Close your eyes and imagine the most incredible upgrades you would like to see on our beloved McMaster campus. When I paint the picture of an upgraded campus, I imagine things like a huge flat-screen TV (I'm talking cinematic-quality) above the MUSC fireplace for people to watch Leafs games. I picture more seating for students throughout campus, and I see heated bus shelters for when the air turns frigid in the winter. How about you?

On a campus full of thoughtful scholars, new and exciting ideas are not very hard to come by; the tough part is getting them off the ground. Great ideas need great people to drive them forward, and they almost always benefit from, if not depend on, substantial financial support. This is where the McMaster Students Union (MSU) and the Office of Student Affairs want to help.

Together, the MSU and Student Affairs form the Student Services Committee. This Committee oversees the allocation of tens of thousands of dollars for projects and initiatives that enhance student life at McMaster. This pool of funds, derived from a portion of the Student Services Ancillary Fee, is called the Student Life Enhancement Fund.

The Student Life Enhancement Fund provides seed capital and financial support for student-run and University-based service providers to expand their programming, infrastructure and/or operations; so proposals typically come from student service managers or departments. This process will continue, but we also want to hear ideas and initiatives from students that demonstrate a commitment to improving and enhancing student life. Ideas don’t have to be perfectly articulated and thorough just yet – right now we just want to hear as many ideas as possible, from all corners of campus.

If you’ve got something on your mind, head to enhance.mcmaster.ca before November 7, 2014 to submit your idea online. Between November and January, the Student Services Committee will investigate each idea for its logistical and financial viability. Some ideas will undoubtedly receive automatic funding due to their dramatic contribution to student life. The best of the rest will be made available for public consultation and voting in January – super exciting!

So hop on your mobile device or personal/shared computer system and submit your idea. This is our opportunity to make healthy investments into campus life and shape the many facilities and services that our tuition dollars pay for.