

Minutes of the 1308th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, October 8th, 2020 on Zoom video conferencing online.

Present: Mr. John Monahan (Warden)
Mr. Terry Gardiner (Chair)
Ms. Amy Intrator (Recording Secretary)
Ms. Beth Ali (Presidential Appointee)
Mr. David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Mr. David Newman (President [*ex-officio*] Designate)
Ms. Dhanya Dass (Steward, Theatre Committee)
Ms. Emily Jin (Steward, Art Committee)
Mr. Ian Browne (Steward, Farm Committee)
Mr. Josh Allen (Steward, RA&W Committee)
Ms. Martina Facchin (Steward, Social Justice Committee)
Mr. Matthew Lee (Steward, Literary and Library Committee)
Mr. Mussa Marashi (APUS Appointee)
Mr. Nicolas Sartor Campos (Steward, Finance Committee)
Ms. Noha Farawi (UTMSU Representative)
Ms. Sanaya Rau (Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee)
Ms. Tara Behruz (Steward, Music Committee)
Ms. Terese Pierre (Steward, Senior Members Committee)
Mr. Tyler Riches (UTSU Appointee)

Guests: Ms. Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications & Information Services)
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Mr. Jimmy Cheung (Director, Facilities and Capital Projects)
Ms. Lena Yusim (Warden's Office Project Coordinator)
Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Co-curricular Education)
Ms. Nora Moidu (Co-Chair, Social Justice Committee)
Ms. Sherry Kulman (Senior Director, Business and Ancillary Operations and Chief Administrative Officer)
Ms. Trish Starling (Program Coordinator, Learning and Community)
Ms. Varsha Pillai (Hart House Student Ambassador)

Regrets: Ms. Danielle Karakas (GSU Appointee)
Mr. J. Luke Kim (Senior Member, RA&W Committee)
Ms. Sarah Mohamed (SCSU Representative)

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 Beth Ali, seconded by Nicolas Sartor Campos, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the October 8th, 2020, Board of Stewards Meeting Agenda be approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes

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 Terese Pierre, and seconded by Mussa Marashi, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 1307th meeting be approved as presented.

3. Virtual Hart House Presentation (Michelle Brownrigg, Chief Program Officer and Senior Director, Hart House)

Michelle Brownrigg (MB) began by adding that she will be presenting alongside her colleagues Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications and Information Services), and Varsha Pillai (Hart House Student Ambassador).

David Kim (DK) commented, before the presentation began, that he would like to congratulate John Monahan on beginning his second term as Warden of Hart House. DK is now serving his second year on the Board of Stewards and has worked for a long time with members of the Hart House team. When the Warden began in his role, he immediately reached out to partners across the three U of T campuses and took the time to listen to their goals. The Hart House Strategic Plan reflects the Warden's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion that has been a priority since he began in the role. DK thanked the Warden for his grounded leadership, especially during these trying times.

Before beginning, MB noted that the presentation highlights the variety of Hart House programming as well as the Warden's leadership on the occasion of the beginning of his second term. MB then proceeded to share a picture slideshow to highlight online and in-person activities at Hart House and the staff, from both programming and operations, that make these offerings possible. MB added that these programs are largely delivered in partnership with students and campus partners and would not be possible without collective effort.

Davina Chan (DC) then shared some context about how Hart House uses marketing and communications strategies to promote this variety of programming to students, staff, faculty and the

broader community. All virtual and in-person programming is shared on the Hart House website (harthouse.ca). These programs are also shared on a variety of University of Toronto websites to reach as many students as possible. Hart House also shares information through a weekly email newsletter, social media, and digital slides that are shared on screens across campus. These variety of outreach methods allow Hart House to promote programs, increase awareness and encourage participation from students and the broader community.

MB then provided a high level overview of the 2020-21 program areas and priorities. Programming this year will focus on expanding work in Black and Indigenous Futures, Hart House Stories, Hart House Global Commons, Youth Access Programs, Hip Hop Education, the Hart House Theatre, Registered Club Programs, Committee Programming, the Hart House Good Ideas Fund, Student Ambassador Outreach, UTM/UTSC programs, Creative LifeSchool, Art Museum programming, Recreational Athletics and Wellness, and Musical Groups. One of the new programming initiative launched this year is the Well Being Collective @ Hart House (involving many campus and community partners).

MB then invited Varsha Pillai (VP), current Student Ambassador, to present. VP, along with the other Ambassadors, works to reach out to the student community, and this year their focus has shifted to social media and other forms of online interaction. Ambassadors have discovered that Instagram is the best platform to reach students and students respond best to the interpersonal connection on social media. VP then proceeded to ask the Board of Steward members a few questions about how Ambassadors can best reach the student community:

1. What kinds of programs do you feel students are engaging with virtually as they also deal with online class schedules?

Tyler Riches (TR) commented that students would likely appreciate the opportunity to meet new people during this time. Social-oriented programming would be appreciated since students are already online all day for their classwork.

Nicolas Sartor Campos (NSC) added that online workouts are very popular.

Matthew Lee (ML) added that the Literary and Library Committee hosts skills-based workshops that are recorded and allow students to watch later if they're in a class or otherwise unavailable.

David Kim (DK) asked if fitness classes are being recorded for student who are in different time zones and cannot access in real-time.

MB responded that virtual fitness programming is done in partnership with fitness centres across all three campuses. Hart House contributes to a "Virtual Fitness Library" of videos that can be accessed at any time. Sometimes there are challenges with music, as videos cannot be posted online unless complying with copyright, but we are working on creating consistent online content. This "any time zone" programming is not just for fitness but across all areas on online programming.

2. *Do you have any ideas for how to promote programs or any general advice for ambassadors to do outreach and spread information?*

NSC added that emails are a good way to promote programs and increase outreach.

Terry Gardiner (TC) asked if it's possible to leverage the hundreds of student groups across campus and have the leaders of these groups promote Hart House programming.

DK commented that with the current landscape different faculties and colleges are constantly evolving, such as using "Just in Time Slides" for virtual classes to promote campus programs as students wait for their classes to begin. David Newman (DN) added that Student Life is coordinating the "Just in Time" initiative and the virtual iteration.

3. *How can we increase student-to-student interactions? (Is there anything you're doing in your own areas?)*

TG asked if students are open to students doing announcements in classes since students may be tired of receiving so many emails and virtual messages.

Josh Allen (JA) added that reaching out to colleges is a great idea, but also faculties and departments. These contacts are readily available and they are happy to promote programs relevant to their area (e.g. promoting a sports program through the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education).

The Chair thanked Michelle and other presenters for their robust report. For the full presentation, see Appendix A.

4. Committee Presentation

a. **Social Justice Committee** (Martina Facchin, Steward)

Martina Facchin (MF) introduced herself and the Co-Chair of the Social Justice Committee, Nora Moidu (NM), who is joining the meeting to help present on behalf of the Committee.

NM began by sharing the mission statement of the Committee, to raise awareness of social justice issues through student engagement activities, opportunities for dialogue, and social justice education for the student body. The Committee works with both campus and community groups to share their social justice agenda. The Committee goals connect with Hart House's goals by creating opportunities for learning outside the classroom, creating accessible programming, and doing active outreach to students and the wider community.

MF then detailed some of the upcoming Committee initiatives for the Fall term including the Social Justice Book Club (in collaboration with the Hart House Literary and Library Committee and the UofT English Student Union); the Food Series (in collaboration with Migrant Dreams); the Youth Access Initiative, and online social media campaigns. Winter term programs will include another edition of the Food Series, an Environmental Justice Art Installation, an Anti-O Conversation (in

collaboration with UTM) and an event focused on the rise of hate crimes (in collaboration with the Multi-Faith Centre).

The Committee is committed to Hart House's tri-campus mandate by partnering with student groups and organizations across all three campuses.

MF concluded by sharing that the Committee wants to be responsive to social justice issues throughout the year, and encouraged members of the Board of Stewards to contact the Committee if they have any questions or ideas.

For the full presentation, see Appendix B.

JM commented that he has information about an opportunity that might be of interest to the Social Justice Committee, or any other interested students. *The Great Canadian Kitchen Party* (not organized by Hart House) raises awareness for charities doing work in communities by leveraging chefs and culinary organizations across the country. Any student interested can submit a short video to discuss issues of concern and relevance to students in Canada today. JM encouraged any interested students to contact him so he can connect students with the organizer.

5. Warden's Report

Before beginning the presentation, the Warden announced that Jenny Blackbird, who has been the Presidential Appointee on the Board of Stewards for the past year and is a staff member at the Department of Indigenous Studies, has recently become a staff member at Hart House. Jenny now divides her time between Hart House and Indigenous Studies. Due to taking on a staff position at Hart House, she has tendered her resignation as the Presidential Appointee on the Board of Stewards. Hart House will be identifying a new person to fill Jenny's position in short order. Although Jenny will be missed by the Board of Stewards, Hart House now has the opportunity to work with Jenny as an essential member of the Learning and Community team.

The Warden then 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 (see Appendix C). Following this, the Warden provided an update on several broader initiatives and achievements that were not in the written report. These updates included the following:

- i. **Warden's Second Term:** The Warden shared that his re-appointment for a 5-year term as Warden was approved at the September 30 meeting of the University Affairs Board of the Governing Council. He is grateful and honoured to have the opportunity to do this work on this land and looks forward to continuing to partner with students, University members and community members on initiatives over the coming years.
- ii. **City of Toronto Indigenous Arts and Culture Grant:** Just today, October 8, Hart House received news that Hart House, in partnership with First Nations House-Indigenous Student Services, has received a City of Toronto Indigenous Arts and Culture Grant. The grant was co-written by Jenifer Newcombe (Director of Strategic Initiatives). The

- \$30,000 grant will go towards supporting a variety of Hart House programming that intersects with indigeneity (e.g. Hip Hop Education, Youth Access Programming), as well as supporting First Nations House-Indigenous Student Services programs (e.g. a virtual medicine walk at the Hart House Farm).
- iii. **Hart House Building Update:** Since September 21, Hart House has extended building hours and is now open Monday to Friday from 8am to 10pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 6pm. Hart House senior leadership will continue to monitor attendance numbers before making any decisions about adjusting hours.
 - iv. **Health and Sanitization:** Hart House continues to strictly enforce the new health and sanitization standards across the building including the regular sanitization of high-touch surfaces, washrooms, and student study spaces. All staff working onsite have undergone a comprehensive training on new protocols to maintain the health and safety of all Hart House staff and visitors.
 - v. **In-Person Fitness Programming:** Hart House continues to offer in-person fitness opportunities, in addition to the variety of virtual programming. In-person fitness is focused on outdoor fitness programs in the Hart House Quad with strict physical distancing and safety measures in place (*Note: The Fitness Centre is temporarily closed for indoor fitness as of October 10, 2020, in accordance with government regulation. Currently the anticipated date of re-opening is on or around November 7, although this will depend upon future decisions by the Provincial government and senior university officials as they review public health data. In the meantime, outdoor fitness classes continue to operate*).
 - vi. **In-Person Activities: Hangout Space:** Hart House continues to offer quiet study spaces for students in Hart House with physical distancing and strict health and safety measures. These spaces all require students to pre-register for a timed booking. The spaces all have reduced capacity (*Note: As of October 10, student study spaces have further reduced capacity for 10 people maximum per large space [e.g. Reading Room, Map Room, Library] and 4 people maximum in the Chapel*).
 - vii. **In-Person Activities: Student Bookings:** Students are welcomed to book Hart House for their small, physically distant gatherings. Strict health and safety measures will be enforced (*Note: As of October 10, as per government regulation, Hart House has a reduced capacity for activities and/or events of 10 people maximum across all indoor event spaces inside the House. Student hangout spaces are not included as events, and weddings and religious ceremonies have different rules [ie. 30% capacity in the space for a wedding or religious service with no more than 50 people in the space]*).
 - viii. **Virtual Event Services:** The Hospitality Services department of Hart House has customized virtual event service packages available to support online events (e.g. workshops, celebrations, weddings).
 - ix. **In-Person Event Services:** Hart House is supporting limited in-person events with strict health and safety measures enforced. An example is the event organized by the Department of University Advancement on September 24, 2020, to announce the Temerty

Family gift to the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine. *(Note: As of October 10, as per government regulation, Hart House has a reduced capacity for activities and/or events of 10 people maximum across all indoor event spaces in the House. Student hangout spaces are not included as events, and weddings and religious ceremonies have different rules [30% capacity in the space for a wedding or religious service with no more than 50 people in the space]).*

- x. **Upcoming Changes:** Hart House will continue to work on reopening plans for different areas of the building while following all government regulations and University protocols. Upcoming changes include adjustments to the Fitness Centre for the winter months (to be implemented once indoor fitness is approved to re-open) and the reopening of the Art Museum to community members.
- xi. **Virtual Program Spotlight:** Hart House is hosting an upcoming 3-part Podcasting workshop series beginning in October to introduce participants to the foundations of audio production. This workshop is part of Hart House's larger initiative to share stories and dialogues in the form of podcasts.
- xii. **In-Person Program Spotlight:** The Well Being Collective @ Hart House, in partnership with Brown Girl Outdoor World, is hosting a series of outdoor walking tours to encourage outdoor exploration and adventure. These programs are all organized with the health and safety of participants and staff as the top priority.
- xiii. **Mental Health Care: Single Session Counselling:** The Health and Wellness division of Student Life is offering single session counselling for students who need quick access to support for a specific issue (e.g. exam stress, relationship problems) and can help students identify if they should pursue more long-term support. This is an important resource at a time where students are dealing with a number of new challenges. For more information, students can call 1-844-451-9700.

For the full presentation, please see Appendix D.

6. Other Business and Announcements

The Chair then asked members of the Board of Stewards if they had any other business or announcements to present.

NSC announced that the Finance Committee will be hosting a virtual workshop titled "Own Your Financial Future" on Friday, October 16. Students can register [online](#).

TR presented a question about Hart House programming and services. The Faculty of Arts and Science has now announced they will move to virtual only for the winter term, does this have any impact on Hart House's plans for the winter?

JM responded that Hart House's current plan is to remain *status quo*, although things can change quickly. Hart House will be taking advice and direction from public health authorities at the University, as well as the Office of the Vice Provost, Students.

Josh Allen (JA) announced that the Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee is in the final week of the "Run with the RAWC" event. For more information visit their [Facebook page](#).

ML announced that the Literary and Library Committee will be hosting their annual genre panel on October 13, focused on comedy writing. Student can find more information on the [Committee's website](#).

Noha Farawi (NF) announced in the Zoom chat that the UTMSU is hosting a seminar on October 21 focused on Discrimination in Healthcare. Registration information is available [online](#).

7. Next Meeting

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5th, 2020, on Zoom Video Conferencing.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Riches seconded by Nicolas Sartor Campos.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Chair
October 30, 2020

Recording Secretary

Appendices:

Appendix A: Virtual Hart House Presentation (Michelle Brownrigg, Davina Chan, & Varsha Pillai).

Appendix B: Social Justice Committee Presentation (Martina Facchin & Nora Moidu)

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

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