



REPORT

From the office of the...
AVP Finance

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Nathan Auyeung, AVP Finance
SUBJECT: SRA 21H Report
DATE: September 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Students Representative Assembly,

I hope you are all staying healthy and adjusting well to the school year! The Finance Committee and I have been working hard to make progress on our projects and fulfill our obligations under Bylaw 9. At the beginning of the summer, I reached out to all five Bylaw 9 groups and on August 1, 2021, I received all of their budgets for the year. The Finance Committee and I have since began reviewing these budgets and gathering questions. I have also recently requested the PowerPoint presentations for the events/projects that each of the five Bylaw 9 groups will be involved in for the school year. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the 2021-2022 school year when the budgets were requested, I have asked the Bylaw 9 groups to prepare four different budgets for us, similar to last year. Since then, McMaster University has clarified its re-opening plan. It is apparent that McMaster University will be hybrid (virtual and in-person elements) for the Fall semester and in-person for the Winter semester, barring any further re-opening setbacks. Therefore, the budgets requested will include:

- 1) a fully online year with the student choice initiative
- 2) a fully online year without the student choice initiative
- 3) a fully in-person year with the student choice initiative
- 4) a fully in-person year without the student choice initiative

I have received all four budgets from the groups and I'm eager for them to present to you so that the Student Representative Assembly can ask questions to determine their financial accountability. Please see below for additional updates broken down by task.

Progress on Year Plan

- 1) **Financial Accountability of the Bylaw 9 Groups:** I have received the four different types of budgets outlined above from each of the Bylaw 9 groups. I have been working with the Finance Committee to review these budgets and prepare some question for them which will be circulated to the SRA once I have received the answers.
- 2) **MSU Food & Beverage Discount Plan:** Ryan Matsuba and Sarphina Chui have been able to reach out to many local businesses to determine if a student discount already exists for McMaster University students. After gathering a list of local businesses that offer student discounts, we worked with Michael Wooder to create a new "Student Savings & Discounts" page on the MSU website under

“Your Money” that outlines the savings that students can enjoy. Ryan and Sarphina will continue to reach out to local business to hopefully expand the list.

Past Events, Projects, & Activities

- 1) **Bylaw 9 Groups:** Once all the PowerPoint presentations have been received by October 15, 2021, we will finish the presentations for the Bylaw 9 groups. The timeline should be by early-November. The Finance Committee will make recommendations to these groups and they will be responsible for presenting to the SRA again in January.

Upcoming Events, Projects, & Activities

- 1) **Financial Transparency Week:** As voted upon by the Finance Committee, the Fall semester’s Financial Transparency Week will occur between September 27 and October 1. The Finance Committee and I have been working hard to gather the updated information necessary, such as MSU vs. McMaster University Fee Breakdowns and Services, SLEF promotion, and a new Student Savings Promotion. Furthermore, I have been working with Michael Wooder to update the information on the MSU website.
- 2) **MSU Equitable Purchasing Policy:** I am currently speaking with the AVP Internal Governance, Armin, and the VP Finance, JJ, to determine an equitable purchasing policy for the MSU. I understand that this policy was discussed in previous SRA meetings and hope to work with the Finance Committee to finalize this policy by the beginning of 2022.
- 3) **MSU Charity:** Currently, Sarphina Chui is continually gathering information as to the feasibility of a charitable arm of the MSU. Following Financial Transparency Week, the Finance Committee will continue this initiative, including determining the 3 pillars that the MSU charitable arm hopes to stand by.

Successes

I would like to acknowledge Ryan, Sarphina, and Olsen for their work and commitment to the initiatives on the Year Plan throughout the summer. Ryan and Sarphina have developed a new universal budget template that can be used by all five of the Bylaw 9 groups when submitting their budgets. This has helped a lot in understanding the Bylaw 9 groups’ finances and current financial position from an internal perspective, and hopefully will help simplify the budget submission process for the Bylaw 9 groups. Olsen has also been able to work with the VP Finance (JJ) to gathering information leading up to Financial Transparency Week, which has been a great help.

Current Challenges

None!

Volunteers (Standing Committees only)

I am delighted to have Mohammedhasan, Nick, and Craig on the Finance Committee. Mohammedhasan has been a great help in providing insights into the previous year and updates on previous year initiatives. Nick has been working with Olsen to gather information leading up to Financial Transparency Week. Craig has recently joined the Finance Committee and is very helpful during meetings when reviewing the budgets of the Bylaw 9 groups. I am excited to see the work that these three will continue to do throughout the rest of the school year.

There are no volunteers on the Sponsorship and Donations Committee.

Regards,

Nathan Auyeung

AVP Finance

McMaster Students Union

avpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca