

Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library, November 14, 2015

President Robert Longworth convened the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library at approximately 1:40 p.m. in the Goodrich Room at Mudd Center.

The following Friends Council members were present: Robert Longworth (President), Maxine Houck (Vice President), Eric Carpenter (Secretary), Alan Boyd (ex officio), Stephanie Davis-Kahl '94 (by phone), John Elder, Jesse Gamoran (Student Representative), Jack Glazier, Jessica Grim (ex officio), Nick Jones, Gary Kornblith, Anne McFarland, Thelma Morris, Scott Smith (Chair, Acquisitions Committee by phone), Robert Taylor, Ed Vermue (ex officio) and Janice Zinser (Chair, Nominations Committee).

Highlights of the Meeting:

- Approved acquisitions for the Library worth \$39,108 in response to recommendations from the Oberlin faculty.
- Approved the award of a new life membership to Gabrielle Bamberger, and Honorary memberships to Barbro and Norman Jung both '56.
- Elected new officers for the 2015-2016 academic year, one incumbent Council member to a second term, and elected three new members to first terms.
- Awarded \$3,500 library school scholarships to Elizabeth Edgar '2015 and B Mann '2011.
- Approved a third expenditure of \$1,000 to support two Winter Term projects by contributing \$500 each – one on letterpress printing and one on papermaking.
- Heard a full report by Interim Director Alan Boyd on the formation of a search committee for a new Director of Libraries and a description of the search process to date.
- Concluded with Bob Longworth expressing warm appreciation to Alan Boyd for the uncommonly gracious and effective manner in which he has borne the burden of the leadership transition for the Oberlin libraries, followed by an enthusiastic round of applause for Alan.

Welcome and Introductions – President Robert Longworth began a round of introductions, and each member introduced him/herself briefly. The President also acknowledged the absence of Herbert Henke '53, emeritus member of the Conservatory Faculty and Friends Council member. Herb passed away this past summer. His contributions to the Library and to the College/Conservatory were many; he will be truly missed.

Agenda – The agenda for this meeting was distributed in advance.

Minutes – The minutes of the November 1, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

Financial Report – Interim Library Director Alan Boyd presented the 2014-15 financial report (distributed in advance). The year began with a balance of \$78,786. This included the Patton bequest of \$52,214, which was spent this year. Most (\$18,615) of the \$20,000 special allocation for Pre-cinematic materials was also spent this year as were the seed monies (\$15,000) received as first donations to the new FOL/Ray English endowment (\$15,000 transferred from current income to endowed funds). Two library school scholarship awards (\$3,500 each) were also approved last year and spent this year. The closing balance for the year, \$28,110, is close to levels in previous years.

Membership income for the current year (as of 11/9/15) is approx. \$26,000 compared with \$23,000 in Nov. 2014. The Financial Report was formally accepted and adopted by acclamation.

Acquisitions Committee – Scott Smith, Chair of the Acquisitions Committee, presented the report (by phone). In advance of the meeting the Acquisitions Committee supplied members with List #25 of the Committee’s recommended acquisitions totaling \$39,108 (total cost of the list considered, \$66,587). As usual titles are being purchased in disciplines across the College and Conservatory curricula.

Jessica then offered comments. Perhaps the major difference in this year’s list is that it does not contain an allocation for JSTOR, the interdisciplinary online journal archive. JSTOR online journals receive heavy use across departments and programs, having become a must-purchase item. Funds for them are now coming from the regular library budget, and the \$1,600 for new JSTOR titles can be absorbed by the regular budget. Friends are being asked to fund more interesting and unique titles, which are more difficult to pay from the regular budget.

Among the more interesting items proposed for purchase, Jessica noted the Dorpfeld Archaeology Archive, 117 lantern slides (Item 1) which received enthusiastic faculty endorsement for courses across departments. She also cited Nineteenth Century Collections Online – parts 9-12 (Item 4). Oberlin owns parts 1-8; this is the final portion of this important collection of full-text primary sources, which have been heavily used by a number of departments.

Item 6, the Chinese Newspapers Collection (1832-1953) is another title, Jessica pointed out. One particular title, North China Herald (1850-1941), has been sought for some time. The cost of this title alone would have exceeded that of this entire collection. The Library was therefore pleased to be able to purchase this entire newspaper collection.

In the area of Art Resources, Item 10, Cincuenta y seis familias: /cincuenta y seis anos (56 families; 56<sup>th</sup> year) is an artist’s book from Cuba, brought to campus for examination. It is a collection of ration coupons displaying history and context of daily life in Cuba that permits examination of cross-references between art and daily life. Purchase is strongly supported by faculty in Hispanic Studies and Studio Art.

Questions were directed to Jessica concerning titles not recommended for purchase (e.g., Item 5, Caribbean History and Culture 1535-1920, \$9,960). Jessica noted the relatively high cost as a primary factor not to support this purchase. It was also pointed out that Item 12 (“I had a blueprint,” by Lesley Dill) actually has the title, “I had a blueprint of History”. Item 14 (Encyclopedia of Cell Biology) from Elsevier ScienceDirect (recommended for purchase) was noted as a type of publication (an encyclopedia) from a publisher with a questionable history of pricing. Is the encyclopedia, as a type of reference book, now passé in the electronic age? It was acknowledged that this may be partially true, but the value of the encyclopedia as an accurate, comprehensive, and effective introduction remains considerable.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the complete list as presented. The motion was adopted without dissent.

Program Committee – Before the meeting the Program Committee provided Council members with a chronological listing of the past year’s and upcoming Friends events. Minutes of the Program Committee meetings of Jan. 21 and June 23, 2015 were also distributed. Dan Goulding, Chair of the Program Committee, was absent so Alan presented the report. He referred to the list of 2014-15 programs noting that all these programs were recorded on video and made accessible online via a video channel accessible via the Friends of OCL web page. For example, Robert Darnton’s talk at tonight’s Friends Dinner will be recorded and may be accessed in this manner soon. Alan acknowledged the challenge the Library faces in making the Oberlin Community more aware of the existence of this (and other) online resources.

Alan noted that among the more successful programs this past year was Claire Solomon’s October 2015 talk on prostitutes in Latin American Literature. The Library’s co-sponsorship of events: the Jantz Lecture - Picturing Jazz, by Gary Giddins - in November (with the German Dept.) and the April talk by Vanessa Davidson (Curator of Latin American Art at the Phoenix Art Museum) on Edgardo Antonio Vigo (with the Art Dept.).

Jack Glazier also expressed appreciation for the October 31<sup>st</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>-Century French Flute Extravaganza, featuring both lectures and performances by local and visiting scholars and performers. Alan added that local publicity for this event was done (successfully) using a new email program. Eric, Robert, and Thelma all noted that not all Friends members use email regularly, and printed mailings should be sent to members who prefer them. Alan also said that communication with Friends members via social media, esp. Facebook, is also possible and being considered.

Membership Committee – Nick Jones, Committee Chair, presented the report. He referred to the minutes of the June 24, 2015 Committee meeting distributed in advance. He noted the varied methods now used or anticipated to communicate with Friends members, including paper mailings, email, and social media. He also commended Thelma Morris for engaging new Kendal residents with her lively tours of the College Libraries and energetically handing out membership brochures for the Library Friends.

Nick then reviewed 2014-15 membership statistics. Total Membership for 2015 is 759, only 3 less than last year. Alan pointed to the increase in gift donors in 2015 to 74 (from 40 last year), mainly by new donors giving to the new Ray English Endowed Fund established as Ray retired in 2015. Alan hopes that many of these new donors will continue giving funds to the Libraries. He intends to find out what our rate of return is on solicitation letters sent to prospective donors to the Library. The Library works with the Development Office on these solicitations. Some departments in the College now use social media to activate “crowdfunding” projects, and the Library is studying the possibility of doing this too.

Nominating Committee – Jan Zinser, Committee Chair, presented this report. A primary task of this Committee is to insure that the Friends Council has a full slate of members for 2015-16. Herb Henke passed away late last summer so a replacement is needed for him. Bob Longworth and Maxine Houck (President and Vice Pres. respectively) will soon complete their 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive terms of office. It has been customary to limit these Officers to two terms. Sebastiaan Faber is finishing a first term on Council and is eligible to continue for a second term. Eric Carpenter, Secretary, is also completing his second consecutive term.

Janice then proposed a blanket motion that Robert Taylor replace Robert Longworth as President, that Wendy Wasman (Librarian/Archivist of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History) replace Maxine Houck as Vice-President, that Tom Lopez (Assoc. Prof. of Computer Music) replace Herb Henke as a first term Council Member, that Sebastiaan Faber be appointed for a second consecutive term as a Council Member, and that Rod Knight (Emeritus Prof. of Musicology) be appointed to a first term. Finally, Jan said, the motion includes approval of a third term for Eric Carpenter as Secretary (Eric having succeeded long-time Secretary, Mike Haverstock). Eric’s re-appointment would continue the customary exception made for the Secretary’s position. This blanket motion follows the list of proposed Council Members 2015-18 and Officers 2015-16. The motion for Council membership for the above-named individuals was made and seconded from the Nominations Committee and was passed without dissent.

The Nominations Committee also proposed (and seconded) a motion that the Slate of Officers for 2015-16 is: Robert Taylor, President, Wendy Wasman, Vice President, and Eric Carpenter, Secretary. This motion was also passed by acclamation.

Jan and Alan then introduced recommendations from the Nominations Committee for a new Life Member: Gabrielle Bamberger and two individuals recommended for Honorary Memberships: Barbro and Norman Jung. These memberships (if approved) would be awarded at this evening’s dinner.

Gabrielle Bamberger, OC ’60, resides in New York City where she has enjoyed a long career in public relations. Her long-standing connection with “the book” has roots in the Main Reading Room at Carnegie Library (the “Academic Commons” at OC in 1960). Gabrielle is now a member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Fiction in New York, a meeting place for readers and writers alike. The proposed life membership

acknowledges Gabrielle's generous planned gift to OCL and thanks her on behalf of all the future readers and writers who will pass through Oberlin.

Barbro and Norman Jung, both OC '56, have been friends and strong supporters of the OCL Friends since the inception of our organization. Norman was the long-time Director of the Library/Media Center at SUNY/Old Westbury and served two terms on the Friends Council, 1996-2002. Barbro, an OC Conservatory graduate, filled their home with music and Norman with over 10,000 books about Chicago and/or by Chicago-based authors. Norman and Barbro have made very generous planned gift designations to both Oberlin College and our Library, the latter to create an endowed discretionary fund for the Library Director. A motion to approve a Life Membership for Gabrielle Bamberger and Honorary Memberships for Barbro and Norman Jung was made and seconded by the Nominations Committee. This motion was adopted unanimously.

Student Friends of the Library – Jesse Gamoran, Coordinator of the Student Friends, presented the report. He has returned to campus after a year in Germany. Jesse referred to the report prepared by Sage Mitchell-Sparke on 2014 activities. He highlighted activities including mounting of large posters (next to Azariah's Café) asking students about favorite books, classes, and quotes, encouraging them to draw doodles on the posters. Student responses were many and enthusiastic; Jesse's lists of favorite books and quotes are in the report and he suggests making this an annual student friends activity.

Sage organized events for Halloween and Valentine's Day: set up tables with favorite horror films and books (Halloween) and romantic books and films for Valentine's Day. Jesse suggested this might also be done to celebrate birthdays of great authors and significant events: Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Martin Luther King, Cinco de Mayo, Harvey Milk Day, etc. Sage also organized a contest to design new maps of Mudd Library to serve as aids in locating books in the stacks. Trick or Treating for Halloween was also offered at the CIT and circulation desks. Jesse praised this creative effort as very effective and circulated some of the maps for Council members to inspect. Jesse said Sage is on campus this semester but will study abroad for the spring term.

Membership in Student Friends (30) was somewhat lower in early 2015 due to graduations last year. In fall 2015 Student Friends had a display table at the Student Connections Fair in Wilder Bowl to publicize the group and attract new members. Free candy and books were given away. Over 50 new people signed the Student Friends list. 27 students attended October tours of Carnegie Library by Ed Vermue and a student film crew recorded the event. A movie about Carnegie Library is being produced from this recording. Ed also offered a class in paper marbling and Student Friends attended.

Approximately 60 students attended a science soiree held at the Science Library (on a Friday night during the dinner hour). It included musical performances involving an alphorn, a violist, bass player, guitarists, and vocalists, interspersed with Emeritus Prof. of Physics Bruce Richards on the acoustics of the space. Food was served. The student friends list now includes nearly 90 people.

Later in fall semester Jesse will again mount large posters on the windows of Azariah's Café and encourage students to record favorite books, quotes, and classes, together with new doodles. There will also be a study break during reading period, perhaps including a screening of the new movie on Carnegie Library. Jesse is also planning an event for students during spring semester on careers in librarianship involving library staff. Jesse also hopes to identify a new Student Friends Coordinator for next year as he will graduate in May 2016. He is writing a job description for this position, will advertise it, and hopes to work with Alan to make an appointment before graduation. He also plans to create an archive of materials documenting recent Student Friends activities for use by future Student Friends Coordinators. Jesse was lauded for his dedication and organizational skills.

Library School Scholarships – Jessica presented the report (copies distributed in advance of the meeting). Four applications were received for the 2015 award. All were strong and worthy, so again this year a second scholarship award was made. This second scholarship was funded from the Librarian's Discretionary Fund. Both winners were awarded \$3,500. The awards were made to Elizabeth Edgar, '15, an English major, interested in librarianship and archival preservation, who worked with Special Collections and Archives materials, and B Mann '11, who majored in American Studies, worked at Oberlin Public Library, and is currently enrolled at the Kent State Library School. B is also a School Librarian at Prospect Elementary School in Oberlin. Jessica said these individuals represent interests at almost the polar ends of modern librarianship: printed materials and media and digital resources.

Student Research Awards – Alan made this report, referring to a memo distributed in advance. The winners were Hazel Galloway '16 and Jacob Baron '17 who submitted papers in Biology and Cinema Studies respectively. Alan also mentioned that a requirement for this award is a Research Process Statement that must be submitted with the paper. The Statement describes in detail the stages of the research project, the types of sources consulted, and the manner in which this was done. An awards luncheon was held on October 15, 2015 to recognize the winners.

Support for the Mary Church Terrell Symposium – Alan offered comments regarding a memo on this subject distributed in advance. Carol Lasser has worked with a colleague who discovered a cache of papers relating to Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954), feminist, civil rights activist, and founder of the National Association of Colored Women and the NAACP. A symposium to celebrate the discovery and acquisition of the papers is being organized by Carol, Pam Brooks, and Ken Grossi, and the Friends were invited to provide support for this event. This symposium will be held Feb. 26-27, 2016 in Oberlin. A motion was made, seconded, and passed (unanimously) to provide \$500 in Friends funds for this purpose.

Support for Winter Term Projects – Again this year the Friends Council is requested to approve support of \$500 each for two winter term projects, one on letterpress printing and another on papermaking. Our organization supported identical projects that were

successfully completed last year. This year Ed Vermue will again be working with specialists in letterpress printing and papermaking to offer winter courses in these areas. Two \$500 awards are again proposed to support these two winter term courses. Alan cautioned that long-term funding is still needed for these projects, and it is doubtful that a similar request will be made to Friends Council next year. Both Alan and Ed also commented that letterpress printing and papermaking activities by Special Collections continue attracting participants and garner favorable attention on and off campus. A motion was made and seconded to make these two \$500 allocations as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates from the Interim Director of Libraries – Alan reported that \$125,000 has been raised to date from 147 donors for the Ray English Endowed Discretionary Fund for the Director of Libraries. This fund will yield annual income of approx. \$6,000/yr.

Library Director Search – A Search Committee was chosen early this fall consisting of Committee Chairman Pablo Mitchell, (Assoc. Dean of Arts & Sciences), Tim Elgren (Dean of Arts & Sciences), Andrea Kalyn (Dean of the Conservatory), Alan Boyd, Deborah Campana (Conserv. Libn.), Eboni Johnson '97 (library staff), Katie Oertel '99 (Prof. of Chemistry), Prof. Ann Sherif, (Chair of Gen. Faculty Library Committee), Jennifer Frazier (Conservatory faculty), Robert Taylor, and Jesse Gamoran, student.

A prestigious search firm, Isaacson-Miller (IMsearch.com), has been engaged to assist in identifying and evaluating candidates for the position. This firm sent a team of two to campus to talk with representatives of the library's constituencies. Members of the Friends Council participated in these discussions. This team consulted information from the most recent Library Self Study and Outside Review Team (2014) and did an impressive job of synthesizing this material to develop a thorough understanding of Oberlin and its library needs and a new job position description and invitation to apply for it. An applicant pool is now being developed. Preliminary results will be presented to the Search Committee on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. On Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> the entire applicant pool will be disclosed to the Search Committee and top candidates identified. On Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 6-8 candidates will be invited for "airport interviews" and in February and March finalist candidates will come to campus for interviews and public presentations. Wesleyan University is also seeking a Director of Libraries at this time. Alan said he is not a candidate and is pleased to be on the Search Committee.

Book Studies Concentration Proposal – Ray English and Ed Vermue have worked for years with a committee of interested faculty members to create a Book Studies curricular concentration. "Concentration" is a formal, specific designation of courses that appears on a student's course transcript. Book Studies is envisioned by the committee working on this to include Book History and the Book Arts. The Concentration will include components in History and Theory, Book History, History of Reading and Reception, Practice (Descriptive Bibliography), and the Book Arts (e.g., Art Dept. courses on Artists' Books understood broadly). The Concentration will include 4 courses with the introductory course (Foundational Concepts of Book Studies) taught by Sandy Zagarell.

A meeting is planned with the Dean in early December to review a draft proposal for this Concentration. Appropriate Faculty Committees and Councils will review it.

Digital Initiatives – Alan said projects are planned to digitize the Glass Lantern slides to be acquired with Friends funds this year, as well as similar objects in our collections. A new digitizing device, a Tabletop Scribe, has been purchased from the Internet Archive. It is a book scanner, a cradle type device. The book is held in a cradling position, permitting digitization on a production basis – moving such projects along more rapidly. This is preferable to sending items to vendors for this purpose. When the work is done in-house, digitized images can then be archived locally or uploaded to the public Internet Archive server. The first such project planned here is the digitization of the complete run of the Oberlin Alumni Magazine.

25<sup>th</sup> annual Friends of the Library Dinner is this year – Alan will make note of this at tonight's gathering.

Membership of the Friends Acquisitions Committee - Ruth Hughes and Herb Henke, both of whom passed away this year, were members of this committee. Lucy Marks has also resigned from this group. Eric, Jan, and Jessica commented at length on the varied and valuable contributions to the Acquisitions Committee and the Friends by Ruth Hughes. Ruth was an Oberlin alumna who served as a Cataloger at the Library Company of Philadelphia for a number of years. When Ruth became ill, a book artist and personal friend of Ruth's put together an exhibit of nearly 100 artist books in her honor that was exhibited at the Library Company and later donated to Oberlin. (Secretary's note: for a complete list consult OBIS under "Ruth Hughes Collection of Artists' Books"). Ruth's dedication to Oberlin and her profession were outstanding, and she will truly be missed.

As a final note, Bob Longworth expressed warm appreciation to Alan for the uncommonly gracious and effective manner in which he has borne the burden of the transition of leadership for the Oberlin libraries. An enthusiastic round of applause for Alan concluded the meeting. The group then adjourned to the adjoining Special Collections room in which Ed introduced a group of books and objects purchased with Friends funds for Special Collections.

Adjournment was at approximately 3:30 p.m.