

**FOR APPROVAL****PUBLIC****OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** University Affairs Board

**SPONSOR:** Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students

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**PRESENTER:** John Monahan, Warden, Hart House

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**DATE:** May 18, 2016 for May 25, 2016

**AGENDA ITEM:** 3

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Hart House Constitution: Revisions

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Hart House Constitution provides that the Board of Stewards may recommend amendments to the Governing Council.

Section 5.1.3. (c) of the *University Affairs Board Terms of Reference* notes that “The Board approves the Constitution of Hart House.”

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. **University Affairs Board (May 25, 2016) [For Approval]**
2. Governing Council (June 23, 2016) [For Information]

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The Constitution of the Board of Stewards of Hart House was first approved by the University Affairs Board on February 8, 1994. Subsequent revisions to the Constitution were approved by the University Affairs Board on March 27, 2001, January 18, 2005, and April 17, 2012. The proposed amendments were approved by the Hart House Board of Stewards on April 7, 2016 (documentation attached).

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The revised constitution expands the definition of “Senior Members” of Hart House (i.e. those members aged 18 or over, who are not U of T Student Members, and who have paid the requisite membership fees) to include those who are not alumni of a recognized university. The revision is intended to expand Hart House’s membership, promote

principles of equity, and enhance the diversity of membership to build and strengthen community.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications for the University's operating budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the University Affairs Board approve:

THAT the amended Hart House Constitution of the Board of Stewards, which was approved by the Board of Stewards on April 7, 2016, be approved.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Board of Stewards Agenda Item re. Hart House Constitution  
Proposed Revisions to the Hart House Constitution

TO: Hart House Board of Stewards  
FROM: Warden John Monahan  
FOR: Meeting of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
AGENDA ITEM: 3a

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### **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Motion on the Amendment of the Constitution to expand Senior Member eligibility criteria.

**SPONSOR:** *Warden John Monahan*

### **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Section II.4 of the Hart House Constitution currently reads as follows:

## **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 Member - whether full or part-time, graduate or undergraduate - is a Hart House member automatically.

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.

- 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.

The Board of Stewards may recommend an amendment to the constitution upon the approval of two-thirds of members present at any meeting as per section III.21 of the Constitution.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The Constitution was amended on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994 to expand Senior Membership eligibility from faculty, staff and alumni of the University of Toronto alone to include alumni of other recognized universities, as well as other individuals who the Board of Stewards may wish to recognize in categories it may approve from time to time.

At its meeting of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Board of Stewards discussed the possibility of expanding the Senior Member eligibility criteria to include those persons who are not alumni of a recognized university.

The Board was notified of the proposed constitutional amendment on January 7<sup>th</sup>, fourteen days in advance of this motion.

**ACTION SOUGHT:**

Be it resolved that the Board of Stewards amend section 11.4 of the Constitution of Hart House to read as follows:

**II.4** Hart House is an association of Members. There are two kinds of Members of the House - University of Toronto Student Members, and Senior Members. The Senior Member is a person who elects to join Hart House. All registered University of Toronto students are automatically University of Toronto Student Members of Hart House if they have been charged and have paid the requisite compulsory non-academic incidental fees.

Senior Members of Hart House shall be those Members aged 18 or over who are not University of Toronto Student Members and who have paid the requisite membership fees.

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

**RATIONALE:**

1. It has long been the practice of Hart House not to enforce the requirement that Senior Members of the House prove themselves to be university alumni. This approval of this Motion would bring the text of the House's Constitution into line with its existing practice.
2. The proposed Motion could help to expand the pool of individuals who will seek out membership in Hart House, with attendant potential benefits to the House's operating revenues.
3. Particularly at a time when the University as a whole and Hart House in particular are making great effort to provide a more supportive and inclusive environment to students of all backgrounds and experiences, including those students who may be the first members of their families to attend university, it appears exclusionary and elitist to restrict membership in Hart House to people who have attended this or any other university.
4. Encountering and navigating differences among people are extremely beneficial to building and strengthening communities. All members of Hart House will benefit from

a more diversified population engaged with the activities of the House.

5. Clarifying the qualifications for University of Toronto Student Members of Hart House is a means of ensuring equitable access to Hart House for registered University of Toronto students based on their payment of compulsory non-academic incidental fees.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There would be no direct financial implications associated with this recommended change. However, as noted above, formalizing and publicizing the practice of welcoming Senior Members from all corners of the broader community could help, in the longer run, to enhance Hart House's success in expanding the size of its fees-paying membership.

**FUTURE ACTION NEEDED:**

The amendment of the Constitution of Hart House will need to be approved by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

Proposed Revisions to:  
**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*  
*Amended March 15, 2012*  
*Proposed Amendment: May 25, 2016*

## 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 provide 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 authority of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

## II MEMBERSHIP

4. Hart House is an association of ~~Members, members.~~ There are two kinds of ~~Members, 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. All registered University of Toronto students are automatically.~~ ~~The University of Toronto Student Members of~~ ~~whether full or part time, graduate or undergraduate~~ ~~is a Hart House if they have been charged and have paid the requisite compulsory non-academic incidental fees~~ ~~member automatically.~~

*Classifications of Members of Hart House*

*Senior Member Eligibility*

~~The following are eligible for Senior Members of Member status in Hart House shall, with privileges and fees to be those Members aged 18 or over who are not set from time to time by the Board of Stewards.~~

- ~~a. Alumni of the University of Toronto.~~
- ~~b. Staff and Faculty of the University of Toronto Student Members and who have paid its federated and affiliated bodies.~~
- ~~c. Alumni of Other Recognized Universities, subject to criteria established by the requisite membership fees 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, 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 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.<sup>1</sup> 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
- c. Advise on initiatives proposed by the Warden .

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.

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

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 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)

- 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 and Library, Music, Recreational Athletics, Social Justice 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 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***

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.

***Elections***

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 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.

***Chair***

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

***Quorum***

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

***Meetings***

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

***Finance***

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.

***Fees***

16. The Board of Stewards shall approve policy respecting the use and allotment of all rooms and space in Hart House, and all House facilities and conveniences.

*Use of Space*

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. 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.

*Committees and Clubs*

19. The Board of Stewards may appoint Standing Committees for areas including but not limited to Art, Debates, Farm, Finance, Alumni, House, Literary and Library, Music, Recreational Athletics, Social Justice, and Theatre. The Board may also abolish Standing Committees.

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 remove groups from the list according to criteria to be set from time to time.

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 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.

**Warden**

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<sup>1</sup> 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.