

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2013**

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

Present Council: Marybeth Bridegam, Laura Cranshaw, Peter Ferber, Chris Hurn, Dorothy Gilbert, Jim Harvey, Carol Jolly, Ellen Peck Joan Wofford

Absent Council: Joan Laird, Betsy Loughran, Sandy Muspratt, Jim Scott, Eva Sartori, Gordon Wyse

Committee Chairs Present: Larry Ambs, Jim Perot, Henny Lewin

Minutes: The minutes of March 14 were approved as presented.

Vice President's Report:

Carol Jolly asked the Council to consider LIR's joining the Five College Credit Union. Five Colleges is already qualified, but we need to be qualified separately. Since we are a non-profit, dues-paying organization, there is no cost to LIR for joining. If we join, our individual members may use the Credit Union whose interest rates on CD's are higher than average and their mortgage rates lower.

The Council moved that 5 C IIR would like to be affiliated with the Credit Union. It was passed unanimously.

President's Report:

Jim reminded us that all officers and committee chairs are required to submit written reports of the year's activities to the President by June 30. Callie has sample reports from the past if anyone needs a model.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: Jim Scott reported that officers to be elected for next year are President—Carol Jolly; Vice-President—Michael Greenebaum; Treasurer—Betsy Loughran; Assistant treasurer—Susan Beer; and Secretary—Ellen Peck.

Since Michael has also been nominated for Council, his name will be taken off the ballot.

Eva Sartori, a current Council member, has been forced to resign for health reasons. Since Jim Perot received the next highest number of votes for Council in the last election, he will replace Eva and fill out her term as a member.

Member Support: Henny Lewin told us that Joan McKelvey has agreed to be co-chair of this committee since Eva Sartori has had to drop out. This committee hosted a successful coffee hour for new members and spring brunches for all members. This year the brunches were held in three restaurants; 56 attended and the response was positive.

Callie urged all committees to send her updated lists of all their members. Then the new vice president will give all committee chairs a packet of committee interests when we get new lists from the Preview.

Winter/Summer: The committee presented a revised description to go into the Operations Manual (see accompanying sheet). There was some discussion of the proposed \$2 fee for non-ticketed events. This was an experiment to make people more responsible when signing up for things. Some Council members suggested that \$5 might be more effective. We finally suggested that the \$2 amount be left out so that the committee would have more flexibility. The sentence would now read *“An administrative fee is charged...”*

The wording of the sentence about overnight trips was thought to be confusing. The suggested wording change was *“Overnight trips need to be suggested and approved by the committee during the fall meeting to plan the events for the coming year.”*

The Council agreed to send these proposed changes back to the committee for ratification.

Curriculum: The curriculum committee would like to change the date of the fall Preview from a Sunday to a Saturday afternoon since often the Preview has conflicted with the Hampshire Choral Society concert. We could try this change as an experiment. Feedback is possible at the annual meeting. The committee will have to check on cost and conflicts in booking a venue.

Since there was a surplus of proposals for the spring semester, the committee asked for and received volunteers to postpone 5 seminars until spring.

Great Decisions: The first session went well and had good attendance. The bad news is that there is no microphone and no coffee anymore from the Senior Center. The committee is deciding what to do about that for the next session.

Old Business

Fund For The Future: Jim had distributed a letter from 5College Inc. specifying the terms of this new fund which will be held as an investment by the 5 College Inc. trust. The idea for this new fund is to take about half of our current reserves and invest them to generate income. Deposits must be in \$5000 increments. The current distribution will be 4 ½%, but that will likely change over time. We can take it out or reinvest it yearly. Hopefully, we can reinvest it so as to allow the fund to grow to about \$60,000 which would then give us enough interest to use for something special. Currently, this is roughly one year’s expenses. Management fees are 1%, a typical rate for mutual funds. The distribution will be figured on a rolling average for three years.

The Council voted unanimously to approve this arrangement.

New Business

Death notices: There have recently been complaints that our members do not always know when another member has died. Announcements are usually in the *Gazette*, but the timing can vary. Should Callie send out notices about members and former members? How

can she find out? Right now the policy is that she will send out an email notice if the family members request it, but they do not always think to tell her. One possibility is to create a standardized form to use as a notice. Callie could send this out to members once a year to alert them to the policy. This form could refer people to the *Gazette* for more specific details since Callie does not want to become a news service.

If someone sends a memorial gift, in the future it can go into the Fund for the Future. There could be a yearly acknowledgement in the newsletter. Gifts would be held by the treasurer until the \$5000 deposit level was reached.

Party for Callie. On Friday, June 14 from 4 to 6 there will be a reception at the Amherst College Alumni House in honor of Callie. Sara Wright and Laura Canshaw will help organize it. All members are invited.

Callie's replacement: Joan Wofford and Carol Jolly have been sifting the applications for Callie's replacement. So far there are nearly 100!

Relation of the Council to Committees: The general issue of how much oversight the Council should exercise over the committees was raised by an event in the Curriculum Committee. When there have been too many proposals in the past, the informal practice of exclusion has been

1. Last in, first out
2. Balance of kinds of offerings
3. Volunteer withdrawals until the next semester.

This year the committee used #3. In rejecting a proposal there is always the danger of discouraging someone new or antagonizing someone who has put in many proposals. The Manual does not have specific criteria for judging proposals. This has been left up to the curriculum committee. Does the Council need to get involved in details like this or should judgments be left up to each committee? If the trend is to get more than enough proposals, perhaps more strict criteria for inclusion need to be defined.

There was much discussion about how much the Council should micromanage what the committees are doing. Larry pointed out that the new Procedures Manual was put in place to prevent problems and disputes. We don't want committees to reinvent the wheel. Others contended that if each committee needs to clear all major decisions with Council, that will slow down the working of the organization. There have not been any instances recently of committees going their own way.

Joan Wofford brought up the problem of the PR committee which right now barely functions. Most felt that more formal recruitment is not necessary immediately since we are filling all the spaces available to us. Better advertising is always helpful, however.

The general consensus of this discussion was that the Council should establish the mission for the committees but leave the committees freedom to function and work out the details.

Next meeting Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Ellen Peck, Secretary