

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 2014

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

Present council: Susan Beer, Marybeth Bridegam, Rafe de Lima, Michael Greenebaum, Carol Jolly, Sheila Klem, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott, Zina Tillona

Absent Council: Jim Averill, Tyll van Geel, Fran Volkmann

Committee Chairs/Others: Ina Luadtke (SP), Jacob Greenburg (GD), Joan McKelvey (MS), Liz Tiley (OM)

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented.

Vice President: Sheila Klem reported that within the committees the problem of term limits was being discussed. For some committees turnover is necessary but for others there is a question of expertise and historical memory to be considered. We need more publicity about committees since we need to attract more members. A committee sheet will be in the Preview packet.

Preview: Carol Jolly reminded us that the Preview will be on Saturday, November 22, at Mt. Holyoke. The annual Memorial program will be in early January. Members need to email her about those who have passed during the previous year.

Committees:

Special Programs—Ina has been sorting out dates with Winter/Summer to avoid conflicts in events. In April there will be another poetry fest, this time at Applewood. Richard Szlosek will be the new co-chair of Special Programs, beginning in March.

Member Services: Joan McKelvey told us that because many members donated supplies for the picnic, the committee had spent only \$30 of their \$100 budget.

Great Decisions: Jacob Greenburg was pleased that their survey of topics had generated 80 responses. This year the program will skip Friday, April 3, since this is Passover.

Curriculum: So far the committee has 20 and a half proposals for the spring. The deadline for submission is Sat. Oct. 11. This year there are 6 in history with possibly two more coming in. We now need more variety. The committee of Carol Jolly, Sara Wright, and Miriam Whitney that is reconciling the operations manual and the by-laws, feel that the manual should specify that only LIR members can become moderators.

Office Manager: Liz confirmed that we have 42 new members. The total is probably 265 with 25 as trial members.

Treasurer: Betsy Loughran has signed the tax letters for all who donated to the 25th anniversary celebration and to the scholarship fund. We had a surplus from the anniversary dinner; the scholarship fund is on target for the year.

The **Finance Committee** has lost two members; in addition Susan Beer has decided not to become treasurer at the end of the year. Betsy will stay on another year but we need to elect a new assistant treasurer who can serve a year's apprenticeship. Betsy is soliciting names of those with financial expertise.

Our relationship with 5 Colleges: Betsy explained why we need to manage our budget as we do. LIR does not exist as a separate organization—we are part of 5 Colleges. For no cost to us, they manage hiring, benefits, compensation packages, tax filings, and do bookkeeping and accounting. This is a huge benefit to us. The difficulty is that we must follow their accounting system. Their fiscal year ends June 30 but ours needs to end on April 30 since we get most of our income in May and June. If we used their dates, it would seem as if we had no income for most of the year which would make accounting and budgeting difficult. We have now developed our own line items and system of accounting for our needs. Five Colleges does not mind if we do this as long as we keep a healthy balance sheet and they do not have to supervise what we are doing.

Balance sheet—see separate sheet. The FIC figures show what is in the bank. The **Future Fund** is an endowment which is invested with 5C. We receive interest on this money and it is now being reinvested to build up the fund. When we accumulate about \$60,000, we can begin to take out the interest to be used for our programs. The item marked “**Donor Restriction**” is the money used for scholarships. The “**Strategic Reserve**” we have set at \$30,000 out of our total budget, to be used for special needs and emergencies. As surpluses accumulate, we can put increments of \$5000 into the Future Fund once a year. Our policy is that when large expenditures are necessary, the board must approve them and how they will be repaid. The Council will receive a Balance Sheet report once a year.

Income Statement—see separate page. The different columns show the difference between the budget and actual expenditures. The end figure shows a small deficit. The budget for 2014-5 was adopted at the April Council meeting. Since then we have had a surplus in the “gifts to operations” because of the anniversary gifts. Each committee now has its own budget amount. If more is needed, the treasurer must be consulted. There is a budget for the Public Relations committee but so far we do not have a committee, but we do have publicity expenses for the Preview. The Preview may need more money than allotted. Next year because of mandatory fringe benefits, we may again have to raise dues or attract more members.

Old Business:

An ad hoc committee consisting of Sheila Klem, Marybeth Bridegam, Betsy Siersma, and Fran Volkmann presented a proposal entitled “**How to Join**” (see separate sheet). They have simplified the categories by eliminating “trial membership” which was put in 8 years ago to

attract more members. Now that we will have half year memberships for new members, with all the benefits that trial memberships did not have, we do not need this category. The category “Associate Member” still takes care of circumstances that change temporarily for full members; this category will remain unchanged.

Jim Scott moved that we accept this report with the updated categories. All members approved.

Jim Perot then proposed that we eliminate the “**rebate**.” Today it is \$50; only one person has applied this year. In the discussion that followed, several members spoke of the good public relations this rebate helped. In the past it has kept people involved and showed concern for the disappointment of not getting into desired seminars. The vote was 2 to eliminate and 10 to keep the rebate. **The motion was defeated.** The note on the membership form that a \$50 rebate is available with an application will remain unchanged. The operations manual committee will work on wording to explain the criteria for this rebate.

The problem of periodic payment of dues was referred back to the Finance Committee.

The part of Fran Volkmann’s motion to institute a “**sabbatical**” half year every three years was moved off the table and will not be considered further.

Carol reminded officers and committee chairs that she needed **annual reports** during October. These need not be long or complex.

Next Council Meeting, Thursday, November 13, 2014.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Peck