

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT PROGRAM

BY-LAWS

Preamble

A small group of individuals met during the spring and summer of 1988 to explore the possibilities of initiating a learning program that would engage the attention and energies of the retired residents of the Pioneer Valley. The local and educational traditions and facilities made this seem an ideal place for such a venture. Out of these meetings emerged the Five College Learning in Retirement Planning Committee and, subsequently, the Five College Learning in Retirement Program. The program was sponsored in October of 1988 by the heads of the Five Colleges, and administration was assigned to the Division of Continuing Education of the University of Massachusetts. In July, 1990, this temporary arrangement was terminated, and the Program is now independently operated under the umbrella of Five Colleges Inc. The sponsorship of the Five Colleges, Inc. provides the fledgling program the legitimacy and stability needed in its initial stages at the same time that the institutions and the retired community are drawn together for mutual benefit.

From the very outset, however, it has been clear that the program is available to all retired residents of the Valley without consideration of educational status or relationship to the educational institutions. The SCLIR Program revolves around the concept of study groups initiated, organized and managed by the participants; in other words, peer learning. This concept, not new to the Valley and certainly successful elsewhere, recognizes the fact that despite the many learning possibilities and facilities available to the retirees in the Pioneer Valley, there has been little opportunity for retirees to engage actively in the planning and operation of a program designed for and by themselves. This desire for autonomy in generating and governing the character of their own educational plans is understandable; it combats the mental deprivation and loneliness that often accompanies the years of retirement. It taps a mine of experience and knowledge and makes it available to a larger community. The retirees can pursue the joy and excitement of learning at their own pace, in areas of their own choosing, and in the company of like-minded peers, with the result that their days are enriched intellectually and socially.

Members of the Learning in Retirement Program are all those persons whose application for membership has been accepted and who have paid membership dues.

For purposes of governance, a Council with its own By-Laws is to be elected by, and made accountable to, the members of the Learning in Retirement Program.

Purpose of the Five College Learning in Retirement Program

The purpose of SCLIR is to offer an opportunity for those in the Pioneer Valley who have reached the retirement years to pursue current intellectual interests, to return to neglected educational activities, and to explore new areas of learning in the company of their peers. While the primary purpose of

the 5CLIR Program is intellectual pursuit, it is understood that occasional social events are appropriate and fall within the purpose of the Program.

By-Laws of the 5CLIR Council

I ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL

- A. The Purpose of the Council is to serve the needs and interests of the 5CLIR membership, and report to that group periodically. The Council is responsible for hiring an Executive Officer; this person represents the 5CLIR in the professional community of adult learning programs, and is responsible for the internal administration of the 5CLIR; this person is accountable to the Council.
- B. Membership: The Council consists of nine members elected for three-year terms. In addition to the nine elected members, the Business Manager of the Five Colleges Inc. and the LIR Executive Officer are members of the Council, ex officio and non-voting. Also the chair of each LIR committee will serve on the Council ex officio and non-voting; these persons will serve in this way for the duration of their respective chairmanships.
- C. Elections: Elections will normally be held once each year in May. During the year each study group will be asked to name one of its participants as a nominee for election to the Council. From this slate, each 5CLIR member will vote for three nominees. The three persons receiving the highest number of votes will serve as Council members for three-year terms, running from September first to August thirty-first. In the rare event of a tie, the flip of a coin will decide. If a Council member cannot for any reason complete his/her term, a replacement will be elected at the next regular election. Upon completion of a three-year term, a member is not eligible for election for one calendar year.
- D. Officers: The officers of the Council are:
- President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer

The officers will be chosen by the Council at the first Council meeting following the May election. Officers serve one-year terms. The President is to be chosen from the six on-going elected members of the Council, and is ineligible to succeed himself/herself.

Duties of Officers:

President: Presides at all Council meetings and general membership meetings. The President represents 5CLIR in the general public community.

Vice President: Presides in the absence of the President.

Secretary: Records minutes of meetings. Provides officers and members of Council with copies of minutes and provides summaries of Council activities to the Newsletter.

Treasurer: Provides to the Council a monthly report of income and expenditures. Develops the Lir annual budget in cooperation with the Business Manager of Five Colleges Inc. and LIR Executive Officer.

- E. Meetings: The Council will meet on the first Thursday of the month at one p.m., and at other times as may be needed. Five members constitute a quorum. A simple majority of those voting is required for the passage of motions. The general membership meets at least annually. To take official action, a quorum of fifty percent-plus-one of the entire membership is required.

II COMMITTEES

- A. Curriculum Committee: Receives or initiates suggestions for new study group programs, providing assistance in improving offerings as appropriate. The committee takes into account the suitability of study group proposals, the availability of qualified moderators and of appropriate meeting space and time, and any other pertinent factors.
- B. Membership Committee: Works in all appropriate ways to recruit new members to LIR, to encourage participation in LIR activities, and to foster social interaction of members.
- C. Newsletter Committee: Provides on a regular basis as up-to-date account of LIR activities for the members.
- D. Publicity Committee: Provides information about 5CLIR to the public media.
- E. Special Events Committee: Initiates and schedules activities such as lectures, out-of-town trips, and social events for the members.

The five standing committees serve as agencies of the Council. Additional committees may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Council as needs may dictate. Members are urged to volunteer for service on com-

mittees. Chairpersons of committees are usually selected by members of the committee. They are appointed by the Council annually, and their tenure shall not normally exceed four successive years. All committee chairpersons report from time to time to the Council, and submit to the President at the end of each semester a written report, briefly describing the committee's activities, together with evaluations and suggestions.

III AMENDMENTS

A proposal for amending the by laws of the Council can be passed into law in the following manner; upon submission to a regular meeting of the Council, or to a special meeting called for such purpose, a motion to amend must obtain $2/3$ of the votes of those present; upon such approval the motion is submitted to a vote of the membership at the next regular meeting, and if approved by a $2/3$ vote of the members voting, the amendment is enacted.