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Meeting Minutes, 25 September 2015

University of Mississippi. Library. Friends

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Friends of the Library Board Meeting, September 25, 2015

Present:

D.J. Canale; Sarah Frances Hardy; Donald Cole; Ralph Vance, Gail Herrera; Angela Brown; Ken Wooten; LeLe Gillespie, Marcia Cole, Laura Harper; Cory Vinson; Ivo Kamps; Tonya Flesher; Floyd Sulser; Stephen Monroe.

1. Approval of minutes: Don Cole approved, Ralph Vance seconded. Approval passed.
2. Dean Rholes in a Dean's meeting and will not be attending. Welcome of Gail Herrera.
3. Announcement about Dean Rholes- retiring in December. Staying in town at least through the end of the First Folio. Stephen expressed his history with Dean Rholes and what a good influence she has been in the library. Bringing in soft furniture; technology; starbucks. Library has gone from a vacant place to one which is jam packed. Thinking of a way to honor her and if you think of ideas let Stephen know. Rod Bridges of the ASB came to a few coffees and has expressed an interest in partnering with the Friends to promote organization to students. ASB wanted to have an event in Special Collections but this was prevented by the mold outbreak in certain parts of the collection. When this re-opens the ASB event will take place, allowing groups of students to see the University history.
4. Donor generated project about Dr. Charles Noyes. Dr. Noyes' corresponded with this donor. This donor gave us \$5000 to create a keepsake of a collection of Dr. Noyes' letters. We are going to use the Miriam Weems and Donna Bailey Dye collections and Stephen asked for more. Ken Wooten said that there was a file in the registrars office which had hundreds of Noyes letters and will try to get them. Idea is to take the money and hire a part time editor to compile these letters- maybe a graduate student or maybe a local person. If you know of anyone who would be qualified please send name to Stephen. Whatever we produce could be a keepsake of the 75th anniversary and could have FOL logo. Some of these letters cannot be used due to content but they are wonderful. Stephen asked what members thought of this project and everyone agreed that this would be a wonderful project.
5. Ralph's party was a great success and there was general acclimation from group. It yielded gifts of papers and also members. We sent out a letter to all of writers and have accepted the papers already of Ann Fisher Wirth and have tentative interest from three or four others.
6. Accounts- going to look at end of fiscal year since end of summer. Our goals: get our endowment to million dollar mark; increase our membership numbers. FOL endowment- we ended fiscal year at 944,365. We did well from Jan-July and the market did well. Projected for current year (3 months in)- the Foundation has not distributed in or out of our endowment- so Angela will not be able to give numbers until end of October. Restricted accounts- we spent lots of money into FOL book fund, end of July went down to \$1874- so this was a good expenditure. Will email numbers for endowment to folks. One other flow through account used by events

committee- have \$2468.37 now. Thanks to Christine Wallace for help. Printing use account (postage for renewals; brochures and recruitment) a University account \$74,000.

7. Numbers of members: currently (looking at calendar year numbers). Jan-Dec 2013- 174 members at that time. In calendar year 2014 we had 200; in 2015 we have 144 members. The gift dollars have increased- they have given \$18,000 to our endowment. Our members are giving more and we have more people joining us at a higher level. In the last quarter Oct-Dec we will send out a final renewal notice and hope to top off at 200 plus. Stephen wanted to thank Heather Hedgepath in his office and renewals will be mailed out in next two weeks (next batch).
8. Dr. Cole asked when best time to solicit is? Angela- Stephen and Heather looked at numbers and membership renewals went out every month and they saw that people were more interested in renewing at end of year. They sent out a series: one in January; one in summer; one in fall— series of three- introduction; follow up; and re-follow up. So renewals go out once a quarter. Dr. Cole asked about payroll deduction and Angela is counting numbers and said it is definitely still available. It is more than 15 people doing this- multiple times not just one time. Stephen- improvements to calendar came from this group and feels that it is increasing our numbers.
9. Events committee: met just before this meeting; Carole Lynn not able to be here. Angela gave update: discuss the 75th anniversary and main event is tentatively set for March 4-5. A Friday evening event with a white glove tour in Special Collections, as well as a reception. Then there will be a Saturday morning tour of the four locations the library has been on campus. Hold tentative dates: retirement of Dean Rholes (university reception and FOL members are invited) probably in December; opening reception of new exhibit in Jan-Feb (tentative); FOL and Friends of Ford Center will have an event May 1st for the Shakespeare First Folio event. Stephen- introduced Dr. Kamps and his knowledge of this author. Dr. Canale's question- is UM acquiring it or is it on loan? SM- just a traveling exhibit. How long? Three weeks.
10. Ken Wooten- people asking for clarification about 75 years- need to make it clearer that the 75th anniversary is for Friends and not the history of the Library. AB- Summer alumni magazine article probably generated some questions.
11. Lifetime member drive- one goal was to increase lifetime members (SM) opening the floor for ideas of increasing number. 6 new lifetime members in 2015 with a total of 62 to date. SM- \$1000 giving level- how do we increase? RV- could we appeal to people through publications like alumni magazine? May take several articles to get the history through to folks. DC- could appeal to new faculty. KW- could we have copies of alumni article sent to current people. GH- could pass article at retirees event. SM- could likely get a nice reprint from communications. LH- is it online? SM- the magazine is online as a giant pdf- not article by article. RV- sending out is a great idea. KW- put with letters encouraging people to come by. AB- as RV pointed out in events committee meeting a number of lifetime members have only given once- could send to them to get them to continue their participation. DC- do they receive anything now? AB- we are toying with this- talking about doing a solicitation for the 75th. SM- are we allowed to purchase little gifts for lifetime members from account? AB- yes. DC- embarrass the deans and professors and guilt them into giving as a lifetime member. SM- think about best venue to do this. IK- would it be useful to have a list of library projects we are trying to raise money for- like the Noyes project. LH- they do something like this in keywords. AB- folks who are supporters not on board

are the ones AB is seeing the most often. She has slicks she distributes to these people. Many of those people supported digitization projects and studio one. FOL can be the lead in these types of discussions. SM- what do you think about a sub-committee with a finite life span of 8 months dedicated to increasing the number of lifetime members? If it increased by one or two it would be a success. If one or two people did this it could be a good thing. Would anyone be interested in serving? KW-appoint people? SM- will call for two other volunteers besides Dr. Wooten. Floyd Sulser volunteered. Dr. Canale was drafted as well. SM will send this group a clear charge.

12. Announcement: library has invited everyone to tailgating tent with FOL fans. Tent located in front of engineering building on the circle. RV- tents may change because of new rules. AB- as a university related tent we can put up on the Friday before- we will be able to see it. If you are in the circle go by and pick up a fan. Julia has wondered if FOL would like to have a presence at that table. SM- do they have food. GH-They have food there but that is because of grant funding. SM- thanked everyone for serving and a few members will roll off: Dr. Walton. If you have ideas of folks who would be good board members please send to SM by email, as we would like to add one or two new members this next year to board.
13. New business- AB- two individuals who have estate planned gifts and their designation is for FOL. This had not been discovered until AB had a conversation. Helen Armstrong Lowry gave a gift after her death. Another one who will be doing this is the Cowden family (Robert and Susan) who did their masters at UM and all of their estate will come to FOL. Thanks for attending meeting.
14. SM- will get info to you about fall events and big March celebration. Will have another board meeting before this event and he will be in touch by email. Meeting adjourned.