

**FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, Elizabeth Armstrong, John Armstrong, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Gail Gaustad, Dorothy Gorra, Sheila Klem, Joan Laird, Philippe Meyer, Sandy Muspratt, Callie Orszak, Dorothy Rosenthal, Leo Sartori, James Scott, Bill Williams, Michael Wolff, Sara Wright, and guests Hy Edelstein and Chuck Gillies representing the Survey Committee.

Call to Order: President Sara Wright called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes: Bill Williams offered two corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Under Old Business: Item #1 in the 2010 Report, (1) should read “Great Decisions projected revenue is more than expected; in the 2011 Budget, The first sentence should read “The salary and benefit information is not final...”

The minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2010 were approved as corrected.

President Sara Wright asked approval to move the Survey Report to the first item of business to accommodate the schedules of the presenters.

Technology Committee/Survey Report: Philippe Meyer, chair of the Technology Committee, announced that Janet Price will be the co-chair of the committee and shortly will become the new web master. The new web site will be on display at the Spring Preview. Philippe introduced Hy Edelstein and Chuck Gillies, who were the principals involved in the survey of members.

Chuck Gillies used Power Point to present the results of the survey. He will be writing an article for the newsletter based on the presentation. In addition, the data summaries are on file with these minutes. Hy and Chuck participated in a discussion of the results following the presentation during which the value of the historical data for planning became apparent.

Larry observed that the amount of information gleaned from the responses would not have been as great if the survey had been anonymous. John pointed out that using a stamped addressed envelope for responses probably contributed to the high response rate.

Remarks by the President: Sara reported on the Executive Committee meeting of April 6.

1. Web Site/Newsletter – Description of the ombudsman position and the new policy on “Exchange of Ideas and Materials” will be published on the web site. There will be one calendar for all scheduled events and deadlines. Changes and updates to the calendar will be placed on the home page. The Technology Committee is in charge of technical aspects of the web site; the President and Executive Committee will review any changes with policy implications before they are posted. In response to a request from Peter Ferber to put a notice in the newsletter about the Helping Each Other program, Sara said that the Executive Committee had not yet resolved that question.

2. Ad Hoc Committee –Sara said that the Executive Committee recommends appointing an ad hoc committee to draft a policy on dealing with requests from outside organizations, such as distributing material about them or sharing 5CLIR information with them. Council approved the establishment of this committee.

3. Appointments – As per the bylaws, Sara is working in consultation with the current committee chairs to appoint new chairs as needed. She emphasized the advantages of having co-chairs (1) in case of illness or other causes of absence by a chair (2) to give a new chair an opportunity to work with an experienced co-chair to learn the workings of the committee.

4. Great Decisions – Because many non-members attend Great Decisions, an effort is being made to inform them about 5CLIR by having brochures available and presenting visuals of some of our activities. In addition, the President will speak about the various types of activities in 5CLIR.

5. Committee Responses to Retreat – The Curriculum Committee submitted a report on its response to issues raised at the retreat in January (see committee report below). Sara stated that after all committees have submitted responses, they would be asked to formulate resolutions for consideration by Council before any of the responses are presented to the membership.

Report of the Vice-President: Larry reminded Council of the preview on April 25 and reviewed plans for that event. There are two events scheduled at the same time that may draw some people who would otherwise come to the preview so he urged Council members to make extra efforts to encourage attendance. Members who bring prospective new members to the preview will be in a raffle with a prize for the winner.

Curriculum Committee Report: Joan Laird referred Council to the written responses of the committee to issues brought up at the retreat in January (see attached). The committee has proposed Mary Franks and Jim Scott as co-chairs for next year for two- and one-year terms, respectively.

Finance Committee Report: The Third Quarter Finance Report is attached. Bill Williams said that the amount of Membership Assistance Funding would be broken out under revenue beginning July 1.

Motion: Jim Scott moved that the 5CLIR Treasurer be authorized to book the transfer of funds from the General Reserve Fund to the Membership Assistance Funding revenue account to the extent that funds in the Membership Assistance Fund are insufficient to meet the amount of membership assistance that has been provided. The motion was seconded.

Motion: Larry moved to amend the motion by adding the following: The Treasurer will notify Council at its next meeting of any such transfers.

Jim Scott accepted the amendment and the two motions were combined. The motion as amended received 9 yes votes and so was approved.

Motion: Jim Scott moved that the amount of membership assistance provided to qualifying full-time members will be 50% of the full-time membership rate. The motion was seconded and passed.

John Armstrong said that the dues of \$150 in 1988 would be equivalent to \$275 today. Therefore, our dues have not kept up with inflation even though we are offering more activities than 20 years ago.

Public Relations: No report.

Summer/Winter Programs Report: Dorothy Gorra reported that one or two events are planned for each week of the summer.

Membership Committee Report: Sheila Klem announced that Frieda Howards has agreed to serve as co-chair of the committee for next year. Four members of the committee will assist

Callie at the preview. The committee completed its telephone survey of trial members and those who have dropped membership (see attached report). Newer members seem to have less loyalty to 5CLIR as an organization and are more likely to join or not based on whether there are seminars of interest to them. Sheila said that the committee is planning to have another series of brunches in the fall with a luncheon the following year.

Special Programs Committee Report: Lise Armstrong reported that the committee has developed a convener's handbook for those inquiring about starting a special program. This is a trial version and will be revised as necessary. It contains some general information, a proposal form, and a copy of the policy on "Exchange of Ideas and Materials." Council gave approval to the committee to circulate the booklet.

Office Manager's Report: Callie thanked Sara for her help during a difficult time in the office.

Communications Committee Report: No report.

Nominating Committee Report: As chair of the Nominating Committee, Lise announced the following slate of officers for 2010-2011: Past President – Sara Wright; President – Larry Ambs; Vice-President – Joan Wofford, Treasurer – Sandy Muspratt, Assistant Treasurer – Dave Cramer, Secretary – Dorothy Rosenthal.

Development Committee Report: Dave Cramer, chair, announced that John Armstrong will be added to the other members of the committee: Mary Beth Bridgam, Jeff Caplan, Ann McIntosh, and Bill Williams. The committee is discussing the possibility of having a major event featuring a well-known speaker.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

President's Closing Remarks: Sara Wright proposed the following committee chairs for next year: Jim Scott and Mary Franks – co-chairs of the Curriculum Committee; Marybeth Bridgam – co-chair of the Summer/Winter Programs Committee; Frieda Howards – co-chair of the Membership Committee; Janet Price – co-chair of the Technology Committee; Arnold Friedmann and Dean Poli – co-chairs of the Public Relations Committee; John Armstrong as a member of the Development Committee. Council approved all these appointments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 13, 2010
*****1:30-3:30 PM*****
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**