



REPORT

From the office of the...
Vice-President (Administration)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: **Adam F. El-Kadi, Vice-President (Administration)**
SUBJECT: Last Month You Let the Candidates Talk
DATE: **February 20th, 2024**

Dear Members of the Student Representative Assembly,

Hope you had a restful reading week... **though I imagine most of you didn't take much of a break and ended up catching up on procrastinated work.** Notwithstanding, glad you're back! As you think about how to wrap up your Winter semester, I leave you with a story from Alice in Wonderland to encourage you to reflect the significance of thoughtful decision-making and the importance of paving your path with mindful reflection:

"Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?
Cheshire Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.
Alice: I don't much care where.
Cheshire Cat: Then it doesn't much matter which way you go.
Alice: ...So long as I get somewhere.
Cheshire Cat: Oh, you're sure to do that, if only you walk long enough."

Note, the following are not so much in chronological order as much as in order I felt flowed best.

PTM Hiring

One of the honours and pleasures of my job is sitting on so many hiring committees, and the ability it grants me to see the passion students bring to each of the position/service. It also grants me the ability to see the future of the MSU being built with each passing of the baton. It's genuinely exciting to see an executive or volunteer reference how the current cohort of directors inspired them to pursue directorship through their leadership, impact, legacy, etc.

That said, I do believe I've sat on a lifetime's supply worth of interviews. It's difficult to describe just how busy the past month and half has been. I've interviewed 30+ candidates for the 11 services... and next year's Avengers super team has been assembled! A few of our current directors have reapplied too, and that's exciting

to see, for it tells me two things: 1. that we're doing something right, 2. that they enjoy working for the MSU. I continue to strive to give my all to supporting our PTMs and ensuring that the MSU is a place they feel they belong and a place for growth.

Hub Opening

On February 7th, 2024, the Hub finally opened. The Hub, a **seven-year-long** project, was built through a referendum passed in 2017 by students after an identified lack of space on campus for collaboration and general student life activities. The 40,000 square foot building is meant as a *non-academic* space—as well described by our General Manager, “one large recreation room.” Which in all honesty is so exciting, and very needed on our campus. Students need a place where they can just hang out, and not just another study space.

Last week, the Board of Directors, our Campus Events team, our Communications Team, our Student Life Director, and our beloved Maroons were all at the event handing out free merch, ushering students through the building, and running exciting event programming. A huge shoutout to everyone involved. The opening of the building was a huge success. I'm always impressed by the passion, commitment, innovativeness, and teamwork we have the MSU! I've heard only great feedback about the building and the event so far. So, cheers to more.

Student Engagement Event

On December 5th, 2023, the Board of Directors, some SRA members, and our communications team were stood in the MUSC atrium and distributed free swag and food to students who came to speak to us. The idea behind the event was to engage with students and get them familiar with the Board and the MSU at large. At the same time, our service reviews surveys were open, so we used that as an opportunity to have students fill out!

AVP (Services)

Service reviews as a big part of the AVP (Services) role. Veronica, the AVP (Services), has been doing such a great job of ensuring we're at a good pace and the report are well put together. As of writing this report, we will have met this week to review the rough drafts before sharing them with Executive Board for feedback. For reference, the services being reviewed this year are WGEN, SHEC, and DEN. Look forward to having those public for your reading as well. Service reviews provide us with insightful recommendations on how to improve our services based on internal and external research and the needs of our students based on feedback we receive from the surveys.

AVP (Internal Governance)

The internal governance committee has been hard at work! Currently, the biggest project the IG committee is working on is completely reviewing *Bylaw 8 – Policy Review Process*. Specifically, the plan is to change the bylaw to an operating policy to better reflect its nature. The AVP IG is working closely with our Administrative Services Coordinator and the Executive Assistant to also clean up the many subsections, clarify wording, and ensure the policies are up to date. Other operating policies under review include the *Operating Policy – Education & Advocacy Department* and *Operating Policy – Role of the MSU in Elections* which should be shared with the SRA at some point in the near future.

TwelvEighty Dish of the Month

In an effort to increase social media engagement and traffic to TwelvEighty, the Board and I worked closely with our Food and Beverage team and a third-party social media team to film and present three custom dishes for students to vote on. The winner was to be featured on the menu for February! The items for February were chicken alfredo, chicken tenders tossed in BBQ, and spinach dip. The chicken tenders were the winner; but real people know the alfredo should have won. We hope to continue this initiative for March as well!

President for Two Weeks

While the president was on a leave of absence seeking re-election, to which he was successful (huge congratulations!), I was to assume the role of the interim president for the duration of leave. This, admittedly, was an extremely busy time for me to have to balance both roles given PTM hiring was going on at the same time—and which historically is the busiest time for the VP Admin. Nonetheless, it was a big privilege to serve as president for that short time, there were some minor tasks I had to complete and check-in on while Jovan was gone (some of which I will touch on later), but it wasn't too bad! P.S. Jovan loves Arsenal (I'm testing a theory to see how many people actually read the reports, if you say this secret password, you get a small coffee from Grind, valid until the end of the SRA meeting/while supplies last).

Western University Students' Council Visit

On Friday February 9th, 2024, the president and I visited Western's USC to learn more about how their Union operates and opportunities for us to import ideas to the MSU. All in all, it was a very valuable visit, and it helped us further strengthen our friendship and professional working relationship with the USC—the strongest Union in Ontario as far as funding. Among the takeaways are their Clubs funding model and better ways to streamline our funding and ratification processes. We also discussed their peer support services and structure, and food bank system and ways we can learn from each other. All in all, a valuable visit and I look forward to more visits of similar kind throughout the year.

Upcoming Priorities

OUSA General Assembly

As many of you might be aware, the OUSA General Assembly will be hosted at McMaster this year. The hiring committee, composed of the Education team, the president, and myself, have chosen our delegates and will begin onboarding them the week after reading week. We're very excited by the team we've assembled this year and look forward to pushing our priorities forward during breakdown sessions and plenary.

Sangria

I'm working closely with our Campus Events Director, Thomas, to bring you Sangria 2024! Which is our end of year celebration to wrap up the year and thank everyone for their incredible hard work. It's likely going to happen tentatively on March 22nd (save the date!), details have not been finalized but once they are I will be sure to communicate it. Eggnog last year was a huge success; we had around 180 attendees! The feedback we got was awesome, and we look forward to bringing the same activities and then some to Sangria.

Bounce

The MSU is spearheading a potentially exciting opportunity for us to rethink how we engage with students. Bounce is a ticketing and event-promotion platform that not only serves as a superior ticketing platform to Eventbrite, but also a place where students can browse through other events in the area and see what their friends are attending. All in all, we're hoping this will help increase visibility for service and club events and boost overall engagement on campus. The current project is being led by myself, the president, our IT department, Accounting Department, Communications team, and Campus Events—all hands on deck!

Student Recognition Night

Student Recognition Night, otherwise known as Sefa Recognition Night, will be held on April 8th—the same day as Sefa's birthday—so save the date! (Realizing as I'm typing this report there are a lot of dates for you to save.) There will be lots of awards given out, so make sure to nominate yourself or someone you know, and you'll get to see the Board of Directors sing a song. Food and drinks will be provided.

PTM Training

As previously mentioned, we've completed the hiring of our next cohort of PTMs. The next step for us is training, which will include a crash course on the MSU, MSU (101), what the role of a PTM entails, what supports are available to them, accounting, and more. Currently planned for April 11th, or thereabouts. I'm working closely with our HR Director and our Administrative Services Coordinator to put together what the training will entail and the core competencies we're looking to communicate.

PTM Transition Reports

As we get closer to the end of the year, PTMs are expected to put together their transition reports. Currently working on facilitating that and ensuring they're submitted on time, so we have enough room to provide feedback and ensure standards are met with regard to quality. One of the difficulties when it comes to our one-year terms is the perceived lack of continuity of knowledge. Early transition reports and early hiring will help us mitigate that with more time spent in transition between PTMs.

SRA Training

SRA training, for the new SRA, is scheduled for Saturday March 23rd to help them ahead of Vice-Presidency elections. This entails, similar to PTM training, an introduction to the MSU, what they need to know about the SRA and its processes, and some general good-to-know information. So, if you plan to return for next year, **which I certainly hope you all do or consider**, please keep that date in your calendars.

Thank you for reading this far and thank you for all the hard work you have been doing this year advocating for student voices and priorities!

Your Truly,
VP BC