

April 16, 2009

President Coleman, Regents, and Executive Officers.

Hello! My name is Abhishek Mahanti. I'm a native of Okemos, Michigan and am currently a junior in the engineering school. I was elected as MSA president two weeks ago and my vice president, Mike Rorro, and I want to ensure that MSA is a resource for students, a platform for advocacy and an assembly with relevance in all walks of campus.

In the coming summer months, I look forward to meeting with all of you so we can move into the fall on the same page and with a great working relationship. Here's a tentative list of projects that we'd like to work on in the upcoming year. Both internally and externally, MSA has a lot of work to do and I'm ecstatic and confident that we'll be able to get our goals accomplished.

Projects:

MSA Mondays: Outreach and visibility has been a problem for the assembly and this is a direct solution to that problem. MSA is interested in coordinating with student organizations in co-sponsoring a weekly event at the union where MSA representatives and student organization representatives give out free coffee and bagels to students. We hope to gain some face-time with the general populous and show them that we are willing to listen to concerns by coming to them (and handing out free coffee).

Website: The MSA website hasn't been properly updated in months. Dates, representatives, minutes, are not easily available to constituents. To fix this, MSA hired two new webmasters and our engineering representatives and graphic designers are collaborating in making a new site that leverages Google docs, calendars, a Facebook-connected forum and blog that will let students know exactly what we're up to.

Restructuring Funding: MSA's funding for student organizations is a large, visible contribution that it makes to the student populous. However, the application process and reimbursement-based structure are a detriment to organizations. By providing ore workshops, an online application, and working with SOAS to move away from requiring organizations to front money for large events, MSA can be even more of an aid to organizations.

Diag Office Hours: In our unending quest to get more students involved and in-the-know about MSA's events and offerings, representatives will be holding office hours in the Diag, Mason Hall, Pierpont Commons and other areas that are higher traffic than the Union's 3rd floor.

MSA Office Revamp: Through cheap and effective means, MSA's office will be cleaned out and rearranged with whiteboards and workspaces that allow members to collaborate in a comfortable and creative space. In addition, MSA would like to advertise the office as a space for student orgs without office space to hold meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abhishek Mahanti

President, Michigan Student Assembly

April 5, 2009