

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Council was held at the Five College Center at 2:15.

Present Council: Larry Ambs, Marybeth Bridegam, Dave Cramer, Laura Cranshaw, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck Joan Wofford, Michael Wolff, Gordon Wyse

Absent Council: John Armstrong, Arnold Friedman, Joan Laird, Sandy Muspratt

Committee Chairs Present: Peter Ferber, Mary Franks, Frieda Howard, Sara Wright, Callie Orszak

Minutes: The minutes of December 8 were approved as presented.

Curriculum Committee: Jim Harvey helped with the lottery and has offered to write a piece for the newsletter explaining how it works. Our goal is to make it a fair process and also to have it perceived as fair.

Mary Franks reported that we have 25 seminars. One was withdrawn for lack of sign-ups. A few were lotteried. Some still have waiting lists. The snowbird seminars proved popular this year. They may be expanded. The Garden Flowers has become a snowbird and gained a few more members. Some openings are left. There seemed to be more shifting around than usual this year. One day Callie received 59 emails about changes!

Discussion: Marybeth pointed out that winter/summer is having the same problem with people signing up for something and then not showing up. Do we need a special newsletter warning to check the calendar? Carol commented that this is an ongoing problem when events are free. People feel no obligation to show up. Perhaps we need to emphasize courtesy in making changes.

Callie added that maybe the catalogue description needs to be more explicit about what is required and what covered in each seminar. This is something we need to pass on to moderators. Jim noted that we are now in a "customer friendly" society with more sense of entitlements.

Winter/Summer Committee: Marybeth reported that many people who had signed up for the music talk on Wednesday did not show up and did not notify the person in charge. She hoped the same thing would not happen at the Legislature Forum on Friday.

Callie has written out procedures for the Winter/Summer events. Usually, the winter/summer sign up lists come in at the same time as the seminar sign-ups. The facilitator of the event takes the list and contacts people by email.

There is now an on-going push to write out procedures for each committee and to keep them on file in the office. When new people come onto the committees, there will be the equivalent of an operations manual. Jim is going to collect such write-ups.

Applewood Problem: Our policy for seminars at all the retirement communities where seminars are given is that a member or potential member may visit **one** seminar session **one** time to see how it works. Permission is needed from the moderator and the presenter that day. There was a mistake in the Applewood newsletter some months ago, but it was supposedly cleared up. Our policy is not to allow auditors. In explaining our policy, we should use the word “visiting” rather than “auditing.”

We now have 20 members who live at Applewood and they currently occupy 39 seminar slots.

Since Jim Harvey is now giving a seminar there, he has volunteered to talk to the administrator to make sure that our policy is understood by everyone.

Membership Committee: Frieda Howards reminded us of the new-member coffee hour which will be on Thursday, January 26 from 10 to 12 in Lathrup, Northampton. Council members are invited to come and explain what we do.

There will also be an all-member luncheon on Saturday, March 31 at the Marriot Center at U.Mass. It will cost \$20 each and go from 12 to 2. There will be no auction this year, but there will be other entertainment.

TASK FORCE ON SPACE: Sara Wright handed out a list of spaces available and a newly constructed form to use when soliciting space. On the key to the list, e is for events. Many places listed have limits to the number they can accommodate. Those in bold type are available immediately. Some are more expensive than others. The Woman’s club now gets \$150 for two seminars. Hitchcock gets \$100.

Hopefully, we can divide these space lists into three lists: places available for **seminars**, for **special programs**, and for **events**. Callie can then give out lists to those arranging special programs or events and they can make their own arrangements. For example, people arranging winter/summer programs could use these space available lists without going through Callie.

Keeping our presence on college campuses is still a top priority since it is part of our identity. Callie emphasized that all college **academic** space arrangements must go through the office. Other college spaces can be arranged separately.

Sara made a motion that the Council appoint a liaison with the colleges—a three year position to keep continuity. This person or persons would be appointed by the Executive Committee. This motion was approved by the Council.

A report to the members about the work of this task force will be printed in the Newsletter.

Miscellaneous: Michael Wolff registered a thank you to the Tech Committee for doing a good job on workshops on tablets, skype, and smart phones.

Larry Ambs circulated two studies of statistics relating to membership since 1999. We have had a slow but steady gain over these years with some spikes of new membership.

There was a motion to thank Sara and her committee for their work, and another motion to thank Larry for these statistics.

Mary Franks reminded us that the Curriculum Committee is collecting seminar suggestions for the fall.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 9 at 2:15.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Peck, Secretary