

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the council was held at the Five College Office, Spring St., Amherst, at 2:15 pm.

Present Council: Michael Greenebaum, Chris Hurn, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott, Fran Volkmann, Gordon Wyse

Absent Council: Susan Beer, Dorothy Gilbert, Jim Harvey, Zina Tillona

Present Committees/Other: Larry Ambs, Ina Luadtke, Betsy Siersma, Liz Tiley, Sara Wright

Minutes: The minutes of April 10 were approved as presented.

Vice-President: Since the question of term limits as set by our by-laws has come up, Michael suggested that committee chairs and committee members need to review the by-laws and keep track of which term limits apply to them.

Treasurer: Betsy reported that she is now re-doing the forms used by Liz to pay bills. Our new fiscal year will begin May 1.

Office Manager: Liz asked for help in re-doing the council ballot to be sent out. Paul Berman has resigned from the Council. The system has been that when someone resigns from Council, the person with the next highest number of votes from that year's election, is the replacement for the number of years left in the term. Rafe de Lima was the next in line but he is also on this year's ballot. Jim Scott suggested that this year the three highest vote-getters receive three-year terms while the fourth gets the shorter replacement term. We can explain this on the ballot. Gordon made a motion that we accept this change. It was passed unanimously.

Gala Report: Sheila Klem's committee reported that the decision to charge \$25 for the meal was a good one since it brought out many members. The donations from patrons will make the celebration come out nearly even financially. LIR was pleasantly surprised by the citations andudos from Senator Rosenberg and Barbara Lacey of Five Colleges Inc.

New Office: Liz is settling into the new office. The printer has been acting up lately; therefore she is looking into the relative costs of fixing the old one, buying a new one, and using the Smith system for \$180 month rental.

The library has agreed to put up some signs on the first floor and in the Lounge. This should help members find the new office.

Committee Reports:

Great Decisions: Fran Volkmann reported that although Great Decisions had good speakers and a respectable attendance of 70 to 80 each week, the program as a whole may end up with a small deficit. General feedback on the speakers and discussion was very favorable.

Curriculum Committee: This committee will have a report in June when the lottery has taken place. Betsy Siersma said that we had 48 new people at the Preview; hopefully they will turn into new members.

Special Programs: Ina Luadtke reminded everyone that the Valley Poets will read at Lathrop Northampton on Wednesday, May 22 at 2:00. Seventeen poets will be reading their own work.

President's Report:

Road Scholar Conference: Carol announced that the conference will go ahead even though the registration remains low. Michael Greenebaum will do the welcome and will have a session on how LIR supports moderators of seminars. Carol Jolly has agreed to talk about how we have dealt with controversies and why we have chosen to use an ombudsman.

[The week after the Council meeting, we received word that this conference will be postponed until the fall due to low registration.]

Election of Secretary: Due to the diligence of our historian Sara Wright, the Council was alerted to the requirement in our by-laws that the secretary serve only three consecutive terms. Carol presented the Council with various options to deal with this problem (see separate sheet). Ellen Peck apologized for not catching this requirement and so putting the Council into an awkward position. She explained that she would feel better if the nominating committee could find someone else to be elected legitimately instead of trying to change the by-laws.

In the discussion that followed, Sara pointed out that term limits had been established to insure turn-over of leadership, especially on the committees. The three-year limit was approved for officers and committees. Several people commented that next year might be a time to review the by-laws to see if such limits still made sense.

Members of the nominating committee present, agreed to meet again to find a new candidate. If they were successful within a two to three week time frame, we could delay sending out a new ballot until June 7. What has happened could be explained on the ballot.

Gordon Wyse made a motion that the nominating committee try to confirm a new person by June 4 and then send out the ballot by June 7. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by 3:00.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Peck, Secretary