FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McMaster students see some relief in new tuition framework, yet costs continue to rise

HAMILTON – Students of McMaster University acknowledge the progress made in the recent changes to the province’s tuition framework, but are concerned to see a continued rise in their tuition fees, tempered only slightly by the government’s announcement. The McMaster Students Union (MSU) and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) strongly advocated for a tuition freeze and asked the province to ensure that if tuition were to increase, the rate be no more than that of inflation. However, the new framework has tuition set to rise by an average of 3% each year for the next four years. Admittedly, the new rate is less than the 5% annual increase experienced over the last seven years. Nevertheless, the new tuition framework will continue to outpace the rate of inflation.

“It is disappointing that the provincial government has not tied tuition to a more fundamentally fair rate of inflation,” said Huzaifa Saeed, Vice President (Education) of the MSU. “However, I respect the fact that the old framework was not continued, despite pressure from academic institutions to do just that.”

As the tuition framework is now set, the MSU will focus its efforts on working with the government to alleviate cost pressures on students, through increased investments into the financial aid system. Specifically, students are hoping to see an expansion in eligibility for the Ontario Tuition Grant, in order to benefit a larger number of McMaster undergraduates. Additionally, students will seek a reduction in the debt cap of the Ontario Student Opportunity Grant below the current ceiling of $7,300.

The MSU remains committed to working with provincial leaders in an effort to foster a more affordable and accessible post-secondary education system for the students of McMaster University.

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