ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday February 21, 2012
Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall Room 111
5:30 pm

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Non-Tuition (Miscellaneous) Fee review
MAPS continues to communicate its opposition to a proposal from the University Student Fees Committee (USFC) that would prorate existing and new ancillary fees. Essentially, this would result in MAPS members paying substantially more (as much as 84% more) for ancillary fees of services that they never consented too, care to use, or need. Even though MAPS, the McMaster Students Union (MSU), the Graduate Students Association (GSA), and the MBA Association (MBAA) have gone on record as opposing this proposal, the USFC may at any point revisit this issue. As such, the MAPS Board of Directors is prepared to lobby against such a proposal with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities – the provincial government body responsible for ensuring that Ontario universities do not collect ancillary fees illegally.

MAPS-MSU Transferability
MAPS in partnership with the MSU and in some instances, McMaster University, continues to administer a transferability mechanism between MAPS and the MSU. MAPS members who become members of the MSU (by enrolling in 18 or more units) have an option to transfer their membership back to MAPS under certain circumstances, thereby foregoing MSU fees and only paying MAPS fees. To be eligible, a student must be an undergraduate degree student who in a previous fall/winter academic session was a member of MAPS and will be registered in 18-20 units in the fall/winter academic session or is in her/his graduating year, and in a previous fall/winter academic session was a member of MAPS and will register in more than 18 or more units to complete her/his degree at the next Spring Convocation. Also, members of MAPS who meet specified criteria have the option to permanently transfer their student
association membership from MAPS to the MSU, the student association governing undergraduate degree students registered in 18 or more units per academic session.

**GO Bus Pass**
MAPS continues to work with GO Bus, McMaster Security and Parking Services, the Office of Sustainability, and Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (formerly the Centre for Student Development (CSD)), to provide MAPS members who are registered with SAS as having a disability with the ability to acquire a GO Bus ID, similar to full-time students who are members of the McMaster Students Union (MSU).

**Proposed Art History Closure**
Given the disproportionately high number of part-time students enrolled in Art History, MAPS continues to monitor the Art History program given the repeated attempts of closure by administration with the Faculty of Humanities. To date, since MAPS successfully quarterbacked a thorough advocacy campaign in conjunction with multiple campus stakeholders to oppose the proposed closure of Art History, not once, but twice, there have been no developments at Senate.

**Seniors Tuition & Supplementary Fees**
Given that MAPS successfully prevented the Board of Governors from accepting a recommendation from the University Student Fees Committee (USFC) that would have eliminated free tuition and supplementary fees for seniors (students aged 65 and over), MAPS continues to monitor tuition for seniors. To date, there have not been any more attempts by the University Student Fees Committee (USFC) to revisit this issue.

**University Student Fees Committee (USFC)**
After two full years of lobbying for part-time student representation on the USFC (since representatives from MAPS, the MSU, and the GSA were removed), the USFC has finally conceded and created a part-time student specific seat on the USFC that will be filled by a part-time student with the assistance of MAPS.

**Liberal Arts Speaker Series**
In its second year, the Liberal Arts Speaker Series has been expanded to two speakers, one in each term. In the fall term, MAPS partnered with the Arts & Science Program, the Department of English & Cultural Studies, the School of the Arts, and the Faculty of Humanities to present “Literature, Theatre, and Performance: A Conversation with Ann-Marie MacDonald and Kathleen Gallagher. (Ann-Marie MacDonald is an acclaimed actor and internationally appreciated writer of plays, lyrics, and works of fiction. Best known for her plays, Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) and Belle Moral: A Natural History, as well as her novels Fall on Your Knees and The Way the Crow Flies, she also enjoys a career on stage and in television and film. For many years Ms.
MacDonald hosted the CBC premier biography series Life and Times, and she currently hosts CBC’s flagship documentary program Doc Zone. Her work as a screen actor has earned her a Gemini Award (Where the Spirit Lives) and a Genie nomination (I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing), while her writing, translated into more than twenty languages, has been honoured with the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First Fiction, the Dora Mavor Moore Award, the Chalmers Award for Outstanding Play, the Canadian Authors’ Association Award for Drama, and the Governor General’s Award for Drama.

Kathleen Gallagher is Professor, Canada Research Chair in Theatre, Youth, and Research in Urban Schools, and the Academic Director of the Centre for Urban Schooling at the University of Toronto. Her award-winning books include The Theatre of Urban: Youth and Schooling in Dangerous Times and Drama Education in the Lives of Girls: Imagining Possibilities. She has also edited two collections: How Theatre Educates: Convergences and Counterpoints with Artists, Scholars, and Advocates and The Methodological Dilemma: Creative, Critical and Collaborative Approaches to Qualitative Research. The author of many articles on theatre, urban youth, pedagogy, methodology and gender, Dr. Gallagher continues to focus her research on questions of student engagement and artistic practice, as well as the pedagogical and methodological possibilities of learning through the arts.

The next installment in the MAPS Liberal Arts Speaker Series, "Renewal in Gothic Architecture", will be presented by MAPS' very own Past-President and recent Art History graduate, Elaine Marion. Elaine will highlight how the Cathedral of Christ the King is an important example of a renewal in Gothic architecture of its time, and as is evident in so many churches, is the result of hundreds of years of changing tastes. The discussion will review the roots of Gothic architecture from a time of change in the pursuit of knowledge and the characteristics of Gothic architecture evident in Hamilton's own Cathedral of Christ the King. Elaine will also be referencing various churches with Gothic features that she encountered during her recent trips to Italy, including churches in Florence, Rome, Sienna, and Venice.

**Government Lobbying**

On April 7, 2011, the MAPS Board of Directors unanimously voted to formally join the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA), a provincially based student advocacy group which focuses on post-secondary education. Of particular importance, MAPS is the only part-time student union to belong to OUSA, and as such, is responsible for informing and shaping OUSA’s advocacy with respect to non-traditional students (part-time and mature students). To this end, MAPS has been researching and writing a policy paper on the mature student experience, and once passed on the upcoming OUSA General Assembly, will become OUSA’s official stance on mature learners when dealing with post-secondary education stakeholders, including the Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities (MTCU), Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), and numerous post-secondary institution administrators.

**Valedictorian Selection & Convocation**
MAPS continues to be the only student union on campus that consistently participates in the annual valedictorian selection process for each academic faculty.

**Board of Directors Nomination**
Based on the work of an Ad-Hoc working group of the MAPS Board of Directors, the MAPS Board of Directors has changed the nomination process for election to the MAPS Board of Directors. For a nomination to be valid, a MAPS member must obtain six nominators (three of which must be from MAPS members at large, and three of which must be from MAPS members serving on the MAPS Board of Directors at the time of nomination). In addition, a mandatory meeting with the MAPS Board of Directors is required.

**Liberal Arts Building**
A $45.5-million investment by the Ontario government will allow McMaster to build a major new liberal arts building that will be used by more than half the entire student body and improve access to education for under-represented groups such as Aboriginal people, Crown wards and first-generation students.

"I know that I speak for everyone when I say how grateful we are to the province for making this exciting announcement. It is a significant investment in Hamilton and our region," said McMaster President and Vice-Chancellor Patrick Deane. "At McMaster, we always put our students first. And this project, which has been a top priority, will let us provide an even better experience for our students."

Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities John Milloy made the announcement on campus Wednesday June 22, 2011, with Queen's Park colleagues Sophia Aggelonitis, Minister of Revenue, Minister Responsible for Seniors and MPP for Hamilton Mountain, and Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale

"By investing in new classrooms, labs and tutorial space at the new, environmentally sustainable facility at McMaster, we're investing in Ontario students and our province," said Minister Milloy. "We are putting students first by ensuring that they receive quality education that is accessible and affordable."

The Wilson Building for Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences will feature a wide range of flexible spaces for teaching, learning, research and performance, all equipped with cutting-edge technology. At least 13,000 students will use the building, including those from faculties whose education includes courses in the liberal arts.
"The importance of this building to the liberal arts at McMaster cannot be overstated," said Matthew Dillon-Leitch, president of the McMaster Students Union and himself a liberal arts student. "Student life and education will improve along with research. McMaster University, the city of Hamilton and the province of Ontario will all reap the rewards of this project."

At 104,000 square feet, the building will create space for 1,275 more students on campus, in keeping with the province's post-secondary attainment goals. The project is to commence in 2012, with construction anticipated to begin in 2013.

The building will be located at the main Hamilton campus, at a location close to students studying in the humanities and social sciences, with access to parking to enhance community participation in the activities of the building. The investment announcement permits McMaster to finalize the exact location by using priorities established in the campus plan and following the normal University process.

The $65-million project received critical early support in the form of a $10-million gift from Chancellor Lynton (Red) Wilson in 2007, and a $1-million gift from the McMaster Association of Part-Time Students (MAPS) last year.

"Educated people, no matter what their specialty or discipline, should be able to interact with each other in a context that includes a shared understanding and comprehensive knowledge of who we are as human beings," Wilson said. "McMaster cares deeply about the development of the next generation of leaders, and we need to support the humanities and social sciences to nurture their development."

Teaching, learning and research at the new facility will have economic and social impact, emphasizing connections between the community and the University through experiential education and community outreach.

"This new space will allow us to educate, study and serve our community all at once as we grapple with such issues as poverty, aging and inclusivity," said Dean of Social Sciences Charlotte Yates. "The social sciences and humanities are critical to the success of McMaster students, and this investment allows the University to engage more students than ever, in new ways that blend emerging technology with new teaching methods and approaches to research."

Humanities and social sciences, with their emphasis on critical thinking, creativity and evaluation, form an essential part of the overall learning landscape for students in fields such as engineering, business and health sciences, and the new building will serve students from all parts of campus.
"The liberal arts are critical to developing creative, independent thinkers and conscientious citizens," said Dean of Humanities Suzanne Crosta. "This investment will improve access to the University, enhance academic excellence and provide greater assistance to the community, reaching far beyond our individual faculties and enriching our world, both culturally and economically."

**Hamilton Council on Aging**

On June 30, 2011, MAPS partnered with the Hamilton Council on Aging in reaching out to prospective senior students at Jackson Square. MAPS’ Vice-President External, Violet Wakeman-Ajandi, delivered a very moving presentation on the social and mental health benefits of higher learning for seniors.

**Forward With Integrity**

This past September, Dr. Patrick Deane released a letter to the McMaster University community entitled, Forward With Integrity. In this letter, Dr. Deane shared his vision of the direction in which McMaster University should proceed. Of interest for MAPS members was Dr. Deane’s desire for faculty to challenge the standard modality of in-person lectures, especially given the context of the many other ways by which students in the 21st century learn, namely online learning. In addition, Dr. Deane made reference for the need of greater experiential education opportunities for students coupled with the need to recognize prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR).

**MUSC Task Force**

As a founding (and $500,000 funding) partner of the McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC), the MAPS Board of Directors will be announcing a $90,000 gift toward the MUSC for capital renewal to coincide with the MUSC’s 10-year anniversary in 2012.

**Provincial Election**

MAPS, in partnership with the Ontario Undergraduate Students Alliance (OUSA), the College Students Alliance, and Elections Ontario, engaged MAPS members in a non-partisan awareness campaign for the 2011 Ontario Provincial Election held on Thursday October 6, 2011. Central to this campaign was a website (http://itsyourvote.ca/) that listed the four major parties and their platforms pertaining to post-secondary education (PSE), technical and procedural information on voting, and a blog with PSE news and views. Also featured on the website was a recent poll conducted by Abacus Data Inc. illustrating that nine in ten Ontarians believe post-secondary education is important to the economic prosperity of the province, with the majority of respondents showing concern about the cost of college and university for students. Within the MAPS Office, students were provided with non-partisan information from Elections Ontario, including information on advanced polling on campus for those that lived in the Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale (ADFW) riding. In addition,
the McMaster University Senate endorsed a campus-wide test ban on October 6, thereby facilitating voting for students. In addition, MAPS and the MSU hosted a debate on campus with the ADFW candidates.

**On-Line Learning**
This past year, MAPS continued to explore the feasibility of on-line learning for MAPS members. Despite continued barriers including faculty attitudes, start-up costs related to personnel, infrastructure, and technology, there are some areas on campus contemplating the delivery of blended and on-line learning courses, namely the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE). MAPS will continue to meet with key stakeholders to identify potential areas of collaboration with MAPS so as to overcome barriers.

**MAPS Bursaries**
This past year, a total of 120 MAPS members applied for a MAPS bursary for studies at the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE). A total of 52 recipients received $26,000.

**President’s Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community (PACBIC) Access and Accommodations (A&A) Working Group**
MAPS’ ability to increase awareness about the access and accommodation barriers to higher learning for its members was greatly assisted with the election of MAPS’ Executive Director, Sam Minniti, as the convener for PACBIC’s A&A Working Group.