



Vishal Tiwari
President

Andrew Richardson
VP Administration

Andrew Caterine
VP Finance

Chris Martin
VP Education

President's Page

FAREWELL FRIENDS

With the end of the year in sight, Vishal takes a minute to reflect on what it means to be a student leader and gives thanks to those who helped along the way



April is fast approaching and soon the term will come to an end as exams begin. Traffic on campus will slow down, libraries will become the main hives of activity, and campus will become more and more empty every day. For a lot of us, this experience can be both exciting and heart-wrenching as we say goodbye to friends and fellow students. I have definitely been feeling a combination of both as my term draws to a close. I have only a month left in a position that I care for deeply. The prospect of looking forward brings on a lot of mixed emotions.

Since arriving on this campus as a first year student, I knew I was home. From my fellow floor residents,

to the CAs that encouraged me to get involved, the students here at McMaster have always been inspiring. When I took my first crack at being a student leader, it brought me to Mary Keyes Residence as a CA in my second year. It was my turn to give back and work with students in first year to guide them in the right direction, much like my CA's did for me.

This year I have had the unique opportunity to see most of these people graduate, many of whom have now become accomplished student leaders themselves. I'm incredibly proud of all of them and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Since my second year, I have kept myself involved in campus life. Through my interactions with various students and groups, my participation eventually guided me to the MSU. I joined the MSU as the Vice President Education last year, and it provided me with a different

dimension to my understanding of the term 'student leader'. I realized that my interactions with a lot of you brought out incredible amounts of passion in me. This passion made me want to fight for the accessibility, affordability and accountability of higher education, not only at McMaster, but more broadly in both our province and our nation.

This year has been a tremendous year. Being elected as your President was a great honour and to serve students in this capacity was both challenging and rewarding. To serve with my fellow VP's Andrew Richardson, Andrew Caterine, and Chris Martin was a privilege. Gentlemen, thank you.

The cyclical nature that our campus brings to our lives ensures new beginnings and new opportunities. As things are wrapping up for us four in this office, I'm looking forward to the new generation of student leaders that will

take on the role of making this campus feel like home for every student. I would like to extend my heartfelt best wishes to Mary Kozol and her team-to-be for next year, I'm sure you will all do amazing things.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate all outgoing and incoming CAs, IRC, SOCS, and Welcome Week Reps for all the good years and for the many more to come. Above all, I want to thank the students of McMaster. You are the inspiration for many and you are my inspiration.

This is Vishal Tiwari, your McMaster Students Union President signing off.

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Take a walk in these shoes: Vice-President Education

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



You may not know it, but the VP Education is the best position in the McMaster Students Union. I'm biased of course, but I

can't think of a more rewarding job possible to get at 21 years of age. The VP Education gets to be the voice of students to all of the MSU's partners in issues of academics and the educational experience. The VP Education is in charge of representing students to the provincial government, the federal government and the University. Within the VP Ed portfolio is the supervision of the teaching awards process, as well as the valedictorian process. The VP Education is the primary delegate to the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). As well, the VP Ed has governance and representation responsibilities in both organizations. It's a lot of responsibility, but also a lot of fun.

The most important trait of a VP Education is self-motivation. The VP Education has no boss, save undergraduate students, and is less hands-on with the day-to-day functioning of the student union than the other Board positions. Unlike the VP Finance and VP Administration, the successful candidate will manage very few people. Without strong self-motivation, as well as a clear understanding of what you want to do with the role, it would be easy for a VP Education to prove rather listless.

At the same time, from those around campus that do pay attention to the VP Ed, expectations are sometimes too high. The results of a successful VP

Education's term are often not realized until well after that person has moved on from office. Additionally, you will come under fire for travelling too much and not being internal. The inevitable criticism aside, the VP Education is both an intricate and vital role within the governance structure of the MSU.

What anyone running for this job has to realize is that the VP Education is the person in the MSU most able to positively impact the onlything that matters to all students - school. A good VP Education will pick a couple aspects of the educational experience to really focus on, in an attempt to make a long term impact. My goals have focused around Student Services and Teaching and Learning. I've had to represent students through two labour disputes, program cancellations, University budget cuts, and a watershed year for post-secondary education provincially (with both the tuition framework and strategy for university funding on the table). This has been a tremendously rewarding experience.

Your time as VP Ed could be too, all you need to do is come out on April 11th. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more details on the election process or more information about the role of the VP Education.

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