

5CLIR Council Meeting
March 8, 2007

MINUTES

Next Meeting: April 12, 2007

Present: Arnold Friedmann, Mary Franks, Dorothy Gorra, June Guild, Charles Klem, Joyce Mazur, Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Joan Hastings, Wil Hastings, Ruth Hooke, Peter Reitt, Dorothy Rosenthal, Nina Scott, Eleanor Shattuck, Sheila Klem, Barbara Reitt, Gail Gaustad, Charles Gillies, Marybeth Bridegam, Sara Wright, Callie Orszak.

President Arnold Friedmann opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as distributed after treasurer, June Guild, requested a change concerning the February profit and loss statement - that the 5CLIR cookbook had expenses as well as a profit.

Remarks by the President: Arnold said that he had received an invitation to a Veridian Village reception.

-- UMass Continuing Education would like to cooperate with 5CLIR. The matter of fees will need to be worked out.

-- Arnold Friedmann and Council member Joan Hastings met with the Dean of the Smith School of Social Work (SSW). Arnold is suggesting a committee to work out some relationship between SSW and LIR.

-- There has been no recent word from the Osher Foundation.

-- Nominating Committee has officially named Charlie Klem as its candidate for 5CLIR Treasurer.

-- This afternoon will be the opening reception of the 5CLIR Painting and Photography Exhibit at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Arnold especially commended Honoré David and her husband, who have worked long hours hanging the exhibit effectively.

Vice-President's Remarks: Mary Franks spoke about the Northeast Lifelong Learning Conference scheduled for June 3–5 in Potsdam, New York. Mary and Council member Ruth Hooke will represent 5CLIR at the conference, and Mary has a conference brochure to share with others who might wish to attend.

-- Vice-President Franks also has sign-up sheets for those who wish to serve as "scribes" at the Aging Creatively conference in April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS were emailed in advance to members of the Council.

Questions or comments about the committee reports -

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: Chair Peter Reitt responding to a question about the committee's emailed report, said that LIR already has projectors, and in the interest of frugality it will be best to postpone buying another one until it is definitely needed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Co-chair Chuck Gillies distributed a page of statistical data on membership and participation since 1996 (colored copy for file). Chuck pointed out that 5CLIR now has its largest number of members -- 251 full-time members and 273 total.

Discussion focused on the recent drop in seminars and seminar participation. Since there may be a correlation with the participation in the new Special Programs, some attendance figures will be tracked at those programs. Perhaps a survey sheet can be filled out by members at Annual Meeting, and the entire matter will be analyzed next year. A hypothesis was offered that the new situation may actually be strengthening the seminars, drawing in participants who are particularly interested in the seminar topics.

President Friedmann thanked Chuck for the excellent work he continues to do in organizing the membership statistics.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Committee chairperson Marybeth Bridegam reminded Council members of the Art Exhibition opening this afternoon at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Marybeth also gave credit to her committee for the excellent schedule of programs throughout the spring semester.

JANUARY AND SUMMER PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Chair Gail Gaustad said that her committee is now beginning to work on the schedule of summer programs. President Friedmann again thanked Gail and her committee for the outstanding winter programs.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Co-chair Sara Wright emphasized the importance of having the New Member Reception in September. There were questions about the wisdom of a Sunday event, when people often have family involvements and other activities. The suggestion also was made that the New Member Reception and the general Welcome Back event could be combined, with special attention paid to the new members. Sara said that she and Meetings Chair, Kathy Hazen, will confer about setting up a combined event for September.

During this discussion there was interest in possibly reviving the holiday event in early December, with arrangements in charge of the Meetings Committee.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: Co-chair Bobbie Reitt announced that the committee already has about a dozen seminars being developed for the fall semester. She also reminded Council about the Moderators' Reception to be held at the Amherst College Alumni House on Thursday, March 15, from 2–4 p.m. The committee is expecting some good discussions about the current seminars.

AGING CREATIVELY CONFERENCE: Joan Hastings, conference organizer, reported that about 100 people have already enrolled, and applications are coming along steadily. A poster can be obtained from Joan by email.

LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY: Chairperson Joan Hastings announced that this ad hoc committee will now disband. Joan will work with Special Programs to continue her interest in volunteer opportunities and other events. Joan praised her hard-working committee for their excellent work, and Joan herself was enthusiastically thanked for the imagination and energy she has brought to the program's exceptional offerings and organization.

With respect to volunteer opportunities, President Friedmann said that the Amherst Chamber of Commerce is looking for volunteers to guide visitors during the summer.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE:

Discussion began with clarifying Callie's emailed report about the codes on the office photocopier. Focus was on photocopying for seminars as well as for other LIR activities. President Friedmann and Past-President Dorothy Gorra will investigate the policy about the photocopier, so that something definitive can be published in the Moderators' Manual.

Callie also spoke about the large number of telephone calls to the office from people who want to join 5CLIR in the middle of the semester.

MOTION: Council expressed interest in studying a mid-term membership policy as part of a continuing discussion of membership in general.

MOTION CARRIED.

Wil Hastings will work on specific language that can be discussed at the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trial Membership -- Discussion of this issue concerned the emailed proposal from the ad hoc Committee on Trial Membership (printed copy for file). Wil Hastings chaired the committee, which also included Vice-President Mary Franks, Past-President Dorothy Gorra, Chuck Gillies, Sheila Klem, Barbara Reitt, James Scott, and Sara Wright.

MOTION: That Council adopt the proposal of the ad hoc Committee on Trial Membership -

Beginning on July 1, 2007, there will be a one-year experimental category of 5CLIR membership called "Trial Membership," with the following features:

*Available only for the Fall semester, one could become a Trial Member by paying \$50 and during that semester would have all the privileges of a regular member except (1) no new-member lottery priority, (2) no vote on any matter at any membership meeting, and (3) no qualification for Associate Membership.

*For the Spring semester, a Trial Member could (1) join as a full member with a new-member priority for that semester by paying the same fee as is

generally payable for a Spring semester membership (now \$115) or (2) drop out of LIR entirely.

*There would be no cap on the total number of trial memberships available for the semester.

*A person would be eligible for this category of membership only once.

Discussion included some concern that the new membership category might make the lottery more complicated. Communication of the new policy to members was stressed. Information will be included in the packet of materials to be distributed at Meet the Moderators in June.

MOTION carried.

By-law changes -- The ad hoc committee will stay together to work on some major changes of 5CLIR by-laws. It was suggested that the presence of more LIR past-presidents would be very helpful in this process. Wil Hastings continues to be in charge of the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revision of Funds Policy -- An emailed document outlined the various 5CLIR funds and proposed a change in policy (printed copy for file). Reviewed in the document are the Membership Assistance, Memorial, Capital, and Program Reserve Funds. Proposed are a Significant Events fund and an appropriation procedure.

MOTION: That Council adopt the Finance Committee proposal for the Revisions of Funds Policy -

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FUND: From time to time and beyond its usual seminar programs, 5CLIR has organized unusual, significant programs (such as: "You and Your Genome," "Emergence," "Slavery and its Legacy," and "Aging Creatively"). In recent years these programs have been funded outside the annual budget, with appropriations supported by 5CLIR and, in some instances, by outside agencies. The Significant Events Fund is established to support such programs with seed money, with the understanding that such Events are to be open to the public and have a "community education theme on issues of social purpose." Upon approval by Council, a distinct fund will be established for the duration of the significant event. At completion, the distinct fund will be closed and any unexpended balance returned to the Significant Events Fund.

APPROPRIATION PROCEDURE: When contemplated expenditures are outside of the usual annual budget process, any 5CLIR member may propose an activity, outlining scope, benefits to 5CLIR membership, involvements and a summary of anticipated costs and revenues, and other funding. The proposal will be reviewed by the Executive and Finance Committees. Each committee will make its recommendations to the Council, which will be the deciding body.

MOTION carried.

Fiscal 2008 Budget - Finance Committee will bring the fiscal 2008 budget to the April meeting.

President Friedmann adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mazur, Secretary