2012/2013 BUDGET REVIEW

Jeff details this year’s budget to-date and the upcoming approval for 2013/2014 fiscal documents.

In a few short weeks the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) will be approving the operating and capital budgets for the 2013/2014 fiscal year. Creation and approval of the budget is one of the most important ways that students get involved in setting the direction for the MSU. The annual budget encapsulates all of the priorities that have been identified throughout the year by students, staff, and volunteers. It also provides clarity for future Assembly members as they guide the MSU.

The past few years have seen a positive trend in the MSU’s finances, as they guide the MSU. It also provides the necessary tools to ensure that we will track to achieve this goal again for fiscal 2012/2013 year. We aim to provide quality services at as low a cost as possible to students, and in order to do that we try to balance revenue generation with service provision. One of the greatest challenges in doing this is deciding how to structure the MSU’s revenue streams and how best to return that investment in the form of services, and the budget is the beginning of that process. Once this important document is approved, price points can be set, plans can be made for events and staffing compliments can be determined and hired.

This year we’ve begun the process of conducting a strategic review of all MSU departments. I hope doing so will spark a larger discussion over the coming years of the purpose and direction of each component of the MSU. As part of the budget process we were able to sit down with all of the largest departments, including the Union Market, Campus Events, CFMU 93.3 FM and TwelvEighty. The goal was to examine and discuss in detail some of the strengths and weaknesses that have been identified by the managers of these services and businesses. Ultimately, this information will be helpful in future years for setting the direction of the organization as a whole.

As the SRA General Election draws to a close, it will be supremely important for all newly-elected representatives to take the time so as to learn some basic financial literacy. Approval of the annual budget is a significant matter for this organization, and so will spark a larger discussion over the fundaments of the MSU’s team, simply call extension 82750, or drop by their office on MUSC second floor.

We are lucky at McMaster to live on a campus with a relatively safe reputation. But issues may go unnoticed or unreported which do significant harm to our community. So this month, support the MSU’s team, simply call extension 82750, or drop by their office on MUSC second floor.

For any walk Call: 905.525.9140 ext 27500 Email: whath@msu.mcmaster.ca or visit: MUSC Rm 204

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GREEN ROOF INITIATIVE UPDATE: DESIGN CONCEPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT REVIEW AND FEEDBACK

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