FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McMaster University signing on to outmoded agreement that will cost students more money

Hamilton - The McMaster Students Union (MSU) is disappointed by McMaster University's intention to sign an agreement with the collective licensing group Access Copyright.

Access Copyright and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), of which McMaster University is a member, have agreed on a model license for schools to use copyrighted works in Access Copyright's repertoire.

Access Copyright had agreements with many AUCC members that expired at the end of 2010. Since then, an interim tariff that extended previous agreements has protected institutions that signed on from copyright violations on use of works in Access Copyright's repertoire.

The new agreement increases fees associated with this copyright protection immensely. McMaster students will feel the pressure with a potential increase of over 600% in its flat fee. Students are perplexed by the increase as the old agreement covered paper copies, of which use has been in steady decline.

“It is counterintuitive for an innovative institution like McMaster to be signing up for something that costs more and provides the school and students with nothing extra,” said Huzaifa Saeed, Vice-President (Education) of the McMaster Students Union. “Many institutions and groups across Canada are coming out against this proposal and siding with students. We strongly recommend McMaster University side with students as well. We urge Administration to explore better alternatives and consider rejecting Access Copyright's proposal.”

Currently, the University of British Columbia, Athabasca University, the University of Windsor, the University of Winnipeg, York University and the University of New Brunswick amongst others, have announced their intention not to sign on to the model agreement.

For more information, please contact:

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