

5CLIR Council Meeting

April 14, 2005

Minutes

Next Meeting: May 12, 2005 at 2:30 p.m.

Present: Jono Hanke, Dotty Gorra, Elizabeth Armstrong, June Guild, Charles Klem, Naomi Yanis, Peg Bedell, Hy Edelstein, John Gaustad, Suzanne Lehman, Sheila Klem, Gillian Morbey, David Moriarty, Dottie Rosenthal, Jim Scott, Eleanor Shattuck, Jean Curran, Joice Gare, Chuck Gillies

The next meeting will be May 12.

Welcome and Announcements: Please send corrections and additions to committee listings distributed in March to Karen. Last reminder for budget requests to June for next year, short reports to Janet Brongers who is compiling the Annual Report.

Hy Edelstein requested that the computer and webmaster reports be combined into one on the agenda.

The **minutes of the meeting on March 10, 2005 were accepted** as distributed.

Committee Reports:

Finance: June will discuss the proposed budget later. Current budget operations are proceeding well; she anticipates a surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

Curriculum: Jim announced that there are twenty-six approved seminars and workshops for the fall with a comfortable balance in a wide range of topics. Bobbie Reitt is doing an excellent job in editing the catalog for the fall seminar semester, which will be distributed at the May 20th meeting.

Membership: Joice submitted a report (Meetings committee report, dated 4/14/05) which describes the schedule and details of the May annual meeting. The LIR budget will subsidize lunch costs above the \$8.00 being charged, (service, tax, room rental). The subsidy will be at most \$375 which is less than the cost of the traditional potlucks.

She circulated a draft flyer which prompted some suggestions for improvements from Council members. Jim offered to ask members of the curriculum committee to assist in the distribution of the packets so that Karen is free to greet all members at her final meeting.

Summer/winter programs: In addition to the programs previously announced, there will be four visits to the Chester Miniature Theater.

Newsletter: Sheila again requested classified ads. She is still gathering information for the next issue which will be out shortly.

Computer/webmaster: Hy announced that there will be a computer workshop at Smith during the summer.

Great Decisions. John reported that the first two of the five scheduled programs attracted more than 100 people each. The fees collected are anticipated to exceed expenses.

Old Business:

Slavery Series. Chuck expressed great satisfaction with the outcome of the series which met all his goals. The last program at Mount Holyoke attracted 275 people; he estimates that more than 1,000 people attended one or more programs. His committee will meet next week for a “wrap-up and reflection” session. For the fall he hopes to organize a “conversations over coffee” style meeting to carry forward some of the ideas and learning which the symposia generated. At the Annual Meeting, Jono will publicly thank the individual members of the steering committee.

Annual Budget: June distributed a two-page proposed budget which calls for income and expenditures of \$48,905. She noted that staff compensation and benefits must be budgeted at a significant increase over current figures due to the as-yet-unknown benefit costs associated with the new office manager. There was support for the budget and appreciation to June and the finance committee for the careful planning exhibited.

It was moved by Charlie Klem, seconded by Jim Scott....

To approve the budget as submitted which includes a full-time membership fee of \$200 and an associate member fee of \$40. Motion approved unanimously.

To offset the increase in membership dues, more use may be made of the membership assistance fund. Members will be encouraged to make donations to this fund; additionally it was suggested that full-time members who are eligible for a refund in a semester for not taking seminars be given the option of designating that refund be transferred to the membership assistance fund.

New Business:

The report of the Nominating Committee, Sheila Klem chair, Bobby Reitt, Bob Grant, and George Snoek, was presented. Arnold Friedman has accepted the nomination to the office of Vice-President. Joyce Mazur is nominated as secretary. The treasurers will serve another term. There was discussion about what further responsibilities the nominating committee has. Jono encouraged Sheila to oversee the nominating and voting process up to and including the work of the tellers in counting mailed ballots. Brief written statements from council nominees should be solicited and sent to the membership.

Jim Scott said the curriculum committee will be seeking a new co-chair to work with Eleanor Shattuck next year. A co-chair need not currently be a member of the committee. He distributed a memo entitled “Proposal to Amend the 5CLIR Bylaws Process for Selection of Curriculum Committee Members.” Eleanor recounted the thinking behind this proposal among current committee members. The purpose is to give the co-chairmen the choice of new members from among those who indicate interest. The council discussed the main pluses and minuses to this new system as well as the current lottery system. Dottie Rosenthal suggested an alternative method by which curriculum committee members would be elected at the annual meeting as are council members. Hy suggested a process by which the president would have the authority to appoint one member of his/her choosing. There being no clear consensus on this proposal, it was agreed not to proceed further with it at this time.

Jono asked about the interest of council members in attending the regional Lifelong Learning Conference in North Carolina in September. The proposed budget provides \$1500 for expenses. Several members are interested in going; Chuck has been asked to participate in the Saturday “pre-conference conference”. There was strong sentiment in favor of paying registration fees only. There was some feeling that any member who had not previously attended such a conference would benefit personally and that consequently the organization would also benefit from that experience.

It was moved by Naomi Yanis, seconded by Jim Scott:

“To underwrite registration fees for conference and pre-conference for President, vice-President and any LIR member who is making a presentation up to the maximum provided in the budget.”

The motion passed 9 to 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Armstrong, secretary