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Meeting Minutes, 21 January 2014

University of Mississippi. Library. Friends

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Friends of the Library meeting, January 21, 2014

Present: Dr. Ann Abadie, Mrs. Mary Ann Fruge, Dr. Gerald Walton, Dean Julia Rholes, Ms. Angela Barlow, and Dr. Jennifer Ford.

Minutes:

Recruitment:

--One of the main goals for the March 29th meeting of the new board of Friends of the Library is to recruit new members and to talk about methods for recruiting.

Dues:

--We need to revise our dues structure and need a publication advertising the new dues. We currently have something on our library website but we need to update it.

--We discussed the Friends of the UM Museum fee structure. We decided we need a student level but agreed that the structure should be simple—the simpler the better.

--We hope that the new Friends group will vote on the amount of dues at the March 29th meeting.

--One idea mentioned was to look at the Patrons of Music fee structure as a possible model and the Friends of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture group as another model.

--The 75th anniversary of Friends was discussed and there was thought that there should be a section on the fee structure for the anniversary level of giving.

Board Organization:

--We are looking for an interim president for Friends and executive committee chairs- they should divide up the committees to come up with proposals and then report back to the full group, thereby dividing the labor.

--We also discussed the frequency of this new group meeting. We decided not to define a day or month in the by-laws but to state that the group should meet quarterly.

--There was mentioned the possibility of having a past president, a current president, and an incoming president (a three year cycle) as a model for this new group. This would promote stability. It was suggested rather than a vice-president and president structure. It is good to have this structure so that the incoming president can learn the ropes of the job. The group agreed to consider this at the March 29th meeting.

--A membership chair and an activities chair were also mentioned as being a part of this new group.

--We also need a committee to look at revising the by-laws of Friends.

--There was general consensus in hoping that Dr. Stephen Monroe would become interim president of the new group, but membership chair was also mentioned as a possibility for Dr. Monroe's leadership in case he did not want to take on the responsibility of interim president at this point.

--There was discussion of someone else besides Dr. Monroe to take a leadership position. Ms. Lee Lee Gillespie as a possible choice but it was suggested that we should not take two people from the staff of the College of Liberal Arts. So we would need to think of someone else—Dr. Joe Ward of History was mentioned as a possibility, although he has several outstanding commitments.

--A secretary for the new Friends group was also mentioned.

--Dr. Abadie and Dr. Walton agreed to serve in an advisory capacity and Mrs. Fruge agreed to help with the March 29th meeting but feels she needs to rotate off after that because of the work load of her present commitments.

--Members of this group spoke about dividing the work of the Friends to this new group. They want people in the new group to be involved with some of the work aspects of Friends. The need to be careful with Ms. Pam Rogers time and Ms. Barlow's time was mentioned. Another idea was to establish one central place responsible for the list of Friends and writing reminder letters. The need for an archives for the Friends materials was also discussed.

To Do by March 29th:

--The date of March 29th at 10:30 was agreed upon for the new group.

--It was mentioned that a total number of 19 people responded to the call for new board members. On March 29th the new group will probably meet in the Harrison Room or if that is not available the Seymour Lawrence Room in Special Collections.

--The current group spoke about meeting again on Friday, February 7th at 1:00 in the Harrison Room or if it is not available the Seymour Lawrence Room in Special Collections for an organizational meeting. This meeting will be to discuss the outline of events for the March 29th meeting. Dean Rholes is going to ask Dr. Monroe to come to the February 7th meeting.

---The need to create charges for the membership committee and the activity/events committee was mentioned and is due by the March 29th or the February 7th meeting. There was an idea discussed to get input from the current group on the charges for the committees of the new group by February 7th.

--We will provide samples of other by-laws for the board at the March 29th meeting.

--A possible exhibit case on the Friends in Special Collections was discussed.

--A draft letter was created to be sent out to the new board members to invite them to the March 29th meeting. Mrs. Fruge asked for the current group to look over the letter and email any suggestions to the group.

--The letter should say that we are including an agenda and possibly other materials. The letter should ask people to RSVP as soon as possible but also that we would be sending out reminders.

--There was discussion about getting the letter about the March 29th meeting out. Ms. Barlow offered the possibility of using an electronic signature on these letters.

--The question came up about creating an agenda for the March 29th meeting. Dr. Walton and Dr. Abadie agreed to come up with an agenda. This would consist of a big picture and then more focused needs for the Friends. There would not be a packet at the March 29th meeting but an agenda, a possible dues structure, and committee possibilities with charges.

--Conducting a survey of the group to see how they want to be contacted (email, telephone, or letter) was discussed for the March 29th meeting.

--It was decided that Dr. Walton would outline what the current group is doing and what has been done in the past for the March 29th meeting. Dr. Walton will put together notes on this for the meeting.

--Dean Rholes agreed to send out emails to the current group with a new sample fee structure for the Friends. This would be one of the matters of business which the new Friends group could discuss at the March 29th meeting.

Future PR efforts:

--The possible overlap between UM Museum's 75th anniversary and the Friends of the Library's 75th anniversary was mentioned as something to consider.

--The idea of having a signature event for the Friends was mentioned—much like the holiday party in years past.

--The events of the Women's Council were discussed. The Council has for their top donors (of \$1000) two events per year. There should be a short "dog and pony show" but we should create something like this for the Friends— there is a need to promote stewardship. There should be an annual or semi-annual event for the Friends.

--A possible tour of the library at another time besides March 29th was discussed. We want as many of the board members to know the breadth of the library's work as possible.