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Newsletter

McMaster University Faculty Association

February/March 2008 — Volume 34.4 — Ian Bruce, Editor

Joint Committee Reaches Remuneration Agreement

Members of the Joint Committee reached an agreement regarding remuneration negotiations on Friday, March 14, 2008. The Agreement has been endorsed by MUFA's Remuneration Committee and by the Executive Committee. Details, along with a ballot, have been sent to all MUFA faculty members who participate in the Career Progress/Merit (CP/M) Scheme and to academic librarians. An information meeting at which Joint Committee members will be available to answer questions about the Agreement will be held on Friday, April 4 at 3:00 pm in IAHS 143. We hope that all those eligible to vote will take this opportunity to make their views known.

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MUFA Reps on New Committees

The Joint Committee has agreed that the *Code of Conduct for Faculty* should be reviewed and possibly revised. **David Hitchcock** (Philosophy) and **Dorothy Pawluch** (Sociology) will be representing MUFA on a joint committee to undertake this review.

In order to be compliant with the Federal Contractors Program, McMaster must track and analyze its workforce to ensure that it conforms with the principles of employment equity (i.e., Visible Minorities, Women, Persons with Disabilities, & Aboriginals). In order to prepare for the dissemination of a survey, which will be sent to all employees, an Advisory Committee has been struck. **Catherine Connolly** (Human Resources & Management) will be MUFA's representative.

A small group of safety and security conscious individuals representing a cross section of the McMaster community has been organized to meet and discuss security/safety issues on campus. The group will also conduct a tour (safety rounds) of the campus and make recommendations. **Nancy Bouchier** (Kinesiology) is MUFA's representative.

The Senate Committee on Appointments and the MUFA Executive have agreed to create a four-person subcommittee to review and prepare guidelines that faculty could use for creating and maintaining a personal Teaching Dossier for use in Tenure & Promotion and teaching award applications. **Peter Sutherland** and **Lorraine York** will serve as MUFA's representatives.

Passages

DOUGLAS M. DAVIES, Professor Emeritus,
Biology, February 1, 2008

LESLIE GORDON, Librarian, Acquisitions,
November 2007

Welcome New Members

Petra Arck	Medicine
Laura Banfield	Health Sciences Library
Kelly Dore Banks	Obstetrics & Gynecology
Jon Draper	Pathology/Biochemistry
Paul Forsythe	Medicine
Jan Modersitzki	Computing & Software
Maureen Padden	Geography & Earth Sci
Mike Reid	Physics & Astronomy
Krishnakali Sengupta	Economics
Ulrich Riller	Geography & Earth Sci

Employee & Family Assistance Program

A new service provider has been identified for McMaster's Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), which provides free, confidential and professional counseling on a wide range of personal, financial and workplace issues. After careful evaluation and consideration, a selection committee, on which Juanita DeBarros represented MUFA, unanimously endorsed Human Solutions to be McMaster's EFAP provider effective March 1, 2008.

A Canadian firm, Human Solutions is able to offer EFAP services to McMaster employees across the country and internationally. A leader in diversity, the company provides service in over 150 different languages.

During the transition period, Human Solutions is working cooperatively with the current provider (Hurst Place) to ensure continued EFAP services for employees and their family members.

Those currently using EFAP services will have until the end of March 2008 to complete counseling with Hurst Place. Those who have not yet completed counseling at that time may transfer to Human Solutions. All employees who have attended counseling during the past several months have been informed of this upcoming change through a letter jointly written by McMaster and Hurst Place.

For information or to book an appointment, call the Client Service Centre at: 1-800-663-1142

MUFF Student Aid

If you are a member of the McMaster University salaried pension plan and have children enrolled full-time in a first baccalaureate degree program at McMaster, they may be eligible to apply for the following scholarships:

THE MCMASTER UNIVERSITY FUTURES FUND GRADUAND AWARD Established in 2000. To be awarded to the child of a member of McMaster University's salaried pension plan who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. Recipient must obtain a Sessional Average of 9.5 or greater and be in the final year of their program. Value: \$1,000. For 2008 up to two scholarships at \$1,000 each.

THE MCMASTER UNIVERSITY FUTURES FUND IN-COURSE AWARDS Established in 2000. Four scholarships to be awarded to the children of members of the McMaster University salaried pension plan who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. Recipient must obtain a Sessional Average of 9.5 or greater and be registered as a full-time student (24 units or greater). Value: \$1,800 each. For 2008 up to seven scholarships at \$1,800 each.

Students should submit an application to the Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships by **April 15th**.

For more information, visit <http://sfas.mcmaster.ca>, HIGHLIGHTS, Awards by Application. There, you will be able to download the Application, see Terms for all scholarships by application, and a copy of the Poster.

If your son or daughter contributes to the community, they may also be interested in applying for a **COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AWARD**. See HIGHLIGHTS for more information.

Continuing students, post-degree students, and students registered in the McMaster Medical program are not eligible for these awards.

Quality Matters

The 2008 provincial budget is fast approaching, and it is time once again for Ontario's faculty and academic librarians to come together and voice their concerns to government about threats to quality education, like growing student faculty ratios, workload, and increasing class sizes.

Your participation is critical if we are to move the government to provide the level of operating funding that is required to give Ontario students the quality education they deserve.

Governments sometimes move on the basis of doing what is right, and what is good for the long term benefit of the province. However, in most instances, governments respond to what they see as public demand. It is time to let the government and opposition know that providing universities with the operating and capital funding that they require is not only the right thing to do but also the politically wise course of action.

One thing that you can do today is visit the **Quality Matters** website: www.quality-matters.ca

This web site includes background information and research. But perhaps most importantly, it has an action centre which will automatically put you in contact with your local MPP. You will find a draft letter, asking your MPP to support post secondary education. You are encouraged to amend this letter to reflect your own experience.

The success of the Quality Matters campaign depends on your involvement. Certainly there is strength in numbers, and with faculty and academic librarians across the province voicing their concerns together, we can use the strength we have as a collective to advocate for improved higher education funding and improved benefits.

Project Status Reports

(as of March 5, 2008)

Project Name	Estimated Completion Date	Approved or Anticipated Budget	Status
Project & Budget Approved			
Faculty of Engineering School for Engineering Practice and Graduate Studies	February 2009	\$38,000,000 orig project scope \$8.6 mil December 2005	Foundation work 100%. 3 rd and 4 th level concrete walls nearing completion. Site services work continuing. Mechanical and electrical rough-ins have commenced. Curtain Wall installation to commence in May.
Burke Science Building Phases 1, 2a and 2b	Spring 2008 (Phase 2b)		Phase 1 (BSB south wing)- All floors completed Phase 2a (BSB east wing)-All floors completed Phase 2b (BSB north wing)-One isolated area completed. Demolition and asbestos work complete. Work on 2 nd & 3 rd floors 98% complete. Work on 1 st floor 50% complete Phase 3 (GSB) - Work completed.
General Science Building Air quality and health and safety upgrades Phase 3		\$41,000,000 orig project scope \$30 mil January 2004	
McMaster Front Entrance Improvements - Phase 2	Summer 2008	\$5,000,000	Design work complete. First stage of landscaping to be implemented with construction of new Engineering building in 2008
MUMC Biosafety Lab 3 (FHS)	Spring 2008	\$2,500,000	Engineering design work complete. Tendering to commence shortly.
MUMC Life Safety Systems	Spring 2008	\$6,200,000 (Mac share)	Project is at approximately 90% complete. Fire alarm work and sprinkler work progressing well. Completed on 4 levels. Building control work 90% complete.
Ronald V. Joyce Stadium / Underground Parking Garage	February 2008	\$33,500,000 orig budget \$23.5 mil January 2006	Tendering complete. Garage-related concrete is complete. 98% mechanical/electrical site work complete. Structural steel complete. Precast concrete stands complete. Stadium participant work 90% complete. Work on media box has commenced.
MDCL 2 nd Floor Fitout	Summer 2009	\$26,000,000	Schematic Design has commenced. Tender advertisement has been issued.
Thode Library Learning Commons	Phase 1 Fall 2008	\$850,000	Phase 1 (ground floor partial renovation) is in design stage and work to commence this May.
Project Not Approved and Budget Pending			

Main Entrance Building Complex for the Faculties of Engineering, Science, and Health Sciences Phase 2			
Burlington Campus	Fall 2009	\$35,000,000	Business plan and functional plan currently being developed. Alternate locations from the original downtown location are being considered.
Project Not Approved, Under Consideration			
Liberal Arts Building			A space audit of existing space within the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities has been completed. Functional programme development to be completed in Spring 2008
Thode Library Learning Commons			
For Future Consideration			
Above Ground Parking Structure			On hold pending campus wide parking review
Sports Arena			Offsite location
Tennis Courts			

Rental Property Westdale, four-bedroom, furnished home available from July or August 2008 to July or August 2009. A 20-minute walk from

McMaster University. Very close to bus routes, walking trails at Cootes Paradise, park and shopping in Westdale Village. Rent \$1,550 per month, plus utilities. There is a small flower and vegetable garden, a sun room, all appliances and parking for two cars. Call Jane at 905-393-3688.



Sabbatical House for Rent Furnished 1867 brick, Victorian on two fenced acres. Enjoy a country setting just 4 km from McMaster University. This beautiful 3,500 square foot house with 2 baths

and 4 bedrooms, all with high quality beds (we recently ran a bed and breakfast here). It is child friendly, and features a full enclosed swimming pool. The kitchen has modern appliances. This is a great place for a visiting scholar. Our friends call it one of the nicest properties in the Niagara region. Available July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. \$2,200/month exclusive of utilities (negotiable). Please contact 905-304-1655 for more details.

House for Rent Small, partially furnished house for rent in Westdale area (near Churchill Park and Princess Point). Ideal for visiting professor. Any interested party would need to take care of cat during the owner's absence. The house is available from July 1, 2008 to July 1, 2009, although the timeframe can be amended. Non-smokers only. Please call 905-540-1701 or ext. 24774 for details.



MUFA

**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008**

3:00 pm

Great Hall of the University Club

