

Five College LIR Council  
Minutes of the meeting of September 9, 1999  
at Five Colleges, Inc.

Present were Lise Armstrong, Peg Bedell, Ted Belsky, Ed Buck, Jono Hanke, Thelma Isaacs, Amy Johnson, Pat Keating, Anne Keppler, Eve Posada, Paul Rothery, Barbara Snoek, Diedrick Snoek, Harley Unger, Charlotte Winston, Jackie Wisneski and Naomi Yanis.

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Pat Keating, and the minutes of the July meeting were approved.

II. Pat introduced the newly elected members of Council in attendance: Ed, Harley and Naomi, and noted that Eve was with us for the first time as chair of the committee for Conversations over Coffee.

Congratulations were offered to Barbara and Paul for the success of their summer programs.

The October meeting will be on the 14th, and the new program manager of EIN has asked to attend. She also would like to sit in on two seminars that day, and Pat will work with Karen to set that up.

The general meeting on September 22nd will include brief reports on the summer programs, and scheduled programs for Conversations over Coffee. In addition, the announcement of the trip to Arrowhead and the Berkshire Museum will be distributed. This brought up the need to consolidate mailings when possible, and Naomi proposed a regular mailing schedule for other than bulk mailings. She will work on this with Jackie and Karen, and they also will consider the use of postcards for some reminders.

III. a. *Finance:* Charlotte cannot present a new budget as she has not yet received the year-end report from Five Colleges, Inc., but it looks as though our operating expenses will come in very close to operating income. We received \$2000 more in memberships for 1998-99 than for the prior year, but prepaid dues for 1999-2000 are down by about the same amount. If costs for summer and January programs remain the same, we may go over budget in the current year unless membership continues to grow. After considerable discussion, the question of increased dues or fees for programs was sent to the Finance Committee for recommendations to the Council. In order to operate realistically, Ted suggested that the committee set an interim budget, to be adjusted when we have information from Five Colleges.

c. *Curriculum:* Lise reported that we now have registrations for 219 seminar places, in 16 seminars. A shadow proposal for a sing-along was not accepted for a seminar, but might work for a single event - perhaps a Conversation?

Problems with LIR library cards have continued, and the glitch may be just a clerical matter of entering our names centrally. Pat will speak to Ariella and Diedrick will talk with the people at Smith about this.

d. *Summer/January programs:* Barbara said that 340 people had participated in the summer programs, and that they had gone very well. We need to find a venue other than the Amherst Alumni House for future summers as they do not even permit the use of electric fans.

The committee is considering the possibility of a theater trip in January, to Hartford or to West Springfield. If this works out, bus stops in both Amherst and Northampton were strongly urged. This proposal generated more discussion of fees vs. higher dues.

e. *Special Events:* Thelma announced that the trip to Arrowhead and the Berkshire Museum is scheduled for October 23rd, and that the announcement and registration form will be ready for distribution at the general meeting. Ted asked that plans for Great Decisions be started this fall, so that timely announcements can be made.

f. *Newsletter:* Jackie said that the Newsletter will be out at the end of this month, and the deadline for the next issue is the 15th.

g. *Publicity:* Peg told us that the newspaper announcements this fall will list only those seminars which are not yet filled, but will mention that there are other seminars, as well as January programs and Conversations over Coffee.

h. *Conversations over Coffee:* Eve would welcome new committee members for infrequent planning meetings and help arranging food. Topics for this year's five gatherings are set, and the first will be a panel discussion led by Gerry Braunthal on Bridging the Generation Gap - young people and grandparents. This led to a bit of discussion on ways for LIR to interact with students in the five colleges, as surrogate grandparents, perhaps. President Greg Prince has talked about developing such activity.

b. *Membership:* David couldn't be here, but Pat distributed copies of our beautiful new brochure. Suggestions for distribution points included deans' offices, libraries, Councils on Aging, and real estate offices to reach some of those who move to the area every year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10. The next meeting will be held at Five Colleges, Inc., at 1:30 on Thursday, October 14th.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Keppler, Secretary