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President's Page

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE ART HISTORY SAGA



On behalf of the McMaster Students Union, I would like to register a complaint with the process that the proposed

elimination of Art History has taken.

We understand that there has been no breach of regulation, and as such, this complaint is not based on those grounds.

The complaint is regarding the way this decision has been communicated to students. In my time at McMaster, a number of smaller programs in the Humanities have been phased out. I think it is fair to say that, due to the short amount of time we spend at this school and the complex nature of the issues facing the faculty, students do not always immediately understand why their program is being cancelled. Students have every right to be concerned by cancellations. If a student completes a degree program that is phased out soon after they graduate, it doesn't send prospective employers and graduate schools a strong message about the quality of the degree. It also gives students a negative impression of the value the institution places on their education.

At the very least, students in this situation deserve a proper explanation of why a program is being cancelled. The Faculty of Humanities has taken some measures to communicate with students in the program, such as making class visits, attending the SRA open forum for the arts, as well as responding to student emails. However, thus far the student body remains relatively uninformed of



the rationale behind the change.

Art History students have been unsuccessful in their attempts to have a sit-down meeting with the Deans about this issue since it became public. They have been informed that financial resources are the primary concern. However, at Undergraduate Council on Tuesday this week, Associate Dean Wright said that financial resources and enrolment were only a few of the reasons.

I'm following this issue closely, but I have to admit that even with the privilege of context and access to resources, I'm a little confused. How are

students expected to be on board with such a bold decision if they are not being informed?

Students deserve to know the reasons in their entirety, communicated with honesty and candour. This is not to say that anyone has been dishonest in the process so far, but the process hasn't been transparent to even the student leaders trying to engage with this issue.

If the Faculty of Humanities wishes to release the complete list of reasons in a clear and concise format, the MSU will help make sure that students can access it, to ensure that we're all on

the same page. Ideally, that's the direction we'd like to go. In the future, students should be informed of these decisions before the process starts, so that we have time to properly engage. I've seen three program cancellations at McMaster over the years, and all of them have (to varying degrees) caught students by surprise.

Giving the student body a heads-up is always appreciated.

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DODGE!
FOR A GOOD CAUSE!
TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR CAMP TRILLIUM

WHAT. MSU Charity Dodgeball Tournament
WHERE. DBAC Sport Hall
WHEN. Sat, March 13th, 2010 at 1:30pm

INFORMATION.

Teams of 5 or 10 players
Fee of \$10 per player
Come as a house team, a club exec, etc.

Registration forms will be available on the MSU website: www.msu.mcmaster.ca as well as in DBAC and the MSU office. Forms are due March 10th, 2010 at 5pm

REGISTER NOW!

Welcoming applications

Faculties and Maroons (and Vish!) want you to join the Welcome Week community



Coming back from Reading Week can be a bit of a drag. Especially if you went on vacation or procrastinated at home and didn't

do much work. Balancing academics, searching for a place to live, looking for a summer job, and having time for yourself can be a challenge. On top all this chaos are applications for various Welcome Week positions for the upcoming academic year, and when prioritizing your time, extracurricular activities tend to take a back seat.

My advice - take a half hour out of your day and apply for the position you want. My most memorable moments in university did not occur in the classroom. The moments I most fondly look back on are the ones where I was in the heart of Welcome Week jumping, screaming and being an absolute nutcase. I think about my first year in residence, and how by the end of the week, some of the most timid students around me were now willing to give up their lives in the name of their residence! I'm sure many of you had similar experiences at some point during Welcome Week, and there is still time to take a leadership role and provide the same experience for incoming first years.

If you have missed the deadlines or didn't apply to become a Residence Rep, SOCS Rep, or take up an IRC Position - fear not. As some of you already know, there are a lot of different opportunities still waiting to be filled. Most Faculty societies have run through the election process and will be posting Welcome Week opportunities in the near future. Keep an eye out on the MSU website for the Maroon Welcome Week Rep applications to be posted.

I became a Maroon in my first year at Mac and as a result the Maroons became near and dear to my heart. I still reminisce about being a part of the army of Maroons with war paint on our faces leading cheers at events and getting first years involved. Needless to say, I still wear my suit proudly as my involvement in the Maroons became a hallmark of my time here at McMaster.

Although some deadlines have already passed, there are still a multitude of opportunities to get involved in the upcoming Welcome Week. I encourage you to take a small part of your day to apply for a position - be a part of an experience you won't forget!

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