



# — the — PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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## New Ontario Tuition Grants Available Soon!

Universal student grants just the latest procurement brought about by student lobbying association OUSA



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News of particular importance to the students of McMaster is the new Ontario Tuition Grant, which will reduce tuition fees for over 300,000 students in Ontario. Over the last five years, average tuition in Ontario has increased from approximately \$5,300 to over \$6,600.

The new grant will be available to all dependent, full-time undergraduate students in Ontario for up to four years. The grant will be worth 30% of the average tuition fees for first entry non-professional programs and will increase each year as tuition rises. For most first entry undergraduate programs, the average

is currently around \$5,400 which means the grant will be about \$1,600 for all university students this year, regardless of program. This totals to an approximate savings of about \$6,400 per eligible student over four years. The grant program is expected to commence in January 2012, which will give each student half of the grant money - \$800. The full amount will be available beginning in September 2012.

So, the big question - how do you get the money? For students on OSAP, you will receive the grant without an application. If you're not on OSAP, you will need to apply for the grant

through an online application that will likely be available to you by the middle of December.

This grant is just the latest step in a campaign on education spearheaded by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA). OUSA is an organization that represents the interests of over 145,000 undergraduate, professional, full- and part-time students at nine university student associations across Ontario at Brock, McMaster, Queen's, Trent in Oshawa, Waterloo, Western, Wilfrid Laurier and Windsor. OUSA promotes the interests of Ontario students by providing research and solutions to governments on how to improve the affordability, accessibility, accountability and the quality of post-secondary education in Ontario.

OUSA will continue to lobby on

issues of post-secondary education, specifically tuition, throughout the rest of the year, and the McMaster Students Union is dedicated to an affordable education system for all. For more information or details on the grant, please check out my page on the MSU website, vped.msumcmaster.ca. Also please feel free to direct any questions, comments or concerns to my e-mail, vped@msu.mcmaster.ca.

Next week, from December 4th-7th students from across Ontario will be uniting in Toronto for our annual Student Advocacy Conference. This is our opportunity to take the issues that we have prioritized, and lobby Members of Provincial Parliament individually, asking for commitments and persuading them how to best use their time and resources. This year, we will be focusing on three issues in particular - the new tuition framework, a fair tuition payment process, and empowering strong teaching skills at our universities.



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## UPDATES: GMAIL AND NEW ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLATFORM



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Exams are nearly here and some of you may be wondering about your new email system. The short answer is that it is coming. Since the summer, McMaster and Google have been in negotiations in regards to what the contract specifics should look like. Once Google was able to dedicate their legal team, the two sides were able to lay out their concerns. Currently, there appears to be only a few outstanding issues left and should these be agreed upon (which it seems they will be soon) McMaster can finally begin integrating the new system. What does this mean for you? The contract is likely to be signed soon, and if all goes well, you will ideally have a new email system in January. The Gmail system will provide you 7gb of space instead of the 15mb of which MUSS is capable. There are numerous

other benefits and the completion of this project will help usher in the beginning of changes to McMaster's technological infrastructure.

The next big project after this is moving away from our MUGSI/SOLAR system. As many of you know, this system is incredibly difficult and frustrating to use and often results in angry and bitter students. McMaster has dedicated \$30 million to the change of this system and on December 6th and 15th there will be an opportunity for you to watch presentations by two potential vendors. These sessions are geared towards students, especially those who have been inconvenienced by MUGSI/SOLAR in the past. Attending these presentations will help ensure that our new Enterprise Resource Platform (ERP) better suits student needs. I encourage you all to attend these sessions, watch the presentations and make sure your voice is heard. Presentation dates are:

December 6th 2:30pm - 4:30pm  
**Oracle Peoplesoft** - CNH B107  
December 15th 8:30am - 10:30am  
**Sunguard Banner** - CNH B107

THE 14TH ANNUAL

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charity ball

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THIS YEAR'S THEME IS:  
CIRQUE

THANKS FOR VOTING!

Congratulations to our Montreal trip winner, Andrea Coburn and congratulations to our limo and ticket prize winner, Stephen Petrina

[charityball.msumcmaster.ca](http://charityball.msumcmaster.ca)



The President's Page is sponsored by the McMaster Students Union. It is a space used to communicate with the student body about the projects, goals and agenda of the MSU Board of Directors.

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