

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING****APRIL 10, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Council was held at the Five College Office, Spring St. Amherst, from 2:15 to 4:00 pm.

Present Council: Susan Beer, Paul Berman, Dorothy Gilbert, Michael Greenebaum, Jim Harvey, Chris Hurn, Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran, Ellen Peck, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Jim Scott, Zina Tillona, Fran Volkmann, Gordon Wyse

Present Committees/Other: Marybeth Bridegam, Hy Edelstein, Chuck Gilles, Ina Luadike, Sheila Klem, Joan McKelvey, Liz Tiley

Minutes: The minutes of March 13 were approved as corrected.

Vice-President: Michael reminded the committee chairs that they need to submit an annual report to Carol by June. She will compile these and put them on the web as her annual report to the members. These reports should be short since they are meant to be an historical reminder of what was done during the year.

Preview: Jim Harvey clarified that the annual meeting will be at 1:30 while the Preview will start at 2:00. The food, which will now be in the lounge, will be set up between the meeting and the Preview. The registration tables have been moved because of the sun problem. There will be slightly less food than last year because of budgetary considerations and the fear of waste.

Treasurer: Betsy reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting. They discussed four issues:

1. In the Operations Manual there needs to be a clear statement about the procedure for disposing of surpluses, particularly from Winter/Summer programs. See the draft sheet sent out with the new wording. One minor correction was to take out the word "small" modifying surplus. This new procedure allocates any surplus to the regular budget unless the trip leader comes to the Executive Committee of Council with a different proposal for the use of funds. This new wording can go into the section on the Winter/Summer committee. Fran made a motion to accept the new wording. Jim Scott seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.
2. More discussion is need about Pay Pal and how it will work. For the current registration, this option will not be on the form. A credit card option must pay for itself, so we will need to charge for Pay Pal. Those registering on line can be charged \$255 to cover costs. We don't want check writers to subsidize those using credit cards. Perhaps we can say the dues are \$255 with a \$5 discount for those writing checks. It will take a little more time to work out this payment mechanism.

3. We will now consider April 30 as the end of our fiscal year. Our budget will run from May 1 to April 30 of the next year. Betsy is still redoing the budget line.
4. Donations for our 25th anniversary celebration are just about going to cover costs. Members have been generous.

Office Manager: Liz thanked all the many members who had helped her move to the new office in the library. We are now connected to the internet and email.

What is now needed are maps with directions about how to find the office once one gets into the library. Smith does not want signs posted so we will need paper maps.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum: The curriculum committee presented a draft calendar and a tracking sheet listing the twenty-eight seminars proposed for fall. (See separate sheets). The categories of the seminars have been reduced to 8 which has eliminated sub-categories. The main change in the calendar is the earlier deadline for seminar proposals for the spring. It will be October 11. The two moderators meetings will each be one week before proposals are due. There will also be one format for proposals whether on line or written out. Where venues are listed as TBA, that means it was not possible to confirm the venues so early.

The Council voted to accept the new calendar for 2014-15.

Liz explained that in the upcoming catalogue, seminars are listed alphabetically but there is a date/time listing as well as page numbers to locate the seminars.

Special Programs: Ina reminded us that a poetry reading will be held on May 21 at the Lathrop, Northampton meeting room. She now has 15 of the 18 poets needed. This event will take place from 2 to 4 pm.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration:

Sheila was happy that registration has been brisk with many extra donations included. We should almost break even in expenses. The Log Rolling caterers will provide the food. There will be tables of 8 but not reserved. There will be place cards at the registration table so friends can sort themselves out. The group "Green Street Brew" will sing between the entree and dessert. In the lounge there will be a looping video of pictures from various eras and events. The bar will be open all evening. Chuck Gilles will represent the past presidents. April 20 will be the final date for registration and payments. All those who donated for the event will be listed in the program. All three office managers and their husbands are coming as well as guests from the Five College Inc.

Chuck Gilles and Hy Edelstein showed us the report to be handed out at the Gala. (See the attached sheets). Hy collated the data from a survey four years ago and added surveys filled out by new members since then. We now have a fairly accurate picture of our membership. The

highlights of this survey show that our average age has gotten a bit younger. There are fewer college connections. A big change has been in computer use. Most of our members now use the computer, especially email. The education levels remain high; the major career is still teaching. In looking at new members, only half have remained but this seems to be the result of natural attrition. In growth we seemed to have plateaued in recent years—we are replacing members but not growing very much in absolute terms. We might revisit this topic in June.

Going forward, we might want to revisit our questionnaire and think about how to collect more data. Can we begin to use Facebook and other new media inventions to make the organization more visible?

Annual Meeting:

This is the occasion when nominations for Council and for officers are announced. Voting for Council members is done by mail. This meeting is also used to recognize committee chairs and to recruit committee members. This year the dues increase will also be announced.

Road Scholar Conference:

Carol explained that the two free registrations for this conference will be given to Michael Greenebaum as the next president and to Liz Tiley as our office manager. They can report on the workshops they attend. Michael will make a short presentation describing our program of peer-led seminars. This conference will focus on how to get members to volunteer and on the use of technology for programs. The conference will be at U.Mass on June 1-3.

The next Council Meeting will be **May 8** at the Five College Office

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Peck, Secretary

