



AGENDA
MSU General Assembly 2024
McMaster Students Union
Wednesday March 27, 2024 at 5:00pm
Burridge Gym, McMaster University

PROCEDURE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Welcome/Quorum | Aiman Dhiloon |
| 2. Rules and Proceedings | Aiman Dhiloon |

REPORT PERIOD

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. President | Jovan Popovic |
|--------------|---------------|

BUSINESS

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. MSU Elections Department – Online Voting Periods | Michael Coutu |
|---|---------------|

MOTIONS

1. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____, that the Student Representative Assembly directs the MSU Elections Department to investigate the feasibility of ending its various online voting periods, to conclude on the last day of polling at 11:59pm instead of 5:00pm.



McMaster Students Union
General Assembly
March 27, 2023 at 5:00pm
Burrige Gym, McMaster University

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

Chair: Aiman Dhiloon, MSU Speaker

Recording Secretary: D. Stajcer, Corporate Secretary

Called to Order at 5:17pm

Members Present: 5

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 the Assembly that quorum for a General Assembly was 3% of the MSU population, equivalent to approximately 775 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. The Chair explained that there is one business item on the agenda which was a motion brought forward by an MSU member. The Chair noted that they worked to revise the wording of the motion to ensure it is suitable to bring forth, however a response was not received from the MSU member and therefore, the motion was included without a mover.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Brenda Lin, **seconded** by Joshua Pickering that the McMaster Students Union adopt the General Assembly Agenda, as presented.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

REPORT PERIOD

1. President's Report – Jovan Popovic presented

- Jovan Popovic went over their presentation with the General Assembly.

Questions:

- Samuels asked what Popovic was most proud of.
- Popovic answered that he was most proud of the increase in student life/engagement and felt that this was an overall success. He added that the Campus Events team was able to significantly increase the quantity and quality of events, given the increase in their budget. Popovic added that for his first Presidential election last year, voter turnout was 10.2%, which was the lowest of all time but noted that this year, voter turnout was 16.2% which was an increase of 56% from the previous year. He felt this was a testament as to how the MSU has connected with the student body, especially coming out of a pandemic.
- Samuels asked why students should care about advocacy in the post-secondary sector.
- Popovic answered that the student life aspect is great, but when looking at what we can accomplish in the advocacy sector, it really shapes the way students feel and what their experience will be like. Popovic noted the effects we were able to have, at different levels of government, and on different topics such as housing, artificial intelligence, commuters, and the HSR. Popovic said that advocacy is everywhere and the opportunity to create change is endless. He added that, when students notice change, they are more willing to speak up, and the better their experience will be.

BUSINESS

1. MSU Elections Department – Online Voting Periods

Moved by Joshua Pickering, **seconded** by Paul Wyatt, that the Student Representative Assembly directs the MSU Elections Department to investigate the feasibility of ending its various online voting periods, to conclude on the last day of polling at 11:59pm instead of 5:00pm.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 2 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1
Motion Passes

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jovan Popovic **seconded** by Joshua Pickering that the MSU General Assembly adjourn.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Adjourned at 5:47pm

/ds



State *of the* Union

Organizational Brief

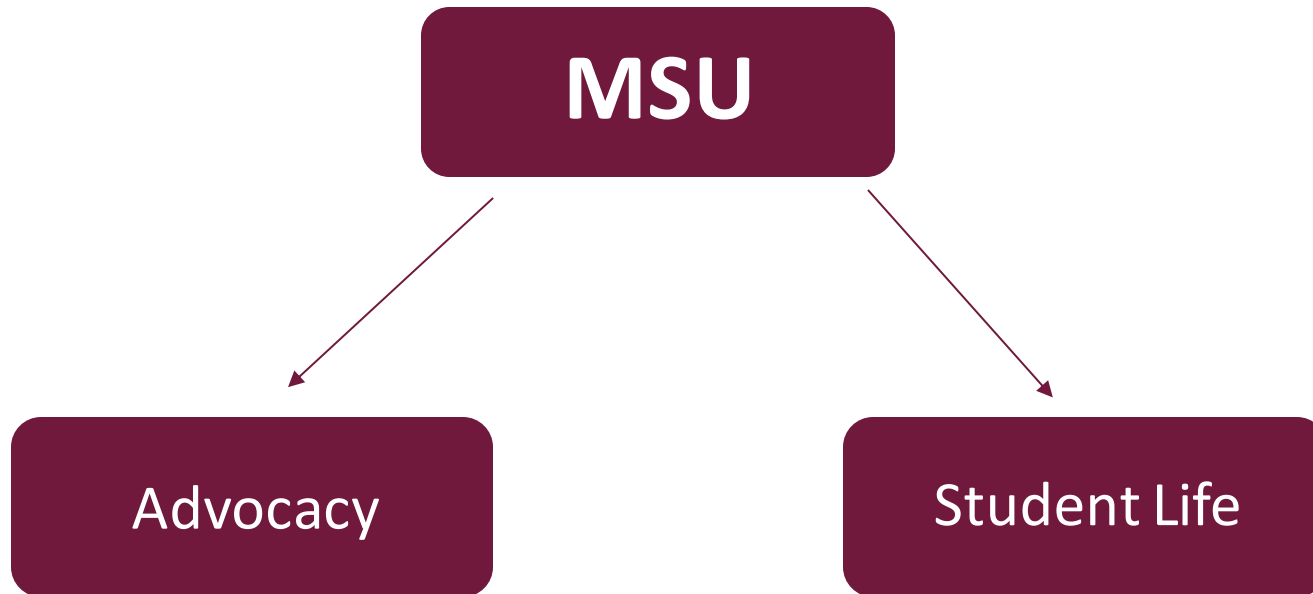
Organizational Overview

Purpose of the MSU



- The MSU is the largest group on campus representing approximately 28,000 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 fill the gap in the student experience. This is generally done through two prongs; advocacy/governance, and student life services
- Further, it seeks to facilitate communication between the student body, the University, and other organizations and will organize and regulate student self-government.

MSU 101



Advocacy



What is 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
 - Provincial
- UCRU
 - Federal
- CASA (observer)
 - Federal

30+ Businesses & Services



MSU Clubs



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



MSU
CLUBS

Additional Services Provided By The MSU



- **Health & Dental Plan**

- Coverage runs from September 1st – August 31st
- <https://msumcmaster.ca/info/health-dental-insurance/>
- We Speak Student
 - <https://wespeakstudent.com/>

- **HSR Bus Pass**

- All full-time undergraduate students hold a 12-month, unlimited ride bus pass with the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR)
- Valid from September thorough August each year
- Comes into effect end of August each year
- The pass is administered through PRESTO and takes the form of a voucher code that is available via Mosaic.

- **Student Assistance Plan (SAP)**

- Provided at no cost to all undergraduate students
- Available 24/7 through multi-lingual calls, online chats, or texts
- <https://msumcmaster.ca/info/health-dental-insurance/sap/>

- **Coming Soon: Bike Pass**

MSU Team

Board of Directors (BoD)



Jovan Popovic
President



Adam F. El-Kadi
VP Administration



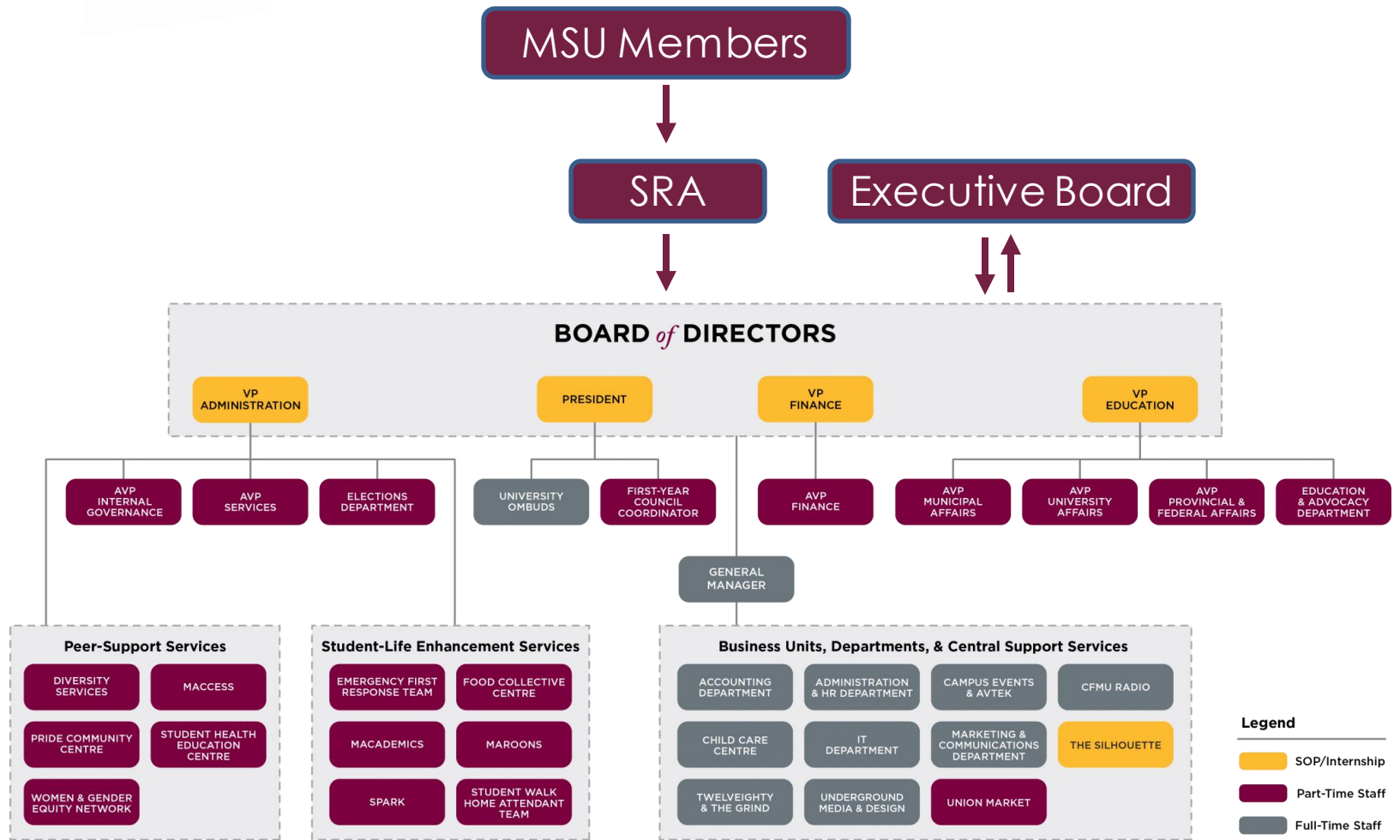
Abigail Samuels
VP Education



Sefa Otchere
VP Finance

The State of the Union for the 2023/2024 term serves as a thorough report, aiming to provide an authoritative overview of the McMaster Students Union activities. This encompasses the endeavors of its executives, board members, personnel, and volunteers since the Board of Directors assumption of office in May 2023. Our aim has been to craft this extensive document in a manner that ensures readability, with the hope that it offers a clear and transparent insight into the breadth and depth of the MSU's operations.

Structure



Legend

- SOP/Internship
- Part-Time Staff
- Full-Time Staff

New Employees



Full Time Staff Hires

Clubs Department

Clubs Administrator: Omer Choudry

Food & Beverage

Food & Beverage Manager: Mike Asquith

Kitchen Manager: Wesley Chaplin

Restaurant Manager: Vanessa Thompson

Kitchen Staff: Jonathan Hill & Chantelle Stevenson

IT Department

Director of IT: Gang Wang

- Internal hire → Senior IT Technician
 - Currently Vacant

Avtek

Campus Events Technical Coordinator: Brian Junaid

- Internal hire → Campus Events Office Coordinator (SOP)

List of all personnel: <https://msumcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2024/01/Who-is-Who-in-the-MSU-2023-2024.pdf>

Financial Breakdown

Fee Breakdown



MSU FEE BREAKDOWN

McMaster University Fees, Approved by an MSU Referenda or Quorate General Assembly

Administrative Services Fee (Transcripts, Letters, Tax Form & Certificates Fee)	\$1.44 per unit to a max of 30 units
Sports Complex Building Fee	\$8.80 per unit to a max of 30 units
Orientation Fee	\$109.20 (only for Level I students)
McMaster University Centre (MUSC) Operating Fee	\$0.76 per unit to a max of 30 units
Student Wellness Centre	\$116.06
Career Service - Student Success Centre	\$87.46
University Athletics and Recreation Activity Fee	\$288.14

MSU Fees

CFMU Operating and Capital Fund	\$15.73
HSR Bus Pass	\$241.79
MSU Dental Plan	\$132.00
MSU Health Plan	\$108.00
Organization Fee	\$152.79
WUSC Refugee Scholarship	\$1.87

Non-MSU/Non-University Fees

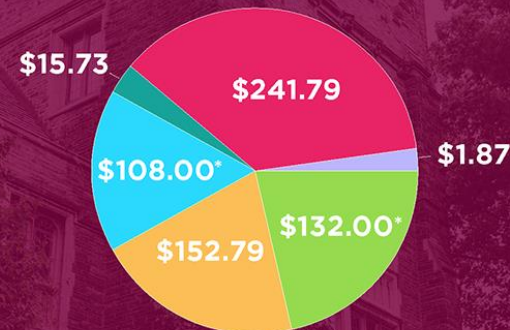
Engineers Without Borders	\$0.41
Incite Magazine	\$1.17
McMaster Marching Band	\$1.13
McMaster Solar Car Project	\$1.11
Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)	\$5.50

Faculty Society Fees

Arts & Science Society	\$33.81
DeGrootte Commerce Society	\$47.54
Health Sciences (Honours) Society	\$27.87
McMaster Engineering Society	\$51.51
McMaster Humanities Society	\$25.00
Medical Students Society	\$76.34
McMaster Science Society/Kinesiology	\$26.03
McMaster Social Sciences Society	\$16.46
Nursing Society	\$39.97
Midwifery Student Midwife Collective	\$20.00

MSU STUDENT FEE BREAKDOWN

McMaster Students Union



HSR Bus Pass	\$241.79
Organization Fee	\$152.79
Dental Plan	\$132.00
Health Plan	\$108.00
93.3FM CFMU	\$15.73
WUSC Student Refugee Scholarship	\$1.87

*Health and Dental fees are optional if one carries existing coverage

2022 Year End Audited Statement



MCMASTER STUDENTS UNION INCORPORATED

Consolidated Statement of Operations

Year ended April 30, 2022, with comparative financial information for 2021

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund	University Student Centre Building Fund	CFMU Radio Inc.	Student Health Insurance Plan Fund	Student Dental Plan Fund	2022 Total	2021 Total
Revenues:								
Student fees (Schedules 1, 5, 13 and 14)	\$ 3,653,838	\$ -	\$ 516,277	\$ 379,473	\$ 2,449,549	\$ 2,993,401	\$ 9,992,538	\$ 8,317,103
Administration (Schedule 1)	182,749	-	-	-	-	-	182,749	199,708
Investment income (loss) (Schedules 1, 5, and 13)	(42,652)	-	-	(10,756)	(94,626)	-	(148,034)	755,205
Child Care (Schedule 6)	778,842	-	-	-	-	-	778,842	429,894
Campus Events (Schedule 10)	233,874	-	-	-	-	-	233,874	2,173
1280 (Schedule 2)	183,541	-	-	-	-	-	183,541	2,322
Services (Schedule 11)	74,900	-	-	-	-	-	74,900	13,468
Committees (Schedule 11)	5,370	-	-	-	-	-	5,370	3,817
Union Market (Schedule 9)	65,579	-	-	-	-	-	65,579	4,305
Underground Media and Design (Schedule 8)	57,960	-	-	-	-	-	57,960	32,252
The Silhouette (Schedule 3)	41,797	-	-	-	-	-	41,797	24,403
Student Wellness Centre (Schedule 12)	28,711	-	-	-	-	-	28,711	23,491
House of Games (Schedule 7)	17,220	-	-	-	-	-	17,220	11,819
CFMU Radio Inc. (Schedule 5)	-	-	-	16,339	-	-	16,339	22,121
Marmor (Schedule 4)	(18)	-	-	-	-	-	(18)	(13)
Total revenues	5,281,711	-	516,277	385,056	2,354,923	2,993,401	11,531,368	9,842,068
Expenditures:								
Student Dental Plan (Schedule 14)	-	-	-	-	-	2,690,023	2,690,023	2,497,888
Student Health Insurance Plan (Schedule 13)	-	-	-	-	2,405,406	-	2,405,406	2,166,270
Administration (Schedule 1)	1,010,954	-	-	-	-	-	1,010,954	900,041
Child Care (Schedule 6)	802,817	-	-	-	-	-	802,817	384,389
Services (Schedule 11)	609,565	-	-	-	-	-	609,565	367,748
Executive (Schedule 11)	309,947	-	-	-	-	-	309,947	421,342
Committees (Schedule 11)	278,736	-	-	-	-	-	278,736	288,751
1280 (Schedule 2)	464,913	-	-	-	-	-	464,913	255,982
Campus Events (Schedule 10)	385,234	-	-	-	-	-	385,234	264,412
Building fund occupancy costs	-	-	335,874	-	-	-	335,874	161,255
Underground Media and Design (Schedule 8)	308,041	-	-	-	-	-	308,041	134,160
CFMU Radio Inc. (Schedule 5)	-	-	-	285,697	-	-	285,697	338,281
The Silhouette (Schedule 3)	215,619	-	-	-	-	-	215,619	152,682
Information Comm. & Tech. (Schedule 1-B)	198,014	-	-	-	-	-	198,014	179,112
Marmor (Schedule 4)	82,658	-	-	-	-	-	82,658	80,040
Union Market (Schedule 9)	70,927	-	-	-	-	-	70,927	64,528
Total expenditures	4,737,425	-	335,874	285,697	2,405,406	2,690,023	10,454,425	8,656,881
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 544,286	\$ -	\$ 180,403	\$ 99,359	\$ (50,483)	\$ 303,378	\$ 1,076,943	\$ 1,185,187

Recent Budget Information



Budget in Review

- YE 2021: \$464,040 surplus
- YE 2022: \$544,286 surplus
- YE 2023: \$832,915 surplus
- 2023-2024 Budgeted:

Financial Priority:

- VP Finance, Sefa Otchere, is planning to rebalance the budget again, returning to a break-even budget.

Major Changes

Food & Beverage



Compass Chartwells

- Third party provider ran TwelvEighty F&B in 2022-2023 academic year

Self Operation

- Hired all new staff
- Brand new menus
- New food suppliers
- Improved ambiance (7 new televisions)
- Goal: Address food insecurity with a cheaper menu, larger portion sizes, and higher quality food while providing more events and a greater ambiance for student life.

Current Situation

- Goals completed
- Thriving as Campus Event Space
- Financial challenges → Future projection

Bounce Event Software



Current Situation

- Long planning stage
- Currently nearing finish line w/ Contract work

Implementation Plan

- First use at Light Up The Night
- Continued use at MSU Welcome Week events to improve usership

Costing & Details

- No cost to switch, only a per ticket cost of \$1
- Much lower cost then current solution, Eventbrite
- Student Unions at UBC, Queens and Western, as well as Arizona State have transitioned to Bounce
- Should create more convenient solution for MSU staff and volunteers, as well as students

B O U N C E

Hub Grand Opening

Hub launched on February 7th!

- Second MSU building → MUSC in 2002
- Referendum passed in 2017
- Construction years behind schedule

Importance to campus

- Consistent complaints about not enough space on campus
- Growing student population (6k in 8 years)
- Only non-academic space
- New event space
- Immensely popular



Goals & Next Steps

Campus Events & Hoco



After four years without a sanctions, on campus homecoming, we're ready to bring it back.

- Goal: Provide event programming for students to create a more entertaining homecoming environment while ensuring a safer space for students.
- Current priorities: Securing funding in the upcoming budget submission for a large-scale headliner for a concert central to the event, surrounded by other smaller scale events.
- University finally on board and ready to support.

Clubs Reduction



In 2022-2023 the clubs budget was \$90k for 300+ clubs. This past year the clubs budget rose to \$180k, but it still wasn't enough.

Importance:

- Reducing the number of clubs benefits each of the remaining clubs significantly, financially speaking.
- There are currently several clubs who overlap or are nearly duplicate clubs. Combining these clubs will allow for greater resource allocation.
- Less clubs also allows for better training, including sponsorship training, helping clubs operate more efficiently while being less dependent on the MSU.

Bike Pass



Bike pass referendum passed in March for a \$24.50 annual bike pass, allowing 90 minutes a day of ridership. Students will also have the ability to opt out.

Importance:

- There is more to an agreement than just the dollar figure. We are working with the city officials to determine logistical challenges first:
 - How will the passed be administered?
 - There aren't currently enough bikes around McMaster. How can we add more?
 - What are the most ideal locations to stock with bikes?
 - How do we best facilitate the opt out?
- The pricing might have passed, but the agreement is not yet final.

TwelvEighty



TwelvEighty is losing money, which is nothing new, but in a time of transition, how quickly can we rebound?

- It has become a priority of the board to focus on TwelvEighty operations
- It is a hub for student life, but it is incredibly expensive returning to self operation
- As staff continue settling in, the F&B team needs a plan to turn the restaurant around, financially speaking

Notice: TwelvEighty is not meant to be a profitable unit – it is a student service for good and cheap food. However, losses should be minimal, as breakeven is the goal.

Advocacy Priorities



This is subject to change slightly with a newly elected VP Education coming in two weeks, but these are the current priorities in the foreseeable future:

- **International Students**
 - With an international student cap coming, the university could see some adverse affects from a drop in the student population, including some potential financial concerns in light of recent events from Ontario universities
- **Housing**
 - Housing is unaffordable. The university needs to ensure proper housing resources are available for its students, especially with a new residence going up – the MSU must ensure that it is to help students, not to hurt students by increasing the student population.
- **Artificial Intelligence**
 - The university is spending its summers drafting up AI policies and guidelines for students in the years ahead. It is critical that the MSU be ahead of the curve in ensuring students are protected in academic integrity policies, and that AI have a place in the classroom.
- **Commuting**
 - Continuing to work with parking services to improve commuter life on campus, especially after the work that was already done this year.

Contact



Should you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to myself, or your SRA representative:

President@msu.mcmaster.ca

Arts & Science: sraartsci@msu.mcmaster.ca

Commerce: sracom@msu.mcmaster.ca

Engineering: sraeng@msu.mcmaster.ca

Health Sciences: srahealth@msu.mcmaster.ca

Humanities: srahuman@msu.mcmaster.ca

Kinesiology: srakin@msu.mcmaster.ca

Nursing: sranursing@msu.mcmaster.ca

Science: srasci@msu.mcmaster.ca

Social Sciences: srassci@msu.mcmaster.ca



“A ship is safe in harbor, but that is not what a ship was built for.” – William H Shedd

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