

Minutes of the 1310th meeting of the Hart House Board of Stewards held on Thursday, December 3rd, 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 Newman (President [*ex-officio*] Designate)
Ms. Emily Jin (Steward, Art Committee)
Mr. Ian Browne (Steward, Farm 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. 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: Mr. Bradley Kulay (Program Assistant, Learning and Community)
Ms. Davina Chan (Senior Director, Marketing, Communications & Information Services)
Ms. Gillian Lewis (Education and Production Coordinator, Hart House Theatre)
Ms. Jenifer Newcombe (Director, Strategic Initiatives)
Ms. Michelle Brownrigg (Senior Director, Co-curricular Education)
Ms. Rebecca Gimmi (Exhibitions and Program Coordinator, Art Museum)
Ms. Sherry Kulman (Senior Director, Chief Administrative Officer)

Regrets: Ms. Danielle Karakas (GSU Appointee)
Mr. David Kim (Governing Council Appointee)
Ms. Dhanya Dass (Steward, Theatre Committee)
Mr. J. Luke Kim (Senior Member, RA&W Committee)
Ms. Martina Facchin (Steward, Social Justice 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 David Newman, seconded by Matthew Lee, and carried unanimously by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the December 3rd, 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.

One member of the Board of Stewards did not receive the minutes from the previous meeting, the Chair, therefore, agreed to return to the approval of the Minutes later in the meeting once this member had the opportunity to review the Minutes from the November meeting.

3. Hart House Elections Presentation

Amy Intrator introduced the Hart House Student Committee Election process in advance of the motion to approve the election process.

Student Chair elections at Hart House take place annually. The Chair of each Hart House student-led Standing Committee is elected each year through an election that is open for voting for members of all three University of Toronto campuses. The other positions on committees are nominated through different processes, typically a vote held within the Committee, but the Chair position is always decided by a tri-campus election.

The Elections Commission is a body that is created annually to oversee the election process. The body ensures that the process is as efficient and transparent as possible. The body is composed of the Chief Returning Officer, a position held by the Chair of the Board of Stewards; two Deputy Returning Officers, who must be student committee members who are not returning to the University of Toronto the next academic year (typically graduating students), and the Recording Secretary of the Board of Stewards provides administrative support. The Election Commission oversees the process to ensure that all students who are nominated are eligible to run for the Chair position, and to ensure there are no issues throughout the process.

AI then reviewed the timeline for the elections. Last year, the Board of Stewards approved moving the elections to earlier in the year so the Student Chairs were elected by the end of February, rather than the end of March. Moving this process earlier allows for more transition time between outgoing and incoming Chairs, which ensures that the necessary information is passed on from year-to-year. This change in the timeline means that nominations now open in January 2020, then campaigning takes place mid-February, and finally, voting takes place at the end of February and the successful

Chairs are informed.

The timeline for the Elections Commission closely mirrors the timeline for the election process. The Commission meets a total of three times: firstly to meet each other and identify expectations and processes (early Jan.), then to review the nominees once nominations close and ensure are nominees are eligible to run for the position of Chair (early Feb.), and finally, once the voting closes the Commission meets to ensure there were no issues with the process and to confirm the successful candidates (late Feb.).

The Board of Stewards' role in this process is to first create the Elections Commission (December 2020), then the Election Commission reports back to the Board to report on the results and voter turnout (March 2021). The voter turnout varies every year, but Hart House actively promotes the elections each year. Voting takes place online, but in past years, Hart House also has staff and students promote the elections in-person at all three campuses. This year, there will not be in-person promotion of the elections, due to the pandemic, but we will actively be promoting the elections online through a variety of platforms including social media networks.

Although elections are one way for student leaders to get involved at Hart House, there are many other opportunities including volunteering at the variety of events and programs organized by Hart House. AI invited anyone interested in becoming more involved to reach out directly, as there's something for everyone at Hart House.

For the full presentation, see Appendix A.

AI then opened the discussion to any questions. Tyler Riches asked how elections will be promoted online this year.

AI responded that it's not new in the sense that Hart House always does very active online outreach through their own networks as well as those networks of our partners on campus (e.g. Student Life), but Hart House will make a bigger push because we cannot be in-person promoting this year. Hart House Committees also promote the election through their own platforms and networks.

Michelle Brownrigg added that there is always a tri-campus engagement strategy for the elections, and though we cannot promote in-person on the three campuses, we can continue engaging students on all campuses through online outreach. Hart House is continuing to develop effective ways to engage students virtually. Student-to-student interactions are very important, and Hart House welcomes any input about how to better facilitate peer-to-peer engagement for the elections.

Ian Browne asked about the implications on committee make-up due to the pandemic. The Farm Committee has had a difficult time programming due to closures and the election comes fairly early in the term when activities tend to pick-up. He expressed that it might be challenging to nominate someone so early since the pandemic has limited activities. He asked if there is any support for Committee turnover during this time.

AI responded that Hart House will definitely consider these concerns but it's difficult to adjust the timeline since the academic term is set, and therefore a lot of the outgoing Chairs will be leaving at the end of the term, so it's important to still allow for transition time, even during this extraordinary

year.

MB added that she would encourage groups to have these conversations internally. Many groups have been very active during this time, even though the activities have been adapted due to the pandemic. Staff advisors are here to help Committees manage transitional issues during this time, as these needs vary from Committee to Committee.

The Warden added that the continuity piece is very important. Hart House is cautiously optimistic that we will return to some degree of normalcy in 2021-22, and we want to make sure we can begin activities and operations as smoothly as possible - including the work of our Committees – as soon as the new academic year begins on May 1, 2021. It is therefore important that incoming Committee leaders have an opportunity to overlap with the current year's leadership so that they are ready to "hit the ground running" on May 1.

TR added that the question of transition is facing student groups all across the University as few student groups have been able to host the same types of activities as those they would have conducted in a typical year. This means everyone will have to work harder and more intentionally to generate and to pass on institutional memory.

IB noted that the pandemic and its focus on virtual activities has made it more challenging for students to commit to active, year-long Committee membership.

4. Hart House Elections 2-Part Motion (John Monahan, Warden)*

The Warden then introduced the two-part election motion including the creation of the Elections Commission and establishing the dates of the election for 2021.

The Hart House Constitution sets out that these elections must take place before May 1st of each year, and further indicates that the election commission - comprised of the Chief Returning Officer (the Chair of the Board of Stewards) and two Deputy Returning Officers (two student members of committees who are not returning to the University the following year) - is appointed by the Board of Stewards each year,.

For the complete Motion, see Appendix B.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or discussion.

IB commented that he is concerned with the election moving forward on this timeline, due to the current pandemic situation, and opined that it would be better to hold the elections at a later date.

The Warden acknowledged IB's concern. He then noted that Hart House moved up the date for holding Chair elections from March to February last year in an effort to allow for more transition time between the current year's Chair and Committee and the next year's Chair and Committee. However, the Warden stressed that the sitting Chair of a Committee still has the same term of office, which runs from May 1 of one year until April 30 of the next.

MB added that the process of developing activity plans for committees has been a lot smoother since moving up the elections, as this ensures more transition time for the overall planning process for committees.

The following motion to approve the two-part election motion was made by Warden John Monahan, and seconded by Nicolas Sartor Campos, and carried by all present voting members of the Board of Stewards with one abstention:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Stewards approve the appointment of the 2021 Hart House Elections Commission to be comprised of the Chair of the Board of Stewards, who will serve as Chief Returning Officer, and two non-returning student members of Hart House Committees, to be recruited by the Chair, who will serve as Deputy Returning Officers.

And;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2021 Hart House Elections Commission hold University-wide elections to select the Student Committee Chairs for the 2021 – 2022 academic year before the end of February 2021.

2. Approval of the Minutes (*return to earlier agenda item*)

After confirming that all members of the Board had now had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the last meeting, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the Minutes.

The following motion to approve the Minutes of the previous Board of Stewards meeting was made by Josh Allen, and seconded by Terese Pierre. The vote carried with one abstention; no one was opposed:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 1309th meeting be approved as presented.

5. Committee Presentations

a. Art Committee (Emily Jin, Steward)

Emily Jin introduced herself as the Secretary and Steward of the Hart House Art Committee.

The Committee's mission is to provide students who are passionate and/or curious about art an opportunity to connect with Hart House and the city of Toronto's vibrant art scene. The mission is to foster a community that can explore and celebrate art together. The Committee works to foster in-house collaborations, support the tri-campus mandate, provide exposure to student artists, and host activities that include community engagement.

EJ then discussed the sub-committees of the Art Committee: Acquisitions, Education & Outreach,

and Arbor Room & Student Projects. Each sub-committee is led by two student co-chairs who are executive voting members, and each sub-committee includes non-voting members who assist with initiatives throughout the year.

The Acquisitions Sub-Committee will be completing the acquisitions process from the previous year that was delayed due to the pandemic, and then, in early 2021 the sub-committee will begin the acquisitions process for the current year. The process includes researching artists, presenting briefs, and making recommendations. The sub-committee provides great experience in research, writing, and the acquisitions process. The group typically organizes gallery tours, which cannot be in-person for the time being, but the group is organizing a virtual gallery tour for early 2021.

The Education and Outreach Sub-Committee is in charge of most of the Committee's events. So far this year, the Committee has hosted an Art Critique and Social (Oct. 2020), and next term, the Committee will host a Cultural Workshop (Jan. 2021), a CV or Grant Writing Workshop (Feb. 2021), and the ArtWork Conference (Mar. 2021).

The Arbor Room and Student Projects Committee organizes for the exhibition of student artwork in the Arbor Room space of Hart House. Since this space is currently under construction, artwork cannot be exhibited for the time being, but the sub-committee is upholding the spirit of this work by finding new ways to showcase student artwork. The sub-committee will be launching a Visual Art and Design Magazine to highlight the work of student artists and UofT. The group is also collaborating with the Literary and Library Committee to create a project where student artists and student writers create a joint pictorial and verbal narrative, which will be showcased virtually.

The "Student Art Sunday" campaign has been ongoing this term to showcase student artwork through the Art Committee's social media platforms. This has been a way to continue to celebrate student artwork in a digital environment. The Committee also has several upcoming collaborations with student groups and departments across the three campuses of the University.

For the full presentation, see Appendix C.

b. Music Committee (Tara Behruz, Steward)

Tara Behruz introduced herself as the Steward for the Music Committee. Diversity, exploration and engagement are values within the Hart House community that circulate within the Music Committee. The Committee is dedicated to creating space to gather, trade ideas and build connection for students with a shared love for music. The Committee is dedicated to engaging participants to find comfort in adverse times, which is especially relevant in pandemic times.

The Committee contributes to key areas including: education and networks; career development and mentoring; peer to peer engagement; and cultural and artistic exploration. One of the ways the Committee engages audiences is through *Demo Music Magazine*, which is written, edited, and designed by UofT students. The magazine engages the wider UofT community through its online presence and promotes professional and aspiring musicians. Other initiatives include *Open Mic Night*, panel discussions, and the *Tiny Desk Video Series* (beginning in Winter 2021).

One of the Hart House initiatives that intersects with Music Committee programming is the *Producers' Circle*, a drop-in co-curricular initiative that brings together beatmakers, producers, and music creators in an open space to share ideas and techniques. This program is a part of Hart House's Hip Hop Education programming. The Committee also collaborates with Hart House's Youth Access programming.

TB shared an audio clip of one of the beats produced by a student artist that was presented at the *Open Mic Night* event by one of the *Producers' Circle* creators.

The Committee has dreamed big but managed to be selective when choosing pursuits for 2021 to ensure that all initiatives are aligned with COVID-19 health protocols and the broader Hart House initiatives. The Committee has managed to foster innovation to create a supportive community thanks to the support of its members and the broader Hart House community.

For the full presentation, see Appendix D.

NSC asked for more information about the audio clip shared.

TB explained that the beat was shared at the *Open Mic Night*, which was held in collaboration with the Hart House *Producers' Circle* program. Many student performed at the event and exemplified student talent.

The Chair suggested that we could have some student-produced beats at Board of Stewards meetings.

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 (see Appendix E). 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. **Modified Services:** The Warden updated the Board about physical operations and activities at Hart House. On November 23rd, 2020, the provincial government introduced the "lockdown" phase for Toronto, which meant the closure of both the Fitness Centre and Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House.

The Student Spaces (e.g. Library, Reading Room, Map Room), remain open for pre-registered visits for students.

Virtual Hart House continues to grow and engage new audiences. From Apr. to Oct. 2020: 17,615 people viewed anytime programs and 13,293 people participated in live virtual programs.

- ii. **Budget Update:** Hart House continues to progress in the multi-step process to have our 2021-22 budget approved. The budget has been reviewed by the University's CFO, and

reviewed by the Hart House Finance Committee. The next step will be the Finance Committee vote on Jan. 5, 2021, and then the Board of Stewards vote on Jan. 7, 2021. These two initial votes will be essential to continuing the approval process. The budget will later be presented to the Service Ancillaries Review Group (SARG), and the Council of Student Services (COSS).

Board of Stewards members can attend budget workshops on Dec. 9 (10am – 12pm) or Dec. 10 (2pm – 4pm) to learn more about the budget in advance of the vote on the budget at the Jan. 7 Board of Stewards meeting.

- iii. **Winter Break Programming at Virtual Hart House:** *Virtual Hart House* programming will continue throughout the break with a special offering of both live virtual programs and anytime virtual programs. Examples of winter break programming include *Get Crafty* activities, fitness classes, podcasts, a wellness panel, board game cafes, and more.
- iv. **Access and Outreach:** Hart House continues to grow its youth access programming to engage youth from local communities and help provide connections to a post-secondary environment. Two partnered programs that have grown this year include *BEE: The Brotherhood of Ethnic Excellence*, a program that builds stronger connections between UofT and Black young men in grades 9-12, and *iBEAM (Institute of Biomedical Education and Me)*, a program that is designed to spark interest in science for students in grades 7 and 8.
- v. **Good Ideas Fund:** Every year, Hart House accepts submissions from students for new initiatives and events that will enhance the on-campus experience of other students. For 2020-21, eleven projects have been awarded funding, plus three projects which deferred funding in Spring 2020. Examples of funded projects this year include *Migrant Justice in Times of Global Change*; *First Aid Awareness Initiative*; *Art Therapy for Clinical and Non-Clinical Groups*; and *Anti-Oppression for Artists & Cultural Producers Training*.
- vi. **Announcement: Pillar Sponsorship:** Hart House has been approved to receive a 2021 Pillar Sponsorship, valued at \$8000, to support the work of *Well Being Collective* programs. The *Well Being Collective* seeks to explore wellness while centring and highlighting the experiences and practices of Indigenous, Black and Racialized students as well as those of the greater community. Programming includes outdoor walking tours, podcasts, online workshops, and so much more. Find out more [here](#).
- vii. **University Update - Call for Student Advisory Committee Applications: Mental Health for Students and Youth Research Initiative (Deadline: January 11, 2021):** The University has extended their Call for Applications, which seeks a minimum of 6 students representing each of the 3 UofT campuses, who are experts in youth and/or student mental health. This advisory committee will support the development of a network focused on research-informed, evidence-based solutions to the challenges identified by U of T's Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health. For more information, visit the website of [Institutional Strategic Initiatives](#).

- viii. **Tri-campus National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women:** On Dec. 4, Hart House will be hosting the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in partnership with the UofT Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre and the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.
- Dec. 6 marks the anniversary of the murder of 14 women engineering students at *l'École Polytechnique de Montréal* in 1989. The virtual event will be an opportunity to join the UofT community in commemorating the national tragedy and reflecting on the many ways all women continue to experience gender-based violence.
- ix. **Next Meeting:** The next Board of Stewards meeting will include important orders of business including a discussion and motion on the 2021-22 budget and two motions for constitutional amendments to revise the names of Hart House Standing Committees. It will be important to achieve quorum at this meeting to vote on these important motions.
- x. **Announcement:** In honour of the students of the University and the good work done this year by the Board of Stewards, Hart House will be making a donation to address food insecurity across all three University of Toronto campuses. The donation will be divided among food banks serving students at UTSG, UTM, and UTSC.
- xi. **Thank You:** The Warden concluded by thanking the members of the Board of Stewards for their contributions in 2020 and noted that he looks forward to working with everyone in the year ahead.

For the full presentation, see Appendix F.

7. 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 no announcements presented.

8. Next Meeting

The next Board of Stewards meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th, 2021, via Zoom Video Conferencing.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Riches seconded by Ian Brown.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Chair
December 15, 2020

Recording Secretary

Appendices:

Appendix A: Hart House Elections Presentation (Amy Intrator).

Appendix B: Hart House Elections 2-Part Motion (John Monahan).

Appendix C: Hart House Art Committee Presentation (Emily Jin).

Appendix D: Hart House Music Committee Presentation (Tara Behruz).

Appendix E: Hart House Departmental Report (John Monahan)

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