Minutes of the 1,272nd meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, December 3rd, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the South Dining Room, Hart House.

Present:  Mr. John Monahan (Warden)  
          Ms. Emma Arppe-Robertson (Recording Secretary)  
          Ms. Rita Alsalaq (Social Justice Committee Secretary)  
          Mr. Kenneth Davy (Governing Council Appointee, acting Chair)  
          Ms. Margaret Ebifegha (APUS Appointee)  
          Ms. Sarah Harrison (Debates Committee Secretary)  
          Mr. Terry Johnston (RAC Senior Member)  
          Ms. Coco Lee (Theatre Committee Secretary)  
          Ms. Michelle Monteiro (Literary and Library Committee Secretary)  
          Ms. Yasmin Rajabi (UTSC Appointee)  
          Mr. Alec Roxas (Music Committee Secretary)  
          Dr. Helen Slade (Presidential Appointee)  
          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)  
          Dr. Pamela Divinsky (Divinsky Group)  
          Ms. Mala Kashyap (Vice-President Equity, APUS)  
          Mr. Philip Khaiat (Alumni Committee)  
          Ms. Suzanne Macintyre (Director of Finance)  
          Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director of Program)  
          Ms. Rita O’Brien (Senior Directory Business and Ancillary Operations and CAO)  

Regrets:  Ms. Gini Chin (RAC Secretary)  
          Mr. Michael De Angelis (Alumni Committee Chair)  
          Ms. Lucy Fromowitz (President [ex officio] Designate)  
          Ms. Vere-Marie Khan (UTSU Appointee)  
          Ms. Tal Oren (Farm Committee Secretary)  
          Mr. Housam Silim (Social Justice Committee Secretary)  
          Dr. Jonathan Steels (Chair)  
          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 1,271st Meeting

   a) Approval of Minutes of the 1,271st Meeting
On motion duly made and seconded THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the minutes.

3. Committee Presentations

   a) Theatre Committee (Coco Lee, Secretary)

   The Theatre Standing Committee acts as an advisory board, unifying body and a home base for student theatre groups across all three campuses. There are about 1,000 students who participate in Theatre Committee events and activities each year, and about 8,500 students visit Hart House Theatre each year. The Committee works in partnership with the University of Toronto Festival of Dance, UofT Spotlight and the Drama Coalition to host a variety of events and programming. Major events include the UofT Drama Festival, the Dougie Awards.

   The committee is currently working to make their outreach and social events more diverse, as well as increasing equity by eliminating gender binaries from their annual acting awards. The committee will also be working to increase outreach to groups which are not traditionally theatre focused. They are also working to create a prop-share database for all the theatre groups on campus.

4. Warden’s Report

   Hart House has presented to COSS, UAB and pre-SARG as a part of the regular yearly cycle of budget approval. These bodies will receive the budget after the Board of Stewards has approved it. Budget orientation sessions will be held for Board of Stewards members on December 7th and January 14th.

   The Warden is continuing to work on the development of a mentorship program at Hart House, and has also been meeting with the Centre for Community Partnerships to look for ways to regularize and systematize community service and community engagement for Hart House students.

   Staff Training on Sexual Harassment and Violence Prevention will be held on December 14th. The Chess Club will be travelling to Cleveland for the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championship. Debates Club will be travelling to the World University Debating Championships in Greece, and the Calcutta Championship. The Alumni Committee Diner series continues to be successful in and alumni invite more students to get involved in the development of the series.

5. New Business

   a) Hart House Strategic Plan (Pamela Divinsky, Divinsky Group)

   Hart House has not had a formal strategic plan for a number of years and the Divinsky Group have been awarded the contract to help develop a five year strategic plan for the House. It is critically important that the process be as inclusive and collaborative as
possible. The Board of Stewards is the first group to meet with the consultant and additional meetings will be arranged for stakeholder groups and key individuals.

The Divinsky Group bases their strategic plans on a “stand statement” which will define why Hart House does what it does, Hart House’s place in the world and the value of Hart House. The strategic areas of focus, objectives and priorities will be built out from the stand statement. The strategic plan will also recommend fundraising and revenue approaches based on this statement.

Dr. Divinsky addressed four discussion questions to the Board of Stewards. What is the most valuable feature of Hart House? Where is it that Hart House needs help, and what is the one thing you would improve? What is the role you would like Hart House to be known for? What is the personality you would want for Hart House?

The Board of Stewards will be kept up to date on the development of the strategic plan, and any member of the Board who wishes to get in touch with the Divinsky Group should contact the Warden’s Office.

6. Other Business & Announcements

The Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education will be hosting an equity summit at Hart House on January 29th and 30th. A Healthy Campus discussion on social determinants of health will be hosted at the House on January 28th.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

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Chair                              Recording Secretary

December 3rd, 2015