

Oxford Union Society Library Committee

Minutes for Meeting HT 2019 Week 5 (Monday 11th February)

Present: Brendan McGrath (*Librarian*), Tom Corrick (*Librarian-in-Charge*), Sara Dube (*Librarian-Elect*), Olivia Leigh (*Standing Committee Representative*), Elizabeth Piper (*Trainee Librarian*), Altair Brandon-Salmon, Yee Kwan Law, Brian Wong, Amelia Harvey, Daniel Villar, Tyron Surmon, Phillip Counsell, William Prescott, John Whitehead, William Atkinson, Kitsu Egerton, Jonathan Sheinman, Ryan Lee.

In attendance: Salome Melchior, Kofo Braithwaite, Emily Capon, James Matthews.

1. Apologies and Absences

- Connor Warden sends his apologies- he had a last-minute faculty commitment
- Sean Power was absent.

2. Membership

The Library Committee is currently at membership capacity, not including the people in attendance today. The rules will have to be checked for what is to occur when this happens as it is unprecedented under the new Librarian-in-Charge. The Junior Librarian will have to make the final decision once the rules have been checked.

- New Members
 - Several new people were in attendance today looking to become new members:
 - Emily Capon is a 1st year student at LMH and wishes to gain a deeper understanding of the Union from a library and literary perspective. Her passion is literature and increasing it through reading lists. She also wishes to make LMH more relevant within the Union.
 - James Matthews is 1st year at Balliol and believes that Balliol needs to be better represented within the Union. He wants to find out more about the Union as it can seem quite inaccessible. His grandfather left him some money to join as he had been a member when he was in Oxford. James uses the library often and prefers political reading, specifically modern socialist theories in Latin America.
 - Salome Melchior is Franco-Austrian from St. Hugh's and believes that the books currently within the library could do with being more linguistically variable. She also believes that some other language serials would improve the collection exponentially, such as Le Monde.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

None.

4. Matters Arising from Standing Committee

None.

5. Items for Strategy Committee

- Wifi, specifically having Eduroam fixed properly
- Topic review for booklists. It is felt that this needs a full review as it seems to have not been properly thought out in the past, such as putting geology and geography in the same list as they are fundamentally two different things. The recommendation is to have a full booklist subject review.

6. Suggestions Book

None.

7. Members' Suggestions (£79)

- These were both passed with no objections.
- The reserve suggestion from the philosophy list was added to this list so that it could be bought as it was deemed important. This is: *The Essential Epicurus*, by Stephen Evans.

8. Book List HT Week 5:

- English (£265, Ryan Lee). The books were chosen from linguistic and various literary criticisms of English booklists. This was passed with no objection.
- Philosophy (£235, Kitsu Egerton). These books were chosen as introductions to philosophy primarily, with some more in-depth as a secondary. This was passed with no objection.

9. Book List HT Week 6: Economics (£200, Jonathan Sheinman), Classics (£195, Connor Warden)

10. Book List HT Week 7: Law (£281, Yee Kwan Law), History (£270, Will Prescott)

11. Withdrawals 2019HT5

This list was passed with six exceptions:

- America at 1750, Hofstadter (973.26 HOF)- to have its statistics checked
- The dual mandate in British tropical Africa, Lugard (960.23 LUG)- it is hard to find in other libraries and while it is an out-of-date text, it is a primary source and therefore should be kept
- The hunting of the shark, Heine (942.574 HEI)- it is local interest
- The King's servants, Aylmer (942.064 AYL)- to have its statistics checked
- The Queen's wards, Hurtsfield (942.055 HUR)- to have its statistics checked
- Brief lives, and other selected writings, Aubrey (942.06 AUB)- to have its statistics checked.

It was thought that the African history collection should be improved upon as there are so many withdrawals from it today. Maybe it can be incorporated into the next history list, but it should also be looked at in the Strategy Committee on the topic of booklist subject reform.

12. Any Other Business

- The library now has an adjustable standing desk on the other side of the fireplace between the magazine racks.

13. Time and Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held in the MacMillan Room at 1415hrs on Monday 18th February.

The meeting was brought to a close at 1440hrs.