

The McMaster Students Union

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



President

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I was ten years old the first time I ran for class president. Fifth grade was a world where it only took 13 votes cast on scrap pieces of paper to hold political office. The role came with the prestige of being the teacher's primary consultant regarding the allocation of free time, treat options during the holidays, and door decorating strategies for school-wide competitions.

When I ran for president of the McMaster Students Union (MSU) at age 21, the stakes had changed, yet my motivation stayed the same. I wanted

to represent my peers because I thought I could do a good job.

What I did not know in grade five, and what I still had not learned by the time I ran for MSU President, is that complete student representation is nearly impossible. There are simply too many perspectives for any one person to represent. For example, how can I speak to the needs of a student struggling to share their non-binary gender identity, when that is not something I have ever had to do? Or, how do I represent students trying to balance an athletic

career with their full-time studies, when my athletic ability is comparable to that of a kitchen fork? I cannot. Not on my own at least, and neither could you. That being said, the MSU President should strive to recognize the varied perspectives within the McMaster community, and to represent all undergraduate students to the best of his or her abilities.

Beginning January 18, a handful of candidates will make their case for why they deserve to be next year's MSU President. I think you should look for

the person who understands just how complex representation of the student body will be, but who is willing to try anyways. Look for the person who sees that being president is not only about answering questions, it is also about asking them. Look for the listener.

The two week-long campaign period that preceded my election was hands down the worst experience of my life. I will be the first to admit that inside my chest beats the sensitive heart of a preteen, however, presidential campaigns are brutal. They do not give candidates much of a chance to listen. Instead, they force candidates to spend most of their time talking.

As you consider your presidential preferences, I implore you to exercise rational thinking and compassion. Pick the person you believe in, but remember that they are not just candidates, faces on posters, and voices at the front of your class. They are human beings trying to accomplish things they genuinely care about. Give them a chance to demonstrate their ability to listen, and give yourself the opportunity to get to know the people behind the platforms.

**RUN FOR PRESIDENT**

**NOMINATIONS FOR MSU PRESIDENT  
DEC. 1ST - JAN. 16TH**

**MSUMCMASTER.CA/ELECTIONS**



The President's Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board's projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.



**TEDDY SAULL**

President

**SCOTT MALLON**

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**RODRIGO NARRO PÉREZ**

VP (Education)

**JACOB BRODKA**

VP (Administration)