

**FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 14, 2012**

Present Council: Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Laura Cranshaw, Arnold Friedman, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Joan Laird, Betsy Loughran, Sandy Muspratt, Joan Wofford

Absent Council: Marybeth Bridegam, Ellen Peck, Michael Wolff, Gordon Wyse

Committee Chairs Present: Mary Franks, Janet Price, Peter Ferber, Callie Orszak, Chuck Gillies

President Joan Wofford called the meeting to order at 2:15pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the Council Meeting of May 10, 2012, were approved.

Jim Harvey presented outgoing president Joan Wofford with a gift certificate as a gesture of our appreciation for her valuable service to LIR. Joan responded that being LIR President had been a great pleasure, thanks to the support from Council members.

Final civil war symposium report: The report was sent to all members. Chuck commented that there was an error in the fund raising report. The total should be \$21,200, instead of \$20,700. He commented on LIR's long history of producing programs such as this one, along with ongoing Great Decisions. He was pleased that one of the results was an enhanced relationship between LIR and Mass Humanities. He noted that Mass Humanities has announced a new grant of \$25,000 for two cooperating groups to produce a program to demonstrate the necessity and value of the "public square", encouraging discussion between polarized groups on important subjects and crises in our society. Joan Laird commented that a possible model might be a program that already exists in Boston called Public Conversation. Mary Franks thanked Chuck for conceiving of and producing this program, as well as for his many other contributions over the years.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy noted that the estimated income is less than last year because several membership renewals have not yet come in, but are expected. Budget expectations include a profit from Great Decisions and the ability of Summer programs to pay their own way with a small profit to pay for the September picnic tent. He proposed the following: Motion: Council members and Committee chairs who are considering expenditures of more than \$100 should notify the Treasurer. The motion was seconded, and a lengthy discussion followed concerning the budgets for the various committees. It was unclear to attending Committee chairs what their budgets covered, how they were estimated, and what other expenses they were responsible for. As an example, copying costs are allocated to each committee. This stimulated further discussion concerning methods of communication – paper versus e-mail, and the conditions and situations where each might be used. There was some disagreement about how the preview material, particularly the seminar catalog, should be handled, but no definite conclusions were reached. Peter pointed out that while there was no budget for the PR committee because there was none last year, there now is and it should be included. Betsy suggested that chairs should be given information concerning the history of their committee's

expenditures for the past year or two, and quarterly updates should be routinely provided. The Treasurer should then be contacted with any questions. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum: Carol read the list of lotteried seminars, and reported that Jim Harvey's seminar on the Massachusetts Bay Colony was so oversubscribed that he will probably be doing a second session of the seminar. There will be 24 seminars. Of 373 places, 310 have been filled. Carol said that the procedure for production of the catalog has been revised and updated. Because Marybeth Bridegam, co-chair of the committee, is out of town, they have not yet been able to select their new members from those who volunteered. There will be three of them per the recently adopted Council policy to gradually reduce the committee's size from 15 to 12 by adding fewer members for the next two years. Carol presented the calendar and asked whether council needed to meet in both July and August. At Jim's suggestion, it was decided not to meet in July. The Council approved the calendar with this change. Carol thanked Mary Franks for her service as co-chair of the committee for the past two years.

Joan proposed the following: Motion: Council approves all proposed new members of all committees. It was unanimously approved. Jim asked why Council had to approve new committee members. The answer seemed to be that it is so stated in the by-laws and has a long historical precedent.

Fund ad hoc Committee: Larry presented the Proposal for creating an "Investment Reserve Fund", which has been jointly proposed by Five Colleges Inc, and 5CLIR. John moved that it be approved. It was approved by a vote of 8-0.

Election Results: Peter Ferber, Eva Sartori and Jim Scott were elected as this year's new Council members. Dorothy Gilbert and Chris Hurn were elected to fill the spots being vacated by Carol Jolly and Betsy Loughran, both of whom have been elected Council officers.

Historical Issue as to Date of Origin: Joan presented two documents – a letter dated October 5, 1988 from the Five College Presidents indicating the formation of a planning committee for a "new educational program for retirees in the Pioneer Valley." The other is a plaque from the Five College Presidents noting the Tenth Anniversary of Five College Learning in Retirement, dated April 15, 1999. After a brief discussion it was decided to choose Spring of 1989 as our "birthdate".

Larry thanked the three Council members whose terms expire with this meeting. They are Arnold Friedman, Carol Jolly and Michael Wolfe. Jim noted that we have lost an old time member, Alex Chajes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.
Respectfully submitted,

Laura E. Cranshaw, Secretary pro tem