

Minutes of the 1319th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, January 13th, 2022, virtually on Zoom video conferencing.

Present:**Voting Members:**

Ms. Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Ms. Kashi Chandrasegar (SCSU Representative)
Ms. An-Noura Compaoré (GSU Representative)
Ms. Lauren Duan (Steward, RA&W Committee)
Mr. Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
Ms. Kimia Karachi (Steward, Student Theatre Committee)
Ms. Jaime Kearns (APUS Representative)
Mr. David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Ms. Charlotte Koch (Steward, Student Art Committee)
Mr. Matthew Lee (Steward, Student Literary and Library Committee)
Mr. John Monahan (Warden)
Mr. David Newman (President [*ex-officio*] Designate)
Ms. Varsha Pillai (Steward, Student Social Justice Committee)
Ms. Chan-Min Roh (Steward, Student Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Ms. Nadia Rosemond (Presidential Appointee)
Ms. Rachel Shi (Steward, Finance Committee)
Mr. Ryan Tomlinson (UTMSU Representative)
Mr. Konrad Samsel (UTSU Representative [Acting])

Non-Voting Members:

Ms. Ikeade Adekale (Recording Secretary, Incoming)
Mr. Terry Gardiner (Chair)
Ms. Lena Yusim (Recording Secretary, Outgoing)

Guests:

Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Chief Program Officer)
Ms. Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications, and Information Services)
Mr. Jimmy Cheung (Director, Facilities and Capital Projects)
Ms. Sherry Kulman (Chief Administrative Officer)
Ms. Amanda Greener (Director, Staff and Community Relations, Staff Relations and Professional Development)
Ms. Day Milman (Manager, Learning and Community)
Mr. Tom Moss (Manager, Wellness, Fitness & Recreation)
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Ms. Jiaqi Sun (Member, Finance Committee)
Ms. Carol Tan (Financial Officer, Finance)
Ms. Amy Shuang Wang (AV Operator)
Mr. Stan Xiao (Director, Finance)

Voting Member Regrets:

Ms. Calista Barber (Steward, Student Farm Committee)
Ms. Tara Behruz (Steward, Student Music Committee)

1. Approval of the 1,319th Meeting Agenda (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The following motion to approve the agenda was made by Konrad Samsel, seconded by Robert Fisher:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards approve the 1,319th Agenda

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

2. Minutes of the 1,318th Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)**a. Approval of the Minutes of the 1,318th Meeting**

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the Minutes from the December Board of Stewards meeting and none were presented. The following motion to approve the Minutes was made by Nadia Rosemond, seconded by Beth Ali:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards approve the Minutes of the 1,318th Meeting.

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

3. 2022/2023 Budget Presentation (Rachel Shi, Finance Committee Chair; Jiaqi Sun, Finance Committee Voting Member; Stan Xiao, Director of Finance)

Rachel Shi began by going over highlights and dates for the process. The University Affairs Board will ultimately vote to approve the budget on March 3rd, 2022. Hart House is proposing a balanced budget for the 2022/23 year after commitments and transfers.

Rachel Shi presented a breakdown of the projected Revenues for 2022-2023 as they relate to the proposed operating budget. Key revenue sources include Student Fees (68%), Food and General Revenue (23%), Membership fees (5%), and Other (Clubs, Service Charge, Donations) (4%). Rachel also provided a breakdown of operating expenses and commitments, and a comparison of the 2022/23 budget with prior years. The proposed 2022-23 budget is relatively comparable to that of the 2019-2020 year, the last year before the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered the budgetary landscape for Hart House and, in particular, Hart House's ability to generate business revenues.

Jiaqi Sun then presented the proposed 2022-2023 student fees for Hart House, which are calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement between The University of Toronto, The Students' Administrative Council, The Graduate Students' Union and The Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students for a Long-Term Protocol on the Increase or Introduction of Compulsory Non-tuition Related Fees: October 24, 1996 (aka “The Protocol”). Under the terms of the Protocol, both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the University of Toronto Index (UTI) are factored into the annual calculation of student fees for Hart House.

As a result of these calculations, Hart House is proposing an increase to student fees of 4.90%. That increase will result in the following fees for students across the three UofT campuses in 2022-2023:

Campus	Student Fees Per Term 2021-22	% Net Change	\$ Net Change	Student Fees Per Term 2022-23
St. George (full-time)	\$ 107.49	4.9%*	\$ 5.27	\$ 112.76
St. George (part-time)	\$ 21.50	4.9%*	\$ 1.05	\$ 22.55
UTSC & UTM (full-time)	\$ 3.30	4.9%*	\$ 0.16	\$ 3.46
UTSC & UTM (part-time)	\$ 0.67	4.9%*	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.70

*any difference due to rounding to the nearest percent

Stan Xiao then presented on the planned Capital Expenditures for 2022-2023, which total \$4,472,059. These planned expenditures include a number of projects carried over from prior years, the design & development phase of Hart House’s long-term Infrastructure Renewal Project, annual capital building projects focused on accessibility and sustainability, and new capital equipment and furniture.

Stan Xiao also described the proposed management of Hart House’s reserves for next year. A significant portion of the Deferred and Major Maintenance Reserve is in place in order to help meet the demands of the Infrastructure Renewal Project. Another high priority is the replenishment of Hart House’s Operating Reserve – effectively, its “rainy day” fund - that was depleted in order to avoid entering a deficit situation during the first 18-months of the pandemic. While the University asks all units to allocate 10% of its annual revenues to an Operating Reserve, out of an abundance of caution Hart House is proposing to allocate 12% of its revenues to its Operating Reserve in 2022-2023.

To summarize, the key budget takeaways were:

- Hart House continues to **prioritize students**
- The 2022/23 operating budget for Hart House reflects **reasonable** assumptions around the **continued recovery** of business activities from the effects COVID-19
- Hart House is requesting a student fee **increase of 4.90%**
- Careful management of Reserves to support critical **Infrastructure Renewal**

Following the formal presentation, Matthew Lee (Literary & Library Committee) asked for elaboration on the decision to request the maximum eligible increase in student fees, or 4.9%. Stan responded by explaining that 2022-2023 is year for re-building Hart House’s financial position, so it would not be prudent to ask for less than the full allowable increase. Moreover, if

Hart House were to ask for less of an increase than the Protocol allows for 2022-2023, it would likely mean that requested increases in future years would only be greater. Stan also pointed out that the proposed increase is roughly in the mid-range of the fee increases that Hart House has requested over the past several years.

Robert Fisher (Community Members Committee) asked if there was discussion about increasing fees for Community Members to use the Hart House Fitness Centre. Stan noted that the setting of these non-student fees is a regular operational decision for the House. He also advised that fees will be reviewed in the context of prevailing industry standards, but that Hart House's first priority is continuing to offer engaging virtual and in-person options (when allowed) within the current membership rate structure.

Konrad Samsel (UTSU) and Jaime Kearns (APUS) expressed their appreciation of Hart House's work in support of students. They also noted their understanding of the need in the coming year for Hart House to work on building back its revenue-generating businesses and to replenish its Operating Reserves in the hope that Hart House will be less reliant on student fees in future years. John Monahan (HH Warden) then spoke to the increased offerings that were made available to students during the pandemic including the waiving of fees for Creative LifeSchool classes and clubs.

David Kim (GC Appointee) underscored the importance of investing in Hart House's infrastructure and praised the consistency of offerings that Hart House has provided to students over the course of the pandemic, particularly when in person engagement wasn't an option.

a. 2022/2023 Budget Approval* (Rachel Shi, Finance Committee Chair)

Rachel Shi made the following motion to approve the Hart House Budget:

(a): THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2022/23 Budget be approved as recommended and presented to the Board of Stewards by the Finance Committee.

The motion was seconded by An-Noura Compaoré. The motion was carried by voting members of the Board of Stewards.

4. Incarcerated Hip Hop Presentation (Day Milman, Manager, Learning and Community)

Day Milman, Manager of Learning and Community presented the work entitled Incarcerated Hip Hop: Freedom of Speech. This is a collaborative project between F-You: The Forgiveness Project and the Hart House Hip Hop Education team, the Hart House Talking Walls team, and the Hart House Student Podcasters. Hart House Student Podcaster Claire Latosinsky, who was meant to co-present with Day, sent her regrets.

The purpose of this collaboration is to support FYou's outreach work and provide additional spaces and environments for the stories of their participants to be seen/heard, for Hart House to

work with external community to bring unique experience to students, to support community work that engages in social justice reform, and also to uphold some of Hart House's primary commitments: to make Hart House a more inclusive space and to spotlight some of the issues facing segments of racialized communities.

The main objectives of this particular initiative are to address the mental health and well-being of gang-identified youth both in and out of custody through groundbreaking programming and to create a platform to amplify the stories of assault victims so as to change the narrative on how we address themes of equity within the criminal justice system and in the mental health system.

Workshops for youth will be facilitated by F-You. These workshops will be focused around one central question: "What does hip hop mean to you?" Hart House will then take content generated by the workshop participants and create a Talking Walls exhibition that showcases the written words, thoughts and reflections of incarcerated young men. This is consistent with the mandate of Talking Walls to always privilege self-authorship, storytelling, and empathy.

The Hart House Student Podcasting team will be featuring Incarcerated Hip Hop: Freedom of Speech as a story featured on their podcast. The team will create a podcast episode that incorporates audio recordings from workshop participants. They will also help with assembling a Spotify playlist based on participant input that will feature hip hop artists important to the participants and that are mentioned in the work. This playlist will accompany both the exhibition and the podcast episode.

The team is aiming to have the Talking Walls exhibition completed by the end of January and it will hang in the Talking Walls Main Hallway space until March if all goes well.

More details about the scope of work, impact and importance of FYOU's work are available at their website: <https://www.thefyouproject.com/> Hart House's collection of student-produced podcasts is available here: <https://soundcloud.com/harthousestories/sets/the-west-meeting-room>

5. Committee Presentations:

a. Student Art Committee (Charlotte Koch, Steward)

Chair and Student Art Committee Steward, Charlotte Koch, presented on the work of the Student Art Committee.

The Hart House Student Art Committee is a community of contemporary art enthusiasts whose mission is to maintain, grow, serve and teach about the Hart House Permanent Art Collection. The Student Art Committee engages with Toronto's art community outside of the university, thus connecting students to professional and volunteer opportunities both before and after completing their degrees. The Committee fosters both In-House and Tri-Campus collaborations and tries to facilitate creative engagement with the arts and culture more broadly. The Committee provides exposure and opportunities to student artists and works to ensure that Hart House's arts programming remains accessible and inclusive.

The Student Art Committee consists of the following sub-committees:

- Education and Outreach Subcommittee: responsible for conferences, professional development opportunities, and partnerships

- Acquisitions Subcommittee: oversee gallery tours, artist talks, and propose rationales for new art to expand the House collection
- Student Projects and Arbor Room Subcommittee: coordinate opportunities to publish and show student work for duration of an academic year and show work in both digital and in-person settings.

The Student Art Committee is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2022. During the year it will highlight its achievements over the last century, including the growth of the Hart House Permanent Art Collection. The Committee remains committed to enhancing the House's relationship to the visual arts through intentionally inclusive acquisitions and innovative programming.

6. Warden's Report (John Monahan, Warden)

➤ **Welcome to Ikeade Adekale as Recording Secretary**

Starting on January 3, 2022, Ikeade Adekale joined Hart House as the first-ever Executive Coordinator of the Wardens' Office. Ikeade will take on the role of the Board of Stewards Recording Secretary, which Lena Yusim had assumed on an interim basis following the departure of Amy Intrator. John expressed his sincere thanks to Lena for her amazing contributions as Interim Recording Secretary for the past several months.

➤ **Impacts of Return to Stage 2 of Re-Opening on Hart House**

John Monahan outlined the following impacts on Hart House of the Province of Ontario's recently announced return to Stage 2 of pandemic-related reopening:

- **Areas that are closed:**
- Indoor Dining, Meetings & Events, Art Museum at University of Toronto Galleries, and the Fitness Centre (unless at least January 27)
- **Areas that are OPEN:**
- Academic Study Spaces
- Single-user activities such as the dark room, the photo editing suite, and the House's pianos
- The Virtual Fitness Studio is offering a significant increase in online content, all of which is offered to students at no additional charge beyond their regular ancillary fees

➤ **Completion of the Burwash Room**

The transformation of the former South Dining Room into the new Donald Burwash Room is now complete. Upgrades include new flooring, lighting, sound system, furniture,

window treatments, and smart screen television. Thanks, and congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen.

➤ **Ramp to Arbor Room**

The Landmark Project has removed the hoardings from the top of the outside ramp to the Arbor Room. A reminder that the ramp exceeds the slope requirements of the Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). This is a huge achievement by our Capital Projects and Facilities team.

➤ **Hart House Changemakers: Building Resilient Democracies with Sabreena Delhon, January 20th, 6 – 7 pm**

Changemaker Sabreena Delhon and her colleagues at the Toronto-based Samara Centre for Democracy are working hard to make Canadian democracy stronger, more resilient and more accessible to everyone. Join us for this essential conversation about what it means to live and thrive in Canada today.

- Register and share among your networks:
<https://harthouse.ca/events/changemakers-series-building-resilient-democracies/>

➤ **Update: Hart House Elections**

The confirmed members of the 2022-2023 Hart House Election Commission are Terry Gardiner (Chair and Chief Returning Officer, or CRO), Emily Hurmizi (Deputy Returning Officer) and Kimia Karachi (Deputy Returning Officer). We thank them all for their service.

The following is the timeline for this year's elections for Student Chairs of Hart House Committees:

- **Jan. 17: Nominations Open (via Hart House website)**
- **Feb. 4: Nominations Close**
- **Feb. 10 – 24: Campaign Period**
- **Feb. 28 & March 1: Voting Period (online via U-Elect)**
- **March 2: Successful Nominees Notified**

7. Other Business & Announcements (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were additional items to address. No other business or announcements were forthcoming.

8. Next Meeting

- a.** The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 3rd, 2022**

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jaime Kearns (APUS), seconded by Robert Fisher (Community Members Committee).

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.