Purpose of the SGM

The Special General Meeting was called under the authority of MAPS’ bylaws to seek ratification of business undertaken at the AGM on February 28. While the AGM was extensively advertised by poster both on the main and downtown campuses, unanticipated production and distribution difficulties resulted in The Link not being distributed at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. The SGM also provides the board with an opportunity to provide an update on activities undertaken since the AGM.

Major activities since February 28, 2006

ADVOCACY - MAPS led development of a comprehensive response to the University's proposal to change the way ancillary fees are assessed and dramatically increase the amount payable by part-time students. The senior order student governments at McMaster (MAPS, the Graduate Students Assoc., MBA Assoc., and McMaster Students Union) presented a joint response rejecting the University’s proposals.

In the months ahead, MAPS will be working with the MSU to seek an increase in student representation in key components of university governance.
**AWARDS** - MAPS’ awards program is designed to recognize academic excellence and commitment to quality of part-time studies. Nominations are currently open for several awards which will be presented at MAPS’ annual Awards Dinner on November 24.

**COMMUNICATION** with our members continues to be a priority. MAPS’ web site has been updated and enhanced to increase the transparency of the Association’s activities. A detailed MAPS history, annual report of the board, budget, audited financial statements, and minutes of the board are now posted on line. The redesign of The Link introduced with the May 2006 issue has been well received.

**MAPS-MSU MEMBERSHIP AND FEE PROTOCOL** - A memorandum of agreement signed in 1986 has been the subject of detailed discussions with the MSU. In March, the two student governments gave approval in principle to an amendment, subject to legal review and consultation with the University. The legal review is now complete and we await a response from the University in relation to implementation considerations. The agreement, if implemented, would respond to a number of circumstances of students who are currently either MAPS or MSU members, whose needs may be better served by being a member of the other organization.

**Executive Committee Election**

At its meeting on March 15, the Board elected the following officers for 2006-07:

- David Moore  President
- David Rennie  Vice-President (Internal)
- Anna Marinelli  Vice-President (External)
- Sean Spratt  Treasurer
- Eric Siu  Executive Counsellor
- Carole Armstrong  Past-President

**In the months ahead**

MAPS’ popular handbook-planner will be mailed to members, together with a new issue of The Link, in September. We anticipate a busy and productive year working on behalf of McMaster’s part-time students.

Respectfully submitted,

David Moore
MAPS President