

McMaster UPDATE

Oct 2009

McMaster Update is a university publication for the internal community at McMaster. The monthly publication will focus on financial developments, policy changes and updates, and initiatives and issues that affect faculty, staff and students at the University. An electronic edition of each issue is available on the Daily News Website. Inquiries can be sent to update@mcmaster.ca



PACICES interim report released

The President's Advisory Committee on the Impact of the Current Economic Situation (PACICES) has released its interim report.

The committee is holding a townhall meeting where members of the McMaster community can ask questions and provide input about the report's interim recommendations. It will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13, between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in MDCL 1105.

Once the input has been gathered, the Committee will be able to finalize its report and present to the President its best recommendations on strategic options for McMaster's future.

You can also contribute your views via email at pacices@mcmaster.ca

State of the Academy

Provost Ilene Busch-Vishniac delivered her annual State of the Academy address outlining the University's activities during the past year, while providing information about McMaster's future plans.

Her presentation included information about student enrollment, faculty numbers,

research funding and the University budget.

"The academic year 2008/09 has been very busy with a mixture of planned and unanticipated events," the provost's report says. "We end the year with optimism based on the tremendous quality of our faculty, students and staff, and concern given the uncertain economic forecasts and current fiscal reality."

The presentation and the provost's report can be found at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/vpacademic/index.html>.



United and leading the way

McMaster's 2009 United Way campaign, coined McMaster United: Leading the Way, aims to raise \$225,000 in support of 134 programs run by 72 agencies in the Hamilton/Burlington area. The campaign kicks off Oct. 19 at 12 p.m. with a campus barbecue.

Campaign events include the Inter-Residence Council Stair Walk, a McMaster Students Union United Way Club, a silent auction and an expanded parking lottery that now includes three spots for cars and two for secure bike storage. Volunteers will also be at university entrances on Oct. 20 collecting donations as part of Hats Off to the United Way.

For more information visit www.workingatmcmaster.ca/uway or contact McMaster United Way committee co-chairs Michele Corbeil (ext. 23865) or Betty Ann Levy (ext. 23019).



McMaster commits to workplace health

During Healthy Workplace Month this October employees are being reminded to get active. McMaster's Healthy Workplace Group and Employee Health Services have once again organized informative and exciting events to help individuals take a leadership role in improving their own health.

From Oct. 5 until Nov. 1, the group will offer interactive health activities that inspire employees to have "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, and Healthy Work". Included in the activities will be a keynote speaker, health fair, healthy workplace ambassador award and a variety of other events. To view all events or to register visit www.workingatmcmaster.ca/healthy-workplace

Campus capacity study

The University is beginning a collaborative campus-wide study to determine McMaster's physical space capacity and gain a clearer understanding of how space is used and activities are scheduled.

"Ensuring physical resources and academic objectives are aligned is essential for any university," says Ilene Busch-Vishniac, provost and vice-president academic and a member of the committee leading the study. "Working collaboratively with groups across campus, the goal is to gain a clearer understanding about the number and size of rooms on campus, the space required for specific activities,

“Ensuring physical resources and academic objectives are aligned is essential for any university,”

and the future academic infrastructure needs of the University.”

A campus capacity committee has been formed to lead the study. It is chaired by Karen Menard, associate vice-president Institutional Research and Analysis, and includes representatives from faculty and staff and will report to the provost and interim vice-president administration.

“The process will be collaborative and broad consultation will be undertaken to ensure a clear understanding of how space is being used and what the future needs will be,” says Busch-Vishniac.

The committee will begin its consultations with campus stakeholders this fall with a goal of producing a final report in March, 2010.



Campus sustainability

From banning plastic bags on campus to encouraging more pedestrian traffic, McMaster continues its efforts to further advance a sustainable campus.

McMaster is one of the first campuses in Canada to ban the widespread use of plastic bags. Nearly 150,000 plastic bags will be saved from landfill when the ban takes full effect in January, 2010.

The University also is encouraging increased bike ridership. A number of secure bike lockers are now available for rent in areas around campus. Students, staff and faculty can rent the Cycle-Safe bike storage compartments for \$40 per semester or \$100 for the year.

A new secure bike storage area has also been constructed near the west side of Chester New Hall. It can house upwards of 40 bikes and has video surveillance and swipe card access. A spot can be rented for \$20 per term.

For more information visit: sustainability.mcmaster.ca

Flu information website

Information about McMaster's plans to deal with the flu is available online at the University's flu website: www.mcmaster.ca/opr/h1n1_flu



The site includes an updated McMaster Pandemic Influenza Guide, drafted in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. There is also a link to a self-reporting tool for students, who can notify their instructors about flu-like symptoms and report absences without leaving their homes

In addition to essential links and regular updates, the site also includes an early identification/self-screening tool and special precautionary measures to help minimize the spread of the virus on campus.



Registrar launches new website

The Registrar's Office has launched a new interactive website as part of an ongoing effort to create a virtual one-stop shop for students.

The new site improves accessibility to a wide range of services. It includes links to relevant student life, registration and financial information, campus services, events and online tools like MUGSI and the academic calendar. It also features an “Ask McMaster” service that allows students to submit their own questions and receive immediate answers. Students are able to rate the quality of the responses so the service can be improved over time.

The new site is listed under the title “Current Students” on the University's website. It can be accessed at www.registrar.mcmaster.ca/students ■

