

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2009
CORRECTED 9/17/09**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Lise Armstrong, Jeff Caplan, Virginia Christenson, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Kathy Hazen, Sheila Klem, Anne Lombard, Callie Orszak, Dorothy Rosenthal, Leo Sartori, Bill Williams, Sara Wright, Michael Wolff.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected.

Opening Remarks by President Sara Wright: Sara welcomed the new officers and members of the Council. She asked members to refrain from side conversations during our meetings and reminded everyone that Five Colleges, Incorporated asks us to maintain quiet in the halls of the building. She announced that the room is outfitted with a wireless connection in case someone wants to bring a laptop and connect to the internet. She also reminded committee chairs to send reports to Callie before each monthly meeting and to restrict oral reports at the meetings to new items or questions.

Finance Committee Report: Treasurer Bill Williams reported that there is a modest excess of revenue over expenses, primarily due to the grant received for Great Decisions. The exact amount was not yet available and will be reported at a future meeting.

Public Relations: Chair Jeff Caplan reported that work on the video is on-going at ACTV and a finished product of 10-12 minutes from 4 ½-5 hours of tape will probably be finished in early fall. ACTV plans to air the program and put a link to it on their website. There will also be a link on the 5CLIR website as well as copies of the program in DVD format.

Summer/Winter Programs: Co-Chair Anne Lombard reported that Carol Jolly will step down as co-chair of the committee in order to serve as a member of the Curriculum Committee. A new co-chair has not yet been selected. The committee is beginning to plan the January programs. Three bus trips were planned for this past summer. The only one that went was the one to Tanglewood. The trip to Garden in the Woods was made by individuals in cars due to low enrollment and the river cruise was cancelled twice due to high waters.

Meetings/Membership Committee: Co-Chair Sheila Klem reported that there were 248 members as of this date, including 226 full-time members, 22 associate members, 24 new members, 4 former trial members, and 9 new trial members. The committee feels the trial membership is working to the benefit of 5CLIR. All new members have been or will have received a personal phone call and an invitation to attend the fall picnic. Among those who did not rejoin, there was no dissatisfaction with 5CLIR; most reasons given pertained to illness or moves. In response to a question from Lise Armstrong, Callie Orszak reported that all new members are told about the possibility of reduced fees for those on a low income and of the trial membership.

Technology Committee: In the absence of chair Philippe Meyer, John Armstrong reported that the committee is working on the survey and hopes to have a draft ready for review by Council at the next meeting.

Special Programs: Photographs from early years of 5CLIR are in the office and will be on display at the picnic. The hope is that current members will be able to identify some of those in the photos.

Office Manager's Report: Callie said that if there is interest in putting these into a scrapbook, she would be glad to do so. Callie provided the Council with information about the cost of having the previews at the Smith Campus Center and the Amherst Alumni Center. Smith tries not to charge us for anything except food and does not allow us to bring in our own food. Amherst charges \$78 for set up whether there is food or not, but we can bring in our own food. Callie can arrange for a calling system whereby she can send 33 messages (at \$15/100 calls) to those people who do not have email for emergencies.

Motion: Lise Armstrong moved and that the Council authorize Callie to initiate such a program for 100 units on a trial basis, to be evaluated later on. The motion carried.

Great Decisions Committee: Co-chair Virginia Christenson amplified the written report (q.v.). She reported that attendance was up over previous years with a minimum of 140 and a maximum of 168 people. The Northampton Senior Center charged \$75 per meeting. The senior center will be installing a public address system so that the sound should improve next year. Co-chair Dave Cramer said that the committee is contemplating raising prices by about 20% since no grant will be available next year. The profit this year was about \$4,000. The co-chairs attributed the increased attendance to the greater amount of publicity that was possible due to the grant. There was no decision on raising the prices or on allocating more money for publicity. Ginny gave much credit to Kathy Coulomb for her work on the grant. Others who contributed were Nancy Goff and Jean Mourier of Five Colleges, Incorporated.

Members Helping Members: Co-Chair Peter Ferber reported that the committee believes that the needs of members exceed the number of requests it has had for help. The committee has applied for a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services for \$2,862 plus matching funds. The matching funds will come from the time spent by the MHM coordinators as well as time spent by Callie in the office. They expect to know about the grant by September 15.

Communications Committee: Larry Ambs reported that the committee will next meet in September. He is trying to find out the costs of various modes of communication used by 5CLIR.

Community Read Project: Lise Armstrong reminded Council that "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks has been selected and that discussions will be held at the end of the picnic and at other times and sites.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

1. Approval of committee chairs and members: Larry Ambs provided Council with a list of all committee chairs and members. According to the bylaws, these require approval by Council. [The list of members of the Meetings/Membership Committee is not yet complete.]

Motion: Leo Sartori moved and to approve all of the committee chairs and members. The motion was seconded and carried.

2. The status of various committees was discussed and it was agreed that committees that have their own budgets should not be classified as subcommittees.

Motion: Peter Ferber moved that the Great Decisions and Members Helping Members Committees be designated as committees rather than as subcommittees. The motion carried.

3. Callie requested that a policy be adopted regarding the handling of deaths and illnesses and whether and how they should be communicated to the membership. The matter was referred to the Membership Committee, which will discuss the issue and make a recommendation. It was pointed out that whereas deaths are a public matter, illnesses are private and may require different treatment.

4. Arnold Friedmann suggested that some contact be established between 5CLIR and the new director of Five Colleges, Incorporated. Larry Ambs proposed also making contact with someone at each of the five colleges to renew their acquaintance with our program.

5. Sheila Klem said that the mission of the Preview Committee needs to be clarified and, in fact, that it would be helpful to define clearly the duties of all committees.

6. Callie reported that Mary Franks and Dorothy Gorra have been working on the Operations Manual. They have almost completed a review of all Council decisions of the past. Bobbie Reitt has volunteered to edit the manual.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

(Please note this is the third Thursday of the month due to the late date of Labor Day.)

2:30-4:40 PM

FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE