News Release
Wednesday, August 8, 2007

MAPS-MSU to implement limited transferability

The McMaster Association of Part-Time Students (MAPS) and the McMaster Students Union (MSU) have agreed to implement limited two-way membership transferability, effective September 2007.

The agreement was approved in principle by the MAPS board of directors and MSU’s Student Representative Assembly in March 2006 and finalized in July 2007. Implementation was delayed by the MSU until the University agreed to administer the fee adjustments related to most membership transfers.

“We’re very pleased to be moving forward on this file so that we may address a number of longstanding policy issues,” said MAPS president Anna Marinelli.

“Under the agreement, course load will continue to be the main determinant for membership in the two student governments, but there are provisions for transferability under a limited number of circumstances,” added MSU president Ryan Moran.

Students eligible to apply for membership transfer will have until September 30 to submit their application. Once processed, the transfer will be permanent for the remainder of a student’s studies at McMaster University regardless of the number of courses taken in an academic session.

Further information is available from the MAPS and MSU offices.

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ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS ATTACHED

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BACKGROUND:
MAPS-MSU Membership Transferability

Membership in the two student governments, which is based on a MAPS-MSU agreement that has been in place since 1986, is based on course load. Degree students enrolled in 1-17 units are members of MAPS, while those enrolled in 18 or more units are members of the MSU.

Students enrolled in courses through the Centre for Continuing Education are members of MAPS and are unaffected by the transferability protocol.

Provisions for limited transferability were approved in principle by both the MAPS board of directors and the MSU’s Student Representative Assembly in March 2006 and finalized in July 2007. The agreement permits students to transfer from the MSU to MAPS if they are:

- In her/his graduating year, who: (a) in a previous fall/winter academic session was a member of MAPS and (b) will register in more than 17 units to complete her/his degree at the next Spring Convocation; or
- A degree student who: (a) in a previous fall/winter academic session was a member of MAPS and (b) is registered in 18-20 units in the fall/winter academic session.

These provisions respond to the desire of students [to continue as members of MAPS] who have undertaken part of their degree on a part-time basis but, for reasons that may include timing of course availability, enrol in more than 17 units for an academic session.

Members of MAPS will be eligible to transfer to the MSU if they are:

- Registered with the Centre for Student Development (CSD) as having a disability and, based on written confirmation from CSD, is restricted to less than 18 units in each fall/winter academic session; or
- A part-time undergraduate degree student registered in fewer than 18 units in a fall/winter academic session, who: (a) in a previous fall/winter academic session was registered as a member of the MSU, and (b) is registered in less than 18 units to complete his/her degree at the next convocation.

These provisions respond to the desire by students, whose disabilities preclude enrolling 18 or more units in an academic session, to be members of the MSU. In addition, a student who completes most of their degree on a full-time basis, but who enrols in fewer than 18 units in their final academic session, would also be eligible to transfer to the MSU.

A key principle of the agreement is that students transferring will pay all fees payable by members of the receiving student government. For a student transferring from MAPS to the MSU, this would involve more than $500 in fees above those paid as a member of MAPS. Students transferring from MSU to MAPS would receive a refund, net of fees payable as a member of MAPS.

Once a transfer has been processed, it remains in effect for the remainder of a student’s undergraduate studies at McMaster University.