

STUDENT VOICES

ISSUE NO. 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome students to another amazing year at Durham College and UOIT! Here at the Student Association (SA) it is our mandate to provide you with exceptional advocacy, services, and support. Part of this involves our new “Student Voices” program, which allows us to be transparent in our advocacy campaigns throughout the year. This began with the development of our Hot Topics section on the SA website and continues with this paper.

This issue paper is meant to provide students with a summary of developments in advocacy issues over each semester and lets you know what’s to come. We will also provide feedback from student-wide surveys, referendums and social media as they come. As the SA President, student advocacy is my number one focus. I encourage you to follow us on social media, read Student Voices and view Hot Topics on our website throughout the year in order to keep up-to-date on all issues that affect you as a student!

UPCOMING ISSUES

COLLEGE FACULTY STRIKE UPDATE

Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and the College Employer Council have reached a tentative agreement pending ratification, which means that Durham College students can start the year without the worry of a work stoppage. Go to collegebargaining.ca and follow #Negotiations2012 for updates from both sides of the bargaining table.

I.T. (EMAIL)

During the fall semester both Durham College & UOIT students will see a change to their current email system, MyCampus. UOIT will be switching over the Thanksgiving weekend to Gmail and Durham College will switch shortly after to the Microsoft Office 365 solution (which will be cloud-based). Keep up-to-date with new developments by following our Hot Topics section on your-sa.ca.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM is a chance for the student body to review the audited financial statements, review and approve by-law amendments, hear about what the SA Executive has been up to, and to have YOUR voices heard. The AGM will be taking place at the end of October. Materials will be available online early to mid October.

#FAIRHOUSING

Fair and affordable student housing is a major advocacy priority for the SA, as it’s always been. This year, keep an eye out for our neighborhood housing blitz and social media campaign, #Fairhousing. The blitz is scheduled for September 10th to 13th. Also, the SA will be assisting students with a Human Rights claim.

The student housing issue has been prevalent in Oshawa, ON starting around 2005-2006, however for the SA this term, it really kicked off in April, when Oshawa City Councillor, Roger Bouma, put forward a motion calling for the city to define “a single housekeeping establishment.” Any home that did not conform to this new definition would be defined as a “lodging home,” which are illegal in the student-housing neighbourhood; the intent was to exclude students living together. Pressure from students made Councillor Bouma drop the first part of his motion. However, a portion of the motion

calling for a reporting mechanism for residents to report suspected infractions passed. This is troubling because the Residential Housing Bylaw applies to the interior of a rental unit. The SA feels this creates a toxic environment for students to live in.

These motions are just as degrading to student’s rights as past additions which stipulated that houses cannot have more than four bedrooms in a home or a basement bedroom. This has been under the guise of student safety, however, adversely affects students because it drives up the cost of living due to fewer renters in a home. Students have had enough and we encourage all students, landlords and community-stakeholders to join us in our Human Rights claim against the city. #FairHousing means a student can live wherever they want to without discrimination; we know this and it’s time the city did too.

DOWNTOWN AND WHITBY CAMPUS

With the opening of the Downtown Oshawa Farmers’ Market beside the Regent Theatre, along with the opening of new SA space in the Alger Building at 61 Charles St., The SA is making downtown a priority and the place to be this year!

ANITA AROKIAM
AVP of University Affairs

Whitby Campus students can look forward to a new pool table this year thanks to the SA! Be sure to check out the student lounge and unwind, shoot some pool, and meet the SA reps. Let’s have a great year!

KAYLA RUSSELL
AVP of College Affairs

ACCESS COPYRIGHT ©

UOIT students are going to see an 800% increase in the Access Copyright Fee this September, from \$3 to \$26 per student. Durham College originally approved the increase as well, but agreed to subsidize the costs, maintaining the current fee of \$3.38.

Student Associations across Ontario have been told the Access Copyright Fee is being implemented to cover the costs of digital works used by faculty, staff, and students. The new agreement was negotiated between Access Copyright, a collective of publishers, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

Access Copyright threatened legal action against institutions that did not sign the agreement. However, several Ontario universities have opted-out of the agreement, leaving our leadership team scratching our heads as to why our institutions have refused to opt-out as well.

UOIT has indicated they intend to pass the increase down to students. The SA leadership team still believes that UOIT should fully or partially subsidize the fee and will continue to work with stakeholder groups to find alternatives to the new fee.

SUSTAINABILITY

As a candidate for VP of University Affairs, I made a commitment to put together a planning committee comprised of community stakeholders to bring a Farmers' Market to downtown Oshawa. Fast-forward to a few months later and to announce the opening of the Downtown Oshawa Farmers' Market, located beside the Regent Theatre on the Victoria St. pedestrian walkway. The market is open on Tuesdays from 10:00am - 3:30pm until October 30th. The SA became a founding sponsor of

the market as part of an ongoing effort to promote social, environmental, and financial sustainability. Moving forward, the SA leadership team is exploring several other environmental initiatives, including participating in Power Shift 2012. Power Shift is a youth-led lobbying conference taking place from October 26 - October 29 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, ON. Stay tuned to your-sa.ca for how to get involved.

U-PASS UPDATE

Over the summer, the SA has been advocating that the U-Pass remain accessible and affordable to be of quality use to students. The U-Pass is a universal transit system that allows students to travel by Durham Regional Transit (DRT) at a reduced cost. There has been a growing trend, as of late, of increasing the cost of this service and having the students pay for it. To be clear, neither students nor the SA have ever been a negotiating party to the agreement that provides students with the U-Pass. Durham College and UOIT have all of the negotiating power, and the responsibility to advocate a price

that is fair for students. As a result, in August the SA released information about the student-wide referendum that will take place in mid-November. Students will be asked to vote either in favour of or against a proposed fee increase by DRT, with a decrease in services (removal of GO buses, potential route changes or losses). The SA does not believe that students should pay for an increase, but it is up to the students to decide. More information will be available towards October at the SA's Annual General Meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

This year, 25% of Riot Radio's content will be mobile! This means you will see the SA Executive team out filming live broadcasts and chatting with students! Why? We want to hear what you have to say! Watch and listen online at riotradio.ca.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STUDENT INSURANCE PLAN

In July, the SA Executive team decided to switch companies for the Student Insurance Plan. Our new provider, Studentcare, has guaranteed the cost for the next two years - no increase, same benefits! Students will be given a "grace period" to submit old claims until November 30th.

TECH-ENRICHED LEARNING FEE REDUCTION

UOIT students have received a \$200 reduction to the Tech-Enriched Learning fee, thanks to your President and VP of University Affairs!

DC COPYRIGHT FEE

Thanks to your President and VP of College Affairs, Durham College opted to subsidize the \$7 increase in the Access Copyright Fee for its students.

STUDY SPACE

Starting Fall 2012, students will see signage around campus that clarifies the appropriate use of certain spaces - just like the library! Keep an eye out for red, yellow, and green-labeled spaces which act as a reminder to respect your fellow students.

ALL MATERIALS WRITTEN BY THE SA EXECUTIVE TEAM:

RACHEL CALVELLI | President

JESSE CULLEN | VP of University Affairs

KAYLEIGH JOHNSTON | VP of College Affairs

GET IN TOUCH



Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm



Student Centre, 2nd Floor



twitter.com/yoursa_buddy



905.721.0457



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