**What your GSA is doing for you!**

*Mental Health Services at McMaster*

On April 28th, 29th and 30th students were asked to vote on two approved questions regarding an increase to Compulsory Ancillary Fees (CAFs) at McMaster. Of the Seven hundred and one (701) Students, or approximately 21% of the graduate student population, 50.4% voted NO to the first referendum question (to increase the SWC fee for continued access to mental health practitioners on campus) and 51.4% voted NO to the second referendum question (to increase the careers fee for services related to professional training); meaning both questions failed.

For those who are unfamiliar with the university funding - CAFS are funded by the students for non-academic services such as athletics, wellness and careers. Pursuant to the Ministry of Education and Training’s (now the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities) Policy on Compulsory Ancillary Fees dated June 28th 1994, CAFs are separate from tuition fees and are levied in order to cover the costs of items which are not normally paid for out of the university’s operating or capital revenues.

Though the vote was NO, the GSA, through the Graduate Students Service Review Committee (GSSRC), continues to meet with the university administration. We have focussed specifically on issues surrounding the mental health component as many students have identified that they use these services and believe future graduate students will also, and as such they want to see them reinstated! The GSSRC is tirelessly working on this initiative and has met with various stakeholders regarding interim solutions, such as a peer-to-peer counselling service, a mental health counsellor on\off campus and long-term solutions, such as lobbying the government for a change in the 1994 policy.

**Discussion are still ongoing with the University! Interested students are asked to email** **gsaserv@mcmaster.ca** **to join the GSSRC to have their voice and concerns heard!**