



**AGENDA**  
**MSU General Assembly 2023**  
McMaster Students Union  
Wednesday March 29, 2023 at 3:00pm  
**Burridge Gym**

**PROCEDURE**

Announcements from the Chair, Adoption of Agenda, Report Period, Business, Adjournment

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Welcome/Quorum        | Piper Plavins |
| 2. Rules and Proceedings | Piper Plavins |

**REPORT PERIOD**

- |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. President                | Simranjeet Singh |
| 2. Vice-President (Finance) | Sarphina Chui    |

**BUSINESS**

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Open Educational Practises | Simranjeet Singh |
|-------------------------------|------------------|

## MOTIONS

1. **Moved** by Simranjeet Singh, **seconded** by \_\_\_\_\_ that the McMaster Students Union should advocate to McMaster University for increased investment in Open Educational Practises (OEPs), such as Open Educational Resources (OERs), and other items that promote greater accessibility, higher quality, and equity within education.



**McMaster Students Union  
General Assembly  
March 29, 2023 at 3:00pm  
Burridge Gym**

**This was a non-quorate meeting of the General Assembly. Any motions made are non-binding on the organization.**

**Chair: Piper Plavins, MSU Speaker**

**Recording Secretary: D. Stajcer, Corporate Secretary**

**Called to Order at 3:39pm**

**Members Present: 10**

#### **TERRITORY RECOGNITION**

- The General Assembly would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe territories through the 'Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty'.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the General Assembly. They informed that quorum for a General Assembly was 3% of the MSU population, equivalent to just over 800 members. The Chair explained that because the meeting did not meet quorum, any motions passed would not be binding and would be added to the next SRA meeting agenda for further discussion. They explained how the meeting would run procedurally, which included a brief explanation of a motion and how to vote on motions.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved** by Mitchell German, **seconded** by Simranjeet Singh that the McMaster Students Union adopt the General Assembly Agenda, as presented.

- German said they would like to get the Assembly started.
- Singh was looking forward to the discussions.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0  
Motion Passes**

## **REPORT PERIOD**

### **1. President's Report – Simranjeet Singh presented**

- Simranjeet Singh went over their presentation with the General Assembly.

### **2. Vice-President Finance Report – Sarphina Chui presented**

- Sarphina Chui went over their presentation with the General Assembly.

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. Open Educational Practises**

**Moved** by Simranjeet Singh, **seconded** by Mitchell German that the McMaster Students Union should advocate to McMaster University for increased investment in Open Educational Practises (OEPs), such as Open Educational Resources (OERs), and other items that promote greater accessibility, higher quality, and equity within education.

- Singh explained that this is an extensive piece that they have been working on throughout their term and that a lot of progress was made. He explained that OERs are any items that can be used for educational purposes such as graphics and simulations. Singh said this is a great opportunity in which they can supplement or even replace textbooks. He said that one goal for the near future is to lower the cost of classes and potentially eliminate the cost. He added that if McMaster University adopts this, students have the opportunity to create an overall higher quality education and greater opportunity to be mentored by professors, all while being financially accessible. He was very hopeful that the assembly would be in support of this motion.
- German said that Singh summarized the idea well and said it was something that he has worked very diligently on. German added that Singh has met with a variety of stakeholders and that there are good collaborations to support it. He added that it would definitely increase accessibility to ensure a higher quality education to all students.
- Singh explained that a submission has been made to the Provost's Office for \$700,000 to be allocated towards direct funding, as well as well as funding for employees to support the program.

### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Elizabeth Wong, **seconded** by Sarphina Chui that the MSU General Assembly adjourn.

### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

**Adjourned at 4:04pm**

/ds



# McMaster Students Union (MSU)

---

Organizational Brief

# Purpose of the MSU



- The MSU is the largest group on campus representing approximately 27,500 undergraduate students at McMaster University. **All students enrolled in 18 (or more) units are members of the MSU.**
- The purpose of the MSU is to draw into a true society all students at McMaster University. In pursuit of this, it will foster activities and events which will enhance the University experience of its members and contribute to the life of the University as a whole.
- Further, it will seek to facilitate communication between the student body, the University, and other organizations and will organize and regulate student self-government.

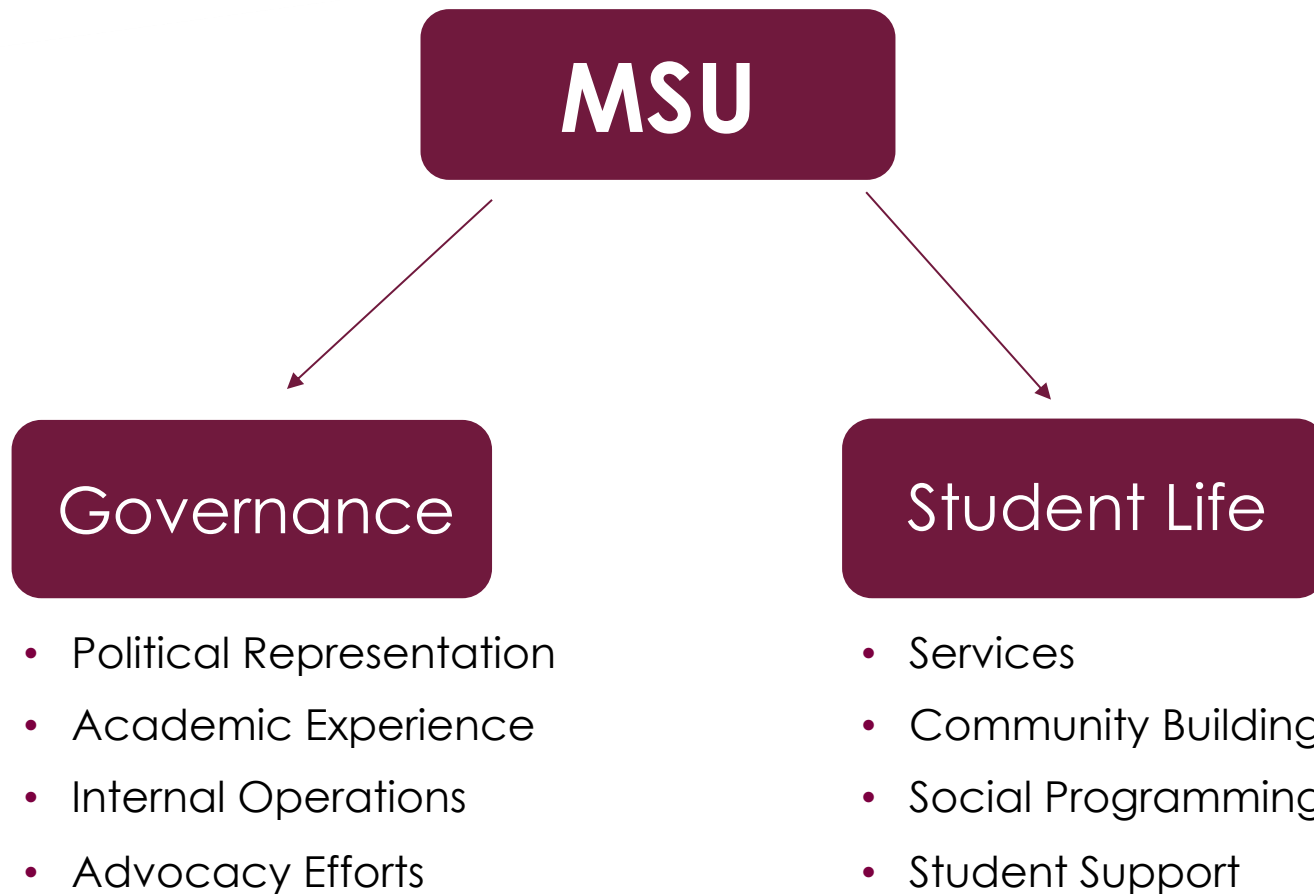
# What governs the MSU?



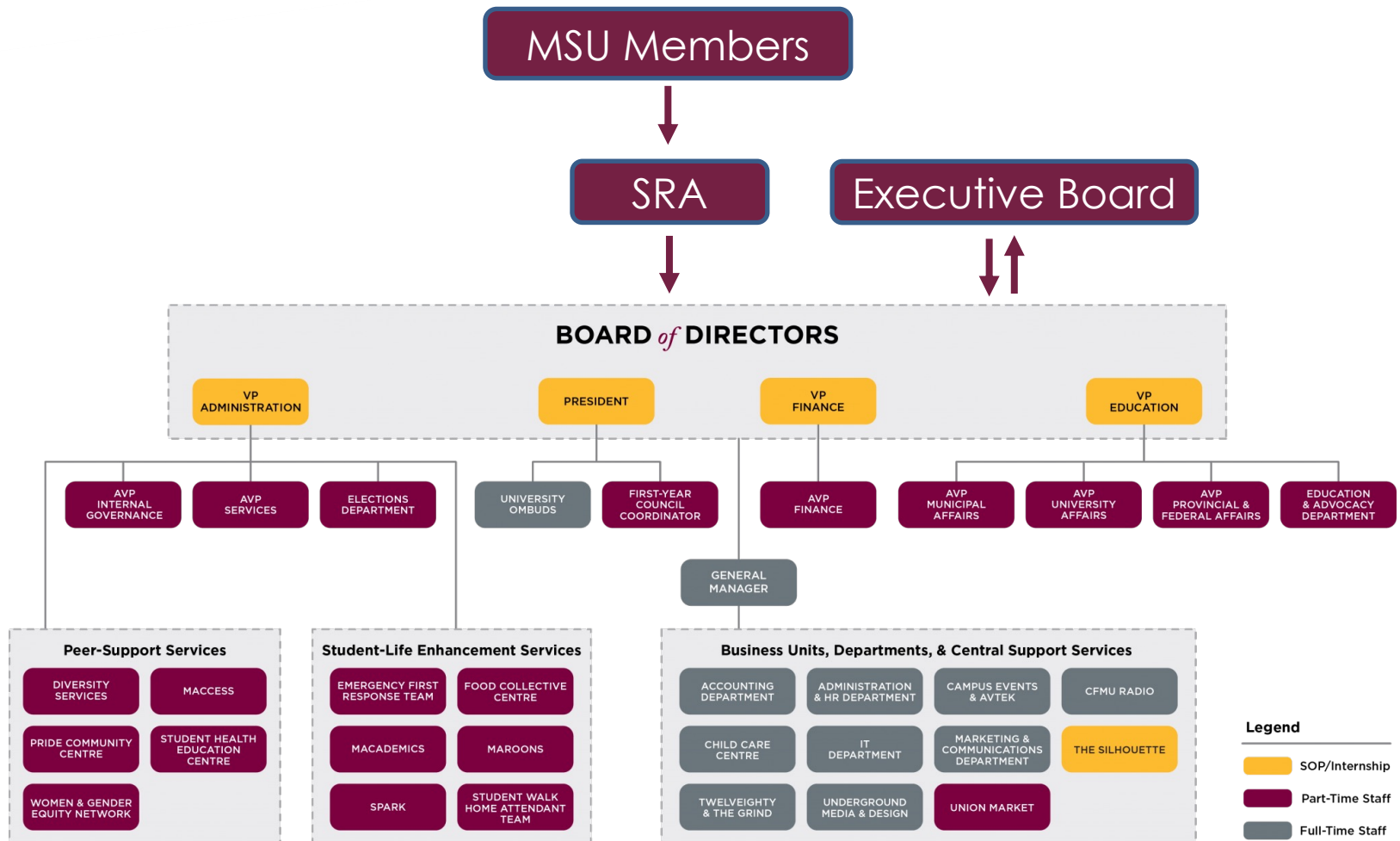
- Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act
- MSU Constitution
- MSU Corporate Bylaws
- MSU Operating Policies
- McMaster University Policy on Student Groups



# MSU 101



# Structure



# 25+ Departments + Services



**AVTEK**  
PRODUCTIONS

MSU  
**CAMPUS  
EVENTS**

**CFMU**

MSU  
**CLUBS**

MSU  
**CHILD CARE  
CENTRE**

MSU  
**DIVERSITY  
+ EQUITY  
NETWORK**



MSU  
**EFRT**  
EMERGENCY FIRST  
RESPONSE TEAM

MSU  
**ELECTIONS  
DEPARTMENT**

MSU  
**charityball**

MSU  
**Food  
Collective  
Centre**

MSU  
**First Year  
Council**

MSU  
**Macademics**

MSU  
**MAROONS**

MSU  
**Maccess**

MSU  
**PRIDE**  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

MSU  
**SHEC**  
STUDENT HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTRE

MSU  
**spark**

MSU  
**SWHAT**  
STUDENT WALK HOME  
ATTENDANT TEAM

**The Silhouette**

MSU  
**underground**  
MEDIA + DESIGN

MSU  
**WGEN**  
women + gender equality network

**twelveEighty**  
BAR & GRILL

**THE  
GRIND**

MSU  
**Union  
Market**

Ombuds Office

- Peer Support
- Student Life
- Student Leadership
- Business Units
- Media Units
- Ancillary Businesses
- Other Fun Things!

# Peer Support Services



Peer Support



# Student Life Enhancement Services



Student Life  
Enhancement  
Services



# 25+ Departments + Services



The Silhouette



Business, Media, and  
Ancillary Units

# MSU Clubs



- 300+ Clubs
- Academic
- Cultural
- Recreational
- Religious/Spiritual
- Social Issues



MSU  
**CLUBS**

# Advocacy



- An activity by individuals or groups which aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions
- Advocacy is a *pillar* of the MSU, and a core part of our mandate as a students union
- What are our avenues for advocacy?
  - Education Team
  - OUSA
  - UCRU
  - CASA (new!)



# Advocacy



- The MSU, with partners, met with in excess of:
  - 20 Members of Parliament across Canada.
  - 30 Members of Provincial Parliament across Ontario
  - 8 Hamilton City Councillors, as well as Mayor Andrea Horwath

# Advocacy



- Topics of advocacy included by not limited to:
  - Gender-based sexual violence prevention
  - Needs of Rural and Northern students
  - Student Financial Aid
  - Expansion of Student Mental Health Resources
  - Needs of International Students
  - Open Educational Practises and Resources
  - Sustainable Laboratory Practises
  - Sustainable Development within the Hamilton Community

# Finances



## Overall MSU Finances

- The MSU is currently in a stable financial position.
- Funding for the MSU is provided mainly via student fees, dividing amongst the Operational Fee, CFMU Inc. fee, Health and Dental Plan, and a series of other smaller items.
- Additional funds are gathered via business unit operations and via investments.
- Current Assets: \$13,203,722
- Current Liabilities: \$5,187,358
- Net Assets: \$8,016,364
- Revenues came to \$11,531,368 for 2021-2022.
- Expenditures came to \$10,454,425, resulting in excess revenues over expenditures of \$1,076,943.

# Finances



## Operational Fund Overview

- Annual Operating Budget of approximately \$2 Million
- MSU Operational Fund produced a surplus of \$544,286, an upward increase compared to the \$77,246 surplus from the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This is more than a \$1.1 million positive swing from the \$563,000 deficit in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- The main driver of the upward shift is a result of increased admission, hybrid operational work model across all departments, and the transitioning out of COVID-19 restrictions which reduced opportunities for revenue generation.
- Overall, there was an increase of \$1,321,484 in revenues despite the increase of \$1,184,428 in expenditures compared to the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- There was a loss of \$42,652 in cash investments due to general market trends.

# Year at a Glance



- **Spring/Summer**

- Goal-setting and long-term planning.
- Welcome Week Planning
- Services: EFRT, FCC, Maroons, Campus Events, AvTek, Underground, and other programming
- SRA, BoD, EB begin
- Beginning of large-scale volunteer hiring

- **Fall**

- Campus Events begins large-scale events
  - Sidewalk Sale
  - Bike Sale
  - Night Market
  - Club, Game, and Music Nights
- ClubsFest
- All remaining student-led services begin
- Reintroduction of 1280, The Grind, and Union Market

# Year at a Glance



- **Winter**

- Light-Up The Night
- Presidential, SRA, Speaker, and VP Elections
- Continued Clubs Review and Ratification
- Completion of OER Advocacy
- Continuation of sustainability advocacy at McMaster and in the community.
- Continuation of collaborations to increase experiential and community engagement opportunities
- Hiring of most new part-time staff.

- **All Year**

- Hiring/Volunteering, committee work, events, and lots of other amazing opportunities

# Contact Information



- **SRA Caucus Emails:**

- Arts & Science - [sraartsci@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:sraartsci@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Business - [sracom@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:sracom@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Engineering - [sraeng@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:sraeng@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Health Sciences - [srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Humanities - [srahuman@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srahuman@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Kinesiology - [srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Nursing - [sranursing@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:sranursing@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Science - [srasci@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srasci@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Social Sciences - [srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca)

- **Board of Directors**

- Simranjeet Singh – [president@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:president@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Mitchell German – [vpadmin@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vpadmin@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Sarphina Chui – [vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca)
- Elizabeth Wong – [vped@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vped@msu.mcmaster.ca)

- **MSU Website:** <https://msumcmaster.ca/>



# Thank you for listening!

---

## Questions?



## **Vice-President Finance Report**

As we return to campus and in-person programming this year, the desire to increase student life and campus spirit has been a lasting comment we heard from students all year. I'd like to take this opportunity to say that the MSU is strongly committed to bringing back campus spirit, and there are 3 things that I'd like to highlight in our 2023-2024 proposed budget.

Starting with the clubs department, MSU has been investing in the clubs department throughout the last few years, but we need to do more. With this upcoming budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, I plan to increase budget to support clubs. Which is a sentiment that's been repeated within the McMaster Community and also shown during our presidential elections. I would also like to expand the clubs department to provide more student work opportunities. In terms of additional resources, when our new student life building the HUB opens up for operation next year, clubs would also have access to new space for events and gatherings.

In-person events also need to be a focus as this is the most direct service that drives up campus spirit. This year, campus events have brought back many traditions and signature events that's been lost from covid such as sidewalk sale, light up the night, and charity ball. On top of that, we had a new initiative at the end of fall term semester holiday market, which will hopefully be a legacy project in years to come. In planning for the next fiscal year for campus events, I have consulted with the president-elect and the campus events director as they both share strong sentiments to enhance campus life. I have planned to significantly increase campus events' fall-term and winter-term programming funds to substantially increase the types and amount of programming they provide for students. From low energy level activities to large scale campus-wide events to everything in between, this will be one of the most impactful funding increases for the student life experience. We will also promote collaboration with the departments of Clubs, services, and the HUB.

Lastly, students should be getting more back, and I believe one of the most direct ways to give back to students is through MSU swag. This year, the board of directors has utilized special project fund to give back to students through swags like tote bags, msu socks or mittens, or even exam period free snacks and coffee. For next year, in consultation with the communications department, I plan to increase the amount of swag giveaway to students to drive up student engagement.

All of these changes are reflected in the proposed operating budget and the official budget will be approved by the 2023-2024 SRA in April. All related documents will then be posted on our msu website. I am very proud of the MSU for taking a strong and direct step to invest in student life and I look forward to what the next group of student leaders will bring to McMaster. As usual, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out - I'd love to answer your questions.