

Minutes of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the
Oberlin College Library, November 3, 2012

President Maxine Houck convened the Twenty-Second 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: Vice President Ann Sherif, Secretary Eric Carpenter, Secretary Emeritus Nathan (Mike) Haverstock, John Elder, Ray English (ex officio), Celeste Feather, Jessica Grim (ex officio, by phone), Herb Henke, Nick Jones, Robert Longworth (Chair of the Program Committee), Peter McCracken (Chair of the Membership Committee, by phone), Anne McFarland, Thelma Morris, Ed Vermue (ex officio), Mariko Wakayama (Student Representative), and Janice Zinser (Chair of the Nominations Committee). Al McQueen also joined the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Highlights of the Meeting:

- approved acquisitions for the library worth \$40,000 in response to recommendations from Oberlin faculty
- celebrated the successful provision of online access to JSTOR journals to Oberlin alumni for the first time
- elected officers for the 2012-2013 academic year: three incumbent Council members to second terms and one new member to his first term
- approved the award of new life memberships to Margaret Atkinson and David Miller, both of the Class of 1960, for their generous contributions to the Class of 1960 Library Support Fund, and Ann Matter, Class of 1971, for her contribution enabling the purchase of the Patrologia Latina database
- approved an honorary membership for Robert I. Rotberg, Class of 1955, for his donation of an endowed library fund (to purchase materials on Africa and Latin America) and gift of much of his personal library to Oberlin
- approved an increase of the Friends Library School Scholarship from \$2,500 to \$3,500
- toured and celebrated the renovation of the Goodrich Room in Mudd Center

Welcome and Introductions – President Maxine Houck welcomed all members to the meeting in the newly renovated Goodrich Room of Mudd Center. She then began a round of introductions and each member introduced him/herself briefly.

Minutes – Mike Haverstock noted that the minutes of the previous meeting on November 5, 2011, record that he is now Secretary Emeritus. These minutes were approved as distributed by the Secretary Emeritus.

Financial Report – Ray English presented the financial report (distributed in advance of the meeting). Total revenue for 2011-12 was \$54,562. The largest expenditure for the year was for renovation of the Goodrich Room (\$178,360) from the Margaret Forsythe bequest, as authorized by the Council at last year's meeting. Ray noted that the ending

balance (\$23,765) is about where it should be, given the completion of the major renovation project this past year. The report was approved as presented.

Acquisitions Committee – In the absence of Scott Smith, Chair of the Acquisitions Committee, Jessica Grim presented the Committee's report. The Acquisitions Committee again supplied Council members with a list of that group's recommended acquisitions (with Friends funds) totaling \$40,099. Jessica noted that two items (nos. 5 & 15) were items that Friends funded in part (50%) last year. The Committee again recommends that the Friends pay the remaining 50% of the cost of these high-priority resources this year. Completing these two purchases meant that several lower-priority nominations could not be funded this year. As usual titles are being purchased in disciplines across the college and conservatory curricula. The list of acquisitions the Committee recommended were chosen from a longer list of possible purchases totaling \$67,413. The Committee's recommendations for purchase were approved unanimously by the Council.

Program Committee – The Program Committee provided Council members before the meeting with a chronological listing of the past year's and upcoming Friends events. Minutes of the Program Committee meetings of January 23 and July 30, 2012 were also distributed. Bob Longworth, Chair of this Committee, noted that these minutes provide background information on the selection and organization of these events.

The speaker for the 2013 Annual Friends Dinner has not yet been selected, but this should be accomplished in the near future. Names of potential speakers were suggested: Geoffrey Ward (author of Disposition to be Rich, a wonderful portrait of Ward's grandfather), Peter Baker (NY Times columnist), Robert Krulwich (NPR – Radio Lab, etc.), and Michael Beyers (OC alum and author). The report of the Program Committee was accepted unanimously.

Membership Committee – Peter McCracken, Committee Chair, reviewed membership statistics distributed in advance of the meeting. Total membership rose from 745 in 2010-11 to 749 this year. Regular members (those who have made contributions directly to the Friends) have increased from 484 last year to 522 at present. As noted last year the method of counting in-kind donors changed last year, resulting in this increase. An email solicitation to Oberlin honors graduates resulted in \$1,188 in gifts from 7 different donors so far.

The project to begin offering access to JSTOR online journals to Oberlin graduates is a success. Peter was able to search for and retrieve several scholarly articles, written by his father (OC '61), in JSTOR journals. Peter urged further publicity of this new JSTOR access, emphasizing the critical role the Friends of the Library played in providing this resource. Ray explained this his understanding is that the Alumni Association was going to include this information on their website, but it turns out that the Friends sponsorship of JSTOR is now one link away from the point at which online users actually connect to JSTOR. Ray and Peter agreed to confer further on this suggestion after the meeting. Ray added that so far this year Friends' numbers are good: just under 400 members and

\$24,000 in contributions. The report of the membership committee was formally approved.

Nominating Committee – Jan Zinser, Committee Chair, presented this report. The terms of three Council members expire this year: Maxine Houck, Eric Carpenter, and Bob Longworth. All these individuals have been expressed willingness to serve second terms on the Council and have been nominated for these terms. Ann Sherif, Vice President, is completing her second term on Council, and, according to Council By-laws, is ineligible for a third term. Jan commended Ann for exemplary service on Council, and Council members saluted her with applause. Ray noted Ann's service evaluating student research award applications, and her valuable assistance with Friends-Shansi Association collaborations. Replacing Ann on Council will be Sebastiaan Faber, Professor of Hispanic Studies and both a former chair of the General Faculty Library Committee as well as a frequent, dedicated library user.

Officers for 2012-12: Maxine Houck will step down as President and take up the duties of Vice President. Replacing Maxine as President will be Bob Longworth, and Eric Carpenter will assume the office of Secretary, now that Mike Haverstock has become Secretary Emeritus. A motion was adopted by unanimous voice vote to approve the appointments of these new Council members and Officers for 2012-13.

New Life Memberships: Three new life memberships were proposed: Margaret Atkinson and David Miller, both of the Class of 1960, and Ann Matter, Class of 1971. Margaret Atkinson and David Miller each made generous contributions to the Class of 1960 Library Support Fund, created on the occasion of their 50th reunion. Gifts and pledges to the fund now total more than \$100,000. So far income from the fund has been used to purchase access to a comprehensive website of works by and about Jorge Luis Borges, a celebrated Argentinian author; *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, a seven-volume history of Islamic civilization; and an online collection from the National Security Archive related to the United States and Columbia. Ann Matter is a Professor of Religion at the University of Pennsylvania and has donated funds to purchase the electronic version of the *Patrologia Latina*, a collections of works by early Christian Church Fathers, originally published in France from 1844-1855. This important resource is of strong interest to faculty and students in Art History, Classics, English, and Religion.

Honorary Membership: An honorary Membership is proposed for Robert I. Rotberg, Class of 1955. He is a historian of Africa who taught at Harvard and M.I.T. and served as President of the World Peace Foundation. He chaired the Library Visiting Committee in the early 1990s, and in 1994 donated to Oberlin his extensive personal research collection on southern Africa. In 1997 he established an endowed fund for the purchase of library materials related to Africa and Latin America. He has also pledged to donate to Oberlin his personal library of approximately 5,000 books on Africa and African history.

The life memberships for Atkinson, Miller, and Matter and the honorary membership for Rotberg were approved by acclamation.

Library School Scholarship – Ray English reported that there were no applications for the scholarships this year despite a determined effort to solicit them, both on campus and through alumni channels. (An e-mail advertisement was sent to each member of the Senior Class). Additional suggestions for publicity were made: an ad in the *Oberlin Review*, Career Services Office, the Fellowship Office, use of the current Book Studies listserv for faculty, and Celeste suggested possible Google indexing of the mention of the Scholarship on the Friends webpage (involving careful choice of words on the webpage describing the scholarship).

The possibility of increasing the amount of the scholarship was discussed at the Council meeting last year, and the question was therefore posed: Would it now make sense to increase the size of this scholarship? Celeste Feather investigated the actual cost of library schools, surveying the cost per class at seven well-known library schools ranging from the Midwest to the east coast. The costs per class range from \$1,400 (Kent State) to \$6,909 (Simmons College). Based on this survey Celeste recommended increasing the Friends scholarship from the current \$2,500 to \$3,500 and proposed a motion to this effect that was passed unanimously.

Student Friends of the Library – A report of Student Friends activities during 2011-12, by Amelea Kim was distributed before the meeting. Mariko Wakayama, Student Representative, made additional comments on Student Friends activities this year. Mariko and Maggie Brennan (who could not attend the meeting) prepared an exhibit on Oberlin and voting, since this is a presidential election year, using materials from Special Collections. It is now on display on the main floor of Mudd Center. Maggie is working on a Student Friends newsletter for students and it should appear later this month. A scavenger hunt is also planned for later this semester or early next semester. This year's hunt should include materials in the Art, Conservatory and Science libraries.

Mariko solicited suggestions for further ways in which the Student Friends of the Library could collaborate with the Friends organization. Ray provided a brief summary of the development of the Student Friends group, especially through Amelea Kim's efforts over the past couple years. Suggestions were then made for collaborative efforts: librarianship as a profession (Amelea mentioned the career talk/pizza luncheon in her report), student-led tours of the library (particularly for Kendal residents), book arts activity involvement proposed by Ed Vermue (letterpress printing, etc.). The Student Friends-sponsored book collecting competition was also mentioned. It is held in alternate years.

Student Research Awards – Ann Sherif explained that the deadline for student research awards has been delayed this year but she expects we will have a pool of applications by the end of first semester so that awards can be made by the end of spring semester.

Collection Digitization – A progress report on this project by Alan Boyd was distributed in advance of the meeting. Ray said that the \$10,000 authorized by the Friends Council for this project went toward digitization of the complete run of *The Oberlin Evangelist* (1832-62). Digital access to Oberlin's first major publication is now available via the

Internet. The publication documents the early history of the college, touching on issues of Christian education, slavery and abolition, moral reform and revivals of religion. The library (in cooperation with the other Five Colleges of Ohio libraries) is in the process of applying for a new grant from the Mellon Foundation that would provide money for creating digital collections that are incorporated into particular college courses. The grant would also expand into the area of digital scholarship (creating new scholarship within the digital context).

Alumni Access to JSTOR – Ray reported wonderful feedback from alumni about their pleasure at having new access to JSTOR journals online, thanks to Friends sponsorship. E-mails have been coming in expressing heartfelt thanks for this access. Ray and Peter will make additional efforts to make Friends support of alumni JSTOR access more evident online at the point at which alumni actually connect to JSTOR.

Other Business – Finally Ray reported that the College Capital Campaign is moving into its public phase. Library priorities for this campaign include more endowment funds for building collections in all fields. Another is to build endowments for the purchase of special collections materials for example in the book arts (beyond what the Friends can provide). A fund for collection digitization is a third priority area. All three fall under the heading of Curricular Innovation in the Capital Campaign.

The meeting concluded with final rounds of applause for Ann Sherif who is retiring from the Council and also for Maxine Houck, for her service as President. The meeting then adjourned to a tour of the recent renovations of the Goodrich Room and the new Margaret Forsythe digital classroom. Adjournment was at approximately 3:40 p.m.