

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION OF ALUMNI IN SINGAPORE
("HUAAS" OR THE "CLUB")
UEN T15SS0208H**

Society Registered in Singapore
**A/K/A HARVARD CLUB OF SINGAPORE
MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023 AT 6.30 HOURS**

PRESENT:

Committee members:

1. Rebecca Woo, COL AB '89 - President, Chair of the Meeting
2. Titus Yong, HGSE EdM '03 - Vice President
3. Welly Tanton, COL AB '96 - Treasurer
4. En-Ming Ong, COL AB '11 - Secretary
5. Andrew Nai, HBS GMP '14
6. Kamal Karmakar, HBS OPM '08 (by zoom)
7. Benjamin Goh, HKS MPP '17
8. Gerald Tan, HBS GMP '21
9. Nara Nahm, COL AB '92 - Secretary of the Meeting

Honorary Auditor:

1. Stephen Jacob, HKS MPP '00

Members:

As set out in the attendance records maintained by the Club

1. Call to Order

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Meeting to order at 6.36pm.

2. Announcement of elections/ presentation of the new committee

The Chair presented the outcome of the Committee election as follows:

- President: Welly Tanton, COL AB '96 (newly elected)
- Vice President: Titus Yong, GSE EdM '03
- Treasurer: Benjamin Goh, HKS MPP '17 (newly co-opted)
- Secretary: Nara Nahm, COL AB '92 (newly elected)
- 5 Ordinary Committee Members:
 - Andrew Nai, HBS GMP '14
 - Gerald Tan, HBS GMP '21
 - Kamal Karmakar, HBS OPM '08 (newly elected)

- Yong Han Poh, COL AB '20 (newly elected)
- to be announced

Under the Constitution, the Committee must co-opt a replacement for any Committee member who retires before the end of his or her term.

The Chair said that since the newly-elected President, Ms. Welly Tantonio, had one year remaining in her term as Treasurer, the Committee needed to co-opt a new Treasurer to complete her term (ending in 2024). Mr. Benjamin Goh, who won a place in the election to be an Ordinary Committee Member, has been co-opted as the new Treasurer (term ending in 2024).

The Chair announced that the Committee planned to co-opt a new Ordinary Committee Member soon.

3. Report of Activities 2022/2023

For the period April 2022 to February 2023, the Chair said the Club averaged at least one in-person event per month.

The events included joint events with other university alumni groups and with other Harvard groups. The events included hikes, sports gatherings and arts activities, the Club's signature IDEAS lunches, and participation in HAA's global events Welcome to Your City and Global Networking Night.

In 2022, 22 schools participated in the Club's essay contest, which was started in 2021.

An event highlight was the Annual Dinner with DPM Lawrence Wong, the Club's first large-scale gathering since 2019, with 150 attendees.

The Club has approximately 190 members, including 25 with dual membership with the HBS Club of Singapore.

4. Key Highlights of 2022/23 Financials

The Treasurer presented the key points from the Club's financial statements for the year ended and as at 31 December 2022. The Club's cash balance was S\$58,917 at year end.

The Treasurer also highlighted that member dues received were S\$21,625, which represented a year-on-year increase of S\$10,225, due to the increase in lifetime memberships and general increase in members after the lifting of COVID-19 limits.

The Treasurer stated that most of the Club's revenues came from the Annual Dinner; the takings from this year's Annual Dinner were significantly lower than in some past years in which annual dinners were sponsored.

The increase in expenses was mainly due to spend for IT, since the Club has now digitalized. The IT Committee is headed by Mr. Kamal Karmakar and includes Mr. Benjamin Goh and Mr. En-Ming Ong.

5. Resolutions

The voting was conducted by poll of the members who were present in person and via zoom; the voting also included the votes of two members who delivered proxy forms prior to the deadline.

The Treasurer presented the resolutions.

- A. Resolution 1 - *To confirm the minutes from the Club's 2022 AGM*
 - a. Approved by majority vote
- B. Resolution 2 - *To elect Mr. Stephen Jacob and Mr. Arthur Lang as the Club's Honorary Auditors for FY2023*
 - a. Approved by majority vote
- C. Resolution 3 - *To ratify and approve the annual fee of S\$150 to belong as a dual member of the Club and the Harvard Business School Club of Singapore ("HBS Club")*
 - a. Approved by majority vote
 - b. The Treasurer noted that the dual membership had been instituted in 2022, but that the Club had forgotten to seek approval from the members at the time.
 - c. Mr. Stephen Jacob asked if there is lifetime dual membership with the HBS Club.
 - i. The Treasurer responded no, given the large difference between the lifetime membership fees for the two clubs (S\$5,000 for HBS Club lifetime membership).
- D. Resolution 4 - *To approve an increase in the fee to become a Life Member (as defined in Article 4.2.3 of the Constitution), from S\$1,000 to S\$3,000, effective May 1, 2023. Such lifetime membership fee shall be a one-off payment.*
 - a. Approved by majority vote
 - b. The Treasurer noted that the current fee of S\$1,000 is not sustainable for the long term. The HBS Club charges S\$5,000 to be a lifetime member. The proposal was designed to generate stable, recurring revenue through interest income. The Treasurer mentioned that, at some point, the Committee would like to hire an administrative staff person.
 - c. Ms. Yong Han Poh asked if it would be possible to have a financial model that does not require such a high level of commitment, such as a donation model. Ms. Poh said the S\$3,000 price might alienate many people.
 - i. The Chair replied that she understood Ms. Poh's point of view, but regular membership still exists, and lifetime membership is suited to someone who is comfortable with that decision.

- d. Ms. Poh then asked if the Committee thinks that the price of membership might be a reason that many alumni do not join the Club.
 - i. The Chair replied that most clubs would not say that lifetime membership is aimed at its main pool of members. Many of the Club's events do not exclude non-Club members, although members might get priority where seating is limited. S\$100 for membership is not considered egregious by global standards.
 - ii. The Secretary also commented that most Club events are not exclusive to Club members.
 - iii. The Treasurer added that the Club offers discounted membership to young Harvard College alumni, for their first five years after graduation.
- E. Resolution 5 - *To approve proposed amendments to the Constitution (as set forth in [Appendix A](#) to the Notice of AGM, dated 12 March 2023, as amended)*
 - a. Approved by over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the voting members present in-person at the Meeting (as required for any amendment to the Constitution, under Article 14.1 of the Constitution)
 - b. Resolution 5(a) - *To approve certain changes to the Constitution which are less substantive, which are designed to (i) improve clarity and internal consistency of language and/or (ii) reflect the Club's current administrative processes*
 - c. Resolution 5(b) - *To approve certain changes to the Constitution relating to the waiting period for a former President or Treasurer to run again for the same position, and to allow a former President to run again for President only when no one else will*
 - i. The Treasurer commented that these changes were designed to increase governance limits on the President and the Treasurer to encourage new blood to come on board.
 - ii. The Treasurer commented that sometimes in a crisis - such as bankruptcy - no one wants to be President, so then an ex-President could still come back.
 - d. Resolution 5(c) - *To approve certain changes to the Constitution relating to the Nominating Committee (NomCom)*
 - i. The Treasurer commented that NomCom is a pipeline to bring new members into the Club Committee, and is very important for succession planning.
 - e. Before the vote re: Resolution 5, Mr. Jeremy Tan asked if the Constitutional amendments would add parents of current College students as being eligible for membership.

- i. The Treasurer replied that the Constitution has always allowed parents of current College students to join as members.
- ii. Mr. Tan then asked if the members should discuss whether or not it makes sense to allow parents to join. He asked what the rationale was.
 1. The Chair replied that sometimes College students do not feel comfortable becoming a full member, and it can help if their parents join. Mr. Tan then stated that he supported the Resolution.
- iii. Mr. Jacob commented that he helped to draft the Constitution, but in retrospect thought that it did not make sense to allow parents to join the Club. Mr. Jacob said that a parent can support his or her child in other ways.
 1. The Chair replied that she believed it could promote engagement with future alumni.
 2. The Treasurer mentioned that no parents have joined as members, and that she would be willing to discuss this issue further in the future. The relevant provision in Resolution 5 was merely part of a clean-up exercise.

6. Record of Appreciation

The Vice President offered thanks to:

- the outgoing Committee members, President Rebecca Woo and Secretary En-Ming Ong;
- the Honorary Auditors for FY2022, Mr. Stephen Jacob and Mr. Arthur Lang (not present);
- the Nominating Committee, Mr. Andrew Nai (chair), Mr. Gerald Tan, and Mr. James Ho;
- the Prize Book Committee, including Mr. Matthew Ong, Arlene Pang, Terence Tan, and Meiyin Lin (each not present); and Mr. KC Chew, for his support of the Prize Book Committee

7. Call out for Volunteers

The Secretary and the Treasurer encouraged members to volunteer for the Club, particularly in IT, creative arts and financial audit, and to reach out to share ideas.

8. Q&A from the Audience

Mr. Carlo Pozzi and Mr. KC Chew recommended that it be made easier to donate to the Club through its website. Mr. Chew also recommended that the Harvard affiliation of election candidates be listed in the election materials. Ms. Elizabeth Su gave thanks to the outgoing team.

9. Closure of Business

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.20pm.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of HUAAS, held on March 20, 2023.

Prepared By:

Approved By:

/s/ Nara Nahm
Secretary of the Meeting
March 28, 2023

/s/ Rebecca Woo
Chair of the Meeting
March 28, 2023