**Statement of Intent for Board of Governors Candidacy** - **David Feboke**

The student experience at McMaster is shaped by the policies that govern our education, well-being, and opportunities for growth. I am running for the undergraduate seat on the Board of Governors because I believe that governance is key to making long-lasting, meaningful change. As someone who is Black, queer, and living with an invisible disability, I know firsthand the challenges that come with navigating systems that were not always designed with people like me in mind. My lived experiences fuel my passion for ensuring that McMaster supports all students, particularly those from underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds.

Affordability is one of the most pressing issues for students today. The rising costs of tuition, housing, and other living expenses create barriers that disproportionately affect low-income students and students of color. I want to push for policies that address these financial challenges, such as expanding scholarships, increasing tuition assistance, and advocating for more affordable housing options on and near campus. Every student should have the chance to thrive at McMaster without being overwhelmed by financial stress.

Another critical issue is mental health. While McMaster has made some progress, the need for expanded services, shorter wait times, and more comprehensive support is still urgent. Mental health directly affects academic performance and overall well-being, and we must invest in services that meet the diverse needs of students. I also want to improve access to accommodations, for all students, ensuring that our support systems are flexible, timely, and inclusive.

I bring both lived experience and a passion for advocacy to this role. My goal is to ensure that McMaster fosters an environment where equity, accessibility, and affordability are not just ideals but realities. I believe I can help drive this vision forward as a member of the Board of Governors.