• Innovation Factory</li> </ul> |
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| Objective 14 | <b>Increasing Financial Literary for students (Mac Money Matters)</b>  |
| Description  | When students first start their university experience, many are faced with making decisions about their personal finances for the first time. For example, students will be managing student loans, gain income from having a part-time job or paying for tuition, rent and utilities, Sometimes, these decisions are made without the proper financial knowledge. The project called ‘Mac Money Matters’ aims at increasing financial awareness and literacy for students at McMaster. I think that financial literacy is an important skill for students to have and as the MSU we must ensure that this program is truly student oriented and beneficial for students. This project is currently being spearheaded by Gina Robinson, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. |
| Benefits     | Increasing financial awareness and literacy amongst students will allow students to make informed decisions regarding their finances. For many undergraduate students, personal finances can be an added stress that students must deal with. By making students comfortable with their personal finances, this project will ultimately help alleviate some of the stress that students face. Additionally, the information and skills they learn from this project will also benefit students after they graduate as financial literacy is a life skill.  |
| Difficulties | As with most educational projects, content delivery for this project will determine how successful it is. If the content is not engaging then students will not be able to learn from the program as effectively.  |
| Long-term    | The end goal of this project is to create a culture of financial awareness and literacy that is facilitated through Mac Money Matters. I want to ensure that students are constantly providing feedback as the project evolves and changes in the future.  |
| How          | To ensure the success of this project, I will be in constant communication with Gina Robinson and provide constant student feedback. The website where Mac Money Matters will be hosted is in its final stages and to ensure that it is engaging to students I will be looking for feedback from the University Affairs Committee and the Advocacy Street Team. To support Financial literacy at McMaster, the Advocacy Street Team will run a campaign, in conjunction with student affairs, to engage  |

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|          | students and financial literacy. This campaign will probably occur in early October.  |
| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant Dean (Student Affairs) and Director of Student Success Centre – Gina Robinson</li> <li>• Advocacy Coordinator – Jess Shoker</li> <li>• SRA University Affairs Commissioner – Alan Rheaume</li> <li>• MIIETL</li> <li>• Catholic Family Services</li> <li>• Student Financial Aid and Scholarships</li> <li>• Student Accounts</li> </ul> |

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| Objective 15 | <b>Create a strong MSU presence in the City of Hamilton</b>  |
| Description  | McMaster and the MSU are community members of the City of Hamilton. McMaster engages the City through not only economic development, but as equal partners in creating an inclusive community. As many of our students reside in Hamilton, the MSU must work to build relationship with City administration and various City organizations. The City of Hamilton provides great employment, cultural, and entertainment opportunities for both current and graduated students. As the MSU we must ensure that students are aware of the various things that the City has to offer to them. The MSU must also build active relationships with the Hamilton community to ensure that students are looked as current, or future, Hamilton residents, rather than unwanted visitors. This objective requires for an active presence of the MSU in the City of Hamilton while also ensuring students are informed and engaged with the various events and opportunities that City can offer them. |
| Benefits     | Once a student becomes a McMaster student, they are also joining the Hamilton community. If the MSU can ensure that students are actively engaged with the City, then the prosperity of this City will continue to grow. The City of Hamilton can provide students with invaluable experiences, as long as students are willing to leave McMaster campus. It is our job to ensure that students know what is available for them. If the MSU continues to establish good relationships with the City, then the student population will be seen as positive contributors to the City's prosperity.   |
| Difficulties | There currently exists a stigma amongst students regarding the City which stops them from engaging the City. As with any stigma, battling it will require a campaign which engages students in a productive way. Information about the City needs to be given in an interactive and efficient way; if not then students will not be aware of what the City has to offer.   |
| Long-term    | The end goal of this project is to create a culture on campus which views the rest of the City as an exciting place, full of opportunity. In regards to engaging the City, I want to see the view of McMaster students from City change. Students should be seen as equal and active partners who want to contribute to the success of Hamilton.   |

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| How      | <p>To engage the student body SCSN Coordinator and I need to evaluate the future of the 'Discover Your City' campaign. Last year this campaign consisted of a week in February where various local businesses and events were highlighted to the student body. We need to assess if this will continue to be part of SCSN's programming or if it will evolve into a bigger entity. Additionally, we would like to see the creation of a McMaster app that contains all the information a student needs to venture into Hamilton and access the information with ease. To ensure that the MSU has a strong presence in the City, I will ensure that the MSU is present in a variety of City events. Additionally, in collaboration with the External Affairs Commissioner, we want to plan a LobbyCon week where various students are able to talk to City Council about student issues.</p> |
| Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Community Support Network Coordinator - Josh Patel</li> <li>• External Affairs Commissioner - Spencer Nestico-Semianiw</li> <li>• Advocacy Coordinator - Jess Shoker</li> <li>• City of Hamilton Administration</li> <li>• MSU Board of Directors</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 16 | <b>Looking at Career/Co-Op/Experiential Education Offices</b>  |
| Description  | <p>At McMaster, students can seek service regarding career skills, and experiential education through the Student Success Center as well as individual Faculty offices. There currently are five Faculty offices that provide service to students ranging from career skill developments, co-op and internship administration and experiential education course offerings. As the mandates of these offices evolve, it is becoming apparent that they are having a greater impact in the undergraduate academic experience for McMaster students. I want to ensure that the services they are offering are catered to student need and that these offices are engaging students as often as possible. Last year I was able to establish a working relationship with all the manager/directors of these offices. I want to continue this relationship and ensure that they are in tune with students.</p> |
| Benefits     | <p>These offices can offer students with great services, such as career coaching and the opportunity to apply their knowledge in experiential education courses. Most of these offices are funded through student fees and thus, should ensure that everything they do is geared to students. I want to ensure that all the work these offices are actually being used by students. Since every student pays towards these services, they should be able to receive something beneficial from those fees.</p>  |
| Difficulties | <p>Something that I find will be challenging to tackle is the differentiation from services that the Student Success Center</p>  |

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|           | provides in comparison to those provided by the Faculty offices. Students who have a Faculty office, will be paying to separate feeds, if they are doing this they should be receiving beneficial service from both offices. Each office is autonomous from each other and if recommendations are put forth that may bring operational change, I foresee we may encounter push back.  |
| Long-term | The end goal of this project is to make sure that students are actively using the services these offices provide. As students are paying additional ancillary feeds so these offices can operate, they should access these offices and get value for their money.   |
| How       | I will meet with all manager/directors regularly and provide feedback for the work that they are doing. The University Affairs Commissioner, Alan Rheume will compile a report that summarizes the work these offices do. We aim to give this report to Faculty societies so they are aware of the services their respective office thus, as well as inform them of what the Student Success Center can do for their students.  |
| Partners  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manger of Science Career and Cooperative Education - Lisa Barty</li> <li>• Director of Experiential Education (Social Sciences) - Sandra Preston</li> <li>• Manager of Engineering Co-op and Career Services - Jeff Ollinger</li> <li>• Coordinator of Humanities Target Learning and Experiential Education Centre- Rowena Muhic-Day</li> <li>• Director of Centre for Business Career Development - Jennifer McCleary</li> <li>• Manager of Career and Employment (Student Success Centre) - Gisela Oliveria</li> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner - Alan Rheume</li> <li>• Academic Affairs Council</li> </ul> |

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| Objective 17 | <b>Addressing growing concern over Teaching Assistance training and support</b>  |
| Description  | Teaching Assistants (TAs) play a crucial role in the undergraduate experience. Students are in constant contact with TAs and are often the people who are sought after for assistance in a course. Additionally, TAs are often the people present in labs, tutorials or seminars. While it is evident that TA's play an important role in students' education, TAs undergo very little to no training to prepare to instruct students. While most TAs are not adequately prepare to instruct students, most importantly TAs are not prepared to deal with a variety of student issues, such as mental health, accommodations, diversity and anti-oppression. I believe that this status quo needs to change and that TAs must not only have mandatory training but also must be adequately supported |

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|              | <p>throughout the year. While training is necessary, TAs must also have the appropriate support system from both the course's instructors and their department. Sometimes, TAs may not be able to completely aid a student because they simply are not aware where they can go for help.</p>  |
| Benefits     | <p>By ensuring that TAs have training on how to instruct and on a variety of important student issues, students will be provided with a higher quality of teaching. There are countless student experiences that have been deteriorated due to bad TA experiences. By TAs also having knowledge about a variety of issues, we can ensure that every classroom is inclusive and all students will feel comfortable and ready to learn.</p>   |
| Difficulties | <p>There are two major difficulties associated with this objective. The first is making all deans/department heads aware of this issue. Deans/department heads are the decision makers when it comes to finances, and it is up to them to allot money to TAs. Mandatory training would require for all TAs to be financially compensated for this. If we consider the amount of TAs at McMaster, mandatory training start becoming quite expensive. While this is a clear barrier, the benefits of spending money on TA training and support are incredibly beneficial. The other challenge of this objective is ensuring that TA training is beneficial for the TAs, which means TA training for every course/department may be organized differently. At the same time, some aspects of training (ex. Mental health and anti-oppression) need to be present for all training.</p> <p>This objective may be the most ambitious of all other objectives. I realize that I will encounter push back and disinterest from university administration. I must not let that derail me from the end goal.</p> |
| Long-term    | <p>The end goal of this objective is to see that all TAs who will come in contact with students have the appropriate tools and knowledge to create an inclusive classroom environment where high quality teaching and learning occurs.</p>  |
| How          | <p>As TA training will need to come from university administration such as Faculty Deans, I must start advocating for this objective by communicating with Faculty Deans (and the Provost) during the summer. I must also acknowledge there is various forms of TA training on campus and thus I must research what best practices in regards to TA training are already present on campus. If I can start finding success stories regarding TA training, I can leverage them to the Deans so they be aware of them. I must also work with MIETL to advocate the importance of TA training. As the center who prioritizes in teaching and learning, they are the perfect partner to advocate for high quality TAs.</p>  |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Board of Directors</li> <li>• Faculty Deans</li> <li>• Provost – David Wilkinson</li> <li>• MIETL</li> </ul>   |

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| Objective 18 | <b>Supporting the University Affairs Committee and the External Affairs Committee</b>  |
| Description  | The University Affairs Committee and the External Affairs Committee are two groups within the MSU who work on a variety of advocacy initiatives to better the student experience. While the University Affairs Committee will work on projects relevant to internal advocacy such as academic services, the External Affairs Committee deals with external advocacy to the municipal, provincial and federal government. It is natural that many of the projects that these two committees work on throughout the year will align with some of my projects. As VP Education I must ensure that both commissioners feel empowered and are able to complete their individual year plans. |
| Benefits     | The work that these two committees do can have lasting effects on the undergraduate student experience. By being a partner in their endeavours I can ensure that all their projects are successful. As these two committees will be comprised of students, they are the best people to enact change that will benefit other students.  |
| Difficulties | From past experience as University Affairs Commissioner, I know that balancing a variety of projects, while being a student can be quite challenging. I must ensure that both commissioner do not feel completely overwhelm and that I act as a crutch to ensure their success.  |
| Long-term    | The good working relationship between the VP Ed and both Commissioners ensure that many initiatives are successful in a year. I want to continue a culture where both commissioners feel empower to make impactful change in the undergraduate experience.   |
| How          | To ensure that I support both committees I must do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an initial summer meeting where we can strategize how their projects will be implemented for the rest of year</li> <li>• Be in constant communication with both commissioners by having weekly meetings where we can all update each other on the progress of our projects.</li> <li>• Inform both commissioners of any updates relevant to each portfolio</li> <li>• Ensure that they are properly equipped with the tools for their projects to succeed</li> </ul>   |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Affairs Commissioner – Alan Rheume</li> <li>• External Affairs Commissioner – Spencer Nestico-Semianiw</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• External Affairs Committee</li> </ul>  |

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| Objective 19 | <b>Ensure that Advocacy Street Team continues to evolve</b>   |
| Description  | The MSU has two main pillars, a service pillar and an advocacy pillar. The Advocacy Street Team's mandate is to act as an extension of my initiatives and engage the student body about various advocacy initiatives. Last year's VP Ed and Advocacy Coordinator strived to re-envision how the Advocacy Street Team engages with students. Last year it ran a variety of campaigns which were very successful in engaging students about a variety of advocacy issues. I want to build upon these successes and make sure that the advocacy campaigns for this year inform students about various issues but also provide the opportunity for students to provide their opinion. |
| Benefits     | By ensuring that the Advocacy Street Team runs successful campaigns. We can ensure that the student body is engaged with various advocacy issues such as financial literacy, government lobbying and experiential education. By getting students to provide constant feedback on advocacy initiatives we can ensure that what we are advocating is reflected in the needs of students.  |
| Difficulties | Engaging students can be quite difficult to attain, especially in issues which may not be seen as pertinent. To ensure that all the campaigns are successful they must be presented in an effective fashion. The information that is given to students must also be easy to comprehend an appeal to the average student.  |
| Long-term    | An active and effective Advocacy Street Team ensures that the student body is engaged with the MSU's advocacy initiatives. We ultimately want to create a culture where students know where they can find information regarding advocacy and can feel like they are active participants of the various advocacy initiatives the MSU has.  |
| How          | Constant communication with the Advocacy Coordinator, Jess Shoker, will ensure that the campaigns are engaging and successful. To ensure a successful year, I will meet with Jess to create a schedule of campaigns which will allow for planning to occur in a timely manner. To ensure that the Advocacy Street Team is successful in communicating with the student body, Jess and I will create a training module which will prep the volunteers to have right information and tools to be successful.  |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy Coordinator - Jess Shoker</li> <li>• Advocacy Street Team</li> <li>• MSU VP Administration - Jacob Brodka</li> </ul>  |

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| Objective 20 | <b>Ensure that the work from Transforming the Humanities has meaningful impact for students</b>                                     |
| Description  | Last year Interim Dean of Humanities, Dr. Ken Cruikshank, started the project 'Transforming the Humanities' to address the need for |

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|              | <p>the faculty to self-evaluate its place within the university, the education they provide to students and the research that it conducts. To address this need, he created five working groups to tackle five different, but interrelated issues. Last year's SRA Humanities, last year's VP Ed, last year's University Affairs Commissioner and McMaster Humanities Society representatives were asked to be members of this working groups, ensuring students were involved in the final reports that these working groups would compile. This past May, the reports from the working groups were presented to the Faculty and Dean. From this, the Dean will make a formal statement guiding the next steps the Faculty of Humanities will take. As the VP Education, I believe</p> |
| Benefits     | <p>Although this is a Faculty specific project, the outcomes of this project, I view, as benefitting all McMaster students and the McMaster community. McMaster is comprised of six faculties and for this university to be truly united under one common vision, the MSU must support and aid in this project. By ensuring that the initiatives that the Dean will propose are successful, the MSU must ensure that student feedback is present throughout this initiative. This will ultimately cause the undergraduate experience of Humanities students to greatly increase.</p>  |
| Difficulties | <p>The reports from the working groups contain various recommendations which all consist of some change within the Faculty. Whenever change is proposed, there is always hesitation and sometime unwillingness to do it. The report proposes some innovative projects like a new first year course as well as new upper year experiential education courses. While I foresee some push regarding the creation of these courses, I think that they benefit students and must therefore be ensure they are created.</p>   |
| Long-term    | <p>Ultimately, I want to ensure that whatever path the Faculty of Humanities takes within the next couple of years, students and the MSU are constantly involved and provide feedback to the Dean.</p>  |
| How          | <p>To ensure the Faculty of Humanities prioritizes the needs of students. I will first, write a letter to the Dean that contains a list of what he should be prioritizing from the report. I will write this in collaboration with SRA Humanities. Secondly, I must continue to be in constant communication with the Dean to ensure students are involved as this project evolves.</p>   |
| Partners     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dean of Humanities - Dr. Ken Cruikshank</li> <li>• SRA Humanities</li> <li>• McMaster Humanities Society Executive</li> </ul>  |

## GOALS to strive for

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### List 5 things that you would like to have prepared for the beginning of September

- Have the **MSU Course Wiki** ready to launch and have created a communications strategy which will effectively engage students
- Have determined the mandate and vision for this year's **Academic Affairs Council** by having effective orientation during the summer months
- Have established formal student feedback and communication between different university partners and the MSU  
Examples:
  - **MIETL**
  - **Student Mental Health Strategy**
- Have determined the direction in which **research** is supported in the MSU: determine whether the MSU needs a full-time Research and Policy Analyst or part-time research assistants
- Created a strategy for university administration to advocate for **TA training and support**

### List 5 things you would like to have completed during the fall term (1<sup>st</sup>)

- Created and successfully implemented a **municipal election** which engaged students and got them out to vote
- Have successfully advocated with **Student Wellness Center** and **Student Accessibility Services** to the university regarding the support they should be receiving
- Have successfully gathered student feedback, input and experiences through a variety of mediums  
Examples:
  - Student Voices Blogs
  - OUSA Blogs
  - Advocacy Campaigns
- Have run a successful **Municipal Lobbycon** in collaboration with the External Affairs Committee
- Seen the successful launch of various joint MSU-University projects
  - **Mac Money Matters**
  - **Student Mental Health Strategy**

### List 5 things you would like to have completed during the winter term (2<sup>nd</sup>)

- Ensured that the MSU is adequately represented at the **federal level** for the next couple of years
- Have organized a very successful **OUSA** General Assembly that engaged McMaster students about post-secondary issues
- In collaboration with the Board of Directors have determined the best way for a **Peer Tutoring Network** to be established at McMaster
- Have started the creation of an **Entrepreneurial** student culture by supporting both the Foundry and Rise program
- Increased the MSU's advocacy initiatives to the broader McMaster community
  - **Faculty Deans**
  - **Career/Co-op/Experiential Education Offices**
  - **FWI Initiatives**