

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2014

The regular meeting of the Council was held at the Five College Inc, Spring Street, Amherst, at 2:15 pm.

Present: **Officers**- Michael Greenebaum, Sheila Klem, Carol Jolly, Susan Beer
Council Members - Jim Averill, Marybeth Bridegam, Rafe de Lima, Jim Perot, Dean Poli, Zina Tillona, Tyll van Geel, Fran Volkmann **Committee Chairs** - Jake Greenburg (GD), Ina Luadtke (SP), Joan McKelvey (MS) **Others** - Larry Ambs (5C Liaison), Sara Wright (Historian)

President Michael Greenebaum called the meeting to order and welcomed new Council members. Members of Council and other members present introduced themselves. Council unanimously approved the president's appointment of Ellen Peck to serve as secretary for 2014-15.

In the absence of our treasurer, Assistant Treasurer Susan Beer gave the treasurer's report. While our internal operating budget showed a slight deficit, as expected, LIR's financial health is good. In October, Betsy Loughran will give Council an overview of LIR finances, including yearly budget, reserves and endowment.

Committee Reports

Member Services - Joan McKelvey reported on preparations for the LIR potluck picnic on September 16. One issue is storage for utensils and paper goods that are used yearly. New members will receive special invitations. As always, we are indebted to the Gaustads for hosting this affair.

Winter/Summer - Honore David reports, via Liz Tiley, that the summer programs were all successful. The small charge the committee instituted has cut no-shows by about 95%.

Great Decisions - Fran Volkmann has prepared a detailed operations manual for the committee to use and adapt. Copies of the manual were shared with Council. Jim Perot raised the concern that turnover in committee membership could lead to a loss of expertise in specialized areas like getting speakers.

Public Relations - Michael Greenebaum reported on behalf of Joan Wofford that there will be a presentation of LIR to Loomis Village on September 4 at their request. Joan Wofford, Honore David and Gordon Wyse are on the panel.

Curriculum Committee - Dean Poli said that statistics show that the priority system not so great a problem as originally thought and no change is needed.

Office Manager - Liz Tiley will order new brochures in time for the Loomis Village event on September 4. Lathrop recently took a large number to use for recruitment. She announced that we currently have 254 active members, with 20 trial members and 15 new members.

Marybeth Bridegam announced that Road Scholar is offering 5CLIR very advantageous rates on a trip to Cuba if we can pull together fifteen travelers. Liz will publicize the trip to all members, who are asked to be in touch with Marybeth Bridegam if they are interested or need more information.

Larry Ambs gave some history behind the creation and intent of the Operations Manual and the responsibilities for keeping it up to date. Michael Greenebaum said that reconciling the by-laws and the operations manual as well as resolving internal conflicts within the operations manual will be a high priority this year.

Old Business

Council took up issues of membership categories previously discussed at its June 2014 meeting.

1. Should half-year memberships be available to all members for both first and second semesters at any time?

This proposal had no support and was **taken off the table**.

2. Should Associate Membership (no seminars or voting rights) be generally available as an option to all, not just formerly full members?

This proposal had no support and was **taken off the table**. Associate Membership as currently described in the by-laws remains as before. A related idea - changing the name "Associate Member" to "Emeritus Member" - was introduced and has some support and will be addressed in September.

Michael Greenebaum will write to all retirement communities clarifying what opportunities LIR currently offers their residents.

3. Should LIR eliminate the category "Trial Membership"?

This generated a good deal of discussion viz a viz our current policy allowing new members to join for spring semester and Fran Volkmann's proposal to allow new members to choose either fall or spring semester during their first year. Several felt that the idea of trial membership could not be separated from the Volkmann proposal. In September this will be presented to Council as a choice between the Volkmann proposal and the current "trial" membership. Liz Tiley mentioned that Trial Membership was welcomed by many prospective members to whom she explained it. Jim Averill commented that since our current policy seems to be working well there is no need to change it.

4. Should a rebate be offered to any member who does not take a seminar in a given semester?

Some felt that the rebate was a valuable public relations policy and a thoughtful gesture for members who may have reason for taking a semester off. In September this will be paired with the Volkmann proposal for a leave of absence every three years.

The issue of monthly or periodic payment of dues turns out to be quite complicated in terms of bookkeeping and the relationship with FCI. Liz Tiley will continue working with the Five College finance office to see what might be possible.

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm

Sheila Klem/Michael Greenebaum - notetakers