

YEAR PLAN

**MSU Vice-President (Education)
Elizabeth Wong
2022-2023**

(submitted June 26, 2022)



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

To the Members of the Assembly,

As I put together this document, I could not help but get excited to think about all the possibilities this year holds. I have found myself looking back at past VP Educations' year plans and platforms and admiring how much work has been done within this organization. Spending the last two years online has challenged this organization to pivot and adapt to unknown circumstances. We were lucky to get a few months together in-person this past semester and even luckier to have the opportunity to go back to campus in the fall. While this is exciting, it also gives us opportunities to take what we learned from living through a pandemic and advocate for the betterment of student life and achievement.

I am hoping to continue the work of my predecessor in creating a more cohesive team dynamic within the Education Department. I am so grateful to the Associate Vice-Presidents on my team and am excited to see them to push the boundaries of their roles and really make it their own. I hope to conduct an internal assessment of the positions within the Education team to reflect the current needs of the Education department and overall organization. I will continue to build on previous Vice-President Education's proposal to create a full-time Policy Research Advisor/Analyst by amalgamating the role of Policy and Research Assistants. In the past decade, the MSU has drastically expanded its policy development and lobbying at various levels. The addition of a full-time staff member would help to ease transition, aid in continuity, and improve the quality of policy development.

My predecessors have highlighted a need for supporting students coming from diverse backgrounds. I hope to continue this work with the AVP University Affairs by supporting, listening to, and empowering students who have been historically marginalized. I will work with the AVP Municipal Affairs to engage stakeholders to implement the various initiatives outlined with the listed municipal priorities. I will also work with the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to engage in advocacy with our external partners OUSA and UCRU. I am excited to see what the AVPs will bring to the table this year. They are so capable and have so much to offer to the roles. I often find myself feeling so lucky to have such a great team to work with this year.

These past two months of my transition have challenged my limits and opened my horizons. I have been so lucky to start this term with a cohesive board where I can share my difficulties and successes. I believe that our team dynamic will play a large role in contributing to many projects and initiatives this coming school year. Every day, I feel so lucky to be in this position and be in the position to advocate for the betterment of students. I am so thankful to be with this board and to be working with all of these incredible people within the MSU. I want to give my thanks to John, Wooder, Daniela, and Victoria for helping me get through this transition. Despite all of my questions and confusion, I was always able to lean on you for advice and for that I am truly grateful. So

excited for what this year has to hold. Please don't hesitate to reach out even if its just for a chat!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Wong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word "Wong".

Elizabeth Wong
Vice President (Education)
McMaster Students Union
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Month by Month

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition in the role • Introductions with internal stakeholders • OUSA Welcome Conference • Completing the Provincial Election Campaign • Yearplan drafting • Creating strategic direction with the rest of the board
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUSA Strategic Conference • OUSA Summer School Sessions • Review Education Team • Yearplan finalization
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Education Committee • Policy and Research Assistant hiring • Project & Campaign Coordinator hiring • Policy Advisor amalgamation and hiring • Advocacy Rebranding Brainstorm
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Faculty Society VP Academics • McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group Meeting • UCRU Operating Policy • Municipal Election Strategy Planning
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University budget submission • Truth and Reconciliation Day • Municipal budget submission consultations • OUSA delegate hiring • Rental Licensing Workshop/Event
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUSA article • OUSA fall General Assembly • Municipal budget submission draft • Municipal Election Awareness and Education Campaign
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUSA Student Advocacy Conference • OUSA spring policy consultations • Meeting with faculty society VP Academics • McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group Meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal budget submission
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Transition Report • Student feedback survey
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUSA policy paper (Student Accessibility & Disability Inclusion) • Valedictorian selection process begins
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with faculty society VP Academics • Mental health advocacy campaign • McMaster Mohawk Redeemer Student Advisory Group Meeting • SRA survey
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU Policy Conference • OUSA Spring General Assembly and plenary • Education Department Committees review
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition incoming VP Education • Complete final report • Wrap up projects

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Goals

University Priorities

Objective 1	Hyflex Classrooms and Accessibility
Description	<p>The return to campus has highlighted issues around accessibility for students within classrooms. Students have been impacted in many ways because of COVID and the return to campus. Even prior to COVID, there have been issues of accessibility for students who may require accommodations and find it difficult to succeed because courses are not designed in equitable ways. Students with disabilities were able to fully participate in classes rather than having to miss classes and seek accommodations. Students with financial barriers were able to save cost of living as well as transportation costs. Though COVID brought many challenges to students and the learning experience, it showed that technology can accommodate the needs of students.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students would have equal access to course content without needing to compromise on missing content due to physical, mental, or financial barriers • Systems of access when accommodations don't need to be sought as frequently creates a system of justice for all students • Students would not feel pressured to come to in-person classes if they felt ill or have hesitations about being back in-person
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of implementation would be high • Would require a collaboration between the university and MUFA • Professors would require training and resources to deliver the same level of quality lessons and testing • Syllabi requirements are specific to faculties and are up to the influence of faculties – faculty could choose not to use the technology for a hybrid classroom • Not all students have access to technology or stable internet connection which would create inequities in quality of education
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology is constantly changing so newer, more user-friendly software or technology may be released • McMaster has traditionally offered its courses in-person and maintains campus for student use • Students may have “screen fatigue” and there may not be a demand for online courses
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to interact with students through social media and surveys and see what questions or concerns they may have

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have open dialogue with the university on their future direction for courses • Use the UA committee to determine if students determine if this is a priority or not • Connect with other universities in Ontario to compare data
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Provost, Kim Dej • Chief Technology Officer, Gayleen Gray • McMaster University Faculty Association (MUFA) • MSU Communications Team • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee • SRA Members • Faculty Societies • OUSA Steering Committee

Objective 2	Collaboration with the Privacy Office
Description	<p>With the return to campus, it is essential that we ensure students are informed and aware of how to protect their privacy and what is true or untrue about confidentiality. Students have voiced concerns over the use of proctoring software in courses. Students felt that proctoring software was an invasion and breach of privacy. These concerns have been broadcasted on social media where much false information was spread and caused students to have misinformation about privacy in courses. Information around proctoring and privacy in general should be made available to all students.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will understand why proctoring software is being used and how to raise concerns to faculty and staff • Students will learn how to protect their privacy • This would dispel the misinformation present on social media • Student concerns will be addressed
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability is dependent on individuals • Technology can never be 100% safe • Students may continue to have issues with the direction of the university even when given the correct information
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student engagement has been low so even if media was created to spread information it may not be used

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSU doesn't hold influence in changing professional school testing requirements
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having reoccurring meeting with Trudi Wright from the Privacy Office to stay updated on what is happening in the Privacy Office Having Trudi Wright come to SRA to give a presentation about the Privacy Office and answering questions or addressing concerns that students may have about Privacy Work with the Privacy Office to create digestable media for first-year students about proctoring and privacy
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privacy Office, Trudi Wright MSU Communications Team MSU President, Simranjeet Singh AVP University Affairs SRA Members Faculty Societies

Objective 3	Return to Campus and Prioritizing Safety
Description	<p>The return to campus will be different for all students as everyone has different comfort levels for the return to campus. There are students who do not feel strongly about the lifting of mandates who feel safe going back to campus in-person at normal capacity. There are students who may be more hesistant in the return back to campus and are more comfortable with mandates being in place. We at the MSU prioritize safety and recognize that immunocompromised individuals or individuals with immunocompromised family members may have more anxiety and reservations about returning back to campus. We also recognize that it has been 2 years since a normal school year and that students may have difficulty adjusting to full on-campus semesters. We will continue to advocate for increased flexibility to accommodate students who may be facing barriers.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will not need to choose between physical safety and the safety of their family members in their choice to return back to campus Students will be able to choose online learning without compromising on quality of education Students living outside of campus will have lessened financial burden Accessibility ensures that all individuals will have the opportunity for accommodations

Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is complex to integrate hybrid classrooms into the existing structure • It will take partnership with different stakeholders with varying opinions • Students have varying learning styles and some may succeed more within in-person classes
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly investment for technology that may change over time • Will take significant time investments from both the university, professors, and staff • McMaster has traditionally offered majority of courses in-person so the university may strongly oppose the continuation of hybrid and/or online courses • McMaster maintenance of buildings on campus is a significant cost and these buildings would be empty and unused by students if there is a large reduction with in-person classes
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to have conversations with the university admin in the reality of having increased hybrid and/or online courses for the fall • Have conversations with the university about the enrolment numbers for online vs. In-person courses from the Winter, Spring/Summer terms
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Vice Provost, Kim Dej • Provost and Vice President (Academic), Susan Tighe • Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett • McMaster University Faculty Association (MUFA) • Chief Technology Officer, Gayleen Gray • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee • SRA Members • Faculty Societies

Objective 4	International Student Support
Description	<p>International students are inequitably treated at university and have been left with limited support before, during, and after the pandemic. International students pay significantly higher tuitions in comparison to “local” students. This system does not create equal outcomes as international students have higher levels of pressure due to this significant financial burden. The development of a community is key</p>

	<p>in the support of international students. There needs to be more emphasis placed on the dissemination and development of academic support and mental health support for these students. I will continue the advocacy of the past VP Education and advocate for more extensive resources and coverage for international students. I will be connecting with International Student Services to collaborate and understand how the MSU can best support international students.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students are a key part of McMasters campus and deserve to have the same resources as local students • Partnership with International Student Services will allow us to work in collaboration • Other universities have also started advocacy work in this area and the combined voices of universities will add more weight while advocating for changes • Offers more opportunities for students who may not speak English as their first language
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current political climate is not favourable towards reducing inequities for international students • International students tuition and fees make up a significant proportion of revenue for universities
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are fears of quality of education decreasing if there was lost revenue that typically comes from international students • Provincial funding for universities is not a priority within the current political climate (this could change)
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to communicate and collaborate with International Student Services • Relay concerns from international students to McMaster administration • Support advocacy efforts of international students at both the provincial and federal levels through OUSA and UCRU
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP University Affairs • AVP Provincial & Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • International Student Task Force • University Affairs Committee • SRA Members • Student Success Center, Arlene Dosen • Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett • Global Experience Coordinator, Francesca Hernandez • International Students Coordinator, Andrea Gymanfi

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Director, Gisela Oliviera
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Objective 5	Support for Indigenous Students
Description	<p>Indigenous peoples are historically marginalized and face discrimination that has impacted their quality and access to education. Indigenous education has not received the same level of legitimacy as colonial education. 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, it is the duty of the MSU to continue to support the amplification of Indigenous voice and history within education.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decolonizing education will create a more informed and educated generation of students that will allow the truth of the past to surface • It is our duty to support marginalized students and to ensure that we do our best to provide opportunities and support for Indigenous students • It is important to work with Indigenous groups on campus as to encompass the term, “Nothing about us without us.” • Indigenous students deserve to feel supported and heard
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure our due diligence is done in a respectful and equitable way, the Education team must work slowly and with care • We will work to offer support and collaboration at the comfort levels of the Indigenous groups on campus and to follow their lead as to not overstep boundaries
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an important precedent to set at the MSU can conduct research on Indigenous ways of knowledge and advocacy • It is important for the MSU to use its privilege as an organization to decolonize and work with Indigenous groups on campus to follow their direction and to support and amplify
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSU will support the amplification of resources from the newly established Indigenous Studies program • The MSU will work with Indigenous Student Services to learn how to best support Indigenous students • Organizing materials to be presented leading up to Truth and Reconciliation Day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Indigenous Student Services to offer a platform to speak and lead advocacy • Advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous students within the federal government’s priorities at UCRU
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Student Services • Indigenous Studies Department • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • OUSA Steering Committee • UCRU Steering Committee, Advocacy Subcommittee, and Governance Subcommittee

Objective 6	Collaboration with the Sustainability Office
Description	<p>At the beginning of my term, Simranjeet and I were contacted by Michael Moore from the Sustainability Office to talk about the university’s master plan. We had a fruitful meeting with the Michael Moore about campus sustainability and collaboration for feedback on the master plan. Both Simranjeet and I ran on platform points of sustainability so we were quite excited to start working with the Sustainability Office. Simranjeet will be taking a lead on this collaboration and I will be supporting with the Education Team. We will further this collaboration by outlining specific goals of the Sustainability Committee as well as the Education Team’s role in the SUSTAIN classes. We will leverage this collaboration to also define what sustainability means for the MSU.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear collaboration between the MSU, the university, and students • Provide feedback and collaboration for the Campus Master Plan • There is an opportunity to take a progressive approach to defining sustainability and streamline advocacy • Ideally, the SUSTAIN classes and the committee will be able to support one another and reach goals more efficiently
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine which MSU Services will be involved in dependent on operating capacity and procedures • There are lots of logistical changes from COVID that may change the direction of sustainability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will need to work with the AVP University Affairs and ASP to establish clear performance indicators and signs of success and failure
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can establish an ongoing, formal relationship with the Sustainability Office We can clearly outline the MSU's goals and direction for sustainability
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with VP Administration, Mitchell, to determine which MSU Services would be interested in contributing Supporting the President, Simranjeet in the implementation of his sustainability goals Establish criteria for consulting and reporting
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSU President, Simranjeet Singh VP Administration, Mitchell German AVP University Affairs AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan Sustainability Education Committee Office of Sustainability, Michael Moore Academic Sustainability Programs Manager, Kate Whalen McMaster Sustainability Committee AVP Facilities, and Chief Facilities Officer, Debbie Martin

Objective 7	Open Education Resources
Description	<p>The cost of post-secondary education has continued to rise and become inaccessible to students. The rise of inflation has further exacerbated the financial burden on students. The materials and books required for classes creates even more financial barriers to education for students. Many universities in 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 rise of inflation following COVID, there is a need for OERs as a resource for students. The pandemic has shown us that OERs are beneficial in improving accessibility and reducing financial burdens on students.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces financial burdens for students Increases accessibility of resources for students There are grants and funding available for Canadian universities to expand OER availability

Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process for acquiring more OERs is slow and requires advocacy and support for the libraries in discussions with the administration • Working with professors and faculty to spread awareness around OERs can be challenging as this may disrupt previous methods of teaching
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The acquisition of OERs is important in the years following the pandemic but will take ongoing effort to keep resources up to date • Students will be less financially burdened
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the MSU President and AVP University Affairs to clearly establish how OERs would benefit students • Collaborate with the McMaster Library to clarify goals and requests • Meet with university administration to request budget allocation to OERs • Discuss OERs strategy and growth with other universities and potentially incorporate into OUSA policy & advocacy
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee • McMaster Library's Open Education and Scholarship Librarian, Olga Perkovic • McMaster OER Committee • MacPherson Institute • OUSA • UCRU

Municipal Priorities

Objective 8	Municipal Election Awareness and Education Campaign
Description	<p>There will be a municipal election in the fall of this year in October. This gives the MSU the opportunity to do a lot around municipal election awareness. This coincides with the university's desire to have students back on campus in the fall. The previous VP Education did a lot of work with the Director of Communications in reaching out to university administration and the City of Hamilton to coordinate voting booths on campus and getting opportunities for students to participate in the election. I will be working with the AVP Municipal Affairs and Communications Team to plan a municipal election awareness campaign as well as educational pieces that can</p>

	aid students in deciding who to vote. We will hopefully host an on campus debate to get students excited and involved in the process as well.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have opportunities to vote on campus which will make voting more convenient and accessible • Students will be on campus so we can do a lot in terms of programming and getting students out to vote • By hosting political candidates on campus, we can ask them questions about things that are relevant to students • By hosting political candidates on campus, students will be more invested in the election as they will see debates etc., within MUSC and feel more inclined to vote • We will be able to establish relationships with potential mayoral candidates • Gives us an opportunity to re-engage and familiarize students with the Education Team
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections is not the most exciting topic for all students • Some students may not be able to participate due to class scheduling • Some students may not have the relevant identification to go out to vote
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This election will determine the mayor and ward councilors • This will be one of the first large campaigns after the return back to campus “post” pandemic
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and develop awareness campaign strategy with MSU President, Communications Team, and AVP Municipal Affairs • Share this plan with the Dean of Students and the Public Affairs team to determine feasibility • Will work with stakeholders from the City of Hamilton to ensure smooth implementation of voting booth on campus, dissemination of information, and collaboration for campaign awareness • Communicating logistics and outreach with all involved stakeholders • Work with MSU Communications Team to develop resources and promotions for roll out
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster Public Affairs, Greg Iarusso • Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett • Elections Manager (City of Hamilton), Aine Leadbetter • Communications Officer (City of Hamilton), Jacqueline Durlov • Associate Director of Student Success, Gisela Oliveria

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • Municipal Affairs Committee • Director of Communications, Michael Wooder • MSU Communications Team • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • Housing and Conference Services, Holly Gibson
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Objective 9	City of Hamilton – Rental Housing Licensing Pilot Program
Description	<p>The City of Hamilton has been working to implement a licensing pilot for over a decade. The City Council approved a two-year Rental Licensing pilot program for Wards 1, 8 and part of 14. This initiative was part of 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. Ensuring that students are aware of the project will keep landlords accountable to adhering to safety guidelines. The past VP Education did a lot of work in advocating for rental licensing as well as sharing this information with students. I plan on continuing their work and creating newer materials to reflect any possible changes that may arise.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties surrounding campus will be forced to adhere to safety guidelines enforced by the city • Students will be able to bring up concerns both to the Landlord Tenant Board and also Hamilton • More accurate records will be kept on properties failing to meet safety standards
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlords are pushing back and do not support the pilot or permanent implementation • The university does not have clear involvement with this which leaves a gap in the MSU's ability to be actively consulted
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a cost of around \$200 every three years that may be pushed onto students by landlords • Ideally, students will feel more empowered to know their rights within rental agreements and have adequate support from the city to challenge abusive landlords
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Prepare materials for distribution to students

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the MSU Communications Team to deliver material that outlines information around rental licensing
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • Municipal Affairs Committee • MSU Communications Team • ACORN Hamilton • Mohawk Student Association

Objective 10	Tenant Rights Awareness
Description	<p>With the almost confirmed return back to campus in the fall, many students will be returning back to McMaster. This presents a need for students to understand their rights as tenants as some students may have been away from campus for the past 2 years. In past years, the MSU and McMaster have held workshops and information sessions on Hamilton’s tenant laws and landlord responsibilities. Without renting for a few years or being first time renters off-campus, there is a need to support students and provide resources considering how many students will be unaware of their rights as tenants. I will be working with the Communications Team to develop content for social media around tenant rights and developing a hybrid workshop for September. In the spring, I will be planning events surrounding house hunting, the Ontario lease format, finding roommates, and other options. The larger goal will be to create a guide for students that outlines all of these pieces around tenant rights awareness that students can access before they start looking to rent.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing resources and supports for students will contribute to overall safety • Students will be able to avoid properties and tenants that violate bylaws and threaten student safety • Student tenants will be more equipped to take legal action through the most accurate and efficient channels • Creating a guide will allow for the continuity of information even if students do not attend workshops
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSU does not currently collect data on where students live which makes it difficult to anticipate student housing needs • The university does not have a clear line of support for students living off campus and experiencing difficulties

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite knowing tenant rights, many students don't feel safe in asking their landlords to adhere to their rights
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will contribute to advocacy for student housing and commuter data • Will be helpful to have a guide online for students so that they can access the information when needed
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic to develop a guidebook/information guide that students can access • Create content for August distribution with the Communications Team • Run events in the fall and spring for Tenant Rights Awareness • Incorporate housing and rental bylaws into Municipal Awareness Week
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • Municipal Affairs Committee • SRA Members • ACORN Hamilton • Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Objective 11	Community Engagement
Description	<p>We at McMaster are lucky to live in such a vibrant and diverse city. I would like to increase overall connections with the community to provide more opportunities for students to get involved in Hamilton. I would work with AVP Municipal Affairs to create a “database” or “hub” for volunteering and job opportunities for students in Hamilton. Creating a central location for opportunities would make it easier for students to seek out opportunities to get involved in the community. It would be a great pathway for getting students involved and developing their resumes while building community partnerships.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students could get involved in the community • Students would be supporting local businesses and organizations • Would be easier for students to seek out opportunities • Create partnerships with the community
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are so many opportunities it would be difficult to post all of them • We have many different faculties at McMaster so it would be hard to reflect all students within the postings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many job opportunities have their own methods of seeking out prospects
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would increase community engagement with McMaster students and build relations within the community • Would help students to develop their resumes for future job and school prospects
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to university administration for partnership • Reach out to organizations like McMaster Innovation Park to reach out for adding internships to the “database” • Work with community organizations that support students such as the Hamilton District Labour Council
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • Municipal Affairs Committee • Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett • Director of Student Success, Arlene Dosen • City of Hamilton • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh

Provincial and Federal Priorities

Objective 12	OUSA Delegate Hiring
Description	<p>Each OUSA member school has a certain number of delegates that they are able to bring to general assembly in the fall and spring. McMaster is allocated around 9 delegates for each general assembly. Each member school has the freedom in the selection of their delegates. The MSU has used an application and interview process that is quite intensive. This process worked well while engagement was high but after consulting with past delegates and the current AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran. The current process does not reflect the needs and engagement level of students now. We hope to make the application process less stressful by either changing the application process and/or changing the interview process to be more informal and less intimidating.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process would not be as intimidating for students and it may increase number of applicants • This would cut down on hiring for delegates and give the Education Team more time to prepare for general assemblies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be more accessible to students • Students are coming back from a pandemic and may not feel as confident in applying for positions, this change will help to reduce stress • Can make the Education Team seem more approachable
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application process was created to be more intensive to get the best of the best candidates • The application questions allow the Education Team to understand the strengths of candidates • The application process is intimidating and can be a deterrent to people not wanting to participate
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These changes will make the Education Team more approachable to students and increase engagement within Advocacy • This will help to ease the burden on the next VP Education in finding and hiring delegates for general assemblies • Will save time in hiring or selecting delegates
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current procedure • Consult with other OUSA member schools and review their process of hiring/selecting delegates • Consult with OUSA home office • Develop a new hiring/selection process with the GM, Director of Communications, and AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs • Review the newly created process • Implement and hire delegates with the new structure and determine efficacy
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • General Manager, John McGowan • Director of Communications, Michael Wooder • OUSA Steering Committee • OUSA Home Office • Director of Human Resources, Renee McIntosh

Objective 13	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. The President and I will be working together to establish the direction of the MSU's future advocacy and preparing by consulting with the Education Team. It is important to get feedback from the team so that we can push for policies that would be advantageous for the direction of the

	organization. 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. It will also be a good opportunity to develop connections with other OUSA member schools as well.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to consult with students • 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 • Opportunity to forge connections with other universities in Ontario
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating enough feedback will require a lot of commitment and planning • The priorities of the President and I may differ from the incoming Steering Committee and Board
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will 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 • The policy directions will influence the OUSA library which is where all of OUSA's official stances live
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to attend AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs committee meetings and garner thoughts and concerns • Connect with the Education Team to get feedback from AVPs and committees • Create set of priorities with the President • Bring the knowledge from the committees to the lobby week
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • OUSA Steering Committee

Objective 14	OUSA Policy Paper
Description	This year the MSU will be authoring one OUSA policy, which will be focusing on Student Accessibility & Disability Inclusion. I will also be editing the Student Employment OUSA policy as well. The purpose of the paper we will be writing is to take a closer look into the post-secondary education system and to assess student accessibility and disability inclusion. We will be assessing the accessibility of students in terms of academics, extra-curriculars, mental & physical health, etc. We will also be assessing the level of inclusion of students with

	<p>disabilities. We will be assessing this from different lenses. We are cognizant that we must be mindful of collecting data for identity-based papers. We will be looking to collaborate with the university administration in the data collection for this paper. I will be working with the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to facilitate consultations, think tanks, and policy writing sessions.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplify McMaster voices • Amplification of historically marginalized individuals • Conduct meaningful research and present it in a productive method
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student feedback has been challenging during and before the pandemic so gathering information may be challenging • Balancing internal commitments with promises made to OUSA partners within this project may be time consuming • Identity-based papers are quite heavy and require extra attention in terms of data collection • We want to respect the population of individuals who identify as having a disability and seek to amplify voices not to speak for these individuals
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets standards for accessibility and inclusion that can be used to leverage accessibility and inclusion with university administration • Provides space for individuals to voice their concerns around accessibility and inclusion • This data can be used to improve accessibility and inclusion as an organization
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a clear plan with the OUSA Steering Committee • Conduct consultations for all three OUSA fall policies • Work with the university administration • Analyze results and format effectively • Pass the paper at the General Assembly
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • OUSA Steering Committee • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett • Director of Student Success, Arlene Dosen

Objective 15	OUSA Fall General Assembly
Description	<p>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 nine delegates which will include myself, the President, and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs. This leaves six positions open to MSU members who wish to attend MSU training and then attend the GA. (This number may change depending on enrolment of students – at the current time we are estimating 8-9 delegates). This will be the first general assembly back in-person since before the pandemic. It will be exciting to be having general assembly in-person. The host school has yet to be determined.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU undergraduates are able to become part of provincial lobbying • There is more room at the table to include diverse voices and choose delegates that accurately represent McMaster students • Good opportunity for other students to build relationships with students from other universities
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a large group of people will be challenging (transportation, accommodation, food) • There is an emphasis on all people feeling prepared and understanding the three papers • Delegates will be at varying experience levels
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This continues to solidify our relationship with OUSA and demonstrates our commitment to provincial lobbying efforts
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will begin working with the MSU Communications team and General Manager to develop a new hiring structure for OUSA delegates • The AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will start the hiring process with the newly developed structure • The AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will create or revamp training materials for OUSA delegates once hired
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • MSU Communications Team • General Manager, John McGowan

Objective 16	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 nine delegates which will include myself, the President, and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs. This leaves six positions open to MSU members who wish to attend MSU training and then attend the GA. (This number may change depending on enrolment of students – at the current time we are estimating 8-9 delegates). This leaves six positions open to MSU members who wish to attend MSU training and then attend the GA.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU undergraduates are able to become part of provincial lobbying • There is more room at the table to include diverse voices and choose delegates that accurately represent McMaster students • Good opportunity for other students to build relationships with students from other universities
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a large group of people will be challenging (transportation, accommodation, food) • There is an emphasis on all people feeling prepared and understanding the three papers • Delegates will be at varying experience levels
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This continues to solidify our relationship with OUSA and demonstrates our commitment to provincial lobbying efforts
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will start the hiring process with the newly developed structure • The AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and I will create or revamp training materials for OUSA delegates once hired • The hired delegates will attend delegation training and read the policy papers prior to attending GA
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh

Objective 17	Federal Lobby Week (UCRU)
Description	This year, I will be sitting on the UCRU Board of Directors. I was also elected as the Chair of the Governance Subcommittee. 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

	<p>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, President, and I will 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. This year will have an emphasis on building a strong internal foundation for UCRU.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong federal lobbying opportunity • Connect with MPs and politicians willing to work with students • Bring pressing issues to the forefront and make recommendations • Connects us with universities across Canada and offers a wide range of perspectives
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCRU is still in its early phases and does not have the same resources or reputation as CFS and CASA • Managing internal priorities with external goals • There is no fee structure so UCRU does not have much in terms of internal finances
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the future, UCRU will collect a fee from Class A members which will give the organization a stronger ability to organize advocacy efforts
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Subcommittee meetings • Attend Board of Director meetings • Work with the President and the AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to draft UCRU guidelines for future leaders • Work with President and AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs to better establish the role of UCRU in the MSU
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • UCRU Board of Directors • UCRU Advocacy Subcommittee • UCRU Governance Subcommittee

MSU Priorities

Objective 18	Reviewing the Education Team
Description	This has been a topic that has been present throughout many VP Education's year plans and goals. A review of the structure and roles within the Education Team would be an asset to the organization. Going through a pandemic has shown us that pivoting is necessary to keep up with changing times. It is important for the team to reflect the current needs of the Education Team. While I will expand on the development of a full-time staff position in the next section, this section focuses on the team as a whole. The Education Team should be reviewed to determine if job descriptions or titles need to be changed to reflect the current state of the organization.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could show inefficiencies within the role that may require some changes • It would better reflect the current state of the organization • Review should be a standard practice to ensure things remain updated • Updated job descriptions may make it easier for students to understand the various roles within the education team • The titles of positions should reflect the work of the positions
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There could be historical significance behind certain job titles • This is a task that often gets started and dropped due to the urgency of other tasks
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would ensure that job descriptions and titles are accurate and up to date for the next hiring cycle • It would make jobs clearer to students who may want to apply in the future
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review each position with the individual within the position • Consult with AVPs • Consult with Education Team members • Consult with Director of Communications • Consult with Director of Human Resources • Consult with the Board
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • VP Finance, Sarphina Chui • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • AVP University Affairs • MSU Communications Team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Manager, John McGowan • Director of Human Resources, Renee McIntosh
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Objective 19	Development of a full-time staff position for Education Team
Description	<p>The development of a full-time staff position for the Education Team has also been a goal of several VP Education's. The Education Team is the only VP that does not have permanent staff that are "specialized" in positions that can best support the VP Education. While the VP Education gets a lot of support from full-time staff such as the Director of Communications, General Manager, and Executive Assistant, this is not the same dynamic as other VPs have within their respective teams. I have also consulted with other universities who have full-time staff within their respective education or advocacy teams. The goal would be to amalgamate the Policy & Research Assistant positions into one permanent full-time staff position. This would allow for continuity within the education portfolio and increased quality of policy papers for the MSU and OUSA.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be continuity within the Education Team with someone who would have historical knowledge about the team • Policy papers would be overseen by this individual which would create more accountability • Policy paper quality would increase • May be able to take on more than one OUSA paper within burning out the VP Education • Reduce supervisory responsibilities on the VP Education
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would result in the rescinding of three part-time student positions • There would be an added cost to hiring a full-time staff • May be difficult to hire an individual for this role
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would reduce the burden of work on VP Education • Could benefit other roles because of the research they would do in this role • The overall quality of policy paper writing would increase with the aid of a professional • VP Educations would feel less burdens in running for executive positions on OUSA and UCRU
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult former transition reports and year plans • Consult with other universities with a full-time staff position • Start creating the job title and job description

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing forth the motion to EB • Implement and post the job description • Create onboarding process • Start the hiring process • Start onboarding • Take notes and get reflections and feedback to take away
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • VP Finance, Sarphina Chui • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • AVP University Affairs • MSU Communications Team • General Manager, John McGowan • Director of Human Resources, Renee McIntosh

Objective 20	Improving Outreach with University
Description	The past board of directors worked towards improving outreach between university administration and the organization. Many student unions have faced issues around maintaining strong, lost lasting relationships with their respective university administrations. I will continue the pathway set by the past VP Education to maintain and improve these relations. 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 having 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"> • The MSU maintains independence while also receiving support from the university • The university typically has access to information faster than us as a student union • Able to meet more community partners and stakeholders through the university • United message from both the MSU and the university to reduce confusion and enhance messaging
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some students may feel this approach is too moderate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be different perspectives to consider from both sides • If our opinions differ, it may place us as an organization in a difficult situation • Time is limited for both parties involved so ongoing meetings may be difficult to maintain
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future MSU Board of Directors will be able to lean on the Public Affairs team when dealing with public statements • Provincial and Federal election proceedings are also made significantly more efficient when working with the university • It is always better to be working as a team rather than having conflict – both parties want to strive for student achievement and academic success
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing meetings between the AVP University Affairs, AVP Municipal Affairs, AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs and the Public Affairs team counterparts • Regular meeting between myself and Alex Lawson
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster Public Affairs, Alex Lawson • McMaster Public Affairs, Joe Finkle • McMaster Public Affairs, Greg Iarusso • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • AVP University Affairs

Board Priorities

Objective 21	Mental Health Advocacy
Description	A shared priority of the board is to increase mental health support and education for students on campus. The need for mental health support has been an ongoing issue that has been further exacerbated by the pandemic. This is one of the most pressing issues experienced by students on university campuses across Ontario especially after the pandemic. Though McMaster has mental health support for students through the Student Wellness Centre and the Student Assistance Program through the MSU, these resources are not sufficient in addressing all the mental health concerns of students. Students on campus are able to get access to resources while they are in crisis but lack counseling services with longevity.

	<p>Students are unable to get appointments until months later or cannot book reoccurring appointments with a counselor due to high demands. This also does not address the issue that many students are unable to connect with counsellors as they have different lived experiences and cultural backgrounds. We will push for more support and coverage into mental health services through OHIP for all students including international students.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally diverse backgrounds and diverse lived experiences of counselors will provide students with even better support • Important for students to have avenues for continued conversations • Students should not have to be in crisis to receive support • Can get feedback on the Student Assistance Program • Students are able to get help during crises
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Wellness Centre employs counsellors but we don't have jurisdiction over hiring practices • Being a counselor can be emotionally draining and there is high turnover which can add to lack of continuity/longevity of counselors for students
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased support for mental health services will help to continue to destigmatize seeking mental health support • Having counselors from diverse lived experiences and cultural backgrounds will allow students to be better understood and more comfortable to share their challenges • Counseling could become a proactive mental health measure rather than a reactive measure
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Student Wellness Centre to advocate for the hiring of counselors from diverse lived experienced and cultural backgrounds • Advocating for increased investment in mental health supports through OUSA • Getting student feedback on the current services offered and further researching gaps • Advocating for increased mental health services through OHIP • Advocating for access to services for international students
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • VP Finance, Sarphina Chui • Student Wellness Centre Director, Roseann Kent • Dean of Students, Sean Van Koughnett

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Student Success, Arlene Dosen • SRA Members • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee
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Objective 22	Go Transit
Description	The McMaster University Bus Terminal behind Mary Keyes is an integral part of transportation for students at McMaster. The terminal has buses coming in from areas in the GTA such as Brampton. The issue is that since we are coming out of a pandemic, ridership data shows a significant drop since maybe 2019 because students have not been on campus. Metrolinx has since had to estimate ridership for the past Winter semester which has resulted in long line ups of students waiting to commute back home. The President and I have had conversations with Metrolinx around these issues and have relayed the need for increased frequencies of buses in and out of McMaster on peak days and the possible return of express buses to reduce commute times. We are also in discussions to have increased bussing during events such as Welcome Week.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced wait times • Reduced commuter times • Increased ridership may create the conditions for the return of express buses • More students will take GO Transit rather than drive from out of the city • More transportation during events means that more students will have the ability to attend events
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to determine peak days without ridership data • Lack of data from the pandemic • Peak times could change throughout the year depending on class scheduling • Difficult to determine how many students will choose to drive in the fall
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall better for commuters – reduced wait times and commute times • If ridership is high then we can expect the return of express buses which will reduce commuter times

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If more students attend McMaster and there is a need for more transit then there may need to be an expansion to the bus terminal (future)
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having ongoing conversations with Metrolinx and negotiating for the needs of students • Continuing to ask for ridership data that we can use internally • Connecting with VP Administration on events to request higher frequency of buses following large events
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrolinx, Doug Spooner • Metrolinx, Kelly Anderson • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • MSU Communications Team • AVP Municipal Affairs, Mymoon Bhuiyan • Municipal Affairs Committee • AVP Provincial and Federal Affairs, Kiran Bassi • Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee • SRA Members

Objective 23	MSU on Avenue
Description	<p>MSU on Avenue has been an idea that has been proposed by boards before us. We are lucky to have the opportunity to serve as a board during what we hope will be the first “normal” in-person year since the start of the pandemic. Working with UTS, the President and I have started discussions around MSU on Avenue which would be a “course” that all MSU members would be automatically added to once they start their academic year. This course page would allow us direct lines of communication to all MSU members. The purpose of MSU on Avenue would be to disseminate information to MSU Members as well as connect students to their SRA members. There are many opportunities for ideas for this initiative. We are still developing the full strategy and purposes for this page.</p>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have more convenient access to information regarding MSU Services & benefits provided to MSU members • It will be a direct avenue to communicating with students • Students use Avenue to Learn every day to access courses during the school year so they will more easily be able to access information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be another way that we can interact with constituents to show them the value of the organization and how to advertise the initiatives that the MSU is doing
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have a lot going on during the year and may not want the page on their Avenue, preferring to keep MSU separate from their academics • Once the page grows, it will be harder to manage the pages themselves
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will set a precedence for how information is given and received by the MSU • There will be opportunities for data collection overtime on the page which can be used to assess initiatives, services, run surveys, and much more
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will continue to have discussions with UTS on the development of the page • Will consult students through SRA on their opinions and thoughts about having MSU on Avenue • Will work with MSU Communications Team to develop strategies and organization on how the actual “course” page will be utilized by the organization • Will have discussions on who gets access to the page
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Technology Officer, Gayleen Gray • University Technology Services • MSU Communications Team • MSU General Manager, John McGowan • MSU Network Administrator, Pauline Taggart • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • VP Finance, Sarphina Chui • SRA Members • AVP University Affairs • University Affairs Committee

Objective 24	Connecting with SRA
Description	<p>With the return back to campus, it is a priority of the board to reconnect with the SRA. While SRA was able to meet during COVID, it was difficult to get to know one another. With the return back in person in the fall, we hope that this will be one of the steps in reconnecting not only the board but SRA with one another. It is</p>

	important to forge connections with the SRA to not only share experiences but to create good working relationships with one another.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRA will be able to share experiences and help one another to complete year plan goals • Creating connections will increase engagement amongst the SRA • The SRA can share successes and failures with one another to improve events and ideas
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement has been on a decline since even before the pandemic so it will be a challenge to keep members engaged • The switch to back in-person will take an adjustment considering SRA have only done meetings online
Long-term implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing connection between SRA and board will set the precedence for future boards and assemblies to forge strong connections • An SRA that is cohesive will be most effective at achieving year plans and goals
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will personally have an open door policy and open communication channels for SRA to connect with me. • I will take all opportunities to connect SRA will opportunities that are available through the education team. • The board will at least monthly find opportunities to meet with SRA and do check ins to help with year plan completion.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSU President, Simranjeet Singh • VP Administration, Mitchell German • VP Finance, Sarphina Chui • SRA Members