

STUDENT VOICES

ISSUE
NO.2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back Durham College & UOIT students! The winter semester is shaping up to be very busy! Students can look forward to The Student Association working closely with the campus community and continuing to advocate on behalf of students.

I am so proud of all of the executives, staff, and board of directors for their leadership and passion shown over the last eight months!

The second issue of Student Voices will recap our first semester advocacy campaigns and introduce you to more important issues facing our membership.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OMBUDSPERSON

The SA Executive team has reached out to members of Durham College and UOIT administration in the hopes of forming an Ombudsperson Working Group. This team will be responsible for working towards the implementation of an Ombudsperson on campus to assist students with appeals and grievances.

SA ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again... Election Season! Look out for posters around campus and follow our social media for updates about #SAElections2013. Nominations open January 21 and close January 28. The campaign period runs February 4-13 with voting on all 3 campuses February 11-13.

THE SA TEAM GROWS!

The SA is excited to introduce three new faces to our growing team.

Stephanie Campoli was hired in October as an Advisor in our Outreach Services Department. David Cook was hired in November as our General Manager, and Jonathan Connolly was hired in November as our Kitchen Manager in E.P. Taylor's Pub & Restaurant.

POWERSHIFT 2012

Thirty-one Durham College and UOIT students joined over a thousand other student activists at PowerShift 2012 in Ottawa, Ontario, for an environmental justice conference, from October 26th to 29th. Students heard from renowned Canadian academic and author Naomi Klein, former CLASSE spokesperson and student activist Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, and Loran Award recipient Brigitte DePape.

The four-day conference consisted of workshops on social, environmental

and economic justice, including keynote speakers, caucus breakout sessions, film viewings and panel discussions. The conference ended with over a thousand students and young people marching through the streets of Ottawa for the Toxic March, making stops at the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, amongst other significant landmarks.

As students learned at PowerShift, "We Are Unstoppable, Another World is Possible!"

#FAIRHOUSING UPDATE

The SA has been busy the last few months working through the logistics of the human rights claim and gaining support through the Ontario Human Rights Commission and other SA's who deal with residential housing bylaws.

Human Rights in the 21st Century, a session held in Toronto, allowed the SA to connect with the Research and Policy Director of the Commission, as well as Barbara Hall, the Chief Commissioner, who said that they have, "been waiting for the students in Oshawa to do something for years,"

and expressed support for the SA's position.

The SA is now looking into the process of filing a human rights claim and working closely with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal to ensure that it is done effectively for our students.

The SA has been in both the Chronicle and several newspapers about our efforts to bring awareness to the discrimination of students in Oshawa and will be putting their pens to paper beginning early 2013 to file the claim.

2012 AGM UPDATE

The SA recognizes that there are many questions and concerns surrounding the reconstitution of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). While debating the last member proposal at the AGM on November 1, there was much discussion surrounding an investigation into alleged activities of certain members of the SA. The result was to table the vote until the Board investigation

was complete in order to make an informed decision, with as much information as possible.

The Board investigation is still ongoing; therefore, a date for the reconstituted AGM has not been set. The SA is committed to updating our membership on any relevant developments as new information becomes available.

DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM



Oshawa City Council recently approved the implementation of a demerit point system in the student-housing neighbourhood near the North Campus, which could lead to students being evicted from their homes.

Each infraction, ranging from parking violations to noise complaints, will result in demerit points being added against the property. After the accumulation of fifteen demerit points, the rental license will be revoked and students could be evicted from the unit.

The SA views this demerit point system as further entrenching an already discriminatory housing bylaw that, amongst other things, restricts the number of rooms in a rental unit, at four.

The SA is disappointed that the City of Oshawa continues to discriminate against students, despite repeated attempts by the SA to bring to the city's attention the potential human rights violations.

DID YOU KNOW?

PICKERING LEARNING SITE

Did you know that Durham College opened a new learning site in Pickering? The SA's VP of Campus Clubs and VP of College Affairs are working together to ensure our Pickering students have access to club and society opportunities!

MORE SA SPACE!

Did you know that the Library Den at the North Campus Library is part of the SA's spaces? Also, the portable beside the North Campus Library is available for student study use and has recently been refreshed. It houses our Campus Club & Student Society offices.

NEW VP OF COLLEGE AFFAIRS

As VP of College Affairs, Kayleigh Johnston, steps down to pursue her studies, we would like to officially introduce the new VP of College Affairs, Stephanie Mole, a DC Golf Operations Management student. Read more about Johnston's decision in the Hot Topics section of your-sa.ca.

STUDENT ANCILLARY FEES

Due to the policy recommendations given by the SA President and VP of College Affairs to the institutions, the SA has learned that the Access Copyright Fee (which we opposed this year) will not be increasing in 2013-2014 for Durham College students! This is a \$14 reduction in tuition for college students.

UOIT has also committed to reviewing the Tech-Enriched Learning Fee for further reductions, and negotiations with the UOIT President about a one-year freeze on ancillary fees for 2013-2014 is also in the works.

Lastly, the SA will be looking for student opinion during the 2013 General Elections. A referendum, which is a general vote by the entire membership on a single political

question, is scheduled for February 11-13. The question about the U-Pass fee will be added to the ballot when you go to vote for your next Board of Directors and Executive team.

The institutions negotiated an agreement on behalf of students and the U-Pass is set to increase 5% each year for the next three years, even though there is a reduction in services. The SA voted against the fee increase at the UOIT Fee Protocol Committee and has communicated its position to Durham College as well.

Make sure you visit the polls February 11-13 and have your voice heard! For more information about the General Elections and Referendum, visit your-sa.ca.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK

Members of the SA, local labour groups, activists, and students are coming together for Social Justice Week from January 28 to January 31 at the Downtown Oshawa Campus. The week will consist of documentary viewings, panel discussions, workshops, and will promote social, environmental, and economic justice through various communication materials

and info tables all around campus.

The week will end with a viewing and panel discussion of Miss Representation, a documentary film about the misrepresentation of women in the media and the under-representation of women in positions of power on January 31st at the Regent Theatre. Tickets will be sold at the Regent Theatre.

DOWNTOWN AND WHITBY CAMPUSES

Both Downtown and Whitby campuses are now home to new pool tables for all students to enjoy! The new SA space at 61 Charles St. is rapidly growing and fully operational. All students

are also invited to the Grand Opening celebration for the Downtown Campus Tuck Shop on January 10, 2013!

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE 2012/2013 EXECUTIVE TEAM

GET IN TOUCH



Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm



905.721.0457



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