SPRING TO ACTION

MSU Speaker Naheed Yaqubian calls on students to come out to General Assembly

Whether it be on a national, provincial or municipal scale, there seems to be a disconnect between the body politic and their elected officials. Campus politics are no exception, however, members of the McMaster Students Union (i.e. all undergraduate students enrolled in 18 or more units) have one major advantage to overcome this gap; General Assembly. More powerful than the SRA or the Board of Directors, General Assembly allows us to speak as a unified student body.

Students are becoming increasingly aware of the disconnect between themselves and the representatives they choose to manage their money and advocate for their interests. This is a realization that has been growing in me since I was elected Speaker in September. Not unlike the interest in the problem itself is frequently overshadowed by a deep unwillingness to start the conversation and end the disconnect.

So it’s nearly that time of year again, the time of year when we will once more be bombarded with a sea of change. The academic year is fast coming to its conclusion, and like SHEC, Elections, Maroons and others, the SRA is in full swing.

The role of the VP Admin is pretty unique not only in the MSU, but within student unions in Ontario. Normally my job is splintered into a few roles and VP Admins are normally in charge of finances. The VP Administration of the MSU is the senior student manager of the organization and the second most senior student government official. In my role I have direct supervisory responsibilities over a good portion of the student management.

In terms of MSU services, it is almost a requirement for this position to have been involved at some level with relevant MSU student services, like SHEC, Elections, Maroons and systemSoftware. As VP Administration, I am responsible for the training, guidance and review of student managers while exercising some management over the full-time staff of the MSU and therefore having experience in management will significantly aid the successful candidate.

In my role I have direct supervisory responsibilities over a good portion of the student management. So there you have it, the VP Administration, it is my responsibility to ensure that the Committee Chairs and Speaker are adequately trained, as well as being prepared to fulfill the duties of either the Speaker or the MSU President in the event of unavailability.

Finally, according to MSU bylaws you need to be a sitting member of the SRA to be considered eligible for this position. So there being said, some experience within student government as a Commissioner, Committee Chair or other distinct leadership roles are rather essential.

If you’re interested in getting involved with a student union in Ontario, I encourage you to get booted out of your comfortable cubicles and replace the next generation of Vice Presidents. So for the next few weeks we’re going to take a look at the role of each Vice President just in case you’re thinking of throwing your hat into the ring. This week we’re starting off with my job, Vice President Administration.

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Take a walk in these shoes:

Vice-President Administration

Part one of a three-part series profiling the MSU Vice President positions up for hire this April