

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, Elizabeth Armstrong, John Armstrong, Jeff Caplan, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Gail Gaustad, Sheila Klem, Joan Laird, Sandy Muspratt, Callie Orszak, Dorothy Rosenthal, James Scott, Beverley von Kries, Bill Williams, Michael Wolff, Sara Wright

Special Guests: (from Five Colleges, Incorporated) Neal Abraham, Marie Hess, Lorna Peterson, Nate Therien; (from ACTV) Mary Savarese

Call to Order: President Sara Wright called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of October 9 were approved as corrected.

Introductions: Sara introduced the guests.

Special Presentation: Jeff Caplan presented the video about 5CLIR produced by ACTV. Copies will be available for sale at the Spring Preview on November 22.

President's Remarks: Sara reported that she and 12 other 5CLIR members judged an international speech contest for secondary private schools at Deerfield Academy, October 1-4. She then introduced Lorna Peterson.

Dr. Peterson's Remarks: Dr. Peterson, recently retired as Executive Director of Five Colleges, Incorporated, said that she is working with the president of Greenfield Community College to develop a mentor program for students making the transition from two-year to four-year colleges. She wants to identify a small group of senior citizens who would be interested in participating in a pilot program. If successful, she believes it could grow to incorporate students from the other three community colleges in the area. She asked those on Council who would be interested in participating to so indicate on a sign-up sheet. Information about the program will also be disseminated to the entire membership of 5CLIR at an appropriate time. In the future, Dr. Peterson is also interested in developing a "Seniors to Seniors" program in which senior citizens would tutor high school students. At the end of her presentation, Dr. Peterson responded to questions and comments from Council members. The response from Council was very positive.

Preview Committee: Larry Ambs reported that plans for the Spring Preview on November 22 are going forward.

Curriculum Committee: Joan Laird reported that the catalog copy is in and that it will include 23* seminars for the spring. Recent co-chairs of the committee will be getting together to review the lottery procedure, which may need to be modified in light of the large number of co-moderators. She reported that the Moderator's Reception on October 29 was successful, but that the committee is thinking about other formats for future receptions.

Finance Committee: Bill Williams reported that at Fiscal 09 year end the treasury had done slightly better than breaking even with an excess of \$966 in revenue over expenses. There is a balance of approximately \$4,000 in the Aging Creatively conference account, which is not yet on the 5CLIR books, and, when transferred to 5CLIR, may have some restrictions as to how it can be used. Membership revenue continues to be behind the comparable period last year, reflecting lower membership. The Membership Assistance Reserve has a \$1,506 balance, which he proposed transferring to current year membership revenue. Requests for membership assistance increased this year, probably due to the economic situation, and a total of \$2,175 has been disbursed to meet requests.

Motion: Larry Ambs moved that \$1,506 be moved from the Membership Assistance Reserve into membership revenue. The motion was seconded, which was followed by a lengthy discussion on tracking membership assistance funds. The motion passed.

Motion: Peter Ferber moved that the Treasurer be allowed to make such transfers on a monthly basis, i.e., from the Membership Assistance Reserve to membership revenue. The motion was seconded and passed.

Bill presented a revised version of Grant Guidelines.

Motion: Jim Scott moved that Council accept the Grant Guidelines submitted by the Finance Committee and dated 10/31/09. The motion was seconded and passed.

Public Relations Committee Report: Jeff Caplan reported that ACTV will be putting the video about 5CLIR on its website and may also air it. They will link our website to their website. He reminded Council that 5CLIR is now a member of ACTV and will be providing a seminar room for us in the spring. Jeff will look into who has or who could obtain copyright to the video.

Motion: Arnold Friedmann moved that Council approve the contents of the DVD as shown. After the motion was seconded, discussion revolved around whether permission needed to be obtained from people who were shown in the video. Without resolving that issue at this time, the motion passed.

Motion: John Armstrong moved that Council formally write ACTV to express its appreciation for their producing the video. The motion was seconded and passed.

January/Summer Programs Committee Report: Plans for the January programs are completed and being printed.

Meetings/Membership Committee Report: Sheila reported that arrangements for refreshments for the Spring Preview on November 22 are in progress. Plans for the luncheon at Amherst College on January 12 are well underway. After some discussion, it was agreed that the event would be called off for weather if the Amherst public schools were closed. A snow date of January 13 has been set.

Special Programs Committee Report: Please see written report distributed earlier.

Office Manager's Report: Callie brought up the letter from Jim Marini about a Smithsonian British Landscapes trip that Westfield State College is planning to do in 2010. If 5CLIR cosponsors the trip, our members would receive a 10% discount on the cost, unless we want

Smithsonian to handle all calls, deposits, etc., in which the discount would be 5%. Sara said the information will be sent to the Special Programs and January/Summer Programs Committees.

Great Decisions Committee Report: Dave Cramer said that the committee would be meeting the next day so there was nothing to report at this time.

Communications Committee Report: Larry Ambs said there was nothing new to report at this time.

Unfinished Business: The silent auction that Lise Armstrong is organizing in conjunction with the luncheon on January 12 was discussed. She presented Council with guidelines for the auction. Marie Hess is reviewing the guidelines for any concerns about taxes, proper handling of cash, and liability. The LIR finance committee will work out details with the Five Colleges, Inc. treasurer's office for handling the receipts from the auction. To simplify things, Larry Ambs made the following motion:

Motion: Neither donors nor buyers can expect any tax benefit from their participation in the Silent Auction. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business: Larry Ambs discussed fund-raising for 5CLIR and suggested that we need some guidelines and rules about fund-raising. There was considerable discussion about the relative benefits of raising funds for specific purposes versus raising funds for more general purposes, such as augmenting the operating revenues.

Sara mentioned that Marie Hess will be retiring as of January 1, 2010 and requested approval of Council for a reception for her at the next Council meeting on December 10. She also suggested giving Marie a one-year membership in 5CLIR.

Motion: Jim Scott moved that Council give a one-year membership to Marie Hess and hold a reception on December 10 in honor of her retirement at the end of the year. The motion was seconded and passed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2009
2:30-4:40 PM
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**

*Following the meeting, the number of seminars for the spring increased from 23 to 24.