

# Minutes of the Lever Press Oversight Committee Meeting

February 27, 2017

Attending: Mike Roy, Bryn Geffert, Mary Francis, Mark Edington, Terri Fishel, Mark Christel, Peggy Seiden

## Approve Minutes

The oversight committee approved the minutes of the January 30 meeting.

**Action item: Becky Welzenbach will post the final minutes the Lever Press Website.**

## Report from Ops Group

**Oversight Committee Election.** Becky Welzenbach reported that we have received only four nominations, and two of them are not dean/administrative positions capable of committing funds. Mike Roy proposed to right away send a quick reminder to the list of pledging institutions to invite their nominations, and leave the election open one more week.

**Action item: Mike Roy to send reminder to LP pledging institutions.**

**Draft model contract.** Charles Watkinson was delayed in joining the meeting by another call, so Mary Francis described the draft. It has been written by Jack Bernard, Associate General Counsel at Michigan, specifically for Lever Press. The draft is inspired by the “model contract for authors” that the oversight committee saw in a focus group earlier this year, but written in even simpler, briefer language, and including some details that are specific to Lever. As a reminder, the contract consists of an agreement, which is deliberately brief and intended to remain quite standard from book to book, and schedules, which describe the details specific to any given project and can be modified. Mark Edington, Mary Francis, and Becky Welzenbach all provided feedback on this draft, which will go back to Jack Bernard for revision. We hope to have the final version soon.

**Amherst College Press staffing.** Mark Edington reported that the position for a senior acquiring editor at Amherst, to work 50% on Amherst College Press and 50% on Lever Press is ready to go and will be posted with relevant lists like AAUP. The committee had a discussion about alternative ways of imagining this position--e.g., two separate 50% people, or a full time person dedicated to Lever. Because of the costs, overhead, and logistics of either of these alternatives, Bryn Geffert (as dean at Amherst) noted that one person dedicated to each project 50% is the viable way forward here. On the search committee, Bryn will represent the Lever Press Oversight Committee and Becky will represent the Lever Press Operations group.

**Action item: Oversight Committee members can help by circulating the posting, identifying any possible candidates**

**Acquisitions.** Mark Edington reported updates on several projects in the pipeline. Two proposals have been shared with members of the Editorial Board for their initial feedback: one in the Lever Texts channel and one in the New Frontiers in Digital Liberal Arts channel. One of the original proposals received by the press (also in New Frontiers) is working on a revised proposal. Some outreach is going on to generate interest in the Teaching, Learning, and Leading in the LAC channel.

## Communications to membership

**General update at ACRL.** Space has been secured at the Hilton in Baltimore at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. This is the first major opportunity we have had to engage with our pledging libraries--and with anyone interested--since the update at Williams College in October. This is also an opportunity to meet with librarians at our pledging institutions who are \*not\* deans and directors. We expect that the program will review address the editorial program, introduce the Editorial Board's new guidelines/policy on peer review, and leave time for questions and discussion.

**Action item: Mark Edington will send a note to Lever Press pledging institutions to make them aware of the event and invite registrations.**

## Reports from standing committees and task forces

**Executive Committee.** Mike Roy reports that the committee has not met. Nothing to report.

**Communications Committee.** Terri Fishel reports that the committee has not met. We will not manage a webinar in March as planned but the committee will take up the webinar series next. Becky Welzenbach noted that the peer review statement should be coming from the Editorial Board soon, and this would be a good first topic, with invited speaker(s) from the Ed. Board.

**Action item: Terri Fishel will prompt the committee to action, with the first order of business being to coordinate a spring webinar for all pledging institutions.**

**Sustainability Committee.** Mike Roy reported that this committee has has not yet met. Nothing to report.

**Conflict of Interest Statement Task Force.** Mark Edington reminded the Oversight COmmittee that a draft statement has already been made available for feedback. Once a statement has been adopted, this task force can be retired.

**Action Item: OC members have one more month to offer feedback on the draft. At the next meeting the committee should vote whether to adopt the statement.**

**By-Laws/Operating Guidelines Task Force.** Andy Ashton was not available but Peggy Seiden reported that the group has met and is working through adapting draft by-laws produced by Mark Edington. The task force is in the process of scheduling one more meeting to finish this work before sharing a draft for the Oversight Committee's feedback.

## New Business

**OC face to face meeting in Baltimore** For those who can participate, the Oversight Committee will meet in person in Baltimore at the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel on Wednesday, March 22, at 12 p.m. Of those on the call, Peggy Seiden, Terri Fishel, Mark E., Charles Watkinson, Becky Welzenbach, Mark Christel, Bryn Geffert, and Mike ROy committed to being there. Dalia Corkrum also plans to attend.

## Travel/Outreach Roundup

**Susquehanna.** Mark Edington visited this campus 2/22/2017. He reported on seeing firsthand Susquehanna's unique undergraduate publishing/editing major, and described the future possibility of creating a Lever internship with students from this program.

**Baltimore/ACRL.** Reminder (as above) of the *\*two separate meetings\** that will take place in conjunction with ACRL: Oversight Committee meeting on 3/22 and General Update on 3/23. The 3/23 update is the first major opportunity we have had to engage with our pledging libraries--and with anyone interested--since the update at Williams College in October. This is also an opportunity to meet with librarians at our pledging institutions who are *\*not\** deans and directors. We expect that the program will review the overall model, review the editorial program, introduce Editorial Board's new guidelines/policy on peer review (we hope), and leave time for questions and discussion. There was a discussion about how to make the event as engaging and participatory as possible, perhaps through the use of index cards for questions and feedback (as at last year's Annapolis meeting).