

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2014**

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

**Present Council:** Jim Averill, Marybeth Bridegam, Michael Greenebaum, Carol Jolly, Sheila Klem, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott, Zina Tillona, Tyll Van Geel, Fran Volkmann

**Absent Council:** Susan Beer, Rafe de Lima

**Committee Chairs/Others:** Larry Ambs, Ina Luadtke (SP), Joan McKelvey (MS), Honore David (W/S), Liz Tiley (OM)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October meeting were approved as corrected.

**Vice President:** Sheila Klem reminded us that the Public Relations committee is now in limbo. At the Preview there will be a special table with information about committees. We should all try to recruit new committee members.

**Preview:** This year the preview will be on a **Saturday, Nov. 22 at Mt. Holyoke College**, Willets Howell Center. Moderators will be there at 1:30 while members come at 2:00. The member services committee will help register new members. There are now permanent signs for seminars.

**Memorial Service:** Carol Jolly told us that this year there are only five members to be memorialized. Usually there are ten or more. She is soliciting speakers, but there may also be another kind of program to fill out the time.

Carol Jolly also asked for a motion to approve the new wording describing **annual reports**. (see separate page.) Larry Ambs pointed out that historically the reason for such reports has been to keep Five Colleges informed about what we have been doing. Tyll van Geel called it a “state of the union” message. It was suggested that we add the phrase “and any concerns that arose” so that we can cover all contingencies. These annual reports are put on the web site. Carol reminded us of the necessity for a deadline and for the inclusion of all committees. We can call attention to these reports at the annual meeting. **The council approved the new wording with the added sentence.**

**Treasurer:** (see separate sheet from finance committee) Betsy Loughran reported that the annual dues have been collected so we are in good shape. The stock market goes up and down but that does not affect our operations. The finance committee rejected the idea of a partial pay option as being too complex and expensive. We could offer it to a small number of people like the scholarships. We will need new wording on the application to discourage widespread use.

Chuck Gilles will be chairing a meeting about increasing the **Fund for the Future**. This will be Friday, Nov. 14 at 10:15 at the Five College Center.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Member Services:** Joan McKelvey announced that the **New Member Coffee** will be February 14 in the morning. She wants to try Loomis as a venue instead of Lathrop. They need new members on this committee.

**Tech:** Jim Perot recommended that we change the way equipment is loaned out to the seminars. Since it is now in a cupboard next to Liz's office, there is no need to go through Jim to sign it out. He will give Liz a spreadsheet of the equipment and she can keep track of loans from that. She will notify moderators about this change in procedure.

The other function of this committee is to be a resource to help members with their technical problems. A tech fair entitled, "What is Your Problem?" that would be a question and answer session is in the planning stage. People always need help with Power Point, but some of the problems are best resolved individually rather than in a group course.

Instead of the regular committee structure, the tech people need an up to date list of members with technical expertise who would be willing to serve as consultants.

**Great Decisions:** Sheila Klem reported that last year 42 people attended who were not LIR members. None of them joined subsequently. Does this represent a problem, since we use Great Decisions for recruiting?

**Old Business:** Last month Michael Greenebaum sent out an announcement to members about the change in categories. The main responses requested half year memberships for old members as well as new. For financial reasons, this is an option we have already rejected. **The motion to accept the new categories as outlined on the separate sheet was approved by Council.**

**New Business: Plans for a new Library annex.** In his notes to Council, Michael Greenebaum had included the draft of a letter to Five Colleges Inc. expressing the wish that LIR have an office and seminar space in the new facility. Since the Executive Committee approved this letter at its last meeting, the letter was sent to 5CI. Larry Ambs, our liaison with 5CI, explained that the time line for this building is short, and so our letter is an attempt to get a foot in the door of the planning process. The building has to be on the regular library courier route so it cannot be a warehouse in a field somewhere. The building will be supported by the groups that wish to store books there. The Council will be kept informed as plans progress.

**The Public Relations-Outreach Committee:** At the moment we have no PR committee. Michael Greenebaum sent out publicity for the Preview. Liz Tiley occasionally sends out press releases and sends relevant announcements to the retirement communities. When Michael surveyed the various retirement communities, they all said they would like a speakers' bureau. The discussion of these matters ranged over a variety of issues:

- How do we get volunteers to speak? Who will keep the list and coordinate the dates?
- Could speakers to outside groups talk about LIR and even show our video?

- Our brochure needs to be updated periodically. Do we need someone in charge of overseeing written material?
- What did the PR committee do in the past? Do we need an ad hoc committee to review what worked in the past and make suggestions for future campaigns?
- Could we move the Encore presentations and the travel lectures to various communities and groups to get wider attendance?
- Getting out regular publicity needs only one coordinator, not a whole committee.

**Other Issues: Recruiting for committees**—People volunteer when asked. We can have a pitch at the annual meeting but the seminars are also good places to recruit. Should moderators be asked to help with this venture or is this too much to ask?

**Snowbird problem:** We have already changed the schedule to start spring seminars later in Feb. to accommodate those who go South during the winter. Should we move the calendar still further to March? Provide more shortened seminars? Should we poll the members about vacation plans? Or are we trying to be more accommodating than necessary?

**Next Council Meeting: December 11, 2014. No Council meeting in January.**

Ellen Peck, Secretary