

Minutes of the 1301st meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, October 17th, 2019 in the Hart House South Dining Room.

- Present:
- Mr. John Monahan (Warden)
 - Ms. Janelle Joseph (Chair)
 - Ms. Amy Intrator (Recording Secretary)
 - Ms. Avani Singh (UTSU Appointee)
 - Ms. Chemi Lhamo (SCSU Representative)
 - Mr. David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
 - Ms. Emily Jin (Steward, Art Committee)
 - Ms. Felicia Barber (Steward, Farm Committee)
 - Ms. Habon Ali (UTMSU Representative)
 - Ms. Hareem Haider (Steward, Theatre Committee)
 - Mr. J. Luke Kim (Senior Member, RA&W Committee)
 - Mr. Leonardo Jose Uribe Castano (GSU Appointee)
 - Mr. Matthew Lee (Steward, Literary and Library Committee)
 - Mr. Nicolas Sartor Campos (Steward, Finance Committee)
 - Mr. Richie Pyne (APUS Appointee)
 - Ms. Sanaya Rau (Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee)
 - Ms. Terese Pierre (Steward, Senior Members Committee)
- Guests:
- Ms. Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications, Information Services)
 - Mr. Jeff Burrow (Manager, Assessment & Analysis, Student Experience)
 - Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
 - Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Co-curricular Education)
 - Ms. Rebecca Gimmi (Program Coordinator, Art Museum)
 - Ms. Sarah Robayo Sheridan (Curator, Art Museum)
 - Ms. Sherry Kulman (Senior Director, Business and Ancillary Operations and Chief Administrative Officer)
- Regrets:
- Ms. Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
 - Ms. Charlie Jupp-Adams (Steward, Music Committee)
 - Mr. David Newman (President [*ex-officio*] Designate)
 - Ms. Jenny Blackbird (Presidential Appointee)
 - Ms. Kiran Sukdeo (Steward, RA&W Committee)

The Chair began the meeting with a Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Land.

1. Approval of the Agenda

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 Avani Singh, seconded by Chemi Lhamo, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the October 17th, 2019, Board of Stewards Meeting Agenda be approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 1300th Meeting

The Chair asked if there were any amendments to be made to the minutes and none were presented. The following motion to approve the minutes of the previous Board of Stewards meeting was made by Emily Jin, and seconded by Hareem Haider, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 1300th meeting be approved as presented.

3. Summary of 2018-2019 Art Committee Acquisition (Rebecca Gimmi, Art Museum Program Coordinator, and Sarah Robayo Sheridan, Art Museum Curator)

The Warden, John Monahan (JM), introduced his colleagues Rebecca Gimmi and Sarah Robayo Sheridan, who work at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto. The Art Museum was founded four years ago and is comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House and the University of Toronto Art Centre. The federation has helped both galleries operate as a unit to present one of the largest spaces for visual art exhibition in Toronto, in addition to presenting year-round programs and events.

Art Museum staff support the student-led Hart House Art Committee, which has a primary role in the collection and care of the Hart House Permanent Collection. Rebecca Gimmi (RG) explained that the Hart House Art Committee is composed of four sub-committees: Education and Outreach, Student Projects, the Arbor Room, and finally, and most relevant to today's conversation, the Acquisitions Sub-Committee.

Sarah Robayo Sheridan (SRS) added that the Art Museum staff work with members of the Acquisitions sub-committee year-round to research contemporary artists. After extensively researching options, the sub-committee, with the guidance of Art Museum staff, decide on an artwork to add to the collection. SRS emphasized the mandate of the Hart House Collection to support living artists, which means trying to capture culture in Canada at this moment.

The Art Museum has been interested in the artist Oliver Husain for quite some time. The artist was born in Germany and immigrated to Canada. He has lived and worked in several continents. A *Canadian Art* profile characterizes the artist's work as "hybrid hijinks." The Art Committee and Art Museum staff were faced with the question of how to bring the artists' diverse practice into the collection, as his works span across many media and genres including dance, textile work, music composition, and editing images. The Committee decided on Husain's experimental video installation *FRENCH EXIT*. The piece includes both the moving image video, as well as the installation mechanism, which includes a set of venetian blinds. The addition of both the video and the installation expands the media in the Hart House Collection.

RG and SRS then directed the attention of everyone in the room to the trailer for *FRENCH EXIT* playing on

the screen (<http://www.husain.de/portfolio/frenchexit.html>). After the video played, SRS explained that clip shows the optical play in Husain's work, as well as the politics embodied in his work and his collaboration with other cultural producers. The work is an important record of culture and there is a high likelihood the work will be borrowed by other galleries. SRS then invited audience questions.

John Monahan (JM) asked if the work would be on display at Hart House in the immediate future.

SRS responded that although there are no immediate plans to display the work, Husain is an important artist and this is an important part of his work, so it will likely be part of some display in the future.

Janelle Joseph (JJ) asked SRS if collecting the work of Toronto artists is part of the collection mandate.

SRS explained that the mandate is to collect Canadian artists, and although the collection includes work from artists across Canada, many of the acquisitions are Toronto artists since students have the opportunity to view their work in person at galleries.

JJ asked if acquisitions were purchases, and if so, how do other galleries borrow the work.

SRS clarified that the Art Committee purchases the work, and we then often lend these works to other galleries and museums. By lending artworks to other galleries, our collection plays an important role in how the story of Canadian art is shared with audiences.

4. Presentation on Assessment at Hart House (Jenifer Newcombe, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Hart House, and Jeff Burrow, Manager, Assessment & Analysis, University of Toronto)

Jenifer Newcombe (JN) introduced herself as the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Hart House. JN is leading Hart House's assessment initiatives to understand the impact of Hart House on students, members and the wider community. Jeff Burrow (JB) is the Manager of Assessment and Analysis at the University of Toronto. JB works with various units on campus to facilitate assessment initiatives. The presentation on assessment is a chance to learn more about the students using Hart House, and the U of T community more broadly.

JB explained that he primarily presents for staff and faculty, so he is glad to share this information back to students. He also added a disclaimer that surveys are not perfect, so while they offer some understanding, the information does not account for everything. For the full presentation and links to reports referenced in this discussion, please see Appendix A.

JB began by providing context about the identities of U of T/ Hart House students. The University of Toronto has over 90,000 students between the three campuses. A large percentage of U of T student commute; with 55% of students at St. George Campus commuting (the percentage is even greater for UTM and UTSC), students face different challenges and opportunities. Tuition fees also have a large impact on the student experience. The average first year domestic tuition is \$6,100, whereas the average first year international tuition can cost up to \$58,000.

The various surveys provide an indication of both graduate and undergraduate student identities including details such as students' cultural identities.

After JB's explanation of students at U of T, JN provided more context about what students are learning at Hart House. The source for the majority of Hart House student statistics comes from the Highly Involved Student Survey (HISS), which is distributed annually to over 1000 students, with an average 250 respondents.

The answers from HISS indicate what students are learning at Hart House. For example, 70% of students

agree (or strongly agree) that they have developed knowledge and strategies to support their overall well-being. The survey also indicated important information about students' ability to work with others. For example, 77% of students agree (or strongly agree) that they are comfortable working with students of different backgrounds than their own.

JN and JB opened the floor to questions. Habon Ali (HA) reflected on the statistic about students feeling valued at the University (Appendix A, page 10), noting the high percentage of student who did not feel valued. HA asked what has come of surveys in the past, and whether Hart House has changed programming to impact the well-being of students.

JN responded that this sort of information has impacted how we deliver our range of programs. Michelle Brownrigg (MB) Chief Programs Officer, added that Hart House will be holding focus groups to better understand the survey responses. John Monahan (JM) further added that the Hart House Strategic Plan, "Delight in Discovery" was built around a very similar finding. With the help of consultants, Hart House conducted research and found that many students identified isolation as one of the major areas of anxiety or concern. We are using assessment to track how we have done in addressing students concerns with our programming over the past five years.

Avani Singh (AS) asked which survey provided the statistics on student commuters. AS also inquired, how many students answered the survey.

JB responded that those numbers were from the National Survey of Student Engagement, which included responses from approximately 10,000 students. For full survey, see link: http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/NSSE_2017.pdf

AS asked whether Hart House had considered addressing students who are not currently involved in programs.

JN responded that understanding why students are not here is critical, and Hart House is looking into this demographic. MB added that when Hart House was re-developing its brand, we conducted surveys on all three campuses.

AS followed up by asking whether Hart House planned on expanding assessment initiatives.

JM responded that we are looking into it, but we must avoid over-surveying students. To avoid asking students to continue to disclose information about themselves, we are attempting to align ourselves with pre-existing surveys sent out by the University.

Sanaya Rau (SR) asked JM to elaborate on Hart House's strategic plan.

JM emphasized the reports' finding that students feel an acute sense of loneliness and isolation. He directed the Board of Stewards to the Hart House website to read the full report: <https://harthouse.ca/about/our-mandate>.

Nicolas Sartor Campus (NSC) asked if surveying students that are *not* involved presented difficulties.

JB responded that yes, this is a challenge.

Chemi Lhamo (CL) noted that at Scarborough Campus, there are psychologists researching loneliness and isolation. CL also asked for clarification about where JB pulled the race-based statistics.

JB responded that race-based data is all survey-based, and the data on student loneliness comes from the

National College Health Assessment. For full report, see link: <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/155/2018/03/Report-on-Student-Health-Well-Being.pdf>

J. Luke Kim (JLK) asked if data is publicly available.

JB responded that all the surveys referenced have public reports available.

JLK asked if there is a mandate to collect data or produce reports.

JB responded that the mandate is to share data once the survey results come in, but they would never share all the data, as not all of the information is relevant. Currently the data is shared lots with staff and faculty, but there needs to be more engagement with student groups.

SR asked if this presentation will be shared.

The Chair noted that the presentation will be distributed to all Board of Stewards members afterwards. See Appendix A for full presentation and links to surveys/reports.

5. Committee Presentations

a) Senior Members Committee (Terese Pierre, Steward)

Terese Pierre (TP) is the Steward for the Senior Members Committee (SMC), as well as one of three co-chairs for the committee. TP presented the committee's mandate, stating that the committee provides both senior members (anyone who pays fees to Hart House but is not a student), as well as students, with opportunities to engage and contribute at Hart House.

The committee helps facilitate connections between students and senior members through mentorship and co-curricular activities. Some core events the committee hosts to facilitate connections include the Alumni-Student Dinner Series and the Senior Members Reception. The committee has also introduced newer events including the cider/wine tasting, life drawing sessions, and the seasonal Wintersong concert. For the full presentation, see Appendix B.

MB added that for each event in the Dinner Series, there are two sponsored student tickets that are offered to Hart House's club and committee members via email correspondence.

TP asked for any questions. Emily Jin (EJ) asked if senior members were exclusively U of T alumni.

TP clarified that senior members included *anyone* paying Hart House fees, not just alumni.

EJ asked if the SMC would consider collaborating with other committees by sharing contacts to promote events outside of the work of the SMC.

TP responded that the SMC is currently working on building a network of contacts, so while the list is not fully developed yet, they will be happy to share it in the future.

JM added that the SMC has gone through a period of change. Four years ago, the Hart House Constitution was amended to remove the condition that senior members had to be alumni. Now, membership to Hart House is open to alumni, but also to the wider community. With the change in the committee, there are new opportunities for collaborating with other standing committees to cross-promote activities. There is also potential to work with the Communications, Marketing & Information Services team at Hart House to

promote events to a wider audience (e.g. including events in the Hart House weekly newsletter).

JLK asked how many senior members are currently part of Hart House.

MB responded that typically, the Hart House Fitness Centre has approximately 1000 non-student members. The number is a bit more complicated when accounting for all the community members involved in Hart House's various clubs and committees (e.g. senior members of the Hart House Orchestra).

JLK responded that in the past there has been two tiers of senior members. MB clarified that this has changed, as we no longer use the distinction of "fitness" vs. "non-fitness" senior members. Hart House now has one membership that allows access to both clubs and committees and the fitness centre.

JLK asked TP why the SMC has three co-chairs.

TP responded that each Chair focuses on a different activity. MB added that due to everyone's busy schedules, having three chairs allows for one chair to always be present while the others might be unavailable.

SR asked if the SMC found it challenging to reach audiences through social media. SR suggested using LinkedIn as a platform to reach professionals, as the Debates and Dialogue Committee has found this helpful.

TP responded that the SMC does not currently have a LinkedIn profile, but they find it effective to reach members (and prospective members) through email.

b) Theatre Committee (Hareem Haider, Steward)

Hareem Haider (HH) began by explaining that the Theatre Committee functions differently than other standing committees. The Committee acts as an advisory board for the Hart House Theatre Management, and works to ensure the theatre's programming and operations are in line with the Theatre's mission statement and Hart House's vision statement. A large portion of this work is ensuring that programming engages both students and the wider community.

In 2019/20, the Theatre Committee is focused on four main pillars: outreach, celebrating connections, accessibility, and diversity. The Committee achieves their goals through three main avenues: U of T Spotlight, the Drama Coalition, and the Festival of Dance.

U of T Spotlight is an initiative to enhance the engagement of students from all three campuses in theatre activities outside the classroom. This year, as part of the tri-campus mandate, a UTSC work-study student is working with the initiative. There are also several new workshops including one focused on consent. Many of the workshop facilitators return year after year to work with students.

The Drama Coalition brings together the many theatre groups spread across U of T. The coalition helps decide what is important for campus theatre and how to make the theatre community better as a whole (e.g. instituting a policy of trigger warnings before productions). The coalition is also responsible for the "Dougies" an annual award ceremony that celebrates students involved in the campus theatre community.

The Festival of Dance is the University's largest dance festival. The festival spans over two days and involves students and staff performing various dance style from scarf dancing to K-pop.

HH concluded by stating that the Theatre Committee creates an environment where student can grow from beginners to near professionals over the course of their university degree. The committee allows for holistic learning, which HH herself can attest to, as she is an Engineering student and this committee allows her to meet student with diverse backgrounds and interests. HH went from taking one Spotlight workshop to becoming involved in every production. She ended by stating extracurriculars facilitate learning; lets not lose our creative side. For the full presentation, see Appendix C.

David Kim (DK) asked whether the Chairs of the various committees come together to share best practices.

JM responded that last year, the Chair of the Debates and Dialogue Committee initiated a meeting for Chairs of standing committees. JM would encourage Chairs to take the same initiative this year. MB further elaborated that through the budget and activity planning process, committees are involved in discussions about communications. Each standing committee has its own social media accounts, but MB encouraged all committees to follow one another on their various accounts.

DK referenced the point about succession planning that Hareem discussed in her presentation. He mentioned the importance of students caucusing and sharing best practice with one another. JM agreed, and stated that Hart House Standing Committees have great institutional memory, but there are still opportunities to better collaborate *across* committees and to make information-sharing more systematic.

6. Warden's Report

The Warden directed the Board's attention to the written summary of departmental highlights that was circulated at the meeting. This document underlined several of the ongoing issues, opportunities, and activities of the House. For the full report, please see Appendix D. Following this, the Warden provided an update on several broader initiatives and achievements that were not in the written report. These included:

i. 100th Anniversary Initiatives:

- a. Hart House Gala on Nov. 12th: The "Gala of the Century" is a fundraising event, with all proceeds going to the Hart House Innovation Fund. Recently, we confirmed BMO as our Presenting Sponsor (a \$75,000 sponsorship). There is currently a waitlist for tickets, but each member of the Board of Stewards is invited to attend the Gala as our guest.
- b. Other Upcoming 100th Anniversary Events: Artist Talk with the Creators of the Centennial Art Commission (Nov. 13th); Centennial Concert Series featuring the Hart House Singers (Nov. 17th); Centennial Dialogue Series featuring Stephen Lewis (Nov. 19th).

ii. Hip Hop Education:

Hart House staff have been working to deliver a range of Hip Hop education programming. Two upcoming events include the Hip Hop 101 Café at UTM featuring the artist Noyz, and an open-format program at New College *Resistance Cypher: Hop Hop as Counter Storytelling* featuring artist Drezus.

iii. New Website Launch:

The new website launched on Sept. 17th. Staff have been updating the site daily, and we are working to make the website fully AODA compliant. Davina Chan (DC) added that the University's Central Communications has expressed that they are impressed with the new site and have offered advice to help us meet AODA standards.

iv. Global Commons

Earlier today, we held the first Global Commons conference of 2019-20 including students from all three UofT campuses, as well as students from all four of our international partner universities.

Our winter programming will focus on turning dialogue into action. JN added that the strong organizing committee chose topics that are both personal and extremely immersive.

v. Voting at Hart House

On October 21st, Hart House will be hosting a polling station in the Reading Room from 9:30am to 9:30pm for the federal election. This year, Hart House hosted an advance poll (Oct. 5 – 8).

vi. Upcoming Event:

Oct. 22: Senior Members 100th Anniversary Reception, East Common Room, 6pm

For the full presentation, please see Appendix E.

JM welcomed any questions. JLK asked how many standing committees have pages on the Hart House website. JM explained that every standing committee has a page. NCS added that committees can have their events listed on the website by completing an online form. DC further added that any questions related to committee communications can be directed to communications@harthouse.ca

7. Other Business & Announcements

The Chair asked if there was any other business or announcements.

Matthew Lee (ML) announced that tomorrow, Oct. 18th, the Literary and Library Committee will be recording their first podcast on the future of libraries. He will provide more information in the near future.

JLK announced that the Agenda Committee is looking for a student member of the Board of Stewards to sit as the Chair of the committee.

8. Next Meeting

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th, 2019 at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, AA160, Council Chambers.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Richie Pyne seconded by Hareem Haider.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Chair
November 11, 2019

Recording Secretary

Appendices:

Appendix A: Assessment at Hart House (Jenifer Newcombe & Jeff Burrow).

- Other Resources:

- 2017 NSSE Report: http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/NSSE_2017.pdf
- 2016 NHCA Report: <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/155/2018/03/Report-on-Student-Health-Well-Being.pdf>
- 2018 gradSERU Report: https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/253/2019/09/UofT_gradSERU-report_2018_FINAL.pdf

Appendix B: Senior Members Committee (Terese Pierre).

Appendix C: Theatre Committee (Hareem Haider).

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

Appendix E: Warden's Report (John Monahan).