

Minutes of the 1,265th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, January 15th, 2015 at 5:30pm in the Library.

- Present:
- Dr. Bruce Kidd (Warden)
 - Dr. Jonathan Steels (Chair)
 - Ms. Emma Arppe-Robertson (Recording Secretary)
 - Ms. Karthy Chin (Literary and Library Committee Secretary)
 - Ms. Anita Comella (Presidential Appointee)
 - Mr. Matt Dreger (Alumni Committee Chair)
 - Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President [*ex officio*] Designate)
 - Ms. Susan Froom (APUS Appointee)
 - Mr. Kaleem Hawa (Debates Committee Secretary)
 - Ms. Lesia Kinach (Farm Committee Secretary)
 - Mr. Rhain Louis (RAC Senior Member)
 - Ms. Danielle Nairn (Farm Committee Secretary)
 - Ms. Kavita Siewrattan (GSU Appointee)
 - Dr. Helen Slade (Presidential Appointee)
 - Ms. Evelyn Zhang (Finance Committee Secretary)
 - Ms. Freda Zhang (Music Committee Secretary)
- Guests:
- Ms. Amanda Greener (Manager, Strategy Implementation and Staff Operations)
 - 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. Gini Chin (RAC Secretary)
 - Mr. Kenneth Davy (Governing Council Appointee)
 - Mr. Pierre Harfouche (UTSU Appointee)
 - Ms. Natalie Lai (Art Committee Secretary)
 - Ms. Victoria McEwan (Theatre Committee Secretary)
 - Ms. Celine McGarvey (Social Justice Committee Secretary)

The Chair congratulated the Warden on his appointment as Vice-President, University of Toronto and Principal, University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus.

The Warden thanked the Chair and noted that Hart House has always been an important part of his life, and that he will continue to see himself as a part of the Hart House community.

Ms. Fromowitz informed the Board that the call for nominations for the Warden Search Committee has gone out. This Committee will reflect the Hart House and University of Toronto Community and their stakeholders. The Committee hopes to conduct interviews in late February or early March.

1. Approval of the Agenda

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

2. Minutes of the 1,263rd Meeting

a) Approval of Minutes of the 1,263rd Meeting

Item 4a on the Minutes to be amended to read Farm Committee.

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

3. New Business

a) 2015/16 Budget Approval (Rita O'Brien, CAO)

Hart House has continued to organize smaller information meetings for Board of Stewards members and Club and Committee executives in advance of the Budget meeting.

The Hart House budget has been approved by the Finance Committee. After being approved by the Board of Stewards it will be sent to the Council on Student Services (COSS) and the Services Ancillary Review Board (SARG) for approval before being sent to the University Affairs Board (UAB).

Hart House is projecting a balanced budget for 2015/2016. Major projects will include the Infrastructure Renewal Project, IT Wiring Project, Committees Review, Library Endowment and the University of Toronto Art Centre and Justina M. Barnicke Gallery federation. There is a 2.6% increase in student fees included in this budget, as well as a 3% increase in Club and Committee spending. Senior Member fees will increase by 2%, additionally the age limit for senior fees has been increased from 60 to 65.

Concerns were expressed regarding the staffing compliment of the House and whether it should be decreased or whether more volunteer positions should be created. However, other Board members felt that it was important that the University of Toronto continue to discourage unpaid internship and volunteer roles which could be discriminatory and that Hart House continue to be a strong supporter of the University's policy of being a unionized employer. There was also concern that decreasing the staffing compliment would result in fewer supports and services for students.

On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD APPROVED the 2015/2016 Budget as recommended by the finance committee.

4. Business Arising

a) Committees Review, Administrative Response (Bruce Kidd, Warden)

Hart House has always been a place for education, cultural production and fellowship. The Committees have always been the primary vehicles of these values. The Board of Stewards received the Committees Review report at the November 2014 meeting.

The Warden remarked that there needed to be more open and systemic access to all students across all three campuses and that the most current research in experiential education should be incorporated into the Committees in a way which allows learners to define and articulate their own methodologies, goals and outcomes. It is the recommendation that Committees be given the opportunity to define and redefine their structures and roles. Hart House can provide better and smarter support in providing Committees with space, funding, communication, administration and in helping to recruit faculty, alumni and staff to advisor roles.

A constitutional change will be brought forward in February to delist the Alumni Committee as one of the Standing Committees of the House in keeping with the definition of the Committees as places for student learning. Additionally, the Senior Member representative, who is currently elected by and from the Recreational Athletics Committee, shall become a Senior Member representative elected by and from the Senior Membership as a whole. Further changes may be recommended by the Committees themselves as they discuss their own structures and mandates.

Several members of the Board expressed the concern that learning outcomes could take away from the informal learning opportunities which are available at Hart House. The Warden noted that these would not be the same as academic learning outcomes, but would rather be tools to help students frame their own learning.

5. Committee and Departmental Presentations

a) Music Committee (Freda Zhang, Secretary)

The Music Committee focuses on three pillars for their programming: inclusiveness, diversity and cultivation. They welcome students from many backgrounds and academic divisions and all their events are free.

The Committee is comprised of seven sub-committees: UofT Idol, Stages, Demo Magazine, Midday Mosaics, Sunday Concerts, Open Mic and Jazz at Oscars. The Committee also includes a treasurer, secretary and associate secretary. The associate secretary position is a new initiative to involve lower year students in Committee work.

Current initiatives underway include a re-evaluation of annual programming, and an increased outreach on social media. The Committee is also increasing their collaboration with other groups across Hart House and the University.

c) Strategy Implementation and Staff Operations Department (Amanda Greener, Manager)

The department ensures that all staffing activities, processes and structures support the strategic objectives of Hart House. This includes work on training and development, protocols, policies, and hiring.

Priorities for the current year include: strengthening recruitment, new staff orientation, performance feedback and goal setting, and staff exiting. The particular focus this year is on casual staff and two large casual staff orientation sessions have been launched along with smaller follow up workshops. This orientation will help staff to explore the vision and mandate of Hart House, provide a community building opportunity and career development sessions.

5. Warden's Report

A Story of Canadian Art: as told by the Hart House Art Collection will be opening at the University of Toronto Art Centre and will feature works from the first thirty years of the Hart House permanent collection.

Other upcoming events include the Hart House Review's annual poetry and prose contest, the January 28th alumni debate and the Hancock Lecture which will be held on February 10th. The first annual Winter Blast will be held on January 22nd.

6. Other Business and Announcements

Hart House students are invited to join in the COSS retreat which will be held on February 22nd.

7. Next Meeting

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th, 2015.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

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