

Oxford Union Society Library Committee

Minutes for Meeting TT 2019 Week 6 (Monday 3rd June)

Present: Sara Dube (*Librarian*), Tom Corrick (*Librarian-in-Charge*), Mahi Joshi (*Librarian-Elect*), Yee Kwan Law, Brian Wong, Daniel Villar, William Prescott, Connor Warden, John Whitehead, Kistu Egerton (*Standing Committee Representative*), Ryan Lee, Okorafor Ikeagwu, Elliot Bromley, Jamie Chen, James Pettifer, Marcin Pisanski, Sophia Schmidt, Elizabeth Piper (*Trainee Librarian/Secretary*).

- Apologies and Absences
 - Altair Brandon-Salmon is attending a tutorial
 - Phillip Counsell sends his apologies
 - The Librarian and Jamie Chen had their absences from last week passed.
- Membership
 - New Members: Sophia Schmidt was in attendance. She is a 1st year Classicist attending St. Anne's and from Germany so she prefers German literature, but also Russian literature and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
- Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
 - Rule changes- the Returning Officer says that the amendments have passed.
- Matters Arising from Standing Committee
 - None.
- Matters Arising from Strategy Committee
 - WiFi issues stay the same. The WiFi has generally been good this term, although Plush WiFi is excellent and can be used as a backup.
- Book Spend Progress Report
 - We are on budget. The current amount that can be spent on Collection Development is £308 (Was £392 but an extraordinary purchase of set of English Translation Bible for £84 was approved).
- Suggestions Book
 - None.
- Members' Suggestions (£79)
 - The suggestions list was overbudget by £20, so the *Rough Guide to South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland* was removed from the list as the Lonely Planet for the same was approved.

- Book List TT Week 6:
 - English (£265, Ryan Lee). These were chosen as they are important for literature and social justice- also American literature and slavery studies. All passed with no objections.
 - Biology (£225, Daniel Villar). As the library can't compete with the RSL, Daniel Villar chose books that are more popular. All passed with no objection.
 - Classics (£195, Connor Warden). Many of the texts on the list are pre-publication but the list should keep the Union ahead of the curve. The Union has the original 19th Century texts of *The Seven Great Monarchies of the Ancient Eastern World* so it is good to have a modern borrowable copy. The list is for volume one (which is all that is available currently), on the gamble that it will be very popular. All passed with no objections.
- Book List TT Week 7: Law (£281, Yee Kwan Law)
- Book List TT Week 8: Collection Development (£308)- after some discussion, the topics chosen were:
 - Oral History- Connor Warden, £130. The library has only one book on this which is out of date, and the topic is becoming an important part of the university syllabus.
 - Travel guides- James Pettifer and Trainee Librarian, £130. The travel guides are in need of updating as they are well used but very out of date. They are also a collection unique to the Union Library in Oxford.
 - Missing books- Librarian-in-Charge, £48. Borrowing statistics are to be checked against the dates of loss, and the most popular books that are recorded as missing are to be replaced.
 - Critical theory, Brian Wong. Brian will look at key texts for critical theory, as the library is out of date with its current collection. An amount will be allocated once he has checked availability and price.
- Withdrawals 2019TT6- two texts were kept back, but the others were all approved for withdrawal. The two texts are:
 - *Howard E. Shuman: legislative and administrative assistant to Senators Paul Douglas and William Pro* – this is a primary source and dedicated to the Union from the author, an old Union President.
 - *Principles of political economy*- to have its statistics checked.
 - Deferred withdrawals from TT5- a new NEB translation of the Bible will be bought.
- Any Other Business
 - Journal Renewals for 2020. The Librarian-in-Charge checked subscription prices. The subscriptions to be obtained in lieu of GQ are:
 - *Current Affairs* at £71.06 with a frequency of 6 per annum, as it is expensive to look at these articles online, as opposed to many of the other subscriptions considered, such as *Jacobin*, which is free online.

- *Oxford Review of Books* at £3 per issue which is termly.
- Proposed changes to book spend budget- subject list topics and budgets. The proposed changes were approved.
- William Prescott enquired whether the annual book budget for the library had gone up with inflation. The Librarian-in-Charge said the budgetary allowance was at the discretion of the finance committee but that the budget has been static now for some years- at least three. On the other hand, the library committee has been buying more books. It is unclear as to whether the committee is buying cheaper books to make a list go further or not though. The Librarian-in-Charge explained that college library budgets do keep inline with inflation, but that we do not. The book statistics for borrowing are decreasing all throughout Oxford, which is something to keep in mind.
- Time and Date of Next Meeting
 - The next meeting will be held in the Morris Room at 1415hrs on Monday 10th June.

The meeting was brought to a close at 1443hrs.