

Minutes of the 1333rd meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, November 09, 2023, in-person at AA160 UTSC and virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present:

Voting Members:

David Kim (Warden)
Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Nadia Rosemond (Presidential Appointee)
Tee Duke (Governing Council Appointee)
Afsana Miah (SCSU Representative)
Aidan Thompson (UTSU Representative)
Shanti Dhoré (APUS Representative)
Jacky Yu (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)
Gurjinder Gill (Steward Substitute, Community Members Committee)
Lucas Olmstead (Steward, Finance Committee)
Ruth Alemayehu (UTMSU Representative)
Kritika Sharma (Steward Substitute, Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Committee)
Tyus Kalanyos (Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Victoria Lee (Steward, Art Committee)
Yun Ying (Jane) Wen (Steward, Music Committee)
Arjun Yangleem (Steward, Student Farm Committee)
Riddhi Sahaye (Steward, Social Justice Committee)

Non-Voting Members:

Ikeade Adekale (Recording Secretary)
Terry Gardiner (Chair)

Guests:

Sherry Kulman (Chief Administrative Officer)
Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director and Chief Program Officer)
Davina Chan (Senior Director & Chief Marketing Officer)
Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Sako Khederlarian
Owen Gao
Polen Light
Amrith David
Victoria Mata
Akaash Palaparthi

Regrets:

Riddhi Sahaye (Steward, Social Justice Committee)
David Newman (Presidential [ex-officio] Designate)
Samara Tower (Steward, Student Theatre Committee)
Neelofar Ahmed (GSU Representative)
Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Member Committee)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions (Tyrus Kalanyos, Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee and Terry Gardiner, Chair)

Terry Gardiner (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 1333rd meeting of the Board of Stewards. Tyrus Kalanyos provided the land acknowledgment.

2. Approval of the 1333rd 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 Shanti Dhoré.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Stewards approve the agenda of the 1333rd Meeting.*

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 1332nd Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the October 12th, 2023, meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Arjun Yangle, seconded by Afsana Miah.

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

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

4. Introduction to the Hart House Clubs Terms of Reference (Jenifer Newcombe, Director of Strategic Initiatives)

Jenifer started by providing an overview of some of the policy review work that has been undertaken in the past year.

Over the past year, we've engaged in policy work, starting with a review of the terms of reference for house standing committees to enhance efficiency and clarify relationships between Hart House and UT policies. We've updated Rules and Procedures for the Board of Stewards, established principles on the use of space, and revised Standing Committee Terms of Reference. Currently, we are focusing on developing a framework for Hart House Clubs.

The Hart House constitution outlines the role of the Board of Stewards in overseeing recognized clubs, prescribing their rights, responsibilities, and activities, and maintaining a listing of clubs. The Board has the authority to recognize, remove, or review clubs based on established criteria. Unlike committees, clubs focus on specific community interests, include non-students, and have less formal governance. Currently, there are 14 recognized Hart House groups. The approach to developing the framework for clubs is guided by the Hart House Standing Committee terms of reference. Most of the previously approved terms of reference for standing committees also applies to clubs, with some minor differences. The focus has been on building upon the existing framework, considering the engagement between clubs and the Board of Stewards, and ensuring alignment with U of T and Hart House policies. Over the summer, meetings were held with all Hart House clubs to provide context, gather feedback, and address questions. The process involved examining past practices, exploring models from other campus groups, drafting language for terms of reference, and seeking input from clubs in September. The final document is now presented for review by the Board of Stewards.

The terms of reference serve as a guide for clubs, offering policies, processes, and essential information to support their functioning and identify areas of assistance. Modeled after the Hart House standing committee terms of reference, it delineates the relationship between clubs and Hart House, their connection to the Board of Stewards, and references annual processes such as funding applications and reporting responsibilities. Sections cover club

leadership, staff advisor support, access to space, and relevant U of T and Hart House policies, including financial policies and conflict of interest. Like standing committees, each club has its specific terms of reference outlining its purpose, activities, leadership structure, making the main document a comprehensive guide and the appendix specific to each club's unique content.

Jenifer further noted that there are three distinctive elements in the clubs' terms of reference compared to the standing committee terms of reference:

1. **Reporting Framework:** there's a unique reporting framework for the Board of Stewards. To enhance visibility and connection without adding excessive layers, clubs submit an annual report within their activity plan and funding request. This report covers leadership, past activities, engagement, challenges, and successes, providing a platform for clubs to showcase notable achievements or communicate challenges to the Board of Stewards. These reports become part of the shared information during the annual budget process. This reporting framework aims to offer clubs a means to present their highlights and concerns effectively.
2. **Approval Process and Framework:** the Constitution includes an approval process and framework for club renewal, aligning with the current practice and emphasizing a student-led approach. When a student group expresses interest in becoming a Hart House club, criteria include demonstrating a need for the group, aligning with Hart House's mission, and avoiding duplication of existing activities. The process involves dialogue to understand the group's needs and interests. If there's mutual interest, discussions proceed to evaluate capacity, considering space, budget, and staff support. The Chief Program Officer can recommend new clubs to the Board of Stewards for approval. A trial period option allows for a couple of years to assess fit. Conversely, if a club faces challenges, discussions are initiated to determine the best way forward, with decisions brought to the Board of Stewards if necessary. This renewal process aims to support clubs and maintain alignment with Hart House objectives.
3. **Flexible leadership model:** Hart House clubs are diverse in their activities, operations, and structures, operating in less formal spaces than standing committees. The leadership model allows flexibility, requiring a minimum of a chair and treasurer as points of contact with the House, but clubs can decide on their executive size. Changes in leadership follow a consultative process, providing options for elections or selections based on the group's needs, ensuring transparency in their terms of reference. Decision-making is consultative, with no formal voting requirement for all decisions, allowing flexibility based on the nature of the group's activities. The goal is to facilitate the work of the groups without imposing unnecessary complexities, reflected in each club's individual terms of reference outlining their unique approaches to leadership and meeting management.

Aidan Thompson asked the following questions based on the information that Jenifer Newcombe presented:

1. Are there supporting documents beyond the terms of reference to provide more clarity on processes for handling referendums or making major club decisions that might impact the organization's direction especially for clubs that don't hold elections?
2. Is there a defined process for resolving disputes, especially in situations where there's a disagreement about transitioning from a selection process to an election process or how a selection process is conducted?
3. Do Hart House clubs exist independent of Student Organization Portal (SOP)? Specifically, does Student Life have jurisdiction over Hart House clubs, and if so, how does it work with them?

Jenifer provided the following comment to answer the questions posed by Aidan.

In response to the first question, Jenifer noted that there's a reference in the overarching terms of reference regarding collaboration with the staff advisor for oversight of elections. Further stating that if a group chooses to engage in an election process, they will utilize the Board of Stewards elections framework. The emphasis is on transparency, with the inclusion of a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and independent oversight to ensure clarity about voter eligibility and the electoral process. However, the detailed framework for elections is not extensively outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Jenifer responded to the second question by emphasizing that staff advisors are typically the initial point of contact for groups facing challenges. If issues persist or become more complex, staff advisors serve as conduits to Chief Program Officer support structures within the university. Various frameworks are in place, considering the type of conflict and challenges, enabling clubs and committees to access House expertise and support resources for effective resolution.

And in direct response to the third question, Jenifer noted that Hart House clubs are independent of the Student Organization Portal and Student Life does not have jurisdiction over Hart House groups. Hart House groups are not subject to U of T clubs' policy. Instead, it works under its constitution and governance framework through the Board of Stewards, reporting to the University Affairs Board.

Michelle Brownrigg added that this is an important point of communication with our clubs, which can be a point of confusion due to students' involvement in various associations and clubs on campus. Unlike other clubs governed by different structures, Hart House and its clubs are accountable to the Governing Council as an organization. This distinction can lead to confusion among students, particularly regarding autonomy in areas like finances and travel. In the case of Hart House, clubs function as programs of Hart House, tied directly to its financial oversight and auditing processes, which differ from student life clubs on campus.

Akaash (SCSU Guest) asked about how the process of demonstrating the need for a new club is done at Hart House.

Jenifer responded that we receive relatively few requests, and our approach is to keep the scope flexible rather than defining specific criteria. When requests arise, we often find alternative solutions, such as utilizing available space or redirecting to funding sources like the Good Ideas fund. The described process is informal, reflecting our adaptability and addressing needs without strict criteria. While club activities remain consistent over the years, any informal requests typically go to Michelle, our Chief Program Officer, and we manage to navigate through other avenues.

Michelle added that when groups approach us for requests, the unique organizational structure of Hart House often makes the budget submission process onerous for student groups. We aim to maintain a low barrier and easy access for activities, recognizing that the traditional club model with executive oversight doesn't always align with the preferences or structures of all student groups. This evolving dynamic, especially with varying levels of student leadership engagement in existing clubs, prompts ongoing discussions about ensuring students have accessible resources and connections for their activities, beyond the conventional club model.

Aidan inquired about how the policy on open, free, democratic, and inclusive society, intersects with Hart House clubs. He further specified that if a Hart House club were to make a statement, provide comments, or host an event contrary to the views on freedom of speech or equity policies at Hart House or the University of Toronto, would it be Hart House or the University of Toronto administration that handle such a situation and what direction would be taken in addressing any disruptions to the U of T or student community caused by the club's actions?

Jenifer responded that while Hart House groups are distinct entities, they, like all members of the campus community, are subject to U of T frameworks in situations involving freedom of speech, disruption of meetings, harassment, and student code of conduct. All those policies would apply to Hart House. When engaging in challenging conversations or controversial topics, our groups work with their staff advisors and among themselves to contribute thoughtfully to discussions. If an issue escalates to the point where U of T policies apply, Hart House, situated within the Vice Provost Students portfolio, would coordinate with the appropriate offices on campus for policy or disciplinary matters.

- a. **Motion to approve the Hart House Clubs Terms of Reference** (David Kim, Warden)
The following motion was made by David Kim, seconded by Nadia Rosemond.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards approve the Hart House Clubs Terms of Reference.

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

5. Hart House at University of Toronto Scarborough (Michelle Brownrigg, Senior Director & Chief Program Officer)

Michelle Brownrigg opened the presentation by acknowledging the multiple contributors to the presentation. She further extended welcome to guests, expressing gratitude for their presence. Appreciation is also expressed to all contributors for their input into the slides and opportunities. She further added that Programmatic and space usage decisions involve collaboration with staff and student leaders from each campus. The focus is on aligning with campus priorities and cultures, emphasizing arts, dialogue, wellness, and community-building programs. Student standing committees, including UTM and UTSC counterparts, present annual plans for peer approval, fostering engagement. The Scarborough Campus Student Union is actively involved in governance discussions and budget considerations at the Council and student services table. Michelle then passed it to Nadia who will be covering the UTSC portion of the presentation.

Nadia provided information about UTSC campus projects. A new student residence building (Harmony Commons - a passive house) with energy efficiency to imbue sustainability values on students living there. The ongoing Indigenous House construction that aims to foster Indigenous education and programs. The Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) building ongoing construction that intends to integrate more undergraduate students in the Sciences to work with the Scarborough Health Network. Also, construction of parking lots/structures. UTSC is part of a healthy campus initiative and embeds holistic healthy well-being values for staff/faculty and students when involved in academics, research programs events. It has an accessible Valley Trail about 500 metres in length with charging stations for mobility vehicles.

Owen from Hart House's Outreach team delivered a presentation on the outreach activities that have been conducted at the UTSC campus. Owen did an overview of these outreach activities which included a weekly tabling with Hart House swags and promotional materials, UTSC orientation tables with different UTSC department, and collaboration with UTSCSU for different events.

Arjun, Hart House UTSC Outreach Ambassador, shared his experience working with Hart House as a UTSC student. Arjun also mentioned one feedback that he wished to have shuttle buses from UTSC to the St. George campus, so students were more likely to use Hart House facilities.

Some of the comments brought up by the Board of Stewards:

1. The difficulty to commute to Hart House from the other two campuses, therefore Hart House will be bringing events and programs to them instead.
2. The student leaders' farm trip that invited all the student leaders that work with Hart House, including club centre amenities, and other students who regularly attend Hart House programs. With over 30+ students in attendance, there were opportunities for student leaders to connect and converse with each other and plan collaborations between student groups, clubs and communities throughout the year.

Hart House and Gallery 1265 have worked on two important projects over the past three years:

1. Public Artwork series (2022-23)
2. Acorn Tri-Campus Art festival (ATAF)

The Hart House Global Commons program has run for over six years and provided opportunities for U of T students to engage with global issues with counterparts from foreign institutions, with some of the program's activities conducted at UTM. Some of the ways that Hart House was involved at UTSC campus was highlighted: completion of a 5-week intensive Design Jam that explored a variety of topics via virtual conversations and breakout groups facilitated by Marco.

In collaboration with UTSC and UTM's international student centre, a 3-hour workshop to enhance students' dialogue skills across different cultures and beliefs, called "Empowering Conversations". UTM's happened on November 21st and UTSC's will occur in January. Another intensive student workshop that continues expanding on students' dialogue skills will be held in March 2024.

6. Committee Presentations

Kritika, from the Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Committee (RAWC) stated the committee's mission in terms of reference is to create diverse opportunities for students to learn about engaging and developing an interest in physical activity, and provide a space for inclusivity in sports and recreation at U of T. The RAWC facilitated several events such as "September Steps" event across the three campuses; "Wellness Wednesdays" event; a community cookbook; collaboration with Hart House in the "Get Crafty" event. The goals for 2023-2024 included increasing inclusivity, diversity and accessibility of events and focus on community engagement, youth outreach and wellness related activities.

A question was asked about the indoor track's tentative date for the triathlon event, and a response was provided that it would be on Saturday, February 3rd.

7. Warden's Report (David Kim, Warden and Jenifer Newcombe, Director, Strategic Initiatives)

Dave began by welcoming everyone present and acknowledged the student leaders' contributions. He highlighted some events conducted by committees. The Social Committee hosted a career panel in November with panelists that discussed about social justice careers and pathways. The Art Committee hosted artwork conferences with Toronto based photographer Laboni Islam on October 19th, who delivered a talk about his documentation of rapid changes in Chinatown. Also, the Art Committee has been providing free guided gallery tours to view a number of collections.

As part of Indigenous Education Week, Hart House hosted a collaborative event with First Nations House to showcase Indigenous fashion and designer talents, which entailed conducting a call out to Indigenous students to be models where training would be provided. Dave mentioned the "Hart House of Horrors: Halloween Haunt" event that Hart House put together, that included a costume dance party, a haunted house, a horror film double-feature, and pumpkin carving.

Dave highlighted that the Judy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship (\$2000 for six recipients) and the Audrey Hozack (\$1200 for one recipient) and student leadership award nominations are open, and applications are accepted until January 19, 2024.

The budget workshops conducted by the Finance committee that provide knowledge about the budget process will begin in December, and members of the Board of Stewards are invited to participate. To note, a budget presentation will be provided to the Finance committee and the Board of Stewards in January.

Upcoming events:

- BIPOC/QTBIPOC Wellness Dialogues: Building Community through Conversation happening on Nov.

28th and Dec. 12th.

- Halal fried chicken/tofu and waffles with Hart House's maple syrup and whipped cream on Nov. 23rd
- \$5 lunch on Nov. 28th
- Annual food and toy drive: ongoing

8. Other Business

It was stated that one the BoS Community Members' Committee longstanding member, Matt, will be resigning.

9. Next Meeting

The 1334th Board of Stewards meeting will be held from 4:30pm-5:30pm on December 7th, 2023 at the Gallery Grill in Hart House.

10. Adjournment

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