

Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library, November 5, 2016

President Robert Taylor convened the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of the Friends of the Oberlin College Library at 1:30 p.m. in the Goodrich Room at Mudd Center.

The following Friends Council members were present: Robert Taylor (President), Wendy Wasman (Vice President), Eric Carpenter (Secretary), Alexia Hudson-Ward (Director of Libraries), Tom Lopez, Nick Jones, Thelma Morris, Ann McFarland, Alan Boyd (Assoc. Director), Gabrielle Kaufmann (Student Friends Coordinator), Ed Vermue (ex officio), Bob Longsworth

Guests present were: Ruth and Tom Green, Friends of OCL (Tom Green is an Affiliate Scholar, OC Hist. Dept.); Bob Follette, Friend of OCL and retired Head of Library/Archives, Peabody Institute

Highlights of the Meeting:

- Heard an initial report by President Robert Taylor on Friends Council efforts to help recruit, select, and orient new Library Director, Alexia Hudson-Ward
- Approved acquisitions for the Library worth \$40,000 in response to recommendations from the Oberlin faculty
- Recognized the Life Memberships for Nancy '64 and David '63 Finke, approved last year and to be awarded tonight, now that the Finke's have moved to Oberlin, and approved the award of Honorary Memberships to Gordon Neavill '66 and Mary Ann Scheble who donated a marvelous collection of blues recordings - 15,000 LP's and CD's - to the Conservatory Library
- Filled one of three vacancies on Council by electing one new member (two remaining vacancies will be filled after this meeting). Approved the re-election of last year's officers for the 2016-17 academic year
- Awarded \$3,500 Library School scholarships to Deborah Smith, OC'89 and Hazel Koziol, OC '13
- Considered efforts to publicize Friends activities, recruit new Friends (particularly students), and communicate with Friends members via social media
- Heard a report by Alexia Hudson-Ward on her orientation and developments during her first 4 months as Library Director. This discussion included briefings on OC's budget and imminent retirements of 7 library staff members on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Concluded with a report by Ed Vermue on the new Book Studies Curriculum and efforts of Special Collections to support this endeavor as well as news of two large and significant gifts of rare materials to Special Collections.

Welcome – President Robert Taylor began a round of introductions, and each member introduced him/herself briefly.

Friends Officers Meeting, Jan. 2016. To begin the meeting, Robert offered a few remarks. He characterized the past year as one of transition for the Oberlin libraries, with

Ray English retired and Alan Boyd serving as Interim Director until a new director was appointed. The Friends officers met, as an informal Executive Committee, with Alan Boyd and all agreed it was important to provide the new director with background on the formation of the Friends 25 years ago and highlights of its history since then. Robert, Wendy, and Eric agreed to serve two consecutive years as officers as another means of insuring continuity.

It was also agreed that the organization needs a presence on the internet (social media) for publicity and contact with members and recent graduates (potential members). More online communication with members via email and digital versions of Library Perspectives are also desirable. Wendy Wasman agreed to work on this project. Since some Friends members are not active online, paper based communication with them is still required. Robert and Alan prepared a detailed planning calendar of Friends activities to present to the new director. Robert reported on his first meetings with Alexia Hudson-Ward after she assumed office. Robert and Alan Boyd met with her, and these three met with Ray English to provide Alexia with additional perspective on recent library related events.

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

Minutes – The minutes of the November 14, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Financial Report – Alan Boyd presented the 2015-16 financial report (distributed in advance). The report contains good news. The concern that perhaps last year's special solicitation to create the new endowed fund honoring Ray English might have a negative impact on donations this year proved to be ill founded. Gifts in 2015-16 (\$68,313) increased over last year (\$55,791). In addition Robert & Virginia Cassady created an annuity yielding income of \$10,856 this year. This income permitted the Friends to continue funding purchases of books and other resources as well as support various student library related activities. Our fiscal year end balance (\$48,551) was also substantially more than last year (\$31,608). Alan added a final note: the Library has an endowed fund (Ben and Emiko Custer) yielding income of approx. \$5,000/yr. that helps pay printing expenses incurred by the Friends.

Acquisitions Committee – Scott Smith, Chair of the Acquisitions Committee, has been ill and could not participate in today's meeting. Eric Carpenter, member of this committee and former Collection Development Librarian, coordinated the committee's conference call and presented the report since Jessica Grim was away and unable to participate. In advance of the meeting the Acquisitions Committee supplied members with List #26 of the Committee's recommended acquisitions totaling \$40,000 (total cost of the list considered, \$62,384). As usual titles are being purchased in disciplines across the College and Conservatory curricula.

Eric then asked Ed Vermue, Special Collections & Preservation Librarian, to offer comments on the first two items on List #26 – Journals of Congress, 1776 Vol. II and 3 Pamphlets on the theme “Revolutions” acquired to support an upcoming exhibit and

curricular effort. 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and Oberlin will offer courses on the theme of Revolution. Ed was asked to mount an exhibit of titles in Special Collections that relate to this theme. Simultaneously Ed was in contact with a collector/dealer in Ohio who offered these titles for sale.

Eric then noted other significant titles – Nineteenth Century Collections Online (NCCO)– parts 9-12, digital versions of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century texts published in Western and non-western languages from around the globe. Oberlin currently has access to Parts 1-8, which are heavily used by students and faculty. NCCO continues a decades long effort to provide digital versions of great Collections of Record, including thousands of rare but important works previously available only by traveling to inspect them in rare book rooms of major libraries. Another similar digital resource is Caribbean History and Culture (1535-1920), over 1,200 full texts of books, pamphlets, broadsides etc. documenting the history of this region and supporting courses in History and African Studies. Though relatively costly (\$9,960), purchasing online access to this collection will significantly improve access to important materials in a subject area where Oberlin's print collections are relatively sparse.

Art resources – the Committee chose to purchase Items 8 and 9 on List #26 but not Item 7, Tamar Stone's The Effect of the Whole, an artist's book costing \$6,000. This item was overpriced. Item 9, a French translation of Andrea Palladio's great work on architecture, was added to Art Special Collections. This is a title in Thomas Jefferson's Architectural Books Collection, which Clarence Ward sought to replicate for Oberlin's Art Library. We are only 5 titles away from a long-term goal of completing this replication. For the Science Library, we licensed access to another section of the GeoScienceWorld eBook Collection, a major digital resource for our Geology Dept.

For the Conservatory we acquired a range of titles from an inventory of Stradivarius violins (vols. V-VIII) by Jost Thome to two archives of digital music produced by Music Magazine: Rock and Folk, both published as collaborations among Music Magazine, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Bowling Green State University's Music Library and Sound Recording Archives. Digital resources are now essential for the study of music, and Conservatory students and faculty will heavily use the Rock and Folk Sound archives. Robert Taylor then made a motion to approve the complete list of titles as presented. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously

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 Feb. 8 and June 30, 2016 were also distributed. Bob Longworth, Chairman of the Program Committee, presented the report. He referred to the list of 2015-16 programs, commenting on several of them. Bob also explained that the choice of programs this past year was related directly to the scholarly endeavors of Oberlin faculty members in the College and Conservatory. Alan added that Programs this year have included musical performances (The 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Flute Extravaganza in Nov. 2015). In addition the Friends have co-sponsored cultural events on campus to improve and spread the Library's "brand". Nick Jones mentioned the

forthcoming publication of his book, A Poetry Precise and Free, Selected Madrigals of Guarini by the Univ. of Michigan Press. Nick will present a lecture on this topic on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Finally Alan noted the upcoming book talk (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>) by Kathy Abromeit, Conservatory Public Services Librarian, on her new book, Spirituals: A Multidisciplinary Bibliography for Research and Performance.

Membership Committee – Nick Jones, Committee Chair, presented the report. He referred to the minutes of the March 18, 2016 meeting and the membership data (distributed in advance). Total membership is down to 630 from 662 last year, despite a membership campaign involving letters, emails, and Facebook. Nick also noted the challenge of attracting new Friends now when the whole concept of Membership in organizations of any kind is becoming less important to many people. Giving spurs giving and volunteering encourages giving. The more people use the library, understand and engage in its work, the more they support it. Though Friends of OCL membership is down somewhat, total membership contributions are up (\$48,757 last year to \$68,131 this year). Nick commended Thelma Morris for leading Library Tours for Kendal residents – some of whom have joined the Friends.

Wendy Wasman then explained Friends outreach efforts via Facebook. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> a new Friends Facebook page was activated and the libraries posted 40 items on it. So far we have 74 Facebook Likes. The post (womb chair stickers) reached 350 people. Photos are the most successful type of posting. We have also posted videos of book talks and other Friends events. A recording of Robert Krulwich's talk tonight at the Friends dinner will also be posted on Facebook. This event is sold out.

Nominating Committee – Robert Taylor presented this report since a new chair is yet to be named. Thelma Morris, Nick Jones, and John Elder's terms on Council expire this year, and Robert thanked them for their excellent service. Steve Volk, Emeritus Prof. of History, was nominated to fill one of these positions. The other two nominees will be announced after this meeting. Robert Taylor's first term on Council is ending, so a motion was made to re-appoint Robert to a second term and approve Steve Volk's nomination to a first term on Council. The motion was approved. The second motion was to approve the continuation of current officers for a second term: Robert Taylor as President, Wendy Wasman as Vice-President and Eric Carpenter as Secretary. This motion too was approved.

New Honorary and Life Memberships were then considered. These are to be presented at the Friends dinner tonight. Last year Council approved Life Memberships for Nancy '64 and David '63 Finke with the understanding that these awards would be made when they moved to Oberlin in 2016. They will attend the dinner tonight. The Finkes have donated 59 original watercolors by Johnny Gruelle, an American artist (creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy) and archival materials related to Nancy's co-ownership of Jane Addams pioneering feminist bookstore in Chicago. Gordon Neavill '66 and Mary Ann Scheble are nominated for Honorary Memberships. In September they donated a marvelous collection of blues recordings - 15,000 LP's and CD's - to our Conservatory

Library. This donation complements the recent gift of the Neumann Jazz Collection. A motion to approve these Honorary and Life memberships was then made and approved.

Student Friends of the Library – Gabrielle (Gabby) Kaufmann presented the report, written by Jesse Gamoran (dated Sept. 19, 2016), distributed to Council members before the meeting. Gabby highlighted areas of the report, first noting the increase in student memberships (+52), mainly by staffing a table at the Student Connections Fair in Wilder Bowl in September. By the end of the academic year 90 students were on the Friends mailing list. Gabby also said the Science Soiree, hosted in the Science Library, a first-time event that featured a talk and musical performance by Emeritus Prof. of Physics Bruce Richards attracted over 60 people. The “Speed Dating with an App” event during Winter Term in the Conservatory Library was also successful (13 people attended). Smaller events, e.g. TGIF book sales and Study Break events held during exams, were well attended. Gabby also conducted a TGIF book sale and distributed bookmarks promoting the Friends of OCL. She too endorsed the importance of Friends outreach to students through social media. On Valentine’s Day Gabby will also hold another Life of a Score event at the Conservatory Library and staff display tables in Mudd Library to encourage students to join the Friends. Thelma Morris commended Gabby and the Student Friends for their enthusiasm and clever ideas.

Library School Scholarships – Alexia presented this report (a copy of which was distributed in advance of the meeting). Two applications for scholarships were received this year, and since both applicants submitted such impressive applications, both individuals received awards. Deborah Smith OC ’89 will receive her award at the dinner tonight. She is returning to graduate school to earn her Library Science degree after working in non-profit education. She is a student at Kent State University. Hazel Koziol ’13 worked in the OC Art Library as a student here and subsequently at the Portland (Maine) Public Library. She will earn her Library Science graduate degree at San Jose State Univ.

Student Research Awards – Alexia also made this report (a copy was distributed in advance of the meeting). The Library will sponsor a luncheon in honor of these award winners on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel at Oberlin, and Robert will attend to represent the Friends. Nicholas Capozzoli ’16 and junior Naomi Roswell are the 2016 winners. The Committee report describes titles and content of each winner’s research papers. Both papers received ringing endorsements by faculty members who nominated them. Full texts of both these papers will be posted on the Friends website.

Updates from new Library Director, Alexia Hudson –Ward – A two -page report on Alexia’s July – November 2016 activities was distributed in advance of the meeting. She described this period as a wonderful transition for her. She participated in 107 meetings in her first 6 weeks, meeting individuals and groups with whom she will interact as Director. In August she instituted mandatory staff training meetings (Director’s Forums) for library staff. In October Title IX training was held for library staff, with the Interim Campus Coordinator for Title IX and the Director of Safety and Security. During October a Self Care Coordinator (from Cleveland Clinic) presented a program on Self

Care to Library staff (during changing times) in preparation for a November discussion with Vice-President Mike Frandzen on the challenges of the current College budget situation. Seven library staff members will be retiring by the end of this calendar year. A retirement celebration was held on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> to celebration the contributions of these individuals to the libraries. Alexia emphasized that this is a challenging time, for library staff members who remain on the job, a time of major changes requiring considerable adjustments. Finally Alexia reported briefly on a visit to the Library of Congress Oct. 19, 2016 involving herself, Ken Grossi (Archivist), Deborah Campana (Conservatory Libn.) and Barbara Prior (Art Libn.). The purpose of this visit was to learn more about means of co-displaying library artifacts and monographs as well as identifying creative solutions for shelving problems in Oberlin's libraries. There was also discussion of the College budget situation and possible impact on the libraries. In general it appears that libraries will be able to adjust to new fiscal realities without major negative impact.

Book Studies and the Libraries – Ed Vermue noted that last year's Friends minutes include discussion of a proposal for a Book Studies Curriculum at Oberlin. The College Faculty Council endorsed this proposal during spring semester. Ed is working with Alan and Alexia to insure that Special Collections can support this teaching initiative effectively. Ed noted that other academic libraries are also being challenged to support similar programs and are interested in Oberlin's work in this area. Ed said Oberlin has been informed that we will receive the second half of the mail-artist, Harley's vast, personal archive of mail-art materials representing over 40 years of work in this field. Barbara Tannenbaum is donating her personal collection (over 1600 vols.) of artists' books. An exhibit of jazz materials related to the career of Milt Hinton, will soon be mounted in the Conservatory Library. This exhibit will then travel to other libraries. At the conclusion of this discussion there was high praise for what Ed has achieved over his 15 years building faculty involvement in teaching with materials in Special Collections.

Adjournment was at 2: 55 p.m.