CUPE 3906 in legal position to strike

The MSU audit, conducted by chartered accountants from Deloitte, has been released and I encourage everyone to visit the MSU website and check it out in its entirety. Out of a number of reasons, the MSU is doing rather well, and the details that we see, both last fiscal year and for the current fiscal year, are quickly being turned around.

Many of you will have an abundance of questions regarding the MSU's performance in the previous year, so I would like to take a moment to explain some of the numbers. The MSU lost approximately $356,000 in the last fiscal year, mostly due to the $447,816 loss we experienced from our operating fund. I realize this seems steep, however there are some simple explanations for the loss, as well as effective plans already in place to remedy the situation.

Furthermore, there are a few key dominance to overshadow the positives we witnessed in the audit, numbers that the MSU is proud to announce.

The first issue is some key anomalies that have almost single-handedly brought the MSU into an operating deficit last year. Over the past two years, we have been significantly under charged for the services provided to the Outreach office. It was our responsibility in 2008-2009 to pay them back. Therefore, Outreach over $100,000 more last year than it was in future years. Furthermore, in 2008-2009 the Outreach organization almost $200,000. As a result, the decision was the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) to combine the Marmor publication with the Underground Media and Design Centre. By placing the Marmor under direct, full-time staff supervision, it is expected that it will become much more cost-effective and consistent in the future. Finally, the biggest hit we took last year was a loss of Quarters of slightly over $375,000. For those who don’t know, the MSU made a significant investment in renovating Quarters into Twelve Eighty. I am happy to report that the new venue has already shown positive figures in its very first month.

Outside those unique circumstances over the past year, the MSU has done very well. CFMU 93.3- MHz radio station continues to thrive, as its surplus has increased by over $15,000. Some of our other business units also grew; both Short Stop and Union Market saw increases in total sales, with Union Market alone posting an impressive $54,340 in sales, which is a significant growth from the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Another promising finding was that the MSU Child Care Centre posted positive figures for the first time. With Executive Expenses down by $45,000 as well, the MSU has demonstrated a very responsible and effective way of running the organization.

In addition to outsourcing and reporting to us on our financial data, Deloitte assessed some of our relative strengths and weaknesses and made recommendations accordingly.

Their second set of recommendations has to do with communication. The pertains to the timely communication of decisions made by the SRA to the full-time staff that are responsible for implementing said recommendations. The, the Vice-President Administration has taken up this task personally and is currently developing a communication policy to address this issue.

It would be naive to assume that the MSU hasn’t done well over the past few years, but it’s important to identify the steps we can take and improve. Every year the MSU evolves based on what we have learned from the year previous. Building upon our strengths and learning from our weaknesses is the reason that we thrive financially this year, and the reason we will continue to see improvements even in the case of unforeseen expenses. If you take the time to look over the audit, I expect you will share my sentiment that the long-term well-being of the MSU is very optimistic.

I would like to emphasize that the MSU is accountable to its members, the undergraduates students of McMaster, and you cannot be assured that the student fees you contribute are in good hands.

In the recent Globe and Mail University Report, a ranked second in Canada with regards to student satisfaction, compared with other large-enrollment universities. There are a number of reasons for MAE’s status, but I’m going to pick out one motivation as fundamentally important. We are students of McMaster University value the student experience.

Research has shown that opportunities for collaborative learning within a small group of peers is highly beneficial to student engagement. McMaster has been a leader in this regard for a number of years, learning to really persue inquiry and problem-based learning. This continuous effort makes it a school that produces more satisfied students than most other schools we

The MSU has taken an important position with regards to all details of contract negotiations. During a strike, we will be advocating that both sides return to the bargaining table, and take the process seriously for the benefit of all undergraduate students. We will be providing objective information on our website, as well as through this page. The 1998-1999 run on campus of there is a strike. Instead, businesses are just as serious and have done so for a terrific job in implementing Deloitte’s recommendations. The second set of recommendations has to do with communication. The pertains to the timely communication of decisions made by the SRA to the full-time staff in a crisis situation. Our recently hired Ombuds office. It was our strengths and weaknesses and made recommendations accordingly. Their second set of recommendations has to do with communication. The pertains to the timely communication of decisions made by the SRA to the full-time staff.

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