

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

November 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Wyse at 2:18 p.m.

Council Members Present: Gordon Wyse (President), Marybeth Bridegam (Vice President), Sheila Klem (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Mike Brooks (Secretary), Jim Averill, Joanne Creighton, Jake Greenburg, Chris Hurn, Bobbie Reitt, Terry Rosenfeld, Tyll Van Geel

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Gail Gaustad, Chuck Gillies, Peter Reitt, Sara Wright, Tisha Ferguson (Office Manager)

Council Members Absent: Ann Hartman, Jonathan Jay

Minutes of the October 13 Council meeting:

By Council consensus, a sentence in the minutes pertaining to the possibility of LIR office space in the new Five Colleges Inc. building was deleted. **With this amendment, the minutes were approved unanimously.**

Officers' Reports:

President: Seminars for the spring semester have been finalized, locations have been obtained, and the Preview Catalog is being printed. Contrary to an earlier concern, a UMass program dealing with aging, to be held at the same time as our Preview, will focus on the physical aspects of aging so does not need a representative from LIR. Committee work is proceeding well. Gordon concluded with the sad news that long-time LIR member Michael Wolff has died; Tisha will send an obituary to our members once it is available.

Past President: A memorial service for all LIR members who have died during the past year will be held in January at the Amherst College Alumni House. Sheila urged attendance and requested speakers.

All preparations for the November 20 Preview on the Mount Holyoke campus have been completed. Additional publicity will be sent out soon. Parking should be easier this year since Mount Holyoke will be assisting with signage, and additional handicap parking spaces will be available. Sheila distributed a layout plan for the space we will be using; we will have improved facilities this year for committee displays and videos. The Hampshire Choral Society is performing elsewhere on the campus on the same afternoon, but will be using different parking facilities; no problems are anticipated.

Vice President: Marybeth complimented the Technology Committee on the computer workshop it held in September, and noted that another workshop is being planned for January.

Treasurer: Copies of our current budget were distributed prior to the meeting. Kathy said that it has been a "quiet month" in terms of budget matters, but noted that Special Programs held over the summer had indeed been "making money."

Secretary: No report.

Old Business: Gordon reported that Bobbie Reitt has agreed to chair this year's Nominating Committee. **Marybeth moved approval of this appointment; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.** Bobbie said the committee is currently being assembled.

New Business:

Tyll Van Geel presented a proposal from the Curriculum Committee regarding the creation of a process for offering short-term seminars during the periods between semesters, especially during the long summer break. For now, short-term seminars are defined simply as those lasting less than the customary 8-10 weeks. A number of details have not yet been worked out-- whether there should be a limit on the number of such seminars, whether and how they should be lotteried, how they would interact with our regular seminar timing and review procedures, how the Office Administrator's workload might be impacted, etc. Because of these and other uncertainties, the Curriculum Committee is proposing that the new program be considered an

experiment, including appropriate evaluation procedures. Tisha noted that finding locations might be difficult, given that we are currently "maxed out" on spaces not requiring fees. Joanne suggested that summers might be easier in this regard, since the colleges might have more space available. Sheila said that care should be taken to ensure that these seminars not interfere with LIR's other summer programs. Gordon suggested that perhaps only two or three seminars should be scheduled, at least during the experimental period.

Chris Hurn moved that Council encourage the Curriculum Committee in developing a program of short seminars during interim periods, subject to consultation with the Summer-Winter Committee. The motion was seconded, and additional discussion was invited. Terry asked if LIR members have been expressing a desire for such a program; Tyll answered no. Terry suggested that the idea be reported in our Newsletter, with an invitation for comments. Pete said that the Technology Committee would likely have no problem with the idea. Chuck suggested that specific days of the week might be identified for summer programs vs. new seminars. Tyll said the Curriculum Committee would take these comments under advisement, consult with the Summer-Winter and Special Programs Committees and with Tisha, then come back to Council with a more detailed proposal.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum. Tyll said that he will be meeting with Tisha to discuss revision of the on-line seminar submittal form.

The Curriculum Committee is also exploring issues that have arisen regarding seminars scheduled during Yom Kippur. Should this be left to individual moderators, or should LIR have an overall policy? Several Council members offered anecdotal comments regarding this issue in past seminars, and a number of opinions were expressed. The Curriculum Committee will continue to work on the issue.

Development: Chuck Gillies provided the latest numbers for LIR's Campaign for the Future: total commitments are \$209,586.14; the amount actually received to date is \$165,486.14. The Preview packet

will include an appeal, complete with an envelope. Chuck would like to have the campaign wrapped up by the end of the calendar year.

Finance: No additional report.

Great Decisions: Jake reported that topics have been selected and four speakers have been recruited, with only one slot remaining to be filled.

Member Services: No report.

Public Relations: Nina Scott has submitted an article about the upcoming Preview to the Daily Gazette. Joanne has talked with Neal Abraham regarding more publicity for LIR. She will be meeting with Mount Holyoke's Dean of Faculty; in general, these deans are potential sources for mailing lists of retired faculty. Human Resources offices should be good sources for lists of retired staff members.

Special Programs: No report.

Summer-Winter: No report.

Technology

Peter Reitt identified January 10-12 as the dates for a workshop on email management, organizing one's computer, and internet security.

Office Manager:

Tisha distributed a proof of the upcoming Preview Catalog. Extra copies are being printed in order to facilitate widespread distribution. She reported that she receives daily inquiries from people who have recently moved to the area. Preview fliers were circulated, and Tisha suggested that we post them wherever possible. Following the Preview, she will be focusing on the revision of LIR's brochure.

Additional items:

Chris raised an issue on behalf of the Excessive Love seminar, which meets at the Yiddish Book Center. The group had shown one film in the Center's auditorium and wanted to show a second one, but was told that they would have to pay a \$50 fee. His question: could LIR pay this fee? Following several comments, Terry noted that he does volunteer work at the Center; he will talk with YBC officials about "what's going on" and will get back to Chris.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Brooks, Secretary
November 16, 2016