

Minutes of the 1,217th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards, held on Thursday, November 13, 2008, at 5:30 pm in the South Dining Room.

Present: Ms. Lisa Punnett (Chair)
Dr. Louise Cowin (Warden)
Mr. Nouman Ashraf (Presidential Appointee)
Mr. Anthony Chiu (Music Committee)
Mr. Matt Dreger (Alumni Committee)
Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President (*ex officio*) or Designate)
Professor Bruce Kidd (Presidential Appointee)
Mr. Adam Kowalczewski (Finance Committee)
Ms. Nicola Langille (House Committee)
Mr. Matt McGeachy (Theatre Committee)
Ms. Jacqueline Raaflaub (RAC Senior Member)
Ms. Camille Sahula (Social Justice Committee)
Ms. Joanna Sheridan (Art Committee)
Ms. Elizabeth Vosburgh (GC Appointee)
Ms. Elizabeth Wooster (RAC)

Ms Cristina Oke (Recording Secretary)

Guests: Mr. Ken Brocklehurst (Director of Finance & Info Technology)
Ms. Amanda Greener (Assistant to the Warden)
Ms. Laney Marshall (Director of Programme)
Mr. Allan Shatzky (Coordinator, Special Projects)
Mr. Paul Templin (Manager, Hart House Theatre)

Regrets: Ms. Corrine Aberdeen (Literary and Library Committee)
Mr. Christopher Charles (GSU Appointee)
Ms. Ewa Modlinska (Farm Committee)

Absent Mr. Alexander Levy (Debates Committee)
Dhananjai Kohli (UTM Rep)
Mr. Adnan Najmi (University of Toronto Students' Union Appointee)
APUS Appointee
UTSC Rep

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 16, 2008

The minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2008, were amended to indicate that Ms. Joanna Sheridan had voted against the motion reported in item 4 on page 5 of the minutes.

The minutes of the 1,216th meeting held on October 16, 2008 were approved as amended.

2. Business Arising

Mr. Matt McGeachy requested that the following statement be read into the minutes.

The conduct, tone and tenor of the October 16th Board of Stewards meeting was contrary to the principles of fellowship and general stewardship that have defined debate at this table, and within this House.

The issue of the continued funding of the Rifle and Revolver Clubs—a decision that was and remains about stewardship of Hart House—evolved into an unbalanced debate over the symbolism of weapons and the appropriateness of the Clubs' existence. (This issue, it should be noted, was not the issue at hand.) Unfortunately, a number of Stewards felt uncomfortable with the tone of this debate and so limited their responses to the debate; a few have expressed that they did not feel comfortable joining the discussion at all.

Perhaps more important than any decision this Board makes is the way in which we make it. This Board, and this House, remains one of the few places left in the University where students, staff, and faculty can come together as equals and join in the fellowship that the House offers. The general sense of fellowship and collegiality that usually define the way we operate was not reflected in the meeting on October 16. We must actively protect and preserve the *process* by which we reach decisions as something that is distinctive about how Hart House operates. Nowhere else in this University will you find quite so democratic an operation, and it must be respected by all members of the Board of Stewards.

When members of this Board, whatever their title may be outside this room, do not feel comfortable engaging in the lively debates and the important discussions *as Stewards*, there is something very wrong.

The collegiality of the Board and the overall spirit of the House were not well reflected at the last meeting. I invite, and I hope, that all Stewards will join me in affirming the principles of equality, respectful debate, collegial interaction, good fellowship, and good stewardship that define the Board of Stewards as the governing body of Hart House; and will join me in saying that meetings of the Board that do not reflect these broad and valuable principles have no place within this House.

The Chair assured members that she welcomed their comments during meetings.

3. Reports

(a) Committee Activities and Significant Issues

ALUMNI

The Hart House Dinner Series continues on November 19, with guest speaker Iain Scott, and on December 11, with guest speaker The Honourable Tony Clement. Trivia Night will be held on January 29, 2009. The Alumni Reception is scheduled for March 25, 2009.

ART

The Art Committee has held its general meeting and elections. The sub-committees have met. The Acquisitions Committee is currently touring galleries.

DEBATES

No report.

FARM

No report.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee has reviewed the initial draft operating budget. The draft 2009/10 budget will be presented to the Committee at the end of November, and will be considered by the Board of Stewards at its December meeting. There will be a deficit over the next five years, as salary increases outpace cost cutting measures. One of the goals of the budget will be to increase revenues over the coming years.

In response to questions concerning proposed salary increases and budget constraints, Dr. Cowin assured members of the Board that the senior team was not considering job losses at this time.

HOUSE

Elections had been held on October 16, and only a few vacancies remained on Hart House Committees. A proposal for the governance year of 2009/10 is expected to come forward to the Board in December. The 5 Buck Lunches have been successful. The annual Committee Dinner is scheduled for January 28, 2009, with proceeds going to the Food Bank.

LITERARY AND LIBRARY

No report

MUSIC

All vacancies on the Committee have been filled, and many successful concerts have been held to date this year. The first issue of *Demo* is scheduled to be released at the end of November.

3. Reports (cont'd)

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

RECREATIONAL ATHLETICS

Four positions on the Recreational Athletics Committee have been filled. The Committee is promoting the Hart House Triathlon, which is scheduled for February 14, 2009. The Committee is also organizing Ski Days for January and February 2009.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

All vacancies on the Social Justice Committee have been filled. The Committee's Coffee House series continues on November 20 with a discussion with Dr. M. Walker on Naturopathic Medicine and the role it can play in the future of Health Care.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Committee will be making five-minute presentations to all Hart House Clubs and Committees on best practices. The Committee is working to fill two vacancies that are available to members of the Board of Stewards.

THEATRE

The opening night of *Banana Boys*, the second production of the 2008/09 season, was sold out. A sub-committee has met to consider the Theatre's five-year plan and has reported back to the Committee. The Programming sub-committee will meet during the week of November 17.

COMMITTEE on BUDGETS

The Committee on Budgets has granted contingency funding to three groups: \$200 to the Bridge Club, \$350 to the Chess Club, and \$400 to the Symphonic Band. The amount remaining in the Contingency Fund is \$16,700.

ADVANCEMENT

The Macdonald Heaslip Walkway of Theatre History was officially opened on October 27. The Theatre Campaign is being re-launched with a goal of \$6 million.

(b) WARDEN'S UPDATE

i) Hancock Lecture

Dr. Cowin reported that Professor Nick Bontis has been chosen to give the Hancock Lecture on February 4, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Professor Bontis is an associate professor of strategy at the DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University. He was the winner of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Teaching Award in 2008.

3. Reports (cont'd)

(b) WARDEN'S UPDATE (cont'd)

ii) Varsity Article

Dr. Cowin reported that *The Varsity* newspaper had withdrawn the article on Sammy's from its website. Sammy and his daughter will be interviewed for a future article in *The Varsity*.

iii) Celebration of the Arts

Dr. Cowin informed members that the University was organizing a Celebration of the Arts that will be held from March 19 to April 3, 2009. Information about the celebration was on the Hart House home page.¹ She noted that Hart House had been invited to host the opening night event on the St. George campus, and encouraged members to let her know if they would like to be part of planning for this event.

iv) *Towards 2030*

Dr. Cowin commented that the Synthesis document² did not contain many references to co-curricular activities, and indicated that she would like to create an opportunity for students to demonstrate the range of activities available at Hart House. She invited student members of the Board of Stewards to become engaged in responding to *Towards 2030*. A member of the Board requested a more complete account of how the Warden sees the *Towards 2030* document impacting the House as a whole. Another member noted that the November 11, 2008 issue of *The Bulletin* included the 2030 Synopsis Report and Questions and Answers about *Towards 2030*.³

v) Report of Hart House Programs

Dr. Cowin suggested that a report of Hart House Programmes be added as a regular item on the Agenda of the meetings of the Board of Stewards. This would provide an opportunity for the Programme Committee to advise the Board of the various events that were scheduled, including both those organized by Hart House, and those hosted by other groups in the University and held at Hart House.

Members expressed their support of the addition of this Report to the agenda. A member suggested that various members of the Programme Committee be invited to present the report to the Board. Another member suggested that the focus of the report be on future activities and events to allow members of the Board to attend those that were of interest to them.

¹ <http://www.harthouse.utoronto.ca/>

² <http://www.towards2030.utoronto.ca/synth.html>

³ http://www.news.utoronto.ca/bulletin/PDF_issues/11-11-08-web.pdf

3. Reports (cont'd)

(b) WARDEN'S UPDATE (cont'd)

vi) Christmas Activities at Hart House

Dr. Cowin described the Hart House traditions for the Christmas season, including a tree from the Farm placed in the Great Hall and decorations placed throughout the House. It was her view that the Christmas "footprint" in the House should be limited, and she proposed that a tree from the Farm be placed in the Quad, and that no Christmas decorations be placed in Hart House. The proposal had been discussed by the Senior Team, but they had not reached consensus.

Dr. Cowin acknowledged that it would have been appropriate to have initiated consultation on this proposal in January 2008. However, she stated that consultations would be undertaken beginning in January 2009 for Christmas 2009. Although Hart House was established in the Christian tradition, the University now reflected a much more diverse society. Seventy thousand students paid fees to Hart House, and it was appropriate to ask who was not coming to the House, why they were not coming to the House, and how could they be encouraged to become involved with House activities.

Discussion

Some members objected to Dr. Cowin's proposal on procedural grounds. They suggested that no changes be made for this Christmas season, and that the process of consultation begin in January 2009 to make decisions for Christmas 2009.

Some members expressed the view that Article 16 of the *Constitution of the Board of Stewards of Hart House* gave authority to the Board for decisions concerning the use and allotment of space in Hart House.⁴ Although the mandate of the House Committee included allocation of space, it had not been consulted about the proposal.

A member stated that consultation on the matter was necessary, and that the House Committee was the appropriate committee to consider this proposal. In the view of the member, allowing the decision to stand contravened the *Constitution* and set a dangerous precedent.

Dr. Cowin reminded members that she was charged with the leadership of Hart House. She had been appointed by the University, and reported to the president of the University. In her view, the proposal was not a decision about the allocation of space and therefore did not have to be brought to the Board of Stewards.

She agreed to take the comments that had been made under advisement.

⁴ Article 16: The Board of Stewards, upon receiving the recommendations of appropriate committees, shall set policy respecting the use and allotment of all rooms and space in Hart House, and all House facilities and conveniences.

3. Reports (cont'd)

(c) Other Board Members' Reports

ASSOCIATION OF PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (APUS)

No report.

GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION (GSU)

No report.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS' UNION (UTSU)

No report.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

At its meeting on October 23, 2008, the Governing Council approved in principle *Towards 2030: A Long-term Planning Framework for the University of Toronto*. The Governing Council received the Annual Report of the University Ombudsperson⁵ and the Administrative Response to the Report.⁶ The Governing Council also approved the President's recommendation for an expulsion.

The Governing Council rescinded the replacement of the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS) by the University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) as the formal representative student committee to the Governing Council for part-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM). This action resulted from the August 27, 2008 ruling of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice that the referendum process carried out among part-time UTM students had not been valid.

At its meeting held on November 4, 2008, the University Affairs Board (UAB) approved the Election Guidelines for the 2009 Governing Council elections.⁷ The UAB also approved the appointment of Ms. Joeita Gupta as Chair of the Council on Student Services (COSS) for 2008/09.

PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE (STUDENT LIFE)

In light of recent disputes among student societies, the Interim Vice-President and Provost has established an Advisory Committee on Democratic Processes in Student Government⁸ chaired by Professor David Cameron. The Committee invites comments from interested individuals. Once the Advisory Committee has developed some suggestions, a set of Provostial Guidelines will be developed to provide the clarity, transparency, and consistency that is required to ensure that student governments and societies operate in an orderly, open, accessible, and democratic fashion.

Members of the senior administration are monitoring the current economic situation. No in-year budget cuts are being planned at this time.

⁵ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=5636>

⁶ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=5637>

⁷ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Boards+and+Committees/University+Affairs+Board/2008-2009+Academic+Year/a1104-6iii.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/public/pdadc/0809/19.htm>

3. Reports (cont'd)

(c) Other Board Members' Reports

PRESIDENT'S DESIGNATE (STUDENT LIFE) (cont'd)

Bargaining with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is ongoing.

U of T at SCARBOROUGH

No report.

U of T at MISSISSAUGA

No report.

4. Date of Next Meeting: December 4, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the East Common Room.

5. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

November 20, 2008