Attendees:
Robert Cummings, Co-chair, Center for Writing and Rhetoric
Leslie Banahan, Co-chair, Student Affairs
Joe Atkins, Journalism
Melissa Cinelli, Marketing
Abdul Hamid, UM Student
Kirk Johnson, African American Studies
Dewey Knight, EDHE
Rick Major, Engineering
Callan Mossman, UM Student
Rosemary Oliphant-Ingham, Education
Carolina Orrego, Enrollment Services
Susan Pedigo, Chemistry
Katie Tompkins, EDHE
Thea-Marie Hayes Williams-Black, Education
Lorri Williamson, Legal Studies

Not in Attendance:
Sheena Boran, Center for Writing & Rhetoric
Melissa Dennis, Library
Susan Grayzel, History
Emily Hugh, UM Student
Rachel Robinson, Pharmacy
Whitman Smith, Enrollment Services

Minutes - Previous Meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting had been distributed to committee members and Bob Cummings asked if there were any edits to be make before publishing. He asked committee members if they approved having their names listed in the minutes, which would be made public. There were no objections to having names included and no changes to the minutes were requested.

Dr. Cummings gave an overview of the criteria established at the last meeting:
– (We value) a book less than 400 pages
– available in paperback format
– accessible to students at all levels including community readers
– multiple themes
– published in the last 5 yrs
– written by a living author
– written by an author who is available to visit campus and speak with students during Fall 2012
**Book Nomination Process and Web Page Content**

Plans had been made for Jennifer Farish with Brand Marketing to discuss the process for handling nominations from the website and publicizing the nomination process, however, Ms. Farish was not available. Dr. Cummings and Leslie Banahan gave an overview of the current website -- umreads.olemiss.edu -- where nominations can be made by the public. Dr. Cummings proposed that the list of nominations be made public so that visitors can get a sense of the breadth of all the books being considered.

One issue to consider is the actual number of books nominated. If the list of books is too large, it won’t be feasible for all of the books to be read by committee members. So the question becomes, will the committee read, or just prepare a review of the text? One recommendation was to see if there are multiple nominations of the same book. In which case, that book might go on the short list.

Dewey Knight questioned the way the website nomination process was laid out. Currently, the space asks for the name of the person nominating the book, their email address, the book title, the author, and a small text box where the person making the nomination can make a case for selecting their book. Dr. Knight recommended that at least 250 words be allowed.

Joe Atkins stated that several people have mentioned specific books to him and questioned how these nominations should be made. The committee agreed that committee members should encourage people making recommendations to submit the online nomination themselves, since they may make a stronger case for the book than someone doing it on their behalf. If they don’t want to do that, committee members can submit the nomination for that person.

**Nominations - Data Retention**

Dr. Cummings asked the committee what they want to do with data gathered this year. The committee agreed to retain the nomination data because the cumulative weight of a recurring book over time might make a strong case for choosing it at some point in the future.

**Other Actions Toward Book Selection**

In addition to reviewing best seller lists, researching the Common Reading Experience at other college campuses is an area to review. Dr. Banahan has had her staff research CRE’s of other campuses and she has accumulated a large amount of data. She has picked out a few books, which have been chosen over and over again by different college campuses.

Dr. Knight has also accumulated books that have been recommended by book publishers. The common reading program is a vastly growing market for many publishers and because of Dr. Knight’s role with the university’s freshman year experience, they send him various emails and press releases when books are chosen by specific campuses. Some of the books that Dr. Banahan has picked out are also on Dr. Knight’s list. These common books have been placed in the conference room in Student Affairs and can be checked out for review by committee members.

Dr. Banahan has also purchased 7 copies of *Common Reading Program, Going Beyond the Book*, which can be used as a guide in selecting books. These 7 copies will be made available to committee
members, who can check them out from the conference room in Student Affairs.

While attending the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Conference in New Orleans at the end of the month, Carolina Orrego will gather information from participants about CRE’s at other college campuses.

**Other Business**

Jennifer Farish will be scheduled to present at the next meeting of the Book Selection Committee -- October 28, 2011.

Dr. Cummings will talk with Dr. Banahan and determine a plan for having the web page updated with the approved criteria for book selection. The target date for updating the site is November 1; however, it could be ready before then. Dr. Cummings will notify committee member as soon as the site is up-to-date. At that point, committee members can begin working on the nominations they have heard about.

Dr. Banahan asked the committee to consider the development of a password, which could be created for all committee members to use in accessing the nomination area of the website.

Abdul Hamid questioned why there was such a short time frame between the website target activation date and the development of the short list. He also expressed concern that he had not heard about the nomination process outside of the committee meetings. Dr. Cummings explained that while there was no way to change the timeline this year, hopefully, the nomination process will open up sooner next year. Currently, plans are in place to heavily market the nomination process and Jennifer Farish will be able to provide more details about the marketing plan at next week’s meeting.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

*Minutes Recorded by*
*Glenn Schove, Administrative Coordinator*
*Center for Writing and Rhetoric*