

Minutes of the Lever Press Oversight Committee Meeting - Feb 29, 2016

Attending: Andy Ashton, Bryn Geffert, Dalia Corkrum, Kevin Mulroy, Loretta Parham, Marci Sortor, Mark Christel, Neil McElroy, Peggy Seiden, Terri Fishel. Staff: Mark Edington, Margy Avery, Mary Francis, Becky Welzenbach, Charles Watkinson.

1. Approve minutes from previous meeting

We should add an asterisk to those who were unable to attend the whole meeting and just joined the meeting on the final day remotely. Dalia Corkrum should be listed as not present. Mike will resolve any unresolved action items.

Terri moved to approve, Andy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Report from Ops Group

AVDF Stakeholders Meeting

Mark E. updated on progress with the planning of the stakeholder meeting, now funded by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. Currently scouting locations in New York -- but high status places are expensive. Also looking at option of holding meeting in Annapolis. Planning is underway and a long list of people to be invited will be brought to OC soon. 25-30 is upper limit of attendance. June 3, 10, 13 are NYC meeting options. June 23 would be the Annapolis meeting.

Venue: Peggy Seiden offered the Inn at Swarthmore as another possible meeting option. Mark noted that it might be best to locate at a third party venue, not an institution. New York, Annapolis were preference because presidents liked to travel to these locations.

Communication: A note to the membership would be good. A targeted email to pledging institutions would be good, not just an update on the website.

3. Budget Update

A budget update from Michigan financial system will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

4. Communication

How do we consistently communicate back to pledging institutions? Update 1 would be Minutes of last meeting, update 2 would be information on the AVDF Stakeholder Meeting, update 3 would be an update on pledging period open to baccalaureate institutions until July 1, 2016. New signs ups would be signing up for the same five year period as others.

In message to pledging institutions, they will be encouraged to let colleagues who may be interested know about the July 1 deadline for new OG schools and Basic Baccalaureate institutions, then 18-month moratorium.

5. New Business

Editorial Board: winnowing the list of candidates. At this meeting the focus will be on discussion of the candidates, with the next step being recommendations from the Operations Group, and then final decision by Oversight Committee.

What kind of candidates are best? Mary F. suggested (a) experienced people; (b) dedication to the values of LP (alternative pubs models); (c) a willingness to comment on work outside their own disciplines. Mark added (d) people who are known among their colleagues for a spirit of generosity. Margy appealed for (e) disciplinary variety. Peggy suggested (f) commitment to open scholarly discourse. There was a discussion about “name recognition” but there was agreement that (g) energy and drive was more important, and this often correlated with less senior scholars. Mike noted that (h) we need to be attentive to diversity in ethnicity/nationality as well as gender. Neil suggested (i) an expansive vision of who we publish for, with an interest in reaching beyond a narrowly specialist audience. Mary noted that one can discern this when looking at online presences, e.g., guest posts on others’ blogs, op eds for papers.

Should we prefer candidates for the Editorial Board beyond the Oversight Committee institutions? Loretta continues to struggle with this, but she would like to find people with reputation in their disciplines willing to do the work without campus-affiliation being negative or positive factors. The best people are the best people. Mike noted that we don’t want to “stack” the Board with members from OC.

It was unanimously agreed that it would better to have not more than one person from any institution.

There are some duplicates. Mike is merging the votes for these records. There are 13 people with 4 points, and 19 people who have 3 or more points -- this may be helpful in winnowing. Mike encouraged the Operations Group to focus on 3 and above candidates, making a note if there someone “below the fold” who deserves special consideration.

6. Action items

- (a) Operations Group will provide a “long list” of 16 people by end of Monday to Oversight Committee. The Operations Group will divide up the list and call them to clarify level of enthusiasm, answer questions about LP. Mike cautioned accidentally ending up with a non-diverse board.

Aim to be done by March 14 with final recommendation of 8 enthusiastic candidates, willing to serve. Mark will send the Oversight Group recommendation by March 14.

(b) Mike will send communications message to pledging institutions.

(c) Terri to connect with Becky to discuss budget update to OC.

(d) Becky/Mark/Margy will coordinate on posting approved minutes to leverpress.org

(e) Loretta to bring a proposal for a Lever Press advisory board to 3/28 OC meeting