

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
October 8, 2009  
Approved as Corrected, November 12, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 2:35 p.m. at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

**Present:** Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Lise Armstrong, Jeff Caplan, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Gail Gaustad, Dorothy Gorra, Katharine Hazen, Sheila Klem, Joan Laird, Anne Lombard, Philippe Meyer, Sandy Muspratt, Dorothy Rosenthal, Leo Sartori, James Scott, Beverley von Kries, Bill Williams, Michael Wolff, Sara Wright.

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

**Opening Remarks by President Sara Wright:** Sara asked for approval of a special agenda that would take up New Business first and then revert to the usual order (Report by the Vice-President, Committee Reports, and Old Business). As there were no objections, the agenda was adopted.

**New Business:**

1. Sara reported that Marie Hess, Treasurer and Business Manager, informed her and Larry Ambs that the liability held by Five Colleges, Incorporated covers educational activities which does not include the services offered by Members Helping Members. This means that Five Colleges, Incorporated would not be able to sign off on the grant contract offered by Highland Valley Elder Services to MHM. After a thorough discussion, Peter Ferber offered the following motion:

**Motion:** I move that 5CLIR end the operation of Members Helping Members as of October 8, 2009 because it falls outside the common educational mission of Five Colleges, Incorporated and Five College Learning in Retirement.

The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Sara raised the issue of a complaint one member made about a strong political speech made by another member of 5CLIR at a session of the Travel Interest Group. Council agreed that the speech was counter to the 5CLIR "Dissemination of Information About Non-5CLIR Events at 5CLIR Sponsored Events." Dorothy Gorra spoke of an earlier incident in which a member had passed out petitions at a Great Decisions event. That, and a few other incidents, prompted the adoption of the policy. Sara said that she would speak to the individual in this particular case and also make all facilitators and moderators aware of the policy and how they should respond to such incidents.

3. Sara said that it is important for 5CLIR to examine its plans for fundraising in light of the fact that such plans need to be approved by Five Colleges, Incorporated. Several members also reiterated the need for guidelines for applying for grants. Bill Williams said that the Finance Committee is revising the proposed guidelines for grants that were submitted last spring and will be bringing the matter back to Council.

**Remarks by the Vice-President:** Larry Ambs reported that he is analyzing the responses to the trial use of email to circulate the newsletter.

**Curriculum Committee Report:** Joan Laird reported that the committee is recruiting moderators and ideas for seminars, considering how to sharpen the catalog, taking a close look at the lottery and registration procedures, and tightening up on confidentiality of discussions about seminar proposals. The committee is also trying to determine how many seminars to offer in the spring in light of the fact that membership is down by 25. Beverley von Kries said that there are an unusual number of proposals for next fall already. Sheila Klem advised against cutting back too far on the number and variety of seminars as the catalog and preview are good recruiting tools.

**Finance Committee Report:** Treasurer Bill Williams reported revenues as of 9/30/09 were about \$1,000 less than for the comparable period last year, reflecting a reduced number of full time members. For the entire 2010 fiscal year, the budget for membership revenues is about \$1,900 more than the actual membership revenues were for the fiscal year 2009. We will need to add substantially to our membership in the spring if we are to meet our annual budgeted membership revenue target.

**January/Summer Programs:** Sara welcomed Dorothy Gorra to Council as Co-Chair of the January/Summer Programs Committee. Anne Lombard reported that planning for the January programs is well underway.

**Public Relations:** Chair Jeff Caplan reported that the video, which is 10 minutes long, is almost completed. He said that the committee plans to have a display at the Senior Health Fair at Rockridge on November 16 from 2-4 p.m. He asked for someone to help with that and Lise Armstrong volunteered. Frieda Howards is serving as liaison between Public Relations and the Preview Committee.

**Meetings/Membership Committee:** Co-Chair Sheila Klem reported that the committee is arranging a Mid-Winter Luncheon for Tuesday, January 12, 2010 in the Lewis Sebring Room at Valentine Hall, Amherst College. Menu and program details will be forthcoming.

**Technology Committee:** Philippe Meyer discussed the draft survey circulated prior to the meeting. He urged getting that survey into the hands of the membership very soon and then taking time to work on another survey with questions that committees would like to ask of the membership. Philippe moved as follows:

**Motion:** The Survey of Current Membership prepared by the Technology Committee shall be submitted to the membership by November 15 along with a letter signed by the president specifying a specific return date. The mailing shall include a self-addressed stamped envelope as well.

The motion passed.

**Special Programs:** Gail Gaustad announced that Lise Armstrong has agreed to serve as co-chair.

**Great Decisions Committee:** Dave Cramer said that the committee has received information from the New York office that DVDs and books can now be ordered and will be available by the first of January from the 5CLIR office.

Leo Sartori made a motion as follows:

**Motion:** That Council approves the appointment of Dorothy Gorra as Co-Chair of the January/Summer Program Committee and Lise Armstrong as Co-Chair of the Special Programs Committee.

The motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

Sara circulated a list of basic rules of parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert's Rules for members of Council to review.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009  
2:30-4:40 PM  
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**