Minutes of the 1317th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, November 4th, 2021, hybrid meeting in person in the Debates Room at Hart House, and on Zoom video conferencing.

Present:  In Person:
Mr. Terry Gardiner (Chair)
Mr. David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Mr. John Monahan (Warden)
Ms. Lena Yusim (Recording Secretary)
Ellen Mackay (AV Operator)

On Zoom:
Ms. An-Noura Compaoré (Steward, GSU Appointee)
Mr. Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
Ms. Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Ms. Charlotte Koch (Steward, Art Committee)
Ms. Calista Barber (Steward, Farm Committee)
Mr. Matthew Lee (Steward, Literary and Library Committee)
Ms. Lauren Duan (Steward, RA&W Committee)
Ms. Alison D’Cruz (Steward, Finance Committee)
Ms. Kashi Chandrasegar (SCSU Representative)
Mr. Ryan Tomlinson (UTMSU Representative)

Guests: On Zoom:
Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Chief Program Officer)
Ms. Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications, and Information Services)
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Mr. Jimmy Cheung (Director, Facilities and Capital Projects)
Ms. Neima Hussein (Member, Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Ms. Dhanya Dass (Member, Theatre Committee)
Ms. Alexa Ballis (President, UTSU)
Ms. Gillian Lewis (Education and Production Coordinator)

Regrets:
Mr. David Newman (President [ex-officio] Designate)
Ms. Tara Behruz (Steward, Music Committee)
Ms. Chan-Min Roh (Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Ms. Kimia Karachi (Steward, Theatre Committee)
Ms. Varsha Pillai (Steward, Social Justice Committee)
Ms. Catherine Lai (UTSU Appointee)

1. Approval of the 1,317th Meeting Agenda (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the agenda and none were presented. The following motion to approve the agenda was made by Matthew Lee, seconded by Ryan Tomlinson.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Stewards approve the 1,317th Agenda

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

2. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

Following the Approval of the 1,317th Meeting Agenda, Terry made a special land acknowledgment in recognition of Indigenous Education Month.

3. Minutes of the 1,316th Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

   a. Approval of Minutes of the 1,316th Meeting

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Stewards approve the Minutes of the 1,316th Meeting

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

4. Committee Presentation:

   a. Recreation Athletics and Wellness Committee (Lauren Duan, Recreational Athletics & Wellness Committee Steward)

Recreation Athletics and Wellness Committee (RAWC) Steward Lauren Duan presented the committee’s mission and Terms of Reference and discussed their overall goal of increasing inclusion, diversity, accessibility in terms of their initiatives and events. Lauren also outlined the Committee’s goal of broadening opportunities for community, youth, and tri-campus engagement.

Lauren then provided an overview of RAWC’s recent and upcoming calendar of events. RAWC recently wrapped up its September Steps Challenge and is currently running wellness Wednesdays during this mid-term season. Other upcoming events include afro-dance and self-defence classes coming in the new year. Due to the pandemic, RAWC unfortunately has had to cancel its ever-popular triathlon this year but hopes to run it again next year if circumstances allow.
5. **Fostering Inclusivity and Belonging in Programming*** (Jen Newcombe, Director, Strategic Initiatives)

Jenifer Newcombe, Director of Hart House Strategic Initiatives, led a discussion about Commitment #1 of *Preparing the Table: 2021-26 Hart House Strategic Plan*. Commitment #1 says that Hart House “Foster a climate of inclusivity and belonging in our spaces and programs.” This presentation provided a space for the Board to share their ideas on how to bring this Commitment to life.

The conversation centered around the question - how might we foster a climate of inclusivity and belonging in our programs?

Committees were asked to consider this question in terms of relationships, continuous learning, resources, organizational values and practices, accountability, initiatives, programs and services, communications and facilities.

The following is a brief sampling of some key points that were made during the discussion:

- **EDI and Representation**
  
  Matthew Lee of the Student Literary and Library Committee spoke about the work being done by that Committee to build inclusive spaces, including by means of creating the position of equity coordinator within the Committee.

  Neima Hussein, co-chair of the Debates and Dialogue Committee, spoke about the importance of including Black and Indigenous voices in all programming, not just in specially designated events. Students have expressed interest in learning more about EDI and Accessibility and how to incorporate these concepts into their offerings across all three campuses.

  Finance Committee Steward, Alison D’Cruz suggested a template for how to facilitate inclusive events including proposed land acknowledgment, how to create a culture of care, and list of standards of practice could help build consistency over time.

- **Focus on Accessibility**
  
  Art Committee Steward Charlotte Koch shared that through the pandemic, her Committee has learned to focus more on accessibility in its programming. The virtual world necessitated the creation of more inclusive programming that enabled the Committee to extend its reach beyond people who can physically access Hart House, including UTM and UTSC Students, as well as other scholars and artists who live outside of the GTA. The Art Committee students also extended this focus to some of the projects they have participated in on the St. George Campus, including their engagement with the artists involved in the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ).
Farm Committee Steward Calista Barber talked about the accessibility upgrades that have taken place at the Farm as a physical space, as well as the larger audiences that the Committee has been able to reach through its online platform.

- **Dedicated Spaces**

UTMSU Representative Ryan Tomlinson talked about the importance and success of hosting closed spaces to foster safety and support for particular communities of students. An example of this is a closed space where Black students are able to talk safely about the heightened experiences of racism they have encountered in virtual classrooms.

Alison D’Cruz spoke about the perception that Hart House does not offer as many opportunities for Graduate students to engage as it offers to undergraduates. She underscored the importance of making sure that students not only have access to services but that they also feel welcome to use them. An-Noura Compaoré concurred with Alison that Hart House needs to be more intentional in reaching out to Graduate students to try and engage more of them in its work.

- **Tri-Campus Focus**

Dhanya Dass, from the Theatre Committee, spoke about the positive impact on the Committee that creating dedicated UTM and UTSC positions a year ago has had. She also spoke about growing the Committee’s tri-campus relationships in a virtual setting.

The Chair and the Warden encouraged Committee representatives to leverage relationships with other Board of Stewards members to help their Committees fulfil their tri-campus objectives.

6. **Warden’s Report** (John Monahan, Warden)

The Warden began by expressing thanks to the Committees for their hard work effort to create inclusive environments.

- **Reading week at Hart House**

The Warden shared a list of Hart House events taking place during reading week. These included the Open Windows Exhibition at the Art Museum’s Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House, Hart House (Virtual) Producers' Circle, Street Photography with Dave Bottoms and David Williams, Get Crafty, and the Musical Theatre Slam.

Visit our website for these and other opportunities: [https://harthouse.ca/events/month](https://harthouse.ca/events/month)

The Warden also announced an exciting new Talking Walls Exhibit, Seven Lessons, developed in partnership with the Oasis Skateboard Factory. The exhibition features seven Indigenous artists from the
Greater Toronto Area, including Hart House’s Jenny Blackbird, who worked with students to create a selection of skateboards.

➤ **Assessment Highlights**

Each academic Term, Hart House summarizes all of its participation metrics to share across our networks. The Warden presented some Hart House Assessment highlights from Term 1 (May 1 to August 31, 2021).

Key metrics included:

- **Asynchronous programming** (ex: online content available at anytime such as profiles, wellness strategies, performances, lectures and podcasts): 19,508 streams / views / listens
- **Synchronous programming** (ex: online activities that take place in real time, not including the Hart House Fitness Centre): 2,238 participants
- **Hart House Fitness Centre virtual classes**: 2,121 participants
- **In-person** activities (ex: Hart House Fitness and Essential Student Spaces): 449 participants

➤ **Update on COVID-19 Guidelines for Student Events**

The University has advised that so long as the event professionals working for Hart House Meetings and Events Services take the lead on producing a student group’s events, those events can operate at full capacity within Hart House. Masking will still be mandatory.

➤ **Operations Update: Budget**

Hart House has begun the multi-step process required for the approval of our Operating Budget for 2022-23. The Warden presented the Board with an overview of the annual budget timeline:

i. **Creation of the Hart House Committee on Budgets, or CoB (April 2021)**

ii. **Approval of the Committee on Budgets (CoB) Allocation by the Board of Stewards** on Thursday, September 9th, 2021

iii. **Pre-Service Ancillary Review Group (Pre-SARG) meeting** on Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

iv. **Council on Student Services and Service (COSS) General Presentations** on Monday, December 6th, 2021

v. **Budget Information Sessions to the Board of Stewards** on Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 9th

vi. **Board of Stewards Reviews and Votes to Approve the Proposed Budget**, Thursday January 13th, 2022
vii. **Council on Student Services and Service (COSS) Budget and Operating Plan Presentations** on Monday January 17th, 2022.

viii. **Service Ancillary Review Group (SARG) reviews budget** on Friday, January 28th, 2022

ix. **Council on Student Services and Service (COSS) Votes on Budget** on February 8th, 2022

x. **University Affairs Board (UAB) votes to approve the budget** on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022

➤ **Hart House Celebrates First Wedding of 2021**

The first wedding at Hart House in 2021 took place in September. Typically Hart House will have 40+ weddings per year, so we are very happy to celebrate this milestone, which we hope marks a shift in our revenue generation fortunes and the start of recovery from our pandemic-induced downturn.

➤ **Hart House Ambassadors Highlight**

Hart House Ambassadors act as a bridge for students to find their place at Hart House and can help you spread the word about Hart House and your Committees through collaborative programming and services. Contact the Ambassadors Coordinator and Program Associate in Learning and Community, Owen Gao for program requests and collaborations.

➤ **Facilities Update: Pool**

Sadly, the pool is still closed due to a leak. We are currently engaging companies to come into the space for repairs and we are waiting to hear back. We hope to have a happier update next month.

➤ **Facilities Update: Burwash Room**

Hart House is in the process of renaming the South Dining Room to be called The Burwash Room, in honour of the late Donald Burwash who donated his entire $2.5 million+ estate to Hart House. Beautiful new updates to the updated meeting space include a halo light fixture and a 98" monitor, as well as updated signage. There are a few remaining tasks to complete in the space but we hope that room will be bookable for meetings by the end of November.

➤ **Play Piano at Hart House!**
Hart House Pianos can be booked ahead to play for 60-minute blocks of time. Register online here.

7. **Other Business & Announcements** (Terry Gardiner, Chair)
Michelle Brownrigg, Chief Program Officer for Hart House, congratulated the Hart House Student Debates and Dialogue Committee and the Hart House Student Literary and Library Committee on their joint event, *Nothing Comes from Nothing: A Conversation on Activism with Joy Kogawa*, that was taking place at the same time as the Board of Stewards meeting.

Michelle also announced the new Fitness Centre space that will be opening in the coming weeks. This new room will create space for women-only programming, meditation, small group training, and more. Thank you to the Hart House Facilities team for getting this room open so we can continue to increase access for students.

8. **Next Meeting**

a. The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on **Wednesday**, December 1st, 2021

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by John Monahan, seconded by Ryan Tomlinson.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.