Minutes of the 1,270th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Bickersteth Room.

Present: Dr. Jonathan Steels (Chair)  
Mr. John Monahan (Warden)  
Ms. Emma Arppe-Robertson (Recording Secretary)  
Ms. Rita Alsalaq (Social Justice Committee Secretary)  
Mr. Kenneth Davy (Governing Council Appointee)  
Mr. Michael De Angelis (Alumni Committee Chair)  
Ms. Margaret Ebifegha (APUS Appointee)  
Mr. Terry Johnston (RAC Senior Member)  
Ms. Coco Lee (Theatre Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Michelle Monteiro (Literary and Library Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Tal Oren (Farm Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Yasmin Rajabi (UTSC Appointee)  
Mr. Housam Silim (Social Justice Committee Secretary)  
Mr. Ortega Tapambwa (GSU Appointee)  
Ms. Theresa Wang (Art Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Evelyn Zhang (Finance Committee Secretary)  

Guests: Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Director, Physical Activity and Equity, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education)  
Ms. Lucia Leguen (Alumni Committee Member)  
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Programme Administration)  
Ms. Rita O’Brien (Senior Director Business and Ancillary Operations and CAO)  
Mr. Paul Templin (Director, Meeting & Event Services)  
Mr. Peter Wambera (Senior Development Coordinator)  

Regrets: Ms. Gini Chin (RAC Secretary)  
Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President [ex officio] Designate)  
Ms. Sarah Harrison (Debates Committee Secretary)  
Ms. Vere-Marie Khan (UTSU Appointee)  
Mr. Alec Roxas (Music Committee Secretary)  
Dr. Helen Slade (Presidential Appointee)  
Ms. Freda Zhang (Music Committee Secretary)  

1. Approval of the Agenda  

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

2. Minutes of the 1,269th Meeting  

a) Approval of Minutes of the 1,269th Meeting
On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the minutes.

3. New Business

a) Motion on the 2015/16 Committee on Budgets Allocations (John Monahan, Warden)

The Committee on Budgets is responsible for the annual review and approval of Club & Committee program plans and budgets within the envelope approved for them by the Board of Stewards as part of the annual budget. The Committee is co-chaired by the Director of Program and the Secretary of the Finance Committee and is comprised of Committee treasures and two club presidents.

Ms. Newcombe and Ms. Zhang presented the budget proposal for the 2015/16 academic year. They were congratulated on their excellent work and fair allocation of funds.

On a motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the Motion on the 2015/16 Committee on Budget Allocations.

b) Hart House Strategic Plan (John Monahan, Warden)

Hart House has issued a set of Terms of Reference in order to engage an external consultant to create a five year Strategic Plan. The Warden and the Chair have met with the responding consultants and expect to be in a position to issue a contract soon.

The consultants will begin by carrying out an environmental scan and meeting with key stakeholders at Hart House. This will include the Board of Stewards. They will then identify a “stand” statement, which identifies what Hart House stands for in the community and in the world. A strategic plan and objectives will then flow from this statement.

4. Committee Presentations

a) Literary and Library Committee (Michelle Monteiro, Secretary)

Ms. Monteiro informed the Board that the Literary and Library Committee’s mandate is to promote and celebrate the literary arts within and beyond the university community and to create student opportunities for engagement with literature. The Committee has four distinct streams of activities: events, including those focused on professional development, literary criticism and reading; the Hart House Review, which publishes an annual literary and art journal with national distribution and holds an annual prose and fiction contest; creative writing workshops; and management of the Hart House Library, including acquisitions, upkeep, and creating student opportunities.
The major goals of the Committee for the 2015/16 academic year are to increase student engagement and outreach, to give students opportunities to build skills and make connections and to build on partnerships and collaborations with other groups. Ms. Monteiro explained that they have created a first year subcommittee to engage first year students specifically, and that most graduate student participation happens through panels and workshops. The Committee feels it would be useful in the future to have more metrics on who is attending their events.

**b) Alumni Committee** (Michael De Angelis, Secretary)

The Alumni Committee has been a member of the House since the beginning and has grown out of what was called the Graduate Committee, which was then made up of fee paying senior members and alumni. The Committee is currently working to review and update their mandate by the end of this academic year, but their primary role continues to be supporting alumni and senior members while working to improve and increase student engagement. One of the challenges of this mandate review will be to ensure that the committee continues to evolve with the changing contexts of the contemporary university.

The Alumni Committee currently runs four major events over the course of the year: the Hart House Alumni Dinner series; the Dark Days, Bright Victory commemoration of Armistice Day; Trivia Night; and the Fireside Chat. Over the next year the Committee hopes to engage students on the dinner series subcommittee and rename it the Hart House Alumni and Student Dinner Series.

This year the Alumni Committee has created a $25,000 endowment for student participation at the House which will pay $1,000 a year to a student once it has been established.

5. **Warden’s Report**

The Warden welcomed new members to the Board and explained that his broad vision for Hart House was that it be inclusive, collaborative and connective. Hart House is for all students at the university and it is important that the House do a better job ensuring that traditionally underrepresented students feel just as welcome in Hart House as the members of the Board of Stewards do.

The priorities for the 2015/16 academic year are the strategic plan, necessary infrastructure renewal, the creation of a mentorship program, increasing engagement with University of Toronto Mississauga and University of Toronto Scarborough, increasing fundraising efforts, completing an accessibility review, a review of the farm, and improving training for staff across the House.

In his first two months the Warden has worked to build relationships across the University, as well as with key partners, and to participate in a variety of events and programming across the House.
6. Other Business & Announcements

The Farm Committee inquired when the garden plot on the south east corner of the House would be available and was informed that plumbers were currently working on the drainage issue. The liability difficulties around carpooling to the Farm have been resolved.

There are many avenues through which cultural programming can be included in Hart House, in addition to the Social Justice Committee which has the promotion of equity as one of its mandates. Mr. Silim invited anyone who is interested in these types of programs to attend a Social Justice General Member meeting or anti-oppression workshop.

Hart House will not reintroduce Christmas Trees as a part of programming in December, but does continue to invite everyone to attend the Winter Buffet in the Great Hall.

Upcoming events include: the opening of *Hamlet* on November 4th, Hart House of Horrors on October 31st, and the annual Pancake Breakfast for students on November 18th. The Equity Movement Team at the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education will be holding Play the Game on November 7th to allow participants to engage in parasport activity.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

_______________________________  _______________________________
Chair                                      Recording Secretary

October 22nd, 2015