Chances are you have probably had to use MUSS - McMaster University's email system - over the past few weeks. If you are new to Mac, you may be wondering why we have such an archaic system. For those of you returning, you may remember the survey that was held last fall. University students chose Google's Gmail system and Microsoft's Live@Edu as a new platform for Mac. Students overwhelmingly chose Google's Gmail, and since that decision was made, the University has been working on the preparations and completion of a contract between themselves and Google. Also, plans have been developed for the implementation of this new email system, so that once the contract is complete, implementation can happen as quickly as possible.

There has always been an expectation from students that this new system would be implemented as soon as possible, a point I have pushed for since last October. Since that time, I have been in constant contact with University Technology Services (UTS) and I can tell you that contract negotiations are nearing completion. I want to be clear here, neither McMaster University nor UTS have been dragging their feet on this project. As Google is an incredibly large company, they were unable to dedicate their legal team to this issue until recently. The most important thing to know is that there will be a new email system, and it will be Gmail. The reason we have this new system is a result of students voicing their opinion and we cannot forget that. The road to achieving this goal has not been easy, but now with the end in sight it is important for us to remember how we got here. As a student body, we were able to demonstrate what we wanted and we are very close to realizing the results. It is for this reason that when we as students work together as a collective, we can be a powerful voice for our own change. And on a lighter note, I cannot wait for the launch of our new email system, given the fact that our inbox currently only has a 15 MB capacity.

The University has nearly completed negotiations, and the moment that the contract is signed, I will inform you of the launch date. Check the MSU website (www.msumcmaster.ca) regularly, as I will post an article on the issue once the contract is completed. Also, I will communicate any new information on both our Facebook page “McMaster Students Union (MSU)” and our Twitter account @MSU_McMaster.

Lastly, I want to thank all the students that participated in last year's survey. Thank you for showing that students care and thank you for making this project a reality. It was your decision to vote which allowed us to impact a major University decision. Without you this would not have been possible. Let this serve as an example of the power students have to influence change on our campus.

Matthew Dillon-Leitch
President
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Matthew Dillon-Leitch outlines the current state of the Gmail implementation project

Google's Gmail is on the Horizon for McMaster University

GOOGLE’S GMAIL IS ON THE HORIZON FOR McMaster UNIVERSITY

VP (Education) Alicia Ali discusses an accessible, affordable - and most importantly - a quality education as her priority on October 6th

The President's Page is sponsored by the McMaster Students Union.

It is a space to communicate with the student body about the projects, goals and agendas of the MSU Board of Directors.

www.msu.mcmaster.ca

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES THIS ELECTION?

Alicia Ali, VP (Education)

Gmail implementation project

The provincial election is looming. On October 6, you can cast your ballot for better teaching environments, new buildings, renovated classrooms and stronger support services. How are you going to decide what is right for you? What are your priorities? Let's take a look at some key priorities this year.

- Quality of education you receive - Is this a priority for you?

- To improve teaching quality and reward programs and incentives that will help you the most.

- new buildings, renovated classrooms - for better teaching environments.

- Student Wellness Centre, and McMaster has set mental health as a priority.

- A commitment to keep our MPP and of who wins on October 6, let's make issues, not the propaganda. Regardless of who wins on October 6, let’s make a commitment to keep out MPP and the government of Ontario accountable to an accessible, affordable and high quality education - not just at McMaster, but across Ontario.

- Also, plans have been developed for the implementation of this new email system, so that once the contract is complete, implementation can happen as quickly as possible.

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