Minutes of the 1329th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, March 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2023, in-person at the Donald Burwash Room in Hart House and virtually on Zoom Video Conferencing.

**Present:**

**Voting Members:**
- Kathryn Beukeboom (Steward, Student Farm Committee)
- Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
- Advika Gudi (Steward, Student Social Justice Committee)
- David Kim (Governning 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)
- Nadia Rosemond (Presidential Appointee)
- 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:**
- Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Chief Programming Officer)
- Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications, and Information Services & Chief Marketing Officer)
- Doug Floyd (Director, Theatre and Performance Art)
- Sako Khederlarian (Program Coordinator, Learning & Community)
- Gillian Lewis (Education and Production Coordinator, Hart House Theatre)
- Aron Mohr (Director, Hospitality Services)
- Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)

**Regrets:**
- Dianne Acuna (APUS Representative)
- Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
- Liliana Bechtold (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)
- Hasna Hafidzah (Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
- Thai Higashihara (SCSU Representative)
- Victoria Liu (UTSU Representative)
- Lwanga Musisi (GSU Representative)
- Yihang Xu (Steward, Music Committee)
1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Terry Gardiner, Chair and Advika Gudi, Steward, Hart House Social Justice Committee)

Terry Gardiner (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 1329th meeting of the Board of Stewards. Advika Gudi provided the land acknowledgment.

2. Approval of the 1,329th 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 Nadia Rosemond, seconded by Samara Tower.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards approve the agenda of the 1,329th Meeting.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 1,328th Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the February 2nd, 2023 Board of Stewards meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Robert Fisher, seconded by Advika Gudi.

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

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

4. Hospitality: Accessibility and Operations (Aron Mohr, Director, Hospitality Services)

Director of Hospitality, Aron Mohr, spoke about the accessibility initiatives that are taking place at Hospitality Services. Accessibility is embedded in our 5-year Strategic Plan, Preparing the Table through commitment 1: Fostering a Climate of Inclusivity and Belonging in our Spaces and Programs.

Working with the Facilities team, many Hart House spaces have been transformed with accessibility as a priority. The Donald Burwash Dining Room and the Arbor Room are two examples where the team worked closely with the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) to ensure Hart House meets the highest potential it can for accessibility. In addition to advisory services, RHF also has an accessibility certification program for venues and awards levels of certification for facilities that meet an enhanced level of accessibility. The Arbor Room coupled with the Universal Washroom in our basement level was given the RHF highest certification level of Gold, which is one of the first places on campus to do so. One unique feature of the Arbor Room is 1-to-1 hearing loops that amplify speech captured by a microphone and minimize interference from background and ambient noise, which make these very effective in helping people with hearing loss converse freely.

When working with clients to plan their events at Hart House, Event Coordinators work to increase awareness of the various features and considerations that could make the event more accessible such as providing CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation); suggesting “housekeeping” announcements that let guests know they can move during presentations and allocating space for this; and encouraging clients to have any speakers describe themselves for attendees who may have visual impairments. Recently, Hart House worked with Podium Pros to develop an Adjustable Lectern that’s available to all Hart House clients to improve accessibility for all presenters.
Another accessible furniture upgrade that’s being implemented are the tables for Hart House event spaces. The Committees, South Sitting, and Meeting rooms are all in the process of getting new tables that have the height clearance of 685mm for accessibility and easier to store for the staging team. The team is currently developing a custom prototype with a local craftsperson that will replace the Great Hall tables that meet accessible standards, fold easily for storage, and retain the heritage aesthetic of the current heritage tables.

A discussion followed about the fate of the current Great Hall tables. The Hart House team will keep up to 6 of the tables due to its historic significance, and will donate or sell the rest to whoever may need it in the university community. Steward Samara Tower suggested that the tables can be fitted with a Hart House plaque as a reminder of the tables’ origins. Design-wise, Robert Fischer suggested that the prototype consider a trestle design in keeping with the current Great Hall table legs. Aron encouraged folks to provide their feedback as we go through the process of implementing the new tables in the coming year or so.

5. Committee Presentation: Hart House Student Theatre Committee (Samara Tower, Co-Chair and Steward, Theatre Committee)

Samara Tower, Co-Chair and Steward of the Theatre Committee, presented an overview of the committee, its structure, activities, and events this year. Samara described the Hart House Theatre Committee as a collection of decentralized parts of campus theatre under an umbrella. This includes Festival of Dance, Drama Coalition, UofT Spotlight, Hart House Theatre, among many other theatre groups on campus. Historically, the Theatre was gifted as a space for women within the boy’s club of Hart House. Thus, Hart House theatre has always been mixed gender, and the committee holds on to this spirit with the theatre being accessible and welcome for everyone. In a single season, there would be around 35-40,000 people who will pass through Hart House Theatre.

Membership to the committee and programming at Hart House Theatre has a strong tri-campus presence. In this past UofT Drama Fest Awards held at the theatre in February, UTM’s entry called “God Save the Queen” swept 5 awards including Best Production. The 2022/23 season has brought many productions back on stage after being on pause because of the pandemic, and Hart House Theatre was able to put on 3 shows so far: Truth Values, Three Sisters, and the Birds. Samara encourages everyone to look at the calendar for future events. The Hart House Theatre also fosters a strong sense of community amongst the campus and Toronto’s theatre scene with partnerships such as the ones with Bygone Theatre, National Theatre School, Festival of Dance.

Student Theatre is done out of passion, love, and artistic drive and Hart House Theatre offers professional consultancy, mentorship, hosting, and promotion to lower barriers (financial/technical) to student’s artistic expression. All of the educational programs held by the Hart House Theatre are free of charge for students. Samara also emphasized that most of the work that the theatre does cannot be done without the help of volunteers that keep the theatre running. Hart House Theatre and the committee continues to act as an advisory board for theatre management to keep theatre programming accessible, equitable, and student-driven at the University.

6. Committee Presentation: Hart House Student Social Justice Committee (Advika Gudi, Steward, Social Justice Committee)

Advika Gudi, Steward of the Social Justice Committee, spoke about the committee’s work and the various events that they’ve had so far this year. The committee itself is quite new and its goal is to encourage and foster discourse, to bring different perspectives to light, and to get involved with the
Community.

This year the committee held a welcome picnic where they gave out free copies of the book Why We’re Polarised by Ezra Klein, and discussed the issues brought up in the book along with some trivia. They also held a clothing drive in November to December where they were able to fill up 4 boxes to donate to the Yonge Street Mission. In the future the committee will consider placing more stations in more high-traffic student areas. Steward, David Kim, also suggested that the committee connect with him and Chestnut Residence, who typically have a lot of clothing donations left from the turnover of residents.

In the fall, the committee also invited Professor Jung and Professor Verna for a panel discussing the Disparity in Effects of Climate Change to the Global North and South. The panel included student speakers and the founder of the organization called Stop Ecocide. The committee is holding bi-weekly Snack and Chats to have informal conversations in the Arbor Room about current events and issues. They are planning on extending these chats to UTSC and UTM in the future. Steward Robert Fisher suggested that the committee puts up physical posters to promote Snack and Chats since it has been useful for the Life Drawing classes.

Coming up, the committee is planning a social media campaign focusing on migration issues and will hold another panel discussion about the public transportation issues in Toronto. Advika hopes to collaborate with more committees and campus groups next year to continually build on the work of the Social Justice Committee.

7. Policy Review Project Update: Clubs Review and Framework (Jenifer Newcombe, Director of Strategic Initiatives)

Jenifer Newcombe introduced the Clubs Review and Framework which is part of the ongoing policy review project that was launched in September of this academic year. This review pertains to Hart House Registered Club Programs or Clubs which are a unique category of a student organization on campus. There are 16 clubs that represent organization around a narrow activity or interest, such as Chess and Archery, and has membership from students, staff, faculty, and community members. Unlike committees, they do not have a role in governance and don’t have a representation at the Board of Stewards. They also do not have a tri-campus elected student leadership role. They do have a budget accountability piece that is presented to the board during the Committee on Budgets process.

In the Hart House Constitution, it is outlined in section 20 that: “The Board shall prescribe the rights, responsibilities, activities and accountabilities of all such clubs”. The work to review the clubs framework will be introduced to the Board of Stewards in the coming academic year. Next steps will include the development of a framework for clubs that addresses “criteria,” “rights,” “responsibilities,” and “accountabilities”, confirm the annual review process at the BOS, a review of existing club processes and ensure they are streamlined and aligned with relevant U of T and Hart House policies such as the Strategic Plan. It is also important to consider the resources and capacity at Hart House available to support club programming.

Within the next few months, Hart House staff will connect and consult with Hart House Registered Club Programs about this work. They will also conduct a review other models on campus (Engineering, KPE etc.), draft language for a policy framework, and then put for the draft policy in the fall of 2023. The team hopes that this work will help streamline club programming, provide a pathway for creating new clubs at Hart House, and provide clearer guidance for the different accountabilities that clubs have to Hart House and by large, the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

Michelle Brownrigg elaborated that we’ve received feedback about how the language of clubs can feel
too exclusive especially for students who are looking to join an activity in a “lighter touch” capacity. Therefore, the team will approach this work with the lens of students wanting to connect with one another and in creating more entry points for Hart House programming.

8. **Warden’s Report** (Sherry Kulman, Interim Warden)

**Audience View Data Breach**
We were notified that Hart House’s ticket-selling service Audience View has been compromised and the financial data of some of our customers who have purchased tickets for Hart House events from February 17th to February 27th has been impacted by the breach. This breach did not affect any of Hart House's internal systems, servers or data. In an abundance of caution, the team has reached out to those who have been affected to monitor activity on their credit cards and stopped any sales of tickets through Audience View. The Information Services team has stepped in to be able to provide a seamless way of purchasing tickets in-person and over the phone.

**Upcoming Events**
March is a busy month for Hart House with exciting programs coming up including Global Commons signature event Design Jam and a Women in Hip Hop event featuring women trailblazers uncovering the historical and continuing contributions to Hip-Hop culture. The Interim Warden encouraged the board to check out the departmental reports shared prior to the meeting as well as the Hart House website to find out more.

**Hart House Student Chair Elections Results**
Kathryn Beukeboom, Steward and member of the Hart House Elections Commission provided an update of the results of the **Student Chair Elections**. This year voter turnout has increased with a total of 1088 votes. The Elections Commission will provide a more in-depth report about the results, observations, and recommendations during the March 30th meeting.

**Black History Month Recap**
A brief re-cap was provided of the Black History Month events that were hosted at Hart House this February. The Interim Warden attended the Black History Month Luncheon at the Great Hall that attracted almost 600 people and showcased Cameron Bailey, current CEO of the Toronto International Film Festival. On February 28th Hart House also hosted a Black Self Care Fair that attracted a great number of students and community members to relax and learn more about various self-care techniques and routines. In the evening, Nation Building through Poetry was hosted at the Hart House theatre. Senior Directors Davina Chan and Michelle Brownrigg attended the event and were moved by the poet laureates from around the country. The audience was treated with performances, poetry, and reflections that were educational and emotional for all.

**RAWC Triathlon**
Jaime Sit, Co-Chair and Steward for Recreational, Athletics, and Wellness provided an update for the 28th Annual RAWC Triathlon at the Hart House Fitness Centre and Swimming Pool. The triathlon had 26 participants from all over the city who came to participate in 15-minute timed events in running, cycling, and swimming. The event was a success thanks to the volunteers, committee members, and staff involved.

**Budget Approved by University Affairs Board**
The Hart House budget received final approval from the University Affairs Board. The Interim Warden gave thanks to the Hart House Finance team, students Jiaqi Sun and Lucas Olmstead who helped with presenting, and everyone who provided their input in the budget on this success. During the approvals process and presentations the message came across of Hart House’s ongoing commitment of prioritizing students and reducing our reliance on student fees by growing revenue sources. This approval underscores
the importance of engaging students in the budget process and listening to their feedback.

**Building Improvements**
LED strip lighting was installed on the main floor hallway to make it brighter. Based on further feedback and review of facilities, this lighting will be extended to other hallways at Hart House. In March, work on the upgrade of walk-in coolers and the Fitness Centre Desk refresh will be done.

**Talking Walls Exhibit: Unissued Diplomas**
A promotional video about the Unissued Diplomas exhibit created by our Marketing and Communications team was played during the meeting. It has been shared on Hart House social media channels and has been viewed over 7600 times in just 24 hours. Unissued Diplomas, is an emotional exhibit that done in partnership with University of Toronto exchange students from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Ukrainian students worldwide and honours the memory of 36 Ukrainian students who will never graduate because the russian invasion took their lives.

**Hart House Awards**
We now have the winners for the Hart House Awards: Audrey Hozack Student Leadership Award and the Judi Schwartz Memorial Scholarship. It was a year with a number of impressive submissions and the Interim Warden expressed congratulations to all the award winners and special mention to stewards Jaime Sit, Kathryn Beukeboom, and Samara Towers who won awards. The winners were asked what Hart House means to them, and the Interim Warden shared a wonderful response from Judi Schwartz Scholarship Winner Fergie Galeromeloe:

“Hart House has undeniably been the best aspect of my undergrad years at the University. I spend most of my time in the building either studying, at the gym or just relaxing. I very much appreciate having a place to go to where I can work quietly, mingle with other people, and just have a good time. Hart House is more than just a study space or gym; I usually describe it as the bridge that connects the University and nearby communities and that is one aspect of Hart House that I cherish the most.”

**End of Year Student Leaders Recognition Event**
The Interim Warden wants to invite the board for the End of the Year Student Leaders Recognition event happening later this month on March 23rd. During this event, we will be celebrating all the fantastic work that our student community has done and also honour our award winners. Invites and RSVP will be sent via email.

9. **Other Business**

Jenifer Newcombe encouraged the student members of the board to fill-out the Hart House Highly Engaged Student Survey. The deadline is on March 8th and the survey helps to learn more about who is engaging with us, what their experiences have been over the past year and where they think we should make improvements. Those who enter the draw will be eligible to win 1 of 3 $50 gift certificates to Loblaws/Shoppers Drug Mart or UberEATS

10. **Next Meeting**

The 1330th Board of Stewards meeting will be held on March 30th, 2023, at the Music Room in Hart House and Zoom. In-person attendance is highly encouraged for the last meeting of the year.

11. **Adjournment**

The following motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathryn Beukeboom, seconded by Jaime Sit.