

Minutes of the 1328th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, February 2nd, 2023, in-person at the Council Chambers at University of Toronto Mississauga and virtually on Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present:**Voting Members:**

Dianne Acuna (APUS Representative)
Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Kathryn Beukeboom (Steward, Student Farm Committee)
Advika Gudi (Steward, Student Social Justice Committee)
Hasna Hafidzah (Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Sherry Kulman (Interim Warden)
Jake Li (Steward, Student Art Committee)
David Newman (Presidential [ex-officio] Designate)
Lucas Olmstead (Steward, Finance Committee)
Reagan Roopnarine (UTMSU Representative)
Jamie Sit (Steward, Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Committee)
Samara Tower (Steward, Student Theatre Committee)

Non-Voting Members:

Paul Bagus (Recording Secretary)
Terry Gardiner (Chair)

Guests:

Erica Chong (Co-Chair of the Youth Advisory Council)
Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications, and Information Services & Chief Marketing Officer)
Alphonse Daniel (Access Programs Assistant, Community Access & Outreach)
Danielle DiNunzio (Manager, Community Access & Outreach)
Subeeg Gahunia (Hart House Ambassador)
Owen Gao (Program Associate, Community Access & Outreach)
Savitha Kugapalan (Co-Chair of the Youth Advisory Council)
Whitney Mambou (Hart House Ambassador)
Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Jivi Ratnam (UTM Community Innovation Coordinator)
Nadia Thompson (Program Associate, Dialogue and Expression)

Regrets:

Liliana Bechtold (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)
Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
Thai Higashihara (SCSU Representative)
Victoria Liu (UTSU Representative)
Lwanga Musisi (GSU Representative)
Nadia Rosemond (Presidential Appointee)
Yihang Xu (Steward, Music Committee)

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Terry Gardiner, Chair and Whitney Mambou, Hart House Ambassador)

Terry Gardiner (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 1328th meeting of the Board of Stewards at the University of Toronto Mississauga campus. Whitney Mambou, a UTM student and Hart House Ambassador, provided the land acknowledgment.

2. Approval of the 1,328th Meeting Agenda (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the agenda and none were presented. The following motion to approve the agenda was made by Reagan Roopnarine, seconded by Dianne Acuna.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Stewards approve the agenda of the 1,328th Meeting.*

The motion was carried by voting members of the Board of Stewards.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 1,327th Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the January 12th, 2023 Board of Stewards meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Beth Ali, seconded by Jaime Sit.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Stewards approve the Minutes of the 1,327th Meeting.*

The motion was carried by voting members of the Board of Stewards.

4. Presentation on the Hart House Youth Advisory Council (Erica Chong and Savitha Kugapalan, Co-Chairs of the Youth Advisory Council; Alphonse Daniel, Access Programs Assistant, Community Access & Outreach)

Alphonse Daniel, Programs Assistant, started by introducing the Hart House Youth Advisory Council (YAC). YAC aims to provide leadership learning opportunities and the resources that will allow youth to share and execute their ideas; develop skills in good governance; support the evolution of youth-focused programming; and create more space for youth to flourish at Hart House.

YAC is part of Hart House's broader Youth Access portfolio, whose overarching goal is to encourage high school-aged young people to consider and explore potential avenues for post-secondary education at UofT or elsewhere. The council is currently comprised of fifteen people in grades 9–12 from within the Greater Toronto Area. YAC meets on a bi-weekly basis in a hybrid model. When not at Hart House, they meet on Discord – which they also use to stay connected outside of programming hours. Former YAC participants are still connected with the group through their Discord channel as they move on to their various post-secondary paths.

Alphonse then introduced and moderated a discussion featuring two YAC Co-Chairs, Erica Chong and Savitha Kugapalan. Through the YAC, the co-chairs have learned to practice new skills such as public speaking and project management and have further developed their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. Both have underscored the importance of meeting new and different kinds of people, learning from them, and supporting each other.

The council is working on some exciting projects in the winter term. In January, they began a series of videos showcasing social, political, and environmental challenges of climate change from their POV.

With this initiative, they want to draw attention to how the climate problem is affecting both society and the environment. At Hart House on March 16th, they will be hosting an event about youth mental health. Participants will join in on guided discussions about mental health while painting in a welcoming café-like setting.

Both Erica and Savitha shared positive feedback about the events and guest speakers that had had the most impact on them. They were both appreciative of the opportunity to listen and learn from current U of T students as it has helped them to understand what it's like to be an undergraduate student. Savitha appreciated attending the Black Boys film screening as it delved deeper into topics that she only knew surface-level information on. Erica continues to use skills learned from a public speaking workshop led by Rae (Hart House Ambassador) and Zoe Dille (Manager, Dialogue and Expression). In the future, she'd love to see a writing workshop outlining how to write university-level essays.

Alphonse highlighted the interconnectedness of the Youth Access Programs; with YAC interacting with the Brotherhood of Ethnic Excellence and the Hart House Ambassadors frequently. These collaborations across Hart House have allowed for meaningful and enjoyable experiences for all those involved with YAC.

5. Presentation on Hart House at University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) (Danielle Dinunzio, Manager, Community Access and Outreach; Owen Gao, Program Associate, Community Access & Outreach; Whitney Mambou, Hart House Ambassador; Jenifer Newcombe, Director of Strategic Initiatives; Jivi Ratnam, UTM Community Innovation Coordinator; Nadia Thompson, Program Associate, Dialogue and Expression; Subeeg Gahunia, Hart House Ambassador)

Hart House leads and supports a variety of initiatives at UTM that increase awareness of Hart House while to engaging students within their campus spaces. These initiatives include Outreach work, Hart House and UTM collaborative programs, paid Work Study opportunities, and supporting UTM in their programs.

Owen Gao provided an overview of various Outreach and Hart House Ambassador initiatives. During Orientation this year, the Outreach team tabled at various Orientation events, supported UTM programs such as Be Well, and connected with UTM students through social media programs such as UofTea talks. Throughout the year, the outreach team has a weekly table in various locations across UTM to gather feedback to inform programs. The team also brings various Hart House activations such as Board Game Cafe to the UTM campus for students to get a full Hart House experience. Whitney Mambou, who works as a UTM Hart House Ambassador and in the Youth Access Team, highlighted the fun she's had in her role in engaging with students. She's gathered from her interactions with them how important Hart House's work is as the connective tissue across all three campuses.

Jenifer Newcombe introduced Global Commons, which is one of the long-standing collaborative programs with UTM. Jivi Ratnam, who works for the Center for Student Engagement as the Community Innovation Coordinator, elaborated on this partnership. This year, her portfolio has worked with the Global Commons team and MOYO services on an event focusing on newcomers and for a Workshop about working in multicultural teams. In March 2023, Global Commons will hold Design Jam with the Center for Student Engagement and the International Education Centre to explore migration through storytelling, art, and design.

Nadia Thompson highlighted some of the recent collaborations with UTM and the Dialogue and Expression team. One example is Laugh, Cry, Cringe, a series that gives a platform for speakers of colour to share stories without judgement. The series has received amazing feedback so far and a UTM student wrote a blog post on Hart House about the program's impact on her as a Muslim woman. Another is Tastes of culture, which features chefs from various cultural backgrounds and expands on how food

informs culture and wellness. They had a recent event at UTM's Blind Duck Pub that allowed students to try different foods from different cultures.

The team is proud to be able to work with UTM so closely on delivering a wide array of impactful programming and is looking into deepening these relationships into the new school year.

a. Presentation on the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (Reagan Roopnarine, Vice President Equity, UTMSU and Representative to the Board of Stewards)

Reagan Roopnarine provided an overview of UTMSU, their events, and highlighted some key programs they manage. UTMSU is an incorporated non-profit representing 16,000 undergraduate students at UTM. They run a number of campaigns throughout the year. One of which is Consent is Mandatory, which advocates for consent education in direct response to concerns over students having a tough time with these skills especially as they return to in-person campus life.

In February, UTMSU is supporting a variety of Black History Month events, including a black-owned market and an open mic night later in the month. In terms of services, many of them are organized through UTM's student centre. These services support students in many ways such as providing U-Pass for free transit in the MiWay system and the Food Centre to combat student food insecurity.

The Food Centre offers free weekly groceries to students among many other things. Since the pandemic, there is a marked 600% increase of usage of the Food Centre. They have been able to meet the demand with assistance from increased supply from the Mississauga Food Banks and through donations, one of which came directly from Hart House. David Kim asked if UTMSU explored partnering the Food service providers at UTM to meet this increased need. Coincidentally, Reagan also sits on the Food Advisory Committee at UTM and has had discussions with the providers. The plan is for the UTMSU to take over a vertical farm that's currently not in use, and to go to the next meeting with a list of needs from the Food Centre that food providers can provide help with.

The Chair asked for more elaboration on the Peer Support program, and UTMSU and the UTM Health and Counselling Center has partnered with Stella's Place to setup a much needed student to student support program for students who experience mental health issues.

6. Committee Presentation: HH Student Debates and Dialogues (Hasna Hafidzah, Steward, Art Committee)

The Hart House Student Debates and Dialogues Committee (HHSDC) steward, Hasna Hafidzah provided an overview of HHSDC's mandates, activities, and future plans for the year. HHSDC creates a platform to discover and explore new and old ideas. It provides students with opportunities to discover and develop capacity for leadership, self-expression, and communication. Through strategic programming, the HHSDC supports Hart House's mandate to be a place where students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the broader community find unique ways to connect with each other and the broader world through engagement with the arts, dialogue, and wellness.

Specifically, the HHSDC supports the Hart House mandate through events, tri-campus engagement, and external community engagement. The team makes conscious efforts to plan their events through a democratic process, where everyone in the team is heard, so that productive conversations happen within the team as well as beyond. They also champion inclusivity not just on the topics that they focus on but also making sure that their outreach scope covers everyone at UofT no matter which campus

they are a part of.

The HHSDC has two signature events. One is a keynote talk, which happened in January by Dr. Shoo Lee that focused on conversation on Public vs. Private Healthcare. The other is an alumni debate happening later in March, that would cover the topic of academic integrity and the use of AI programs such as ChatGPT. This year, the HHSDC introduced a new event format called the Town Hall. This year's iteration was about Climate Activism, held in November, where attendees asked questions, had a critical discussion about existing policies, and then drafted a recommendation document that was sent to policymakers. Hasna highlighted that her involvement with HHSDC has given committee members and general members access to amazing key speakers to engage with and share knowledge.

7. Warden's Report (Sherry Kulman, Interim Warden)

Black History Month at Hart House and UofT

It is February which also marks Black History month. Hart House joins in celebrating and recognizing the change makers of African descent in Canadian history as well as facilitating spaces and events for our black students and staff to come together and build community. For more information on these events: <https://harthouse.ca/black-futures>

University of Toronto Student Leadership Awards Winners

The Interim Warden congratulated the recipients of the University of Toronto Student Leadership Awards from Hart House for their outstanding leadership and their volunteer contributions to the University of Toronto. The winners from Hart House include Kathryn and Samara, who both serve on the Board of Stewards. As well as Eugenia Wong, Allison Zhao, and Anthony Palermo.

Exemplary U of T Ambassador Award

Jimmy Cheung led the Facilities Team to receive the inaugural Exemplary U of T Ambassador Award for their work in making the spaces of Hart House and Hart House Farm more accessible and more sustainable than ever before. The Interim Warden is proud of the work they've done especially as the unsung heroes of the pandemic and in keeping our spaces safe during this period.

Student Chair Elections Update

Kathryn Beukeboom provided an update on how the elections process has progressed. On February 1st, the 2023-24 Elections Commission met to confirm the nominees for the election. All nominees have great skillsets and experience that will contribute to developing committee work in the coming year. She encourages everyone to reach out to their networks to encourage them to vote on Feb 27 and Feb 28. On those voting days, we will have in-person presence at Hart House, UTM and UTSC to encourage voting.

Budget Process Update

We recently presented the budget to the Council of Student Services and the Service Ancillary Review Group. Next week there will be a vote on the budget at COSS and then the budget will be voted on at UAB on March 1st. Thank you to our director of Finance, Stan Xiao, Jiaqi Sun, and Lucas Olmstead for taking the lead in presenting the budget across all these different councils.

Hart House Weddings

EventSource, an event vendor booking tool, has awarded Hart House a Top Choice Award, as one of its top choices for wedding venues. This is another wonderful accomplishment for our Hospitality team who has been garnering lots of praise for their excellent work post-pandemic. The team also recently worked with the Marketing and Communications team to capture Kristie and Sarah's wedding picture-perfect

wedding [here](#).

Global Commons Promotional Video

MarComm team worked with our program team on Global Commons to produce this promotional video that captures the program quite well. Global Commons provides students the opportunity to connect in real-time with other students participating in-person and virtually from international partner universities, to engage in dialogue and action around important and timely issues. Watch the video [here](#)

Staff Service Awards

On Tuesday, Hart House staff gathered in-person for the first time in three years to have their annual holiday party and to recognize staff members who have reached service milestones of more than 15 years. This year we recognized 6 staff members. During the event we also had a raffle that raised money (\$120.00) for the U of T Food Banks.

8. Other Business

The Chair asked if there were additional items to address. No other business or announcements were forthcoming.

9. Next Meeting

The 1329th Board of Stewards meeting will be held on March 2nd, 2023, at the Burwash Room and Zoom.

10. Adjournment

The following motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Reagan Roopnarine, seconded by Kathryn Beukeboom.