

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 12, 2015

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

Present Council: Jim Averill, Susan Beer, 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: Marybeth Bridegam

Committee Chairs/Others: Honore David, Jacob Greenburg, Ina Luadtke, Henny Lewin, Liz Tiley, Richard Szlosek, Miriam Whitney, Sara Wright

Minutes: The minutes from February were accepted as presented.

Newsletter: Michael Greenebaum's suggestion that someone take on the editorship of the newsletter has had no volunteers so far. Sara Wright, our historian, also informed us that we have an archive of taped interviews with former leaders which need to be transcribed. This project has also had no volunteers, even though it might be valuable to preserve the history of the organization.

Treasurer: (Included in this discussion were a draft budget for 2016 and a balance sheet of our assets)

Betsy Loughran commented on various aspects of the new budget projections:

- *Dues* will remain level funded. We are presuming the same number of members.
- Scholarships will be the same as last year. They have been separated from the Member Assistance Fund line item.
- Under committee budgets, the picnic has been moved to Member Service Committee, while the Preview has been removed from the Curriculum Committee and has been given its own budget line.
- Under Public Relations, there is debate about whether we need expensive ads.
- Since more money than needed was budgeted for the Preview, that amount has been cut back.
- The catalogue now is a separate item. It is more expensive because of the use of color.
- Liz Tiley pointed out that one item has been left out of Operations. At Christmas she gives small gifts to our Five College contacts. \$200 should be enough to cover this
- Under Programs, are assuming that Great Decisions and Winter/Summer will continue to make a small profit.
- Rebates will remain the same as last year.
- Space rental has increased because of the new UMass parking fee. The \$500 we give to Grace Church is returned at the end of the year.
- We need to redo the brochure but this amount is not included in the budget.

- The personnel costs are still a guess. These are determined by Five Colleges and are set later in the year.

Betsy reminded us that the budget is a planning document which sets priorities. It can be changed as needs arise. The Council must approve any major expenses that go beyond the budget.

It was moved and seconded that we approve this budget with the addition of \$250 to take care of the Christmas expenses. The new bottom line will be \$66,838 for expenses and \$67,900 for income. This budget was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Zina Tillona presented the slate for new officers. President-- Sheila Klem; Vice president—Gordon Wyse; Past president—Michael Greenebaum; Secretary—Richard Szlosek; Treasurer—Betsy Loughran; and Assistant Treasurer—Kathy Campbell.

Three Council positions will be filled this year. All candidates will be introduced at the Annual Meeting when they will be asked to stand.

Special Programs Committee: Ina Luadtke announced a new collage-making workshop run by new member Pelle Lowe. It will be given on the afternoon of the third Thursday of each month at the Community Workroom in Michael's in Hadley. Ina made a plea for new members of this committee.

Winter/Summer: Honore David reported that the program for the summer activities has been set although it was difficult with the new deadline. Chester Theater has not yet announced its summer schedule, so that outing will have to be arranged separately later on. What is now scheduled : **Tanglewood** on Saturday, **A New Century Theater** production, new **Harvard Museum** collections with special luncheon, **Fruitlands** tour, a **music camp** performance in Cummington, a **geology walk**, and visits to **local art collections**. Marybeth Bridegam has arranged an overnight trip to **Newport and Mystic Seaport**. Nancy Denig has agreed to be the new chair of the committee. New committee members are desperately needed for next year.

The By-laws and Amendments: (a red-lined copy of the by-laws showing proposed changes is included as part of these minutes. Discussion refers to this document.)

Last month there were five amendments proposed for the draft by-laws. We voted on them one by one.

1. For section III "Members." The word *reduced* is to be removed in the sentence "those who have paid associate membership dues." This rewording was approved.
2. In article V, section 8, the problem with the terms of the treasurer and assistant treasurer is that the commitment asked may be longer than the traditional three years. Since it may

take more than one year for the treasurer to learn the quirky Five College system, more flexibility may be needed. The wording proposed by Betsy is

“The Treasurer is elected for a one-year term and may be re-elected. The Assistant Treasurer/Treasurer serves a one-year term and may be re-elected. The expectation is that he/she will serve as Treasurer the year following the end of the last Treasurer’s service.” Eleven members of the Council voted for the change.

3. Article VII, section 1 describing the Finance Committee, in the sentence “The Past-Treasurer serves as an ex officio member of the Finance Committee *without vote.*,” the words “without vote” should be taken out. This change was approved unanimously.
4. Article VII, section 4, the last sentence should add the words “or a representative.” It should now read: “A chair of each committee *or a representative* is expected to attend {Council Meetings.}” This change was approved unanimously.
5. Article X, “Amendment of By-Laws”—see separate page for wording. This new wording makes it clear that there are slightly different procedures for changes initiated by individual members and by The Council. This clarified wording was approved unanimously.

The entire red-lined By-Laws with these approved amendments was the approved unanimously by Council.

Other Committee Reports:

Great Decisions: Jacob Greenburg announced that Great Decisions has sent out its brochure for the series. There will be a new speaker from Boston on anti-trafficking. That person will receive \$200 plus a lunch and travel expenses. The other speakers are local. Since this series is a good public relations opportunity, Jacob urged the Curriculum Committee to have ready a power point presentation of our seminars to show before the programs. Catalogues and brochures will be at the registration desk as well.

Member Services: Henny Lewin told us that pot-luck lunches are being arranged for Sunday, April 19 at noon. They need 18 hosts. Registration will be first come, first served. Frieda Howard is in charge of finding hosts. The September picnic will be Sept. 16 (17) at the home of the Gustads. There were 40 people at the newcomers’ coffee.

Curriculum Committee: Dean Poli reported that there are now 26 seminar proposals for the Fall. They have decided to forgo display; ads this year since they are costly and not as effective as we would like. The annual moderators meeting will be in the spring next year and will focus on how to turn an idea into a proposal.

“Public Relations” report: Jim Scott spoke at the Amherst Club along with five other LIR members. They all described the workings of LIR and some of their favorite seminars. The talk was well-received.

Office Manager: Liz showed us the eight laminated wall signs with arrows for each direction. They will be stored at the office but can be used for any LIR event.

She also wondered if the tech committee could make a video explaining how to use the equipment. This could save a lot of time in explanations.

She also said that 36 people had withdrawn from seminars this spring. This seems like a large number.

Calendar For 2015-16

Dean Poli presented the draft calendar prepared by the Curriculum Committee.

- There will be no moderators meeting in the fall because there is not enough time to prepare it.
- Both Previews will be on Sundays to avoid confusion. Someone will always find the dates inconvenient.
- They will need to add the dates for the Sept. picnic (Sept 16) and the spring lottery (March 27)
- The timing of the fall semester was established to avoid the Jewish holidays.
- The Executive Committee meeting times need to be changed to 1:15 pm,

There was some discussion about putting in dates for committee meetings. It might be too cumbersome in the main calendar. We could have a separate calendar for committee meetings, but then many committees do not schedule meetings way ahead of time. Perhaps committee meetings could be announced monthly in the newsletter.

At the Annual Meeting there will be sign-ups for committees. Chairs will be introduced and will be able to tell briefly what their committees do. There can even be visuals on the screen.

Liz suggested that Neilson Lounge which is adjacent to our office, be used more for committee meetings. Five College space is at a premium.

The calendar was approved with the suggested changes.

Next Council Meeting: April 9, 2015.

Submitted by Ellen Peck, Secretary

