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Meeting Minutes, 27 August 2017

University of Mississippi. Library. Friends

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MINUTES, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, AUGUST 27, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Cecilia Botero, Dr. Stephen Monroe, Sarah Frances Hardy, Mary Preston Dubberly, Dr. D.J. Canale, Janet Canale, Alex Watson, Angela Brown, Laura Harper, Dr. Don Cole, Dr. Colby Kulman, Dr. Sheila Skemp, Dr. Tanya Flesher, Dr. Jennifer Ford

- I. Stephen Monroe called the meeting to order and let the board know that this was the last Friends meeting in his role as President. He will still serve on the Board but is stepping down after his 3 year term. Stephen then began the introduction of new members, as well as asking for existing members to introduce themselves. Mary Preston Dubberly from Jackson, MS was introduced as a new member of the board.
- II. Stephen asked for the approval of the August 2016 board minutes. There was a move to approve by Angela which was seconded by Tanya Flesher. The minutes were approved by the board.
- III. Dean Botero gave the board an update about the accomplishments of the last year, as well as future goals for the library. Included in board member's packets were copies of her speaking points. She began with the overall vision of the library which is to "partner with UM faculty, students, staff, and researchers to meet their information needs, provide innovative and collaborative services and spaces, and preserve unique content for the UM community and the state." Her talk outlined several goals the libraries have achieved to date, as well as future goals which the libraries are currently working on, including: library space; scholarly communications; library funding; research support; instruction and outreach; digital initiatives and technology; and assessment.

Note: The quotations below are from Dean Botero's handout given to the Board at the meeting. A digital copy is attached to the minutes.

- a. Library Space: Some of the recent changes to spaces in the libraries include the new colors on the walls in the Pilkington Study Room. The blue color was chosen by the students by vote which helped to make them feel even more invested in their library. In addition, a great deal of careful and thoughtful work has been done by library subject specialists to remove duplicative materials. This included removing over 23,000 journals and over 11,000 books in order to make more usable space for the students. The Dean explained that "this was a carefully targeted cut and focused on items that were duplicated online or damaged beyond repair." In addition, funds from the Friends of the Library helped the libraries purchase online journal backfiles and there are plans for this trend to continue, due to the overwhelming demand for accessibility. More collaboration space for patrons has been another priority. The libraries are going to open up a collaboration room this fall which will include the first 3D printer on campus open to the general public, a poster printer, and some specialized software. There are plans which include further investigation of additional technology to enhance research and interactive projects.
- b. Scholarly Communication: UM Libraries efforts to promote and enhance scholarly communication continue. One goal of paramount importance is the acquisition of an institutional repository (IR). An IR is defined as "an online archive for collecting, preserving, and distributing digital copies of the intellectual output of an institution."

Such a platform is in place at most universities, especially R1 institutions such as UM. During the budget planning process for 2017/2018 the libraries worked towards plans for an IR. Through collaboration with the Provost's office, Dean Botero worked to find temporary funds for such a platform with "the expectation that it will be moved into the permanent budget within the next couple of years." The Dean was happy to let the Board know that the libraries will be working on this project over the course of the next year. Another part of the scholarly communications update from the Dean regarded Open Educational Resources (OERs). OERs "are meant to reduce the cost of education by providing free and open-source materials for educators as an alternative to costly textbooks." The libraries have recognized the need to promote such resources and have been very active throughout the state to "promote and expand the OERs available to Mississippi." The Dean mentioned the work of Assistant Dean for Public Services, Jocelyn Tipton, and Dr. Stephen Monroe which has been such a vital part of this process. Stephen spoke about the Hewlett Foundation grant he and Jocelyn were a part of which has helped to spread the use of OERs to faculty and has saved students a significant amount already. In addition, a UM IR will give these OERs a platform to "host free and open access journals and books to support this badly-needed initiative." Having a University Archivist is another goal which would enhance scholarly communications within the libraries. Currently Special Collections is without a dedicated University Archivist and there is much need for such a specialized position to "build a comprehensive UM-specific collection on the level of a premier university's archives." The libraries are currently working on a plan to "allow us to hire a dedicated University Archivist to create and curate this important collection and we hope to use the IR to help store and distribute the materials."

- c. Library Funding: The Dean gave an update on library funding which included an overview of how much Friends of the Libraries group has made a difference. She explained that, "The FOL's help in funding our resources has had a great impact on us and we will strive to make the best use of the funding made available to us." Some of the support the FOL funds have already provided allowed the libraries to purchase back files of journals, allowing for more physical collaborative library space, a subscription to HathiTrust, and Dr. Gerald Walton's endowment funds allowed the libraries to purchase the significant online research resource, *African American Newspapers, Series I, 1827-1998*. The Dean mentioned that the libraries "could use FOL assistance to help us advance our mission and find alternatives to scarce University and State permanent funding." Some of the areas the Dean outlined were collection needs, such as the purchase of unique archival resources to build the holdings of Special Collections; continued funding for HathiTrust to "allow us to upload UM materials as digital objects...[which] is essential to sharing and preserving our most unique materials"; additional funds to help realize and sustain the UM IR and the University Archivist; and furniture and technology, "as the university's premier study and collaboration space, we are always in need of help to purchase new/replacement furniture and new/replacement technology."
- d. Research Support: Dean Botero updated the Board about the UM Libraries' involvement with data curation/management. The libraries have taken up the challenge to help

ensure that UM's computer data is "properly managed and responsibly curated." As an offshoot of this the UM Libraries started a university-wide data and curation management group to investigate ways to achieve this goal collaboratively. The Dean mentioned that we, "have provided assistance with making data management plans and providing information about archiving, data sharing, and standards compliance." In addition the UM Libraries has been active in helping to support Chancellor Vitter's Flagship Constellation Initiative. The Chancellor's new initiative "sees working groups coming together across UM constituencies to achieve institutional goals." The UM Libraries took part in the kickoff activities and presented "at the initial sharing sessions with a proposal that librarians be included as part of the Constellation teams." Many librarians have been included in the newly established research groups for these Flagship Constellations.

- e. Instruction and Outreach: Instruction efforts by librarians continue to increase, both by the library liaisons and in Special Collections. In addition, the libraries promote instruction and outreach through participation in events, such as the recent eclipse-viewing event.
 - f. Digital Initiatives and Technology: The Dean updated the Board about the new integrated library system (ILS) which is in the works. An ILS, "is a behind-the-scenes software that helps the library check out items, handle fines, and more." The current system is no longer supported by the vendor and plans are to upgrade to the newer version of the system in place. In addition, the Law Library will also be moving to the new ILS system which will help reduce costs. This planning has allowed the libraries, "to use the one-time funding we set aside to finance two years of the UM IR platform that would serve both libraries and other campus contingents."
 - g. Assessment: Assessment aids the libraries to determine how well its goals are being met. The UM Libraries, "are in the midst of researching and establishing assessment strategies, tools and techniques that allow us to make confident evidence-based decisions for the good of our users." In addition, the UM Libraries strive to continue to "develop meaningful information to share with all our stakeholders, including FOL."
- IV. After the Dean's remarks, Research & Instruction Librarian Alex Watson provided demonstrations of various projects which had been achieved through the assistance of FOL and also those which help recognize the FOL's efforts. These included HathiTrust, Historical Newspapers, Virtual Bookplates, and events (such as the Federal Depository History celebration; Fall Special Collections lecture series schedule, the eclipse viewing event held by the Libraries).

Note: Copies of all the handouts provided by Alex are attached to the minutes.

- a. HathiTrust- Alex explained the benefits and opportunities of HathiTrust by showcasing the example of a rare historic periodical currently held by the UM Libraries, *Harpers Young People*, which although in excellent condition did not fit the collecting scope of Special Collections. As it is in the public domain it is an excellent candidate to contribute to HathiTrust. As a member of HathiTrust the UM Libraries are able to upload unique and interesting materials where they will be available. If the items are in the public domain they will be available to the general public and if they are in copyright only

HathiTrust members are able to gain access. Alex explained that members are able to download the whole book or part but only public domain materials are available for downloads by non-members. This purchase was made entirely possible by FOL. It is a \$24,000 a year annual subscription cost which is paid from the FOL membership. HathiTrust both saves money and also makes rare items easier to obtain. Dr. Skemp asked if historical societies have been contributing and Alex let her know they have. Laura Harper question about if HathiTrust has been included in the UM Libraries discovery system and Alex let her know the items have. Dr. Cole asked how UM personnel gain access to it and Alex let him know all you need is your UM ID.

- b. Alex then highlighted the purchase of the online resource *African American Newspapers Series I* which was made possible by Dr. Walton's endowment. Alex highlighted the fact that this is such an important resource due to the fragility of newspapers.
 - c. Alex highlighted the libraries virtual bookplate program which is an online method of acknowledging the contributions of library donors. He showed a library webpage with a variety of virtual bookplates and noted that it is a flexible medium which can be used in the catalog, as well as on databases, etc. These virtual bookplates allow much more flexibility than physical plates and he used the FOL Endowment and FOL Memorial used as an example. Angela requested that the bookplates be routed to the FOL joining site. Dr. Flesher asked if memorials were identified and Alex indicated they were. Mary Preston Dubberly asked to see all the different kinds of bookplates available at the moment- showing all the endowments. There are some bookplates which are just placeholders now and the Dean invited input for design.
 - d. Anniversary of Federal Depository Program (FDLP) was a part of Alex's event discussion. He referenced the FDLP handout provided to the Board during the meeting and mentioned how the current Government Documents Librarian, Ashley Dees, took the initiative for another program- the eclipse. She wrote to the government to get funding for snacks and eclipse glasses which helped make the library event very successful.
- V. Report on Accounts and Membership: Angela provided the most current membership and account numbers. Meeting numbers/ Account Balances as of FY 17 end. Foundation accounts: 00408 Friends of the Library (Memorial book buying account) Ending Balance \$3,535.15. 02097 Friends of the Library Endowment (membership dues) Ending Balance \$1,015,815.85. 05690 Library Friends Program Fund (to support events and programming). Ending Balance \$1,164.16. University Account: Ending Balance \$77,065.93. Specific membership numbers for current calendar year of 2017 1/1/2017 – 8/14/2017 \$24,450 cash gifted to account 02097 (FOL endowment fund) #of gifts = 264 #of donors = 226. To give an idea of membership in the past year- in March Stephen wrote a letter to 2850 people pulling from a lapsed donor list and we are a record high now for membership and member donations. Angela encouraged members to talk up the group and invite more and more people. Sarah Frances Hardy and Stephen will be helping to create a renewal letter.
- VI. Sarah Frances has been working on an event for the spring with Jimmy Thomas of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, which would be held during the Oxford Conference for the Book (OCB). The OCB is in March 2018 and the FOL currently does not have the funds for an event such as the one in 2015 at Dr. Ralph Vance's home. However we thought the FOL might collaborate with an already scheduled OCB scheduled in order to

- honor Dr. Ann Abadie. Sarah Frances is currently talking Jimmy about the plans and will soon be letting Ann know (currently she has not been notified). March 21st at 6:30 ?? location TBD
- VII. Nominations for new board members. Stephen asked for ideas for new board members and opened the floor for suggestions. Although none were suggested at the time members promised to continue to brainstorm.
 - VIII. Stephen's ended the meeting with the announcement that his term as President of the FOL is coming to an end. He mentioned how much he had enjoyed being a part of the revitalization of the group and how much the FOL has meant to him through the years. He is remaining on the Board but the body will need a new president. He nominated Sarah Frances for the job, which was seconded. Her nomination was approved by the entire group.
 - IX. New Business. Sarah Frances highlighted Laura Harper's generous gift to the Library and the coverage of this wonderful library gift in an *Oxford Eagle* article. There was no other new business and the meeting was adjourned.
 - X. Sarah Frances gave a token of appreciation to Stephen. The group was also photographed at the end of the meeting.