

Minutes of the 1286th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at UTSC, Council Chambers, Arts and Administration Building.

- Present:
- Ms. Holly Luffman (Chair)
 - Mr. John Monahan (Warden)
 - Ms. Edie Guo (Farm Committee Steward)
 - Ms. Kaitlyn Simpson (Literary & Library Committee Steward)
 - Mr. David Newman (President [*ex-officio*] Designate)
 - Ms. Chloe Yin (Art Committee Steward)
 - Ms. Susan Blight (Presidential Appointee)
 - Mr. Ken Davy (Governing Council Appointee)
 - Mr. Dhvani Ramanujam (Social Justice Committee Steward)
 - Ms. Yuki Takaki (Finance Committee Steward)
 - Ms. Pearl Xu (RA&W Committee Steward)
- Guests:
- Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Co-Curricular Education & Chief Program Officer)
 - Ms. Lynsay Henderson (Co-ordinator, Information, Registration and Member Services)
 - Ms. Sherry Kulman (Senior Director, Business and Ancillary Operations, and CAO)
 - Ms. Jennifer Mondejar (Recording Secretary)
 - Ms. Trish Startling (Outreach + Inclusion Facilitator)
 - Ms. Reenas Mohammed (Human Library Project Assistant)
 - Ms. Liza Arnason (Assistant Dean, Student Life, Community Outreach and International Experience)
 - Mr. Desmond Pouyat (Dean of Student Affairs)
 - Ms. Nana Frimpong (Vice President of Equity of the SCSU)
 - Ms. Nadia Rosemond (Student Life and Leadership Programs Manager)
- Regrets:
- Ms. Aceel Hawa (Debates & Dialogue Committee Steward)
 - Mr. Leo Jose Uribe Castano (GSU Appointee)
 - Ms. Angela Gu (Literary & Library Committee Steward)
 - Ms. Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
 - Mr. Jose Wilson (UTMSU Representative)
 - Ms. Jackie Zhao (APUS Appointee)
 - Mr. Richard Bingham (Senior Members Committee [*ex-officio*])
 - Ms. Chiara Cautillo (RA&W Committee Senior Member)
 - Ms. Coco Lee (Theatre Committee Steward)
 - Ms. Ce Shang (Music Committee Steward)
 - Mr. Mathias Memmel (UTSU Appointee temporary)

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair opened and congratulated everyone for attending and thereby making quorum. She also recognized that being at UTSC was essential to the work of Hart House.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the agenda and no amendments were presented. On a motion made by Davy and seconded by Ramanujam, and carried unanimously by all voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the November 16th, 2017 Board of Stewards Meeting agenda be approved as presented.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 1284th Meeting

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the minutes and no amendments were presented. On motion made by Davy and seconded by Yin, and carried unanimously by all voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 1285th meeting be approved as presented.

4. Special Introduction to University of Toronto Scarborough

a. Hart House at University of Toronto (Trish Startling, Outreach + Inclusion Facilitator)

Trish Starling (TS) who is located at UTSC on behalf of Hart House one day per week, gave a presentation about ongoing efforts to strengthen the presence of Hart House at UTSC. She started by introducing her colleagues from UTSC: Reenas Mohamed, Human Library Project Assistant; Liza Arnason, Assistant Dean, Student Life, Community Outreach and International Experience; and Nana Frimpong, Vice President of Equity of the SCSU.

TS expressed that her main goal was to build relationships with UTSC stakeholders and strengthen her ongoing association with all of her above-mentioned colleagues. This academic year, her priority has been to help map divisional needs and priorities that would be mutually beneficial to Hart House and UTSC. TS discussed that a singular approach to programming for St. George and UTSC was not appropriate and her focus had been to anticipate and facilitate the needs of the student body at both campuses.

TS presented on The Human Library Project and its potential to provide an avenue for collaboration between St. George Campus and UTSC. The first Hart House Human Library Project was presented at Hart House in 2012. TS came on board to deliver the project twice in 2016 and she will offer 2 events this year—one at Hart House on November 30th and the second on March 28th, 2018, as the first Human Library at UTSC. This year, Trish has the support of a Work Study student, Reenas Mohammed, who joined to assist in program delivery, event coordination and cultural programming.

TS continued her presentation on the current and future initiatives of Hart House and UTSC, including Talking Walls, From Their Lips, Financial Literacy Workshops, and the Youth Recreation Pilot. (Appendix A.)

At the Question and Answer period, Kenneth Davy (KD) asked whether Hart House was planning on recording, one way or another, the stories being told and to make them available to students on campus and the community.

TS responded that the idea would have to be fully articulated as there could be plenty of residual work involved in capturing the recording. Among the main concerns were the emotional labour, matters of consent, honorarium, etc., that would have to be agreed upon before approaching the presenters to ask for their agreement to record their stories.

Desmond Pouyat (DP) commented that he was delighted at what has been happening between Hart House and UTSC. He remembered the initial discussion that took place two years ago with the Board members and Staff about the monetary contribution of UTSC students to Hart House, and how best to employ that money to really make a significant impact. DP was pleased that the commitment from the Warden to focus more programming resources at UTSC is being kept. He mentioned the Human Library Project as a vessel through which intercultural dialogue is being brought to the campus. UTSC can then use this event as a building block for future initiatives.

5. Accessibility Presentation (Sherry Kulman, Senior Director of Business and Ancillary Operations)

Sherry Kulman (SK) updated the Board on the Accessibility and Inclusion Review, which was conducted in 2016 as a way to examine the accessibility and inclusion barriers caused by the House's physical building. A review of process, policy and programming was also included to determine areas that presented barriers to participation.

SK mentioned that a Task Force had been assembled consisting of 15 stakeholders across the University with a range of professional, educational and personal backgrounds and experiences. These included representation from students and several equity departments such as First Nations House, Accessibility Services, Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office, and Sexual and Gender Diversity Office.

Sherry Kulman concluded by providing a high-level account of completed and planned Accessibility-Capital Initiatives and Training and Process for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. (Appendix B.)

During the Question and Answer period, Kenneth Davy (KD) asked SK to provide a "report card" on the initiatives that have been completed in 2017, as compared to the recommendations on the 2016 report. SK responded that she will bring a fuller presentation to the Board of Stewards at the next meeting. John Monahan (JM) added that there were still conversations ongoing with certain stakeholders to clarify long term and short term goals.

Eddie Guo (EG) also asked whether the garden at the front of Hart House will be affected by the accessible ramp. SK responded that Hart House is still in the process of reviewing draft plans from architects and would be in no position to currently advise on what will be affected. The ramp in consideration has to be AODA compliant; further analysis into the layout will have to be done. SK and JM assured that they would make "best efforts" to retain as much of the garden as possible while still ensuring AODA compliance. SK advised EG that once the blueprints and layouts have been finalized, the Farm Committee will be notified so as to limit the disruption in their planting schedule. Michelle Brownrigg also assured the Farm Committee that she has been investigating the idea of having planters at the front of the House in lieu of potentially losing some gardening space to the ramp.

6. Update on the Theatre Review (Michelle Brownrigg, Senior Director of Co-Curricular Education)

MB updated the Board on the Theatre Review which is considering the Theatre's programming, operations, and its diverse range of audiences and participants. To date, multiple stakeholder interviews, including several with students and theatre professionals, have been held.

MB stated that at times, delivering both educational and theatrical initiatives had affected the clarity of purpose and stretched staff capacity. The Theatre Review was put in place to assess the Theatre's mandate, review its staffing structure and identify how to maximize success in terms of operational efficiency. The review can also determine the most effective ways to build on and enhance promotion of theatre activities and identify key partnerships and next steps with respect to artistic direction and program development.

MB advised that an internal draft of the Theatre Review report will be circulated to senior staff in December and presented to the Board soon thereafter.

7. Committee Presentations**a. Farm Committee** (Edie Guo)

EG spoke on the Farm Committee's mandate which is offer advice and input relevant to the operation of the Hart House Farm; organize social activities at the Farm and on campus including four seasonal events; organize farm work days, whereby Committee members partake in activities; help oversee the proper use of the Hart House Farm by various groups; and work in alliance with campus groups and the broader community to promote sustainability.

EG further explained that Committee members came from diverse ethnic backgrounds and diverse academic interest, in support of the Committee's mandate of engaging students from all disciplines across the three campus. The Committee members also advertise their events in different student circles, expand students' culinary experiences by serving a variety of cuisines from different cultures, as well as actively engage Indigenous connections for community outreach opportunities.

EG mentioned some of the Committee's events planned for this year included: Midsummer's Eve, Cider N' Song, Calm Saturday, All about Pies, Winter Escape & Sugaring Off. The Committee also launched Farmer's Market, an event on campus that was aimed at providing students and community partners an opportunity to interact and sell their produce and products. Other projects discussed were: Rainwater Recapture System (collaboration with the Engineering Faculty), Frog Hibernaculum, Chicken Coop, Bee Project (collaboration with Beekeeping of U of T), and Apple Orchard Pruning (collaboration with students from the Forestry Department).

During the Question and Answer period, Chloe Yin (CY) asked how exactly the Committee promoted their events. EG answered that events were usually posted on the Committee's Facebook page. EG also clarified that there was no membership fee to join the Committee, however certain events did have tickets for purchase.

Dhvani Ramanujam (DR) asked where the farm was located. EG said that the farm was located in Caledon, Ontario. She also mentioned that the Committee chartered a bus to shuttle students from the St. George campus to the Farm for all of their events. As well, the Committee coordinated a bus to send students from UTM and UTSC to the farm for at least one event. DR also asked how frequently did the Committee go up to the Farm, and EG answered that with seasonal events, the Committee had gone up a few times since the beginning of the semester. Generally, the frequency of their visit depended on what events were scheduled and what preparations were necessary.

Reenas Mohamed (RM) asked what happened to the food cultivated and harvested at the farm, to which EG said that most often, the produce were consumed by the Committee members or consumed as part of an event hosted by the Committee.

b. Social Justice Committee (Dhvani Ramanujam)

DR presented on the mission, mandate and goals of the Social Justice Committee, which is to create spaces for critical conversations, promote collaboration and provide community support. The purpose of the Social Justice Committee is to contribute to the mandate of Hart House because it supports and engages students to explore social justice issues that are important to them, and creates opportunities for them to collaborate and participate outside of the House and around the Toronto community.

In support of the mandate, the Committee wanted to ensure that their events are actively promoted at all three campuses. DR mentioned that the Committee is considering ways to live stream/broadcast their events in an effort to make it more accessible to all students. Additionally, the Committee also plans to have a Volunteer Fair at each of the three campuses, as an approach to connect students to different volunteering and community engagement opportunities.

DR concluded by expanding on the goal of the Committee, which is to provide opportunities for students to create positive social change. To this end, the Committee wanted to act as a networking hub for students to connect and collaborate with local community partners, especially those dedicated to addressing the needs of marginalized communities in the Greater Toronto Area. (Appendix C.)

At the Question and Answer period, KD asked what technologies were available to livestream/broadcast the event and whether said technology was available at Hart House.

JM responded that Hart House had acquired a web based application that will enable Hart House to host Global Commons. Global Commons is an event wherein guests and speakers from Universidad De Los Andes in Bogota, Columbia; University of Cape Town; University of Toronto Scarborough Campus; and Hart House, converge via a live stream to facilitate a truly global discussion on pluralism. DV agreed that this technology will be amazing for their initiatives, however they were not at that stage yet. DV further noted that she will speak to her team to see whether they can replicate the live feed for their events. As well, DV does not know whether the Committee had allocated expenses for technology in their current budget. She will confirm with her Committee and inform the Board at the next meeting.

David Newman (DN) asked what was planned for the Volunteer Fair. DV answered that the Fair is scheduled to take place during the 2018 winter semester. The Committee will invite community groups who have done food drives, holiday dinners, etc., to join U of T students here on campus. The hope is to provide an opportunity for interested students to connect with community groups.

8. Warden's Report

John Monahan (JM) welcomed and thanked the Board for attending the meeting at UTSC, as it showed Hart House's commitment to strengthening its relationship with and support for the students of UTSC. JM directed the Board's attention to the Departmental Report which was circulated at the meeting. This document underlined several of the ongoing issues, opportunities and activities of the House. (Appendix D)

Following this, the Warden provided an update on several other operational initiatives and achievements that were not included in the Departmental Report. These included:

1. **Finance:** Hart House is scheduled to present at COSS on either January 22nd or January 23rd. Following that, the COSS budget vote is scheduled for February 13th. As well, the UAB Budget Vote is scheduled for March 6th. The SARG Process and Timetable has also been released with the Pre-SARG meeting in November 22nd, followed by the SARG meeting on February 2nd.
2. **Capital Projects:** Hart House is currently working to obtain expert advice on the remaining life span of all the mechanical systems of the building. A summary report will help determine the priorities for the House's capital revenue plans.
3. **Special Projects:** Hart House retained a Branding and Marketing Consultant to develop a creative reimagining of the Strategic Plan. The Consultant would have been asked to ensure that branding of Hart House will be consonant with the central brand of U of T.
4. **Hart House 100th Anniversary:** The Warden announced the hiring of Kelly Schnurr (KS) as the Project Manager for the 100th Anniversary. KS will conduct a presentation at the upcoming Board of Stewards Meeting to introduce the Board to initial plans for the 100th Anniversary.
5. **Academic Partnerships:** Michelle Brownrigg (MB) led Hart House's application for a LEAF (Learning and Education Advancement Fund) grant. This application is in collaboration with multiple academics and multiple faculties, which will soon be working with Hart House.
6. **Events:** JM spoke about the Global Commons scheduled for November 23rd, 2017 and mentioned how Global Commons was another event where the partnership between Hart House and UTSC can shine, as UTSC will be one of the sites included at the event. JM encouraged Board Members' registration and also asked those present at the meeting from UTSC to encourage students to register and attend the event.

9. Other Business & Announcements

No new business or announcements.

10. Next Meeting

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th, 2017 at the Hart House South Dining Room. The Budget Information Session is also schedule for December 12th, 2017 from 10am-12pm at the Bickersteth Room.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Chair

November 30, 2017

Recording Secretary

Appendices

Appendix A: Hart House and UTSC Presentation (Patricia Starling).

Appendix B: Hart House Accessibility Review Presentation (Sherry Kulman).

Appendix C: Hart House Social Justice Committee Presentation (Dhvani Ramanujam).

Appendix D: Hart House Departmental Report (John Monahan).