

Five College LIR Council
Minutes of the meeting of May 14, 1998
Five Colleges, Inc.

Present were Ben Bowditch, Ann and Bob Grose, Marcia Holden, Anne Keppler, Jay Melrose, Eleanor Reid, Paul Rothery, Jane Sherman, Barbara and Diedrick Snock, George Snook, Charlotte Winston, and Jackie Wisneski.

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Bob Grose, and the minutes of the April 9th meeting were approved.

II. The President announced the resignation of Jean Stabell, news of which was received with regret, as she has been generous with her time and counsel.

Bob and Ann will host a late afternoon social hour at their home in June, and invitations will go out for either the 2nd or 16th of the month.

As a result of long-range planning efforts, Bob has some historical material on LIR, which he will pull together for the Decennial Celebration committee. Eleanor suggested that committee chairs might be asked to submit annual reports, as a way of keeping complete historical records.

III. a. *Curriculum*: Eleanor distributed a curriculum list, giving much credit to her excellent committee. There will be eight new moderators, and a total of nineteen seminars for the fall of 1998. The full catalogue, to be provided at the annual meeting, includes an introduction spelling out the duties of the committee as well as the write-ups of each seminar. There will be five available committee slots for next year, and Eleanor brought up the idea of seeking some member expertise (in science, for instance) as well as welcoming volunteers.

Handbooks for moderators and for members are in preparation, and some procedures for committee staffing, etc., are being reconsidered for recommendation to Council.

b. *Finance*: The Treasurer's report of April and year-to-date information was distributed, and Charlotte noted that the amounts for postage and the Newsletter are low because we had projected extra issues. She called attention to the "office supplies" charge for the new printer and software. Bob attended the last meeting of the Finance Committee, at which delayed bills and our "off-center" fiscal year were discussed. The problem of bills going directly to Five Colleges seems to have been dealt with successfully. The committee will consider the possibility of budgeting for summer programs after July 1, as most costs arise after that date.


Bob asked for the consideration of item IV.a. at this time, and a 1998 Summer Program budget of \$650 was moved and approved. Paul asked about having the Summer and January Programs committees handle costs of speakers in the same way the Special Events committee handles trips, with the intent of building a cushion surpluses to cover any deficit. Consensus was that our present flexibility has served us well, and that no change is needed.

This discussion raised the issue of honoraria, and Jane noted that we seem to be establishing a hierarchy among presenters by automatically offering fees. She feels that we need to consider the validity of general honoraria.

c. *Summer Programs*: Paul read the program but gave credit to Barbara for preparing it. There was some discussion of our getting into trouble by inviting the public to non-term-time activities (as in the matter of copyrights) or restricting them to members and guests. Consensus was to "live dangerously".

d. *Special Events:* 3. The planned trip abroad in late spring 1999 will be to Spain, and we are still waiting for final details on dates and locations. The Special Events committee will plan several lectures but no preparatory seminar.

2. In regard to the Workshop on Creative Aging, Bob commended Harley for his initiative and for outreach in working jointly with Highland Valley Elder Services. Those who had attended reported that it somewhat repetitive for those with professional experience, but clearly informative for those without prior training. Jane noted a surprising level of trust among the participants.



e. *Membership:* Ben reported consideration of "special status" membership for long term members, not for auditing but for reduced participation, and distributed a paper suggesting that we give it a trial period. Most comments were positive, and Diedrick noted that the strength of our LIR has been maintained by our willingness to try new things. It was suggested that a more realistic trial period would be a year, and it was moved and approved that Council accept the recommendation of the Membership Committee to offer Special Status as a pilot program for the 1998-99 year. Bob will announce it in his letter in the next Newsletter, and Jackie will include the criteria and procedures in full. The Curriculum Committee will make sure that moderators have advance notice of the Council decision, and how they can respond to requests for special status. Consideration of extending this status to new members was deferred to some time after the trial period.

f. *Newsletter:* Jackie announced that the next deadline for the Newsletter is May 15th.

g. *Meetings:* Plans for the annual meeting are in good shape. Both Summer Program and Curriculum material will be distributed there, and mailed to members not attending.

IV. b. *Decennial Celebration:* Diedrick distributed the report of the ad hoc committee, and it was moved and approved that the report be accepted with thanks.

c. We are still waiting for the computer from Smith, but the printer and software have been purchased, as noted in III.b..

d. Jay will come to the next Council meeting with material on hearing assistance.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45. The next meeting will be held at Five Colleges, Inc., at 1:30 on Thursday, June 11th.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Keppler, Secretary