

5CLIR Council Meeting

May 11, 2006

MINUTES

Next Meeting: June 8, 2006

Present: Arnold Friedmann, Jonathan Hanke, June Guild, Charles Klem, Joyce Mazur; John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Ruth Hooke, Gillian Morbey, Dorothy Rosenthal, James Scott, Nina Scott; Marybeth Bridegam, Joice Gare, Gail Gaustad, Charles Gillies, Sheila Klem, Peter Reitt, Eleanor Shattuck. Not present: Dorothy Gorra, Hy Edelstein, David Moriarty.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

Vice President Arnold Friedmann chaired the meeting and opened by speaking of the Meet the Moderators event the next day, Friday, May 12. Arnold commended Curriculum, Meetings, and Public Relations Committees for all the excellent work they have done to prepare for this important event.

-- The fire at the house of Lu and Hal Stubbs has been a great concern for all.

Lu and Hal were not hurt, and they are staying involved with LIR events.

-- The Curriculum Committee is featuring a record number of fall seminars. The packet will include a catalog for special events as well as the catalog for the seminars.

-- Old Deerfield is asking for a raise in fees for use of their building, and the matter will be discussed later in this meeting.

-- Summer Break for Council will be in July. The June Council meeting will be June 8, just a week after annual meeting on June first. The August Council meeting will preview the autumn activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE -- Co-chairs Eleanor Shattuck and Sheila Klem had much to report on the eve of Meet the Moderators at Amherst Alumni House.

-- The fall catalog contains write-ups for 29 seminars, a record number. The committee decided to include more seminars than usual because more new members are expected. Also, LIR members tend to sign up for more fall seminars anyway.

-- Sheila distributed a list of the fall seminars and a chart of their placement on the weekly calendar of seminars (copies for file). She described in detail the set-up of tables at Meet the Moderators at Amherst Alumni House. The two front rooms will be used for moderators' tables as will the large central room. The foyer will be used for the distribution of packets, as well as for information tables about Special Programs and Learning in Community.

-- Sheila spoke about the Curriculum Committee's calendar for next year. They were hoping to hold the fall Meet the Moderators the weekend before Thanksgiving. Other plans need to be made, because Amherst Alumni House is unavailable on Saturday and the Commonwealth Opera performance is scheduled for Sunday. Already scheduled are the fall semester beginning, September 25, and the Moderators' Reception on October 26. The spring semester will begin on February 12, with the spring Moderators' Reception on March 15. A possible date for the spring Meet the Moderators is April 20, though the planned Prague trip might conflict with that event. Consideration is being given to a date in June.

-- Next year there will be five spots available for new committee members.

FINANCE COMMITTEE -- Chair June Guild reported that the committee continues to work on its usual tasks, and things are proceeding well.

JANUARY AND SUMMER COMMITTEE - Co-chair Gail Gaustad announced that a full schedule of stimulating summer offerings is detailed in the packet to be distributed at Meet the Moderators. It is expected that the January and Summer Committee will eventually be merged with the Special Programs Committee. For now the committees are still separate.

LEARNING IN COMMUNITY -- Chair Joan Hastings reported that detailed information is included in the new packet. She reminded Council of the Petticoat Hill event on June 15, with brown bag lunch, a slide show, and a walk.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE - Chair Joice Gare said that her committee is planning a variety of refreshments for Meet the Moderators tomorrow. They need help getting food and beverages into the building. Members greeting newcomers will include President-elect Arnold Friedmann and Vice President-elect Mary Franks, as well as the Curriculum and Meetings committees.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE -- No report.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - Chair Marybeth Bridegam announced that the fall packet will contain 16 programs. Later programs will be publicized in the newsletters and news-sheets.

Marybeth said that the committee is discussing the attendance policy for special programs, especially with reference to associate members and guests. The committee will have a proposal ready for a future Council meeting. Some discussion centered on the continuing question of the process of becoming an Associate Member.

GREAT DECISIONS - Chair John Gaustad spoke about the successful spring series recently concluded. Attendance for the five sessions ranged from 97 to 112. The financial picture also looks good, and complete figures will be available soon.

Vice President Friedmann commented that the entire series was excellent, very well organized, with effective speakers and efficient technical work.

TECHNOLOGY -- Chair Peter Reitt spoke again about the summer computer workshops at the Smith College lab. June 4, 5, and 6 are the dates for the WORD and Internet workshops, with afternoon sessions for tutoring about the morning presentations. Because there is so much interest in these topics, the workshop will be lotteried, with a preference for those taking the workshop for the first time. The PowerPoint workshop will be held on August 21, 22, and 23.

Jim Scott will now be in charge of audiovisual equipment for the seminars, hoping to assist the moderators in their work.

PUBLIC RELATIONS -- Co-chair Chuck Gillies updated Council on the three areas emphasized since the committee was formed last autumn.

First issue to be noted is media relations, where the results have been mixed. Future reports will include greater detail.

A particularly successful concern has been the new 5CLIR brochure, of which 5000 have been ordered. The first copies were distributed a few weeks ago, and thus far the committee has received little feedback, except for great approval from Council members. The emphasis has been on marketing, and brochures have been left at senior centers, libraries, and retirement communities. Chuck noted the rich resources of talent in 5CLIR that made the brochure so successful, citing the expertise of Peter Reitt in technology and Arnold Friedmann in design. Photographs were the work of Gene Butera, Hy Edelstein, Jerry Rosenthal, and Chuck. The committee had a good working relationship with Robyn Cutler, whose services were provided by Five Colleges. Chuck also mentioned the input of Council members on the text of the brochure. Committee members who contributed greatly to the project were Honore David, Chuck Gillies, and Frank Reilly.

The third emphasis of the Public Relations Committee has been the Spring Push that focused on inviting as many people as possible to the Meet the Moderators event. As of today, 57 names of guests have been submitted, among whom are former LIR members and the spouses of current members.

Committee co-chair, Jim Scott, reported on outreach to older alumni of the Five Colleges, which included electronic mailings to 30,000 University of Massachusetts alumni. Also, Jim has received encouraging responses from a number of Amherst College alumni.

Jim attended a recent meeting of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. He suggested that we have an LIR member at these meetings and pointed to our having a link on the C of C website.

Jim also attended the ground-breaking of the new Amherst Cinema and Arts Center, which hopes to have a cooperative relationship with existing organizations in the community, including 5CLIR.

The Public Relations committee notes that Mount Holyoke College has included the new brochure in their packet, sent to retired faculty and staff, those

who are about to retire, and to alumnae. Smith is also sending our information to faculty who will soon retire as well as to alumnae.

On May 25 the committee will have a meeting to evaluate the success of their promotions. Some new emphases will be website publicity, a speakers' bureau, a secondary mailing list of other potential members, relations with the Five Colleges, and joining other local organizations.

A new member of the Public Relations committee is Eleanor Shattuck, who has arranged to have a booth at the June 5th Expo at the Look Park Garden House. A follow-up to Highland Valley Elder Services' survey of local baby-boomers focuses on this highly educated, cultured community that might well be expected to have an interest in Five College Learning in Retirement.

Jim Scott also spoke about our becoming involved with the Taste of Amherst, June 15-18, at the Dakin Animal Shelter exhibit.

It was decided to send a letter of thanks to Five Colleges, Inc., in appreciation of their gift of Robyn Cutler's time, and to send a flowering plant to Robyn herself.

Council agreed that Public Relations committee has done an outstanding job of publicizing 5CLIR. Particular mention was made of the new brochure with its 1988 quotation linking us officially to Five Colleges and its retaining the tree-image that we liked so much on the earlier brochure.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT: Callie has continued to work at the office this afternoon, preparing an extra supply of packets for tomorrow's Meet the Moderators. She will make a report to Council at the June meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

-- Dorothy Rosenthal announced that at Annual Meeting on June first there will be an orderly arrangement for voting, and Dottie will be working with Callie to prepare the new system. Preliminary plans are for full-time members to have some identification for voting. Each table will have a captain, possibly a Council member, who will be in charge of tallying the votes at the table. Someone will give clear instructions, so confusion will be minimized.

-- Timetable for voting for officers and Council: Ballots will be sent out on June 5; they will be returned by June 15 and counted on June 21; on June 28 winners will be announced to the membership.

-- Chuck Gillies pointed out errors in the text of the proposed By-Law changes. Discussion focused on the possibility of making speedy changes. Dottie Rosenthal also spoke about the advisability of having printed rationales for the changes.

MOTION PASSED: Chuck Gillies will work on correcting errors made in the text of the Proposed By-Law Changes, consistent with the minutes of relevant Council meetings. The revision will be made available on or before June first.

-- Vice President Friedmann called attention to the folder of 5CLIR Policies prepared by Sally Edelstein. The folder is in the LIR office and might in the future be available at Council meetings, in case Council needs to refer to past practice.

NEW BUSINESS:

-- A discussion focused on whether or not petitions and announcements of outside events should be permitted at seminars and other LIR gatherings, especially information of a political nature. A committee was formed to study the issue, since many members like to hear announcements, particularly those related to Five College events, artistic activities, and events related to the individual seminar. Peter Reitt, Ruth Hooke, Dottie Rosenthal, and Jim Scott will meet and bring a proposal back to Council.

-- Arnold Friedmann brought up the issue of paying Old Deerfield what they are asking for the use of their seminar space. Jim Scott reminded Council that we have a policy of making a donation of appreciation, but we do not schedule seminars in locations where we are charged rent. Consensus was that we cannot pay one and not pay others. This payment request does not apply to the Old Deerfield seminar in this next fall semester.

-- President-elect Friedmann asked for ideas about ways to find additional funds for our organization. Foundation support has been suggested, as well as fund-raising activities. A committee will be formed later to study this important matter.

-- Sheila Klem spoke about the EIN Conference to be held in Potsdam, New York, in the autumn. She suggested that a couple of LIR members might attend this conference, since those who have attended earlier EIN conferences have found them extremely worthwhile. Arnold said that he plans to appoint an EIN liaison this next year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mazur, secretary