

5 College L. I. R. Council
Minutes: meeting on 9/7/95 at 5 College Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by the President, Harley Unger.

Present: Barondes, L. & T. Belsky, Bowditch, Braunthal, Eggington, Lehman, Navon, E. Posada, Reid, G. Rollason, and Harley Unger

Minutes of 8/10/95 Meeting

Correction: In the Finance Committee report Eve Posada indicated that, since the reference to payment of dues by semester ran counter to our policy, the wording should be changed to "split payment of dues."

After the Secretary disclaimed responsibility for grammatical and other errors that appeared after the minutes left her hands, the minutes were approved.

Announcements by the President

Council meetings will be held at 1:30 P.M. on the 2nd Thursday of each month unless announced otherwise.

It is hoped that, for the sake of the budget, mailings of committees, etc. can be coordinated. Each mailing costs \$60..

Committees are not obligated to implement the suggestions in the Long Range Planning Report, but they are asked to read them carefully.

Copies of the 1993 By-Laws are available in the L I R office.

The fact that some financial assistance towards membership dues is available will be mentioned at the 9/21/95 general meeting.

Past President's Report:

Eleanor Reid announced that she has almost all the reports she needs for her annual report which will be circulated when ready. She will make copies of the 25-page Long Range Planning Report, which was distributed at the 6/8/95 Council Meeting, available to new members of the Council. The general membership received a "summary in progress" before the 2/9/95 General Membership Meeting at which the work of the Task Force was reported. Eleanor will include a final summary in her annual report.

Braunthal: At the 9/21/95 General Membership Meeting a report on long range planning should be made.

T. Belsky: Relevant parts of the report should go to members of each committee.

Lehman: The annual report of each committee should be given to each new committee chair.

Treasurer's Report - Eve Posada:

The 9/7/95 report (appended) is in close agreement with the 5-College accounting. '94-'95 expenses should be increased by \$417. for postage for mailing of the calander. Expenses for '94-'95 were \$16,547.63; '93-'94 expenses were \$17,224.. Net operating gain for this year is close to \$4,292.37.

Prepaid dues are close to the same as last year even though 35 members chose to split their payment.

\$205. has been given to the Donor's Fund.

The total of prepaid dues, money in the special events and Memorial Funds equals \$33,180.28; this includes a carry-over of \$20,000..

The salary increase shown in the budget report reflects the salary paid to the summer helper, Heidi Ernst-Luseno.

Postage costs have increased. We need a more detailed accounting from 5 Colleges, Inc..

It is impossible to make a separate accounting of summer program expenses.

T. Belsky questioned the end-of-July Special Events expenses. He will consult with Eve.

Meetings Committee - David Navon:

Ella Melville has resigned as Chair of the committee. At Harley's request David gathered a committee as follows: Simon and Lee Snook, co-Chairs, Curran, Melville, Navon, Porter, D.

Rollason, Sheehan, and Sutcliffe with Dunn and H. Unger *ex officio*. Seven attended a meeting on 9/5/95. The General Meeting on 9/21/95 from 5 to 7 at the Red Barn will be a pot-luck meal. There will be further discussion about the type of future meetings. Everyone is urged to help with clean-up.

Curriculum Committee - Lehman:

There may be 18 or 19 spaces left in the seminars. The number signed up for each seminar are: American History - 15 (closed), French - 14, Brushwork - 6, Autobiography - 16 (closed), Stuarts - 17, Opera - 12, Mystery - 10, Gilded Age - 16 (closed), Clay - 8, China - 15, Watercolor - 12 (closed), Native American Art - 17 (closed), Computers - 25, Reading the Masters - 15. Children's Books had no sign-ups.

14 reports on summer events have been received so far. Most attendance figures are given in the 8/10/95 minutes. In addition, Violin Acoustics had 17, Conservation Panel - 21, and Investors Forum 18.

More than half of those who attended the kick-off were guests. There were 3 or 4 guests in each of the others. There were some problems: meeting rooms not set up for scheduled events - Red Barn, Stoddard, Amherst College - , rooms too small, and parking problems.

Next summer's coordinator will be asked to work out a tighter sign-up procedure. We may also need more summer office help.

Publicity - Eggington:

The publicity notices for fall semester will indicate that seminars are about to begin, that most seminars are filled but people are urged to call the office and, if they don't succeed this semester, sign up earlier next semester.

Debate followed about procedures for allowing more than 15 in a seminar. Clarification will be forthcoming.

Special Events - T. Belsky:

There will be a trip to Plymouth Plantation on Oct. 9 in conjunction with the American History seminar. Moderators must make suggestions to the Committee for further events.

Harriett Wright and Ann Grose have joined the Committee which now numbers 10 people

The Great Decisions program will be held, and other special event suggestions will be welcomed.

Ginny Senders is reported by Navon to have volunteered to chair the Winter Program.

Membership - Bowditch:

There are 131 paid-up members - about the same number as last year; 15 are new members. We know of 13 persons who were members last year who for various reasons will not be signing up this year. An additional 16 have not yet enrolled; Ben will call them around 9/15.

Membership figures are: '89 - 31, '90 - 88, '91 - 110, '92 - 126, '93 - 133, and '94 - 131.

The big University mailing brought few new members.

A rebate of only \$30. to a member who is away for a semester may discourage membership. If we think of 1/3 of our fee going towards membership, 1/3 for 1st semester, and 1/3 for 2nd semester, maybe the semester rebate should be \$50.. No action was taken.

Braunthal pointed out that Dartmouth College had 500 join their newly-formed LIR almost immediately. Fees are similar. They have a paid coordinator, but the program is mainly one of lectures rather than participatory seminars. The scenario at Berkshire Community College is similar. In our area people can sign up for courses at the five colleges with little or no fee which would seem to indicate that our offering courses in addition to, or instead of, seminars would not tend to stimulate an increased membership.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted

Grace S. Rollason
Grace S. Rollason, Secretary