

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

February 15, 2017

Five College Office, 97 Spring St., Amherst, MA

(Final draft - distributed Mar. 6, 2017)

Council Members Present: Gordon Wyse (President), Sheila Klem (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Mike Brooks (Secretary), Jim Averill, Jake Greenburg, Chris Hurn, Jonathan Jay, Tyll van Geel

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Nina Scott, Tisha Ferguson (Office Manager)

Council Members Absent: Joanne Creighton, Ann Hartman, Bobbie Reitt, Terry Rosenfeld

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Wyse at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes of the December 8 Council meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports:

President: Gordon thanked LIR's committees for their good work, saying that "they make the place run." Several examples were cited: the Tech Committee's recent series of technology workshops; the Publicity Committee's role in publicizing our recent Legislators Forum, with excellent coverage in the Daily Gazette; and the winter programs of the Summer/Winter Committee.

The Member Services Committee is holding a Newcomers' Coffee this Friday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. at Lathrop Northampton. Council members are urged to attend.

The Curriculum Committee has scheduled a Moderators Meeting for Friday, March 3, 1:00 to 3:45 p.m., also at Lathrop Northampton. The meeting is intended primarily for new moderators, but Council members are again urged to participate. If you know a newer member whom you think might be a good moderator, pass that person's name

along to Miriam Whitney, Neil Novik, Laura Price, or Jim Scott (members of the committee planning the event). (NOTE: this event will overlap slightly with an Encore presentation ending at 1 p.m. at Applewood.)

During the week of May 20, LIR's office will move to new quarters in the Friedman Apartment complex, across Elm Street from the Smith campus (behind Helen Hills Hills Chapel). On-site parking will now be available, Smith College is handling the move, and we have a three-year commitment for the use of this space. Minor disruptions in office operations may occur around the time of the move.

Tisha is planning to digitize some of our back (storage) files, and is requesting input regarding what should be retained on paper. Chris and Sheila volunteered to help with these decisions, and Gordon will also invite Sara Wright (LIR's Historian) and a Curriculum Committee member to participate. Given the upcoming move, these decisions should be made by mid-March.

UMass has been planning to create an Emeritus/a Academy, and Gordon will be meeting with the chairs of the Academy Panel to discuss possible relationships with LIR. The Academy's focus will be on retired faculty who are still active in research; it will provide a "home base" and other forms of support. Gordon's objective is to ensure that we "interdigitate constructively" with the Academy, avoiding any potential conflicts and perhaps facilitating the recruitment of new LIR members.

Treasurer: Kathy distributed an up-to-date budget statement, and reported that all is going well in terms of our goals for the year. LIR has recently acquired several new members, and we now number approximately 300.

Secretary: Mike reported that he and Sara Wright emailed LIR's officers and committee chairs in December, inviting them to review those portions of the Operations Manual that pertain to their areas of responsibility. Several responses have been received, ranging from "all is fine" to extensive rewrites. The deadline for submitting revisions is the end of February, after which Mike and Sara will work on bringing the document up to date. Mike asked how Council members wanted to review the suggested changes; the consensus was that both marked-up

and "clean" copies should be submitted to Council members prior to the meeting at which Council will be asked to vote on the revised document.

Old Business:

As requested at the December Council meeting, Tyll distributed a one-page proposal from the Curriculum Committee pertaining to a "Short Term Seminar/Workshop Experiment." The proposal calls for the program to begin this summer, mid-July through August, with no more than three programs being offered, each of which will contain no more than five two-hour sessions. One proposal has already been received. The idea is to run the program for two summers and "see how it works out." The proposal includes a calendar, and some of the dates should be included in LIR's overall calendar. A separate electronic proposal form is being developed. Discussion focused on the reasons for starting in mid-July rather than earlier (the Curriculum Committee and Tisha are occupied with other tasks prior to that time); whether the seminars will be lotteried (no); whether there will be enough people on hand at that time of year to render the seminars feasible (the "experimental" focus should answer this question); and whether offering only three seminars will generate sufficient data to make good decisions about the programs' prospects (not statistically, but useful information will nevertheless be generated). Moderators will be responsible for determining the formats of their seminars. Reflecting the unanimous consensus of those present, Gordon concluded that **the proposal has been accepted, and the Curriculum Committee is authorized to proceed with the program, including the addition of dates to LIR's calendar as appropriate.**

To what extent should minutes of past Council meetings be accessible on LIR's website? This issue was tabled until next month's meeting.

Several new committee members have been added: Ellen Kosmer to the Curriculum Committee, Jim Perot to the Technology Committee, Joan McKelvey to the Great Decisions Committee, Joan Davis to the Publicity Committee (subject to her concurrence), and Chuck Aulino to the Finance Committee. **Chris Hurn moved that Council accept these additions; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.**

New Business:

An issue raised by the Nominating Committee--whether they must re-nominate, each year, those officers serving one-year terms but with the possibility of continuing for up to three years--was tabled until the next meeting.

Tisha has drafted a standard letter to be sent to an appropriate recipient--generally a family member--following the death of an LIR member. While much of the letter is standardized, it also needs specific information about the deceased member, and Tisha asked how this information might best be obtained. Difficulties in doing so were discussed, and no definitive answer was reached. Discussion included a concern about identifying the appropriate recipient for such a letter; we have emergency contact information for most members, and that individual would generally be the person to whom the letter is sent. In terms of timing, the general letter will be sent as soon as possible following a member's death, regardless of the time of year; a second communication will be sent, likely electronically, inviting attendance at the Memorial Service in January. **Chris Hurn moved that we endorse the concept of sending a letter to the appropriate individual following the death of a member; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.**

Gordon reported that the date of the Annual Meeting and Preview of Summer and Fall Programs has been shifted to May 7, a week later than originally scheduled, owing to a conflicting event at Smith College. A second date must also be changed: given the move of our office during the week of May 20, LIR's lottery must be delayed to June 9 (again, one week later than originally scheduled). This will result in seminar rosters being distributed in mid-June--not ideal, but unavoidable under the circumstances. **Those present approved these changes unanimously by acclamation.**

The Curriculum Committee has submitted a calendar for the 2017-18 year. It will be distributed to Council members by email, and voted upon at next month's meeting.

Jonathan asked whether it would be possible to notify members of their positions on seminar waiting lists; being first or second on the list, he said, is quite different from being farther down the list, and has implications for one's preparation and plans. Following extensive discussion, the consensus was that we should adhere to our current policies for now (members know they are on the waiting list, but not their position on the list), but the Curriculum Committee should consider this issue and decide whether to recommend a policy change.

Jonathan raised a second issue, expressing concern about those members who wait an inordinate amount of time before notifying a moderator that they will not be taking that seminar after all. He recommended that an appropriate statement be added to the class lists when they are distributed, urging people to notify the office as soon as possible if they are indeed unable to participate in the seminar. Other possible ways of communicating this message were also discussed. Jonathan will draft an appropriate statement and submit it for the Council's consideration.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum. Tyll reported that the committee has been working on suggested revisions for the Operations Manual; LIR's 2017-18 calendar; the short-term seminar proposal; reviewing results (very positive thus far) of the auditing experiment; planning the Moderators Meeting; and revising the electronic proposal form. Eleven proposals have been received thus far, and more are needed; the deadline is March 17.

Finance: Kathy urged committee chairs to submit their 2017-18 budget requests as soon as possible, since the Finance Committee is at work on next year's budget and will submit it for review at the March meeting. On another matter, **Kathy moved that Council authorize transferring an additional \$25,000 from the Campaign for the Future Fund to the Investment Fund for the fourth quarter. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.**

Great Decisions: Jake displayed a draft of the cover for the Great Decisions briefing book. The committee had a difficult time finding speakers this year, requiring more contacts than usual, but they are very pleased with the final results and anticipate an excellent series focused

on timely topics. The series begins on March 31. With Tisha's assistance, the website is being updated to facilitate on-line payment. Brochures will be distributed March 3-6. Jake reported that the Senior Center has been highly cooperative this year. He is hoping for additional publicity via an interview on Bill Newman's radio show on WHMP-AM.

Public Relations/Publicity: Nina distributed copies of two LIR-based "ethnic markets" articles recently published in the Daily Gazette. These have generated good feedback, as has the Gazette's fine coverage of our Legislators Forum.

Office Manager:

Tisha reported that she is very pleased with her current Intern. Together they are working on updating LIR's website; programming the lottery so as to totally automate it; and preparing for the office move. She has purchased Constant Contact for our Newsletter and other communications; it includes a survey feature that might prove useful.

Nina reported that the UMass Five College Credit Union has a space that can be made available to us for meetings and even seminars. Sheila added that Ascent Audiology also has a space we could use.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Mike Brooks, Secretary
February 15, 2017