

Minutes of the 1336<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, in-person at the Burwash Room UTSG and virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing.

**Present:****Voting Members:**

David Kim (Warden)  
Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)  
Nadia Rosemond (Presidential Appointee)  
David Newman (Presidential [ex-officio] Designate)  
Tee Duke (Governing Council Appointee)  
Shanti Dhoré (APUS Representative)  
Afsana Miah (SCSU Representative)  
Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)  
Samara Tower (Student Theatre Committee)  
Victoria Lee (Steward, Art Committee)  
Tyrus Kalanyos (Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee)  
Ruth Alemayehu (UTMSU Representative)  
Lucas Olmstead (Steward, Finance Committee)  
Jaime Sit (Steward, Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Committee)  
Jacky Yu (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)

**Non-Voting Members:**

Emerald Ekong (Recording Secretary)  
Terry Gardiner (Chair)

**Guests:**

Davina Chan (Senior Director & Chief Marketing Officer)  
Peter Wambara (Associate Director, Advancement)  
Alphonse Daniel (Program Associate, Community Access & Outreach)  
Emily Raniero (Co-Chair, Youth Advisory Council)  
Lucy Chen (Co-Chair, Youth Advisory Council)  
Khanak Gupta (Chair, Debates and Dialogue Committee)  
Serene Tam (Communications Officer, Art Committee)  
Sherry Kulman (Chief Administrative Officer)  
Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director & Chief Program Officer)  
Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)  
Lori MacIntyre (Senior Development Officer, Advancement)  
Sasa Rajsic (Coordinator, Integrated Arts Education)  
Danielle Dinunzio (Manager, Community Access & Outreach)  
Janelle Modo (Work-study, Youth Advisory Council)

**Regrets:**

Jady Liang (GSU Representative)  
Jun Ying (Jane) Wen (Steward, Music Committee)  
Amanda Greener (Director, Staff and Community Relations)  
Aidan Thompson (UTSU Representative)  
Riddhi Sahaye (Steward, Social Justice Committee)

**1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions** (Jacky Yu, Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee, and Terry Gardiner, Chair)

Terry Gardiner opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 1336<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Stewards. Jacky Yu delivered the land acknowledgment.

**2. Approval of the 1336<sup>th</sup> 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 Victoria Lee and seconded by Robert Fisher.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Stewards approve the agenda of the 1336<sup>th</sup> Meeting.*

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

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the 1335<sup>th</sup> Meeting** (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the January 11, 2024, meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Samara Tower and seconded by Robert Fisher.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Stewards approve the Minutes of the 1335<sup>th</sup> Meeting.*

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

**4. Presentation on the Youth Advisory Council** (Emily Raniero and Lucy Chen, Co-Chairs of the Youth Advisory Council; Alphonse Daniel, Program Associate, Community Access & Outreach; and Janelle Modo, Work-study, Youth Advisory Council)

Over the past 3 years since its inception, the goal of the Youth Advisory Council (consists of 9 youths from Grades 9-12) has been to provide leadership learning opportunities and resources for youths to develop their skills via youth-focused programming. Some of these programs include youth-to-youth collaboration, interactive workshops led by U of T leaders from Hart House's committees and clubs, and on-campus events or outreach activities.

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) gives youths the opportunity to provide advise on various aspects of Hart House's Access programming that cater to youths. Then, the U of T students plan and shape the programs.

Alphonse Daniel asked a series of questions to Emily Raniero and Lucy Chen from YAC. They were asked what lessons they gained from being a being a part of YAC. Emily Raniero responded that she had learnt a lot about democratic leadership and allowing people to take charge and share opinions. This has been transferred into her work/school life, and personal development. Also, she described how she had learnt how to better connect with her peers. Lucy Chen learnt about collaboration, cooperation, personal responsibility, and effective communication. The next question was what projects they completed or are working on presently. They have worked on the Mental Health Paint Night, climate change themed videos for social media platforms and they are currently planning a zine-making workshop in March. The final question asked was the program's impact on its participants. Emily Raniero said that there has been an improvement in confidence as a result of being involved in YAC.

David Kim asked how they heard about YAC and what Zig Zag Zop was about. Emily Raniero responded that she heard about YAC through her social worker, after participating in Hart House's A/V mentorship program, and that David Kim would have to play Zig Zag Zop to understand what it entailed.

**5. Committee Presentation: Debates and Dialogues Committee** (Tyrus Kalanyos, Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee; Khanak Gupta, Chair, Debates and Dialogue Committee)

Tyrus Kalanyos presented about the Debates and Dialogue Committee's history since its founding in 1919. It has hosted several leaders across various disciplines, and coordinated discussions spanning diverse topics like foreign policy, and issues within technology, the environment, etc.

They organize three main events (townhalls, panel discussions and keynote addresses) annually. The townhalls are typically small sized (about 30 participants) and happen twice a year. The panel discussions have up to 75 participants. The committee is considering increasing the number of townhalls and panel discussions that will occur in upcoming years. The keynote address happens once a year and is a big event that has prominent guests in attendance. Some past notable speakers include John F. Kennedy, the 35<sup>th</sup> U.S. President; Margaret Atwood, a Canadian poet; and Adrienne Clarkson, the Former Governor General of Canada.

These are the events hosted by the committee for the 2023-2024 academic year:

- Panel discussion with the Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine on 27 November 2023
- HHSDDC x Caldwell Financial: Financial Literacy and Women in Finance on 7 March 2024
- Townhall on Emerging Cybersecurity Issues and Topics - This event is in partnership with the U of T's Information Security Team and is happening on 26 March 2024.
- The keynote address event is still under development but has been set for 5 April 2024. The committee is hoping to invite Geoffrey Hinton.

Tyrus Kalanyos shared the work the committee has put in to reflect Hart House's core values, and the areas for improvement. The committee will be working on making its events more accessible by expanding its reach to the Tri-Campus community and sharing content warnings for some discussions.

Robert Fisher commended the committee's efforts in trying to get Geoffrey Hinton to attend the keynote address in April. Michelle Brownrigg asked what support the committee needs to make discussion events more comfortable for participants. Tyrus Kalanyos responded that having someone in the vicinity to aid in calming pensive or hostile situations would be a great resource for them.

Terry Gardiner commended the Debates and Dialogue team for their work, and Tyrus Kalanyos thanked Danielle Dinunzio and Khanak Gupta.

**6. Committee Presentation: Art Committee** (Victoria Lee, Steward, Art Committee; Serene Tam, Communications Officer, Art Committee)

The Art Committee's mission, since its inception in 1921, has been to provide U of T students with opportunities to connect with Toronto's vibrant art scene. This year, the committee expanded its art exploration to a new location by taking a trip to Montreal. Also, the committee has leveraged social media platforms to boost its exposure.

The Art committee's mandate is:

- Support the tri-campus mandate: They hired two new executive members from the Scarborough and Mississauga campus. From UTSC, Ayeza Ahmad is the committee's Secretary and an ambassador of the Orange Shirt Day event in Hart House. From UTM, Seren Lam is the committee's Communications Officer and has helped coordinate tri-campus Instagram group chats and promote events to students in the Mississauga campus.
- Engage in in-house collaborations:
  - September 26, 2023 - Collaborated with the Farm committee for a cyanotype printing workshop in the Farm retreat.
  - December 8, 2023 - Invited Chamber Strings to perform in the Winter Art Market.
  - Sharing and promoting in-house collaborative events on social media platforms
- Community engagement with improved activities
- Bringing the executives and members closer and building meaningful relationships

- Widen horizons in the Canadian art scene.

Overview of the committee's events in 2023-2024:

- September: Clubs Fair, Kick-off party, and a Grant Writing workshop.
- October: Artist Talk with Morris Lum, Art Museum Group Tour, and Stephen Bulger Gallery Group Tour
- November: Montreal trip, Talking Walls Fall Exhibition, artwork Conference, and Acknowledging the Land Guided Tour
- December-January: Winter Art Market, Talking Walls Winter Exhibition, YYZ Gallery Workshop Tour

Upcoming Events:

- February: Start of acquisitions' process (till April); Execs Internal Social (February 16); artwork workshops (February 29)
- March: Members' socials (March 1); Winter Talking Walls closing (March 18); artwork workshops (March 28)
- April: Spring Art Market (April 8)

The Art committee is planning and working on a new initiative this year, the Art Tuck Shop, which will transform the Arbor Room into an art hub for student artists to showcase their work on the walls and in turn sell them.

Robert Fisher asked how the committee sets a mandate for acquisitions. Victoria Lee responded that the committee has a budget of \$15,000 each year for acquisitions. They have a shortlist and work with the Art Museum to negotiate with buyers. Sasa Rajsic added that the acquisitions' process was not linear and that Liz Ikiriko from the Art Museum, was responsible for handling this. There is an online portfolio of all the acquisitions.

#### **7. Warden's Report** (David Kim, Warden, Peter Wambera, Associate Director, Advancement)

David Kim shared updates on Hart House's budget approval process where he presented the final budget to SARG (Service Ancillary Review Group) on January 26, and the last two stages include the COSS (Council of Student Services) budget vote on February 12, and the UAB (University Affairs Board) budget vote in March.

David Kim mentioned that Stan Xiao, Director of Finance's last day was on February 9 and Tharsini Sivathanan will be joining the role later in February. He applauded Stan's role in leading the Finance committee.

New updates about the Information Hub were provided. The ongoing construction is proceeding as planned and the Map room remains as the interim Hub. In the meantime, a wrap has been installed, and it showcases the Hub's future state so Hart House's visitors can look forward to being 'back to the old but brand-new accessible space', with directions to the Hub's interim location.

Hart House's social media campaign called "My Hart House" has launched four videos across various platforms with impressive data on its reach and engagement. The campaign features quick sound bites from students, alumni, and staff to create social media engagement to raise Hart House's offerings and impact to student and community life. The team is starting to build out the content strategy for year 2 and is inviting any student interested in participating to contact David Kim, Emerald Ekong, or Davina Chan.

Last Tuesday's \$5 Lunch was promoted on the University's Chinese social media channel, Weibo and had in attendance the Plant Based Treaty U of T student club and our community partner, Long Time No See Collective, performing the Lion Dance.

Hart House's programming:

- HeadstART (January 24 - March 7): An ongoing 8-week hybrid arts program in partnership with the Toronto Community Housing for youths aged 13 to 18. It is facilitated by two academic placement

students from the Human Biology department. Participants will receive perks from Hart House like mentorship opportunities and access to exclusive workshops and events at U of T upon completion.

- Grease (February 8 - 10): Presented by students from the Trinity College Drama Society
- Legally Blonde the Musical (February 15 - 17): Presented by students from the St. Michael's College Troubadours
- Daffydil 2024 Production - An Inkling in Time (February 22 - 24): Presented by students from the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty of Medicine in support of The Canadian Cancer Society
- Hart House U of T Drama Festival (February 27 - March 2)
- Hart House A/V Tech Mentorship Program (March 11-13): Opportunity for youths aged 16-18, to gain practical experience with different careers in the audio/visual field while earning a \$250 stipend for their commitment. The program is open for applications (closes on February 21).
- Winter 2024 Fitness Challenge (entire February): A chance to win 1 of 3 \$100 credits that can be redeemed via our Fitness Centre offerings (including membership, programs or services like personal training and registered fitness programs)

Peter Wambera shared a response to a question brought up at the COSS meeting regarding the role of advancement in supporting the Infrastructure Renewal project. Hart House is a part of the university's 'Defy Gravity' campaign, and in the previous campaign, 'Boundless' campaign (May 2005 - December 2018), Hart House raised ~\$4.8 million. Hart House's 'Defy Gravity' campaign (January 2019 - 2029) goal is \$12 million, and as of January 1, 2024, it has raised ~\$5 million. The funding sources for the first phase of the Infrastructure Renewal project are Hart House capital reserves, the Provost investment, a U of T loan, and private sector fundraising.

David Kim wished everyone a 'Happy Lunar New Year'. Tyrus Kalanyos asked about the triathlon event and David Kim mentioned the good planning and execution of the event.

## **8. Other Business**

None was brought up.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The 1337th Board of Stewards meeting will be held from 5:30pm-7:30pm on March 7, 2024, at UTM - DV 3130 Council Chambers and Zoom.

## **10. Adjournment**

The following motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Victoria Lee and seconded by Jacky Yu.