

April 3, 2023

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# McMaster's Budget Model & Graduate Funding

McMaster University | Task Force on Graduate Funding





# OUR BUDGET MODEL

**Flexible to meet  
needs of Faculties**

**GRADUATE FUNDING**

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WORLD**



# Budget Model Principles

McMaster's budget captures strategic spending to support the **five strategic priorities**:

1. Inclusive Excellence
2. Teaching and Learning
3. Research and Scholarship
4. Engaging Local, National, Indigenous and Global Communities
5. Operational Excellence

## **BMTF I Principles:**

- Promote transparency, trust and engagement
- Assure financial responsibility, accountability and fairness
- Advance the efficient use of physical and human resources
- Have predictability and stability
- Enable innovation, creativity and change
- Assign fiscal and academic responsibility to the appropriate levels
- Build the student learning experience both inside and outside the classroom
- Enable rapid response to opportunities

## **BMTF II Guidelines:**

- Support and enhance the academic mission
- Avoid the creation of “silos” and promote cooperation
- Keep things simple (concept of “materiality” and simple to administer)

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# Activity-Based Budget Allocation

## REVENUE

Allocated to Faculties based on activity (student enrolment and teaching)

## Two Strategic Funding Pools (tax)

- **Research Discretionary Fund:** VP Research strategic research initiatives
- **University Fund:** Provost for pan-university strategic purposes

## Central Support Unit Costs

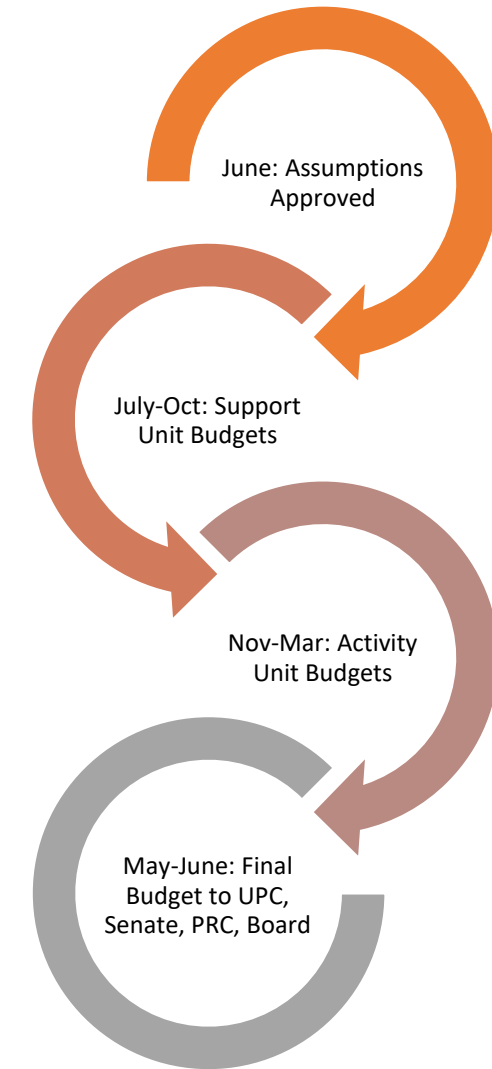
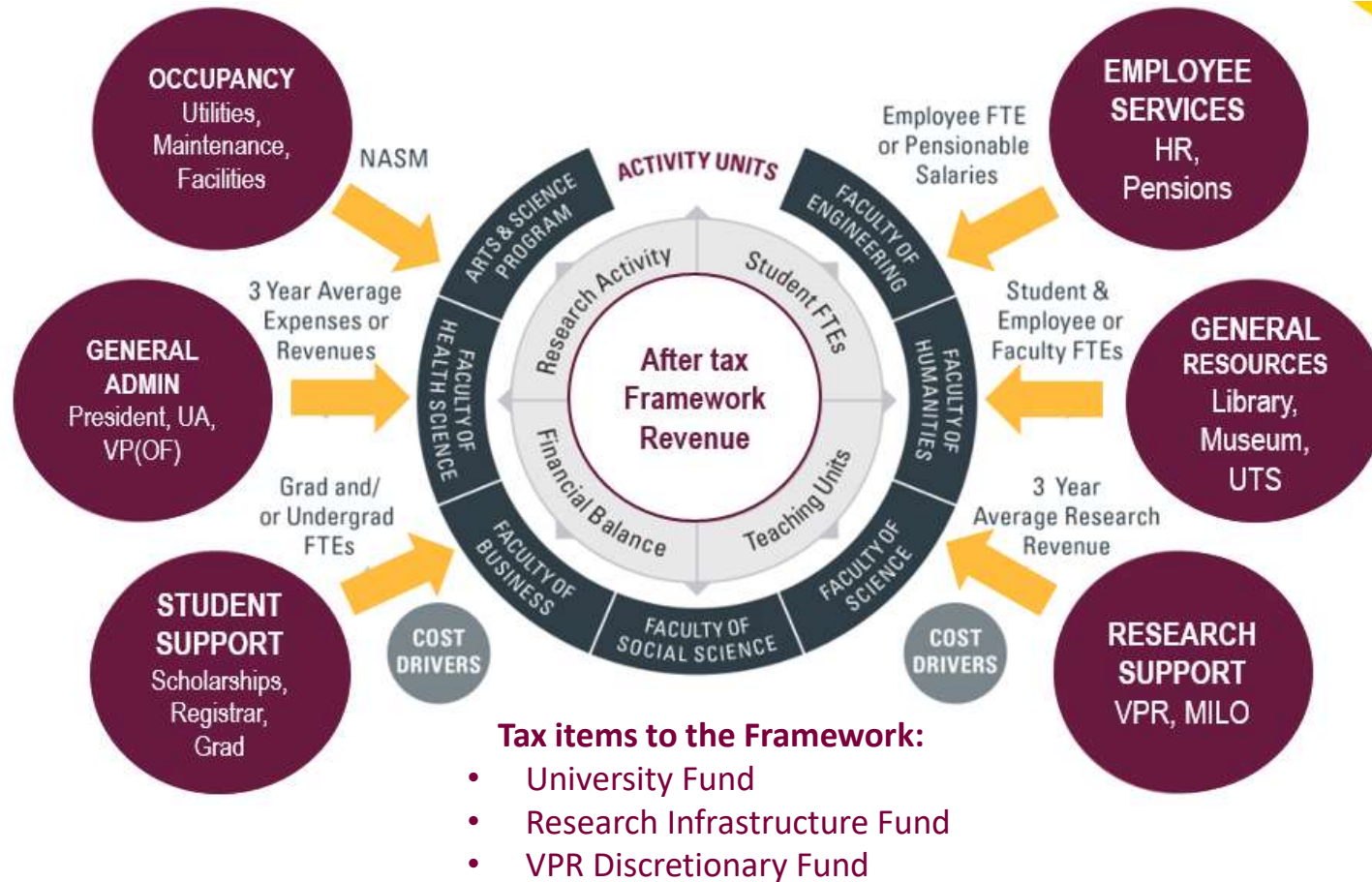
- These are charged directly to Faculties based on a relevant proxy-based cost driver
- Facilities, Utilities, Deferred Maintenance: Net assignable square metres (NASM)
- Human Resources: Employee FTEs
- Student Support: Graduate and/or Undergraduate FTE

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# Budget Model Overview



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# Graduate Funding

## Where it comes from, where it goes



# First, Recent News

## March 28, 2023, Federal Budget

- No new funding for grad students
- Funding frozen since 2003 at \$17,500 (Master's) and \$21,000 (PhD)

## March 23, 2023, Ontario Budget

- More of the same
- Ontario universities continue to receive lowest per-student government funding in Canada



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# How McMaster is Funded

## Tuition

- Tuition was rolled back 10% in 2019-2020, subsequently frozen

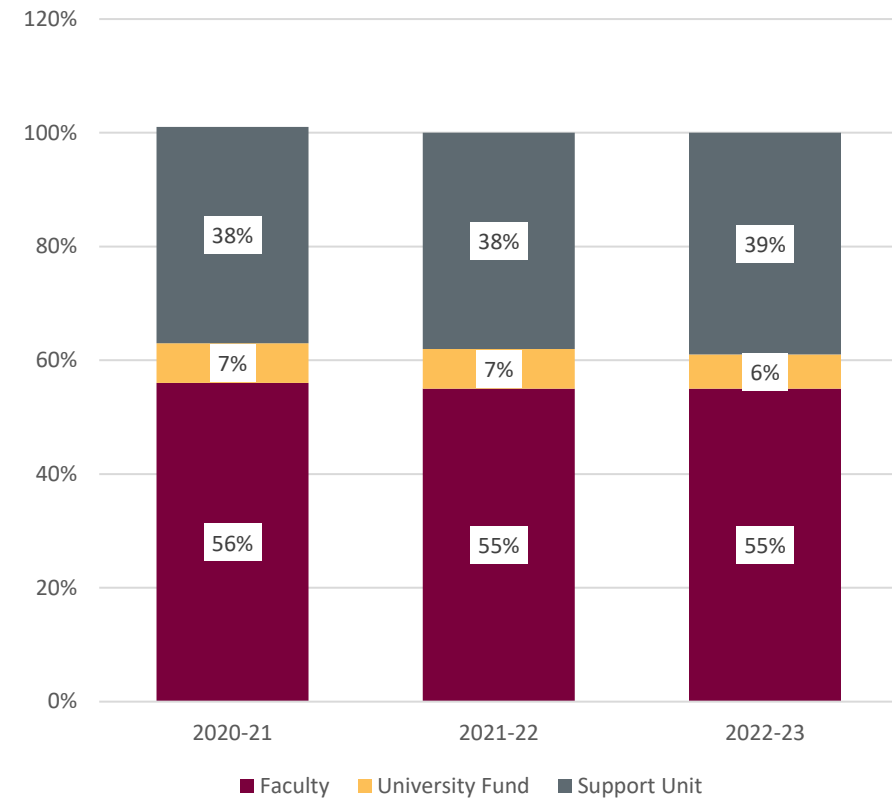
## Government Grants

- Operating grant has been flat since 2016-2017

## Donor Funds

- These are often locked and not at the discretion of a university unit (Wilson Gift)

Where Revenue Goes



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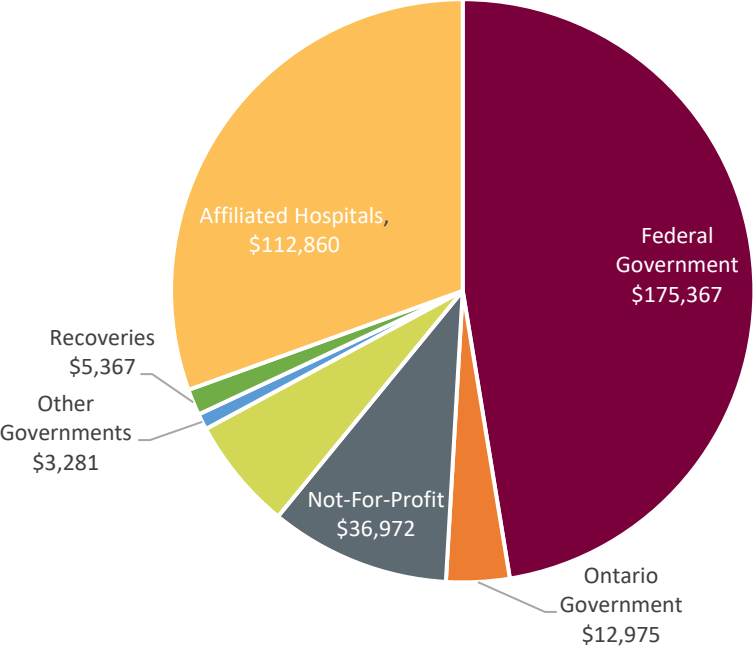
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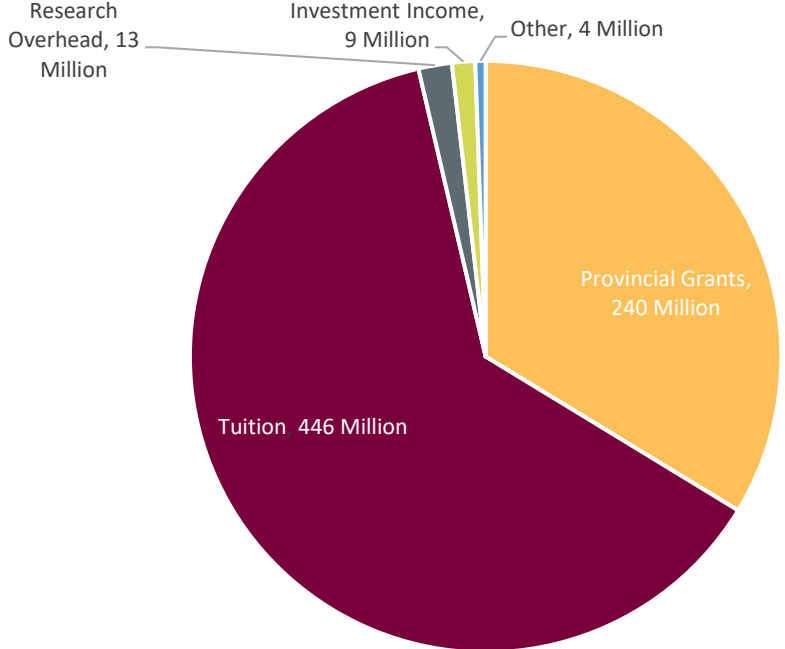


# University Funding at a Glance

## 2021-22 Research Revenue



## 2022-23 Budgeted Operating Framework



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# Follow the Funding

## Sources of Graduate Funding

- McMaster **employment**, primarily Teaching and Research Assistantships
- Competitive internal and external **scholarships**
- **School of Graduate Studies Scholarship Fund** and other departmental sources
- **Research grants** and contacts, primarily supervisor's contribution
- **Bursaries**, based on need.
- **Academic grants**, based on need and academic merit

## Distribution of Funding

- Funding varies by Faculty and by department
- Faculties, departments decide how to allocate funds to Master's and PhD students



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# Important Considerations



## Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

- Champions higher ed, including graduate students
- McMaster and others work closely with COU to lobby on behalf of students

## Value of a McMaster Degree

- Education is an investment
- McMaster graduates enjoy successful careers

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# Questions?

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A scenic view of a park during cherry blossom season. The foreground is dominated by a large tree with thick, gnarled branches covered in dense, light pink cherry blossoms. A paved path curves through the park, and a black metal bench is visible in the distance with two people sitting on it. The background consists of a dense forest of trees, some with bare branches and others with fresh green leaves, under a clear blue sky.

**Thank You**