



# Newsletter

McMaster University Faculty Association

February/March 2007 — Volume 33.4 — Ian Bruce, Editor

## Budget Blues

The Executive of the McMaster University Faculty Association (MUFA) has considered the information presented to the March 1 meeting of the Board of Governors regarding planning for reduction of a \$17-million structural operating budget. We support the University administration's efforts to manage McMaster's finances in a prudent and sustainable way. At the same time, we are concerned that the senior administration has made no public response to the issues raised by Professor Richard Stubbs in an open letter last term to President Peter George regarding the University's accounting practices and spending priorities. This letter raises serious questions as to how large the deficit in the University's operating budget really is and how any deficit that exists should be addressed. We believe that the senior administration needs to issue a public response to this public letter, in order to reassure the McMaster community that the spending cuts under consideration are really necessary.

In particular, we are concerned that the budget planning envisages a reduction in the complement of full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty of 50 people, only some of whom will eventually be replaced, at the same time as eight new graduate programs are being introduced and graduate enrolments in existing programs are increasing. This combination inevitably means a decline in the quality of research and teaching at McMaster, as well as an increased workload for the continuing tenured and tenure-track faculty, particularly with regard to graduate teaching and supervision. We do recognize, and appreciate, the re-allocation to the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences to help them cope with increased teaching loads, a re-allocation

*Continued on p. 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**1** The Budget

**3** Announcements

**4** Project Status Report

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that will address to some extent the threatened decline in the quality of research and teaching at McMaster. However we are concerned that this reallocation only addresses the accumulated effect of inadequate resources provided to these Faculties over the past seven years as they experienced enormous growth in their teaching responsibilities. The flawed Faculty envelope budget model appears to remain intact, in which inflationary and contractual cost increases are passed on to the Faculty without a corresponding revenue increase. This is a recipe for future internal structural deficits.

With regard to the faculty retirement incentive program, we note that the program was only recently presented to the Joint Committee after it was approved by the Board of Governors. We are concerned that the many pathways that connect a faculty member to his/her Chair, Dean, and the Provost might

breach the need for confidentiality and sensitivity when dealing with the interests and circumstances of individual faculty members. The program, coupled to strategic faculty renewal, will likely have an important impact on McMaster's future research and teaching mandate. As MUFA has not received detailed University financial projections upon which the debt reduction strategy is based, it is not yet possible to comment on the merit of the faculty retirement incentive program or other debt reduction strategies with reference to institutional priorities. However, MUFA will carefully review new information, particularly budget projections, as these are made available and will offer constructive criticism. We encourage all faculty to communicate their concerns to the MUFA Executive to ensure that all potential ramifications of budget restructuring are part of MUFA's deliberations.

*The MUFA Executive*



## **MUFA**

# **Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 2, 2007 – 3:00 pm**

**Great Hall of the University Club**



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## CP/M Plan Revised

At its meeting on February 7, 2007, the Joint Committee approved a revised version of the Faculty Career Progress/Merit (CP/M) Plan. The document can be found on the MUFA website at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/mufa/handbook/cpm.htm>.

### Passages

**JOHN NELSON MARLOW**, Retired Associate Professor, Family Medicine, December 27, 2006

**ROBERT LABRANCE VANDUSEN**, Retired Associate Professor, German, February 25, 2007

Family, friends and colleagues are invited to honour Bob and share memories on Thursday, May 17, 2007 from 4-6:30 pm in the Great Hall of the University Club.

## Welcome New Members

Lindsey Kempster	Health Science Library
Anne Klassen	Pediatrics
Norma Macintyre	Rehabilitation Sciences
Duncan O'Dell	Physics & Astronomy
Alexandru Patriciu	Elec & Computer Eng.
Eleanor Pinto	CE&B

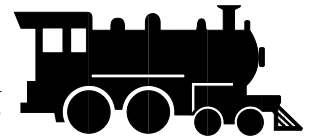


## Rental Property

In Central Dundas, available April 1, 2007 for \$1050/month. Heating (gas) and hydro costs are reasonable. The house is within easy walking distance of shops, schools and public transport. There is parking at the rear. There are three bedrooms, an upstairs bathroom with shower and a downstairs lavatory. This heritage house is bright, spacious and atmospheric; it is close to walking trails and green spaces. Over the years our tenants have greatly enjoyed living in it. Enquiries: 905-628-8307.

## Travel CUTS

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# Project Status Reports

(as of February 7, 2007)

Project Name	Estimated Completion Date	Approved or Anticipated Budget	Status
<b>Project &amp; Budget Approved</b>			
A. N. Bourns Building Ultrahigh-Resolution Election Microscopy Project (CFI)	Spring 2007 (for landscaping only)	\$7,500,000	Landscaping work 80% complete. Stairs to be installed in mid-February. All landscaping to be completed by Spring 2007. Minor deficiencies and commissioning on-going. Microscope scheduled for delivery in Summer 2007
Building Complex for the Faculty of Engineering Phase 1	Fall 2008	\$38,000,000	Hoarding installed. Site plan approval progressing. Working drawings 75% complete. Final geotechnical data being collected. Excavation to commence shortly.
Burke Science Building Phases 1, 2a and 2b  General Science Building Phase 3	Spring 2008	\$41,000,000	Phase 1 (BSB south wing)- All floors completed  Phase 2a (BSB east wing)-All floors completed  Phase 2b (BSB north wing)-One isolated area under construction. Majority of north wing to be tendered with construction to commence in May 2007  Phase 3 (GSB)-Under construction. Completion scheduled for May 2007
GO Transit Bus Terminal	early March 2007	\$970,000	Roadwork has been completed. Awaiting installation of kiosks and lights
McMaster Front Entrance Improvements	Summer 2007	\$5,000,000	Design work 75% complete. Landscaping to be implemented with construction of new Engineering building.
Mills Library Knowledge Commons	March 2007	\$1,800,000	Project split into 2 phases. Phase 1 interior construction deficiencies remain. New entry door being installed. Exterior lighting work to commence shortly. Exterior ramp scheduled for completion in mid-March.
MUMC Biosafety Lab 3 (FHS)	Spring 2008	\$2,500,000	Engineering design work still on-going. Mechanical control issues require significant review.
MUMC Library (FHS)	Feb 2007	\$7,300,000	Construction to be completed by mid-February. Finishing work on-going.

MUMC Life Safety Systems	Spring 2008	\$6,200,000 (Mac share)	Project is at approximately 50% complete. Fire alarm work completed on levels 1, 3, and 4. Sprinklers completed on levels 1, 4, and mezzanine. Building control work 90% complete.
Ronald V. Joyce Stadium / Underground Parking Garage	Sept 2007	\$33,500,000	Tendering 75% complete. 9% of garage-related concrete is complete. 5% mechanical/electrical site work complete.
Stonechurch Clinic (FHS) - Phase 2	Feb 2007	\$657,000	Foundation complete. Structural steel complete. Interior wall construction has commenced.
<b>Project Approved, Budget Pending</b>			
<b>Project &amp; Budget Pending</b>			
Building Complex for the Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Science, and Welcome Centre (Phase 2 of New Engineering Building)			
Burlington Campus	Fall 2009	\$35,000,000	Business plan and functional plan currently being developed.
<b>Under Consideration</b>			
Liberal Arts Building			A space audit of existing space within the Faculties of Social Science and Humanities is in progress to determine future space needs.
Thode Library Learning Commons			
<b>For Future Consideration</b>			
Above Ground Parking Structure			On hold pending campus wide parking review
Sports Arena			Would be looked at offsite
Tennis Courts			