Minutes of the Friends of the University Libraries Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2014, 5:00 pm

Kalamazoo Book Arts Center

Attended: Carlson, Chase, Eckel, Houghton, Morgan, Patrick Hargis

Guests: Jeff Abshear, Christine Ballard

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting came to order at 5:15pm. Members introduced themselves to our guest Christine Ballard and Patrick Hargis, our nominee for the Friends student representative.

Nominations and Elections

The following individuals have been nominated (or have volunteered) to serve as board members.

Neil Chase – President
Ed Eckel – Secretary
Lou Morgan – Treasurer
Patrick Hargis – Student representative

Elections were held and the individuals were voted into office.

Recap of 2013-2014 Activities

Houghton passed out a sheet mentioning the past year’s FUL activities.

Preview of 2014-2015

Carlson gave a brief overview of proposed speakers for the coming academic year. There will be a ‘Behind the Scenes’ event at the Rare Books and Special Collections department of Waldo Library in the fall. A guest speaker from the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, is planned for Spring 2015. This speaker Dr. Margaret Weitekamp is a college friend of Dr. Mitch Kachun (WMU History) and will be staying with him during her time here. Carlson just submitted a grant for funding to help pay to bring this speaker here. The History Department at
Western has offered to help pay for the speaker costs. Funding and/or co-sponsorships will also be sought from the AirZoo. FUL will explore options for holding the event at the AirZoo.

**Tour of the Book Arts Center**

Jeff Abshear, director and founding member of the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, gave a short talk and a tour of the Book Arts Center. He began with some historical information about the founding of the Book Arts Center in 2005, its incorporation as a non-profit entity in 2006, and its subsequent development (which he described as being ‘like a rocket ship’). He then led the attendees on a tour of the Center. Highlights included a number of printing presses of all sizes and types (including several donated by Waldo Library), papermaking facilities, and a gift shop.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Eckel, Secretary