

MAPUS WELCOMES STUDENTS

MAPUS represents all full-time mature (older than 24 years) and all part-time (1 or 2 courses) students who, as the Academic Year 1987-88, made up 41% of the total University of Prince Edward Island student population. This older-than-average student population reflects a growing social trend toward continuing education across Canada. MAPUS is affiliated with the Canadian Organization for Part-time University Students (COPUS) which seeks to achieve equality of opportunity, at the local, provincial, and national levels, for all university students.

MAPUS has been recognized as the official representative of the older-than-average and part-time students. It has:

- an executive committee elected by its membership.

- a representative on the UPEI Senate Extension Committee.

- obtained associate membership of the UPEISU in October 83.

- one voting and one non-voting seat on the UPEI Student Council.

- acquired a voting seat on the UPEI Senate in June 86.

MAPUS was formed to ensure that mature and part-time students are an integral and acknowledged part of the UPEI community.

MAPUS recognizes that many of the concerns of its members reflect a life-style which differs with regard to responsibilities and experience to that of traditional students.

- a life-style to which many of the traditional communication networks (official or otherwise) do not reach.

- or a life-style which may require the older-than-average student to attend evening classes when many of the University Support Services are not yet available.

- or a life-style which reflects a need for activities and social events that differ in content and timing.

- to those which are generally structured to meet the needs of the younger student.

MAPUS goals are to

- extend the framework for communication between its members and with the University communications networks.

- increase participation in decision-making processes and overall involvement in the University community.

- expand course offerings and support services in the evenings and Saturdays and generally facilitate the process of obtaining a degree.

- explore sources of financial aid. MAPUS has secured two bursaries for part-time students.

- to support an environment which is conducive to the personal growth and development of mature and part-time students and mutually satisfying to the larger University Community.

MAPUS

has acquired a Lounge in Bernadine Hall for the use of its members and is currently attempting to secure centrally located office space (Robertson Library).

MAPUS surveyed its part-time student population last year on the issue of part-time student fees and received overwhelming support. To this point MAPUS is without funding. Steps are being taken to initiate a \$5.00 per course semester fee payable upon Registration. Planned expendi-

tures are bursaries, staff person, telephone, newsletters, station-

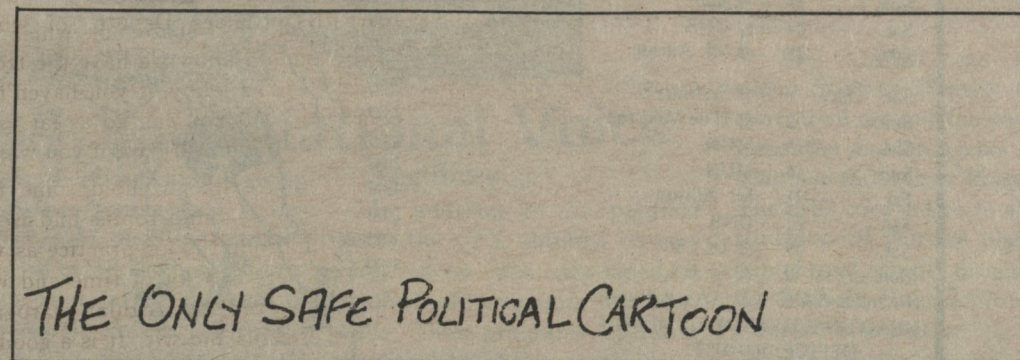
ary, mailouts, social events, attendance at conferences, etc.

MAPUS elected representatives for the 1988-89 Academic Year:

PRESIDENT	Paula Gauthier 892-6779
VICE-PRESIDENT	Bernadette MacDonald 687-2752
SECRETARY/TREASURER	Shelley Robbins 894-5595
SENATE REPRESENTATIVE	Paula Gauthier 892-6779
SU REPRESENTATIVE	Scott MacDonald 569-4072

Please do not hesitate to call us for further information, for assistance, or to share!

Planning Meeting Thursday 7:00 Sept 15 MAPUS Lounge, Bernadine Hall



Council buys sign for Pit

AN ELECTRONIC SIGN has been purchased by the Student Union and Student Services for The Pit. This comes despite the fact that a similar project using electronic messages was tried previously in the 1985/86 academic year and failed.

The sign is the red LED-type common found in bars and other similar establishments and will be used to broadcast cross-campus information and possibly rent space in the future to companies. It will be placed on the wall above the Student Union 'Information Centre' in The Pit.

Purchasing the sign was proposed by members of last year's

Student Council, who felt that messages about upcoming events at the Barn and Student Union job openings were not getting through to students. However, how effective a small electronic sign will be remains unclear.

The \$1249.00 cost of the sign is being shared by the Student Union and UPEI department of Student Services. In addition, plans are to hire a student to program messages into the sign, which must be done manually by attaching a computer keyboard. Plans are that the student will update the signs every second or third day, for which payment will be \$450.00 per semester. To ex-

pand the duties of the position, Council has decided to also burden the person with the responsibility of clearing campus bulletin boards.

A scheme remarkably similar to the electronic sign was tried by the Student Union during the 1985/86 school year. A computer 'telidon' display was installed in the Pit by the UPEI Computer Centre on which could be shown colour pictures and messages of Student Union news. The display was administered by a student who was responsible for getting the information to the Computer Centre who would then type it in.

However, by the beginning of

the second term, the display was virtually inactive. Apparently students ignored the display, even though it faced the most popular sitting location in The Pit. Eventually, the student in charge stopped giving information to the Computer Centre to display and the project ground to a halt.

Student Union VP Communications Paul Griffith is optimistic that a red electronic sign mounted behind the Mini Centre will be more successful. He said the telidon display "wasn't as catchy" as this new type of sign.

Make work project?

Apparently Student Council

did not look into the fact that electronic signs of this type may be connected to an existing computer from which messages can be 'downloaded'. The manufacturer makes a sign which, instead of paying a person to plug a keyboard into the sign every other day, could be connected to UPEI's computer system. A person already hired, such as the SU full-time secretary, would then only have to type messages into the Union's new computer system. From there it could be automatically displayed on the electronic sign in the pit.

The "catchy" new sign has been ordered and will be installed when it arrives.