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www.msumcmaster.ca

Huzafa Saeed VP (Education) vp@msu.mcmaster.ca est. 2007

I think it is fair to say that post-secondary education is going through an identity crisis. Such talk has come to the forefront of academic discussion over the last few years. Society has changed significantly with the influx of modern technology and globalization, as well as many other external factors. However, our educational institutions continued to be rooted in the traditional “sage on stage” lecture model, which has created a disengaged and unproductive learning experience, especially in the context of growing class sizes. Moreover, there has been massive growth in student enrolment (growing over 30% in a decade), while per student funding has not kept pace. To compound these challenges, many argue that McMaster University is an institution with broad public responsibilities, tasked by the province to support the emerging knowledge economy and to build productive, innovative and socially aware citizens. However, the traditional education model is largely concerned with competence and productivity, developed from knowledge, skills and in-class learning activities. What is required is an educational system that extends beyond standard considerations and moves a student towards continual growth, the ability to adapt, improve performance and generate new knowledge. [Your arrival at McMaster over two years ago, President Dr. Patrick Deane was fully aware of these challenges. Last fall, he released a letter to the community titled Forward with Integrity. Forward with Integrity is essentially a statement recognizing the challenges described above and a firm declaration by Dr. Deane to spearhead and lead a fundamental rethink of the institutional goals. In particular, it focuses on the student experience, community engagement, internationalization and research. Since the publication of the letter, various taskforces were formed and have since provided recommendations. The project is now at a pivotal phase with the products of the taskforces being presented towards both students and faculty for feedback.

One of the more of the interesting ideas to come out of the various taskforces is the Learning Portfolio. The Learning Portfolio is intended to guide and track each student's unique learning journey, while continuously providing mentorship and suggestions to supplement their experience. Another taskforce identified that there is extensive decentralization of communication and information regarding both the community and the student experience, thus making it difficult for student involvement. Creating networks or communities of practice and a centralized portal for extracurricular activities could alleviate the confusion. Another popular idea is that of a “reflection period” for students to slow down from the deluge of assignments, to look back upon their course content and assess how it applies to the bigger picture.

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David Campbell VP (Administration) dpadmin@msumcmaster.ca 2011-2014

This year the MSU is proudly continuing its partnership with Canadian Blood Services (CBS), hosting blood collection clinics at McMaster. In September alone, we ran three blood donation clinics and we are just getting started. Our partnership with CBS began in September 2010, when the MSU entered into their “Partners for Life” program. The program encourages organizations to demonstrate their commitment to saving lives through donating blood, placentas and plasma. We fulfilled our commitment by recruiting donors, setting donation goals and hosting blood clinics. By the end of December in our first year, the MSU proudly exceeded our 500 unit goal for blood donations. This success was continued in 2011, with a grand total of 1157 units donated. A major focus of the partnership has been to increase the number of first-time blood donors on campus. To maintain an adequate blood supply, it is important that we continually see individuals donating blood for the first time, and then becoming regular donors. In the last school year alone, 378 first-time donors gave blood on McMaster campus, helping in set a record of 171 units donated at a single clinic in January.

CBS is currently in Blood Signal mode, meaning there is an increased need for donors. There is often a higher need for blood donors around holidays as less people are looking appointments. As of Monday, CBS needed 14,000 appointments by Thanksgiving. The success of this partnership would not have been possible without the support of a number of campus partners, including the Student Health Services, Ivey and all University clubs. The partnership continues this year, it will be exciting to see the continuing commitment among McMaster students, faculty and staff to life-saving blood donations. Upcoming donor clinics on campus are October 9th and 23rd as well as November 15th and 25th in CBIC Hall (3rd floor MUSC). To book an appointment, visit SHEC in MUSC 202 or go to www.blood.ca. If you are a McMaster partner ID# MCM3A01297, your donation will also count towards McMaster’s 1500 unit pledge.

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David Campbell

THURS, OCT 11TH

MAC CARES CHARITY NIGHT!

THURS, OCT 11TH

$4.50 | DOORS: 9:30PM

$3.50 RAILS | $3.75 DOMESTIC BEER

ONLY AT MUSC 101

BLOOD DRIVE KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

David Campbell

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