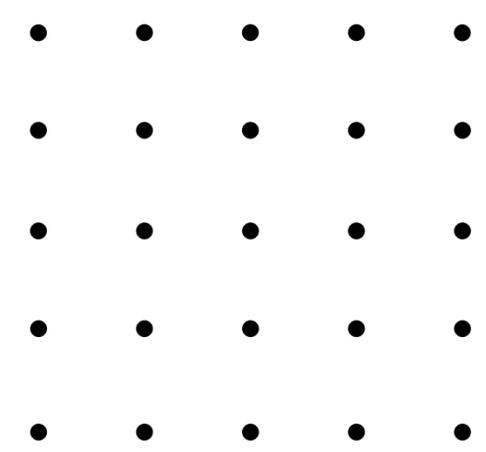


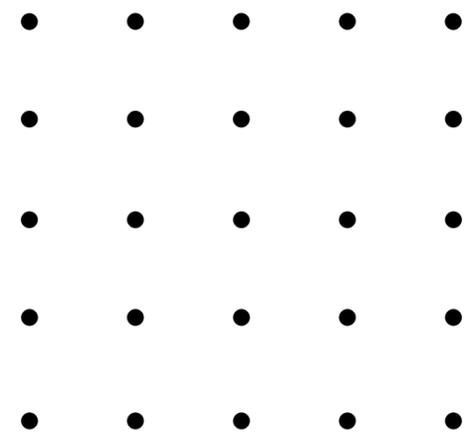
Muneeb Ahmed

FOR MSU SPEAKER



Contents

Introduction
Experience
Platform



Introduction

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Congratulations on being elected to represent your program or Faculty in this assembly.

You are faced with an enormous challenge this coming year with the uncertainty of school and the possible transition into online, perhaps for the entire school year. I hope to assist in making this experience as smooth as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this presentation as I provide my rationale for running, relevant experience and platform points I have to improve on the student experience in these turbulent times.

The speaker of the assembly chairs: bi-weekly SRA meetings, the electoral appeal board, the MSU award committees and the general assembly all while adhering to the MSU and McMaster University constitution, bylaws, and policies.

Cover Letter

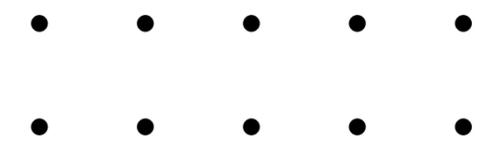
At McMaster, I have had the opportunity of engaging with our community in many ways, notably through elections. I have been elected as the Undergraduate Senate Representative for the Faculty of Health Sciences, as well as being part of the Senate Board for Student Appeals. My work requires me to adjudicate penalties for student appeals & listen to the concerns of both the student and the accuser, typically a faculty member, at hearings. With consequences usually being life changing for the student, usually expulsion, being on the board is a heavy burden and has helped me grow personally.

Being nonpartisan is essential because it is our responsibility to take into account all the evidence and create an unbiased picture of the scenario from which we can give a final judgement. There are inherent biases, such as another student being subconsciously inclined to support a fellow student, but it is important to acknowledge these while not letting it affect your judgement and, consequently, your decisions. This is why the Board always has a student as well as a faculty member at all times, to attempt to reduce bias.

I have also served on various committees including Internal, External, Financial and Academic for the Bachelor of Health Sciences Society for two years, and in the 2018-2019 operating year, sat as a member of the MSU Merit Award Standing Committee as well as the MSU elections committee in 2019-2020. Both the Financial and Merit Award committee required me to be extremely adaptive, unbiased and impartial to conduct my responsibilities promptly, respecting the integrity and magnitude of the work I do. These committees require me to judge the merits of funding proposals or scholarships applications with honesty and objectivity.

My executive experiences meld with the insights I have gained through being a candidate myself – I have developed an understanding of both the challenges that candidates face, and the difficulties that come with facilitating an effective election on campus. I believe decisions should be guided by the principle that all elections should be equitable, transparent, and accessible. This is an outlook that informed my election to the Senate, along with a desire to continually strengthen and improve our debate process in the assembly.

As speaker, I would take on additional responsibilities, ensuring the objectivity and efficiency of the assembly is consistent, all while making sure all members are able to voice their concerns and that those concerns are valid. I plan to make sure every member on the assembly feels comfortable to voice dissent and support, as well as maintain respect between all members even if there is a disagreement.

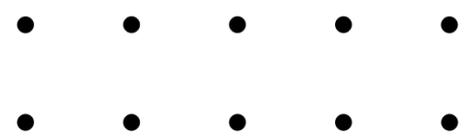


Related Experience & Qualifications

MSU MERIT AWARD STANDING COMMITTEE

As a member of this committee, I was responsible for adhering to protocol and marking applications according to a rubric.

This is especially relevant as the Speaker serves as chair for this committee, and I have personal insight and the experience to improve this process



SENATE BOARD OF STUDENT APPEALS

I was responsible for maintaining academic integrity via deliberating student appeals, making decisions in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness, adjudicating penalties at the Tribunal & listening to concerns at hearings

MSU ELECTIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

I was responsible for promoting opportunities for student involvement, responsible for ratifying and validating election results, mandating fair and transparent campaigning, deliberating motions on fines & appeals.



Goals

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INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY
HOLDING REPRESENTATIVE ACCOUNTABLE

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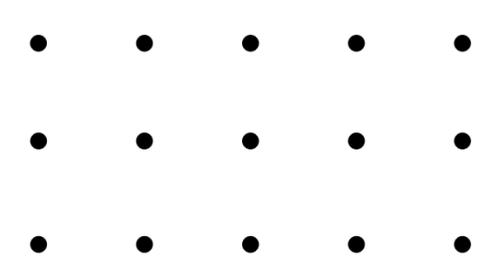
Increasing Accessibility

INCREASE SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

We need to increase awareness of the SRA by informing people more regularly where the meetings are, when they occur and how one can attend. Furthermore, it is important for every SRA member to explain what they actually do in the position they have been elected for. Whether this be through an Instagram page or other methods, learning materials about the SRA should be digestible and easily accessible

INCREASE CONSTITUENCY PRESENCE

I also plan on encouraging each SRA member individually to ask their constituents to come, especially if they have a concern or idea they want to raise. I also plan on incentivising attendance for students to show up, whether it be free food or a gift card for filling out surveys or attending, we must increase the student voice at the assembly.



Holding Representatives Accountable

STEP 1

Mandating representatives to inform me if they are not going to be able to attend a meeting. As an elected representative, SRAs have a responsibility to the individuals and community that chose them and must be held to a high standard.

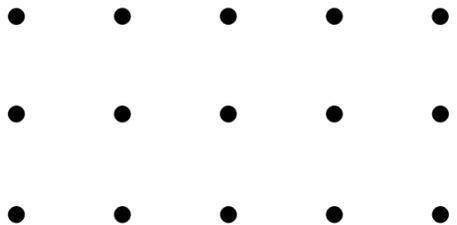
STEP 2

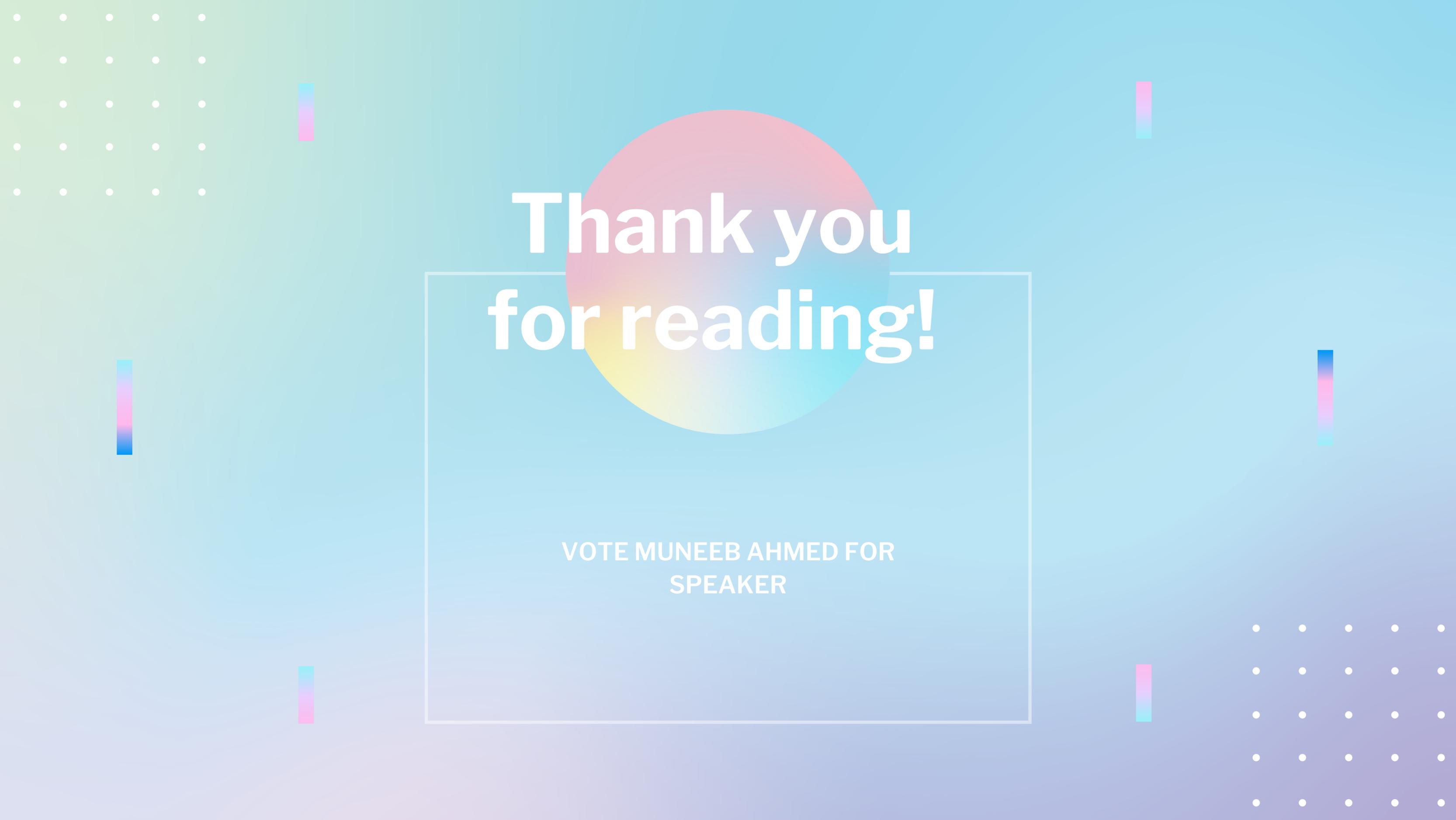
If there is a pattern of absence, reaching out to those representatives in private to address the situation. Having honest communication between the speaker and representatives ensures the smoothest process possible in a debate, and I plan to remind everyone frequently to contact me whenever they have issues or need someone to speak to.

REPRESENTATIVE PRESENCE

- Some representatives might not be fond of speaking publicly, so I will create a Google Form that allows individuals to send me their concerns anonymously or with their name on it. This allows everyone to voice their opinion equally and without hesitation.

- Individuals should be reminded that they were elected on the basis of their platform, so I plan to communicate with SRAs to discuss their ideas and how they can implement them if they were feasible.





Thank you for reading!

VOTE MUNEEB AHMED FOR
SPEAKER