

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2016

Present: Sheila Klem (president), Gordon Wyse (vice-president), Betsy Loughran (treasurer), Kathy Campbell (asst. treasurer), Richard Szlosek (secretary), Zina Tillona, Jim Averill, Tyll van Geel, Bobbie Reitt, Marybeth Bridegam, Ann Hartman, Fran Volkmann

Guests: Sara Wright, Kay Klausewitz, Gail Gaustad

Absent: Jacob Greenburg, Dean Poli

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM

The minutes of March 10, 2016 were approved by the Council.

Officer Reports:

Sheila Klem began the meeting with a brief report that the transition from former Office Manager, Liz Tiley, to temporary manager, Callie Orszak has gone very smoothly. She said the position for a new hire is now being advertised in the press and online and that interviews will begin at the end of April. The LIR members on the interview panel are Gordon Wyse, Kathy Campbell, Marybeth Bridegam and Joan Wofford.

Vice-President Gordon Wyse had a humorous report about the problems of organizing all the paperwork that comes with his position.

Treasurer Betsy Loughran reminded Council that the unusual LIR fiscal year ends at the end of April. There might be a deficit of slightly more than \$5,000 due to the fact that the former office manager received a payout of her vacation pay and the fact that she and Callie worked together for a week. The fact that Callie had to be hired through a temp agency also complicated the budget. Betsy said the rainy day fund should easily handle the deficit. She also said the Finance Committee has not yet met this month and that it will be difficult to have a firm budget until the new office manager is hired.

Secretary Rich Szlosek then reminded Council that next year will be the 100th anniversary of U.S. involvement in World War I and that it would be appropriate for LIR to commemorate that fact in some fashion. This will be looked into by the secretary.

Old Business:

There was very little old business as it was reiterated about the smoothness of the office manager transition, the fact the position has been advertised and that April 25 is the final date for applications.

New Business:

This section of the meeting concentrated on the annual meeting and fall preview which will take place May 1 at the Smith Campus Center. It was stressed that a quorum of voting members must be present for the annual meeting to officially take place. This means 30% of voting members must be in attendance and this translates to 81 members. Sara Wright volunteered to take attendance at the meeting. It was brought up that officers could be nominated from the floor but not nominees for Council.

The proposed changes in the by-laws that were recently sent to the membership will be presented at the annual meeting for enactment. Kathy Campbell agreed to make a motion that the changes be accepted as a package. It will take a positive vote by 60% of those present to enact the changes. It was also agreed that committee chairs should all be prepared to make a brief statement about the role of their group in the structure of LIR.

There followed a short discussion concerning the smaller than usual number of nominees for Council and what could be done to get more people involved.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee: Tyll van Geel said they have a full complement of seminar and workshop proposals for the preview catalog and that 12 of classes will be open to auditors. Tyll said they already have 7 proposals in the hopper for next spring. He wondered what his committee should do if they receive more proposals than there are venues to hold them? Sheila Klem said there might soon be more space available at the Hitchcock Center at Hampshire and the new Assisted Living center in Northampton. The remodeled Five College building on the UMass campus was also mentioned. Tyll said the date for fall proposals would be in early October to allow time for the printing of the spring catalog. He also said the committee will have both a moderator's manual and a participant's manual ready soon.

Development Committee: In an e-mail Chuck Gillies reported that in the fund raising drive towards the goal of \$250,000, there is now a total of \$186,000 which includes funds from the \$70,000 matching gifts grant and from gifts that are intended to come in. The actual amount already received is \$121,312. The total of the funds that can be applied towards the \$70,000 is \$40,905. 104 members have now contributed to the fund. There will be information sheets about the fund raising at the preview.

Finance Committee: The committee has not yet met this month.

Great Decisions: In an e-mail Jacob Greenburg said the first lecture had 105 attendees and the second one had 82. He said 55 LIR members had bought the entire series of five lectures as well as 24 non-members. Jake hopes the program will exceed its budgetary expectations.

Membership Services: Gail Gaustad said Hadley Farms reported that 88 people had attended the spring social event. Gail said the committee believed there were more people than that present. She said that the expenses ran to \$2100 which would come out of the

Fund for the Future. She also said the speaker, Thomas Perls, had been paid for by Road Scholar. The work of the committee received much praise from the Council.

Nominating Committee: Fran Volkmann said she would have members of her committee assist Sara Wright in counting the attendees at the annual meeting. Her committee will work with the Office Manager in preparing the ballots and will appoint three voting members to act as tellers once all the ballots have been received.

Public Relations Committee: Nina Scott, who was not present, was able to get a feature story on the Great Decisions Committee into a recent edition of the Gazette.

Special Programs: Kay Klausewitz reminded all that the poetry event was April 15 at the Rockridge Retirement Community. She said that she and Gary Roddman are heading up the theater interest group and that "Fiorello" will be the first play the group attends. Kay said some members would travel there by bus and she thanked Marybeth Bridegam for her assistance.

Summer/Winter Program: Marybeth Bridegam said a series of day trips are being planned for the summer. They might include trips to Farmington and Litchfield Connecticut as well as the New Britain Museum of Modern Art.

Technology Committee: Peter Reitt has agreed to try to revive this committee.

Office Manager: The Office Manager was excused from attending the meeting but Sheila thought it would be a fine gesture for Council members to send thanks to Stephanie Pinero, our Smith College intern, for the outstanding work she has done assisting the office manager. She has only two Tuesdays left at the office. She will remain in the area this summer and would appreciate any work LIR members might have for her such as pet sitting.

Meeting Adjourned 3:40

Respectfully Submitted:

April 17, 2016

Richard W. Szlosek, Secretary

