

Read all

September 17, 1993

Five College Learning in Retirement Council meeting on this date was held at 1.30 p.m. in the Five College Building on Spring Street, Amherst. Present were council members and committee chairs: Beal, Keating, Wisneski, Lieson, Keppler, Dunn, Unger, Southworth, Rapoport, Lawton, Stabell (ex officio). Absent were members and committee chairs Kaufman, Dolloff, Braunthal, Quint, Goodwin, Navon.

President Lieson's arrival was delayed by a traffic accident. Therefore, Treasurer Keppler presided temporarily. Lieson had asked Rapoport to substitute for Secretary Goodwin.

Rapoport accepted amendments to last month's council meeting minutes as follows: Lehman's report on the project of hosting English visitors should have identified the visitors' homes as Sheltenham, Bournemouth and Tewksbury, not Dartmouth. Additionally, the newsletter committee report should have said that the new schedule for newsletter will be every two months, not every two weeks. The minutes were accepted by the council as corrected.

Treasurer Keppler reported the fiscal status of LIR and a budget summary estimate for 1993-94...an elegant report...accepted gratefully by the council. The treasurer's report is attached here for the record.

Lieson conducted the rest of the agenda (copy attached for the record.)

✓ Lieson read a letter from Jean Roetter resigning from her newly elected position of vice president/president elect because she did not feel sufficiently informed about LIR and because also she did not wish to have to deal with the divisiveness she perceived in the membership. With regret the council accepted the resignation. Lieson stated that the position would be filled in accord with the bylaws (paragraph IIB), and he will determine the date of the special election and will identify the special nominating committee.

- Lieson circulated information copies of two documents comprising the "charter" of LIR. These are REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR A FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT PROGRAM (dated May 3, 1988) and a MEMORANDUM from Conn Nugent, Director of Five Colleges Inc. to the members of the Five College Retiree Education Committee (dated May 4, 1988..this document conveyed the approval of the five institutional presidents (the "board" of Five Colleges Inc.) to go forward with planning the Learning Program, and also listed; the charges to the committee; copies of these documents are attached for the record, as is Lieson's cover memo. Lieson instructed the council persons to review these materials so as to be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Despite agreement that discussion should be held off until the next council meeting members ~~members~~ offered many comments and speculations concerning the issues which discouraged Ms. Roetter from filling the elected position.

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Beal Stated that LIR has a deeper problem than that the newly elected VPPE resigned; she reminded the council that one of the two officially nominated candidates for office withdrew candidacy after a general membership meeting in spring 1993, and that a potential and qualified candidate for office the previous year had declined to run for office because of distaste for presiding over a perceived contentious body. Such events may indicate, along with membership attrition, lack of understanding of the purpose and structure of LIR

Lawton commented that she needed clarification concerning just what the problem is in LIR; she was not aware of the problem and did not know that the VPPE had resigned.

Beal commented that there are two issues here; one is the primary focus of LIR, is it intellectual or is it social; she commented that there appears to be some unwarranted contention over status and personal agenda, as well as a failure to accept and adhere to the "charter" as spelled out by Five Colleges Inc.

Wisneski stated that she agrees that there is an underlying problem, but that she did not know what it is. Keating said she believes 90% of the people in LIR like what we have now.

At this point in the council meeting there ensued a cacophonous mingling of statements apparently related to the need to understand the specific issues and the degree to which such divisiveness caused Roetter to withdraw. Lieson brought the meeting back to order and reminded the council that it was not on the agenda to discuss this at this time, and that part of the reason we now had in hand the documents related to LIR's relationship to 5 Colleges was to further our own understandings, as well as several of the unrelated issues which council persons were introducing during this *meeting*.

Lieson reiterated his request that we review carefully all of the "handouts" he had given us, and then asked Jean Stabell if she would care to make any comments about LIR's relationship to Five Colleges. Stabell said: Yes indeed, LIR is a program of Five Colleges; at the monthly meetings of the presidents they always ask about it and I report to them, as I am the liaison person. They are very particular about who uses space on their campuses. I haven't felt the need to attend all your council meetings although I've been kept informed about what was going on, and I've been impressed with the way you've structured your organization, with an excellent set of bylaws, etc. Not all the programs we sponsor through Five Colleges have been so thorough and efficient.

In response to some of the issues raised at the last council meeting concerning some policies and procedures which have been in place concerning issues of the organizational structure of LIR, Lieson circulated also as "handouts" copies of the report/recommendation of an ad hoc committee dated 12/5/91; these recommendations concerning dues, registration and enrollment were approved and adopted by the council in December 1991 and the membership was informed. *(a copy is attached for the record)*

Back to the agenda:

Kepler reported for the curriculum committee concerning enrollment in Fall 1993 seminars; copy of enrollment figures should be attached here by LIR office coordinator for the record. Kepler also stated that on this date our membership is 129 (110 renewed members and 19 new members)

Membership committee: no report; Keating stated that the new chair did not perceive the usefulness of attending at this time.

Southworth: reporting for Lehman concerning the visit in prospect from eight individuals from the University of the Third Age in England. LIR persons have committed all the necessary hospitality and program assistance that the committee requested, and plans are well thought out; it promises to be a great success.

Lawton: the joint efforts of Special Events committee and Vincent Dowling of the Miniature Theater in Chester resulted in a superlative theater experience for LIR members and their guests, as well as informative previews of the plays and sociable lunches following the previews. Special Events committee is arranging a field trip to Concord in cooperation with the English Visitors committee..this trip will be open by reservation to LIR members as well as to the English visitors and the host committee. Marjorie Kaufman has promised to prepare some materials for the visitors and all persons on the trip which will enrich the experience for all with insights into American colonial culture. Cooperating with the chairperson of General Meetings Committee (see paragraph III B6) of 1993 revised by laws) Lawton will provide opportunity to reserve for the Concord trip at the scheduled general membership meeting in prospect September 30.

Keating: announced that she has been invited by Vincent Dowling to serve as representative of 5CLIR on the advisory board of the Miniature Theater. (Appreciative applause by the council!)

Unger: I think that we should use the seminars as a line of communication to the members. At this juncture there was much personal conversation occurring and it is not known to the temporary secretary if her response to Unger was heard...the response was Rapoport; good idea...this actually has been the practise since we moved into the field house, as a means of saving on postage and also as a means of getting materials to seminar participants promptly especially when prompt responses to information were needed.

Wisneski: reported for the newsletter committee, of which she has been asked by Lieson to serve as chair and recruit additional persons, since there are several slots open at this time.

General discussion of the importance of staffing committees and rotation of membership on committees. Beal referred to previous efforts to fill committees which were effective when the membership committee made personal calls to members who were not already involved in committees and invited them to join committees of their choice and providing a view of the work entailed in committee service. Unger commented that this is easier to do now than in the past because of our computer capability.

Southworth: for the General Meetings Committee. Kickoff meeting to be held at the Field House at Smith on September 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (see IIB6 bylaws). The format of this meeting will be social rather than business agenda; a welcome to all, and a time for members to chat with their seminar moderators and fellow participants. The committee will arrange for coffee/pastry service instead of pot-luck luncheon.

Lieson said that the next council meeting will be on October 14 at 1.30 p.m at the Five College Building on Spring Street. Jean Stabell expects to be free at that time to attend the meeting.

Beal: I have some new business. Here is a letter to President Lieson from Dot Swanson. Lieson read the letter aloud which contained a declaration of intent to give LIR a gift of \$1000 in memory of her sister Peg MacDonnell; a copy of Swanson's letter is attached for the record; and in accord with the Swansons' expressed wish for the use of the gift Lieson will seek the appropriate consultations for decisions on the use of the funds.

Unger reminded the council of the death of our member Sonya Dill, and said there is a memorial service for her at 2 p.m. Saturday September 18 at Lathrop Village. Beal reminded us also that there is a memorial for Peg MacDonnell on Sunday 19th at Amherst Women's Club.

Lieson adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m. on a motion for adjournment made by Beal and Seconded by Wisneski.

LRP
Gladys Rapoport