May 9, 2023

MLA Archivist, Special Officer

Committee Members: none

Board Action Required:

- The field study has been wildly successful (see summary of activities below; additional documentation can be provided if needed). I hope the Board will approve a renewal of the field study program for the Fall 2023 semester, with the goal of running at least one field study per FY. In this case, we have the opportunity to keep the same student for two successive semesters, which will allow us to capitalize on the student’s familiarity with the MLA Records.

- If the Board cannot approve renewal of the field study program at this meeting/venue, but there is a separate application or appeal process, I ask the Board to let me know how to place a formal enquiry.

Summary of Activities:

- The field study student, Hannah Milillio, started in early February 2023. Her main task was to process established MLA Records so that they could be described in an online, searchable Finding Aid.

- She has completed the description for three record groups, and is planning to spend her final weeks of the semester making sure all of the relevant have barcodes and accurate location metadata in the Finding Aid, which will help discoverability a great deal.

- I have met with John R. Davis, the curator of SCPA, and Hannah three times over the course of the semester to receive updates on her work, to plan future work, and to talk through the best approach toward the collection. We have begun to formulate plans for a potential extension into the Fall 2023 semester.

- I have made an announcement at the MLA Business Meeting soliciting donations to the MLA records.

- Liza Vick and Lisa Shiota have been in touch about how to leave their records with the collection, and we have made arrangements for that donation.

- I continue to look for ways to encourage past officers and committee chairs to leave their materials.

Alignment with MLA Strategic Plan Objectives

- Goal Area 2, Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4: The new field study responds to several of the objectives in Goal Area 2. It provides me with an opportunity to mentor a newer person in the field of librarianship, and it provides the student access to educational and networking opportunities. Because she
is not necessarily interested in music librarianship, it also fits with the objective to support members working in various disciplines.

- Goal Area 3, Objective 3.7: As the field study becomes a regular avenue for training, it will increase the association’s accessibility to a newer generation of archivist-librarians
- Goal Area 4, Objective 4.2: My work searching for the best way to encourage folks to donate their materials is closely aligned with Communication.

VII. Implicit Bias Testing Reporting: I receive this training through my workplace.