

Minutes of the 1330th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, March 30th, 2023, in-person at the Music Room in Hart House and virtually on Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present:**Voting Members:**

Dianne Acuna (APUS Representative)
Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Liliana Bechtold (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)
Kathryn Beukeboom (Steward, Student Farm Committee)
Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
Advika Gudi (Steward, Student Social Justice Committee)
David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Sherry Kulman (Interim Warden)
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)
Yihang Xu (Steward, Music 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)
Janine Go (Incoming Chair, Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Committee)
Tyus Kalanyos (Incoming Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Sako Khederlarian (Coordinator, Learning & Community)
Anna Krukowski (Student Social Justice Committee)
Victoria Lee (Incoming Chair, Art Committee)
Gillian Lewis (Education and Production Coordinator)
Day Millman (Manager, Integrated Arts Education)
Lori McIntyre (Leadership Annual Giving Senior Development Officer)
Aron Mohr (Director, Hospitality Services)
Sasa Rajsic (Coordinator, Integrated Arts Education)
Rae Sahu (Hart House Ambassador)
Nadia Thompson (Program Associate, Dialogue and Expression)
Peter Wambera (Associate Director, Advancement)
Stan Xiao (Director of Finance)
Allison Zhao (Co-Chair, Literary and Library Committee)
Cathy Zuo (Incoming Chair, Student Farm Committee)

Regrets:

Hasna Hafidzah (Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Thai Higashihara (SCSU Representative)
Jake Li (Steward, Art Committee)
Victoria Liu (UTSU Representative)
Lwanga Musisi (GSU Representative)

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Terry Gardiner, Chair and Jaime Sit, Steward, Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Committee)

Terry Gardiner (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 1330th meeting of the Board of Stewards. Jaime Sit provided the land acknowledgment.

2. Introductions and Welcome to Incoming Stewards for Board of Stewards 2023-24

The Chair invited everyone in the meeting to introduce themselves in order to welcome the incoming stewards for the 2023-24 Board of Stewards.

3. Approval of the 1,330th 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 Robert Fisher, seconded by Samara Tower.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Stewards approve the agenda of the 1,330th Meeting.*

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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 1,329th Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the March 2nd, 2023 Board of Stewards meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Jaime Sit, seconded by Kathryn Beukeboom.

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

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

5. Introduction of the Committee on Budgets (Michelle Brownrigg, Chief Program Officer & Stan Xiao, Director of Finance)

Each year, at the final Board of Stewards meeting, the Hart House Committee on Budgets (CoB) is struck for the upcoming year. The Committee is supervised by Hart House's Director of Finance and Chief Program Officer and co-chaired by the Student Chair of the Finance Committee and one Hart House Standing Committee member. The Committee consists of representatives from various Hart House Standing Committees. These representatives are tasked with reviewing the budgets and activity plans of each Hart House Standing Committee to ensure that they reflect the strategic priorities of Hart House, confirm that the proposed expenditures are appropriate, and provide recommendations to the Board of Stewards based on plans and funding requests.

The proposed timeline for the 2023 Committee on Budgets is as follows:

- Late April 2023 - Establishment and meeting of Committee on Budgets
- May 27, 2023 - Collaborative Planning, Networking & Development Session -
- Early July - Presentation of Activity Plans & Budgets to Committee on Budgets – Mandatory for Treasurers & Chairs

- Late July 2023 - Review of Submissions and Conditional Approval
- Early September 2023 -Board of Stewards Final Approval of Budgets
- Fall Term - Training and development sessions – budget management for Treasurers, additional skill & networking sessions

The Committee on Budgets is a critical process for budgets and committee planning for the year, and both Michelle and Stan encourage students in committees to get involved in this process and to reach out if they have any questions.

a. Motion for the Creation of the 2023/24 Committee on Budgets (Stan Xiao, Director of Finance)

The following motion was made by the Stan Xiao, seconded by Robert Fisher.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023/24 Committee on Budgets be created.

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

6. Elections Committee Report (Kathryn Beukeboom, Rae Sahu, & Terry Gardiner: Members of the 2023 Elections Commission; Paul Bagus, Recording Secretary)

The 2023 Election Commission consisted of Kathryn Beukeboom, Rae Sahu and Chair, Terry Gardiner. The commission is created annually in January to ensure that all processes, procedures and information were consistent with the Hart House Student Chair Election Protocol, which was updated on January 6th, 2023. Hart House Staff provided administrative support for the elections which included staff from Programs, Strategic Initiatives, Marketing and Communications, Information Services and the Warden's Office. The elections ran from Monday, Feb. 27th to Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 and the voting was held online through the new UofT voting platform Simply Votes (<https://utoronto.simplyvoting.com>).

Promotions took place in-person in all three campuses with posters, digital slides, and Hart House Ambassadors having a presence at St. George, University of Toronto Mississauga, and University of Toronto Scarborough. A dedicated Communications plan was developed and executed to promote and drive awareness about the Hart House Student Elections but also to recruit for members for the Hart House Committees. This included the creation of a dedicated webpage (<https://harthouse.ca/learning/program/2023-elections>) that was featured as the hero banner on the front page of the Hart House website during the election dates. With regards to social media, we leveraged the Hart House Student account ran by the Hart House Ambassadors to encourage voting and for students to get more information.

Voter turnout reflected an astounding increase with **1088** votes this year when compared to 42 votes during last year's election. This is 1.2% of the total number of electors which was 94,185. The numbers indicate that there are still additional opportunities to engage more students in the electoral process. The increase in voter participation this year could be attributed to concerted effort to promote the elections early, the increase in volume of promotions online and on-campus across multiple avenues, and the new capabilities of the *Simply Votes* platform to email all the electors. The 2023-24 Report on the Hart House Committee Chairs Elections, which was distributed to the board prior to the meeting, outlines in more detail the observations and recommendations that the commission has formed for these elections.

Lucas Olmstead suggested that the team look into removing email reminders for students who have already voted so that they don't have to receive further emails. This will be explored when the elections are set-up next year. The Chair who also served as the Chief Returning Officer for the elections thanked

all the students and staff involved in a very successful elections and wishes the new committee chairs success in their new roles next year.

7. Committee Presentation: Hart House Student Farm Committee (Kathryn Beukeboom, Steward, Farm Committee)

Farm Committee Steward, Kathryn Beukeboom presented on the committee's mandates and the various activities it holds throughout the year to fulfill them. The committee's five-fold mandate includes:

- Sustainable, decolonial, and equity framework.
- Organizing social activities at the Farm and on campus.
- Encouraging students to build on their relationship with nature.
- Deliver educational workshops on food justice, urban agriculture, and Indigenous foodways.
- And working in alliance with other campus groups.

The committee facilitates very popular trips for students to travel to Hart House Farm which is the 150-acre property located in Caledon, Ontario, approximately one-hour from downtown Toronto. This is a way for the committee to help foster connections between students and nature. The committee's work is centered around the farm but extends beyond these visits. On-campus, they also hold numerous plant sales, community fridge re-stockings, and workshops such as Seeding Sovereignty: Celebrating Indigenous Foods and Foodways. This year, this workshop was held with Celeste Smith, an Oneida knowledge keeper and seed keeper.

David Kim asked the committee if it was relevant for the committee to stock items in the community fridges such as Personal Protective Equipment. Since he is a part of the Institutional Quarantine and Isolation Program, they have a surplus of equipment such as masks, hand sanitizer, and UofT swag that could be donated. The committee said that there is interest and will be in touch.

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

Hart House Student Leaders Recognition Event

Last week, the End of Year Hart House Student Leaders Recognition Event was held to honour new student committee chairs, [UTSLA](#) winners, [Hart House Award](#) winners, student staff members, stewards, volunteers, and all the students that make Hart House a vibrant and welcoming community. It was lovely to have members of the Hart House Jazz Ensemble show off their talents and create an amazing atmosphere to welcome folks to the event. Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost Students attended the proceedings to present the awards. Students Rae Sahu and Rish Kalra served as the hosts for the evening.

Arbor Room Update

The Hospitality team led by Aron Mohr, Marco Tucci, and Jerry Horton had a successful first month of Arbor Room operations. We're also already receiving great feedback on the food and service from students and visitors.

Between March 30 and April 20, the Arbor Room is extending its hours of operations until 9pm (Monday to Thursday). The extension of hours can offer an opportunity for anyone who may like a spot on campus that is open in the evening to connect during exam preparation time and during Ramadan.

Early Insights from the Highly Involved Student Survey

On February 15th, Hart House launched the annual survey for highly involved students, and the survey closed on March 8th. The survey had mix of 43 qualitative and quantitative questions We received responses from 271 students. The survey gathered information about who is engaging with us

(demographics), what they are learning, and perspectives on their experiences at Hart House. Some initial results include:

- 87% agreed or strongly agreed that Hart House feels like a supportive and caring community
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that Hart House is an inclusive space for students at the U of T
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their Hart House experience

We will be analyzing and summarizing survey results over the next number of weeks and will provide a more fulsome report once that process is complete for the next meeting in September.

Hart House Arts Pillar

The Marketing and Communications Team has been working hard to create new video assets that showcase the amazing work that we do for use in promotions along the year. This [video](#), worked on by Janine Raftopoulos and Nick Carter, features the arts-based programs that Hart House offers. Stay tuned for more video features on arts, wellness, and dialogue work in the next coming months.

2023 Hart House UofT Festival of Dance

The Hart House U of T Festival of Dance is having its opening night tomorrow on March 31st and has 2 sold-out performances. The festival is a wonderful celebration of the diversity and prosperity of the U of T dance community. The event will feature an impressive variety of dance forms including Bhangra, Irish, ballet, K-Pop, modern, just to name a few.

Sweat and Re-Set Fitness Centre Event

The Fitness Centre is putting on an exciting workout event combining a High Intensity and Yoga session, followed by a mix and mingle social. Pumped up by a live DJ, giveaways galore and swag bags for everyone on April 6th from 6-8 pm.

Spring Art Market

The Spring Art Market organized by the Art Committee is happening on April 10th, where visitors can buy some artwork and crafts from U of T students, staff, and faculty-owned small businesses, artists, and artisans. Based on the number of visitors at the Winter Art Market in December 2022, the committee is expecting over 400 people at the market.

Facilities Update

Below is an update on some of the facilities work that will be happening at Hart House and Hart House Farm this summer:

- The Theater HVAC Chiller Upgrade is scheduled to be completed by March 31st
- The Fitness Center Desk Renovations is slated to start on April 3rd and the tentative completion is early May.
- Walk In Refrigeration Upgrade to Air Cooled project has commenced and it is projected be completed by April 15th
- The Acoustic panel installation in the Gallery Grill is scheduled for April 20th to 23rd
- For Infrastructure Renewal, the Design Development has begun and a Tentative phase 0A break ground is scheduled for July 2024

Thank you Toast

The Interim Warden wanted to share a toast to the Board for a job well done throughout the year for everyone involved from stewards, staff members, to various students that have come in to present. There was a lot accomplished during this time including items from the Policy Review Project and a successful budgets approval process, in which the budget was approved with strong student support. This was also the first fully in-person year since the pandemic began, and the Hart House community feels stronger than

ever.

9. Other Business

Robert Fisher brought up the importance of further discussion at the Board of Stewards regarding changes to the house. Citing examples such as the introduction of the new Great Hall Tables, the Map in the Map room, and the removal of the crucifix from the chapel. Noting that these topics should be discussed and presented on at the Board level as they develop in the future and Staff Members welcome the opportunity to receive feedback for this work.

10. Next Meeting

The 1331st Board of Stewards meeting will be held sometime in September 2023.

11. Adjournment

The following motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Reagan Roopnarine, seconded by Liliana Bechtold.