Board of Directors Report - Anna Marinelli

I am happy to report that significant progress was made this year on several key issues. The following, in my opinion, are some of the highlights:

- For years the number of nominees for the MAPS board has been well below the maximum number permitted; however this past year, for the first time in the history of MAPS, the number of nominations exceeded the number of vacancies which resulted in an election to nominate board members.

- MAPS finally negotiated a two-way membership transferability agreement with the MSU that constitutes the first revision to the MAPS-MSU membership protocol in more than two decades.

- Potentially the most devastating and detrimental policy development from the former Provost’s Office, the elimination of three year degrees would have easily seen MAPS membership plummet, ultimately affecting not only accessibility and sustainability of life-long learning, but also MAPS’ bottom line. MAPS’ clear and strong opposition registered directly with the Office of the President was duly noted at Undergraduate Council as a leading reason for the termination of this dangerous policy file!

- Another potentially serious issue arose when the University was considering changes to the Mature Student Admission Policy. Because of MAPS’ proactive consultation and input, the policy is now friendlier to prospective MAPS members by allowing them, if desired, the ability to take more courses sooner, hence shortening the already lengthy period of time required to obtain an undergraduate degree.

In my opinion, other notable achievements include:

- guaranteed access to the Business Office for MAPS members in the early evening when it is closed for all other students

- securing GO Bus passes for MAPS members with disabilities (MSU equivalent)

- working with the University Librarian to establish a liaison librarian

- pressuring UTS to finally provide MAPS with a correct E-mail Distribution List