

FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
October 13, 2011

The regular meeting of the Council was held at the Five College Center at 2:15 pm.

Present Council: Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Marybeth Bridegam, Dave Cramer, Arnold Friedman, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Joan Laird, Betsy Loughran, Sandy Muspratt, Ellen Peck, Joan Wofford, Michael Wolff, Gordon Wyse

Absent Council: Laura Cranshaw

Committee Chairs Present: Callie Orszak, Sara Wright, Mary Franks, Janet Price, Eva Sartori, Peter Ferber

Civil War Symposium: Carol Jolly reported that over 300 people have registered for the upcoming symposium. The auditorium can hold 450, so some last minute people can be accommodated although there is no overflow possibility.

Minutes: The minutes of Sept. 15 were approved as submitted.

Computer donation: Jim announced that 5C Inc. has donated a lap top computer to LIR for use in seminars by those who want to do power point but lack a lap top of their own. He asked the Council for a resolution of thanks for this donation. It was approved.

Larry also suggested that the President write a letter of appreciation thanking them for such a donation. Joan agreed.

Space Task Force: Sara Wright, who has agreed to head this task force, has not had a meeting yet but has formed a committee of Jono Hanke, Arnold Friedman, Joice Gare, Evelyn Cheskey, and Gordon Wyse. Hopefully, they can get their business done in three meetings.

Sara will put a request in the Newsletter to get suggestions for possible meeting places. She will ask those making the suggestion to investigate parking, handicapped access, bathrooms, fees, heating, and number that can be accommodated. She will also investigate public bus routes and schedules. PVTA will give free rides with an LIR card. She may also try an informal phone survey about people's willingness to try new places.

Marybeth suggested a newsletter blurb urging people to try new places even if it means crossing the River. Larry suggested a letter from Joan W. outlining the problem of more people and fewer spaces. We now have more members in Amherst, but this can change.

Some further suggestions: U Mass police station,

The possibility of meeting in members' homes has been put aside since the insurance liabilities are too complicated.

Financial: Sandy reported that he now has a committee of Dave Cramer, Carl Erickson, Charles Klem, and Betsy Loughran. They will be meeting soon to talk about the Endowment funds which need new documents to set up in coordination with the new 5C accounting system.

When the space task force completes its surveys, the financial task force will have to analyze the financial need to pay for new spaces.

Flexibility in seminars: Ellen Peck, who has agreed to chair this task force, spoke of the need for a longer time table for the work of this task force. The policy issues will need more discussion, perhaps a survey to find out how much unease there is in the seminars. There could also be one or two focus groups to generate ideas. The membership committee is taking a survey of those who have dropped out of LIR. This information may be useful as well.

Gordon asked if we could try hybrid formats. Callie suggested collecting ideas via email.

Curriculum Committee: Mary Franks announced that Sandy Campbell has had to resign as co-chair due to ill health. She is looking for another co-chair.

The committee is now very busy collecting seminar proposals for the spring. There are now 16 or 17 but we need about 10 more. October 29 is the deadline for proposals. A special meeting of the CC will be held on Friday, October 21 to review proposals submitted so far. A moderators' meeting will be held on Friday, Nov. 4 from 10 to 12 at the Amherst Woman's Club.

Michael Wolff asked about the snowbirds seminars which will start later and go for only six weeks. Having more short seminars may increase participation, but this will have space implications. Since Hampshire and Mt. Holyoke do not like to commit space until after the semester starts, scheduling seminars there creates special problems for Callie.

Winter/Summer Programs: Marybeth has five new members on this committee: Clair Sherr, Candice Carlyle, Flora Majumder, Jane Luff, and Kate Collins. This committee has taken on more members because some of the former members have developed health problems. The Council agreed that there are no limits to the numbers on a committee except for the Curriculum Committee. Marybeth also asked if the committee could schedule something in December. The Council agreed that the Winter window could be considered Dec. 12 to Feb. 7.

Tech Committee: Janet confirmed the donation of the laptop. This committee would like three training sessions this winter: 1) ebooks, 2) skype and its uses, and 3) smart phones. All three could be held in Jones Library and would be less hands-on than sessions in the past.

There has also been talk of a session on digital cameras. Jim had a seminar once on digital photography. We could consider doing that again.

We need more people on the tech committee, especially women. They can also get help from Barnes and Noble and Yes Computers.

Great Decisions: Peter F. will meet with this committee tomorrow to decide on the topics for the year. They have taken a survey of many members.

Seminar hopping: Callie described the problem of people dropping one seminar and trying to pick up another one after the seminars have started. Do we need a special policy about dropping and adding? We now have a rule that you cannot sign up for a seminar if you know you will miss the first two weeks. We really cannot stop people from dropping a seminar as the semester goes on, but all agreed that there should be no “seminar hopping” after the first two weeks. People going in and out create scheduling problems.

Announcements: John Armstrong announced a science round-table next Thurs. at Lathrop to discuss “Common Radiation Sources in Everyday Life.”

Michael Wolff wondered if we could also have an arts and humanities roundtable. He was referred to the Special Programs Committee.

Next Meeting: November 10, 2011

2:15-4:15 at Five College Headquarters

Submitted by Ellen Peck