

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2013**

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

**Present Council:** Marybeth Bridegam, Laura Cranshaw, Peter Ferber, Chris Hurn, Dorothy Gilbert, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Joan Laird, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Eva Sartori, Jim Scott, Joan Wofford, Gordon Wyse

**Absent Council:** Sandy Muspratt

**Committee Chairs Present:** Honore David, Callie Orszak, Sara Wright

**Minutes:** The minutes of February 14 were approved as presented.

**Vice President's Report:** Carol Jolly brought up the matter of the Tues/Thurs.space left at noon in our calendar for meetings and special events. Since this was put in on a trial basis, we now need to take a survey of how it is being used. Carol will send out an email about this. If you have thoughts on this slot as part of the schedule, let her know. Is it worth keeping?

### **Committee Reports**

**Curriculum Committee:** We now have 15 or 16 proposals and so we need about 10 more. The meeting for new moderators will be March 22. The deadline for proposals is April 2. The Preview is April 28.

**Great Decisions:** (see written report) The first Great Decision program is April 5. Peter Ferber asked if a brief handout describing our seminars could be ready to hand out for recruiting purposes. Also if a brief video could be shown to advertise our program, that would be a help. Carol said she would look into this.

**Special Programs:** (see written report) Sara Wright reported that the committee had voted to keep the Tues/Thurs slot open but to publicize it and its possible uses. We still have complaints about conflicts, especially on Thursday afternoons. We need new programs to try out the Tues/Thurs time before we think of abandoning it.

**Summer/Winter:** Honore David and Marybeth Bridegam described the difficulty we are having this year with two summer trips that seem to compete with each other. Marybeth has organized an art trip to PA in May while the Civil War Group has proposed a trip to Gettysburg in August. Since both trips require overnight stays and cost a fair amount of money, they seem to be competing for members. The Gettysburg trip is filled, but the art trip has not yet made its minimum, even though there is still a week or so to go before the deadline for signups. Both trips were approved by the Winter/Summer Committee at its winter meeting and the Gettysburg trip was approved at the last council meeting since it was a group proposing it was separate from the Winter/Summer committee.

The policy question seems to be that we need an early deadline for any group proposing an extensive trip. All proposals need to go through one channel—the Winter /Summer Committee. If there is a question whether LIR can support more than one long trip per season, having a deadline would give ample time for consideration. In the current case, since the Gettysburg trip was organized by a separate group, the Winter/Summer did not know of it until the plans were fairly advanced. We don't want to discourage people proposing trip—just make sure the coordination happens early so that there is not a sense of competition.

Honore told us that the winter activities were well received and fairly well attended although there is still a problem with no shows who do not call. We did try a small fee to try to make people more responsible, but that did not completely solve the problem. Is more publicity needed? Reminders?

### **Old Business**

**Investment Fund:** 5 C Inc. has finally sent us papers about setting up the new investment Fund for the Future. There is movement to get this set up by June. Jim and Sandy will go over the details in the next month.

#### **Transition to New Office Manager:**

Jim reported that the transition committee had met in Feb. and agreed on 11 issues that need to be documented before Callie leaves us. The committee was appreciative of the **Book of Advice and Information** which Callie has prepared.

#### **Items which still need some documentation:**

1. The lottery—how it works..Several people need to walk through it to clarify how it goes.
2. Catalogue and other document production—how to do it
3. Committee support—notices and other help
4. Data base procedures—Pete Reitt and other tech committee people will work on this
5. Financial management—how to keep track of moneys that come in and out of the office
6. Hot button windows—periods when volunteers are needed
7. New member processing
8. Great Decisions support
9. Special tasks that need support
10. Interfacing with 5 C Inc offices and requirements
11. Changes in office procedures that could be helpful

If members of the Council have any other ideas, please let Jim know. Callie will be updating her booklet of Advice and then will walk through it with the transition committee.

Callie's last day will be June 21. She will be training the new person in June after the lottery is over.

One piece of good news is that the LIR office at Smith will not be moving before a year or even 18 months, so that will give a new person time to settle in before that upheaval.

## New Business

Since our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up, we need to think about how to celebrate it. For the 20<sup>th</sup> Honore David was in charge. We had a dinner at the new TOC for over 100 people. Featured were pictures of members doing funny things, a play about old age and its delights, and a presentation of a certificate by Stan Rosenburg. Those attending were given a scroll with the history of LIR and special pens. All the five College presidents were invited but only one could come.

For our new venture, the year 1989 is the definite beginning year, so we will say 2014 is the year to celebrate. Jim asked for **brainstorming ideas**.

- Wine needs to be available but price is a consideration for the meal. Cash bar?
- Timing—mid day? Evening? Late afternoon wine and cheese or finger food?
- We need to include as many members as possible
- If we have it at night, could we hire a bus for pickups of those who do not drive?
- Are any original founders left? How do we honor founders?
- Do we want live music?
- Do we want catered food? This can be less expensive and makes more venues possible.
- Someone suggested Quant/Quant Farm in Whately. This would require catering.
- Cost is a consideration in planning a menu..
- If we do presentations, it is better to have a screen and volume control. Accoustics can be a problem with this group.
- LIR performers? Unitarian jazz band?
- Central location vs. a more exotic locale?
- For places—hotels on Rt.. 9, Willets Hollowell Center
- If we have it in early Sept. or late spring, there is still light in the evenings so that might be a consideration.
- We should invite the family that gave the large donation to our investment fund.

Keep track of any more suggestions you may think of.

**Nominating Committee:** Jim Scott reported that they are still considering an assistant treasurer and president elect.

**Next Meeting: April 11, 2013.**

Ellen Peck, Secretary