

# **FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Wyse at 2:15 p.m.

Council Members Present: Gordon Wyse (President), Marybeth Bridegam (Vice President), Sheila Klem (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Mike Brooks (Secretary), Jim Averill, Joanne Creighton, Chris Hurn, Jonathan Jay, Bobbie Reitt, Terry Rosenfeld, Tyll Van Geel

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Neal Abraham, Larry Ambs, Gail Gaustad, Chuck Gillies, Kay Klausewitz, Peter Reitt, Sara Wright, Tisha Ferguson (Office Manager)

Council Members Absent: Jake Greenburg, Ann Hartman

### **Neal Abraham remarks:**

Gordon introduced Neal Abraham, Executive Director of Five Colleges, Inc., who provided a brief history of collaboration among the area's institutions of higher education. He distributed Five Colleges caps, a booklet describing "Fifty years of Five Colleges, 100 years of campus cooperation," and the consortium's latest newsletter. Topics discussed included the new Five Colleges building being constructed in Hatfield to accommodate rarely-circulated, but nonetheless valued, holdings of the five college/university libraries (this facility will also include offices and meeting spaces), as well as a number of mechanisms for academic cooperation among the institutions.

Jonathan Jay asked about relationships between Five Colleges, Inc., and LIR. Neal said there are two aspects to this relationship: administrative (which is going very well) and "the practical details." LIR is not sufficiently large to handle its own funding, he said, so we are viewed as a "department" of Five Colleges, Inc. They manage our financial accounts and gift funds, and employ our Office Administrator.

Joanne Creighton expressed concern that LIR is not sufficiently well known on the area's campuses. Neal said that several initiatives have been undertaken in the past. Human Resources offices function well in getting information to staff members, but less so in reaching faculty. Joanne suggested that organizations of retired faculty should be targeted; Neal agreed, but said that the initiative for this rests with LIR.

Gordon raised the matter of LIR's office space needs. Neal said that LIR might be given permanent office space in the new building being constructed in Hatfield, but this has not yet been decided. Gordon said that we would prefer to have office space on one of the campuses, rather than in Hatfield. Neal noted, in response, that the new building will have 36 adjacent parking spaces--and, he said, the drive to Hatfield is not a long trip. The discussion then broadened to encompass LIR's need for additional meeting space. Amherst College is considering the construction of a new science building, with the current one becoming available for other uses--which might include seminar space for LIR. None of this is certain, however. Jim Averill asked about Five Colleges arrangements with the Hitchcock Center, the Yiddish Book Center, and the Eric Carle Museum. They have good spaces, Neal responded, but they charge for their use.

**Minutes of the September 8, 2016, Council meeting were approved.**

Tisha affirmed that Council meeting agendas and minutes are routinely sent to all Council members and committee chairs.

**Officers' Reports:**

President: Gordon has appointed two ad hoc committees: (1) a Lottery Task Force, consisting of Kathy Campbell (chair), Larry Ambs, and Miriam Whitney, and charged with reviewing our seminar lottery procedures; and (2) a Survey Task Force, consisting of Marybeth Bridegam, Neil Novik, Chris Hurn and Hy Edelstein, charged with assessing the need for, and nature of, the recently-proposed survey of LIR's membership.

Jonathan moved that these appointments be approved; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

New York Times reporter Amy Zipkin contacted LIR regarding the possibility of interviewing some of our members about their reasons for, and experiences with, retirement in a college town. Her story deadline apparently led to a rapid completion of this project; she had a phone conversation with Tyll Van Geel, but nobody else has been contacted.

Gordon, Jim Scott, and Joan Wofford visited the Northampton Senior Center earlier in the day to provide information about LIR.

Gordon reported receiving an expression of concern that Northampton Lathrop might be pulling back on assistance with space set-up for seminars held there. This seems to have been resolved; there is no problem. Recently we have had two other instances of double-booking of spaces assigned for our seminars--one at Easthampton Lathrop, the other at Loomis. Tisha reminded us that all such matters should be referred to her for resolution.

Finally, Gordon reminded committee chairs that the deadline for submitting material for the Preview Catalog is rapidly approaching.

Vice President: Marybeth regularly attends meetings of all our committees, and expressed her enjoyment of the opportunity to learn about their activities.

Treasurer: Kathy distributed materials regarding our budget and three amendments proposed by the Finance Committee (see New Business for details and action).

Secretary: No report.

Past President: Sheila said that she is meeting with Mount Holyoke personnel next week to work out our Preview space needs. She stressed that committees needing tables at the Preview must let her know ASAP.

**Old Business:** Gordon asked if we have any new committee chairs or committee members. None were noted.

**New Business:**

Kathy moved, on behalf of the Finance Committee, that the budget approved at last May's annual meeting (and prepared before we knew of Liz's departure) be amended as follows:

(1) LIR: Operations - Web: increase from \$200 to \$1200.

Justification: We have already bought a paid version of Jotforms to facilitate on-line payment for LIR membership and programs, and we anticipate buying Constant Contact to facilitate electronic communications with members.

(2) LIR: Personnel - Benefits: decrease from \$26,002 to \$14,000.

Justification: The extra was budgeted for Liz who had two children attending college.

(3) LIR: Personnel - Search: increase from \$0.00 to \$10,300

Justification: This unanticipated expense has already been incurred during the search process to replace Liz.

Kathy's motion to approve these amendments was seconded, and passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports:**

Curriculum. Tyll reported that 25 proposals are "in the hopper" for the spring semester. All except one have been finalized. The span of topics is good--four in literature, six in history, three in public affairs, seven in art and music, and five workshops. Among the 25, 18 are open to auditors.

Development: Chuck Gillies provided the latest numbers for LIR's Campaign for the Future: total commitments are \$205,204.61; the amount actually received to date is \$143,086.16; and the match is \$57,806.61.

Finance: Handled under New Business, above.

Great Decisions: Jake Greenburg was not present, but emailed his report. The committee has selected the following five topics: (1) The Future of Europe; (2) Saudi Arabia in Transition; (3) Trade and Politics; (4) Latin America's Political Pendulum; and (5) Conflicts in the South

China Sea. The committee is currently seeking speakers, and welcomes suggestions in this regard.

Member Services: Gail reported that 85 people attended the September 21 Member Potluck at the Gaustad home. The committee is currently planning for a Newcomers' Coffee in February, plus another as-yet-undetermined event in April.

Public Relations: Nina Scott is ill but recovering. We have been averaging one outreach event per month; Gordon welcomes suggestions of other groups to whom we might speak. Bobbie Reitt suggested that we make a concerted effort to contact retired faculty groups; Joanne added that we might work through retired faculty who are already LIR members. Gordon made a PowerPoint presentation at a UMass Retired Faculty meeting in September, but only 20-22 people attended. Tisha noted that she will soon be "reinventing" some of our promotional materials, most notably our brochure. Larry suggested that we place materials in the hands of realtors. Chuck emphasized retirement communities. Sheila said that we need a Daily Gazette article promoting our upcoming Preview; Tisha will work with Nina on this. Gordon asked that we share relevant photos (from seminars, special events, etc.) with Tisha. Marybeth reminded us that our materials should be aimed not only at retired faculty, but at other recent arrivals as well.

Special Programs: Kay Klausewitz reported that a new photography group, called "Photography Near and Far" and chaired by Marty Espinola, will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, 12:30-1:45 at the Amherst Media Center.

The Theater Group will be attending "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford on October 29. There are still a few seats left on the bus; contact Kay or Gary Roodman for more information. The group has also scheduled a trip to see "Jersey Boys" at the Bushnell in March of 2017.

"A Day of Poetry," usually held on a mid-April afternoon, will be at Northampton Lathrop on April 7. The name has been changed to "A Day of Poetry and Prose," and LIR authors will be showcased.

The committee could use one or two additional members, and will be recruiting at the Preview on November 20.

#### Summer-Winter:

Marybeth contacted Nancy Denig, the committee's chair, urging that their work be accomplished in time for inclusion in the Preview Catalog. The committee has only three members at present; more are needed.

#### Technology

Peter Reitt reported that the committee conducted a four-session computer workshop in September. A three-day program is being planned for January, focusing on email management, organizing one's computer, and internet security.

#### **Office Manager:**

Major activities recently have included preparations for an upcoming Development Committee mailing and finding locations for all of our spring seminars.

An Intern has been hired, and will be working five hours per week. She will assist with the Newsletter and other tasks as needed.

Plans are under way to conduct the next lottery electronically rather than manually. Tisha will review these procedures with the newly-formed Lottery Task Force.

A kit of items has been developed for use in outreach events. Contact Tisha regarding its use.

Paid membership currently stands at 266, with a few dues reminders still awaiting responses.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Brooks, Secretary

October 14, 2016