

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2015

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

Present Council: Jim Averill, Susan Beer, Marybeth Bridegam, Michael Greenebaum, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott, Zina Tillona, Tyll Van Geel

Absent Council: Prunella Fiddian-Green, Sheila Klem, Fran Volkmann

Committee Chairs/Others: Jacob Greenburg, Ina Luadtke, Richard Szlosek, Miriam Whitney, Sara Wright

Council Replacement: Due to family complications, Rafe de Lima has had to resign from Council. He will be replaced by Prunella Fiddian-Green.

Minutes: The minutes from December 11 were accepted as corrected.

Past President's Report: Carol Jolly reported that the **Memorial Program** in January had had a good turn-out despite the weather. LIR has received a note of thanks from the widow of Mr. Gross.

The Legislators' Forum had a full house this year. The four legislators seem to like talking to an LIR audience. Even though this event was open to the public, we had few visitors and needed better signage at the door. Apparently we do have laminated signs that we use at the Previews but Carol did not know about them. When we get a permanent PR chair, details like this may be better coordinated. We should have a new person by March.

The long **Annual Report** for last year is now available on line. In the future these reports will be shortened according to the new approved format.

Finance Committee/Treasurer: The committee met yesterday to hear the good news that we have collected \$1900 more in dues than we budgeted. Betsy is asking committee chairs to confirm their budget figures for next year. She hopes to have a new budget by March.

The new fund-raising committee wants to do a feasibility study of capital fund raising before they go ahead with further plans.

Our balance sheet for this year shows \$43,000 in addition to the \$30,000 we normally keep in reserve for emergencies. The finance committee wants to put \$25,000 into the Fund for the Future which we can do once per year. We had agreed not to take out any interest from this fund until the principle reached \$60,000. When we do take out interest, we may get \$2000 to add to the operating budget. In the future our budget will go up because of benefits for Liz. We will vote on additions and withdrawals from this fund. May or June are the time to make adjustments.

Committee Reports: Representing **Summer/Winter Committee**, Marybeth Bridegam announced the proposed long trip to Newport and Mystic Seaport for June 23-25. There will be a special sign-up for this trip.

For **Special Programs**, Ina Luadtke reminded us that the deadline to submit poems for the April 17 poetry reading is March 23.

All the speakers for **Great Decisions** have been lined up. Jacob Greenburg assured us that brochures are being printed and will be sent out at the beginning of March. The series will start on Friday March 27. They will skip April 3, but then continue on through April.

Dean Poli told us that the **Curriculum Committee** now has 11 proposals for the fall. The committee has decided to stay with Sundays for the Previews instead of alternating with Saturdays. Hopefully that will make the dates easier to remember.

Annual Meeting: Michael Greenebaum requested that the annual meeting this year begin 15 minutes earlier—at 1:15. This will allow more time for business since we are requesting changes in the by-laws that must be voted on by all members at the Annual Meeting.

By-law Changes: The main business of the meeting was a discussion of the by-laws. An ad hoc committee of Carol Jolly, Miriam Whitney, and Sara Wright presented a report with suggested changes to be discussed at this meeting and voted on by Council in March. These changes will then be presented for a full membership vote at the Annual Meeting in April. For this discussion, we were using a policy report and a red-lined version of the by-laws that showed the proposed changes. (These documents should be considered part of the minutes.)

1. A change in wording in Article II from “*requires* active participation” to “*depends on*”. All seemed to agree that this new wording allows for more flexibility.
2. In section 2, article III there were questions about a seeming conflict between “discounted dues” and “reduced associate dues.” It was suggested that the word “reduced” is confusing since Associate dues are by definition reduced. Taking this word out would make the revision clearer.
3. In Article V, the duties of officers, can be changed to make the vice-president in charge of updating the Operations Manual. The rationale for this is that the vice president is working with the various committees and so is in touch with changes in how the committees are operating. In practice the Office Manager has been making necessary changes in the Operations Manual. She could work with the vice president to make sure that any changes and updates were included. Some members worried

that we were giving extra work to the vice-president, but in practice, once these current revisions are made, this will not be too big a job. The Secretary will continue to be responsible for up-dating the by-laws for the annual meeting.

There are three new positions which are described in the Operations Manual but not in the By-laws. These positions were created by vote of the Council and can be changed in the same way. They are the 1. Five College Liaison, 2. Historian and 3. Ombudsman. There is probably no advantage to describing these positions in the by-laws since they may change if needed.

4. In article V, section 7 and 8, the main proposed changes are how the treasurer and the assistant treasurer are elected and work together. The proposed changes are for a team analogous to our three-year system with the vice-president/president/ and past president all working together. There was much discussion about whether this would work the same way. As it is now, anyone taking on the Assistant Treasurer position might be in for a six year commitment—moving into the three year treasurer’s job after a three-year apprenticeship.

Betsy pointed out that you cannot learn the treasurer’s job in one year. It has taken her two years to understand the system. Since the 5C recently changed their financial system and Betsy found that our financial year has to be different from theirs, adjusting to working with our system has been difficult. Recruiting treasurers is a little different from recruiting other officers since this job requires a distinct skill set. We probably need to allow for more flexibility in defining these two positions. Betsy agreed to write up an alternative description. Some assistant treasurers may learn more quickly than others from being on the finance committee. If we do have a past treasurer, there was a question about why that person as an advisor would not have a vote on the finance committee.

5. In article VII, section 4 the proposed change is to require the committee chair to attend all Council meetings. In the discussion the Council suggested that it be one of the **co-chairs or a representative** of the committee that attends Council meetings.
6. In this same article, the proposal is that committee chairs appoint new members and inform Council rather than having Council approve the members. Council will still approve committee chairs. This change seemed good because it is less bureaucratic.
7. In Article X, Section 1 amending the By-laws, the major change was shortening the period of notification from 90 to 60 days since with email communication with all members is much faster now. (Only 8 members now do not have email.)

There was a question about the new wording since we are really talking about three things—individual member proposed amendments, Council proposed amendments, and how changes are adopted. This section needs some rewording.

What will happen now is that Michael will send Council a list of amendments to change wording in the red-line document. In March we will vote on these new amendments one at a time, and then vote on the entire document as a finished version. A corrected version will go out to all members before the Annual Meeting.

Since we have a lot to do in March, the final version of the Operations Manual will be taken up in April. Each committee is being asked to approve the wording that applies to what that committee does. It is easier to change the Operations Manual since each committee can give the rationale for how it operates.

Next Council Meeting: March 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Peck