



## LIBER ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS, ONLINE, JUNE 2021

### Minutes of the LIBER Annual Meeting of Participants held online on Thursday 24 June 2021

**Monday 14 June 2020**

#### **Opening**

##### **1. Formal opening of the Meeting of Participants**

The LIBER Meeting of Participants was officially opened on Monday 14 June 2021. Due to the virtual nature of the 2021 LIBER Annual Conference, eligible Participants were invited to exercise their voting rights ahead of the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 24 June. Participants could access the LIBER 2021 Online Ballot from Monday 14 June 2021 until Wednesday 23 June 2021.

##### **2. Opening of Online Voting**

After the online voting was opened, LIBER Participants would be able to cast their vote. At the Meeting of Participants on 24 June 2021, voting results on the following agenda items would be announced:

###### *Minutes of the 2020 Meeting of Participants*

Participants were asked to approve the minutes from the previous Meeting of Participants which had been circulated as part of the May 2021 Mailing.

###### *LIBER Annual Account 2020 and Auditor's Report*

Participants were asked to approve the financial statements of the 2020 fiscal year which had been circulated as part of the May 2021 Mailing.

###### *LIBER Annual Report 2020*

Participants were asked to approve this document providing an overview of LIBER's activities and performance throughout 2020 which had been circulated as part of the May 2021 Mailing.

###### *Appointments to the LIBER Executive Board*

After the Meeting of Participants, three Executive Board members would retire. The seat left vacant by Dr Bertil Dorch would be filled by one nominated candidate elected by the Meeting of





#### Participants.

In line with the Statutes and the Rules and Regulations of the LIBER Foundation, the Call for Nominations had been circulated in the November 2020, March 2021, and May 2021 LIBER Mailings. By the closing date for nominations (10 June 2021), two nominations had been received by Secretary-General Mr John MacColl, and all candidates had been announced to the Participants on Monday 14 June. Participants would elect one of these nominees to serve on the Executive Board:

- Dr Jessica Gardner, University Librarian and Director of Library Services, Cambridge University Libraries.  
Proposer: Mr Julien Roche, University Librarian and Director of Libraries and Learning Center, University of Lille.
- Dr Charlotte Wien, Professor, Head of Research and Head of Researcher Services, University Library of Southern Denmark.  
Proposer: Dr Bertil Dorch, Library Director, University Library of Southern Denmark.

To replace retiring Board members Mr John MacColl and Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, Participants were also asked to approve two Executive Board appointments. The Board may do so in the case of up to three Executive Board positions within the terms of the LIBER Statutes and Rules and Regulations. The following candidates had been proposed for approval:

- Ms Anja Smit, University Librarian, Utrecht University Library, to replace Mr John MacColl as Secretary-General.
- Dr Andrea De Pasquale, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma as an Executive Board Member.

In addition to the appointments mentioned above, four Executive Board members would have completed terms of office by June 2021. The following members were eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years and were willing to stand for re-appointment:

- Dr Andreas Brandtner, Freie Universität Berlin.
- Dr Heli Kautonen, Finnish Literature Society.
- Dr Birgit Schmidt, Göttingen State and University Library.
- Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

#### *Honorary Membership appointments*

LIBER's Statutes and Rules and Regulations allow for the appointment of Honorary Membership status to individuals who had made significant contributions to LIBER. Those whose work would be ongoing but who were not affiliated with LIBER Participant institutions could also be made Honorary Members. Participants were asked to approve the following Honorary appointments proposed by the Executive Board:

- Mr John MacColl, retiring Secretary-General (retroactive to 1 August 2020).
- Mr Benjamin White, Chair of LIBER Copyright and Legal Matters Working Group, (retroactive to 1 January 2021).
- Ms Trudy Turner, LIBER Quarterly Managing Editor (retroactive to 1 March 2021).
- Em Prof Raf DeKeyser, LIBER Quarterly Managing Editor 2012-2020.
- Em Prof Melvyn Collier, LIBER Quarterly Chairman of the Board.



### *Rules and Regulations*

A number of changes to LIBER's Rules & Regulations had been proposed by the Executive Board. The key changes related to the period of tenure of the President and Vice-President, but other amendments relating to the means of appointment of Board Officers were proposed as well. The Meeting of Participants was requested to approve these changes, which would enable the Executive Board to function as effectively as possible, taking account both of the value of experience within the Board, and of the need to refresh the Board with new members from the LIBER community on a regular basis. The amendments that were to be approved had been published on the LIBER website on 7 June 2021.

## **Thursday 24 June 2021**

### **Meeting of Participants**

#### **3. Opening Remarks**

President Ms Jeannette Frey welcomed all attendees to LIBER's annual Meeting of Participants. In order to honour LIBER's statutory requirements, the 2021 Meeting of Participants was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **4. Minutes of the Meeting of Participants held online on 25 June 2020**

Mr John MacColl stated that the minutes of the Meeting of Participants held online on Thursday 25 June 2020 had been approved by LIBER Participants.

#### **5. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### *INTERNAL BUSINESS PROCESSES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS*

#### **6. LIBER Annual Account 2020 and Auditor's Report**

Treasurer Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden presented the 2020 Annual Account. She explained that although LIBER's income remained comparable to previous years, LIBER had suffered a net loss of €82,000. Because of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, revenue had decreased because of the cancellation of physical events, and income from overhead costs had been diminished due to delays in projects funded by the European Commission. Additionally, no income



from the 2020 Annual Conference had been realised as the event had been free of charge for all attendees.

The deficit of €82,000 had been covered by the LIBER financial reserves created for extraordinary circumstances such as these. The decision to draw on LIBER's reserves had been approved by the Executive Board. Having covered the loss, the financial reserves now contained €466,000, meaning that LIBER's financial situation had remained robust. Dr Van Wijngaarden then assured the Meeting of Participants of LIBER's commitment to delivering all promised services to Participants. She concluded by stating that the LIBER Annual Account 2020 and Auditor's Report had been approved by LIBER Participants.

## 7. LIBER Annual Report 2020

Ms Jeannette Frey presented the 2020 Annual Report and reported that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, LIBER had been doing well and had achieved many successes in 2020. She mentioned several of such instances, like the free online Annual Conference, the funding of two additional European projects, the creation of two new Working Groups, and the collaboration with the French research library association ADBU. During the year, LIBER had encountered some challenges like the cancellation of the first-ever Mid-Term Event, the postponement of the Journées for Library Directors, and the previously mentioned financial loss. In 2020, LIBER had welcomed new Participants, LIBER Office employees, and LIBER Quarterly Editorial Board members and Managing Director. After thanking LIBER's sponsors she then introduced Dr Giannis Tsakonas, Steering Committee Chair, who would provide attendees with updates on the Working Groups belonging to the Innovative Scholarly Communication Steering Committee.

Dr Tsakonas mentioned the successful workshops, webinars, guides, and collaborations of the Citizen Science Working Group. The Copyright and Legal Matters Working Group had been instrumental in LIBER's #ZeroEmbargo campaign. Despite the Innovative Metrics Working Group ending their activities, their work and knowledge would continue to be used. In addition to collaborating on the #ZeroEmbargo campaign, the Open Access Working Group had worked with stakeholders, and organised many activities. He concluded his report by extending his thanks to the Working Group members for volunteering their time and efforts to support LIBER's goals.

The past year's highlights of the Working Groups part of the Digital Skills & Services Steering Committee were then presented by its Chair, Dr Bertil Dorch. He started by stating the many successful online activities of the Leadership Programmes Working Group, such as the virtual continuation of the Emerging Leaders Programme, the organisation of two webinars, and the Job Description Repository on the LIBER website. After mentioning the postponement of the Journées for Library Directors to 2022, he moved on to the Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group. This Group had originally planned to end their activities in mid-2021 but both the members and the Executive Board had been eager for the Working Group to continue their work. In the past year, the Group had published an article, a poster and a reading list about Digital Humanities, and had co-authored a book on GLAM. They had also organised multiple webinars. Dr Dorch then mentioned the Digital Skills for Library Staff and Researchers Working Group, who had set up a webinar and published an Open Science Skills visualisation before becoming inactive after



completing their two-year term, and ended the overview of the Steering Committee's activities by thanking all Working Group and Steering Committee members for their efforts.

As Chair of the Research Infrastructures Steering Committee, Dr Birgit Schmidt took over to mention the achievements of the remaining Working Groups. The LIBER Architecture Group had created a digital database containing information on European library buildings and had started the planning of a conference that would take place in April 2022. The FIM4L Working Group had published recommendations on access to online resources for library services, and would organise webinars and contribute to conferences. They had also launched a website about the Federated Identity Management for Libraries initiative and collaborated with stakeholders and publishers. The Linked Open Data Working Group had wrapped up their work which had culminated in the publication of a best practices guide. The Research Data Management Working Group had been involved in various workshops, publications, and webinars. The Group had also created several subgroups centred around specialised topics. The Data Science in Libraries Working Group, the final Working Group belonging to the Research Infrastructures Steering Committee, had been launched in 2021 and had now begun the development of a work plan. Dr Schmidt expressed her appreciation and gratitude for the contributions made by all Working Group members, and gave the floor back to Ms Jeannette Frey who provided an overview of LIBER's involvement in six European projects. She concluded this section of the Meeting of Participants by stating that the LIBER Annual Report 2020 had been approved by LIBER Participants.

## **8. LIBER Foundation: Appointments to the LIBER Executive Board**

Mr John MacColl announced the appointments to the LIBER Executive Board.

### **8.1 New Appointments at the Meeting of Participants**

One of the vacant Executive Board seats would be filled by the nominated candidate elected by LIBER Participants. The successful candidate for this position was Dr Jessica Gardner. Mr MacColl thanked both nominees for their candidacies and offered his congratulations to Dr Gardner.

The Board-appointed candidates for the two remaining vacancies, Dr Andrea De Pasquale and Ms Anja Smit, had been approved by LIBER Participants, and Dr De Pasquale and Ms Smit were welcomed to the Executive Board by Mr MacColl.

### **8.2 Reappointments at the Meeting of Participants**

The reappointments of Dr Andreas Brandtner, Dr Heli Kautonen, Dr Birgit Schmidt, and Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden had been approved by LIBER Participants.

## **9. LIBER Honorary Membership Appointments**

Mr John MacColl stated that the Honorary Membership appointments of himself, Mr Benjamin White, Ms Trudy Turner, Em Prof Raf DeKeyser, and Em Prof Melvyn Collier had been approved by LIBER Participants. Ms Jeannette Frey proceeded to congratulate and welcome all newly appointed



Executive Board and Honorary Members. She also thanked Dr Bertil Dorch, Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, and Mr John MacColl for their contributions, time, and efforts on the LIBER Executive Board.

## 10. LIBER Rules and Regulations

Mr John MacColl stated that the proposed amendments to the LIBER Rules and Regulations had been approved by LIBER Participants and would come into force immediately.

## 11. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

## 12. Invitation to the 2022 LIBER Annual Conference hosted by the University of Southern Denmark Library, Odense in July 2022

Ms Jeannette Frey invited Participants to join LIBER 2022 which would be hosted in Odense, Denmark. Ms Frey then thanked LIBER Participants for voting at, and attending the Meeting of Participants and closed the session.

Anja Smit  
Secretary-General

August 2021

### NOTE ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS

Under the Statutes of the LIBER *Stichting*, the Meeting of Participants is the equivalent of an Annual General Meeting, at which LIBER Participants (i.e. Members) assemble to receive information about the operation of the LIBER organisation, including its Annual Report and Accounts, and have an opportunity to question the LIBER Executive Board and its Office-bearers, discuss policies and make suggestions to the Board. Appointments to the LIBER -Executive Board are also made at the Meeting of Participants. The papers for the Meeting of Participants are issued with the LIBER May Mailing. All Annual Conference delegates are welcome to attend the LIBER Annual Meeting of Participants. Voting rights are, however, reserved to LIBER Participants. A Dutch *Stichting* cannot have members or levy a membership fee, and so a Member= a Participant; a membership fee=an annual contribution fee; and the Annual General Meeting= Meeting of Participants.

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