Minutes of the 1316th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, October 7th, 2021, hybrid meeting in person in the East Common Room at Hart House, and on Zoom video conferencing.

Present: In Person:
Mr. Terry Gardiner (Chair)
Mr. John Monahan (Warden)
Ms. Lena Yusim (Recording Secretary)
Amy Wang (Audio Visual Technician)

On Zoom:
Ms. Kashi Chandrasegar (SCSU Representative)
Mr. David Newman (President [ex-officio] Designate)
Ms. Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Mr. Ryan Tomlinson (UTMSU Representative)
Mr. Matthew Lee (Steward, Literary and Library Committee)
Ms. Tara Behruz (Steward, Music Committee)
Ms. Lauren Duan (Steward, RA&W Committee)
Mr. Jimmy Cheung (Director, Facilities and Capital Projects)
Mr. Peter Wambera (Associate Director, Advancement)
Ms. Andrea Blackler (Alumni & Development Officer)
Ms. Alison D’Cruz (Steward, Finance Committee)
Ms. Chan-Min Roh (Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Mr. Robert Fisher (Steward, Community Members Committee)
Ms. An-Noura Compaoré (Steward, GSU Appointee)

Guests: On Zoom:
Mr. Marco Adamovic (Coordinator, Learning and Community)
Ms. Lamarana Cooper Diallo (Program Associate, Learning and Community)
Mr. Stan Xiao (Director, Finance)
Ms. Olang Cerda-Moesker (Events Coordinator)
Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Chief Program Officer)
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Ms. Gillian Lewis (Education and Production Coordinator)
Ms. Alexa Ballis (President, UTSU)

Regrets:
Mr. David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Ms. Calista Barber (Steward, Farm Committee)
Ms. Kimia Karachi (Steward, Theatre Committee)
Ms. Charlotte Koch (Steward, Art Committee)
Ms. Varsha Pillai (Steward, Social Justice Committee)
Ms. Catherine Lai (UTSU Appointee)

1. Approval of the 1316th 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 Alison D’Cruz, seconded by David Newman.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Stewards approve the 1,316th Agenda

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

2. Minutes of the 1,315th Meeting (Terry Gardiner, Chair)

a) Approval of Minutes of the 1,315th Meeting

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Stewards approve the Minutes of the 1,315th Meeting

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

3. Committee Presentations

a. Music Committee (Tara Behruz, Music Committee Steward)

Music Committee Steward Tara Behruz presented on the successful sustainability of the Music committee in a virtual setting over the course of the pandemic and into the Fall semester.

Tara talked about the committee’s commitment to community engagement and networking. One activity that Tara shared exemplifying this commitment was the Board of Songs which they activated at this year’s Clubs Fair during Orientation. This activity asks the University of Toronto community: What is the University of Toronto listening to? Members of the committee collected these answers and created a playlist based on the songs students shared. The video that Tara referred to in her presentation is linked to here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mkjMsfTmxE.

Tara also spoke about weekly writing prompts and Open Mic Nights, all in the effort of supporting students to practice, grow their skills, and foster community.

Tara then highlighted the work being done by the Committee’s publication, Demo Magazine, which invites multi-disciplinary contributors to write about music and their experiences, such as how artists have been impacted by the pandemic and how they have adapted to keep their art alive.

b. Literary and Library Committee (Matthew Lee, Literary & Library Committee Steward)

Steward Matthew Lee presented on behalf of the Literary & Library Committee. Matthew spoke about the committee’s goals including expansion of the breadth and depth of offerings, opportunities for members to gain practical leadership skills, tri-campus accessible programming, equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as building partnerships amongst fellow committees.
In terms of leadership opportunities within the committee, Matthew spoke about the opportunities to gain practical leadership skills as members of the Literary & Library Committee and sub-committees through their experiences with organizing and hosting events and coordinating publications.

In response to the Committee’s goals towards EDI, the roles of two Equity and Diversity Officers were created as part of an Equity and Diversity subcommittee. The goal for these positions is to not only keep the committee accountable on all levels of organization, but to create rich programming.

Finally, Matthew listed a series of upcoming committee events. One example was the Committee’s Artists’ Talks that bring two artists from different genres and mediums together to talk without a moderator to find out about what similarities and differences they face as artists.

4. **Infrastructure Renewal Overview** (Peter Wambera, Associate Director, Advancement and Jimmy Cheung, Director, Facilities and Capital Projects)

This presentation highlighted the foundational work being done to ensure Hart House will be able to sustain another 100 years for the UofT community, as the building at 7 Hart House Circle is aging rapidly. A top priority of this project is the health, safety and accessibility of all visitors and would-be visitors to Hart House.

The vision of the Infrastructure Renewal Project is to (i) provide a second century of Hart House programming for the entire U of T community, (ii) transition from important one-off, episodic renewal to more comprehensive approach, (iii) create a revitalized, more accessible, sustainable, and comfortable Hart House building, and (iv) provide continuous access to Hart House during construction process. Peter also underscored the importance of student involvement in the planning process, which included diverse student perspectives and lived experiences that are reflected in the Project Planning Report (PPR) that was completed in 2019.

Given the magnitude of this undertaking, the project will be executed using a multi-phased approach that will aim to utilize the heritage systems existing in the building during the construction while work is being done on new systems. A map of Hart House featuring all of the locations of project elements was presented.

The financing plan for each phase of the project requires central approval by the University’s CAPS Committee. The financial plan for Phase 1 has already received central approval, and will be comprised of contributions from the University, Hart House’s Deferred and Major Maintenance Reserves, and new fundraising. The Warden spoke about the deferred and major maintenance reserve funds that Hart House accumulates and described how we work with the University to demonstrate our loan-worthiness and to obtain central permission to borrow funds. As of 2018, the total estimated total cost of the project was $110 million.

5. **Commitment #1 of Preparing the Table: Fostering Inclusivity and Belonging in Programming** (Jen Newcombe, Director, Strategic Initiatives)

The presenter and chair requested a motion to defer the presentation on Commitment #1 of Preparing the Table: Fostering Inclusivity and Belonging in Programming to now take place during the November Board of Stewards meeting.
The motion was moved by Bob Fisher and seconded by The Warden. The motion was carried.

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

After thanking the committee presenters for their presentations, the Warden re-introduced the Departmental Report as a tool to keep the Board of Stewards in touch with the goings on at Hart House. The Warden recommended that all members read this report, which is designed to inform the Board of the work being done at Hart House across all departments.

Following this, the Warden provided an update on several other initiatives and achievements from across Hart House. These included the following:

i. **The Arbor Room is now Open!**
   a. Dana Hospitality, the tenant in the Arbor Room, has made a great effort to make the Arbor Room a welcoming environment. Please stop by for coffee and some packaged meals and snacks. For the time being, the Arbor Room will be open M-F, 9am-3pm.

ii. **Operating Hours Extended**
   a. Starting October 12, 2021, the hours at Hart House are being extended. They will now be Monday to Friday from 7 am to 9 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am to 6 pm.

iii. **Student Use of On-Site Facilities**
   a. We are delighted to see and hear the return of students in the rooms and halls of Hart House. In the month of September, the Hart House Fitness Centre saw visits from 2,342 students, and 476 students checked into the Essential Study Spaces.
   b. As a reminder, in-person meeting and events such as lectures, panels, or Committee meetings can take place at Hart House if you would like to meet in person rather than doing so virtually. Room bookings can be made by reaching out to the Hart House Events team at events.harthouse@utoronto.ca. They will work with student groups, including Hart House Committees, to ensure that your events are planned in ways that satisfy all relevant safety protocols.

iv. **Virtual Event Highlight: Tastes of Culture, October 21, 5 pm**
   a. UTM International Education Centre and Hart House co-present a multi-session journey to explore and expand our understanding of how food informs culture and wellness. On Oct. 21 at 5 pm - Eden Hagos, Founder of BLACK FOODIE, makes Ful, a popular breakfast meal found across North and East Africa. Stay tuned for upcoming sessions in November, January and February of 2022.

v. **In-Person Event Highlight: Exhibitions at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto**
   a. **Alternative Convention: Top Value Television’s Four More Years** (Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at hart house, Sept. 8 – Oct. 9, 2021)
      i. Through experimentation with remediating video and disparate ephemera, this exhibition maps and centres TVTV’s *Four More Years* to consider the legacies and implications of Guerilla Television in today’s commodified and politically divisive user-generated media environment.
   b. **Plastic Heart: Surface All the Way Through** (University of Toronto Art Centre, Sept. 8 – Nov. 20, 2021)
The exhibition includes new commissions, historical and contemporary artworks that relate to plastic as a politically loaded material, and investigations into the paradoxes of plastic conservation in museum collections.

vi. **Strengthening Tri-Campus Partnerships**
   a. Through the hard work of Hart House’s Marketing and Communications team, with a special shout out to Sara Hines and Andrea Wasserman, and led by Sr. Director Davina Chan, Hart House is making strides towards strengthening our tri-campus relationships. This month, Hart House was featured in both the UTM and UTSC Newsletters spreading awareness to UTM and UTSC students on ways to get involved at Hart House, and showcasing a number of Virtual Hart House offerings. We hope this leads to many new connections with UTM and UTSC students.

vii. **The 1st National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
   a. The Warden reflected on Orange Shirt Day and the first ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many of us had the opportunity to attend the virtual event honouring and remembering the generations of Indigenous children in Canada who were torn away from their families and sent to residential schools, many of them never to return. Hart House served as the virtual host for the event that was led by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives with the support of First Nations House and the Office of the Vice-President of People Strategy, Equity and Culture, among others. Hart House’s Hospitality team – and, in particular, Michele Cheh – did a terrific job of running the “back end” of the event, and our Marketing & Communications team did a fabulous job of raising awareness of the event across all three campuses and in the broader community. Everyone can access the recording through the link that was distributed after the event. Access the video here. We hope you have a chance to watch the conversation between Shannon Simpson, Director of Indigenous Initiatives for UofT, and Michael White, Director of First Nations House/Indigenous Student Services at UTSG, as well as the other contributions from the other guests that shared their time and insights with us.

Following the Warden’s presentation, a question was raised about the re-opening of the Hart House Pool in the Fitness Centre, which was referred to in the Departmental Report. The Warden and Jimmy Cheung, Director, Facilities and Capital Projects, provided an update. They reported that, due to loss of water in the pool and ongoing efforts to locate the cause, the re-opening of the pool will be delayed. The Warden promised to provide a status update in the November meeting.

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**

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 4th, 2021**.

9. **Adjournment**
The Chair offered best wishes and reflection for this year’s Thanksgiving long weekend and thanked the Committees for their hard work.  

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Fisher, seconded by David Newman.  

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.