

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

**The regular meeting of the Council was held at 2:15 at Lathrop Northampton.**

**Present Council:** Susan Beer, Paul Berman, Dorothy Gilbert, Michael Greenebaum, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran (by machine), Ellen Peck, Zina Tillona, Fran Volkmann, Gordon Wyse

**Absent Council:** Chris Hurn, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott

**Present Committees/Other:** Liz Tiley, Marybeth Bridegam, Sara Wright, Henny Lewin, Judy Moran

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved as presented.

**President's Report:** Carol reported that after much correspondence, we have been approved by the **UMass, Five College Federal Credit Union** (see accompanying letter). Next week a press release will announce this publicly. Our membership will be given the news by email. The acceptance means that our members may use the credit union and its favorable banking practices. Thanks to Carol for arranging this privilege.

**Vice President's Report:** Michael told us that he has been visiting committee meetings and is now on all their mailing lists.

**Committee Reports:**

**Winter/Summer**—Marybeth reported from this committee which in its Sept. meeting voted on new sentences to be added to the Operations Manual.

"In order to plan more effectively for overnight summer trips, proposals need to be submitted to the S/W Committee by its Fall meeting (early September). This is necessary because the Summer/Winter committee has only two meetings per year, and arrangements and reservations for overnight trips need to be made many months ahead of time."

**The Council voted unanimously to adopt these new sentences for the Operations Manual.**

We will need to announce this new policy in a special email as well as in the Newsletter.

At its Sept. meeting, the Winter/Summer committee voted to divest itself of responsibility for the fall picnic, starting next year. The committee wished to pass this responsibility to the Membership Committee since it is an all-member event which welcomes new members and is organized differently from the trips and events planned by W/S.

Henny Lewin, new chair of the Membership Committee, replied that she needs to take this proposal back to her committee. The work for planning the picnic is well-outlined and the Gaustads are still willing to host it, but we do need a plan B for unforeseen complications.

There was much discussion about the financing of this picnic. In the past it has been done informally by using the profits from Winter/Summer trips, but it has not been a budget item. The Council agreed that this procedure should be changed: the W/S profits should go into the treasury and the picnic should have its own budget. This should make organizing the picnic a bit easier. Most of the money is spent on renting a tent and chairs and tables, which are put up and taken down by the company. If this procedure has to change, having a budget to work with would be helpful.

It was agreed that we will postpone a decision on this matter until next month which will give Henny a chance to talk to her committee.

**Special Programs:** Sara Wright presented a written list of new committee members. They need more members and a facilitator for *Live Performances*.

**Curriculum:** Marybeth stressed the need for new proposals. Since this is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the committee is soliciting proposals for seminars that were given during our early years. An announcement of this has gone out by email. **Deadline for seminar proposals is October 23.**

**Great Decisions:** Fran Volkmann, the new chair of the committee, lamented the death of Peter Ferber who in the past had done so much to insure the success of this program. The remaining committee agreed that the program needs to proceed but will need more help from our members. This matter will be taken up in the next President's letter.

The fall survey of possible topics will be circulated at the picnic and put out in an email. There will now be a reply form on the web site so that members can reply directly to Fran. The Council agreed that this is a valuable program which is a good recruiting tool. In order to recruit more committee members, the committee will write out a description of what Great Decisions does. Right now Jim Perot and Larry Gutlerner handle finance while Larry Gutlerner and Joan Cenedella cover publicity.

**Tech Committee:** Judy Moran will try to survey members at the picnic about what tech services are needed. They can then plan workshops for the year.

**Committee Recruiting:** Zina suggested that since all committees seem to be searching for members, at the picnic there should be a list of the committees and what they do placed at the new members table. There can also be a blurb in the Newsletter encouraging members to get involved, especially as a way to meet people.

**Treasurer:** Betsy told us that the finance committee will report in October. Figures from last year are just coming in so they can prepare a budget.

**Office Manager's Report:** Liz Tiley gave us the latest membership stats—25 new members, 299 total members, 18 mailed out Newsletters.

She asked the Council how often the Newsletter should come out. After much discussion, the consensus was that we need monthly Newsletters, with perhaps only one in the summer. The calendar with its many activities needs a monthly reminder, and we do like the pictures.

Liz has also been looking at lanyards for our nametags and pricing the different sorts of nametag holders. Since we still have a few of the old style ones left, she can check further on prices. Most Council members felt lanyards were a good idea since they keep people from losing their nametags.

**Preview Planning:** Jim Harvey reminded us that the Preview will be at Mount Holyoke College this year and on **Saturday, Nov. 23**, instead of a Sunday. This is a trial for a Saturday schedule since in the past we have conflicted with the Hampshire Choral Society concert.

Last year Joan Wofford handled publicity. Our budget has been about \$1000 for food and venue and another \$1000 for publicity, mainly newspaper ads.

Zina suggested that we have less food and present it at the beginning so that people will not wander away to eat half way through the time. We agreed to try this.

The question of publicity is hard to gauge since we have no good way to measure how people hear about us. We could ask new members at the picnic and at the Preview. The consensus was that the Preview needs good food and a gala atmosphere to attract new people and present a positive image of the group.

#### **Old Business:**

The Tues/Thurs schedule gap from 11:30 to 1:30 had been established on a trial basis for two years. The Special Programs committee, which had suggested the gap, voted to continue it even though not too many committees have used it. Members need to be reminded why it is there. **The Council voted unanimously to make the current Tues/Thurs schedule permanent.**

#### **New Business:**

Naomi Yanis wrote the Council a letter about diversity in LIR membership—diversity of color and diversity of economic status. (See accompanying letter) These are really two different issues.

Currently, our scholarship practice is to ask members to contribute extra money when paying their dues. This money is used to give partial scholarships to those who apply. It is usually in the ball park of \$2200. There is no budget amount for this purpose; it is an in-and-out account.

Discussion ranged over a number of issues:

- There may be a problem of terminology. “Scholarship” can sound like charity and may put people off from applying. “Sliding-scale” might be a more appealing term.
- Transportation may be as much a problem as dues.
- Our organization has always had an elite image. Do we really want to change that?
- How much do we really want to expand our membership given the constraints of space for seminars?
- How do we do outreach to groups beyond the usual suspects?
- Should we have a definite budget amount for scholarship purposes?

Since these points need more consideration, this discussion will be continued, possibly with Naomi present.

**Next Meeting: October 10, 2013 at 2:15 in Five College Headquarters, Amherst**

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Peck, Secretary