

**FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, Elizabeth Armstrong, Marybeth Bridegam, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Dorothy Gorra, Sheila Klem, Joan Laird, Dean Poli, Janet Price, Dorothy Rosenthal, James Scott, Beverley von Kries, Joan Wofford, Michael Wolff, Sara Wright. Guest: Chuck Gillies.

Call to Order: President Larry Ambs called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting should indicate that the brunches will take place on April 16, not April 14. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Remarks by the President: Larry deferred his remarks to the end of the meeting.

Report of the Vice-President: Joan Wofford circulated a description of an organizational study she would like to initiate (see report on file with these minutes). After a few questions and comments Council expressed approval for the proposal.

Finance Committee Report: There was no report at this time. Sandy has sent budget information to the committee chairs.

Technology Committee Report: Janet Price referred Council to the written report submitted previously (on file with these minutes). In addition, she asked that material sent to her for use on the web site be in pdf or doc format. If the material is not terribly complicated, she will put it on the web site; otherwise, she will just put a link to the material. However, items for the calendar should be sent directly to Callie.

Curriculum Committee Report: Jim Scott referred Council to the written report he circulated (on file with these minutes). He described the plan for the moderators' meeting on March 31 from 2-4 at the Meeting House in Northampton Lathrop. The focus will be on experienced moderators helping people who would like help in planning a seminar they wish to moderate. He asked Council members to mention the meeting in their seminars and to encourage new people to attend. He reported that the Committee had discussed the idea of shorter seminars, particularly in the spring, to appeal to people who take long winter vacations.

Public Relations Committee Report: Dean Poli displayed the poster that the Committee designed. He asked for volunteers to post them in appropriate places in their area and got some volunteers. For places with very small bulletin boards, he suggested that people post the brochure instead of the poster.

Summer/Winter Programs Report: Marybeth asked for clarity on the matter of adding an administrative fee to programs, such as bus trips. Dorothy Gorra said that there will be no losses to 5CLIR because the fees are set for 35 people although the buses can hold 47. If fewer than 35 sign up, the trips will be cancelled. If more than 35 sign up, 5CLIR will have extra money. Because of these arrangements, she saw no reason for an administrative fee. A gratuity for the driver is calculated when setting the cost per person. Council appeared to agree that an administrative fee was not needed under these circumstances.

Marybeth described a trip planned for June 15 and 16. It will go first to the Rockefeller Estate in Westchester County to see the artwork, then to the Storm King display of outdoor sculpture, and

end at the Culinary Institute in Poughkeepsie. The group will spend the night of June 15 at the Hampden Inn in Newburgh. The cost, not including dinner at the CIA, will be around \$200 per person.

Dorothy Gorra said that the annual trip to Tanglewood will cost each person \$10 more because Tanglewood has converted rehearsal seating to reserved seating and raised the admission price.

Membership Committee Report: Sheila Klem reported plans for the brunches are underway. She distributed a directory listing of new members and urged Council to make an effort to make the new people in their seminars welcome. There are 11 full-time new members, 11 current trial members, and 7 former trial members. There are now about 288 members but Callie pointed out that as of today a few more joined and the number continues to change. The Committee will be inviting the new members to attend one of the brunches.

Jim Scott said that Nina Scott is working on an article for a special learning supplement to the Gazette that will focus on new members and interesting stories about what brought them to the area and to 5CLIR.

Special Programs Committee Report: Lise Armstrong asked for approval to add Ina Luadtke to the Committee.

Motion: Sara Wright moved that Council approve the addition of Ina Luadtke to the Special Programs Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Lise said that the Encore programs have been well attended. Larry said that parking can be a problem at Applewood and encouraged people to car pool.

Office Manager's Report: Callie said that an associate member came to the office to sign up her husband as an associate member. When Callie told her he would have to be a full-time member before he could become an associate member there was no problem. She said that the system appears to be working and does not discourage people from joining. His membership will begin now and continue until July 1, 2012.

Great Decisions Committee Report: Dave Cramer said that Jim Harvey will be helping with the AV equipment at the first session. The mailings have been sent out. In order to publicize 5CLIR, Larry will be making a short presentation before each of the five sessions. Dave said that if the Public Relations Committee wishes to post something or to have brochures available it can be arranged. The video will also be playing before the actual start of each session.

Development Committee: Dave Cramer reiterated his suggestion that \$2-3 be added to the fees for events to help with our financial situation.

Old Business:

1. Public Relations Ad Hoc Committee: Joan Wofford presented the report of the ad hoc committee on public relations (see report on file with these minutes). Lise Armstrong questioned the need for representatives from some committees to serve on the Public Relations Committee, based on her experience as a previous member of the committee.

Motion: Peter Ferber moved that Council designate a special Public Relations Committee comprised of Mary Franks, Peter Ferber, Joan Wofford and representatives from three committees (Curriculum, Special Programs, and Great Decisions) to perform the existing public relations functions while identifying new potential members and possible underlying issues concerning public relations within the 5CLIR context. The committee would serve until July. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Sesquicentennial Symposium on “Civil War Causes and Consequences”

Chuck Gillies reported on progress in organizing and planning the event, which will take place on October 14 and 15. He distributed a flyer describing the speakers and program and a report to Council summarizing the program, funding and budget, publicity, and members of the Steering Committee (documents on file with these minutes). He said that the community read for 5CLIR this fall will probably be the latest book by Eric Foner, one of the two main speakers. Chuck said that the committee hopes to have the program at Mahar Auditorium and the Isenberg School of Management, but that is not yet firmed up. Chuck asked for ideas on this and other matters and received a number of constructive suggestions.

New Business:

1. Larry distributed a revised explanation of the new block schedule that was approved at the last meeting. He asked that if anyone has suggestions for changes to contact him. This will be included in the next newsletter.
2. Larry said that in keeping with the recent schedule, the Fall Preview will be held in conjunction with the Annual meeting on May 1 at Smith Campus Center.
3. The Operations Manual has been sent to Bobbie Reitt for editing.

The meeting was adjourned 4:15 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2011
*****2:30-4:30 PM*****
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**