



**TO:** University Affairs Board

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

**CONTACT INFO:** Phone (416) 978-3870 / Email [vp.students@utoronto.ca](mailto:vp.students@utoronto.ca)

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

**CONTACT INFO:** Phone (416) 978-2436 / Email [john.monahan@utoronto.ca](mailto:john.monahan@utoronto.ca)

**DATE:** April 15, 2021 for April 22, 2021

**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 (April 22, 2021) [For Approval]**
2. Governing Council [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; April 17, 2012; May 25, 2016; and March 6, 2017.

The Hart House Board of Stewards (“Board”) was consulted on these possible changes at its November 5, 2020 meeting. The Board was then provided with formal notice of the forthcoming changes at its December 3, 2020 meeting, thus fulfilling the fourteen-day requirement for notice of Hart House constitutional changes. The proposed amendments were ultimately voted upon and approved unanimously by the Hart House Board of Stewards on January 7, 2021 (documentation attached).

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed revisions can be divided into two different categories, that were approved by the Hart House Board of Stewards in two separate motions:

**1) Changing the name of the “Senior Members Committee” to the “Community Members Committee” and replacing all reference to “senior member(s)” to “community member(s).”**

This change aligns with the Committee’s aim of reaching a broader community beyond University of Toronto. The word “senior” has also proven to have unintended connotations, including the assumption that “senior” means elderly, or that this category of membership is more highly valued than non-senior members. This change will help clear confusion while encouraging a broader demographic to engage as community members of Hart House.

**2) Changing the name of student-led Hart House Standing Committees to include “student” in their title.**

This change aligns with the University’s recently revised *Policy on Recognition of Student Groups*. Although Hart House student groups are not subject to this policy, by changing the names of student-led Hart House Standing Committees, Hart House will align with the spirit of the policy. Adding “student” to the name of the seven (7) Hart House student-led Standing Committees will recognize student leadership and help differentiate this programming from staff-led work. The three (3) Hart House Standing Committees exempt from this change would be the Senior Members Committee (i.e., “Community Members Committee”), the Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee, and the Finance Committee, as all three of these groups include a mix of both students and community members.

## **FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the amended Hart House Constitution of the Board of Stewards, which was approved by the Board of Stewards on January 7, 2021 be approved, effective July 1, 2021.

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## **DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Board of Stewards Two (2) Agenda Items Re: Hart House Constitution Proposed Revisions to the Hart House Constitution

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  
Amended May 25, 2016  
Amended March 6, 2017  
Amended April 22, 2021*

## 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. There are two kinds of members of the House - the University of Toronto Student Members, and Community Members. The Community 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.

### ***Classifications of Members of Hart House***

Community 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.

### ***Community Member Eligibility***

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

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.

### ***Rights, Privileges and Obligations of the Members***

## **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.

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 Community Members 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) The Student Stewards (*ex-officio*) of the Hart House Student Art Committee, Hart House Student Debates and Dialogue Committee, Hart House Student Farm Committee, Hart House Finance Committee, Hart House Student Literary and Library Committee, Hart House Student Music Committee, Hart House Recreational Athletics and Wellness Committee, Hart House Student Social Justice Committee, and Hart House Student Theatre Committee, 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)
  - j) A student representative of the University of Toronto Scarborough Students' Union
  - k) A student representative from the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union
  - l) A Community Member (to be elected by and from the membership of the Recreational Athletics Committee)

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

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

***Powers and Duties of  
the Board of Stewards***

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.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 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.   | <i><b>Elections</b></i>            |
| 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. | <i><b>Chair</b></i>                |
| 12. Quorum for the meetings of the Board of Stewards shall be eight members with a minimum of five student members in attendance.   | <i><b>Quorum</b></i>               |
| 13. The Board of Stewards shall enact rules concerning the calling of its own meetings, and the procedures to be followed thereat.  | <i><b>Meetings</b></i>             |
| 14. The Board of Stewards shall recommend an annual Operating Plan and Budget for approval by the Governing Council of the University.  | <i><b>Finance</b></i>              |
| 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.  | <i><b>Fees</b></i>                 |
| 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.  | <i><b>Use of Space</b></i>         |
| 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.  | <i><b>Discipline</b></i>           |
| 18. The Board of Stewards may appoint special committees to carry out certain tasks,  | <i><b>Committees and Clubs</b></i> |

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 and Dialogue, Farm, Finance, Literary and Library, Music, Recreational Athletics and Wellness, Community Members, 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.



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

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***Powers and Duties of the Board of Stewards***

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*Quorum*

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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*

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*Committees and Clubs*

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#### *Warden*

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TO: Hart House Board of Stewards  
FROM: Warden John Monahan  
FOR: Meeting of January 7, 2021  
AGENDA ITEM: 3(a)

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**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Motion on the Amendment of the Constitution to change the name of the “Senior Members Committee” to “Community Member Committee” and replace all instances of “senior member” with “community member.”

**SPONSOR:** *Warden John Monahan*

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

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

*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.*

Section III.9 (Membership of the Board of Stewards) and Section III.19 (Committees and Clubs) both list the “Senior Members Committee.”

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The Constitution was amended on March 6, 2017, to expand the Senior Member eligibility criteria. The amendment removed the previous requirement that a Senior Member had to be a university alumnus. The change allowed for a broader group of individuals to purchase memberships and fostered a more inclusive environment where membership was no longer determined by an individual’s level of education.

**ACTION SOUGHT:**

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards amend the Constitution of Hart House to replace all instances of “Senior Member(s)” with “Community Member(s)” and replace all reference to the “Senior Members Committee” to the “Community Members Committee.”*

**RATIONALE:**

1. The mandate of the current Senior Members Committee includes reaching out to the broader community beyond the University of Toronto to attract new members and engage new audiences. Thus, a Committee name that includes specific reference to “Community” is appropriate.
2. The term “Senior member” has had unintended connotations. Some assume such members must be elderly, which dissuades younger adults from purchasing memberships at Hart House. Some others assume that “senior members” are valued more highly by Hart House than non-senior members (i.e., students). Neither of these assumptions is correct.
3. The Senior Members Committee is making great strides to engage a younger cohort and plan more inclusive activities. The proposed name change will align with the Committee’s ongoing efforts to diversify the demographics of its membership and of those individuals who participate in its activities.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None, although it is hoped that this name change will result in more non-senior community members purchasing Hart House memberships.

**FUTURE ACTION NEEDED:**

Any amendment of the Constitution of Hart House must be approved by the University Affairs Board of the University of Toronto.



TO: Hart House Board of Stewards  
FROM: Warden John Monahan  
FOR: Meeting of January 7, 2021  
AGENDA ITEM: 3(b)

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**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Motion on the Amendment of the Constitution to change the name of student-led Standing Committees to include the word “student” in their titles.

**SPONSOR:** *Warden John Monahan*

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Section III.19 (Committees and Clubs) reads as follows:

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

Section III.9.j (Membership of the Board of Stewards) lists the following Standing Committees:

*The Student Stewards (ex-officio) of the Art, Debates and Dialogue, Farm, Finance, House, Literary and Library, Music, Recreational Athletics and Wellness, 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).*

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

In Spring 2020, the University Affairs Board approved a proposed revision to the University’s *Policy on Recognition of Campus Groups*, now renamed the *Policy on Recognition of Student Groups* (“Policy”). This revision requires recognized student groups on campus to include “Student Group” in their name if they are also using the University of Toronto in the name of their group. While Hart House Committees are not subject to this Policy, the present motion is intended to align with the spirit of that revision.

**ACTION SOUGHT:**

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Stewards amend the Constitution of Hart House to effect the following changes in the names of the following standing committees:*

- *The Hart House Art Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Art Committee;*

- *The Hart House Debates & Dialogue Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Debates & Dialogue Committee;*
- *The Hart House Farm Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Farm Committee;*
- *The Hart House Literary & Library Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Literary & Library Committee;*
- *The Hart House Music Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Music Committee;*
- *The Hart House Social Justice Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Social Justice Committee; and*
- *The Hart House Theatre Committee to be renamed the Hart House Student Theatre Committee.*

**RATIONALE:**

1. Although Hart House is not obligated to change student-led Committee names, as Hart House groups are not subject to the new *Policy on Recognition of Student Groups*, Hart House seeks to align with the spirit of that Policy.
2. Such a change would provide better recognition of student-led groups at Hart House for the work that they do and for the leadership they demonstrate. It will also better differentiate their programming efforts from those led by Hart House staff.
3. This name change could help to attract more students to serve on or otherwise engage with the work of these Committees.
4. *Note:* The following Committee names will not be amended, as their memberships are a mix of both students and community members: Hart House Finance Committee, Hart House Recreational Athletics & Wellness Committee, and the Hart House Senior (i.e., “Community”) Members Committee.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

**FUTURE ACTION NEEDED:**

This proposed amendment of the Constitution of Hart House will need to be approved by the University Affairs Board of the University of Toronto.