



GSA

GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OF MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

Governed by Students for Students!

A year in Review:

The GSA proudly represented more than 4000 FTE students at McMaster University this year!

Some of the year's highlights are as follows:

- Providing over \$30,000.00 in funding for students in the form of bursaries and travel awards.
- Adding another \$11,000.00 in funding for students in emergency situations, which is increasing each week by donations made/matched by Alumni
- Awarding multiple leadership, T.Aing, and Athletic awards to graduate students
- Funding suicide prevention and mental health training
- Hosting over 700 graduate students at welcome week events, such as the GSA BBQ
- Funding social events such as the sushi social, board game nights, and trivia.
- Enhancing the graduate student community by providing free pitchers or apps to students that successfully defend
- Supplying international students with a welcome app and go ticket from the air port
- Administering a soccer and softball league, which boost over 900 participants from the internal and external McMaster community
- Funding and supporting 15 graduate student clubs and 3 Faculty Associations
- Offering a 20% discount for graduate students at the Phoenix Craft house and Grill

FEES

As many of you know on January 18th 2019, the PC Government announced the “Student Choice Initiative,” where, effective September 1st 2019 students will have the choice of what “non-essential,” fees they pay in addition to their tuition.

Accordingly, the GSA is presenting their membership with several essential and non-essential fees for consideration. Essential fees are fees that the government deems them to fit the guidelines (Financial Aid, Athletic and Recreation, Building Fee, Student Health and Wellness, etc.) proposed under the “Student Choice Initiative,” and as such are mandatory for each student to pay, and those deemed non-essential (Advocacy, Events, Community Initiatives, etc.), meaning that each student will have the opportunity to decide if they would like to pay this fee or not as a part of their enrolment process.



Your GSA works for YOU!

The GSA promotes the welfare and interests of the members through facilities and opportunities for social, athletic and intellectual activities.



FEES CONTINUED

The PC government also announced changes to OHIP+ stating that private benefit holders (like ALL of our students) will no longer be eligible for the program. This announcement coupled with increased Health and Dental usage also resulted in a fee change for graduate students. Again, we encourage you to review the fee schedule and come prepared to discuss the proposed changes at the AGM!

In other fee related news, the GSA reduced the previously established Capital Building Fee, which was implemented in the early 90's, from \$60.00 per annum for full-time students to \$32.55! Though the Capital Loan is paid off in full this year the GSA has proposed keeping the fee at a reduced rate for new capital projects. Each and every student is encouraged to submit ideas for capital projects as all ideas will be considered; however, the current suggestions for the money are the creation of a daycare Centre with subsidized spots for graduate student children, and/or fully enclosed bike racks for our cycling population.

For a detailed account of the fees please review the entire Fee Proposal and come to the AGM prepared to have a fruitful discussion.

COMMITTEES

The GSA also continued to support students through our committee work producing new bylaws and a strategic plan for the consideration of the membership.

The GSA was also able to work with the School of Graduate Studies to secure minimum funding for PhD students (\$13,500.00+tuition) and negotiate a new Compulsory

Ancillary Fee Agreement. All of which benefits students in the long run.

However, the GSA committees did not stop there! The social committee successfully hosted/subsidized multiple social trips for students such as, but not limited to, Wonderland, the Phoenix Beer fest, and the annual GSA ski trip.

The Academic Affairs committee of the GSA and Faculty Associations also worked tirelessly to represent students in academic matters.

The finance committee oversaw the operations of the GSA and the Phoenix reporting any recommendations to the Board!

It is worth noting that even while supplying graduate students with a discount and weekly Graduate the Phoenix, under the management of Conrad Smyte turned a profit of \$230,831.00.

Are you interested in being a part of the POSITIVE change on CAMPUS?

TALK TO US ABOUT JOINING THE GSA!

VACANT POSITIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 2 internal graduate student positions

EXECUTIVE

- VP Academic
- VP Internal

COUNCIL

- 2 Business FRCs
- 2 Health Science FRCs
- 2 Humanities FRCs
- 2 Social Science FRCs

COMMITTEES

- Academic Affairs
- Finance
- GSA Leagues
- Elections
- By-laws
- Graduate Student Services Review Committee (GSSRC)
- Social Events and Trips
- Student Issues Action Committee
- Executive Review Committee
- GSA Clubs Committee

Can't make it to the AGM? Make sure you assign a PROXY! Email gsacro@mcmaster.ca for full details!