

Five College LIR Council  
Minutes of the meeting of February 11, 1999  
at Five Colleges, Inc.

Present were Ted Belsky, Chuck Gillies, Bob Grose, Jono Hanke, Marcia Holden, Thelma Isaacs, Amy Johnson, Pat Keating, Anne Keppler, David Moriarty, Eleanor Reid, Paul Rothery, Jane Sherman, Marcia Silverman, Barbara Snoek, Diedrick Snoek, Charlotte Winston, Jackie Wisneski and Naomi Yanis.

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Diedrick Snoek, and the minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and approved as received.

II. Diedrick said that he had a good conversation with Jean Stabell, and talked with her about our anniversary banquet. Lorna Peterson is working on the question of invitations to the five presidents for us. Jean is pleased with our growing membership, and with the interesting curricula we continue to generate. Bob Grose recalled that the first Coordinator of Five Colleges, Inc., Conn Nugent, was the person who called the first meeting of the founders of LIR, and reminded us that we owe thanks to Five Colleges, Inc., as well as to the five colleges. The new treasurer, replacing Jean Stabell, is Ariella Masuti, and Diedrick said she hoped to come in this afternoon to meet us.

Jean is aware of our pressing need for more classroom spaces and more visibility, and suggests that our brochure be more graphically appealing and more informative. If we provide copies to the deans on each campus, we may find additional interest. Diedrick and Karen are to assist Five Colleges, Inc., with their current evaluation, and meeting with representatives of other Five College programs also may add to our visibility. A question about the need for more space for our general meetings brought the suggestion that we substitute rectangular tables for the round ones at the Red Barn, even if we have to rent them, and this was received with enthusiasm.

III. Treasurer Charlotte Winston distributed and went over the year-to-date report with details of the last five months. The separation of operating and capital income and expenditures makes a very clear format, and she again gave credit to Grace Makepeace and Harley Unger for its development. The report was received with thanks.

Diedrick interrupted the agenda so that we could hear Jay Melrose's presentation of the new audio equipment, and have an opportunity to try it out ourselves. Jay asked that a committee be appointed to plan its use in seminars, and Barbara Snoek and Jono Hanke volunteered to meet with Jay and Karen for this purpose. Only one request has been received, but there was a suggestion that the equipment be demonstrated at an Encore Presentation, and Pat Keating said she'd ask Dick to test it as well. All present thanked Jay for his efforts and guidance.

IV. a. *Curriculum*: Eleanor reported on the January and February meetings of her committee. The scheduling of a full-year curriculum was proposed, at least for some seminars, and a task force has been set up to explore this idea. "Short intensives" are also a possibility within a variable format. The committee is setting priorities for its own agenda, and was encouraged to include these suggestions, with awareness of the difficulty of integrating such variations. Evaluations of the fall seminars were especially helpful, with high marks for the content of seminars and somewhat lower ones for organization. The committee will try to provide more help in this area to new moderators.

The first Encore Presentation was a great success, and Naomi was applauded for her good planning and successful efforts. The occasional problem of moderators accepting additional students is under discussion, and two courses were canceled for low enrollment. Conflicts seemed to be partly responsible and the courses may be offered again. Eighty people responded to Harley's survey of interest in some area of computer use, and he will have an announcement in the next Newsletter. Proposals for fall seminars are due as soon after receipt as possible, and certainly by the middle of April. Putting the catalog together requires a great deal of time and work.

Karen has records from the beginning of 5CLIR, including seminar titles and descriptions, membership in the seminars, and many reading lists, and Council agrees that such records are very important and should be maintained.

b. Barbara reported that attendance at the January programs was low except for Craig Felton's presentation at our Memorial Event. Without doubt the weather was a factor.

The schedule of summer programs includes ten events from mid-June to mid-August, and all are planned for Tuesdays in order to avoid a conflict with the Chester plays. Pat reminded us that there would be an introductory program before the play season begins.

c. *Special Events:* Thelma Isaacs reported that Jean Unger will organize a members' art exhibit at the Lathrop Community House, probably in April, with an opening reception. Marcia Silverman reported on the planned trip to Boston for the Mary Cassatt show, and said that registration forms were in the mail. (Conflict with seminars is regretted, but we are urged to plan such trips on weekdays to avoid weekend crowds.) Cost of the trip will be \$29, not including lunch, and the bus will leave Northampton at 9:15 and Boston at 4:30.

Chuck Gillies reported on plans for the Great Decisions programs, to be presented on April 21 and 28, and May 6 and 12, from 9 to 12 a.m. at Willitts-Hallowell, with lunch there afterward as an option. The programs selected were on Central Asia, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Japan, and the Asian Financial Crisis, and all dates are on Wednesdays except for May 6, a Thursday.

Ted Belsky said that departure from New York had been arranged for the trip to Spain, with bus service to and from the airport. There are still only 21 signed up, and we are urged to encourage others.

d. *Membership:* David Moriarty reported that his is a "rough group" editorially! A draft of the new brochure is circulating among committee members.

e. *Meetings:* A general meeting on May 13th would have to do without Karen, and we will change the date to the 20th if we can get the Red Barn.

Plans for the anniversary banquet include invitations, escorts and seating for special guests, official photographers (Thelma Isaacs and Marcia Silverman), the realization of suggestions for a pictorial seminar-tree (Jean Unger?), certificates for individuals and institutions important in our history (calligraphy by Betty Conway?), a history of 5CLIR (Bob Grose), and copies of the tree or lists of seminars in our first ten years.

f. *Newsletter:* Jackie Wisneski announced that the next Newsletter deadline is March 15 for the edition due out at the end of the month.

g. *Publicity:* Marcia Holden said that Karen took the January program schedule and the spring curriculum to the Gazette, but it was not used until mid-January and then severely cut. But the free paper in Amherst put everything in, and in good time. It was suggested that we show the Gazette what can be done!

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35. The next meeting will be held at Five Colleges, Inc., at 1:30 on Thursday, March 11th.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Keppler, Secretary