

## **MMSC Policy on Fundraising and Community-Outreach Activities**

As the distributor of funding to the interest groups and committees of the McMaster Medical School student body, the MMSC is committed to distributing funds obtained through student fees equitably, and in a manner that represents students' best interests. The primary objective of these funds is to broadly facilitate student education and development. To that end, the following guidelines will be followed towards the funding of activities that involve fundraising and community outreach:

- 1. Student funds will not be given directly to charitable causes.** Although the MMSC encourages charitable activities, it will not commit funds obtained by mandatory student fees to charitable organizations.
- 2. Student funds may be provided towards offsetting costs of events that involve community service.** Medical professionals are important members of their communities. Physicians, in particular, are expected to function as Health Advocates, as described by the CanMed roles. Community-based initiatives may accordingly offer valuable experience to medical students in addition to benefits for the local community. Such activities may therefore be considered eligible for partial funding, particularly those that encourage the professional and personal development of McMaster medical students. This policy has been traditionally applied to certain committees, such as the Community Service Committee.
- 3. Student funds may be loaned to student groups, including those that have received partial funding as per the second guideline, in order to conduct their initiatives on the condition that such funds will be repaid in full before the end of the fiscal year.** Many events and initiatives incur costs that will later be recuperated via their fundraising activities. The MMSC may provide funds to facilitate these activities given that these funds will be fully repaid in a timely manner, such that the first guideline is not contradicted. This service has traditionally been offered to organizations such as the McMaster Medical Student Musical interest group.
- 4. The MMSC may facilitate the collecting and distribution of charitable donations insofar as the first guideline is not contradicted.** Although the MMSC will not directly donate funds collected via student fees, the MMSC may offer support in the handling of funds raised independently by students. This support will be offered on a case-by-case basis, pending a successful resolution by the MMSC leadership.