



— the — PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Duncan Thompson
VP (Finance)

Katie Ferguson
VP (Administration)

Matthew Dillon-Leitch
President

Alicia Ali
VP (Education)

MSU REPS ATTEND OUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Complete the Quality of Education Survey to help shape future policy work and you could win a \$200 gift card



Alicia Ali
VP (Education)

vped@msu.mcmaster.ca
ext. 24017

This past weekend, students from McMaster travelled to Windsor for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) General Assembly (GA). GA is held twice annually at OUSA member schools through a rotation consisting of Queen's, Brock, Waterloo, McMaster, Trent, Western, Windsor and Wilfrid Laurier.

OUSA is our provincial lobbying partner and represents the interests of over 145, 000 professional and undergraduate, full- and part-time university students at nine student associations across Ontario. Our vision is for an accessible, affordable, accountable and high quality post secondary education. In order to achieve this vision, we come together to develop solutions to challenges facing higher education, build broad consensus for our policy options and lobby government to implement progressive changes.

From November 4th - 6th

students from associations across Ontario came together at the University of Windsor campus to discuss policy papers on Tuition, Accountability and System Growth. These three papers are now standing policy papers of the organization and will be used to effectively lobby the government at the OUSA Lobby Conference in December.

The Tuition paper calls for a return to the two to one cost sharing model and addresses issues such as flat fee tuition, indexing tuition increases to CPI, and the relationship between OSAP delivery and the tuition payment processes.

Our Accountability paper asks three massive questions: To whom should universities be held accountable? For what should universities be held accountable? And finally, how should universities be held accountable? The paper addresses issues such as student representation on Boards, the role of the University Ombuds, and tying university performance to the levels of funding they receive from the government.

OUSA's policy on System Growth is a broad based look at the future structure and function of Ontario's postsecondary system going forward. The policy addresses eight broad areas of the Ontario post secondary system:

funding, cost-inflation, differentiation, satellite campuses, online learning, pathways, infrastructure, and instructional capacity & quality.

Throughout the course of the weekend, there was serious debate on differentiation (focusing university efforts in either undergraduate teaching or intensive research, likely at the expense of the alternate) and its effect on strategic mandates, with particular reference to multi-year accountability agreements and government influence when university targets are not met. McMaster is not currently pursuing a system of differentiation. The MSU believes M c M a s t e r University is a great example of teaching and research functioning well in combination, and we do not believe differentiation is appropriate for Mac.

All three papers were passed with unanimous consent at General Assembly. There were focus groups on communication strategies, advocacy and future policy for the organization. In the spring, four more papers will be coming forward, but this time at

McMaster. The McMaster Students Union and the McMaster Association of Part-Time Students (MAPS) will co-host the Spring General Assembly where four papers will come forward on Northern & Rural Students, Students with Dependents, Student Health and Credit Transfer.

Until November 21st, students wishing to help shape the policy submitted to the provincial government can go to president.msumcmaster.ca to fill out the MSU Quality of Education Assessment. In partnership with OUSA, the MSU is running the undergraduate survey in order to measure opinions in terms of quality and affordability of education. This data will then be used to measure quality across the province, with particular emphasis on comparisons between institutions. Also,

completing the survey enters you to win one of five \$200 Amazon gift certificates. For more information about the Quality of Education Assessment, please contact MSU President Matthew Dillon-Leitch at president@msu.mcmaster.ca or visit Matt's website at president.msumcmaster.ca.



Across Ontario... our vision is for an accessible, affordable, accountable and high quality post secondary education.

MAC'S STUDENT LEADERS SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER



Matthew Dillon-Leitch
President

president@msu.mcmaster.ca
ext. 23885

One element of life at Mac that I have always found interesting has been our sense of community. In my time at McMaster I have noticed that there are many different ways for students to get involved within many different communities. There are over 280 MSU clubs, in which thousands of students participate. Moreover, the Inter Residence Council (IRC), the Society of Off-Campus Students (SOCS), the Maroons, and Faculty Societies are just some of the numerous examples of student involvement and leadership opportunities.

Thus far, I have been hard at work attempting to bridge the gaps between these different groups, in an effort to establish a better connected McMaster community of which we as students, regardless of our specific involvement, can all feel a part. I believe it is the

role of the MSU to act in this capacity. We must bring these different student groups together, not only to help build our shared community but also to solidify a student voice into a cohesive entity.

There are a few ways that I intend on addressing this issue; a better support system for our Faculty Societies during Welcome Week, extend the collaborative event planning process deeper into the year, a council that brings together representatives from a number of established student groups, a plan for the future of education at McMaster, and a student government that brings together these different stakeholders.

As a student union we should be constantly striving to build a community that is inclusive, engaging and dynamic. This is our purpose and one I intend to achieve. I would be thrilled to discuss your thoughts on this matter.

How do you see your club, group or association fitting into the larger campus system of student involvement/ leadership? Your ideas and perspective are more than welcome and I would be very pleased to discuss the matter. Don't hesitate to contact me, that's why I'm here!

QUEER STUDENTS COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESENTS

MAC PRIDE WEEK
NOV. 14TH TO 18TH

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

QUEER STUDENTS COMMUNITY CENTRE

MSU



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