

Dean and Business School Executives Answer Questions and Concerns

17 Jan 2009 – The DeGroote Commerce Society (DCS) hosted an information session this past Wednesday evening for students of the DeGroote School of Business with faculty executives aimed at addressing concerns from students. The question and answer session featured Dean Paul Bates, Undergraduate Program Director Dr. Nick Bontis, Center for Business Career Development Director Jennifer McCleary and Academic Advisor for Levels I & II, Lori Hill.

Several issues were brought fourth to the heads of the business school including library accessibility, program structure, and professor performance inside the class room. One concern that arose was the Innis library closing too early on Friday evenings. Dr. Nick Bontis commented on being unaware of the current scheduling but stated he will investigate further.

When asked about student study space DCS president James Maxwell said that accessibility to quality study space is an important element of ensuring student success. The DCS announced it has started a \$10,000 project focused on the redevelopment of the commerce lounge. Completion of the developments is scheduled for March 31, 2010. “We want to create a collaborate space that students can be proud of and provide added-value.” added Maxwell.

Other concerns that were raised included the upcoming expansion to Burlington, non-commerce electives, the options of commerce courses in first year, grade inflation, the rising costs of textbooks, and the quality of professors.

Perhaps the most interesting announcement of the evening came from Dr. Nick Bontis who commented that “Next year, we will be undergoing a large scale curriculum review.” and that, “Nothing is out of the question, we are looking at every aspect of our program – from entry requirements, to required courses, to course content, and to how we evaluate our students. No question is too big, and no question is too small.”

Dr. Bontis assured students that the review has the ability to completely overhaul their program – but needs the leverage to do so. “We need all students to take their course review surveys very seriously” added Dean Paul Bates. “That is the strongest ammunition that students have to ensure real change happens in the program – we need to hear objective student opinion that is quantifiable and can be used on faculty reviews.” Dean Bates urged students to be as critical as they can about the course and reward outstanding courses with excellent reviews, and mediocre courses with poor reviews.

The DeGroote Commerce Society is a self-governed body that represents over 2000 full-time undergraduate members at the DeGroote School of Business. For more information about the DCS please visit <http://www.degrootecommerce.ca> or email: info@degrootecommerce.ca.