

Minutes of the 1,206th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards, held on Thursday September 20, 2007 at 5:30 pm in the South Dining Room.

- Present: Ms. Elizabeth Vosburgh (GC Appointee) (In the Chair)
Dr. Louise Cowin (Warden)
Ms. Corrine Aberdeen (Lit and Lib Committee)
Mr. Sameer Al-Abdul-Wahid (Presidential Appointee)
Ms Aileen Burns (Art Committee)
Mr. Courtney Gibson (Alumni Committee Chair)
Mr. Richard Lizius (Debates Committee)
Mr. Shawn Mitchell (Theatre Committee)
Mr. Joseph Mulongo (GSU Appointee)
Mr. A J Pandher (Finance Committee)
Mr. David Pereira (Presidential Appointee)
Mr. Nam Pham (Social Justice Committee)
Ms. Jacqueline Raaflaub (RAC Senior Member)
Mr. Mitchell Wong (Music Committee)
Mr. Payam Zarin (RAC)
- Ms. Cristina Oke (Recording Secretary)
- Guests: Mr. Ken Brocklehurst (Director of Finance & Info Technology)
Mr. Sandy Henderson (Director, Athletics & Membership)
Ms. Laney Marshall (Director of Programme)
Mr. Geoff Oakham (House Committee)
Mr. Paul Templin (Managing Director, Hart House Theatre)
- Regrets: Mr. Davis Elisha (President's Designate)
Ms. Lisa Punnett (Chair)
Ms. Duri Song (House Committee)
Ms. Lindsey Van de Keere (Farm Committee)
- Absent: APUS Rep
Ms. Michal Hay (UTSU Appointee)
Mr. Wasah Malik (UTM Rep)
UTSC Rep

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Ms Vosburgh explained that she had been asked by the Warden to chair the meeting in the absence of Ms Punnett, who was unable to attend as she was preparing for her wedding on September 22. Board members offered their best wishes to Ms Punnett. Ms Vosburgh welcomed those present at the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves.

The Warden asked for members' permission to record the meetings as an aid to the Recording Secretary. It was agreed that the recording would be destroyed when the draft minutes had been finalized, and that *in camera* portions of meetings would not be recorded.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the 1,205th meeting held on May 3, 2007 were approved.

The Chair explained the difference between 'Regrets' and 'Absent' in the minutes. Members who had indicated that they were unable to be present at the meeting were listed under 'Regrets'; others were listed as 'Absent'.

3. Business Arising:

There was no business arising.

4. Reports:**a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues****ALUMNI**

Programming for the year was underway. The Committee would be hosting a swing band evening on Friday, November 17, 2007.

ART

Projections, the major exhibition that had been mounted in the Art Gallery from April 8 to June 17, 2007 had been successful, and was now traveling to Alberta. A new exhibition featuring works by Kelly Mark had opened on September 13 and continued until October 28.

The Art Committee had held its first meeting and had elected the sub-committee chairs.

The issue of vibration of the lights in the Gallery had been examined during the summer. The vibrations were due to contact between the isolators in the ceiling of the Gallery and the floor of the gym above the Gallery. The Gallery would be renovated to address the problem, and to make it wheelchair accessible.

DEBATES

The Debates Committee would be holding a formal debate on the resolution: "This House Would Fight the War on Terror without sacrificing Civil Liberties" on Wednesday, September 26 with University of Toronto Professor Kent Roach as guest speaker.

Arrangements were being made for the Debates Club to participate in the World Debating Championships being held in Thailand in the winter of 2008.

FARM

No report.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee had met on September 19 for its beginning of year orientation. In addition, the financial results for the first quarter, ended July 31, had been reviewed.

The 2006-07 audited financial statements would be reviewed at the next meeting (October 10), in preparation for the Board's October 18 meeting.

HOUSE

The first meeting had been held two weeks ago. The Wide Open House event had been a success. The Committee was looking for names for the 'Record Room'. The annual CBC Christmas Carol Reading would be held at Hart House, with the date to be determined.

LITERARY & LIBRARY

An open reading co-hosted by the Club and the Hart House Review had been held on September 12. The sub-committees had met, but the Club had not yet held its first meeting.

MUSIC

The first meeting of the Committee had been held on September 17. All regular programming was continuing. Two new programs were being introduced – karaoke and film screening. On October 18, 2007, the concert series Stages of the Hart House Music Committee would present Spiral Beach.

RECREATIONAL ATHLETICS

The Hart House Softball team had reached the semi-finals in its league. The squash court was undergoing maintenance, and was reverting to American lines from British lines. The bookstore space renovations were proceeding. Registration for athletics was going well.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee (HHSJ) had had a successful start this September. Interest in the Committee's activities had grown significantly since last year with more than 200 new members added to its Listserv.

Response to the Committee's recent publicity campaign had generally been positive. The images used in the campaign had sought to address HHSJ's overarching attitude and theme this year of *Questioning*, as alluded to in the painting by Rene Magritte, "La Trahison des Images".

Upcoming events:

HHSJ had invited Stephen Lewis, the former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, to speak at an event on Monday September 24, 2007. The event was called "Africa: Our Responsibility in the 21st Century", hosted in partnership with Hillel of Greater Toronto.

On October 23rd, HHSJ would be holding its first Community Kitchen's workshop for the term, called "Canadian Eh?" Students would cook their own meal while learning about food security and local cuisine.

THEATRE

The 2007-08 season was up and running with *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, which ran until September 29. Auditions were underway for *Julius Caesar*, which was the next scheduled production.

The mandate of Committee was being changed, and the proposed membership was 5 appointed members and 6 students.

Hart and Culture, a long-term plan for the entire House, was still seeking responses. Only one response had been received by the deadline of September 19, 2007. The deadline had been extended until September 21, 2007.

COMMITTEE on BUDGETS

The Committee had met in July to consider a request from the House Committee to fund a free lunch for orientation wind-up. The request had been approved.

ADVANCEMENT

No report. No officer in place.

b) WARDEN'S UPDATE:**(i) Orientation**

Dr Cowin proposed that the format for the Orientation for members of the Hart House Board of Stewards be changed in 2008.

- The intention of the orientation would be to give new board members an introduction to the formality and rules of procedure of a Board meeting in order to make them feel comfortable and confident at the meetings.
- Factual information about procedures would be interjected during the simulated meeting.

The following suggestions were raised in discussion:

- include continuing Board members and Hart House staff members for role models;
- include information about the University's governance in the Orientation material;
- provide a 'get to know you' social opportunity at the beginning of the academic year;

(ii) Current Activities

Dr Cowin highlighted the following Hart House activities:

- The theme of Hart House for 2007-08 is ECOlogy/ECONomy: A Sustainable Dilemma?
- Club activities were underway, as indicated in the reports above.
- The cycling room was almost finished.
- A new compactor was in place.
- The year-end audit was nearing conclusion.

(iii) Review of Hart House: Recommendations

Dr Cowin reviewed the key recommendations of the Review of Hart House, and noted that an administrative response had been released at the same time as the Review Report.

Background of Review

The review of a unit was standard practice at the University and normally coincided with the end of the term of the unit's chief administrative officer. The Hart House Review Committee had been composed of sixteen members and had met six times. Documentation for the Committee had been provided by the Warden and staff of Hart House.

The Review should be considered in the context of the following factors that are currently at play within the University:

- Enhancing the student experience was the highest priority of President Naylor and of *Stepping Up*, the current academic plan of the University.
- The organization and delivery of student services at the University was currently under review. The services had been deconstructed and now had to be reassembled.
- The current academic plan of the University was for the period 2004-08; in 2008, a new academic plan would be drafted.
- A proposal for a new student commons was currently under consideration. There would be a student referendum in the coming months if an additional compulsory non-academic fee was required to finance the proposed student commons. The role of Hart House in relationship to the new student commons must be considered.
- President Naylor had recently initiated a visioning exercise: *Towards 2030*.

Key Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

The Warden should provide guidance to the Board of Stewards and staff in the development, pursuit, monitoring and evaluation of a multi-year learning agenda, in keeping with the University's objectives for students, the restructuring of student life, and the opportunities for collaboration with the academic divisions.

Points raised in discussion

- Why refer to the University's Academic Plan when Hart House was not an academic unit?
 - Different language should be developed to communicate the contributions made by Hart House and its programs to the student experience.
 - Academic learning resulted from co-curricular involvement, and could be seen as a student learning outcome.

- The Recommendations of the Review were addressing what had been heard from students, in such surveys as the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).
- Did the Review recommend any change in the structure of Board of Stewards?
 - The Review committee appeared to have understood the current governance and structure of Hart House.
 - The Review provided an opportunity for Hart House itself to ask whether the current governance structures were appropriate for 2007.
- Would Hart House be forced to ‘fit into a spreadsheet’ to create learning outcomes?
 - It was appropriate for Hart House to ask why it was supporting current activities, and what was the outcome that was expected from those activities.

Recommendation 2:

The Warden should develop, maintain and strengthen active, ongoing connections with divisions, services and programs whose interests and focus parallel those of Hart House. Hart House staff should receive support and training in student learning theory and practice, especially with respect to the assessment of outcomes.

Points raised in discussion

- ‘Fun’ elements did not appear to have been included in the Review Report.
 - Academic divisions should strengthen their relationship with Hart House, and Hart House should strengthen its links with academic communities.
- It would be helpful if students understood what they were gaining from their Hart House activities.
- The Review provided an opportunity to increase awareness of Hart House and to enhance the experience it provides to members.
- Students needed Hart House to lead a balanced life.

Recommendation 3:

The funding structure for all student clubs and committees should be reviewed by the Vice-Provost, Students, the Assistant Vice-President, Student Life and the Warden, to develop a broader, more equitable system of support for student clubs across the University.

Points raised in discussion

- Hart House clubs were different from other clubs on campus.
 - Hart House would decide during April and May meetings on the club structure for 2008/09
 - It was appropriate for Hart House governance to ask whether the current clubs were inclusive, accessible, diverse, and suitable for the twenty-first century.

- \$500,000 to the clubs/committees plus Hart House staff salary lines to support thirty clubs at Hart House.
- How would the proposed funding review be conducted? Would the Hart House Board of Stewards have input?
 - The details of the proposed funding review had not yet been finalized.
 - The Warden would not make decisions in isolation.
 - The Hart House Club and Committee structure had been in place for a long time; it was appropriate to take this opportunity to ask whether the structure was working as well as it could be.
 - Conversation on this topic would be at the Board of Stewards.
- Currently, the decision process at Hart House for clubs and finances was student driven – would it be exchanged for central control?
 - It was best to wait until the details of the review process had been finalized and the intent of recommendation was clear, rather than speculating on what might happen.
- Currently funding for student activities came from a variety of student fees
 - Hart House governance allowed students to make funding allocations to clubs and committees, and its decisions were reported to the clubs and committees. In contrast, the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) allocated funds to clubs but did not report to those clubs.
 - It seemed unlikely that the University would remove revenue from Hart House.
 - The proposed funding review provided an opportunity for Hart House to ask if the current clubs were the right ones, whether clubs were being funded because they currently existed, whether there were groups that Hart House was not attracting, and, if so, why were they not attracted to the House.

Recommendation 4:

Students enrolled at UTM and UTSC should continue to enjoy full membership privileges in Hart House and pay a nominal fee. In return, the Warden and the staff will continue and extend collaborative activity and programs with centres on the other campuses, and will ensure that UTM and UTSC students know that they are welcome at Hart House. The House will actively provide ongoing information about activities and events to all U of T students.

Recommendation 5:

The principle of connectedness is especially relevant to the Art Gallery, the Athletic Wing and the Theatre and should guide the planning for and operations of these facilities.

Recommendation 6:

The Co-curricular Working Group of the Arts Council and the Warden continue to consider ways of integrating the arts and cultural initiatives of Hart House more deeply with those in the academic divisions and other parts of the University.

Recommendation 7:

The Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Health and the new Warden should form a working group to examine the administration and delivery of recreational athletic programs on the St. George campus.

Recommendation 8:

The Vice-Provost, Students, the AVP, Student Life and the Warden should strike a committee to consider the additional uses of the Farm, especially those that promote student learning.

Points raised in discussion

Recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 dealt with specific activities.

- In 2009, theatre funding from the University would expire.
- Hart House was seeking someone for the vacant advancement position who had connections to theatre/arts community
- Dr Cowin was meeting in October with the new Vice-President and Chief Advancement Officer to explore ways in which the Division of University Advancement (DUA) could support Hart House.

Unresolved Issues from Previous Reviews

Recommendation 11:

The Founder's Prayer should be preserved as a piece of the House's history, but it should not continue to be given prominence in its original form. Although it contains sentiments and principles that continue to be relevant, it reflects a unidimensional perspective that no longer reflects or addresses all members of the University community. (It can be noted that the recent review of Convocation resulted in the elimination of the Convocation Prayer.)

Points raised in discussion

- The Founder's Prayer should be preserved because it still had relevance.
- The Prayer reflected the views of the time of the founding of Hart House.
- The Prayer could lead to the perception that Hart House was not inclusive.
- A positive spin on the 2007 Hart House Review regarding the Founder's Prayer is that the Review Committee recommended that it should be preserved as a piece of the House's history [...] and that it [...] contains sentiments and principles that continue to be relevant. One possible way forward with respect to the critique that

"it reflects a unidimensional perspective that no longer reflects or addresses all members of the University community" is for Hart House to create a mission statement that reflects the principles of the Founder's Prayer that continue to be relevant, and also ensure it is framed by contemporary notions that reflect all members of the University community.

Recommendation 12:

Previous reviews have addressed the matter of the revolver and rifle clubs, and the use of space in Hart House as a shooting range. Although those reviews did not explicitly recommend the abolition of the clubs, they spoke to the inappropriateness of guns in an urban environment, and suggested that no particular activity should enjoy permanently dedicated space in the House. We too feel that, while firearms and other weapons can serve some purposes, they are also a painful reminder and a symbol (and, regardless of the safeguards, a potential agent) of more sinister uses. The Committee is aware that this issue has been and continues to be divisive, and that the clubs provide a recreational activity valued by their members. Nonetheless, we believe that the abolition of the clubs, and the reallocation of the space for other purposes more consistent with the University's current values and mission, will serve the greater good. Consistent with the University's Statement on the Bearing of Firearms, we recommend that the Chief Administrative Officer permanently withdraw permission for firearms to be kept or used at Hart House or at any of its facilities.

Points raised in discussion

- In 1994, the University's *Statement on the Bearing of Firearms* had been approved by the Governing Council. Hart House had been granted an exemption from the *Statement*, and had been allowed to keep and to use firearms.¹
- In a letter dated June 19, 2007, C. Riggall, Vice-President, Business Affairs had withdrawn permission for Hart House's exemption to the *Statement*, effective September 30, 2007.
- On September 17, C. Riggall had agreed to an extension to November 30, 2007 for the storage of rifles and revolvers at Hart House, but not for their use.
- The Board of Stewards should respond to the Recommendation.

Add to the Agenda

The Chair agreed to add to the agenda, under Other Business, the establishment of an ad hoc committee to draft a response to the recommendation.

c) Other Board Members' Reports:

University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)

No report.

¹ Information about timelines and links to documentation is available at <http://www.harthouse.utoronto.ca/hh/club.php?cluburl=http://www.hhrc.ca/>

Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS)

No report.

Graduate Students' Union (GSU)

No report.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Orientation for members of the Governing Council was held on September 7, and presented the priorities of the administration for coming year. The restructuring of the student services portfolio and the enhancement of the student experience remain the top priorities.

PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE

No report.

U of T at SCARBOROUGH

No report.

UofT at MISSISSAUGA

No report.

5. Club Chairs:**(a) Revolver Club - motion**

On a motion duly moved and seconded, THE BOARD APPROVED THAT Ted Chiasson be appointed as Chair of the Hart House Revolver Club.

(b) Rifle Club - motion

On a motion duly moved and seconded, THE BOARD APPROVED THAT Constable Kim Senior be appointed as Chair of the Rifle Club.

(c) Amateur Radio Club - motion

On a motion duly moved and seconded, THE BOARD APPROVED THAT Byron Desnoyer Winmill be appointed as Chair of the Hart House Amateur Radio Club.

6. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the South Dining Room.

7. Other Business & Announcements:**(a) Committee Dinner**

The Committees Dinner would be held on Tuesday October 30, 2007, and would feature a sustainable menu in keeping with the ECOology/ECONomy theme of 2007-08.

(b) Start Time for Meeting

A request for a 4:30 pm start for meetings of the Board of Stewards was declined, as a majority of members present could not be available at the earlier time.

(c) Nuit Blanche, September 29-30.

A number of exhibits and displays would be at the University of Toronto during Nuit Blanche on September 29 and 30.

(d) Ad Hoc Committee

The Board discussed the withdrawal of the exemption of permission for Hart House to store and use firearms.

Points raised in discussion

- The Board of Stewards had not had an opportunity to respond to Recommendation 12.
- The removal of permission to use firearms had shut down the main activities of the Rifle and Revolver Clubs.
- The reasons given for the withdrawal of the exemption did not reflect the history of the Clubs.
- The Board should consider making a request to address the Governing Council at its meeting on October 30, 2007 on this issue.

On motion duly moved and seconded, **THE BOARD APPROVED THAT:**

- (i) an Ad Hoc Committee be struck, composed of any interested member of the Board plus the Chair and Secretary of the Revolver Club and the Chair and Secretary of the Rifle Club;**
- (ii) the Committee be charged with drafting a response from the Board of Stewards to Recommendation 12 of the Hart House Review Report.**
- (iii) the draft response be considered by the Board of Stewards at its meeting on October 18, at which time the Board will decide whether it would send the response to the Governing Council for consideration at the meeting of the Governing Council on October 30, 2007.**

- The members of the Board who had indicated their interest in joining this Committee were:
 - Sameer Al-Abdul-Wahid
 - Courtney Gibson
 - Richard Lizius
 - A J Pandher
 - David Pereira
- The Committee would select its Chair.
- Other individuals could make their own direct requests to address the Governing Council on October 30.

(e) Notice of Motion

Notice was given of the following motion:

THAT, as the House Committee Secretary is unable to attend meetings of the Board of Stewards during 2007-08, Procedural Rule 8² be suspended and Geoff Oakham be appointed as a member of the Board of Stewards for the year.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

September 30, 2007

² Each Steward present is entitled to one vote and only the Stewards present may vote on any question. In cases of unavoidable absence, any Steward may send a designate who must be a member of the House, to speak to the Board on their behalf. Such designate shall have full speaking rights but may not vote or make motions.