

February 28, 2012

Proposed revisions to the

CONSTITUTION

HART HOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE BOARD OF STEWARDS OF HART HOUSE

*University Affairs Board of Governing Council
University of Toronto
February 8, 1994
Amended March 27, 2001*

I INTRODUCTION

1. In accepting the gift of Hart House from the Massey Foundation, the University of Toronto affirmed its belief that it regards education as more than the mastery of a particular discipline of study. The University accepted the House, and has preserved it, as an integral part of its educational programme. The vibrant life of the House since 1919 has proven the University's conviction that there is much to learn that cannot be taught in the formal course and that students, staff and faculty and alumni can learn from each other when they meet as equals in pursuit of common interests.

The Nature and Purpose of Hart House and its Relation to the University of Toronto

Hart House is a unique focus for the union of the University's academic, spiritual, athletic and social elements in the pursuit of a truly humane education through informal learning. Its administration and institutional structures foster among its members cooperation and mutual respect as they pursue a common good. The House strives to answer in each generation the Prayer of the Founders acknowledged by the University of Toronto in the Deed of Gift, May, 1920.

That Hart House, under the guidance of its Warden, may serve in the generations to come the highest interests of this University by drawing into a common fellowship the members of the several Colleges and Faculties, and by gathering into a true society the teacher and the student, the graduate and the undergraduate; further, that the members of Hart House may discover within its walls the true education that is to be found in good fellowship, in friendly disputation and debate, in the conversation of (the) wise and earnest...., in music, pictures and the play, in the casual book, in sports and games and the mastery of the body; and lastly, that just as in the days of war this House was devoted to the training in arms of the young soldier, so in the time of peace its halls may be dedicated to the task of arming youth with strength and suppleness of limb, with clarity of mind and depth of understanding, and with a spirit of true religion and high endeavour.

[In 2011, the Board of Stewards approved a Vision Statement for Hart House:](#)

[Hart House is a living laboratory of social, artistic, cultural and recreational experiences where all voices, rhythms and traditions converge. As the vibrant home for the education of the mind, body and spirit envisioned by its founders, Hart House encourages and supports activities that provides spaces for awakening the capacity for self-knowledge and self-expression.](#)

2. Hart House has a strong history of achievement in responsible self-governance. It is built upon the cooperation of the Warden and the Board of Stewards, the staff and the membership, and the committees and clubs of the House. The Hart House traditions of mutual respect, trust, civility, and responsibility aim to create

a humane atmosphere. Such an atmosphere forms an essential context for the educational experience which the Massey Foundation and the University intended Hart House to provide.

3. Hart House forms part of the property of the University of Toronto and as such is, like other property of the University, under the supervision of the properly constituted ~~governing~~ authority of the ~~University of Toronto, the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.~~

II MEMBERSHIP

4. Hart House is an association of members. There are two kinds of members of the House - the University of Toronto Student Members, and Senior Members. The Senior Member is a person who elects to join Hart House. The University of Toronto Student - whether full or part-time, graduate or undergraduate - is a Hart House member automatically.

Classifications of Members of Hart House

The following are eligible for Senior Member status in Hart House, with privileges and fees to be set from time to time by the Board of Stewards.

Senior Member Eligibility

- a. Alumni of the University of Toronto.
- b. Staff and Faculty of the University of Toronto and its federated and affiliated bodies.
- c. Alumni of Other Recognized Universities, subject to criteria established by the Board of Stewards.
- d. Other individuals who the Board of Stewards may wish to recognize in categories it may approve from time to time.

The Board of Stewards should review the categories and policies for membership from time to time.

Rights, Privileges and Obligations of the Members

5. Members of Hart House who are in good standing shall be entitled to the full use and enjoyment of the House, its activities and its facilities, consistent with level of privileges.

6. Members of Hart House shall abide by the Constitution, policies and rules of Hart House, as well as University of Toronto policies on conduct. ~~Failure to do so on the part of a member will render him or her liable to disciplinary actions set out in Section 17, below.~~Failure to do so on the part of a member will render him or her liable to disciplinary actions, according to procedures as established by the Board of Stewards, in accordance with University of Toronto policies and practices. The Board of Stewards shall review these policies, rules and procedures regularly and update them as necessary.

7. Members shall be renewed annually upon the payment of the requisite membership fee in accordance with Section 15, below.

III GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF HART HOUSE

8. Subject to the authority of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, the ~~direction, management and~~ governance of Hart House shall be delegated to a body known as the Board of Stewards.

These oversight responsibilities will be exercised in accordance with principles, mandates and expectations of governance within the University of Toronto as approved by the Governing Council from time to time.¹ The Board may also establish its own guidelines that would be consistent with these standards and taking into account the unique nature of Hart House.

As a governing body, the Board of Stewards is expected to:

- a. Consider for approval specific policies, plans or projects according to established procedures;
- b. Monitor the quality and substance of the House's administration and its decision-making through reports to the Board or its committees; and
- a.c. Advise on initiatives proposed by the ~~Warden administration of the~~ House.

***Membership of the
Board of Stewards***

The Board of Stewards may exercise its responsibilities for particular matters itself, reserving final decision-making authority, or it may delegate initial review and final decision-making to various of its committees.

9. The following shall be members of the Board of Stewards:
 - a) The President of the University (*ex officio*) or his or her designate
 - b) The Warden of Hart House, (*ex officio*)
 - c) An appointee of the Governing Council
 - d) Two appointees of the President of the University
 - e) The Chair of the ~~Graduate Alumni~~ Committee (*ex officio*)
 - f) An appointee of the Association of Part Time Undergraduate Students
 - g) An appointee of the Graduate Students' Union
 - h) An appointee of the Students' Administrative Council (operating as the University of Toronto Students' Union)

¹ On October 28, 2010, the Governing Council approved three documents – Principles of Good Governance, Mandate of Governance, and Expectations and Attributes of Governors and Key Principles of Ethical Conduct – that form the basis of the Governing Council's governance practices.

- i) A student member of the Finance Committee (to be chosen by said committee)
- j) The Student Secretaries (*ex-officio*) of the Art, Debates, Farm, House, ~~*Literary & Library~~, Music, Recreational Athletics, Social Justice, ~~*U of T at Scarborough~~ and Theatre Committees, and any other Standing Committees as may be constituted by the Board of Stewards (to be elected by and from the membership of their respective committees)
- k) A student representative of the University of Toronto Scarborough- Students' Union
- l) A student representative from the University of Toronto ~~at~~ Mississauga Students' Union
- m) A Senior Member (to be elected by and from the membership of the Recreational Athletics Committee)

Members of the Board of Stewards shall act with diligence, honestly and with good faith in the best interests of Hart House in the University of Toronto. From time to time, the Board may establish particular expectations for its members in relation to the conduct of their duties. Such expectations would be in accordance with the University's governance principles and practices.

Powers and Duties of the Board of Stewards

Elections

10. All appointments and elections to the Board shall take effect at the beginning of each fiscal year, May 1st. The Board of Stewards shall prescribe the method of all elections or appointments in Hart House, for designated Board, Committee and Club positions.

Chair

11. The Board of Stewards upon the recommendation of the Warden shall appoint a person to be Chair for the Board of Stewards meetings subject to terms and conditions to be agreed with the person, and within such regulations as may be enacted by the Board of Stewards. This Chair ~~person~~ must be a member of Hart House but shall not be a chair or secretary of any Hart House club or committee. When no such Chair is in place, the Warden or a Steward shall chair.

Quorum

12. Quorum for the meetings of the Board of Stewards shall be eight members with a minimum of five student members in attendance.

Meetings

13. The Board of Stewards shall enact rules concerning the calling of its own meetings, and the procedures to be followed thereat.

Finance

14. The Board of Stewards shall recommend an annual Operating Plan and Budget for approval by the Governing Council of the University.

Fees

15. Subject to the approval of the annual Operating Plan and Budget by the Governing Council, the Board of Stewards shall establish the schedule of fees for the various classifications of memberships and privileges in the House. Where student fee changes are proposed, public notice of reasonable duration

to the University community is required.

Use of Space

16. The Board of Stewards ~~upon receiving the recommendations of appropriate committees,~~ shall ~~set~~ approve policy respecting the use and allotment of all rooms and space in Hart House, and all House facilities and conveniences.

17. The Board of Stewards shall have disciplinary authority over its members insofar as the use of the facilities and participation in the programs of Hart House are concerned. ~~From time to time, the Board shall establish disciplinary processes in accordance with University of Toronto policies and practices regarding such matters. These policies and practices shall be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary.~~

Discipline

18. The Board of Stewards may appoint special committees to carry out certain tasks, and shall prescribe the method of appointment of members to such committees and their duties and powers.

19. The Board of Stewards may appoint Standing Committees for areas including but not limited to Art, Debates, Farm, Finance, ~~Graduates Alumni~~, House, ~~*Literary &—and~~ Library, Music, Recreational Athletics, ~~U of T at Scarborough~~ Social Justice, and Theatre. The Board may also abolish Standing Committees.

Committees and Clubs

20. The Board of Stewards may recognize members of Hart House who have organized into groups or clubs, as Hart House Clubs according to criteria established by the Board. The Board shall prescribe the rights, responsibilities, activities and accountabilities of all such clubs. No group or club may use the name or logos of Hart House for its publicity unless the group or club is recognized by the Board of Stewards.

The Board shall maintain a listing of recognized Hart House Clubs, and shall review this list annually as part of its Operating Plan and Budget approval process. The Board shall have the power to remove recognition and ~~de-list~~ remove groups from the list ~~groups~~ according to criteria to be set from time to time.

* ~~amendments subject to approval by University Affairs Board~~

21. The Board of Stewards upon the approval of two-thirds of members present at any meeting, may recommend an amendment to the Constitution of the Board of Stewards of Hart House, to the Governing Council of the University. At least fourteen days notice shall be given to the Board of Stewards of any proposed amendment.
22. There shall be a ~~Chief Executive Administrative~~ Officer of Hart House, who shall be known as the Warden and appointed in a manner prescribed by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the President of the University. The Warden reports directly to the Vice-President and Provost or his/her designate. While the Warden may elect to delegate authority to other administrators in Hart House, he/she must retain responsibility for the overall direction of the House, and in particular for authority over the budget, appointments and promotions. The Warden shall consult with the members of the Board of Stewards on matters of policy and practice, but is ultimately responsible for all administrative decisions that are within his/her jurisdiction and authority, and the general supervision over the direction of the operations and activities of Hart House.
23. ~~The Warden shall be responsible for the general supervision over and direction of the operations and activities of Hart House and for the appointment and supervision of officers and staff, and the guidance and administration of Hart House.~~