



REPORT

From the office of the...
Vice-President Finance

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Daniel D'Angela, Vice President (Finance)
SUBJECT: SRA Report
DATE: January 5, 2016

Dear Members of the SRA,

Here are updates on some of the projects I have been working on

MSU Emergency Bursary

The MSU bursary is something which, when it was created was not fully comprehended how popular it would be. So far, we have given out over \$12,000 towards bursaries, with a original budget of \$8000. To better understand potential solutions for this bursary, I started meeting with University staff and students to understand potential solutions to improve the bursary, as well as have the university play a larger role. What I personally believe, is that the best solution for this bursary is to work with the university to create a emergency bursary. This is because this will provide for better access to students, the potential for donors to contribute to the fund and receive a charitable tax deduction, and a streamlined and more effective bursary system.

From my discussion with the university, it has been made clear that it is possible to create a university emergency bursary which would encompass the principles of our current bursary: anonymity, efficiency, accessibility. This Thursday, I will be meeting with University Advancement to discuss implementation strategies, and ideally, we are able to create a MSU bursary that is sustainable, and will help benefit numerous students for many years to come.

Student Space

The MSU has made tremendous strides to better address student space on campus. The two biggest things we have done is to work with Facilities services to

create a RFP that will garner submissions from architecture firms to better understand the gaps we have on campus related to student space, and then how to solve and address those gaps. This study will be critical to creating a plan for future years to implement. This will also help inform the campus master plan which will be done in 2016, and the campus capacity study which will be completed by the end of 2016.

Additionally, the space survey is still open to complete, and we will be making a big push during the upcoming month to get students to complete it. Please pass it along to constituents, because their voice will be critical in understanding what students need and want from space on campus.

HSR and Presto Integration

Before Christmas break, our GM and I went to meet with HSR regarding the summer component of the bus pass. There were concerns that the amount we increased the plan to cover this portion, \$6.50 a student, is severely insufficient for the usage. Working with the HSR, we were able to ensure that the plan would be in effect until after Summer of 2017 as previously agreed to and scheduled. We have also begun negotiations with the HSR regarding the next bus plan, which will be voted on by students next year's presidential elections. Please let me know if you have any HSR upgrades you believe will enhance the student experience and would benefit our members.

Additionally, we have scheduled a meeting with HSR and Metrolinx regarding integrating our plan onto Presto. This is a change that the MSU believes would be beneficial to all parties, and is a top priority, already raising this belief with our local MPP and the Minister of Transportation.

University Budget Submission

This year, the MSU has created a University Budget submission to inform McMaster what we believe the priorities are for students on how McMaster spends your money. This extensive document highlights key areas for the university to invest

in, namely accessibility, student space and high quality teaching and learning. Please check out the MSU website for both a synopsis and the complete submission.

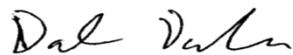
Second Budget Townhall and Budgeting Process

I will be having my second MSU Townhall in the beginning of February at 1280, full of food and refreshments. This townhall has a different purpose than the first one, that is to give students an opportunity to provide some feedback and insight in ways they want their money spent. This will help guide myself, our staff and budget managers to determine where students want their money spent.

During this time, I will also begin creating the budget with our budget managers. If you have any ideas for the townhall, and questions to ask students, as well as ideas for our budget, please let me know and I'd be more than happy to talk about them and incorporate your ideas.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



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