



MEMO

From the office of the

Advocacy & Policy Research Assistant

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Jasmeet Benepal, Policy and Advocacy Research Assistant
SUBJECT: Student Engagement and Retention Policy
DATE: April 26, 2023

The updated Policy for Student Engagement and Retention outlines how the McMaster Student Union (MSU), McMaster University and the City of Hamilton can work to identify and address barriers to student involvement. McMaster students want to be involved in the City of Hamilton but there are several barriers preventing them from doing so. These barriers range from deficiencies in public transit to a lack of awareness of employment or other professional opportunities available in Hamilton. Due to factors such as a lack of travel and financial accessibility and minimal job opportunities, many McMaster students are also not staying in Hamilton after they graduate. By addressing these areas, the MSU, City of Hamilton and McMaster University can continue to build a strong foundation for a city that engages and retains its students after graduation.

This policy expands on how the McMaster University, the City of the Hamilton and the MSU can work to increase the number of employment and other professional networking opportunities and leverage social media for their advertisements. McMaster University and the City of Hamilton should partner to expand the number of co-op opportunities, community-based placement courses or experimental learning opportunities for all degrees and faculties. Currently, McMaster has gained a reputation for their programs in the life sciences, medicine, nursing, engineering, and technology. However, there is a gap for McMaster University and the City of Hamilton to attract students and recent graduates in different fields. Based on recommendations, McMaster and the City of Hamilton should partner to increase the number of employment and other professional networking in other specializations. Additionally, new updates highlight the recent improvements needed in transit fares and the capacity and operational hours of HSR transit services for McMaster students and recent graduates. This policy further expands on how the McMaster University and SSC can improve the Oscar Plus job platform, job fairs and number of trainings available on technical skills. Based on recommendations, McMaster and SSC should also establish a separate platform for students to find research opportunities and research programs at McMaster and affiliated organizations. Lastly, there needs to be opportunities for students to engage with community matters with more forums and surveys, municipal committee seats and in-person events.

Best,
Jasmeet Benepal, Policy and Advocacy Research Assistant