

January 18, 2013

Statement to the Membership from the Board of Directors

Several months ago, the MAPS Board began a process of reviewing and assessing its finances and governance following concerns about MAPS' spending practices. MAPS has been working with the University's administration to review concerns regarding its governance and finances and to create a plan to move the organization forward. The university has made available a range of resources upon which MAPS has and will continue to draw from to review our financial, accounting and payment processes along with our governance structure.

On December 21, 2012, MAPS announced that the Board reviewed these concerns, identified means to ensure it adheres to best business practices and committed itself to an enhanced governance structure for consideration by the membership at its next annual general meeting (AGM). Given the interest in this issue, the Executive Committee of MAPS would like to provide its members with an update in advance of the AGM.

- MAPS has ended its relationship with Executive Director Sam Minniti.
- In advance of our AGM, along with this Statement to the Membership, we are releasing the audited financial statement for the year 2011.
- The salary of the ED was published in the "Sunshine List" for 2011 pursuant to the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act. It is noted, for sake of clarity, that the payment of the retroactive payment was not processed by the University and as such, was not included in the salary published for the ED on the Sunshine List.
- The MAPS Board and the University have agreed to a number of measures that will ensure transparency and an enhanced governance structure that emphasizes accountability to MAPS' members.
- At the AGM on February 5, 2013, none of the members of our Board of Directors will stand for re-election. Each of the members of the Board acknowledge that errors have been made and it is the hope that there will be an interest from our membership in having a full and robust Board (9 members) to take our place and develop a stronger Board with the ability to move forward, learning from the previous Boards past mistakes.
- Board of Directors nomination forms are available for pickup in the MAPS office and ought to be returned by 5:00 p.m. on February 3, 2013 when nominations will close. We are putting our efforts to ensure that the meeting is well attended.

Our focus is to address this situation in order to ensure that our volunteer Board and the organization are in the strongest possible position to provide part-time students with the support and resources they expect from MAPS. Our accomplishments in the last several years include opposing the removal of free tuition for seniors, advocating against the closure of the Art History program, increasing on-line learning opportunities and it is unfortunate that recent events have overshadowed the good that MAPS has done. The needs of part-time students are unique and an organization dedicated to part-time students is essential to ensure that their needs are recognized and advanced. We hope that a new Board will learn from our mistakes and work together with the University to create a better and more transparent MAPS and ensure a strong voice for part-time students is maintained.

The process to review these concerns has been underway for many months and is ongoing. With the knowledge gained through this process, and the steps taken to rectify deficiencies in policy and knowledge, the MAPS Executive hopes that a renewed, robust and responsible Board will emerge to carry the organization forward for the benefit of part time students, McMaster and the community.