

Minutes of the 1332nd meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, in-person at the Burwash Room in Hart House and virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present:

Voting Members:

Shanti Dhoré (APUS Representative)
Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Jacky Yu (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)
Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
David Kim (Warden)
David Newman (Presidential [ex-officio] Designate)
Lucas Olmstead (Steward, Finance Committee)
Ruth Alemayehu (UTMSU Representative)
Nadia Rosemond (Presidential Appointee)
Jaime Sit (Steward, Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Committee)
Samara Tower (Steward, Student Theatre Committee)
Tyus Kalanyos (Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Victoria Lee (Steward, Art Committee)
Aidan Thompson (UTSU Representative)
Afsana Miah (SCSU Representative)
Neelofar Ahmed (GSU Representative)
Yun Ying Wen (Steward, Music Committee)
Arjun Yangle (Steward, Student Farm Committee)

Non-Voting Members:

Ikeade Adekale (Recording Secretary)
Terry Gardiner (Chair)

Guests:

Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director and Chief Program Officer)
Davina Chan (Senior Director & Chief Marketing Officer)
Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Marco Adamovic (Program Coordinator)

Regrets:

Riddhi Sahaye (Steward, Social Justice Committee)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions (Afsana Miah, SCSU Representative and Terry Gardiner, Chair)

David Kim (Warden) opened the 1332nd meeting of the Board of Stewards by extending a warm welcome to all attendees and addressing the recent tragic events in Israel and the outbreak of war in the Middle East. In a compassionate tone, David conveyed his thoughts and heartfelt condolences to those affected by these distressing events in Israel and Palestine as well as those who have been impacted. David then highlighted the range of available support systems for the university community, including the Telus Health Student Support line and the Employee and Family Assistance program. He further shared information about the new rest space located at the Hart House Fitness studio. This space is accessible to students on Fridays from 2:00 to 4:00, providing a tranquil space for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Afsana provided the land acknowledgment.

2. Approval of the 1332nd 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 Tyrus Kalanyos, seconded by Jacky Yu.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards approve the agenda of the 1332nd Meeting.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 1331st Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the September 14th, 2023 meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Beth Ali, seconded by Robert Fisher.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards approve the Minutes of the 1331st Meeting.

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

4. Committee Presentations

a. Music Committee (Yun Ying (Jane) Wen, Steward, Music Committee)

Jane started by noting the Music Committee's main priorities for the year, which include:

- Continuing to host signature events, such as open mics and music trivia, which are well-received and contribute to the committee's identity and provide a space for students.
- Building strong relationships and collaborations with other committees and student groups on campus to offer a wider range of events for students.
- Expanding outreach to engage more students and enhance the community by increasing visibility through promotional efforts and word of mouth, with a focus on attracting new members to the committee.

Jane continued by highlighting the series of activities the committee has planned, some already completed and some in progress. These include:

- Clubs Fair: On September 6, the committee set up a booth to introduce the committee to students, share information, and promote their social media.
- Music Trivia Night: This Jeopardy style event held on September 8 presented an engaging opportunity for attendees to learn about music from each other and build friendships in a friendly competition.

- Concert in the Quad: On September 15, the committee hosted a concert in the Hart House Quad. The concert, featuring student musicians and bands introduced the U of T community to the Student Music Committee. Around 200 attendees were present at the event.
- Speed Friending: An event where students form connections with music as a common interest, targeting newer students looking for a community. With around 55 attendees, the event was successfully held in the Arbor Room on September 20.
- Monthly Open Mics: Ongoing events that offer students a platform to perform and connect with others in a supportive environment. These events sometimes include partnerships with other student groups, with an expected 300 attendees across the series. The event dates are as follows: September 22, October 20, November 17, February 28, and March 20.
- Wavelength Panel Discussion: A talk with a local artist-run organization that supports emerging Toronto artists, aiming to help student musicians and bands understand the music scene in Toronto, particularly post-pandemic challenges. There were about 40 attendees at this September 28 event.

Jane further highlighted some of the music-related events the committee is planning:

- BIPOC Hip Hop and R&B Showcase: On October 13, the committee will host a showcase to highlight talent from marginalized communities in hip hop and R&B, expecting around 50 attendees.
- Jam Sessions – October 25 & February 14: A new concept where students can gather to create music together, providing equipment and encouraging collaboration, with an expected attendance of around 40 participants.
- Discord Songwriting Contests and Online Songwriting Showcase: These events will be hosted on the Discord community, with the goal of connecting with student musicians, offering feedback, and encouraging music creation. Submissions will be shared in an online showcase and voted on by the community, with approximately 75 participants expected.
- Demo Magazine Launch Party: the committee is launching a student-driven magazine, which will feature interviews, live show reviews, workshops, and articles, with a focus on increasing coverage of the Student Music Committee events to enhance connection with students on campus and at events.

The Committee fulfills its Tri-Campus mandate by ensuring that the committee membership includes students from all three campuses, and providing a platform for members to create events that are inclusive and accessible to all.

Robert Fisher inquired about the possibility of collaborating with the Music Committee on an upcoming concert by a cellist who specializes in Renaissance music, Eleanor Fry that the Community Members Committee is planning. Jane responded with enthusiasm for the potential collaboration and provided the Music Committee's contact information; harthousemusiccommittee@gmail.com where Robert can contact the committee with more information.

b. Literary and Library Committee (Jacky Yu, Steward, Literary and Library Committee)

Jacky started by providing a brief overview of the Literary and Library Committee as a committee that manage the Hart House library, diligently maintaining records and archives of its extensive book collection. We actively engage with student requests and preferences, ensuring that our monthly book selections align with student interests. Moreover, the committee organize a variety of literary events tailored to those passionate about the literary arts, including creative writing enthusiasts.

The committee's upcoming events include:

- October 28 – Annual Dead Poets' Society Event scheduled to start at 8pm. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own poetry, promoting diverse voices, and celebrating inclusivity.
- November 1 – A Manga and Visual Design Workshop in collaboration with the Visual Arts Club. The event will explore the relationship between narrative and art, which will be live streamed for all campuses.
- Writer's Co-op Events – a series of events such as the "How to Get Published" Workshop, and "How to

find a Literary Agent” Workshop. These events provide opportunities for those who are interested in creative writing careers to gain insights from published literary agents and writers.

- Endnote Podcast – a biweekly podcast in November, featuring interviews and book discussions with different guest speakers. Interested guest speakers and audio editing staff are welcome to reach out. The podcast is available on platforms like Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and their website.
- Annual literary contest – accepts submissions in various categories, including literary character, fiction, and poetry. The contest is open to all U of T students across the three campuses. The Committee is currently in the process of finding judges to evaluate these works, with the winners having their pieces published in the Hart House Review, an independent student publication. The judging panel will be determined in November, and the contest is ideally scheduled for the second semester. The Committee is inviting members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and alumni from the same faculty who are interested in being judges to reach out.

The Hart House Review is an annual student-run publication for poetry and short fiction, with submissions for this year opening soon. The Hart House Review aims to celebrate diverse range of talented literary artists with a focus on themes of representation, diversity, collaboration, and connections. The Committee is accepting applications for editorial board positions, which are open to students from all campuses.

Michelle Brownrigg suggested [Terese Mason Pierre](#) an alum of the Literary and Library Committee as a great candidate for the podcast.

5. Warden’s Report (David Kim, Warden)

David Kim started the report by providing an overview on the process of making decisions on Artifacts and furniture. The decision on the removal, placement, remediation, or repairs in the building is influenced by multiple factors:

- Legal and Regulatory Framework: Decisions often follow legal and regulatory guidelines, such as procurement thresholds to ensure transparency and fair practices.
- Health and Safety: Compliance with health and safety guidelines is a critical aspect of decision-making to ensure a safe environment.
- Human Rights: Upholding human rights is another significant consideration in the decision-making process.
- Institutional Policy Framework: The university, including Hart House, has a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI), with a dedicated website showcasing equity reports as well as values and commitments that have been compiled through the work of several task forces and working groups. The equity reports and recommendations have been shaped by input from various committees and consultative bodies that include students, staff, faculty, and librarians.
- Strategic Plan: our strategic plan, launched in 2021, guides decision-making based on institutional values and alignment with the broader community's values.
- Expert Guidance: In specific areas, experts may be consulted to inform decision-making, such as the art museum for artwork-related matters.

The Board of Stewards' role includes providing input, feedback, and sometimes considering specific policies, plans, or projects for approval. However, it operates within the broader governance framework of the institution and does not manage the day-to-day operations of facilities. The Board is accountable to broader institutional governance bodies and values, shaped by input from students, staff, faculty, and librarians.

David continued by providing an update on the status of the Map in the Map room, an inquiry that was initiated at the September meeting and which was previously brought up and discussed at the 1330th meeting of the Board on March 30, 2023. The decision for restoration work was made before the pandemic, involving consultations with experts. The Art Museum's head curator and a group of individuals, including Indigenous artists and students,

were consulted to discuss art representation and community impact as well as possible next steps. Due to the pandemic, progress was put on hold for some time, but the group has recently reconvened to review previous discussions and suggestions. The process is ongoing, and updates will be provided to the Board of Stewards in the future. The map room is currently open, and discussions are ongoing about how to advance the next steps of this process including possible educational opportunities. More information will be shared once a comprehensive plan is developed.

Robert asked if there was an opportunity to provide input to the group. David responded by highlighting that the group is comprised of several individuals including Barbara Fisher, the head curator of the Art Museum, a faculty member, an Indigenous artist, and graduate students who have engaged in an ongoing conversation to discuss the impact of the map that was removed as well as how to move forward in terms of a potential response. As such, the process has already progressed to a point of establishing direction and although additional input may be provided, it may not be incorporated.

Robert also asked if there was an update on the crucifix in the Chapel.

David Kim responded that there are no updates available regarding the removal of the crucifix. He continued by making that a point of information for the rest of the Board. That the Hart House has a particular space referred to as "the Chapel." It was mentioned that a crucifix was removed from the space at a point of time prior to his term as the Warden. The intention behind this removal was to make the space non-denominational. There are currently no discussions about returning the crucifix to the chapel nor is this something that is being explored.

Robert Fisher further suggested that a display of symbols of multiple faiths in Hart House could be a way to reaffirm its multicultural values, especially in light of recent events in the Middle East. The proposed symbols include a menorah, a crucifix, and a Crescent moon and star, representing various faiths in the Canadian community. Noting that this gesture would be seen as a powerful statement emphasizing coexistence and inclusivity, counteracting the idea of banning things and promoting ways to harmoniously integrate different perspectives and beliefs.

David Kim responded that the Multifaith Centre is a department where we could consider seeking input and envisioning how the chapel is utilized by students.

David continued the report by noting that budget submissions are currently underway, a process that is happening throughout the institution within the fiscal year, spanning from May 1st to April 30th. Various units are diligently working on next year's priorities to align with the current strategic plan. The Board of Stewards plays a key role in reviewing and approving the Hart House operating budget. Notable dates to keep in mind include budget workshops in December (between the 11th and 15th), during which members will become acquainted with the budget. In January, the final budget presentation occurs during the Board of Stewards' meeting, with a vote taking place. Afterward, the budget goes through several other governance bodies, including the Council on Student Services (COSS), Services and Ancillaries Review Group (SARG).

On September 29th, Hart House hosted a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event, which involved a Tri-Campus planning committee working diligently to organize the event. The event included a panel discussion featuring librarians who discussed the Storybase project aimed at compiling stories from residential school survivors in an online, searchable format, primarily for use by educators. The project emphasizes audio and video recordings to convey the diversity of storytelling styles and personalities, offering a deeper understanding of the impact of residential schools. Attendees included a substantial in-person audience at the Great Hall and participants online, with photos documenting the strong turnout for the event. Additionally, T-shirts designed by MJ Singleton for September 30th are available for sale at the bookstores, and attendees are encouraged to explore this resource.

Hart House is hosting various events and activities for those looking to fill their social calendars. The Hart House Farm Residency: Past, Present, Future began on October 12 and runs until October 15. This event includes interactive and participatory projects focused on land-based artwork. Workshops cover topics like medicinal and

edible plants, connecting with the forest, and teachings from indigenous perspectives.

The Xplore Hart House event held on September 21 was a bustling success, with over 750 students attending. The post-event survey received a 27.5% response rate, with 96% of respondents giving the event a four to five-star rating. Engagement and participation came from all three campuses, including a shuttle bus from Scarborough, demonstrating the success of the event in bridging opportunities for undergrad and graduate students.

The Marketing and Communications team launched a My Hart House video on Tik Tok. The 1-minute video featuring Malieka was shown to the Board.

David further highlighted that there's been a lot of activity in various Hart House spaces and programs. The Arbor Room has been particularly busy, serving a high number of guests since its opening. The Gallery Grill, which reopened on September 11th, has seen a surge in diners. There are plans for the Toronto Urban Tattoo Gathering in the Great Hall on October 20th, featuring a collaboration between the Executive Chef and Indigenous chefs, along with a live DJ and an Indigenous makers market. Hart House also hosted an influencer event on October 4 at the Arbor Room, reaching out to student groups to invite them to experience the offerings and share their experiences on Instagram.

As part of the current exhibits across the House, David highlighted the Liberation on the Dance Floor exhibit which showcases posters and materials related to Toronto's gay community and its contributions to 2SLGBTQ+ causes. The exhibit running as part of the Talking Walls exhibition will be available until November 2nd. The exhibit launch and dance party event happened on October 6. He further highlighted The First 50 Toronto's Hip Hop Architect exhibit currently on display in the Warden's Office hallway.

Here are some upcoming events at Hart House:

- Black Futures Presents Barbershop: A biweekly hair service available on campus, where you can get a haircut or refresh your fade. It's taking place on October 16th, 30th, November 13th, and November 27th, from 12:00 to 4:00. You can register on the Hart House website.
- October Open Chess Tournament: Presented by the Hart House Chess Club, this event is a great way for students and community members to come together and play chess. The tournament consists of five rounds with a time control of 60 minutes plus a 30-second increment. It's happening on Saturday, October 21st, from 10 AM to 2 PM and 6 PM, as well as on Sunday, October 22nd.
- Learning to Lead: This program is centered around the health and wellness of racialized or BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) women at UofT. It's presented in collaboration with KPE, the Indigeneity, Diaspora, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Sports Ideas Research Lab, and the Well-being Collective at Hart House. This program runs every Wednesday until November 8th, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM, at the dance exercise room in Hart House. It's open to both undergraduate and graduate students, offering a movement experience that focuses on strengthening, dancing, and moving.

The "Designing for Wicked Problems" a Global Commons Design Jam event seeks to address complex global challenges, particularly focused on climate change. It utilizes design thinking and climate justice principles to explore frameworks for scalable collaboration and ideation. This program spans five consecutive weeks, offering 2.5-hour workshops every Friday from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, starting on September 29th and ending on October 22nd. The event encourages participants to engage in conversations and ideation related to climate change, collaborating with individuals not only in the GTA but also globally. It's an opportunity to get involved in addressing significant global issues.

David provided an update on the Infrastructure Renewal project that there is currently a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a construction manager, which will close on October 17.

Further highlighting that the Hub Information Desk will be undergoing a renovation. The renovation aims to enhance accessibility. The Hub will be relocated to the Map room in December with demolition set to begin on December 18. Renovation will last about 10 to 12 weeks. See Appendix A for the new information desk design

rendering.

The Warden has received an invitation from Soldiers' Tower to participate in a Remembrance Day procession. David extended an invitation to the stewards on the Board if they would be interested in attending the event with him. Stewards are encouraged to reach out if they are interested.

6. Other Business

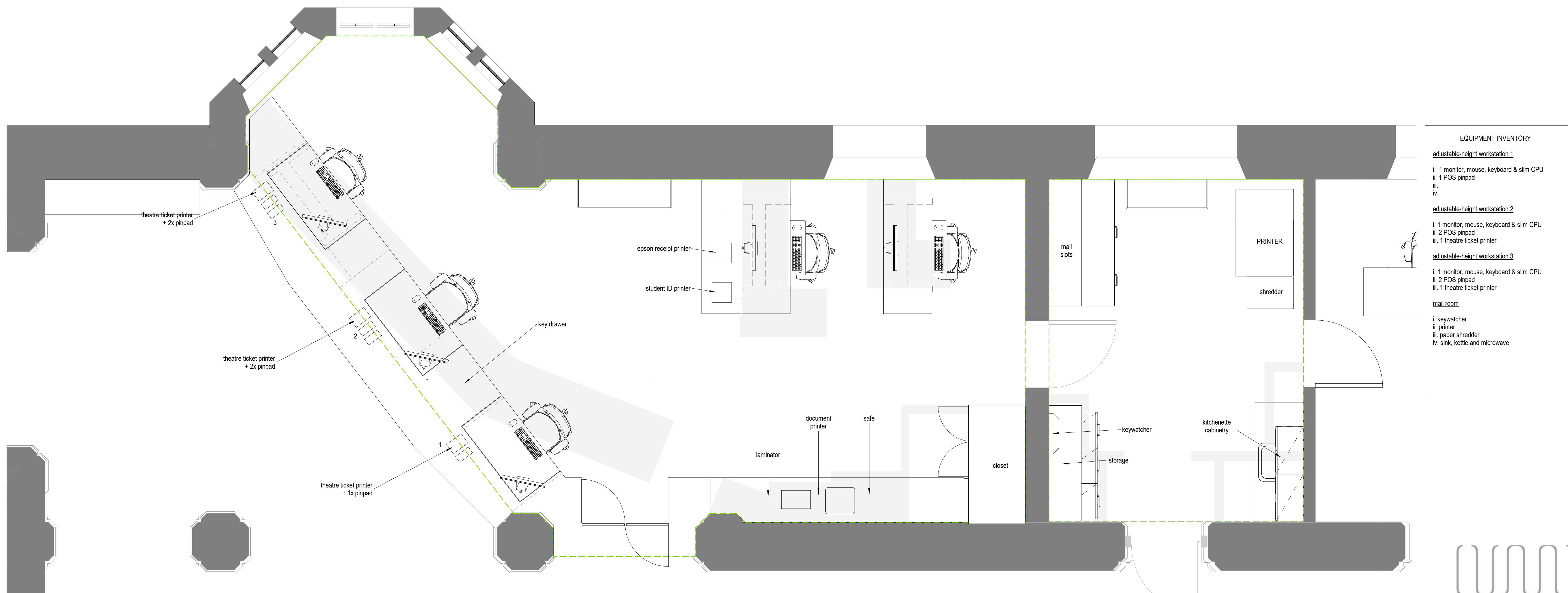
7. Next Meeting

The 1333rd Board of Stewards meeting will be held same time on November 9, 2023 at the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus – AA160 Council Chamber.

8. Adjournment

The following motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Samara Tower seconded by Victoria Lee.

NEW MAIN INFORMATION DESK



EQUIPMENT INVENTORY	
<u>adjustable-height workstation 1</u>	
i.	1 monitor, mouse, keyboard & slim CPU
ii.	1 POS pinpad
iii.	
iv.	
<u>adjustable-height workstation 2</u>	
i.	1 monitor, mouse, keyboard & slim CPU
ii.	2 POS pinpad
iii.	1 theatre ticket printer
<u>adjustable-height workstation 3</u>	
i.	1 monitor, mouse, keyboard & slim CPU
ii.	2 POS pinpad
iii.	1 theatre ticket printer
<u>mail room</u>	
i.	keywatcher
ii.	printer
iii.	paper shredder
iv.	sink, kettie and microwave