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## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION INTRODUCTION

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To the Members of the Assembly,

As I was putting together this document, I realized how far we've come as a collective community in the last two years after the undergraduate student body rapidly shifted from campus to learning and working online. The transition has been far from easy and I think it's safe to say that every single student has shown incredible resilience while grappling with many new challenges. In moving towards a return to campus, there seem to be endless possibilities and perspectives to consider but the MSU is committed to advocating for student safety and ongoing support.

The past two months of my transition into this role have been rewarding but also difficult as new hurdles appear each week. That being said, I'm convinced there is a tremendous opportunity to set precedent in the upcoming year. The previous Vice Presidents of Education have highlighted a need to improve support for students hailing from diverse backgrounds. In the coming year, I hope to continue on this path

with the AVP University Affairs and the following pages of my year plan going more in depth into my proposal to listen and learn from international students, Indigenous students and communities, and students identifying as disabled. This is not to say that both myself and the MSU will not be continuing to advocate for all undergraduate students but rather that I see a call to action and an opportunity to amplifying pre-existing voices. I hope to keep learning in the months to come and I look forward to reporting on both successes and lessons learned in the future.

From a more overarching perspective, I will be leading the Education Department towards a more cohesive team dynamic. Starting with the Sustainability Education Committee, I am aiming to review the role of each committee and position within the team. This internal reflection will build upon the previous Vice President Education's proposal to amalgamate the role of the Policy and Research Assistants to create a role in line with a Policy Advisor. In the past decade, the MSU has expanded drastically and has made significant progress in developing policy and lobbying at various levels. The addition of a full-time staff member within the Education Department would also ease transitions between years and aid in continuity planning.

Efforts at the municipal level are not to be overlooked as I plan to integrate components of my campaign into the year. The Municipal Affairs Committee will be building upon the housing research conducted during the last year to aid in this year's advocacy policy, Student Housing and Near Campus Neighborhoods. Additionally, the committee will be researching pertinent issues like property licensing by both the university administration, as well as at the City of Hamilton. In conjunction with work done surrounding property licensing, I will be advocating for the collection of student data pertaining to student living and commuter trends. This is a long-term vision but will enable the Education Department to provide solid examples when advocating for other priorities like a rezoning review in Ward 1, ongoing support for the LRT and sustainable transit, as well as purpose-built housing initiatives.

At the provincial and federal level, the MSU will continue to work with the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) to advocate for changes within Ontario, whereas the MSU will work with Undergraduates of Research-Intensive Universities (UCRU) to lobby the federal government. I will be working with the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to facilitate consultations, bring delegates to the Fall and Spring General Assembly's, and author two OUSA policies; System Vision and Accountability, and Tech-Enabled Learning. I will be sitting on the Steering Committee for OUSA and the MSU President will be Chair for the UCRU Board of Directors. I will also be working with the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to sit on UCRU's Advocacy Subcommittee and the Governance Subcommittee. In working towards a more engaging and interactive dynamic between McMaster students and local politicians, I will be working to align MSU campaigns with local MPs and MPPs. This will be in addition to both OUSA and UCRU's Lobby Weeks but will offer students an opportunity to be more aware going into the provincial election, and a potential federal election.

Away from advocacy, I will also be planning opportunities to solidify relationships within the McMaster community by planning meetings between myself and McMaster faculty societies Vice President Academics. These meetings will ideally provide a foundation for ongoing communication, sharing of resources, and utilizing

feedback from student leaders outside the MSU. In a similar vein, I will be working to formalize the MSU's relationship with the Mohawk Student Association and the Redeemer Student Senate. Improving the student experience within Hamilton and advocating for young people is stronger and more legitimate when all parties are included and space is provided for everyone.

I'm so excited to continue working within the MSU, both with internal staff members and volunteers, but also off campus with community stakeholders and lobbying groups. I am always looking for ways to improve not only my own understanding of advocacy and also support members of the McMaster community. As always, please feel free to reach out and ask questions - I appreciate any and all feedback from SRA members and your constituents.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siobhan Teel". The script is cursive and fluid.

Siobhan Teel

Vice President Education

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## Month by Month

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition in the role</li> <li>• OUSA Welcome Conference</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster introductions</li> <li>• LRT support promotion</li> <li>• OUSA Strategic Conference</li> <li>• OUSA Summer School</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Education Committee</li> <li>• Policy and Research Assistant hiring</li> <li>• Project &amp; Campaign Coordinator hiring</li> <li>• UTILE Students flash survey results</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenant rights workshop</li> <li>• Property licensing pilot delegation</li> <li>• OUSA fall policy paper consultations</li> <li>• Meeting with faculty society VP Academics</li> <li>• McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group Meeting</li> <li>• MSU sustainability vision and guidelines</li> <li>• UCRU Operating Policy</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University budget submission</li> <li>• Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous rights advocacy</li> <li>• MSU SUSTAIN course</li> <li>• Municipal budget submission consultations</li> <li>• Review EIO climate survey data</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA policy paper (System Vision and Accountability)</li> <li>• OUSA article</li> <li>• OUSA fall General Assembly</li> <li>• Municipal budget submission draft</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA Student Advocacy Conference</li> <li>• OUSA spring policy consultations</li> <li>• Meeting with faculty society VP Academics</li> <li>• McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group Meeting</li> <li>• Municipal budget submission</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start Transition Report</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student feedback survey</li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA policy paper (Tech Enabled Learning)</li> <li>• McMaster Housing and Conference Services property rating launch</li> <li>• Valedictorian selection process begins</li> <li>• Tenant rights and lease workshop</li> <li>• MSU SUSTAIN course</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with faculty society VP Academics</li> <li>• Mental health advocacy campaign</li> <li>• McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group Meeting</li> <li>• SRA survey</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Policy Conference</li> <li>• OUSA spring General Assembly and plenary</li> <li>• Policy Advisor amalgamation and hiring</li> <li>• MSU SUSTAIN courses review</li> <li>• Education Department committees review</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition incoming VP Education</li> <li>• Complete final report</li> <li>• Wrap up projects</li> </ul>

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# Goals

## University Priorities

Objective 1	Clarify McMaster’s use of Respondus proctoring software
Description	In the past year, students have voiced their concerns about the use of proctoring software in different classes. After conversations with university administration, these concerns have been relayed and three criteria have been laid out as 1) accredited programs 2) essential and 3) class size have been approved to use proctoring. This outline needs to be made readily available to students through social media, on McMaster and the MSU’s websites, and from professors.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students understand why proctoring software is being used and how to raise concerns to faculty and staff</li> <li>• Cohesive messaging from both McMaster and the MSU</li> <li>• Student concerns are being addressed and input is valued</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It’s difficult to funnel information through multiple channels</li> <li>• Professor and staff accountability is hard to maintain</li> <li>• Students may not agree with the criteria set by the university</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do students engage with the administration when it comes to proctoring?</li> <li>• What options exist to steer testing away from proctoring? Is this something the MSU and McMaster are willing to invest in?</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create media to be published on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter</li> <li>• Offer ongoing conversation and collect student concerns to be relayed</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting Vice Provost, Kim Dej</li> <li>• Chief Technology Officer, Gayleen Gray</li> <li>• MSU Communications Team</li> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• SRA Members</li> <li>• Faculty Societies</li> </ul>

Objective 2	Vaccination Clinic on Campus
Description	Promoting safety among students, McMaster staff, and the greater Hamilton community relies heavily on ensuring those who are able and want to be vaccinated have access to vaccination clinics. Currently, the McMaster campus does not have approval from the regional health authorities to hold and administer COVID-19 vaccinations. Vaccine availability on campus impacts student communities differently and in order to address systemic inequalities within the health care system, vaccines are one of many resources that need to be available to all students and community members. As part of my advocacy to support students from diverse backgrounds, I will continue to offer support to the Student Wellness Center and will be looking to OUSA and UCRU for support. Additionally, I am researching lobbying groups advocating for expanded vaccination distribution.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased safety for students, faculty and staff, and the Hamilton community</li> <li>• Contributing to vaccine availability both on campus and across Canada</li> <li>• Supporting students with needs for additional accessibility</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hamilton Regional Health Authority controls vaccination clinics</li> <li>• The Student Wellness Center has been difficult to meet with as they are very busy</li> <li>• This will need to be an advocacy priority across the university, municipal, and provincial and federal portfolios</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be able to book vaccinations on campus for the foreseeable future</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring this concern to the SSAC Student Wellness Center Subcommittee</li> <li>• Advocating and asking for support from OUSA and UCRU</li> <li>• Reaching out to Hamilton-based community organizations that have been hosting vaccine clinics</li> <li>• Should a clinic remain unavailable on campus, I will be looking in to organizing and promoting ways for students to go to other clinics</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Wellness Center Director, Roseann Kent</li> <li>• Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• Vice President Administration, Christina Devarapalli</li> <li>• SHEC Director,</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> </ul>
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Objective 3	Return to Campus Flexibility
Description	Although many students have expressed their interest to return to campus, there are also students who have been impacted in distinct ways over the past year. The diverse experiences and circumstances of students must be considered as courses are planned and developed for both the fall and winter semesters. In the future, there is an opportunity for students to have more online course selection to accommodate the needs of students while also challenging traditional financial and accessibility barriers.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be able to choose their own delivery method that best compliments their life</li> <li>• Those living outside of Hamilton will still be able to attend McMaster University and engage with resources</li> <li>• Accessibility can be improved, and barriers can be re-evaluated</li> <li>• The safety of students will remain a priority for the MSU and McMaster as some people are unable or choose not to be vaccinated</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the financial burdens of technology and online learning are acknowledged and efforts are made to ensure affordability</li> <li>• Professors and staff require training and resources to deliver high quality lessons and facilitate testing</li> <li>• Courses held over one medium must be graded and taught cohesively which requires further planning</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster has traditionally offered the majority of courses in-person however changes during the COVID-19 pandemic are creating a divide between in-person teaching and e-learning options. It's unclear whether McMaster is prepared to continue offering courses online and also what the demand for the option is going to be over the next few years.</li> </ul>

How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to field questions and concerns from McMaster students and their families</li> <li>• Relay information to McMaster administration</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting Vice Provost, Kim Dej</li> <li>• Provost and Vice President (Academic), Susan Tighe</li> <li>• Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• Chief Technology Officer, Gayleen Gray</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• SRA Members</li> <li>• Faculty Societies</li> </ul>

Objective 4	Ongoing Mental Health Advocacy
Description	Throughout the past year, students have voiced their concerns about the lack of mental health resources available to young people. Although this has been an ongoing problem in recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation and more students are seeking support. The conversation surrounding mental health is not unique to McMaster however, this topic has come up at lobbying groups like OUSA and UCRU. Contributing to the call for further resources and examining how people have been struggling in different ways will only increase in importance in the coming years which emphasizes why the MSU needs to continue pushing this year.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student will be kept in the loop about updates to resources and supports throughout the year</li> <li>• Undergraduates will be able to communicate what is working and also any problems they have experienced with services and resources</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all students have access to the same level of care</li> <li>• Resources on campus are always in demand and growth in this area tends to be slow</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUSA has really great lobbying abilities and ideally in the future, the provincial government will continue to follow the recommendations of the group</li> <li>• Improved resources on and off campus, including more counselling and workshops available</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to OUSA policy paper and facilitate consultations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the AVP University Affairs resource development goals</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• Student Wellness Center Director, Roseann Kent</li> <li>• Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Student Health and Wellness Center</li> </ul>

Objective 5	Support Faculty Society VP Academics
Description	Developing connections between the MSU and faculty societies is critical to supporting students as they return to campus. Without ongoing communication and collaboration, both the MSU and faculty societies will struggle to access resources and offer support to students during a tumultuous year. The MSU holds a lot of resources and has numerous connections, but faculty societies are able to connect more directly with smaller program societies, and by extension, students. Developing a cohesive and streamlined approach to garnering student concerns and needs, both the MSU and faculty societies will be able to better serve the student body.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting students more directly</li> <li>• More opportunity for student feedback</li> <li>• Better ability to consult over student needs on a faculty by faculty basis</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication can be difficult</li> <li>• Faculty societies may be more interested in pursuing their goals independently</li> <li>• These meetings could be seen as time consuming</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger communication and united messaging</li> <li>• Positive, long lasting relationship</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a summer, fall, and winter meeting with faculty societies</li> <li>• Bring relevant issues to the table and open discussion surrounding support</li> <li>• Provide updates on MSU priorities and challenges</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRA Members</li> <li>• Faculty Societies</li> </ul>
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Objective 6	Promote “Team McMaster” Advocacy
Description	In the past few years, multiple student unions have faced problems in maintaining strong, long lasting relationships with their respective university administrations. To invest in the longevity of the MSU and maintain the flow of open communication between the Education Department and the university, I will be ensuring each AVP within the Education team meetings with their counterpart on the university’s Public Affairs team. Additionally, I will have ongoing meetings with Alex Lawson from the Public Affairs team to prepare cohesive messaging from both the MSU and McMaster, plan upcoming election events, and ask for their feedback on matters relating to MSU advocacy, OUSA, and UCRU.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MSU maintains independence while also receiving support from the university</li> <li>• United message from both the MSU and the university especially during the pandemic</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some students may feel this approach is too moderate</li> <li>• There will be different perspectives to consider from both sides</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The future MSU Board of Directors will be able to lean on the Public Affairs team when dealing with public statements</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal election proceedings are also made significantly more efficient when working</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing meetings between the AVP University Affairs, AVP Municipal Affairs, AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and the Public Affairs team counterparts</li> <li>• Regular meeting between myself and Alex Lawson</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster Public Affairs, Alex Lawson</li> <li>• McMaster Public Affairs, Joe Finkle</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> </ul>

Objective 7	International Student Support
Description	<p>Following the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, international students were left with incredibly limited support as the university shifted to online learning and resources were limited by geographic location. Going forward, many international students will be visiting McMaster's campus for the first time and although this is a common theme, the experiences and needs of international students are unique. Resources and supports for academic, mental health, and developing a sense of community are pertinent for providing an overall positive experience. Throughout both the fall and winter, I will be utilizing surveys done in previous years to continue creating connections between the MSU and International Student Services. As the MSU re-evaluates mental health resources available to undergraduates, I will continue to advocate for more extensive coverage and equitable opportunities to seek support. Additionally, I will be meeting with International Student Services to talk about improving online support and integrating new modules for post-pandemic learning.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing an up-to-date platform for students before arrival</li> <li>• Offering mental health resources in multiple languages and across multiple regions</li> <li>• Supporting the International Student Services mentorship program</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current provincial political climate is unwelcoming to international students and as a result advocacy must be even more thought out and</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster has traditionally offered the majority of courses in-person however changes during the COVID-19 pandemic are creating a divide between in-person teaching and e-learning options. It's unclear whether McMaster is prepared to continue offering courses online and also what the demand for the option is going to be over the next few years.</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to field questions and concerns from McMaster students and their families</li> <li>• Relay concerns from international students to McMaster administration</li> <li>• Support and contribute to advocacy at both the provincial and federal levels through UCRU</li> <li>• Enable the AVP University Affairs to continue working and learning from the International Students Task Force</li> </ul>

Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• International Student Task Force</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• SRA Members</li> <li>• Student Success Center, Arlene Dosen</li> <li>• Global Experience &amp; International Program Assistance, Andrea Gyamfi</li> <li>• International Students Coordinator, Randa Salih</li> <li>• Associate Director, Gisela Oliviera</li> </ul>
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Objective 8	Support for Indigenous Students
Description	<p>Following the discovery of a grave holding 215 Indigenous children in Kamloops, BC, and subsequent findings at Cranbook, BC, Marieval, Saskatchewan, and Penelakut Island, BC, Indigenous people are sharing not only personal experiences but also a wealth of resources. It is the duty of the MSU to take every active measure to support Indigenous students and the surrounding communities. Given the enormous privilege the MSU and McMaster hold, as we are located on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people, the Education team is committed to amplifying existing work and priorities.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lot of Indigenous knowledge formatted in easily understood and sharable formats and the MSU can avoid re-traumatizing and overburdening Indigenous people</li> <li>• Indigenous students deserve to feel supported and heard</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to ensure our due diligence is done in a respectful and equitable way, the Education team must work slowly and with care</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an important precedent to set at the MSU can conduct research on Indigenous ways of knowledge and advocacy</li> <li>• Ideally this effort will contribute in some way to</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing materials to be presented leading up to Orange Shirt Day</li> <li>• Working with Indigenous Student Services to offer a platform to speak and lead advocacy</li> <li>• Offering ongoing support and resources to OUSA as they draft and finalize the Indigenous Students Policy Paper</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous students within the federal government's priorities at UCRU</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> <li>• UCRU Steering Committee, Advocacy Subcommittee, and Governance Subcommittee</li> <li>• Indigenous Student Services</li> </ul>

Objective 9	Sustainability Education Committee
Description	<p>At the beginning of my term, I was reached out to by Giancarlo from MSAC and Kate from ASP to talk about the university's upcoming sustainability plan and operating policy. During this meeting it was brought to my attention that there is a substantial amount of overlap between the Sustainability Education Committee and the SSAP program within ASP. When I brought this back to the Board, I struggled to explain how sustainability fit within the Education team's advocacy portfolio despite the important of the topic. Additionally, it was hard to define how the MSU engaged with sustainability efforts and what scope would be adopted in future efforts. As a result, I will be working with the Sustainability Education Committee and the AVP University Affairs to draft an outline of the MSU's definition of sustainability. Furthermore, the committee will be working with two SUSTAIN classes to create an inventory and subsequent report of sustainability initiatives within MSU Services.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear collaboration between the MSU, the university, and students</li> <li>• There is an opportunity to take a progressive approach to defining sustainability and streamline advocacy</li> <li>• Ideally, the SUSTAIN classes and the committee will be able to support one another and reach goals more efficiently</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine which MSU Services will be involved in dependent on operating capacity and procedures</li> <li>• I will need to work with the AVP University Affairs and ASP to establish clear performance indicators and signs of success and failure</li> </ul>

Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This dynamic could be altered and improved in future years and become a more formal and ongoing partnership</li> <li>• The MSU Will be able to move forward with sustainability goals with clarity and guidance</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with VP Administration, Christina, to determine which MSU Services would be interested in contributing</li> <li>• Establish criteria for consulting and reporting</li> <li>• Determine how the committee and class will engage within one another and the hierarchy</li> <li>• Review success and flag problems within the Fall semester</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• VP Administration, Christina Devarapalli</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• Sustainability Education Committee</li> <li>• Academic Sustainability Programs Manager, Kate Whalen</li> <li>• McMaster Sustainability Committee</li> <li>• AVP Facilities, Debbie Martin</li> </ul>

Objective 10	Open Education Resources
Description	As the costs associated with post-secondary education continue to rise, materials and books required for classes create barriers for students. Many universities around Canada, specifically UBC and Guelph, have taken advantage of OERs and have invested in offering students a massive catalogue of resources. Currently, the McMaster Library has limited funding to buy into these resources. With the pandemic pushing students into an online setting, OERs have proven to be beneficial in improving accessibility and offsetting costs.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing in OERs challenges financial barriers and problems with inaccessibility</li> <li>• There are grants and funding available for Canadian universities to expand OER availability</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process for acquiring more OERs has proven to be slow, and this will require advocacy and support for the libraries in discussions with the administration</li> <li>• Working with professors and faculty to spread awareness around OERs can be challenging as this may disrupt previous methods of teaching</li> </ul>



Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The acquisition of OERs is important in the years following the pandemic but will take ongoing effort to keep resources up to date</li> <li>• Students will have more financial control over their degree and experience</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the President and AVP University Affairs to clearly establish how OERs would benefit students</li> <li>• Collaborate with the McMaster Library to clarify goals and requests</li> <li>• Meet with university administration to request budget allocation to OERs</li> <li>• Discuss OERs strategy and growth with other universities and potentially incorporate into OUSA policy</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• University Affairs Committee</li> <li>• AVP Internal Governance, Simranjeet Singh</li> <li>• McMaster Library's Open Education and Scholarship Librarian, Olga Perkovic</li> <li>• MacPherson Institute</li> <li>• OUSA</li> </ul>

Objective 11	Solidify McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group
Description	Student voices are often ignored in Hamilton as McMaster, Mohawk, and Redeemer students have unique experiences and requests to city representatives. That being said, advocacy is most effective when all parties involved are able to agree on certain aspects and work together to achieve mutually beneficial results. In the past, the MSU has worked with both the MSA and the RSS with good results however this year I would like to formalize the partnership to establish open communication between the groups and guide future executives.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong connections with other student-focused groups who have similar experiences and priorities</li> <li>• Amplifying MSU presence in Hamilton and within City Hall</li> <li>• Improving continuity and developing strong relations</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The three schools each have varying student populations and resources available to them which puts the MSU in a position to provide more resources</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each school reports to their student body and there is no accountability within the group</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ongoing relationship will need to be worked on each year to ensure a positive and long-lasting union</li> <li>• In the years to come, the group has the opportunity to become more formalized and even have volunteers work within it</li> <li>• There could also be connections during elections proceedings, at OUSA, and within the MSU</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the AVP University Affairs and AVP Municipal Affairs to draft guidelines for the group</li> <li>• Schedule regular meetings to share information and resources, provide support, and give feedback</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Mohawk Student Association</li> <li>• Redeemer Student Senate</li> </ul>

Municipal Priorities

Objective 12	McMaster Property Rating Service
Description	<p>Previous to taking on the role of VP Education, I was able to partake in the Municipal Affairs Committee. This position allowed me to understand how the university views student housing and where efforts are being made to support safe, accessible, and affordable housing in the neighborhoods surrounding McMaster’s campus. Although this project has been on the go for over a year, Housing and Conference Services have been in touch with the President and I over the last two months to offer opportunities to work together and develop a property rating system. I will continue to work with HCS, the AVP Municipal Affairs, and the Municipal Affairs Committee to offer student insights and advocate for accountability within the Hamilton student rental market.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlords will be incentivized to keep their properties up to date and well maintained</li> <li>• Students will have the ability to share concerns about predatory practices</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will set a precedent for McMaster to take an active stance in support students off campus</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are legal restrictions to how HCS is able to present the service</li> <li>• Performance indicators and whether students actually utilize the platform will impact its longevity</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If students actually take time to review properties where they have lived</li> <li>• There will still be landlords and properties that refuse to improve</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information collected from the Municipal Affairs Committee with HCS</li> <li>• Test out the platform and provide feedback</li> <li>• Promote student use through social media and garner feedback from those who have used the service</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Housing and Conference Services, Holly Gibson</li> </ul>

Objective 13	City of Hamilton Property Licensing Pilot
Description	<p>Similar to the objective prior, the City of Hamilton has been working to implement a licensing pilot for over a decade. Currently the pilot has only been introduced in Wards 1 and 8 in an effort to address concerns within the student rental market. There have been issues raised by landlords about cost burdens however the MSU has long supported property licensing, regular inspections, and more stringent requirements. Over the summer, the MSU will be putting forward a call for delegations to be presented to the city in August in favour of property licensing.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properties surrounding campus will be forced to adhere to safety guidelines enforced by the city</li> <li>• Students will be able to bring up concerns both to the Landlord Tenant Board and also Hamilton</li> <li>• More accurate records will be kept on properties failing to meet safety standards</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlords are pushing back and do not support the pilot or permanent implementation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The university does not have clear involvement with this which leaves a gap in the MSU's ability to be actively consulted</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a cost of around \$200 every three years that may be overset onto students</li> <li>Ideally, students will feel more empowered to know their rights within rental agreements and have adequate support from the city to challenge abusive landlords</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with ACORN Hamilton, Mohawk Student Association, the AVP Municipal Affairs, and the MSU's Communications team to put forward a call for student voices</li> <li>Facilitate a workshop</li> <li>Prepare materials and feedback from surveys done in previous years to highlight to the Planning Committee</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>MSU Communications Team</li> <li>ACORN Hamilton</li> <li>Mohawk Student Association</li> </ul>

Objective 14	Tenant Rights Awareness
Description	<p>Since the impacts of the pandemic came into effect during the Winter semester of 2020, many students decided not to sign or renew leases for the upcoming year. In past years, the MSU and McMaster have held workshops and information sessions on Hamilton's tenant laws and landlord responsibilities. Although students are not attending classes fully in person this fall, there is still a need to support students and provide resources considering the number of undergraduates who have not lived on campus or in the neighborhoods surrounding. In order to respond quickly, I will be planning one workshop in August to provide essential resources and an understanding of the Landlord Tenant Board. In the spring, I will be planning events surrounding house hunting, the Ontario lease format, finding roommates, and other options.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing resources and supports for students will contribute to overall safety</li> <li>Students will be able to avoid properties and tenants that violate bylaws and threaten student safety</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student tenants will be more equipped to take legal action through the most accurate and efficient channels</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MSU does not currently collect data on where students live which makes it difficult to anticipate student housing needs</li> <li>• The university does not have a clear line of support for students living off campus and experiencing difficulties</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn out at the August event will indicate what is needed at the workshop in the winter semester</li> <li>• This will contribute to advocacy for student housing and commuter data</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic to host a workshop in August</li> <li>• Incorporate housing and rental bylaws into Municipal Awareness Week</li> <li>• Plan events with</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• SRA Members</li> <li>• ACORN Hamilton</li> <li>• Hamilton Community Legal Clinic</li> </ul>

Objective 15	City of Hamilton Ward 8 Zoning Review
Description	<p>In cities home to colleges and universities, housing is very diverse with some students living in apartments and others living in homes with numerous bedrooms. In Hamilton, many students living in the areas surrounding campus reside in single dwelling houses with at least six bedrooms. There have been instances in the past where student safety has been compromised due to lack of fire prevention and inspections within these dwellings. City bylaws define lodgings as more than six separate bedrooms with distinct occupants that share communal spaces however this zoning designation requires additional safety precautions and inspections. Over the year, I will be working with the incoming Policy and Research Assistants, the AVP Municipal Affairs, and the Municipal Affairs Committee to prepare a proposal for both the university and the City of Hamilton. This effort to invest in the student living situation must be a priority for the MSU, McMaster, and the city.</p>

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased safety inspections</li> <li>• United front between the MSU, the university, and the city</li> <li>• Increasing accountability and repercussions for negligent landlords</li> <li>• Contributes to student living and commuter data collection</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be a slow process and will take a lot on consulting with the university administration and the city</li> <li>• Future VP Educations will need to continue working on this to see full implementation</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning is complicated and the city will need to be convinced that this effort is well founded and beneficial</li> <li>• I'm trying to challenge the ongoing perspective that students are less important citizens at the municipal level</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research on other cities that have expanded lodging designations</li> <li>• Reach out to universities and colleges within these cities and ask about their involvement</li> <li>• Bring research to Policy and Research Assistant, AVP Municipal Affairs, and Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Conduct consultations with university administration</li> <li>• Open conversations with the city</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• City of Hamilton</li> </ul>

Objective 16	Student Housing and Commuter Data
Description	<p>During my year on the Municipal Affairs Committee, I realized how difficult it was to speak with university administration and city representatives without being able to refer to specific data. Many MSU advocacy priorities are forced to make generalizations based on survey results that reach a very limited number of students. By creating a strategy and consulting with university stakeholders about collecting data pertaining to student housing, transit use, and commuting trends, the MSU can better represent students within our conversations with external parties. This objective will require multiple perspectives in order to abide by FIPPA standards and also respect the university's policies on data collection and</p>

	storage. Additionally, guidelines surrounding the collection, use, and storage of student data will need to be established within the MSU. Although this goal is complicated and will take time to develop, data holds significant power and can drive advocacy goals forward.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MSU can make clear, data driven recommendations to both the university and the city</li> <li>• Better understanding of housing trends like price, neighborhood density, and safety compliance</li> <li>• More knowledge on student commuter patterns, transit systems and routes that are heavily used, and transportation inaccessibility</li> <li>• Supports rezoning objective and future plans for purpose-built housing</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will take coordinated efforts from the MSU, the city, and the university</li> <li>• The process may be slow going and require a lot of consultations</li> <li>• There is potential for future VP Educations to scrap this plan</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MSU will be able to refer to annual statistics and data when requesting the allocation of funds to transit and housing initiatives</li> <li>• Developing a whole new understanding of students needs off campus</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin by developing a plan with AVP Municipal Affairs and the Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• City of Hamilton</li> </ul>

Objective 17	Hamilton Transit and the LRT
Description	Earlier this year, the MSU advocated for Hamilton city councillors to vote in favour of the provincial and federal funding opportunity to re-commit to the LRT. The LRT would connect McMaster to the downtown core and all the way to the east end which would benefit students and allow them to live and work farther from

	campus. The MSU is committed to continued support for the construction of the LRT.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient and sustainable transit across Hamilton</li> <li>• Allows students more living and working opportunities</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward 1 Councilor, Maureen Wilson, is already in favor of the LRT and other councilors don't necessarily take student needs into account</li> <li>• The MSU will need to evaluate the change in the HSR pass cost following the completion of the LRT</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction will take years and there are a lot of obstacles that could pop up in the meantime</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor updates on construction</li> <li>• Communicate support for Maureen Wilson</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>• Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• City of Hamilton</li> <li>• Mohawk Student Association</li> </ul>

Provincial and Federal Priorities

Objective 18	Provincial Lobby Week (OUSA)
Description	This fall, the MSU will be attending OUSA's Lobby Week to advocate for the next set of priorities for next years policies. It's important for the President and I to establish the direction of the MSU's future advocacy and preparing for this week by consulting with each Education Department committee. This is a great opportunity for myself and the rest of the Education team to gather student feedback and formulate a plan for ongoing student support at the provincial level.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to consult with students</li> <li>• Reflect on the months leading up to the week and use that knowledge to set up the MSU to be in strong position to advocate at the provincial level</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating enough feedback prior to the week will require a lot of commitment and planning</li> </ul>



Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will only impact the year following my term but there is still the opportunity to reflect on lessons learned this year to have a big impact of future advocacy efforts</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to attend Education Department committee meetings and garner thoughts and concerns</li> <li>• Bring the knowledge from the committees to the lobby week</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 19	OUSA System Vision and Accountability Policy Paper
Description	This year the MSU will be authoring two OUSA policies, one of which will be focusing on System Vision and Accountability. The purpose of this paper is to take a closer look into the post-secondary education system and the development of the industry within Ontario. Aspects like funding, expansion, and accessibility come into play within this paper and I will be working with the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to facilitate consultations, think tanks, and policy writing sessions.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amplify McMaster voices</li> <li>• Conduct meaningful research and present it in a productive method</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student feedback has been challenging during the pandemic so gathering information may be challenging</li> <li>• Balancing internal commitments with promises made to OUSA partners within this project may be time consuming</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting a foundation for how the MSU sees PSE expansion within Ontario</li> <li>• Making recommendations with knowledge of the struggles associated with COVID-19</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a clear plan with the OUSA Steering Committee</li> <li>• Conduct consultations for all three OUSA fall policies</li> <li>• Analyze results and format effectively</li> <li>• Pass the paper at the General Assembly</li> </ul>

Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> </ul>
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Objective 20	OUSA Fall General Assembly
Description	The OUSA Fall General Assembly is included within the policy cycle as the three papers being authored leading up to the event will be ratified. The MSU is able to bring eight delegates which will include myself, the President, and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs. This leaves five positions open to MSU members who wish to attend MSU training and then attend the GA.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU undergraduates are able to become part of provincial lobbying</li> <li>• There is more room at the table to include diverse voices and choose delegates that accurately represent McMaster students</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing eight people can prove challenging</li> <li>• There is an emphasis on all people feeling prepared and understanding the three papers</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This continues to solidify our relationship with OUSA and demonstrates our commitment to provincial lobbying efforts</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In August, the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will begin working with the MSU Communications team to put together a call for GA delegates</li> <li>• The two of us will screen and interview candidates</li> <li>• The hired people will attend delegation training and read the policy papers prior to attending GA</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 21	OUSA Tech Enabled Learning Policy Paper
Description	In previous years, OUSA has focused this paper on expanding digital learning however following an entire year of e-learning, the paper will have many new facets. The MSU will be authoring this paper and introducing aspects like alternative testing methods, proctoring, and barriers to education within this model. Similar to the fall policy paper, I will be working with the AVP Provincial and

	Federal Affairs to coordinate consultations, write and modify drafts, and eventually present this paper for the spring General Assembly.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amplify McMaster voices</li> <li>• Conduct meaningful research and present it in a productive method</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student feedback has been challenging during the pandemic so gathering information may be challenging</li> <li>• Balancing internal commitments with promises made to OUSA partners within this project may be time consuming</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting a foundation for how the MSU sees the future of technology enabled learning</li> <li>• Making recommendations with knowledge of the struggles associated with COVID-19</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a clear plan with the OUSA Steering Committee</li> <li>• Conduct consultations for all three OUSA fall policies</li> <li>• Analyze results and format effectively</li> <li>• Pass the paper at the General Assembly</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• OUSA Steering Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 22	OUSA Spring General Assembly
Description	The OUSA Spring General Assembly is included within the policy cycle as the three papers being authored leading up to the event will be ratified. The MSU is able to bring eight delegates which will include myself, the President, and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs. This leaves five positions open to MSU members who wish to attend MSU training and then attend the GA.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU undergraduates are able to become part of provincial lobbying</li> <li>• There is more room at the table to include diverse voices and choose delegates that accurately represent McMaster students</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing eight people can prove challenging</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an emphasis on all people feeling prepared and understanding the three papers</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This continues to solidify our relationship with OUSA and demonstrates our commitment to provincial lobbying efforts</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In December, the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will begin working with the MSU Communications team to put together a call for GA delegates</li> <li>• The two of us will screen and interview candidates</li> <li>• The hired people will attend delegation training and read the policy papers prior to attending GA</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> </ul>

Objective 23	Provincial Election Awareness and Polling Station
Description	In June of 2022 there will be a provincial election. The MSU has played a critical role in facilitating the ability for students to vote at a polling station on campus. This contributes significantly to accessibility but also the MSU’s ability to share resources and host conversations with candidates from all parties. As I will be transitioning out of my role in April, my successor will be relying on myself and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to organize events leading up to the election. In an effort to contribute to the successful onboarding of new team members and improve continuity within the organization, I will be working with McMaster’s Public Affairs team to establish a polling station on campus and facilitate events on campus.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be able to vote on campus and avoid travelling to other ridings</li> <li>• This goal also contributes to my plan for presenting a unified “Team McMaster” approach</li> <li>• Providing a polling station on campus allows us to make voting easier and more accessible to student requesting accommodations</li> <li>• By organizing and hosting political candidates on campus, we are able to ask questions that pertain specifically to students</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is also an opportunity to provide unbiased and educational resources to students and assist them to vote in their own best interest</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overlap between myself and the new VP Education and AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs will need to be considered</li> <li>• With COVID-19 still impacting campus, it is impossible to confirm whether we will be able to hold events on campus</li> <li>• Political events can become tense and heated and this needs to be considered when inviting people with polarizing opinions to campus</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provincial government holds a lot of influence within the PSE industry, and it can be challenging to remain impartial</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will be reaching out to Joe Finkle and Alex Lawson from McMaster's Public Affairs team to organize visits from candidates</li> <li>• I, the President, and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs will work to provide resources through social media, and COVID-10 permitting, on campus</li> <li>• I will prepare a guidebook, specifically on this topic, for my successor to read over</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• McMaster Public Affairs, Alex Lawson and Joe Finkle</li> </ul>

Objective 24	Federal Election Awareness and Education Campaign
Description	Although it is unconfirmed, there is serious speculation that there will be a federal election before the end of the year. This places some pressure on the MSU to put together a plan for a snap election. I will be working with the MSU President, the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, the MSU Communications team, and the McMaster administration to establish how we would like to go forward and in what capacity McMaster is prepared to support student's right to vote.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be able to vote on campus and access a convenient polling station</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This goal also contributes to my plan for presenting a unified “Team McMaster” approach</li> <li>• By organizing and hosting political candidates on campus, we are able to ask questions that pertain specifically to students</li> <li>• In addition to the above point, we are also able to establish relationships with potential MPs</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no set date and we will have to work fast should the election be called</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This election determines the Prime Minister and federal government for the next term</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with the MSU President and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to develop a baseline plan</li> <li>• Share this plan with the Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett, and the Public Affairs team to determine the minimum and maximum we are able to do</li> <li>• Update this plan as time continues and COVID-19 restrictions loosen</li> <li>• Work with the MSU Communications team to have resources and promotions roll out ready</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU President, Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• MSU Communications Team</li> <li>• Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett</li> <li>• McMaster Public Affairs, Alex Lawson and Joe Finkle</li> </ul>

Objective 25	Federal Lobby Week (UCRU)
Description	<p>This year, the MSU President sits on the UCRU Board of Directors as Chair. Each board member holds equal power and has a vote within the committee however there is an opportunity for the MSU to bring concerns to the forefront and advocate on issues that currently impact McMaster undergraduates. It is a priority for the President, myself, and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to attend UCRU’s Lobby Week and meeting with key external stakeholders to convey the importance of UCRU’s advocacy goals. This year, the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will both sit on the UCRU Advocacy Subcommittee as well as UCRU’s Governance Subcommittee. Ideally, this will allow for more involvement in the organization and support for UCRU.</p>

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong federal lobbying opportunity</li> <li>• Connect with MPs and politicians willing to work with students</li> <li>• Bring pressing issues to the forefront and make recommendations</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCRU is still in its early phases and does not have the same resources or reputation as CFS and CASA</li> <li>• Managing internal priorities with external goals</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the future, UCRU will collect a fee from Class A members which will give the organization a stronger ability to organize advocacy efforts</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend subcommittee meetings</li> <li>• Work with the President and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to draft UCRU guidelines for future leaders</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSU Denver Della-Vedova</li> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• UCRU Board of Directors</li> <li>• UCRU Advocacy Subcommittee</li> <li>• UCRU Governance Subcommittee</li> </ul>

Objective 26	Active Citizenship
Description	The AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I have spoke about the importance of providing an opportunity for McMaster students to become more involved in both MSU priorities but also politics. As the MSU, there is a lot of opportunity to facilitate a more active form of citizenship among students by providing updates, resources, and information through social media and the MSU's website.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will feel more empowered and aware of policy that impacts them</li> <li>• Maintaining the need for polling stations on campus and offering students opportunities</li> <li>• More ability for students to contribute feedback and become involved in MSU advocacy</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lot of information being sent out to young people right now and students may not be as receptive</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political figures can be hesitant when engaging with young people and student unions</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More open dialogue and communication between the MSU and the student body</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to develop Microsoft Forms asking for voluntary student contact information</li> <li>• Work with MSU Communications team to update website to include committee meeting minutes and other updates</li> <li>• Send out newsletters and other opportunities to interested students</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• MSU Communications team</li> </ul>

Objective 27	Federal Budget Funding for Student Employment and Recent Graduate Opportunities
Description	Following the beginning of the pandemic, many students voiced concerns over disappearing employment opportunities. As a response, the federal government allocated additional funds to student employment and experiential education. The need for ongoing development and investment in jobs relevant to all faculties and programs will be reflect in the MSU's advocacy priorities to both the provincial and federal governments. Going forward, I will work with OUSA and UCRU to work toward more opportunities for McMaster undergraduates.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job experience is a crucial part of each student's degree and further investments have the ability to advance the careers of each student</li> <li>• Affordability of post-secondary also comes into play</li> <li>• Establishing students as important and valuable within the Canadian job market</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are challenges associated with tracking and monitoring whether McMaster students are being hired</li> <li>• Some faculties have their own job posting boards and coop offices are often exclusive to a limited number of students</li> </ul>



Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McMaster undergraduates will be better equipped to find meaningful employment following graduation</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring this priority to the UCRU Advocacy Committee</li> <li>• This can also be incorporated within OUSA's policy paper; Responding to COVID-19</li> <li>• Plan a meeting with McMaster faculty coop and experiential learning offices</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>• Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>• OUSA</li> <li>• UCRU</li> </ul>

MSU Priorities

Objective 28	SRA Survey
Description	I think it's important to understand how SRA members feel about the Education Department and open the floor for any suggestions or concerns that popped up throughout the year. Since SRA members are students first point contact for undergraduates, I want to provide a space for SRA members to influence advocacy priorities for the next team. This is particularly relevant for SRA members who hold seats on Education Standing Committees (University Affairs, Municipal Affairs, and Provincial and Federal Affairs) and have experienced success and hurdles within our advocacy efforts.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback directly pertaining to improving the Education Department</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not every member of SRA feels strongly about advocacy so response might be limited</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication between the Education Department and the SRA</li> <li>• Establish flow of information from SRA members and their constituents to MSU advocacy</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Format a survey through Microsoft Forms</li> <li>• Send out the survey via email in February</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze responses in March and include key recommendations in transition report</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li> <li>AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan</li> <li>AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Sneha Wadhvani</li> <li>University Affairs Committee</li> <li>Municipal Affairs Committee</li> <li>Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee</li> <li>SRA Members</li> </ul>

Objective 29	MSU and Faculty Society Integration
Description	The MSU and many other organizations on campus struggle to engage with students and receive feedback throughout the year. Considering how large the MSU is, it's critical that I establish a connection with faculty societies and invest in an ongoing and mutually beneficial relationship. As it is, communications between the MSU and faculty societies could improve drastically however there must be an incentive for both the MSU and the faculty society to engage and work together.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing an opportunity for more specific concerns and suggestions to come to light</li> <li>Creating a community of student leaders to share resources and provide support to one another</li> <li>Expanding channels to spread information, campaigns, and promotional materials</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships and communications are not ideal as it stands which creates barriers to fostering these relationships</li> </ul>
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving communication for future executive teams and MSU Board of Directors</li> <li>Establish flow of information from the MSU to faculty societies and vice versa</li> </ul>
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create Microsoft Teams channel for myself and VP Academics from faculty societies</li> <li>Meet once in the summer and set schedule for school year meetings</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call for agenda items and share information and resources that may be helpful</li><li>• Follow up on outstanding items</li><li>• Encourage discussion and chat in the Teams channel</li></ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AVP University Affairs, Hargun Kaur</li><li>• University Affairs Committee</li><li>• SRA Caucus Leaders</li><li>• McMaster Faculty Societies</li></ul>