

Minutes of the 1,266<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:30pm in the Library.

Present: Dr. Bruce Kidd (Warden)  
Dr. Jonathan Steels (Chair)  
Ms. Emma Arppe-Robertson (Recording Secretary)  
Ms. Karthy Chin (Literary and Library Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Anita Comella (Presidential Appointee)  
Mr. Kenneth Davy (Governing Council Appointee)  
Mr. Matt Dreger (Alumni Committee Chair)  
Ms. Susan Froom (APUS Appointee)  
Mr. Kaleem Hawa (Debates Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Lesia Kinach (Farm Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Victoria McEwan (Theatre Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Celine McGarvey (Social Justice Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Kavita Siewrattan (GSU Appointee)  
Dr. Helen Slade (Presidential Appointee)  
Ms. Evelyn Zhang (Finance Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Freda Zhang (Music Committee Secretary)

Guests: Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Interim Director, Programme Administration)  
Ms. Rita O'Brien (CAO)  
Mr. Paul Templin (Director of Meeting & Event Services)  
Mr. Peter Wambera (Senior Development Officer)

Regrets: Ms. Gini Chin (RAC Secretary)  
Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President [*ex officio*] Designate)  
Mr. Pierre Harfouche (UTSU Appointee)  
Ms. Natalie Lai (Art Committee Secretary)  
Mr. Rhain Louis (RAC Senior Member)  
Ms. Danielle Nairn (Farm Committee Secretary)

## **1. Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda amended to move the Debates Committee presentation to the top of the agenda and to strike the Theatre Department presentation.

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the agenda as amended.**

## **2. Minutes of the 1,264<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### **a) Approval of Minutes of the 1,264<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the minutes as amended.**

## **3. Committee and Departmental Presentations**

### **a) Debates Committee (Kaleem Hawa, Secretary)**

The Debates Committee hosts a variety of public events for members and students which focus on major issues of the day, and encourage lively debate on current issues. They create space where all voices and lived experiences are heard and respected. The Committee hosts two debating tournaments annually, the Hart House Invitational Tournament, the most competitive varsity level debate tournament in Canada, and the High School tournament, which hosts 200 teams each year. Other events hosted this year include: Let's Talk Toronto, The Lamartine Debate, in partnership with the French Consulate, Old Hands and New Faces in Canadian Foreign Policy, A Conversation with Former Prime Minister John Turner, Global Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, The Alumni Debate, The Legacy of Residential Schools in partnership with the Aboriginal Law program, and the Churchill Debate.

In addition to working closely with various campus and community groups on these events the Debates Committee also works closely with the Debates Club, which is the formalized competitive debating body, in order to support their work across Canada and abroad. A major focus of the committee has been creating a sense of community and novice retention, which they have done by hosting social events after tournaments and after meetings.

## **4. New Business**

### **a) Amendment of the Standing Committees (Bruce Kidd, Warden)**

The Warden explained that this motion and the one to follow are companion motions which arose from the Committees Review. This motion would remove the Alumni Committee from the list of standing committees of Hart House. The process by which alumni and senior members would be elected to the Board of Stewards would then be revised. The intention is to steer alumni participation through the Clubs and Committees and to harmonize the election of senior members with the student election process.

Board members feel that the Alumni Committee has been very useful and supportive of students on campus, and that they offer a lot of institutional memory. Alumni participation in the Clubs and Committees does not necessitate the removal of the Alumni Committee as a Standing Committee of Hart House. Concern was also expressed about

preserving an alumni voice around the table and whether abolishing the Alumni Committee would actually increase participation.

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD REJECTED the motion on the Amendment of the Standing Committees.**

**b) Constitutional Amendment (Bruce Kidd, Warden)**

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD WITHDREW the motion on the Constitutional Amendment.**

**c) Governance Process for the Election (Bruce Kidd, Warden)**

This motion is necessary to approve the annual elections process and the creation of an Elections Commission. The process has not changed since previous years. The Elections Commission will look into the question of allowing Senior Members to vote.

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the Governance Process for the Election.**

**d) Green Heritage Infrastructure Project Planning Committee Recommendations (Bruce Kidd, Warden)**

Hart House is facing serious challenges to its infrastructure; there are serious problems with the heating, plumbing and electrical systems. Baird Samson Neuert Architects was commissioned in November 2012 to undertake a study of Hart House to determine the feasibility for an infrastructure renewal which also enhanced sustainability, the heritage architecture and available space of the House. The Project Planning Committee was struck by the Board of Stewards at the October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting to formally consider the recommendations of the study.

There have been several minor recommendations added to the report since it was distributed to the Board of Stewards. These recommendations were distributed at the meeting and will be considered a friendly amendment.

If approved these recommendations would go forward to CaPS, but the project would not be green lighted until sufficient funds were raised. Hart House will also ask the provost for official approval for this project to become a fundraising priority for the University. After this happens a case for support would be created by the Hart House Advancement team and the Division of University Advancement. The Board expressed the opinion that limited naming rights be part of this campaign. Of special consideration should also be

accessibility issues including door openers for interior doors, gender neutral washrooms and change rooms and baby changing areas.

**On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the Green Heritage Infrastructure Project Planning Committee Recommendations as amended.**

## **5. Committee and Departmental Presentations**

### **b) Social Justice Committee (Celine Mcgarvey, Secretary)**

The Social Justice Committee works to raise awareness of social justice issues through proactive engagements in partnerships, networks and the student body as a whole. They focus on sustainability, equity, international and community development, and empowerment through education. New initiatives this year include working to connect social justice networks across campus and in the community, anti-oppression and equity training, monthly themed discussion groups, a formalized partnership process and an online newsletter.

The Social Justice Committee is also engaged in discussions about changing committee structures and roles, as well as the creation of transition documents. They will follow up on the recommendation that they connect with the OISE Social Justice Education Program.

## **6. Warden's Report**

This will be the Warden's last Board of Stewards meeting. He told the Board that it has been a great honour to be in this role for the last four years and that he has enjoyed the discussions and debates around the Board table. The Warden encouraged the Stewards of Hart House to be intentional and explicit about non didactic learning and emphasized the need to make Hart House accessible to all University of Toronto students. Hart House must continue to push forward on the much needed infrastructure renewal.

A reception for Warden Kidd will be held on Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and all are welcome.

## **6. Other Business and Announcements**

The Farm Committee is hosting the All About Pies event on February 28<sup>th</sup> and all student club and committee executives are encouraged to attend.

The last show of the 2014-15 season at the Hart House theatre, *This is for You, Anna*, will begin on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015