

**FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 12, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the 5CLIR Council was held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at the offices of Five Colleges, Incorporated on Spring Street in Amherst, MA.

Present: Larry Ambs, Elizabeth Armstrong, John Armstrong, Marybeth Bridegam, David Cramer, Laura Cranshaw, Peter Ferber, Mary Franks, Dorothy Gorra, Frieda Howards, Sandy Muspratt, Callie Orszak, Janet Price, Dorothy Rosenthal, James Scott, Beverley von Kries, Joan Wofford, Michael Wolff, Sara Wright.

Call to Order: President Larry Ambs called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Remarks by the President: Larry Ambs reported that ombudsman, Anne Lombard, says that the issue about the French Conversation group has been settled. He reminded Council that the appointment of the ombudsman is for one year and will need to be renewed at the next meeting.

Report of the Vice-President: Joan Wofford reported that she has completed interviews with 18 people with six more scheduled. She raised the question of when and how her report should be made to Council. It was decided to schedule the June 9 meeting from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and to invite the newly elected Council members and committee chairs to join the current Council at that meeting.

Financial Committee Report: Sandy Muspratt reported that he has developed a budget for next year that shows a deficit of about \$1,000. He said that he used a conservative figure for full-time equivalent membership (235). Public Relations has been given a fairly large sum of \$1,000 and the Civil War symposium \$2,000 to cover expenses that may exceed contributions. Great Decisions will not make a profit this year due to low attendance. Sara Wright pointed out that \$500 will be needed for rental of a tent and chairs for the picnic. Sandy said that one-time events have balanced the budget in the past so that we need to consider that as well as more fund raising

Technology Committee Report: There was no report at this time.

Public Relations Committee Report: There was no report at this time. Joan Wofford is working on scheduling a meeting.

Summer/Winter Programs Report: See the written report on file with these minutes. Marybeth said that the deadline for the bus trip to the Hudson Valley is May 14. Thirty-two people have signed up (30 was the minimum).

Membership Committee Report: Frieda Howards referred Council to the written report on file with these minutes.

Special Programs Committee Report: Lise Armstrong referred Council to the written report of the committee (on file with these minutes).

Office Manager's Report: Callie referred Council to her written report, which is on file with these minutes.

Great Decisions Committee Report: David Cramer reported that the last program in the series will be held tomorrow. Although the program lost about \$500 this year, the programs were

excellent and well received by the audiences. He praised the help of the Technology Committee. Funds have been allotted for a laptop computer to be used at 5CLIR events.

Development Committee: The need for a Memorial Fund was discussed as well as the benefits of a larger treasury that could be used for scholarships, technology equipment, etc. It was suggested that members be encouraged to consider 5CLIR for legacy donations.

Old Business:

1. Sara reported that 147 members attended the Preview, 44 non-members, 72 packets were sent out by mail, 67 were picked up by attendees to give to others, 6 were picked up at the office, and 1 person got the information through the web site. Jim Scott said that moderators need only 1 ½ hours to talk to prospective participants in seminars. A question was raised about what is done about non-members who show up at the Previews. Larry said that Callie contacts them and continues to notify them of events for one year.

New Business:

1. As discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, Dottie Rosenthal made a motion about dealing with vacancies on the Curriculum Committee. The intention is to insert the statement at the appropriate place in the Operations Manual.

Motion: When a vacancy occurs on the Curriculum Committee in the middle of a term, the co-chairs may select a replacement following the above guidelines. If a replacement serves less than a full year, that person is eligible to apply for a full three-year term on the committee beginning with the following academic year in which he or she has served as a replacement. If the replacement serves for more than one year, he or she may apply to join the committee for a three-year term after a year's absence from the committee.

The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Proposed Committee Co-Chairs

Motion: Lise Armstrong moved that the following be approved as co-chairs of committees for 2011-2012: Curriculum – Sandy Campbell; Winter/Summer – Honore David; Great Decisions – Peter Ferber and Fran Volkmann; Membership – Eva Sartori; Special Programs – Sara Wright.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Sandy made the following motion:

Motion: Whereas LIR recognizes a diverse membership and has established a mechanism of assistance to membership (bursary), which in certain circumstances of financial stringency may be insufficient, it is moved that a further reduction in membership dues may be offered to an individual upon request to and upon presentation of that individual's last submitted 1040 tax return to the Treasurer for confidential scrutiny.

The motion was seconded. Following a lengthy and in-depth discussion, there was a motion to call the question. With 2/3 of the voting members approving, the main motion was voted on but failed to pass.

4. Larry asked for reactions to the latest version of the Operations Manual. Frieda Howards reported that the members of the Membership Committee want to continue with that name for the committee and do not want it changed to "Member Committee." From the discussion, the main

points made were that there should be text describing how the manual is to be used and how parts of it can be changed. It was agreed that it is a living document that will be changed as needed but that it provides a basis for running the organization. Larry expects it to be ready for final approval in the fall. Those who have been involved in developing the manual were thanked for their efforts. These include: Dorothy Gorra, Mary Franks, Sara Wright, and Larry Ambs.

The meeting was adjourned 4:26 p.m.

Dorothy Rosenthal, Secretary

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2011
*****2:30-4:30 PM*****
FIVE COLLEGES OFFICE**