

**FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, Elizabeth Armstrong, John Armstrong, Jeff Caplan, Dave Cramer, Peter Ferber, Arnold Friedmann, Gail Gaustad, Dorothy Gorra, Sheila Klem, Philippe Meyer, Sandy Muspratt, Callie Orszak, Dorothy Rosenthal, Leo Sartori, James Scott, Beverley von Kries, Bill Williams, Michael Wolff, Sara Wright

Call to Order: President Sara Wright called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2010 were approved.

Motion: Arnold Friedmann moved that the motion made at the previous meeting to substitute the revised policy on “Exchange of Ideas and Materials” for the existing policy statement on this subject be changed to read:

The revised policy on “Exchange of Ideas and Materials” shall be substituted for the existing policy “Dissemination of Information about Non-5CLIR Events at 5CLIR Events with the last sentence in the second paragraph of the new policy being changed from “are aware” to “have been made aware.”

The motion was seconded and passed. The new motion replaces the motion of February 11.

President’s Remarks: Sara Wright reported that the Field House will not be available for seminars now, and possibly ever, which puts 5CLIR under more pressure for finding sites for seminars. Some new sites have been added: two rooms at the UMass Transit Center, an additional slot at Arcadia, and Applewood. She asked that people take photos of seminars and send them to Larry with names for possible inclusion on our new website and in the newsletter.

Vice-Presidents Remarks: Larry Ambs said that there will be a raffle in connection with the upcoming Preview for members who bring new members, as suggested by Lise Armstrong. He said that the new website will be displayed on a large screen and the Tech Committee will be demonstrating how to use existing AV equipment. Arnold suggested having the DVD running continuously and Larry said that he and Philippe would look into a way of doing that without interfering with the activities in the main room.

Report of the Curriculum Committee: In addition to the written report of the Committee (see attached), Bev von Kries presented a list of seminars for the fall semester (see attached). Bev noted that there will be only two literature seminars, one on poetry moderated by Kathy Hazen and one on mysteries moderated by Bev and Joan Laird.

Bev explained the change in leadership of the Committee: As she agreed to take the position of co-chair for only one year, Jim Scott will begin a one-year term in July as is needed to complete Bev’s term and Mary Franks will begin a two-year term. By the end of next year when a new co-

chair is appointed then both co-chairs will be on a two-year staggered schedule as has been customary.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Williams reported that the deficit might be less than anticipated due to income from the Silent Auction, the absence of part-time office assistance, and below budgeted outlays for renting classroom space. There may even be a slight surplus at the end of this year.

Bill presented the projected budget for 2011 (see attached). It assumes an increase in dues for full-time members from \$200 to \$225 per year. He drew attention to certain items that are projected to increase or decrease (see attached budget).

Summer/Winter Programs: Dorothy Gorra reported that the Summer Programs will include two bus trips, one to Tanglewood and one to Williamstown (to the Clark and Mass Moca Museums), a walk on the Montague Plains, a program at the Smith Museum, a river cruise, a visit to Wisteriahurst, plays at the Chester and New Century theaters, and the fall picnic.

Membership/Meetings Committee: Sheila Klem said that at the next Council meeting the Committee would request Council approval to drop the meetings component. The committee is in the process of calling all present trial members and all who dropped their membership in 5CLIR and interviewing them in an informal and affective manner as to their response to the organization. The Committee is also inviting all of them to the Preview.

Technology Committee: Philippe Meyer referred Council to the written report of the Committee (see attached).

Special Programs Committee: Gail Gaustad reminded Council that Lise Armstrong is co-chair of the Committee and about the Encore Presentation tomorrow at the Hadley Senior Center featuring Fran Volkmann talking on recent advances in evolution. Further information about the work of the Committee is contained in the attached written report.

Office Report: Callie Orszak thanked Anne Lombard for arranging a second time slot for seminars at the Arcadia Nature Center and Dean Poli for arranging two slots at the UMass Transit Center.

Great Decisions: Dave Cramer said there will be a walk-through tomorrow for the first presentation tomorrow. The Committee has contacted the Daily Hampshire Gazette, the Springfield Republican, and WHNP for publicity and the Gazette may be doing a story with photo.

Old Business:

1. 2010 Report: Bill Williams added to his earlier comments: (1) Great Decisions revenue was more than expected (2) Committee requests for funds were less than projected (3) some expenses from last summer were charged to the previous year so these will not be charged to this year (4) revenue from memberships is down about \$1800 (5) expenses for the newsletter are projected to be lower by about \$1,000 because of electronic circulation to most members (6) interest income is down by about \$465.

2. 2011 Budget: The proposed budget is not final as we are still waiting for final word from Five Colleges, Inc. as to compensation and benefits. If there is no change in the number of members and the dues are \$225, the Finance Committee projects a surplus of slightly less than \$2,000. It is

almost seven years since the last dues increase; prior to that, dues were increased about every five years.

Motion: Jim Scott moved that the annual dues for full-time members be raised to \$225 beginning with the new fiscal year. The motion was seconded and, after considerable discussion, was passed.

Some of the more noteworthy points raised in the discussion were:

- (1) build into the budget more funds for contingencies.
- (2) have the budget more clearly reflect the goals and activities of 5CLIR by, for example, putting in line items for the Membership Assistance Fund and a goal for funds to be raised
- (3) make members more aware of what goes into running 5CLIR
- (4) Council should not feel apologetic or uneasy about raising dues as it is an action that is long overdue and we are providing a broader and richer program for members than in the past.

Motion: Larry moved to accept the proposed budget for 2011 presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded.

Motion: Peter moved to amend the main motion to have the Membership Assistance Fund listed as a separate line item in the operating budget. The amendment to the motion was seconded and passed.

The main motion to accept the proposed budget for 2011 was passed as amended.

The discussion that followed focused on fund raising. Lise suggested setting a target for fund raising. Jeff said that the fund raising goals should not be overly modest and that raising \$5,000, which is not a lot of money, is very doable. Dave suggested having a lecture by a well-known person as a fund-raising activity.

Sara proposed that Council members send ideas to Larry on how to inform the membership about what is involved in running the organization.

Motion: Larry moved that the newsletter be sent electronically to most members beginning July 1 with a small number of printed copies mailed to those who don't have email or do not know how to use the computer to receive the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business:

1. Leo drew attention to a letter from Sue Thrasher inquiring about the possibility of 5CLIR members tutoring in Holyoke. He requested that Council endorse the project. It was decided that endorsement was unnecessary but that the membership would be informed about the opportunity to tutor and could contact Sue Thrasher on an individual basis.

2. Gail suggested budgeting seed money for fund-raising projects. For example, if 5CLIR wanted to sell T-shirts or other paraphernalia with the 5CLIR logo, it might require an initial outlay.

Closing Remarks of the President: Sara asked members to use the calendar on the website to schedule events and help avoid conflicts. She hopes to receive follow up to items raised at the

retreat at the next meeting. Sara announced that she had asked Anne Lombard to serve as ombudsman and that Anne was willing to accept the position. Council voted to approve the appointment unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2010
2:30-4:30 PM
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**