MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE BROOKS LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2008


Excused: Boris Kovalerchuk

Absent: Tom Peischl

The Board re-elected Beverly Heckart as chair and Dale Comstock as vice-chair.

Beverly reported on the status of the accounts as of the end of 2007. The spending account contains $3295.76, but of that amount $1328.50 is a recent donation intended for current acquisitions. Jen Gray reported to Beverly that this donor had also contributed generously to the endowment. The endowment fund proper contains $94,383.56, which represents donations from the fund-raising campaign and the over $1250 earned by the book sale in October. The earnings fund contains $11,667.41. That makes a total of $106,050.97 in the combined endowment/earnings funds.

Beverly will check with the Foundation to find out when the automatic transfer, per the agreement with the Foundation, to the library's acquisition budget will occur: when the endowment fund proper reaches $100,000 or when the combined endowment/earnings fund reaches $100,000. In any case, the fund-raising campaign has enjoyed a modest success, and more donations can probably be expected in the future. Beverly will consult with the Foundation about sending the fund-raising brochure to active faculty interested in the library; these were not included in the large mailing of fall, 2007.

The Board discussed having a policy concerning book donations for the annual book sale. This topic arose because of the discovery, in the sorting of non-fiction books for the sale in October 2007, that many materials in the inventory were unsaleable and had to be sent to the university's surplus stores. The majority of the Board decided that a policy seeking to limit donations to saleable materials would have a dampening effect, and thus there will be no limiting policy. Instead donations will be sorted as they are turned over to the Friends in order to avoid surplusing unsaleable materials en masse. Also, upon the suggestion of the acquisitions librarian, after the annual book sale, the Friends will sort out books from the long-accumulated inventory that appear to have no appeal to customers and send them to surplus as well.

At the same time, the Board decided to experiment with more frequent, small book sales this year. It might be possible to use 1-3 book carts for such purpose and hold the sales in the library's "fishbowl". Beverly will pursue the possibility of holding such a sale at the end of January/February and another in April or May. If these small sales are a success, it might be possible to find a small permanent space on campus that would house both shelves and books, that would allow for better inventory control, and obviate the need to pack and re-pack the sale materials every year, and provide a space for book sales on a more frequent basis than heretofore.
The Board also briefly discussed mechanisms for selling books that would eliminate the book sales altogether but still earn money for the endowment fund. (The annual book sale typically generates $1200-$1300.) Although it earlier appeared that Better World books might be such a mechanism, it emerged that Better World would take 80% of any sales our books would enjoy and would not disburse any monies until $50.00 had accumulated in the Friends' account. Under these conditions, the Friends can generate more funds simply by selling the books themselves.

The Board further decided to hold the general spring meeting on April 17 at the Rodeo City Bar-B-Q. Members made a number of suggestions for speakers: Dan Witkowski on his survival experiences; Ken Hammond on water problems in the Yakima Valley; Rae and Cindy Heimbeck or Hong Xiao on their most recent sojourns in China; Meaghan Miller on her new organizational venture; Jerry Hogan on his visit to Thailand. Beverly will pursue these leads.

There was a brief discussion of the desirability of dark storage for the library. Dale Comstock will pursue linking the Friends of the Library's Web site to the Brooks Library home page and will post photos from the recent power point on the world's libraries on the FOL site. Beverly will write a new message from the president.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by:

Beverly Heckart, Chair