

**FIVE COLLEGE LEANING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2012**

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

Present Council: Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, , Laura Cranshaw, Arnold Friedman, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran, Sandy Muspratt, Ellen Peck, Joan Wofford, Michael Wolff, Gordon Wyse

Absent Council: Dave Cramer, Marybeth Bridegam, Joan Laird

Committee Chairs Present: Peter Ferber, Mary Franks, Janet Price, Callie Orszak

Minutes: The minutes of February 2 were approved.

Financial Report: At the last meeting when we talked about our financial situation, Jim Harvey agreed to put together an ad hoc committee to decide what sort of financial reserves we need for the regular maintenance of the organization. Moneys beyond this amount can be used to start our endowment. The committee will consist of John Armstrong, Marybeth Bridegam, and Betsy Loughran. They will begin meeting in April.

Committee Reports:

The tech committee has added Larry Ambs, Joan Wofford, and Judith Moran as members. They were approved.

Great Decisions now has 25 subscriptions and 15 more are likely, announced Peter Ferber. He showed us posters and brochures that he is distributing. He paid a bike courier \$50 to put up posters in Northampton and Amherst.

Callie reminded us that all groups and committees that need them have **budgets**. At the beginning of the year there will be a meeting with all committee chairs to go over their budget needs. Some groups like Great Decisions do not have budgets since their expenses are covered by receipts.

On the subject of ads, Sandy urged us to try new things. Calendar announcements in the *Gazette* have brought us new members. If other kinds of ads bring us new people, the expense will be covered.

Curriculum Committee: Mary Franks thanked Joan for the newsletter report on policies for moderators.

There will be a meeting for new and potential moderators on Thursday, March 29 in Lathrop Northampton from 2 to 4. The format will be the same as last year since it worked well. We may get a power point presentation of seminar topics we have had. This could be shown at the Great Decisions meeting as a form of recruitment.

Member support: So far there are at least 56 reservations for the all-member luncheon on March 31. Callie will send out a reminder. Perhaps the deadline for reservations can be stretched a bit.

Callie told us of an invitation for the "Friends of Rockridge" wine reception on Wednesday March 28 from 4:30 to 6. Laura Cranshaw volunteered to attend as a representative of the Council.

Financial Task Force: Sandy is waiting for further ideas about the way to set up an endowment. He worried that we have no recruitment committee at present. The Great Decisions program often pulls in new members. Usually the president welcomes people and talks about LIR. Jim or Larry agreed to do this for the first meeting.

Report from the Task Force on Flexibility in Seminars:

Ellen summarized the written report which was passed out last month. Joan reminded us that the idea for such a task force had come from phone interviews last year. We want to make sure there are no simmering issues causing discontent about the seminars.

Jim reported that he had gotten no feedback from his explanation of the lottery and how it works. It is a good idea to keep explaining structures like this.

Carol raised the possibility that one seminar each semester could be a lecture series. Larry replied that the place and format now used for the four Encores (\$100 each time rental of the auditorium at the Eric Carle Museum) could be used for a short lecture series without interfering with the way seminars are scheduled.

Arnold continues to be concerned about people who can no longer drive or have sight problems or are no longer able to make presentations. We do have a "special status" which is described in the Moderators' Manual. A member whose health has changed, can apply for this status for one seminar per semester. Not many people know about this option. Perhaps it needs to be advertised.

Other reactions—seminars are not for everyone; we have been growing slowly but steadily so giving presentations has not hurt us; the organization seems to be in equilibrium at the moment. Since more information has been put in the newsletter this year, we have been getting less feedback. From Callie's point of view, this has been a quiet year!

It was suggested that at the Moderators' Meeting there be some discussion of how to mentor people giving presentations to avoid some of the inevitable pitfalls. Discussion should be the core of any seminar—not just book reports.

Last year the Council opened up a 11:30—2:30 time slot on Tuesday and Thursday by scheduling morning seminars earlier. Has anyone used this time slot? Encore has reserved Friday mornings.

Apparently in the past there has been discussion about an **Emeritus status** which would allow some LIR participation but would cost less. Nothing conclusive has been decided about this idea. Associate membership may cover this contingency.

After much discussion, we decided on two actions and a policy:

1. We need to publicize the existence of "special status" which is arranged through the mentor. Joan agreed to write a newsletter piece about what this status involves.
 2. At mentor meetings and other trainings the curriculum committee needs to stress the importance of discussion as well as the varieties of presentations possible.
 3. We should keep open the possibility of using the Encore structure for small lecture series, should topics of vital interest arise. Special programs and the round tables are also available for lecture with discussion formats.
- There is no need to change the seminars.

Next Council Meeting: 12 April 2012 at the Five College Headquarters

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Peck, Secretary

