

**FIVE COLLEGES LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Council was held at the Five College Center at 2:30 pm.

Present council: Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Marybeth Bridegam, Dave Cramer, Laura Cranshaw, Arnold Friedman, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Ellen Peck, Joan Wofford, Michael Wolff, Gordon Wyse

Absent council: Joan Laird, Betsy Loughran, Sandy Muspratt

Committee chairs present: Pete Reitt, Peter Ferber, Eva Sartori, Lise Armstrong, Callie Orszrak, Sandy Campbell, Janet Price, Sarah Wright

Committee chairs absent: Mary Franks, Honore David, Frieda Howards, Fran Volkmann

Minutes: The minutes from the regular council meeting of June 9, 2011 were approved.

Curriculum Committee: New members of the Curriculum Committee are Marybeth Bridegam, Ivan Kovacs, Ann Lombard, Ray Moore, and Bob Romer. They will serve until June 30, 2014. Zina Tillona will step in to fill out Sandy Campbell's term since Sandy has moved up to co-chair. Carol Jolly moved to accept the new members ; this was seconded by John Armstrong. The motion was passed unanimously.

Introduction Exercise: Joan Wofford suggested that we all introduce ourselves by telling something not in our formal biographies. An informative and hilarious time was had by all.

Main Discussion of the Survey Results from the past leaders and randomly selected members:

- Many people were happy to be asked and expressed enthusiasm for LIR.
- There did not seem to be any burning issues, just fine tuning points about how the organization can work better.
- Informal surveys are a good way to get more people involved. We need to report these results to the membership at large, perhaps through the newsletter.

Specific topics that were mentioned often:

Money and Budgets:

- 80% of our budget is for the office supplies and staff which is formally under 5 College Inc.
- In May 2013 the building with our office at Smith will be knocked down. Both Smith and 5 College Inc. have said they will find space for us, but what this will be is unsure.
Arnold: Do we need our own building? If so, we need an endowment.
Pete: There are many vacant factory buildings and foreclosed houses in the area. If we considered buying one, that would be a huge jump up in budget but it might solve our space needs.
- Scholarship money comes in at about \$2000 per year. We generally use it all. Carol Jolly: we need to make clearer what the scholarships do, even though we must respect people's privacy when they apply. Should there be a special price for couples?

Recruitment:

Are we seen to be in competition with programs at Applewood and the Senior Center? We are growing and need to continue to grow, but space needs might limit how much we can grow. Jim Harvey suggested we table temporarily discussions of recruitment until we work on problems of space and seminar places.

Seminar Flexibility:

Larry Ambs pointed out that our by-laws state, "the core of the 5CLIR program consists in peer-led seminars that require the active participation of those enrolled." Historically, this has been our niche as an organization. The survey revealed the need of seminars to be more flexible and accommodate more needs in its offerings and scheduling. How far we can stretch the organization will require more discussion. Some members really like our special programs, particularly the French conversation and opera briefings. A few people are members but attend only the special programs. Perhaps the word "seminar" is a little off-putting.

The lottery system continues to be a problem. People can get discouraged when they cannot get into popular seminars. Do we need more seminars? More sections of popular topics? Is space often a limit on how many people can take a seminar? Seminar places, classroom space, and potential growth all seem to be intertwined issues. We grow about 3% per year.

Social Needs:

A number of people each year, especially those new to the area, join LIR primarily for social reasons. The membership committee has tried to meet these needs by scheduling the fall picnic, brunches, a new members coffee hour, and in the past pot luck dinners. Peter Ferber reminded us that there are liability issues in organizing a formal transportation system or even a helping network. But moderators can help introduce new members in their seminars and informally organize car pools.

Volunteers:

We may be able to get more members involved with short term volunteer opportunities such as the upcoming Civil War Symposium .

Next Meeting:

After the rather free-ranging discussion of the survey, Joan announced that at the next meeting we will form four task forces which can work on individual issues.

1. Money and budget, 2. Space, 3. Flexibility in seminars, 4. Social needs. Recruitment and PR will be taken up later.
2. Joan suggested that since our meeting room is crowded already, perhaps it would make sense to have only one of the co-chairs of the committees at each meeting. Co-chairs could alternate. Of course, committee member are welcome when the discussion is pertinent to their work.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30

Next meeting, September 15 at 2:30 pm at 5C Headquarters, 97 Spring Street, Amherst

Ellen Peck, Secretary