



# — the — PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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## CITY COUNCIL CONTINUES INVESTIGATION INTO FEASIBILITY OF LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

Municipal representatives are supportive of the concept of an LRT system in Hamilton, but have only committed to further research thusfar



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Imagine a transportation system that cuts your travel time to campus in half. Sound crazy? With Light Rail Transit (LRT), it's not. On Thursday, October 13th, Hamilton City Council got it right when they voted to re-affirm their support of continuing a full investigation into the feasibility of Light Rail Transit for Hamilton.

So, what is LRT? Light Rail Transit

is a form of public transportation that utilizes a train-like vehicle on a fixed track. It has a higher capacity and higher speed than regular city buses. The LRT initiative in Hamilton first surfaced in 2007 when the province of Ontario launched a \$17 billion proposal to build transit across Southern Ontario, with particular upgrades in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas, including two rapid transit lines in Hamilton. A few months later, as a part of their re-election campaign, the government pledged to build two light rail lines across Hamilton.

Fast forward to today, Hamilton Light Rail - an advocacy group - has been working with stakeholders to hold open planning meetings and develop

presentations that will introduce people to LRT and the economic potential it carries. That being said, the idea of LRT isn't universally popular, some having been calling for a dedicated bus system in lieu of LRT. Recently, the City of Hamilton began placing more emphasis on GO transit at the expense of LRT exploration, which prompted City Council to publicly re-affirm their commitment to LRT investigation. The recent vote doesn't lock the City into anything other than continued study, an area which we as students can play a huge role.

The MSU will be working on a Light Rail Transit campaign this year to inform students and persuade politicians that this form of transit, with double

the lifespan of buses, reduced emissions and increases to both the efficiency and capacity of public transit, is the best option for students and the Hamilton community. LRT has the potential to revitalize the city core by integrating students into often neglected regions such as downtown and beyond, areas which have huge potential to prosper - but are regularly underused by students due to access issues.

So next time you're waiting at the bus stop and you see several crowded buses pass you by, tweet your frustrations with the hashtag #weneedlrt and join the movement to get on track with LRT.

For more information, please visit: <http://hamiltonlightrail.com/>

## MSU TEACHING AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

Recognize great teaching at McMaster, give your favourite professors the credit they deserve

Alfred Mercier once said, "What we learn with pleasure we never forget." Often, it is a university professor that is the individual who helps make the journey of learning an exceptional one. By no means is being an instructor an easy job, but those who take the extra leap in providing outstanding teaching, are the people who merit distinct recognition. The excellent faculty of McMaster University put their best foot forward to try to make education an enjoyable experience for students. Professors often go to great lengths to make their courses interesting and accessible for their students. From standing for an hour in the hallway to answer questions, to having extended office hours, to providing supplementary notes and visuals on the class material, great teachers deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

At McMaster University, we have professors who invest their hearts and minds into their teaching, in order to produce students who will one day become keenly informed individuals. We have professors whose passion for teaching makes students appreciate and value their education for its intrinsic worth, rather than for a material end. For students, having a professor who goes one step further makes all the difference in the world. University is a challenging and explorative period for students. Many students experience new trajectories and paradigms and having a professor who meaningfully engages with them makes a very positive impact. Students feel as though they have someone on which to rely. These are the professors who become something more than just a teacher; they become a mentor and/or a role model for their students. We gravitate to those great teachers as someone we admire for insight that only

time and experience can bring.

In order to recognize the value of extraordinary teaching that happens here at McMaster, the McMaster Students Union employs a service named the Teaching Awards Committee (TAC). TAC hosts an annual Teaching Awards ceremony, at which the MSU recognizes the most outstanding educators at McMaster, as chosen by students. Nominations are now open, and students can nominate professors in their faculty that have gone above and beyond the call of duty in terms of teaching. One professor from each faculty is awarded this honourable recognition each year. The awards are meant to encourage excellent teaching at McMaster, and it also gives students an opportunity to express their appreciation for their favourite professors.

As the MSU Teaching Awards are nomination based, it is crucial for the student body to actively be involved in the selection process. Voting began on October 23rd and will continue until November 7th. All are encouraged to nominate a professor who they believe deserves an award based on their exceptional teaching abilities. For students, this process may take you only five minutes. This small time commitment is more than fair to acknowledge those who help, shape, inspire and enrich the student experience.

To nominate your favourite professor please visit:

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

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### WHICH PROF IS IN YOUR GOOD BOOKS?

## MSU TEACHING AWARDS 2011 - 2012



### NOMINATION PERIOD Oct. 23rd to Nov. 7th

### NOMINATION FORM ONLINE [teachingawards.msumcmaster.ca](http://teachingawards.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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