

Minutes of the 1,222<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards, held on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the South Dining Room.

Present: Ms Lisa Punnett (Chair)  
Dr. Louise Cowin (Warden)  
Ms Corrine Aberdeen (Literary and Library Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Sarah Bailey (House Committee, 2009/10)  
Ms Anita Camella (Presidential Appointee)  
Mr. Chris Charles (GSU Appointee, 2008/09)  
Mr. Anthony Chiu (Music Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Sarah Crowther (Literary and Library Committee, 2009/10)  
Mr. Matt Dreger (Alumni Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Klara Kovar (Art Committee, 2009/10)  
Mr. Adam Kowalczewski (Finance Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Nicola Langille (House Committee, 2008/09)  
Mr. Alexander Levy (Debates Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Clara Luke (Farm Committee, 2009/10)  
Mr. Matt McGeachy (Theatre Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Ewa Modlinska (Farm Committee)  
Mr. David Pereira (Presidential Appointee)  
Mr. Matthew Poot (Music Committee, 2009/10)  
Ms Jacqueline Raaflaub (RAC Senior Member, continuing)  
Ms Denise Ryner (for Joanna Sheridan, Art Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Camille Sahula (Social Justice Committee, 2008/09)  
Mr. Victor Wong (Finance Committee, 2009/10)  
Ms Elizabeth Wooster (RAC, 2008/09)  
Ms Taraneh Zarin (RAC, 2009/10)

Ms Cristina Oke (Recording Secretary)

Guests: Mr. Sandy Henderson (Director, Athletics & Membership)  
Ms Laney Marshall (Director of Programme)  
Mr. Alan Shatzky (Coordinator, Special Projects)  
Mr. Paul Templin (Manager, Hart House Theatre)

Regrets: Ms Kate Bruce Lockhart (Social Justice Committee, 2009/10)  
Ms Lucy Fromowitz (President (*ex officio*) or Designate)  
Ms Joanna Sheridan (Art Committee, 2008/09)  
Ms Elizabeth Vosburgh (GC Appointee)

Absent: Ms Helen Choi (APUS Appointee)  
Dhananjai Kohli (UTM Rep)  
UTSC Rep

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed 2008/09 and 2009/10 members and guests to the joint meeting of the Board of Stewards, and invited all those present to introduce themselves. She reminded those present that only the 2008/09 members of the Board of Stewards were allowed to vote at the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

### (a) February 12, 2009

The second sentence of the second paragraph of the report from Recreational Athletics on page 4 was revised to read:

*No further action will be taken at this time on the request for women's only hours in the Hart House weight room.*

The minutes of the 1,220<sup>th</sup> meeting held on February 12, 2009 were approved as amended.

### (b) March 12, 2009

The minutes of the 1,221<sup>st</sup> meeting held on March 12, 2009 were approved.

## 3. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous meetings.

## 4. Vision Statement

Mr. Shatzky thanked all those who participated in the process of developing the draft vision statement. A writing team had created an initial vision statement <sup>1</sup> that was intended to reflect in contemporary wording the sentiments expressed in the 1919 Founder's Prayer <sup>2</sup>. Members of the Board of Stewards, members of Hart House clubs and committees, and all Hart House staff were then invited to provide feedback and comments on the draft statement.

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<sup>1</sup> Hart House is a living laboratory of social, artistic, cultural, and recreational experiences where all voices, rhythms, and traditions converge. We encourage and support mindful engagement in our programming, services, activities, and communities. Our commitment to education in its true sense creates opportunities for self-knowledge and self-expression to take hold.

<sup>2</sup> The Prayer of the Founders is that Hart House, under the guidance of its Warden, may serve in the generations to come the highest interests of this University by drawing into a common fellowship the members of the several Colleges and Faculties, and by gathering into a true society the teacher and the student, the graduate and the undergraduate; further, that the members of Hart House may discover within its walls the true education that is to be found within good fellowship, in friendly disputation and debate, in the conversation of wise and earnest men, in music, pictures and the play, in the casual book, in sports and games and the mastery of the body; and lastly, that just as in the days of war this House was devoted to the training in arms of the young soldier, so, in the time of peace its halls may be dedicated to the task of arming youth with strength and suppleness of limb, with clarity of mind and depth of understanding, and with a spirit of true religion and high endeavor.

#### 4. Vision Statement (cont'd)

At the end of the consultative process, the writing team reassembled, reviewed the feedback received, and decided to delete the second two sentences of the draft vision statement.

Several members of the Board of Stewards expressed their surprise that the two sentences had been removed rather than modified. Members also noted the absence of reference to students in the statement. Mr. Shatzky explained that, in the view of the writing team, the word 'all' was more inclusive than 'students'. He also noted that the sentences that had been included in the original draft would be reviewed and incorporated into core values that would support the vision statement. Members emphasized the importance of including among the core values the leadership role of students in the House and the expectations of members of the House.

Dr. Cowin announced that a writing team would be assembled to enunciate the core values that will support the statement. Individual departments will review their goals, objectives and practices to ensure alignment with the vision statement. The Board will receive an update in early fall 2009.

Several members of the Board expressed their appreciation for the work of the writing team and of the openness of the consultative process that led to the proposed vision statement. Dr. Cowin stated that the process would serve as a model of consultation for the future.

**On motion duly made and seconded, THE BOARD OF STEWARDS APPROVED** the following statement as its vision and chief guiding principle for the House:

*Hart House is a living laboratory of social, artistic, cultural and recreational experiences where all voices, rhythms and traditions converge.*

#### 5. Reports

##### a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues

###### ALUMNI

The Alumni Committee had a successful year with well-attended events, highlighted by the six evenings of the Dinner Series, the Trivia Challenge and the Alumni Reception. The Committee has submitted its budget with plans to add a second Trivia event where the Committee reaches out and partners with a UofT Faculty and hopefully brings in students who are new to Hart House.

## 5. Reports (cont'd)

### a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)

#### ART

##### **JMB Gallery**

The exhibition *South South* had a successful opening earlier this month and continues through to May 19<sup>th</sup>. The installation of *South South* saw an unprecedented number of student, alumni and general (gallery friend) volunteers in response to the curator's call. The Toronto/Brooklyn artist Brendan Fernandes also led a well-attended two-day artist workshop at Hart House as part of *South South*. There will also be an exhibition catalogue launch on May 11.

The JMB Venice Apprentice contest has closed and the final five contestants are volunteering at the gallery. Profiles of the remaining contestants as well as details and photos of the gallery's preparations for the Biennale are posted on the 'Canada Pavillion Venice Biennale' Facebook page. There will be a final send-off press conference and reception in the Great Hall on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Press Conference will be at 6:30pm and the Reception starts at 8:30pm.

##### **Arbor Room Sub-Committee**

Following its inaugural exhibition of student work in the Arbor room earlier this year, the Arbor room sub-committee has just concluded its second call for student art work submissions and will select and install new works in the Arbor room at the end of April.

##### **Education Sub-Committee**

The Education sub-committee has launched its series of art and theory reading groups and workshops. These were led by visiting lecturers such as Seth Denison and Gina Badger from the MIT Fine Art Department; Janna Graham, formerly of the AGO and now based at London, England's Serpentine Gallery; Carmen Moersch from the Documenta Education Program in Kassel, Germany; and Toronto's 'School of Creativity and Inquiry' group in conjunction with their event at the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. The Education Sub-committee is also planning an upcoming collaboration with the Literary and Library Committee on a **Graphic Novel Panel and Workshop**

##### **Acquisitions Sub-Committee**

The Acquisitions sub-committee will lead its final Acquisitions gallery hop on Friday April 24 beginning at the Susan Hobbs Gallery at 1:30pm (open to anyone) before making its final decisions. There were two recent artist-studio visits with local artists Swintak and Nestor Kruger

##### **Farm Committee**

The Art Committee is still hoping to collaborate with students from the Master's of Architecture and Landscape at the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design and with the Farm Committee on an Art-Garden project in Summer 2010.

## **5. Reports (cont'd)**

### **a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)**

#### **ART (cont'd)**

##### **Alumnus kudos**

Gary Vivian (class of '59) who was once an alumni member of the Art Committee and keeps track from afar through our mailing list announcements, wrote in to express his congratulations and support for the activities that the Art Committee has taken on recently and looks forward to returning for his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming celebrations.

#### **DEBATES**

In 2008/09, the Debates Committee tried a number of different formats for events, and explored partnerships with other organizations. The six events sponsored by the Committee met or exceeded attendance expectations. The Committee is planning to build on the success of this year by organizing eight events in 2009/10.

#### **FARM**

The Farm Committee has completed and submitted its 2009-2010 budget proposal. Due to the expansion of garden operations on campus and at the Farm, a small increase in work days' cost was included in the document (this season about 300 seedlings are being planted on the Farm's property). Also, a draft budget proposal for the 2009 Sustainability Symposium was attached to the Farm's 2009-2010 Committee on Budgets (COB) Funding Package.

The Farm Committee is proud to announce Ivy Lee, Katrina Negrouk, Clara Luke, Jimmy Truong and Vivian Yu as the carry-over members from 2008/09 and Emma Groia, Layla Rich, Kristie Srichaikul, Jessie Tran and Zannah Matson as the other voting members on the Farm Committee for 2009-2010. Clara Luke is the elected secretary.

A social gathering for the Farm Committee is organized for Thursday, April 16th at the Farm. The event is meant to celebrate the hard work of Committee members during 2008-2009. Throughout the summer, the Farm Committee will continue to work on the garden plots on campus and at the Farm. The planning of Midsummer's Eve and the 2009 Sustainability Symposium will remain as the priority task during Committee meetings.

This has been a very productive year for the Farm Committee, and Committee members would like to thank Hart House and all its members for their support.

**5. Reports (cont'd)****a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)****FINANCE**

The Finance Committee saw good attendance throughout the year by its student, staff, and senior members. New student voting members Christina Heo, Kelsey Letang, Sabrina Wu, and Jacky Yeung have been welcomed. The Committee also introduces Victor Wong, its 2009-2010 student representative to the Board of Stewards. Victor is an engaged member of the Finance Committee and took part in the House's audit sub-committee and a study on Hart House's deferred major maintenance policy. The Committee looks forward to a continued conscientious approach from him in 2009/10.

Over the course of its meetings this year, members of the Committee observed several challenges in the budget including: the end of the Hart House Theatre subsidy this month, increasing salaries and wages, senior membership reaching capacity, reduced interest income, and most recently a historically low student fee increase (0.7% as compared to the usual 2%).

The House has responded by aggressively seeking out ways of improving its revenue. Highlights that the Committee observed were: (1) the merging of the membership services offices and hall porter's desk into the HUB to save on labor costs, (2) Hart House facility manager Chris Lea thinking long term in the House's major construction projects, and (3) the Room Utilization study undertaken by the Committee.

This year saw three sub-committees in addition to the regular audit sub-committee. First, the e-commerce sub-committee set out to evaluate cash management (including credit card transactions) in Hart House's e-commerce activities (e.g. U of T Tix online ticket sales) and to improve the clarity of transaction reports received from the bank. Unfortunately, an unavoidably late start in the year led to its neglect.

The Room Utilization sub-committee reviewed last year's report and worked on fine tuning the report. The study had been done to measure current levels of student utilization of Hart House facilities, to explain the processes that affect current student utilization levels at Hart House and to give recommendations that will further improve the student experience and maximize value for current and future students.

Finally, the deferred major maintenance sub-committee analyzed the engineering study commissioned by Hart House in planning for the next 5 years. The sub-committee worked on setting a policy for deferred and major maintenance with respect to its effects on Hart House's bottom line.

## 5. Reports (cont'd)

### a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)

#### HOUSE

The House Committee is steadily wrapping up its year, hoping to improve upon some elements of its programming and activities but all-in-all very pleased with the results in the 08/09 year. The Committee's operating budget for 09/10 has been established and submitted by our Treasurer, at \$33,100. In terms of new members, we are happy to welcome new faces to the House Committee, who will join 3 carry-overs, though at present we have two seats that remain open. On Tuesday the 14th, prior to the Clubs and Committees' Mixer, the House Committee is holding its transition meeting, during which new members will become better acquainted with the Committee, departing and returning members will have a chance to re-visit our programming and mandate, and the contours of a path for 09/10 can be articulated.

#### LITERARY AND LIBRARY

The most recent L&L meeting was held on April 2, and at least one more meeting will be held for transition and fall planning. The budget was completed, adopted and submitted to the committee at its last meeting. Very few changes were made to last year's budget to accommodate the changes the subcommittees have undergone this year. Carry-over members have been decided (Sarah Crowther, 2009-10 secretary, Jeannine Pitas, Christina Kim.) Selection for voting member positions on the committee was completed earlier this week.

#### Subcommittee Updates

- As the semester closes the **Facilities** subcommittee is continuing their cataloguing project and expecting the final books for the African Canadian Literature section.
- The position of **Summer Curator** will be available soon and open to applications within a few weeks. The position runs from May-September.
- The **Readings** subcommittee will be hosting several readings throughout April and May including a reading and workshop in conjunction with the Toronto Comic Arts Festival (May 9-10.)
- The 2009-2010 **Hart House Review Journal** was launched on April 14 with a party and art exhibition in the house. The Literary and Poetry contest winners, published authors and artists, and poet-in-community Ronna Bloom were in attendance.
- The journal will be distributed across campus and at local bookstore, cafes and restaurants.
- Unofficial **Writer-in-Residence**, Ronna Bloom's writing workshops gained momentum and increased attendance. All of her available manuscript evaluations were signed up for.

## 5. Reports (cont'd)

### a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)

#### MUSIC

This year, the Music Committee was highly successful in fulfilling its mandate of fostering student leadership and engagement and of improving the musical culture at Hart House. Several new developments characterized the committee as a whole. This year there was more student engagement than in the past. Early in the year, up to 30 people were involved with concert planning. In addition, Stages considered a different way to organize rock/folk/pop/urban concerts. Each concert was delegated to an individual, with the rest of the committee providing support at the concert. This approach allowed each individual to become invested in one concert and to pick the bands that he/she really wanted to see.

The Committee successfully put on over 50 music-related events (concerts, open stages, etc) this year, with variable attendance. On average, the earlier events had less attendance than the later ones, due to a gradual learning curve for new concert organizers. In addition, there has been a push by the Committee to improve the diversity of music programming. For instance, the Sunday Concerts Series hosted a harp duo, a famed-flautist from Hollywood (Louise diTullio) and a Brazilian guitarist (who has played for eminent world leaders), all novel programming.

To highlight special accomplishments for our music programming, our Open Stages have been successful after a turbulent start. The last three have gone on as late as 1 a.m. in the morning, indicating the high level of interest in these events for budding musicians. This year, the number of Stages concerts was increased to varying degrees of success. These events are always wildly successful, since the bands selected typically already have a fan base. These set of concerts help attract more individuals to Hart House, and is a great promotional tool for Hart House as well as the Music Committee. In addition, the last 3 Sunday Concerts were among the most successful events, especially the most recent Andrew Mah concert, where more chairs had to be put out than anticipated and another portion of the audience was standing.

There has been a strong interest in *Demo*, the music magazine, with many people getting involved in production or the writing. In addition, the Committee has been collaborating with the Faculty of Music to allow their students to perform Tuesdays in the Arbor Room. This has been a regular occurrence and is a portion of their grades.

#### RECREATIONAL ATHLETICS

The events organized by the Recreational Athletics Committee in 2008/09 included a golf day in the fall, two ski days and the triathlon. All were successful. Renovations to the locker rooms will be done during the summer. The use of the gym will also be reviewed.

The final meeting of the year of the Committee will be held in June. All seats have been filled for 2009/10, except for the seat held for a student entering the University in fall 2009.



## 5. Reports (cont'd)

### a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The Social Justice Committee has worked hard to make the budget reflect a mix of successful established programs and innovative new ideas. At the end of March, 6 new executive members were elected. Kate and Jenna were welcomed to the shared role of Co-Secretary. Kate will represent the SJC on the Board of Stewards. Current Committee members have met with the incoming executive and are thrilled with their enthusiasm, as well as the much needed diversity across programs, age, gender, and area of social interest they bring to the table.

Selection of the 09-10 members was done at an executive meeting, where each member took the time to read the resumé and application of approximately 10 candidates, and then voted in six of them. With the guidance of our Chair, Lynette Spence, members took into account the candidates' ideas for social justice on campus and in the community, and how those fit with what opportunities the Committee provides. Further criteria included prior experiences, and as previously mentioned, the need for diversity in the executive.

The end of the year brought a flurry of activity around the Fair Trade Fair on March 18, Hunger Awareness Week that same week, and a Coffee House discussing women's equality issues in Peru on March 31. In April and May, two fundraising drives wrap up - Skip a Meal collects meal plan money at University College for the Daily Bread Food Bank, and Clear the Shelves collects used clothing items from students moving out of residence for the U of T Food and Clothing Bank.

Look forward to September with the Committee, when a Social Justice Week is introduced, with each day focusing on a different theme. An expansion of Coffee House events will make them a regular part of the Committee's programming for which it is known. Finally, the Committee is solidifying its Partnership Guidelines, which includes an outline of the four pillars of focus: Sustainability, Equity, International and Community Development, and Empowerment through Education. Through these, and the new energy of the executive, the Committee will have a lot to report about to the 09-10 Board of Stewards.

#### **THEATRE**

2008/09 was an exciting one for the Theatre Committee, and featured the relaunch of the Hart House Theatre Campaign, the opening of Theatre Museum Canada, and four successful productions: *King Lear*, *Banana Boys*, *Jerry Springer – the Opera*, and *Arcadia*.

The 2009/10 productions of the Hart House Theatre will be *Jerry Springer – the Opera*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *High Fidelity* and *The Peeled Eye*.

The Committee will elect a Secretary in the Fall. Members of the Board of Stewards are encouraged to contact members of the University's administration and emphasize the importance of supporting the arts, including support for the Hart House Theatre.

**5. Reports (cont'd)****a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues (cont'd)****COMMITTEE on BUDGETS**

The Literary and Library Committee had received a grant of \$650 to cover unexpected expenses for the 2008/09 Hart House Review. The closing balance of the Contingency Fund was \$24,381.

A member asked whether the balance in the Contingency Fund would be carried over to 2009/10. Ms Marshall explained that the Contingency Fund was on paper only, therefore no funds were available for carrying forward.

Members of the Board of Stewards were invited to volunteer to sit on the Committee on Budgets and assist with the annual allocation of funds to clubs and committees. Requests totaling \$408,000 had been received from 26 different groups for the \$375,000 available for the 2009/10 budgets. The Committee was scheduled to meet on April 21, 22, 23, 27 and 28 to make the 2009/10 allocations.

**ADVANCEMENT**

No report.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

No report.

**PROGRAMME**

Ms Marshall noted several events that had recently been held, including seven concerts featuring more than 300 performers and attracting a total audience of more than 1500; the Camera Club exhibition, publication of the Hart House *Review*, and the family-focussed Spring Wake-up.

Future events included:

April 16 Book launch by Ronna Blum, Poet-in-Community.

April 20 Reading by Kathryn from her latest book, *Perfecting*.

Ms Marshall thanked all the Committee and Club Secretaries for the variety of programming that had been provided during the past year.

**b) Warden's Update****(i) Year in Review**

Dr. Cowin thanked the Committee Secretaries for the activities that had been sponsored by Committees and Clubs in 2008/09.

**5. Reports (cont'd)****b) Warden's Update (cont'd)****(ii) Orientation for 2009/10 Board of Stewards**

Dr. Cowin stated that Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council of the University, would attend the September orientation session for the 2009/10 Board of Stewards.

**(iii) Sale of Hart House surplus contents**

Dr. Cowin informed members that a sale of surplus Hart House contents was being held on April 17, in preparation for the relocation of CIUT in the former Warden's residence.

**(iv) Nona Macdonald Heaslip**

Dr. Cowin announced that Nona Macdonald Heaslip would receive an honorary degree from the University during the June 2009 convocation period.

**(v) Thank You**

Dr. Cowin thanked all the Committee Secretaries whose terms were ending, wished them luck in their future endeavours, and encouraged them to continue their involvement in Hart House as alumni.

**c) Other Board Members' Reports****Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS)**

No report.

**Graduate Students' Union (GSU)**

The final meeting of 2008/09 will be held on April 30, 2009 at 6:10 pm. The Executive structure of GSU has been changed. In 2009/10, there will be five Commissioners: an Academic Commissioner, External Commissioner, Finance and Services Commissioner, Internal Commissioner and University Affairs Commissioner. Gregory West, in-coming Finance and Services Commissioner, will serve on the Board of Stewards as well as on the Governing Council.

**University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)**

No report.

**Governing Council**

No report

**President's Designate**

No report.

**5. Reports (cont'd)****c) Other Board Members' Reports (cont'd)****U of T at SCARBOROUGH**

No report.

**U of T at MISSISSAUGA**

No report.

**6. Update on the Sub-committee to Advise the Warden on the Recognition of Days of Significance for 2009 – 2010**

Ms Marshall reported that the sub-committee was considering a number of models for recognizing and celebrating significant days, including those that were faith-based, cultural, or community-based. One model was the current one in which groups booked space for celebrations of their choice. A second model would identify the events that would be appropriate for Hart House to celebrate, taking into account such documents as the *University of Toronto Act* and the *Statement on Equity, Excellence and Diversity*. A third model would include individual partnership events that involve days or weeks of acknowledgement and celebration, such as Black History Month and International Women's Day.

The next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for April 17, and the group hopes to have a final report available for the May 7 meeting of the Board of Stewards.

**7. Date of Next Meeting (for 2009-10 members) – Thursday, May 7, 5:30 pm****8. Other Business & Announcements****a) Committee Reports**

Committee Secretaries were encouraged to send a written report to the Warden's Office prior to meetings of the Board of Stewards.

**b) Distribution of Meeting Documentation**

A member asked if documentation could be distributed more than two days in advance of meetings of the Board of Stewards.

**c) Membership of 2009/10 Agenda Planning Committee**

Members were invited to volunteer for the Agenda Planning Committee. Seventy-five percent of the Committee meetings were conducted via email a week before each meeting of the Board of Stewards to review the minutes, motions and documentation for the meeting. Dr. Cowin indicated she would send out an invitation to join the Committee to all 2009/10 members.

**9. Adjournment & RECEPTION**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

May 18, 2009