

Minutes of the 1,263<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5:30pm in the Library.

- Present: Dr. Jonathan Steels (Chair)  
Dr. Bruce Kidd (Warden)  
Ms. Emma Arppe-Robertson (Recording Secretary)  
Ms. Gini Chin (RAC Secretary)  
Ms. Karthy Chin (Literary and Library Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Anita Comella (Presidential Appointee)  
Mr. Kenneth Davy (Governing Council Appointee)  
Mr. Matt Dreger (Alumni Committee Chair)  
Ms. Susan Froom (APUS Appointee)  
Mr. Pierre Harfouche (UTSU Appointee)  
Mr. Kaleem Hawa (Debates Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Lesia Kinach (Farm Committee Secretary)  
Mr. Rhain Louis (RAC Senior Member)  
Ms. Victoria McEwan (Theatre Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Danielle Nairn (Farm Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Kavita Siewrattan (GSU Appointee)  
Ms. Evelyn Zhang (Finance Committee Secretary)
- Guests: Ms. Lynsay Henderson (HUB Coordinator)  
Ms. Michelle Lee (Art Committee Representative)  
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Interim Director, Programme Administration)  
Ms. Rita O'Brien (CAO)  
Mr. Paul Templin (Director of Meeting & Event Services)  
Mr. Peter Wambera (Senior Development Officer)
- Regrets: Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President [*ex officio*] Designate)  
Ms. Natalie Lai (Art Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Celine McGarvey (Social Justice Committee Secretary)  
Dr. Helen Slade (Presidential Appointee)  
Ms. Freda Zhang (Music Committee Secretary)

## **1. Approval of the Agenda**

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the agenda.**

## **2. Minutes of the 1,262<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

### **a) Approval of Minutes of the 1,262<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

Mr. Rhain Louis, RAC Senior member is to be added to the list of regrets for the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the minutes as amended.**

### **3. New Business**

**a) Committee on Budgets Report** (Jenifer Newcombe, Interim Director of Programme)

The Committee on Budgets is a Subcommittee of the Board of Stewards which annually reviews Clubs and Committee budget applications and allocates these budgets within the funding envelope approved by the Board of Stewards. It is comprised of Committee Secretaries, two Club representatives and is chaired by the Director of Programme and the Finance Committee Secretary.

It was recommended that the Committee on Budgets consider long term funding trends to ensure overall equity for all Clubs and Committees at the House. These trends do reflect varying levels of flexibility in Club and Committee budgets, as well as changes in programming and structure.

The Committee on Budgets will circulate the funding guidelines ahead of the motion to approve the Committee on Budgets allocations at the next Board of Stewards meeting.

**b) Committees Review Report** (Jenifer Newcombe, Interim Director of Programme)\*

The Committees Review was presented for discussion at the Board of Stewards. Motions concerning the recommendations of the Committees Review will be coming forward to the Board of Stewards at future meetings. The Warden and Ms. Newcombe will be available to meet with any Board of Stewards members, or Hart House Committees who would like to discuss the review.

There were several dominant themes to the recommendations: to celebrate and affirm the importance of Committees; to support Committees; to ensure student leadership, best practices and flexibility; to expand and deepen participation; and to create dynamic and compelling communications.

The recommendations of the Committees review will have several implications for the governance of Hart House. These recommendations include: creating one senior member/alumni position on the Board of Stewards to be elected annually to replace the Alumni Committee Chair and RAC Senior Member; create the option for Committees to separate the Secretary role from the role of Committee representative on the Board of Stewards while ensuring that the Board of Stewards role remains an elected position; a five year cycle of review for the structure and mandate of the Committees; and the revival of the House Committee with representation from all Hart House Committees.

Initial feedback from members of the Board of Stewards indicated some concern with the formalization of educational goals, the abolishment of the Alumni Committee as a Standing Committee of Hart House, and the proposal that Committees consider separating the secretary and Board of Stewards roles.

Members also suggested that the Board of Stewards Representative continue to be someone who has sat on a Committee for at least a year; that engagement at UTM and UTSC be improved; that posting for Committees roles be given more prominence at Hart House and especially in the locker rooms; that needs-based bursaries be strongly considered, that the articulation of activities is key to attracting students, and that two-year terms for Board of Stewards representatives be implemented with consideration being given on how not to exclude upper year students.

The Warden explained that some recommendations could be acted upon by administrative decision; some would require approval by the Board of Stewards, and most of the recommendations directed at Committees would be decided upon and implemented by the relevant Committee. He agreed to present his administrative response to the Committees Review—i.e. his decision about what recommendations to implement and what recommendations to take to the Board and the Committees--at least one meeting before the meeting where the BoS would have to decide.

#### **4. Committee and Departmental Presentations**

##### **a) Farm Committee (Danielle Nairn and Lesia Kinach, Secretaries)**

The Farm Committee mandate is to create developmental policies within a sustainable and equity framework, to organize social activities on the Farm and on campus, to organize farm work days, to oversee the proper use of the Farm by various groups, and to work in alliance with campus groups to promote sustainability. They hold four major events a year: Cider 'n' Song, Winter Escape, Sugaring Off, and Midsummer's Eve.

The Farm Committee works to create an inclusive learning community which is hands-on and holistic. They rely on a number of volunteers and relationships with other campus groups. They are currently working to improve the leadership and structure of their Committee, to improve advertising and communications, to simplify transportation to and from the farm, and to coordinate volunteer roles.

##### **b) Alumni Committee (Matt Dreger, Chair)**

The mandate of the Alumni Committee is to represent the interests of the alumni, senior members and other non-student members of Hart House. Recent challenges have included difficulty in engaging new Alumni and low participation at some events as well as volunteer coordination. Currently the Alumni Committee is running fireside chats to solicit feedback which is filtered through to the administration, the annual Hart House Trivia Challenge, and the Dinner series which has been running since 1929. Mr. Dreger

encouraged any student members of the Board who were interested in attending the dinners to contact him.

The Alumni Committee also recently hosted Canada Fall In! an event which marked Remembrance Day on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. The Alumni Committee has several plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hart House including a reprinting of a second edition of *Strange Elation* and the issuing of a postage stamp.

## **5. Warden's Report**

The Warden informed the Board of Stewards that the Memorandum of Understanding for the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery and the University of Toronto Art Centre will be coming forward at the December meeting. The recommendations of the Project Planning Committee for the Green Heritage Infrastructure Project will come to the Board at the January Meeting.

There will be future chance to give feedback on the Committees review on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> between 8:30am and 10:30am in the South Dining Room. A budget information session will be held for the Board of Stewards from 3pm-5pm in the Board Room on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The University of Toronto has recently released the report of the Provostial Committee on Student Mental Health and it can be found on the governing council website.

## **6. Other Business and Announcements**

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014