

Summary of the 5CLIR Long Range Report, Completed October, 1994

I Introduction: Six special Task Forces - governance, curriculum, membership, newsletter/publicity, finance, special events and community service - were established in early 1994. All these task forces became or were standing committees of Council except for "community service" and "governance."

II The Major Assessment: there was overwhelming support expressed for 'peer learning' as the core of 5CLIR activities.

III Membership: The only requirement for membership is "apply and pay your fee," all activities are open to members, "user fees" were rejected. The program will not be diluted to attract members and we will maintain as much cultural and racial diversity as possible. Concern was expressed over a lack of growth with support for a larger membership with advantages listed. New membership should be encouraged. Specific items were suggested to build membership. Consideration should be given to membership longer than one year. More complete and accurate data should be collected. Recommendation for continuing study of the characteristics of membership.

IV Curriculum: Overwhelming support expressed for seminars, moderators and Curriculum Committee's efforts in arranging the program. Support was expressed for a wide range of seminar topics with special concern for planning seminars on scientific or technological topics. There was a recommendation for a survey of members on preferred study groups. A full listing of past seminars was noted and it was recommended that we run brainstorming sessions to suggest seminar topics. No concern was expressed over duplicating Five College offerings.

V Special Activities: Recommendations for continuing field trips, theater visits, etc., and for continuing "new" learning activities like Great Decisions were made. New ideas like PBS' adult learning program were suggested. The matter of labeling activities differently, such as "seminars" as opposed to "discussion groups" or "special activities" was raised. Strong support expressed for 5CLIR being "responsive to members." The Task Force noted support for outreach programs with other organizations with a common purpose, but admitted that "community service" did not have a high priority. It was recommended that each separate activity have a separate budget. Evaluations should be obtained for all activities.

VI Financing, Physical Plant and Equipment: Praise was expressed for the support shown 5CLIR by all of the five colleges and by Five Colleges, Inc. More detail was suggested for our financial accounting. This Task Force began to explore space and physical needs, especially if there were to be significant increase in membership. It was noted that Hadley near the Amherst line is closer to our "center" than Northampton. A lack of uniformly gathered numbers on current and past membership was noted. The Treasurer and Five College Treasurer were encouraged to clarify policy requests. Again, the value of more comprehensive data was noted.

VII Administration: The Task Force endorsed 5CLIR's representative organization. On Committees they encouraged greater participation, and better focus. There was doubt that the use of seminars as nominating committees is not the greatest plan and doubt raised that double nominees be required. It encouraged that only one member of the Council be on the Nominating Committee and that all members be encouraged to suggest names. The question was raised about a "professional coordinator" for 5CLIR. Concern was expressed about communication between Council and Committees and a suggestion of assigning a member of Council as liaison, or better integrating Committee Chairs into the Council. Support was expressed for the establishment of a complete calendar for the year and an effort to coordinate mailings.

VIII Newsletter/Publicity: General praise for our efforts.

IX Miscellany: It was noted that the original "call" for us to begin 5CLIR included a request to survey the valley and inventory opportunities for retirees and recommend additional programs that might be conducted under Five Colleges. It was mentioned that EIN seems worthwhile.

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