



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Vice-President (Finance)**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Declan Sweeney, Vice-President (Finance)  
SUBJECT: SRA 24D Report  
DATE: June 4, 2024

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Hello SRA, hope you are having a relaxing & well-deserved break. For my monthly updates, I wanted to highlight some of the main priorities which have been taking up my time this past month.

I am begging you today to pretty please pass the capital budget as it has caused minor difficulties over the past month. It is essential for any projects which need capital expenditure to be done this month to ensure completion before the start of the fall term.

## GM Consults & Hiring

The first couple of weeks were of significant focus as we were going through the process of GM consultations with full-time staff to better understand what was needed to support and enrich the McMaster Student Union. These consultations led to building a greater relationship with many departments and key considerations for the role. After this process, we began filtering through the many applicants and then an initial phone screening. After this we have went through two stages in which we had in-person interviews and a written assignment to see the vision for the position. We have put an offer in for the position and will likely know before the end of the week.

## Clubs

The first key platform point in my candidacy was re-thinking the clubs process. We have begun by focusing on a means test to think of clubs as well as considering the implementation of removing identifying information when asking the CAC to review clubs to remove implicit bias. This, along with reducing the number of clubs through removing clubs which failed to follow MSU Clubs Operating Policy, have made it possible to consider increasing the maximum available for clubs.

## Department Goals

In the consultation for many of my goals, I have reached out to all McMaster Student Union Full Time staff to better understand their short, year, & long-term plans. The purpose of this was to challenge staff to think creatively & look at areas of expansion to better meet student demands. I have set the

deadline for responses to mid-June. My hope is that this process will build towards a more collaborative goal for all of our year-plans.

### 1280 Developments

We have set plans to remove the dividers which will enhance the ability to hold large scale club nights and increase capacity for club rentals. Along with this, we have been working on setting up outdoor patio games, lights, & speakers to build the ambience of the outdoor patio. We are still working through some design planning aspects, but I am super excited about the vision of that space. From a technical standpoint, the team has been focusing on planning opportunities for deals & specials, while also expanding the menu to provide a greater variety of options for all different needs. They have also discussed the capital expenditures that they want to implement to help with the aesthetic of the restaurant. Altogether, things are shaping up well, hoping to have a couple caucus meetings this fall at 1280, potentially with a couple pints.

### OER

I have been notified that we have a written commitment to the university worth \$60,000 from a 2022-2023 board member. I have been working with the university to better understand where this money will be going and the impact this will have on the educational process. My current goal is to commit this money to work towards a ZTC Library (Zero Cost Textbook) I have been in continuous negotiations with administration as they want this to go mainly towards promotion. Next meeting on this will be June 17<sup>th</sup> and am hoping for progress before the next SRA meeting. The plan would be to use SLEF funding to help provide this coverage as it was an unforeseen cost which was not in any 2022-2023 transition report.

### **Future Plans**

#### Central Advertising Bureau (CAB)

As one of my main goals for this year is a continued focus on advertisement, am planning to begin CAB meetings to further connect business units and build a centralized marketing plan and discounted rates across multiple different offerings provided. The goal is to begin meetings in Mid-Late June to ensure we have enough time before the major events we have planned are settled.

#### Audit

The MSU Audit is scheduled from June 17<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>. Our amazing Accounting team has been preparing for this process and have been working to close out all 2023-2024 expenses and I am working to ensure the process is seamless.

#### Bylaw 9 Groups

I have asked the AVP Finance to begin the process early for reaching out to Bylaw 9 groups with how they used the money for the 2023-2024 year and any

other previous years they can provide. The deadline for this information to be sent will be July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the goal of this is to ensure we have significant time beforehand to review.

Best,

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