

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Lise Armstrong, Jeff Caplan, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Katharine Hazen, Sheila Klem, Joan Laird, Philippe Meyer, Sandy Muspratt, Callie Orszak, Dorothy Rosenthal, Leo Sartori, Jim Scott, Beverly von Kries, Bill Williams, Sara Wright, Michael Wolff.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected.

Past President's Remarks: Leo Sartori reported on the death of Leslie Nyman. Several members, including Leo and Eva Sartori had been visiting Leslie during her last few weeks.

Opening Remarks by President Sara Wright: Sara thanked the Gaustad's for hosting the annual fall picnic at their house. About 93 people attended with around 30 staying to participate in the discussion of *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

Sara reported that 33 people gave gifts to 5CLIR when they registered for a total of \$1175 while 20 people contributed a total of \$840 to the scholarship fund. Sara pointed out that many members donate by not charging 5CLIR for expenses for copying, materials, etc.

Vice-President's Remarks: Larry reported that he has been attending most committee meetings and plans to attend some seminars, with advance notice to the moderators. He had a meeting of all committee chairs prior to this meeting and will be submitting a report on it to Council.

Curriculum Committee Report: Beverly von Kries referred members of Council to the written report, which was distributed prior to this meeting. She then presented the proposed revised calendar for the committee.

Motion: Michael Wolff moved that Council accept the changes of the Curriculum Committee calendar for 2010. Motion was approved with 11 voting aye.

The co-chairs reminded Council that the deadline for proposals for spring seminars is October 30, 2009.

Finance Committee Report: Treasurer Bill Williams reported that final financial figures for 2008 and 2009 to date are now available and are contained in the spreadsheet distributed by email to all Council members. Revenues from memberships are down about \$2000, reflecting the drop in membership compared to last fall.

Public Relations: Chair Jeff Caplan reported that the committee will be meeting in early October. He pointed out that the picnic had been videotaped. He announced that the committee has recruited almost a full set of volunteers for WFCR's upcoming fund drive.

Summer/Winter Programs: Co-Chair Anne Lombard was not present. The committee will make a report at the October meeting.

Meetings/Membership Committee: Co-Chair Sheila Klem remarked that Leslie Nyman had been a member of the Meetings/Membership Committee. New members of the committee include Frieda Howards, Joan Iverson, Syma Meyer, and Jean Miller. In spite of the problems of providing a full welcome to new members at the picnic, the committee plans to continue to hold a new member reception in the winter to include members new in both the fall and spring semesters.

The committee is proposing a luncheon for the entire membership on January 12, 13, or 14 similar to the one held at Willetts-Hallowell two years ago. Tickets would cover the cost of the luncheon and venue. It was suggested that a program be planned for the luncheon. Jeff Caplan suggested it could be an opportunity for fund-raising from the members. The discussion of this latter point was postponed to New Business.

Technology Committee: Philippe Meyer said that the survey that Hy Edelstein is working on will be reviewed by the committee next week and will be formally submitted to Council and for the president's signature next month. It is meant to provide a statistical and anonymous view of the membership complementing and updating the previous survey. The Tech Committee will work with the other committees to develop a more complete, focused and detailed member questionnaire in the near future.

Office Manager's Report: Callie will be using the call service as soon as she has uploaded the telephone numbers. She will be on vacation from September 31 to October 26. Four members have volunteered to work in the office during that time: Laura Cranshaw, Joyce Gare, Kathy Hazen, and Sara Wright.

Great Decisions Committee: Co-chair Dave Cramer referred members of Council to the written report distributed prior to this meeting.

Members Helping Members: Co-Chair Peter Ferber informed Council that a new organization, Commonwealth Committee for Change, is working on a time bank program for services requested and services performed. The area to be covered has not yet been determined. He said that 5CLIR should send a participant or observer to their meetings in order to see whether Members Helping Members Committee might want to participate and, if so, in what way.

Communications Committee: Larry Ambs referred to the written report of the committee submitted prior to this meeting. There followed a lengthy discussion on the proposal the committee has made to transition to greater use of electronic communications to replace much now communicated on paper. Some of the questions discussed were: (1) using a differential membership fee to encourage people to make greater use of electronic communications (2) whether the catalog and/ or newsletter should be sent primarily by email (3) how much help to offer people who are having trouble adjusting to electronic communication (4) the need to weigh decisions carefully and the advisability of experimenting and getting member feedback before making decisions (5) the need to balance social needs of members with information and resource needs. Jeff said that Members Helping Members will coordinate with the Technology Committee if moderators identify members of seminars who need and want help with computer communications. The general sense of Council was in support of the Communications Committee exploring alternatives with the goal of going greener and making better use of resources but with careful attention to other needs of the organization and its members. There was general agreement that the effort should start with experiments with the newsletter and see how those are received before involving other publications, such as the catalog.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

1. Joan Laird proposed that fundraising at the proposed January luncheon be conducted through a silent auction. Peter Ferber, who has suggested that a glossy version of the catalog might be a good public relations tool, said that advertising in such a catalog might be a way to raise money. Sara will discuss these suggestions with Five Colleges, Incorporated to determine if they would conflict with any FCI policies.

Motion: Peter Ferber moved that 5CLIR establish a Fundraising Committee. The motion was seconded and carried with 11 voting aye.

2. Sandy Musspratt reminded Council that a policy on grant applications had been presented at the June meeting but not approved by Council. The subsequent discussion centered on whether there should be a policy or less formal guidelines. Larry proposed that the draft policy be rewritten, condensed, and presented to Council at a future meeting. The general consensus was that guidelines might be helpful but that grant requirements and timelines require flexibility.

3. Michael Wolff pointed out that an excellent poem by Wil Hastings had been published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on September 15.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
2:30-4:40 PM
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**