

3/19/2008, as corrected 4/22/2008

## 5 CLIR Council Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2008

President Mary Franks called the meeting to order at 2:30.

Present: Nina and Jim Scott, Joan and Wil Hastings, Sheila and Charlie Klem, Bobbie and Pete Reitt, Marybeth Bridegam, Eleanor Shattuck, Gail Gaustad, Sara Wright, Ruth Hooke; Dottie Rosenthal, Rachel Mustin; Leo Sartori, Chuck Gillies, Bill Williams, Philippe Meyer, Michael Wolff, Mary Franks, Callie Orszak, Kathy Hazen

Mary Franks introduced special guest Marie Hess, Chief Financial Officer of the Five Colleges, ex officio member, and noted that Dottie Rosenthal and Rachel Mustin are here representing the Bylaws Committee.

Handouts: *Agenda; Preview flyer; Bylaw material (draft #10, 3/12/08); and "New Vote on Curriculum Committee Vacancy Appointment" (see exhibit A, attached); and the Annual Budget to date. **Committee reports** (e-mailed to members prior to the meeting☺): Summer Program; Meetings and Membership; Special Programs; Great Decisions; Treasurer's Report; Public Relatio; Tech Support; Curriculum Committee; and the Office Manager's report.*

Due to the Recording Secretary Serene Rubin's illness there are no minutes of the February meeting at this time.

(April 2008) Correction of Prior Vote: Wil Hastings referred to his February 19 memorandum to Council, "Apology & Correction of Error" relating to a vote last month to permit Naomi Yanis to serve consecutive terms of three months (filling a vacancy) and three years on the Curriculum Committee which vote was based, in error, on a purported and ill- advised "waiver" of a bylaw provision which, in fact, turned out not to cover the situation. He proposed that Council substitute a new authorization vote, the text of which is annexed to these minutes as Exhibit A. (The text of exhibit A is attached.) A motion to that effect was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Revised Draft Bylaws. Draft # 10 of the proposed Bylaws was then reviewed. Mary Franks reported that the Bylaws meeting on February 28 led to further revisions which Dottie Rosenthal has circulated. Dottie Rosenthal reported on the committee and introduced Rachel Mustin as Parliamentary Expert and Bobbie Reitt as Professional Editor. Tomorrow Dottie and Wil Hastings will meet with the Past Presidents, and then disband the Committee, handing the Bylaws over to the Council. *The Bylaws need to be voted in by a quorum of voting members at the Annual Meeting. Charley Klem pointed out that the Bylaws need to be distributed to the membership thirty (30) days before the voting takes place.* Wil Hastings explained additions and changes to the bylaws. Inconsistencies in the bylaws were corrected in boldface on the handout. A compromise has been struck, hopefully, between those members who feel that Council should have the power to change classes of membership, and those who feel that Council should not have this power. The Bylaws now have remedies for the membership, who, with the permission (sic) of the President can come to the Council meetings. All membership fees remain in the control of the Council.

Extensive discussion followed on Classes of Membership (page 1, Sections 3 and 4.) Wil noted that the Associate Membership category was created by the Council and put into the Bylaws so that Council couldn't easily take it away. Council should be able to define the package. Asked if membership is able to block Council, Wil answered in the affirmative. **Rachel Mustin, Parliamentarian, pointed out that the overarching principle of the Bylaws is that the Council has to satisfy the membership.** Mary Franks asked for consensus on this matter so we could move on. The voting members present voted five to three in favor of **not** giving Council the power to eliminate Associate Membership without changing the Bylaws.

Sheila Klem pointed out that the membership should be informed that Council has the power to create categories of membership. Bobbie Reitt added that 'any change requires a change in the Bylaws.' Rachel Mustin, Parliamentarian, pointed out that the single most important thing is the **quorum** requirement (Article 8, Section 4.)

Wil Hastings summed up by saying that the committee will rewrite section 2 and 3, and send this to Council for its approval (if there are any objections, raise them before the next meeting.) The three changes to be made are in Article 1, sections 2 and 3; Article 3 (additional classes of membership) and Article 8 (tenure.) Mary Franks asked for a straw vote re approval of the bylaws with Wil's changes, and approval was unanimous. A formal vote will be taken when it's official. (Dottie and Rachel left the meeting, with applause.)

Mary Franks announced that we need a **Get-Out-the-Vote Ad Hoc** committee for the Annual Meeting on June 1. Charlie Klem and Wil Hastings are appointed and Mary asked for two more members: Sara Wright and Ruth Hooke agreed to serve. Consensus is needed on our procedure to get people there, and to keep them there to vote on the Bylaws. It was pointed out that a tally of members currently on the premises will be available at the Preview/Annual Meeting. Mary noted that we need to put the Bylaws on the website.

Chuck Gillies, Public Relations, pointed out that 1,000 flyers re the Preview/Annual Meeting will go out, with the Annual Meeting time printed on them. Bobbie pointed out that the meeting will be called to order 'when the time is right.'

**Committee reports:** (see also the reports e-mailed earlier, attached to these minutes)

**Finance:** Charley Klem, Treasurer, noted that in future mailings will be charged to the committee creating the expense. He asked the Council to consider how much underwriting of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration should LIR undertake.

**Office Manager's Report:** Callie Orszak noted the high costs of using the Northampton Council on Aging's spaces, the change in the time of bulk mail pick-up, the new wireless doorbell at the office, and the problems of parking in Amherst. Parking is allowed only in the Alumni lot, with a permit, and during seminars only.

**Curriculum Committee:** Sara Wright noted that ten seminars are lined up for fall 2008, we need fifteen more, the deadline for seminar proposals is April 28. The next meeting of the committee is on April 3. The Moderator's Reception is scheduled for March 20 in the Amherst Alumni House, with a panel of four seasoned moderators to be chaired by Joan Laird.

**Public Relations:** Chuck Gillies pointed out 1. that the committee will be putting out a major effort to circulate the Great Decisions orange flyer (see handout.) 2. that he will order a reprinting of the 5CLIR brochure, since the name is not going to change at this time, with just

some rewording of the text. Jim Scott here asked the Council for funding from the reserve account, outside the budget, for two items. 1. the Gala dinner, and 2. the 5CLIR brochure, with Chuck to decide how many to order. Chuck reminded the Council that he will be retiring from his committee chairmanship of the Public Relations Committee, and he handed out “another Chuck project”, a page of 5CLIR growth statistics, spring ’07 – ’08 (which see.) Chuck explained the graphs.

Summer Programs: Gail Gaustad mentioned some of the plans for summer programs, and asked for a title for the joint Special Programs committee she chairs with Marybeth Bridegam.

Meetings and Membership: Sheila Klem reported for both halves of this committee as the co-chair (Kathy Hazen) was taking the minutes. Sheila recommended continuing Trial Memberships next year but charging \$75 each semester; (Chuck Gillies had already said Public Relations supports this price change.) She listed several of the planned activities of the committee, such as a potluck picnic in September, and she asked for and received the Council’s approval of concurrent potluck brunches for all members in the spring of 2009. These brunches will not be fund-raisers, but a continuation of 5CLIR’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Twenty seven hostesses will hopefully be enlisted to entertain the entire membership, about ten people each. Ongoing publicity will start in the next newsletter (deadline March 24.) Also, new members should be asterisked on the seminar lists, so the old members can make a special effort to welcome them.

Tech Committee: Pete Reitt (see his attached report) explained “beta stage.”

Special Programs: Marybeth Bridegam reminded the Council that Jim Harvey’s final lecture on Pakistan will take place tomorrow morning. The six lecture series (four on Relativity by Leo Sartori) held at the COA has been very successful, and Marybeth asks for more potential speakers to volunteer to give one or more lectures. She pointed out that there is a new guide to area cultural opportunities on the 5CLIR website.

Great Decisions: Philippe Meyer, Chair, added to his e-mailed report to say that the plans are all in place and looking good and we have gotten national publicity for the series.

### **New Business:**

Leo Sartori proposed that in order to maximize the number of guests who will attend the Gala (20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party next fall) 5CLIR subsidize the event out of reserve funds, so that the cost to members is held to \$30. If one hundred people attend (the original budget was based on only fifty people) the cost to 5CLIR would be approximately \$1,000. He asked for (and received) the Council’s approval. The capacity of the site is 170. In May, Mary Franks will notify the potential guests to save the date for the Gala.

Mary Franks adjourned the meeting at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Hazen

New Vote on Curriculum Committee Vacancy Appointment

WHEREAS, at the February 14, 2008 meeting of Council, Council approved the request of the Curriculum Committee to appoint a new member to that committee with consecutive terms of three months (to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation) and of three years; and

WHEREAS, in the erroneous belief that Article III.A of the 5CLIR bylaws prohibited such consecutive terms, Council based its approval on a "waiver" of the application of that bylaw; and

WHEREAS, Council now regards such a "waiver" rationale to have been in error, as well as unnecessary, since Article III.A does not address what to do with the rotation-off rule in the case of vacancy-filling appointments;

NOW THEREFORE, Council hereby

VOTES: That its approval of the Curriculum Committee's appointments of a new member to consecutive terms of three months and three years is hereby confirmed, applying for this purpose, by analogy, the rule for vacancy appointments to Council found in Article I.A.2. of the 5CLIR bylaws, that is, a person who serves less than two years in a position filled by vacancy is not ineligible to serve a consecutive full term by reason of the rotation-out rule.

**Committee Reports for March 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting**

**Summer Programs**

The Summer Programs committee has started its planning. Of course we'll have the popular Tanglewood trip and the New Century Theater programs. Besides these there will be a walking tour of Historic Northampton, a fern walk, museum trips and more. Stay tuned.

Gail Gaustad, co-chair

**Meetings Committee**

This report is from the Meetings half of the Membership/Meetings Committee. We've met a couple of times at Sheila Klem's house and the joint committee has acquired two new members, Beverley von Kries and Ellen Peck.

The joint committee has two new projects- we are working with Gail Gaustad's Special Programs committee to plan an all-member potluck picnic for early September before the seminars begin. We are also hoping to put together a number of pot-luck brunches for LIR, for next spring; this is Sheila's idea and she will report more details to the Council. An announcement and recruitment (of hostesses) article is being planned for the Newsletter later this month.

There have been a few glitches in the refreshment plans for the Preview and Annual Meeting on June 1, but we are working on it (staff responsibility changes at Smith and possible changes in

what we are asking them for.) Budget-wise, the Membership/Meetings Committee included \$1500 for the two Previews (fall 2008, spring 2009) in our budget, but if the Ad Hoc Preview Committee has put in a request for this money, we will withdraw ours.

Kathy Hazen, co-chair

### **Membership Committee**

The Meetings/Membership Committee proposes the following, as a result of its 2/28 meeting:

Continue the Trial Membership initiative for another year, changing the fee structure to \$75 for fall semester; \$75 for spring semester Rationale: cost for new members still an incentive, but differential between fall and spring not so great as current \$50/\$115; members more likely to “re-up” for spring

Organize a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary membership-wide “Potluck Brunch” in March of 2009: concurrent brunches of 10-12 people to be hosted by volunteers (27 or so?) in their homes. Recruitment of hosts to begin with April newsletter. Rationale: spring semester celebratory opportunity for total membership to mingle casually in small groups in home settings; chance to relive potlucks of yore; membership to be divided randomly to encourage new contacts

Designate new members with asterisk (?) in seminar rosters each semester Rationale: easy recognition of new members for both moderators and seminar participants; welcome, encouragement to continue in 5CLIR

Sheila Klem, Co-Chair

### **Special Programs**

The Special Programs Committee is continuing to put together its offerings for the 2008 Fall Semester, and will report the results of its efforts at the June 1 Preview and Annual Meeting.

We are delighted to note that the Friday morning lecture series has been a huge success, with 70+ people in attendance for each of Leo Sartori's four lectures on Einstein's Relativity, and for the first of Jim Harvey's two lectures on Pakistan. We hope to continue offering such series next year, and urge any and all LIR members who are interested in doing one or more lectures for such a series to contact Gail Gaustad or Marybeth Bridegam, Co-Chairs of the Special Programs Committee. Please urge others to attend the last of Jim Harvey's fascinating lectures on Pakistan, which will take place this Friday morning, March 14.

We hope LIR members will take a look at the LIR website for the new Guide to Area Cultural Venues and Programs, kindly compiled and kept up-to-date by LIR member Cosimo Favaloro, our new Cultural Coordinator. We are grateful to Cosimo and to Hy Edelson for getting all this information up on the website, and making it interactive. Many LIR members are relatively new to this area, having moved here from other parts of New England or even from other parts of the country, and will surely welcome having all this information at their fingertips. We have even heard that long-time residents of this area did not realize that there are so many different

cultural events taking place in our area. We hope LIR members will take a look at these possibilities for learning and entertainment, invite a spouse or friend to join them, and attend many of these stimulating, interesting performances.

Marybeth Bridegam, Special Programs Co-Chairperson

### **GREAT DECISIONS COMMITTEE**

Dry Run has taken place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. We are finalizing the “sound engineering” with Peter Reitt. The larger screen (7’ by 7’) has not been received yet but Union Station has committed it will be there in time. As of Friday 7 we had received 82 registrations and more than \$4,000, most of it before the USPS mailing had even been received by the target audience. The experience should help us reduce somewhat the mailing costs next year.

More data have been assembled on potential grants (\$5000 or \$10,000) from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities.

We are starting the process of recruiting new members and nominating a new chair. The council’s advice and recommendations are welcome! See you all on the 21<sup>st</sup>!! Philippe Meyer

Postscript: It seems my message to the council was garbled somewhere in the system so let me make it simpler: I would like all members of the council to go to the website [www.FPA.ORG](http://www.fpa.org) <<http://www.fpa.org/>> click on the "Resource Library tab" and on the 5CLIR link in the right hand column on 5 College Learning in retirement/. I am sure you will feel proud of Chuck's text and of the reference/recruiting tool it represents for us, would it be only to recruit new professors. You can also reach it via [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) <<http://www.5clir.org/>> and the links. Try to admire it before the 3/13 meeting.

### **Treasurer’s report – period ending February 29, 2008**

Attached\* is the eight month “profit and loss” statement; this reflects all the “reclassifications” of certain office expenses (postage and photocopying) to committees.

If there are questions on the p&l please contact me.

I will be making a report of the Finance Committee and its progress on developing the Fiscal 09 budget.

Charlie Klem

### **PR Committee**

1. Most of the Committee’s recent efforts relate to planning publicity and activities designed to encourage attendance of new prospects at the June 1, “Preview, Coming Attractions.” See the orange flyer to be handed out.
2. We are going ahead with slightly updating the brochure, hoping to have a new printing available by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Comments are welcome if delivered soon. There is some question as to whether this year’s budget is adequate to order a ‘sensible’ number.

3. The Committee will be led next year by Jeff Caplan together with a yet-to-be-named co-Chair.
4. Chuck will share the biannual "5CLIR Data Report" with opportunity for questions and discussion. A main question will be if it is worth producing such a Report and sharing with Council and who might do this in the future. This has not generally been a PR Committee project.

- Chuck Gillies

### **Office Manager's Report**

*Costs of Senior Center* – I believe Council agreed we should send the Northampton Senior Center a token donation for the current lecture series -- how much shall I send?

Re lectures in the future: don't forget it is \$100 an hour to use the big lecture room...

*Bulk mail* is now picked up late morning by the Northampton post office, and bulk mailings now go out the next day. Smith College has pleaded with the post office to come later, but they won't. (Our mail is picked up/delivered at 1:30, long after the Northampton post office has picked up the bulk mail from Central Services.) First class mail continues to go out the same day, as before.

I have purchased a *wireless doorbell* which I hope to have working by the time you read this.

Callie

### **Tech Committee:**

Comments for the month of March, 2008: Long story short: Tech Support via email has reached the final beta phase (actually it is in the RC1 phase for those of you who have any idea of what I am talking about) and should be functional within a week or so. For the very few of you on Council who haven't visited the web site recently, you are invited go to [www.5clir.org](http://www.5clir.org) (in case you forgot the address), click on the Tech Support banner and submit a query if you wish. We will be making such an announcement to the entire membership via email soon. BTW (no, I don't text, but I do use some of the convenient acronyms), when you enjoy the GreatDecisions lectures please also realize the minor, but helpful contributions made by the Tech Committee - under Phillippe's direction of course!

By Pete Reitt, chair, Tech Committee

### **Curriculum Committee Report, March 2008**

All preparations for the Moderators' Reception are complete. We definitely need more proposals for the fall. Past history has indicated that we need to offer 25 seminars for the fall semester. As of 3/6 we have: 4 seminar proposals that have been accepted and ready for the catalogue. 1 seminar idea was submitted but proposal needs to be filled out. 4 seminars promised.

Sara Wright, Co-chair

