

MAGNOLIA Meeting

Meeting held via WebEx due to COVID-19

Members Present: Stephen Cunetto, Hulen Bivins, Mara Villa Polk, Pat Matthes, Otha Keys, Elizabeth Simmons, Jeff Slagell, Jim Thompson, Erin Busbea

- Cunetto opened meeting.
- Minutes were presented. Hulen moved to accept, Jeff second.
- Discussed announced that Frances Coleman, MSU Dean of Libraries, retired after serving Mississippi State University for over 50 years. He noted Coleman's role in the formation of MAGNOLIA and her work with the Mississippi legislature in support of all types of libraries.
- Otha moved that Cunetto be new committee chair-Mara and Susan seconded. Hulen officially nominated, Susan seconded. All in favor. No objections. Stephen Cunetto is the new chair for MAGNOLIA.
- Mary Beth Applin from Hinds Community College is replacing Janet Armour who retired. Holly Gray from Itawamba Community College is the second community college member replacing Jim. Jim will stay on until spring when Mary Beth takes over.
- Cunetto reviewed the MAGNOLIA budget.
 - He reminded the committee that MAGNOLIA received \$1,000,000 from the Legislature. (We requested \$1,300,000.) We also received \$75,000 from Mississippi Department of Education in support of MAGNOLIA. These funds are transferred from MDE to the Mississippi Library Commission. Thanked Simmons for working on the grant to make this a reality. Simmons said that the paperwork will be started earlier next year and that we can rely on that amount annually. MAGNOLIA also received \$35,000 from Mississippi Library Commission from grants that were not used due to COVID-19. Next year, those monies will probably revert back to public libraries.

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- Cunetto noted that Frances Coleman worked with Wanda and Mike Dean, MSU Alums, to establish the Wanda and Mike Dean Endowment at MSU. Wanda Dean wanted to provide some support for Libraries throughout the state so she established this \$25,000 endowment. The MSU Library will receive 4% of the endowment annually in support of the MAGNOLIA project. Great opportunity.
- Each year we ask the libraries to assist with the MAGNOLIA deficit. The funds are sent to MSU and deposited into a designated account for MAGNOLIA. In FY19/20 MSU mistakenly paid the OCLC invoice from the MSU funds rather than the designated account. Because of this, the MAGNOLIA deficit was much less than expected. The current deficit is \$29,900.90
- Each year we ask universities to pay for the OCLC FirstSearch Databases because the database is critical to their needs. This year, we would like to ask this group to divide this cost of the deficit which is the \$29,900.90.
- No objections to dividing this -it will go back to the higher amount in 2022.
- Jeff moved that the IHL institutions divide the \$29,900 but ask them to paying the same amount as the previous year to assist in building our MAGNOLIA fund. Hulen seconded. Cunetto took a vote. Passed with no objections.
- Jim asked if we could establish a foundations account so that money can be added when colleges have it for money to accumulate and get interest. So, for example, if it is not needed this year, it is there next year...with interest. Hulen pointed out that the Legislative funding cannot be added to this foundation. Mara added that she believes it is a good idea for public libraries to budget for MAGNOLIA each year.
- Elizabeth inquired if all universities have paid into MAGNOLIA in the past. Cunetto said yes. And will double check.
- Cunetto is sending a list of colleges who have paid into MAGNOLIA in the past to Jim for his next consortium meeting.

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- Mara discussed an email from John Eye, USM Dean of Libraries, that gave MAGNOLIA deficit ideas. Transparency is important. Maybe suggest to colleges: “This is a suggested amount, but any amount is great.”
- Hulen backed Mara up regarding her comment. We need to know the cost value per search. Take the toll for all databases and our report and get a definitive number. We ask for \$1.3 million. We didn’t get the \$300,000 but held on to the million. We have so many new representatives. They want to know the cost of the searches. Pull together the use data.
- Cunetto said that we will work on statistics. We need by the time the Legislature meets.
- Elizabeth discussed using the lower socio-economic schools vs. the schools with high schools with “spare” money in the flyer we use to show the financial impact on each type of library.
- Cunetto asked if we could get groups to work on statistics-different types of libraries. Send message to different types in institutions. Erin/Mara work on their group, Jim/Jeff work on their group.
- Elizabeth would like to ask schools what it would cost to replace MAGNOLIA if they had to buy databases. It’s a k-12 product not just a high school product. Need data.
- Hulen discussed the Legislature. In session until end of November. In regard to the budget next year, if you come out level, then you are going to come out good. Required to submit a budget proposal. The reason we will have to supplement. Insurance is increasing in January. When we have Library Legislative Day, we really need to get more Community Colleges and Universities participation. It doesn’t need to be just Public Libraries there. They need to know more about MAGNOLIA. The MLC budget request for the forthcoming year is a request for LEVEL funding. However, adjustments will need to be made due to the State's increase in cost for employee insurance. Additionally, MLC's budget will be again have reduced funding of Federal dollars.
- Library day is February 10, 2021 12-3 in the rotunda, March 11, 2021 is MLC day.

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- Shorter session next year. January-April
- Cunetto: Do we still need MAGNOLIA training? WebEx training and Archive them so people can utilize them later
- Maybe invite Tonya Johnson from MLA to the next MAGNOLIA meeting?
- Marketing: Cunetto discussed reducing minute video to 30 seconds. See if MPB will air that. Asked Jim to reach out to his contact.
- Cunetto spoke about Mara's letter writing campaign and asked if we need to continue this. Hand written note-Mara draft information to put in notes. Personalize notes.
- MAGNOLIA Podcast? (Cunetto). Asked Jim/Jeff???
- MLC is putting out a monthly podcast. It is good according to Cunetto. Needs a look.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 -10:00 AM
- Motion to adjourn: Hulen; second; Mara; second

Respectfully submitted by Susan Bryant