

# Minutes of the Lever Press Oversight Committee Meeting

September 26, 2016

Attending: Andy Ashton, Margy Avery, Marta Brunner, Mark Christel, Dalia Corkrum, Mark Edington, Mary Francis, Mike Roy, Peg Seiden, Marci Sortor, Becky Welzenbach

Absent: Bryn Geffert, Terri Fishel, Charles Watkinson

## Approve draft minutes from August meeting

The committee acclaimed the minutes from the August meeting to be approved. Becky Welzenbach will post the approved minutes to the Lever Press website.

## Report from the Operations Group

Mark Edington reported on the process by which the Editorial Board arrived at the finalized Editorial Program and pointed the OC to the typeset PDF, which will be linked from the leverpress.org website so that anyone can download and print it locally. Dalia Corkrum noted that the Editorial Board members are not mentioned by name on the document. Peg Seiden suggesting adding a URL to the page where Ed. Board names and affiliations can be found and expressed support for the Lever Texts concept area.

## Plans for Upcoming Face-to-Face meeting at Williams College

Mike Roy should send message to membership announcing the editorial program is available and inviting pledging institutions participate in the general update at Williams College on October 9. The Committee discussed the details of the agenda for both the Oversight Committee and the general update, including a discussion of how much could be revealed about works in progress. Because these works are not yet under contract, we should not discuss their details publicly. The Ops Team proposed a summary report on the numbers of projects at various stages. The Committee agreed that the agenda for the Oversight Committee meeting at Williams would cover a budget update, a summary of works in process, a self assessment quiz and exercise for the OC to reflect on how the group is operating and where they'd like to see it go, and a discussion of metrics of success. The agenda for the general membership update will include budget update; Discussion of Progress Report/whitepaper (to be distributed in advance); introduction of the editorial program by Lisa Trivedi, chair of the Editorial Board (connecting remotely); summary report of projects in process; notification of opening on the Oversight Committee and invitation to consider nominating (or self-nominating).

## Amazon as potential distribution channel

There has been a query from a potential author about whether or not Lever Press titles will be available on Amazon (i.e., as Kindle ebooks). This is rather complicated because Amazon will require a price for the ebook, which seems in conflict with Lever's commitment to full OA. This needs to be explored further, though the Ops Team is comfortable saying for now that print versions of the titles will be for sale in Amazon, and Lever Press titles will be discoverable through the "Search Inside this Book" feature. Mike Roy asks the Operations Team to develop a recommendation re: Amazon distribution for the OC.

## Update from the Conflict of Interest Task Force

On behalf of the task force, Marta Brunner reported that the team met on September 13. She asked Mark Edington to report on the discussion and next steps. The group reviewed a series of examples of Conflict of Interest policy documents and disclosure forms that Mark had gathered and shared. Mark E. proposes to bring a draft policy and disclosure form before the task force (final version to come back in November?). Mike Roy noted that in addition to self-reporting documents, the OC should identify some actual likely conflicts and articulate strategies for dealing with them. Does an ongoing sub-committee need to tackle this?

## Special/Off-Cycle Elections to fill an open OC seat

The committee discussed several options for filling a vacated seat on the OC. Peggy Seiden stated that the fairest option was to hold a special election to fill the vacant seat, and allow the newly elected representative to serve a full term. Andy Ashton seconded. The committee agreed that the OC should continue to consist of library directors (i.e., those with the authority to decide to commit their library's funds to Lever or not). The committee agreed that they would not be able to arrange to hold a new election before the face-to-face meeting and that, instead, the meeting would be an opportunity to publicize the opening and gauge interest (and invite newer pledging institutions to get involved). The OC proposed to have the nomination process to fill the empty seat begin right after the October meeting.

## Identifying potential authors

Neil McElroy raised the topic of soliciting well established authors as the first to appear coming out of Lever Press. Mark Edington noted that now with the editorial program in place, we are better positioned to consider who such candidates might be. Ideas and suggestions from the OC are very welcome.