

Minutes of the 1309<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 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. Josh Allen (Steward, RA&W 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. 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. Felicia Barber (Co-Chair, Hart House Farm Committee)  
Ms. Gillian Lewis (Education and Production Coordinator, Hart House Theatre)  
Ms. Jessica Rayne (Integrated Learning and Community Engagement Coordinator)  
Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Co-curricular Education)

**Regrets:** Ms. Danielle Karakas (GSU Appointee)  
Mr. Ian Browne (Steward, Farm Committee)  
Mr. J. Luke Kim (Senior Member, RA&W Committee)  
Ms. Martina Facchin (Steward, Social Justice Committee)  
Ms. Sanaya Rau (Steward, Debates and Dialogue Committee)  
Ms. Sarah Mohamed (SCSU Representative)

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

The Chair then proceeded to acknowledge that in a typical year, when Board of Steward meetings are held in person, one of the meetings would take place at UTM campus and one meeting would take place at UTSC campus, since Hart House has a tri-campus mandate. Although Hart House cannot hold meetings in-person this year, this meeting will include several UTM-focused presentations.

### **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 David Kim, seconded by Nicolas Sartor Campos, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 Tyler Riches, and seconded by Dhanya Dass, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 1308<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as presented.**

### **3. Virtual Introduction to University of Toronto Mississauga Campus**

#### **a. Introduction to the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (Noha Farawi, Vice President Equity, UTMSU, and UTMSU Representative, Board of Stewards)**

Noha Farawi introduced herself as the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) Representative on the Board of Stewards and the Vice President of Equity for the UTMSU. Her presentation focused on sharing the work and the vision of the UTMSU.

The UTMSU is a student union representing over 14,000 members including both full-time and part-time undergraduate students at University of Toronto Mississauga. All executives and volunteers involved are students. The group is led by an Executive Committee. NH shared a video introducing the UTMSU executives.

The UTMSU operates under three main pillars: Campaigns and Advocacy, Events, and Services. Campaigns include initiatives such as Fight the Fees, Fairness for International Students, My Mental Health Matters, and others. Services include UPass (the transit pass for UTM students), the Food Centre, Tax Clinic, and others. Events include Orientation Week, Multicultural Week, Black History

Month, and others. This year all events that are proceeding are taking place virtually.

The UTMSU achieves its work through Commissions (e.g. Student Services Commission, etc.), Volunteers (over 100 student volunteers), and Staff (second largest student employer on UTM campus). Some of the group's key achievements include reopening and revamping the Food Centre, lobbying to reintroduce Fall Reading Week, and eliminating Access Copyright fees (saving students over \$1.5 million each year). The UTMSU is operating partially in-person but most remotely this academic term.

For the full presentation, see Appendix A.

**b. Hart House at University of Toronto Mississauga** (Jessica Rayne, Integrated Learning and Community Engagement Coordinator)

Jessica Rayne introduced herself as a Program Associate in the Hart House Learning and Community Team; she is also Hart House's UTM Liaison. She has held that role for the past year and has built on the success of her colleague Zoe Dille who preceded her in that role.

Highlights of Hart House programming with UTM for 2019-20 included: establishing partnered programming including a full-term dialogue series in partnership with UTM Equity Diversity and Inclusion Office (EDIO); engaging significant numbers of student members of the UTM community; and increasing UTM engagement in the Good Ideas Fund.

For 2020-21, the programming with UTM has been virtual. Highlights thus far include: the launch of Black and BIPOC Table Talks; partnering with the UTM Wellness Hub to deliver online programming; and delivering "A Little Touch of the Caribbean" in virtual form in partnership with UTM EDIO.

Partnered programming delivered by Hart House and UTM has grown significantly over the years. Hart House delivered 32 events at UTM in 2019-2020 compared to only 9 the previous year. It also established 11 partnerships with UTM colleagues, as compared to only 4 the previous year. Some key partners on the UTM campus include the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Office, the International Education Centre, the Academic Skill Centre, the UTM Indigenous Centre, and Student Affairs and Services. (For the full listing of partners and partnered programs, see Appendix B).

Hart House has had significant engagement with UTM through its Hip Hop Education programming. This has included dance classes, Anti-O Convos, and Hip Hop Cafes. Students' feedback about these programs has been positive. Anti-O Convos has already engaged 100 new students since September 2020.

The Good Ideas Fund provides funding for student projects, and Hart House has seen a major increase in UTM submissions (21 projects in 2019-20 compared to 6 the year before) and a major increase in UTM projects funded (7 projects in 2019-20 compared to 1 the year before).

Hart House Ambassadors and Work Study students continue to actively reach out to UTM students through a variety of UTM events including O-Week and the Virtual Resource Fair.

For the full presentation, see Appendix B.

The Chair thanked JR for sharing the breadth of Hart House's work in support of the students of UTM and congratulated her on the growth of programming and partnerships over the years.

The Warden asked JR to share exciting Hip Hop Education work that she is involved with, including the recent "Humanz of Hip Hop Virtual Conference" that she helped to coordinate. JR explained that the conference brings in members of the Hip Hop community to discuss their lives, their work and the impact they have had. The first day of the conference focused on dialogue, and the second day was a partnership with the Career Centre that focused on how to get involved in the Hip Hop industry. Those students who participated were very positive in their assessments.

#### **4. Committee Presentations**

##### **a. Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee (Josh Allen, Steward)**

Josh Allen introduced himself as the Chair of the Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee (RAWC). The Committee is committed to creating diverse opportunities for students to learn about, engage in and develop a love for physical activity and wellness. The Committee works towards this mission by hosting and supporting virtual opportunities for students from all three campuses to engage in physical activity and mental wellness and provides education, opportunities and guidance. The Committee is dedicated to shifting focus to the importance of mental wellness, as physical activity is only part of the equation of full wellness.

The Committee works to create a sense of community, focused on physical recreation and mental wellness, through social media engagement, new initiatives and active collaboration with student and community groups.

Programming for 2020-21 includes the "Run with RAWC Challenge," the Workshop Series, Afro-Dance Classes, Podcasts, and social media initiatives. JA noted that Board of Stewards member David Kim is one of the winners of the 10K Run with RAWC Challenge.

The Committee supports the Hart House Mandate by providing a range of opportunities for inclusive learning and a focus on helping students become more well-rounded through wellness.

DK commented that RAWC did a great job with their 10K challenge through their social media outreach. JA explained that leading up to the submission deadline, the Committee created a series of short videos to encourage students and community members to take part in the competition.

For the full presentation, see Appendix C.

##### **b. Theatre Committee (Dhanya Dass, Steward)**

Dhanya Dass introduced herself as the Co-Chair of the Hart House Theatre Standing Committee. The Committee acts as an advisory board for the Hart House Theatre Management and ensures that the Theatre's programming and operations are in line with Hart House's goals and mandate.

The Committee's goals are to support the Hart House Mandate by providing educational opportunities to a broad range of students and to help performers and other stage professionals to transition effectively from student stages to professional ones. This year has presented challenges, with the pandemic requiring everyone to pivot to an online-only environment, but the Committee has helped adapt existing programs for an online environment, including a number of Theatre workshops.

In addition to the Theatre Standing Committee and the Annual Theatre Season, the student-run initiatives can be broadly categorized into the following areas: UofT Spotlight, the Drama Coalition, and the Festival of Dance. These student-run initiatives are associated with the Theatre but are largely led by students with staff support provided by Hart House.

Due to the pandemic, the Theatre Season will not be running this year, but the three student-run initiatives are keeping Theatre volunteers highly engaged. UofT Spotlight is facilitating live and re-broadcasted virtual Theatre workshops for students and the public, as well as the annual Playwriting Competition and a Dramaturgy Mentorship. The Drama Coalition is facilitating the annual UofT Drama Festival (details still TBC) and the Drama Coalition Awards (a.k.a the "Dougies"). The Festival of Dance is also exploring options for proceeding using a virtual platform.

The Committee complements Hart House's Mission, including the tri-campus mandate. The Committee recently approved permanent positions on the Committee for UTSC and UTM Representatives. The Playwriting Competition engages students from all three campuses, and students facilitating the program have done intentional outreach to student unions and groups on all campuses.

For the full presentation, see Appendix D.

Nicolas Sartor Campos asked if there were any plans at all to resume the annual Theatre Season, even in virtual form.

DD clarified that the Theatre season will not be resuming for 2020-21, but the Drama Coalition is hosting virtual theatre programs such as radio plays (currently casting). Live shows are not continuing within the theatre industry more broadly until public health regulations permit. The Theatre is still hopeful it will be able to deliver in-person shows in 2021-22.

Michelle Brownrigg shared that the Theatre team is weighing options for the Festival of Dance, and may be able to use Hart House's "live to air" studio so that performances can be broadcasted for viewers.

## **5. Warden's Report**

### **a. General Updates**

The Warden directed the Board's attention to the written summary of departmental highlights that was circulated prior to the meeting. This document underlined several of the ongoing issues, opportunities, and activities of the House (see Appendix E). Following this, the Warden provided an

update on several other initiatives and achievements that were not in the written report. These updates included the following:

- i. **In-Person Programming:** The Warden summarized the in-person programming available at Hart House. (*Note: As of Nov. 23, 2020, Hart House has halted in-person activities as regulated by the Government of Ontario.*)
- ii. **Art Museum Visits:** On October 29, 2020, the Art Museum opened for timed, pre-registered visits with strict safety measures enforced including physical distancing, enhanced sanitization measures, and reduced capacity. (*Note: The exhibitions at both galleries concluded on Nov. 21, 2020.*)
- iii. **Reading Week at Virtual Hart House:** Hart House is offering a variety of online programming for students over Reading Week. Highlights include virtual dance classes (e.g. *Turn UP with BollyX*) and *Get Crafty* sessions. Craft kits have been distributed to select residences whose student residents have expressed interest in the program.
- iv. **Budget Update:** Hart House will complete the first step of the 2021-22 budget approval process by presenting the proposed budget to the University's CFO at a "Pre-SARG" (Service Ancillaries Review Group) meeting in mid-November. The next step after that will be presenting the budget to the Hart House Finance Committee (Jan. 5), followed by presenting the budget to the Board of Stewards (Jan. 7).
- v. **Student Equity Census:** The Office of the Vice Provost will be launching the U of T Student Equity Census on Nov. 16. The voluntary initiative will allow students on all three campuses to provide feedback about their demographic details.
- vi. **Arbor Award Winners:** The 2020 Arbor Award winners have been announced. Hart House successfully nominated three highly-engaged alumni to receive the distinguished award. They are Terese Pierre, Mark Saresky and Dean Samaras.

For the full presentation, see Appendix F.

#### **b. Consultation: Revisions to the Standing Committee Terms of Reference**

The Warden then updated the Board of Stewards that Hart House is interested in making amendments to the Hart House Constitution and is seeking input from Board of Stewards members in advance of a future motion to approve such changes.

The suggested amendments were prompted by a recently approved change to the University's *Policy on Recognition of Campus Groups*, which now specifies that student groups should explicitly include the word "student" in their title. This will require changing the names of the Hart House student-led committees (e.g. changing the Hart House Music Committee to the Hart House Student Music Committee). Any change to committee names requires an amendment to the Constitution, as each committee is named in this document. The motion to approve any change will first come before the Board of Stewards for approval before moving to the University Affairs Board for final approval.

The Warden then advised that other possible amendments under consideration include changing the term “senior member” to “community member” wherever it appears in the Constitution. “Senior” may be misunderstood to imply that such members must be elderly, or that they hold seniority of some sort over other categories of members.

The Warden then asked the members of the Board of Stewards for their general thoughts about these prospective changes.

NSC asked if Hart House would ever consider reverting the name of “Senior Members” back to “Alumni Members,” as they were called before the last amendment to the Constitution.

The Warden explained this would be a step backwards as Hart House wants *everybody* in the community to feel welcome, whether or not they graduated from UofT. This is important for both business reasons and equity reasons. If a non-student wants to join as member they should not be excluded based on their academic history.

Mussa Marashi stated he thought the change to “community member” is very positive as it removes any hierarchy and sounds better.

Senior Member Steward and a Co-Chair of the Senior Member Committee, Terese Pierre, added that members of the Committee have often been non-alumni or students in the past. The name “Senior” member can cause confusion when trying to recruit new members. Renaming the committee could alleviate some of the confusion.

Tyler Riches commented that it makes sense not to revert back to alumni. He is the first member of his family to come to university, and is supportive of making the committee more inclusive. “Senior Member” also evokes the sense of a hierarchy, which Hart House would want to avoid.

The Warden then asked if the Board of Stewards members had any input on the existing “Terms of Reference” document, a template that is used by all Standing Committees but adjusted based on the specificities of each Committee. The Warden added that a future amendment should include a focus on the tri-campus mandate and a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion within the Terms of Reference.

Matthew Lee echoed the importance of adding a clear equity and diversity policy. The Literary and Library Committee created their own clear equity and diversity policy this year in order to help inform Committee decisions.

The Warden indicated that Hart House will look at such “best practices” when proposing amendments to the House’s Terms of Reference document for Committees.

## **6. Other Business & Announcements**

The Chair then asked members of the Board of Stewards if they had any other business or announcements to present. There were none.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, via Zoom Video Conferencing.

## **8. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

---

Chair  
November 25, 2020

---

Recording Secretary

## **Appendices:**

Appendix A: UTMSU Presentation (Noha Farawi).

Appendix B: Hart House and UTM Presentation (Jessica Rayne).

Appendix C: Hart House Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee Presentation (Josh Allen)

Appendix D: Hart House Theatre Committee Presentation (Dhanya Dass)

Appendix E: Hart House Departmental Report (John Monahan)

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