

Friends of the Oviatt Library (FOL)
Minutes, May 22, 2020
Zoom Video Conference

The meeting was called to order by Mark at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Dean Mark Stover, Annette Besnilian, Vickie Campbell, Iris Caplan, Joyclyn Dunham, Bob Gohstand, Jamie Johnson, Darnesa Morris, Jim Parker, and Rita Streimer.

The minutes of the Feb. meeting were unanimously approved with corrections.

Announcements:

Several FOL Board members attended Bernice's Memorial Service on Saturday, Feb. 22nd at her home including Mark, Vickie, Bob, Iris, and Rita. There were a lot of attendees at Bernice's memorial service.

Dorothy Fabricant has resigned from the Board.

Note: The Campus suspended in-class sessions as of Sunday, March 15th due to Covid-19 and following California's Stay at Home orders, all Campus employees were ordered to work from home unless deemed essential to work on campus as of Thursday, March 19th. As of Monday, March 23rd, all classes went to a virtual and alternative modalities of classroom learning.

Many Library Faculty and Staff are currently working from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Library Faculty have set up Library Instruction online and worked with students and instructors using Zoom. All reference services have moved online.

The Magaram Center has put many of its workshops on Zoom and purchased software to support its nutrition consulting services for the community. The American Diabetes Association has approved their diabetic nutrition program offerings to the community for free. The Magaram Center is trying to figure out how to offer their products they sell online. The Magaram Center still has the pies they baked for the WISE Pi day event which was cancelled; the pies are still in their freezer and Annette is not sure how long they can stay there.

Bob offered anyone citrus from his personal fruit trees. Bob asked "where does the FOL fit in with the Library under Covid-19 conditions". Annette suggested the CSUN Food Pantry may welcome bags of fresh citrus donations.

The plans for the Fall semester: the Library is planning to partially open up in the Fall Semester as long as we are given the go ahead by the County and State. Los Angeles County is aiming to open up by the Fourth of July weekend based on the status of Covid-19 cases. We are hoping to open by mid-August or near the beginning of the Fall Semester according to Mark. There will be changes made to the interior of the Library and we may close off parts of the Library but we are not sure yet. We may need to close off the Creative Media Center due to the small space and the recording studio too. We may have banker's hours like 9 am to 5 pm. However if there is a stronger surge of the virus the Library may need to be closed due to orders from the County or State.

Bob asked about accepting book donations and Mark mentioned we will continue to accept books but we need to wait until we know more about how the virus persists on surfaces and transmits itself. The science has not fully determined the factors that govern the transmission of the virus and whether or not books are a vector.

The Campus budget has been hit hard by the Covid-19 virus especially the University Corporation due to refunds from housing, parking and closing down of all campus food establishments. The Library along with all the other departments has been asked to cut 10% from our budget so we will cut back on ordering of books and student assistant employment. So far, we have been able to move forward without laying off any Library Faculty and Staff.

Bob asked if all the Student Assistant Scholarships were distributed to the students and also can the Friends donate money through Mata-care through the Campus website to assist students. Mark responded “yes” to both questions and thanked everyone for supporting the students through the scholarships.

The Campus has promised the Library and other departments all the personal protective supplies needed to combat Covid-19.

We still have money from Foundation funds from the Friends of the Library fund and other endowments to purchase books as needed. Bob mentioned he would continue his support of his endowments.

The Outreach Committee moved all the Finals Week events to online since the Therapy Dogs could not come to campus; instead there were three days where students and employees could submit their dog pictures to be posted online. There were online puzzles and various links for students and community at large to do virtual events. We also offered graduation pictures for graduating seniors where their picture would be superimposed onto a background of the Library.

We will probably not allow food in the Library during the fall semester due to the Covid-19 virus.

Due to the pandemic Mark proposed that we continue with the same FOL Board officers we currently have and not have an election this year, and all members agreed to this. There will be no changes to the FOL Board positions for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Rita thanked Vickie for all the emails that she sent out keeping the Board members informed.

Vickie asked if we want the next Board meeting in June or September. Bob suggested a Board meeting in July instead of June, so it was agreed by everyone to have a meeting in July instead.

Mark gave a shout out to Darnesa to thank her for her work as interim interlibrary loan supervisor.

No new business.

Closing Remarks

The next FOL Board meeting will be determined at a later date, possibly in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.