

The McMaster Students Union

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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It's 12:30pm. You just finished class and you are free for the next couple of hours. You think, "hey, I'm hungry, it's time for lunch." However, if you are like me, you know that getting lunch can be a taxing process. Lunchtime in MUSC presents you with two unappealing options. The first is to sit on the floor, which can be quite uncomfortable. The second is the ceremonial shuffle wherein you stand around and try to find someone who looks like they are going to leave soon. I call it the awkward MUSC dance.

This problem of space is not limited to MUSC: rather, it pervades the entire campus. DBAC offers another prime example. Even though students at McMaster pay one of the highest Athletics and Recreation fees of any Ontario university, DBAC is almost unusable during its peak hours. It's nearly impossible to find an open gym or use the

MSU'S 2015 SPACE SURVEY

Help define the needs of McMaster students regarding space on campus

[WWW.MSUMCMASTER.CA/SPACE](http://www.msumcmaster.ca/space)

ALL RESPONDENTS HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF:

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- /msumcmaster
- @msu_mcmaster
- msumcmaster.ca

Pulse without having to stand around and wait for equipment. Various studies validate the experience, widespread among

students, of being unable to find a place to sit or use the facilities they support every year. In the latest State of the Academy

presentation, the Provost stated that McMaster is at 117% of the capacity of the campus. In 2011, the University undertook a Campus Capacity Study to assess various types of spaces on campus based on standards set by the Council of Ontario Universities and the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities. This study identified that *student lounge space*, *study space* and *recreation space* have by far the largest deficits on campus.

These findings raise the question of what the MSU is doing to address concerns of overcrowding. To ensure that students feel more comfortable in the spaces and buildings for which they pay, the MSU is undertaking two initiatives. The first is to work with the University to update the Campus Capacity study. The updated study will enable the MSU and the University to better understand how McMaster performs on metrics regarding space, both objectively and in comparison to other universities.

I will need your help on the second initiative, which is the *MSU Space Survey*. This five-minute survey is very important in garnering student feedback on which spaces should be improved in order to make students' experiences on this campus more enjoyable. The survey can be found at msumcmaster.ca/space. Fill it out and be entered in a draw to win one of four \$50 gift cards to Union Market and TwelvEighty.

With space at a premium on McMaster's campus, it is critical for undergraduates to define our current and future needs.



The President's Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board's projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.

