The long awaited contract between McMaster University and Google has been signed, and Gmail is slated to replace MSS as McMaster’s official email provider. The integration of this new cloud based email system will make it easier to access your email from anywhere. Some of the big changes include increased inbox capacity from the 10MB you receive with MSS to 25GB with Gmail, a searchable calendar, Google Docs which will allow you to save your documents and work on them with friends or groupmates online. This project began back in February 2010 as the MSU passed a motion to support a cloud based email system. Following that motion, a survey was launched that included the Chief Information Officer of University Technology Services (UTS) and discussed possible options. A student survey was launched in October, and students were able to choose between Microsoft’s Live/Outlook and Google’s Gmail/Google Apps. Of the 1300 students who voted in the “No More Mail Fall” survey, 70% voted in favor of Google’s Gmail/Google Apps and the University began to work with Google to make this happen. Much like the University of Alberta, the contract negotiations took a considerable amount of time and in December 2011, the document was finalized. This project should serve as an example of the role student opinion and student government can play in improving our University. It is a space used to communicate with the student body about the projects, goals and agenda of the MSU Board of Directors. It is a space used to communicate with the student body about the projects, goals and agenda of the MSU Board of Directors. The MSU not only passed a policy on email, it also asked students to vote on which system they wanted. The response rate was masterful, especially considering it was merely a survey, but the results proved these was mistaken support for this initiative. This is precisely how we can change things at McMaster, and by asking you the right questions on issues you care about, we can get results.

What’s Your Idea?

The Student Life Enhancement Fund is looking for undergraduate ideas to improve student life on campus! The MSU not only passed a policy on email, it also asked students to vote on which system they wanted. The response rate was masterful, especially considering it was merely a survey, but the results proved these was mistaken support for this initiative. This is precisely how we can change things at McMaster, and by asking you the right questions on issues you care about, we can get results.

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