

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2017

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

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

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Nancy Clune, Chuck Gillies, Nina Scott, Sara Wright, Tisha Ferguson (Office Manager)

Council Members Absent: Jim Averill

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Wyse at 2:17 p.m.

Minutes of the February 9 Council meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports:

President

Gordon began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of long-time member Arnold Friedmann, who died on February 17. LIR has received gifts in his memory; tax letters will be sent to the donors, and a letter will be sent to Arnold's family informing them of the gifts.

The New Members Coffee held on February 17 was a "great success," with a number of new members in attendance. Gordon expressed LIR's gratitude to the Member Services Committee for its good work on this event, and to the Curriculum Committee for the Moderators Meeting it conducted on March 3.

Spring seminars have started smoothly.

Gordon is in continuing discussions with those in charge of UMass's Emeritus Academy, aimed at ensuring that their programs supplement

ours rather than competing with them. The Academy plans to hold a large spring event with a prominent outside speaker; we'll be "sorting that out" to avoid competition with our own events.

Planning is underway for the move of our office from Smith's library to new quarters. Sara Wright (our Historian) and Sheila Klem will be working with Tisha to determine which paper files to digitize.

Vice President

Marybeth is chairing the Survey Committee, which has met several times. Committee chairs and others were invited to suggest questions, but only five responses were received. The Committee has opted for a strategy of conducting "mini-surveys" from time to time, each focused on a separate topic, rather than carrying out a single large survey.

Past President

Sheila reminded us that the Annual Meeting and Preview of Summer and Fall Programs will be held at Smith on May 7. She urged committee chairs and moderators to contact her regarding the facilities they will need on that occasion.

Secretary

Mike reported that he and Sara are working on an update of the Operations Manual, and will have a draft ready for consideration at the April Council meeting.

Old Business:

Tyll reported that the Curriculum Committee had discussed Jonathan's suggestion that members be informed of their positions on seminar waiting lists, especially if they were in the number 1 or 2 position. The Committee rejected this idea, however, on the grounds that it entailed too many complications and would impose a significant burden on our Office Manager.

The discussion then turned to other aspects of communication regarding the existence and size of waiting lists. Joanne said that

moderators should certainly be told how many people are on their waiting lists; conflicting views were expressed as to whether this is already being done. Chris moved that prospective seminar members placed on waiting lists be informed as to whether the lists in question are "short" or "long;" the motion died for lack of a second. **Tyll moved, on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, that moderators be notified whether they have a waiting list, as well as the number of names on the list. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. Gordon asked for a second vote regarding whether this action should be inserted in the Operations Manual; the vote was unanimous in favor of doing so.**

No new committee chairs or members were presented for approval. Gordon reminded us that the President appoints the chairs of each committee, in consultation with the current chairs and with the approval of Council. The chairs select the members of their committees, again subject to Council approval. This procedure is specified in the Operations Manual.

New Business:

Kathy distributed a proposed budget for the 2018 fiscal year. The reduced dues figure from 2017 reflects the fact that a number of members have prepaid their dues. The increased budget for the Member Services Committee assumes a "small" spring 2018 event; if the Committee opts for a "large" event, this should be brought to Council for its consideration. Catalog and Preview line items have been increased. The colleges are charging more for our Previews--catering, set-up and custodial personnel, etc. Marybeth noted that Smith does a lot for us without billing us, but asked what the other colleges contribute? Sheila said that we should get an answer to this question. Joanne said that it is always important to lobby with the colleges for attention and support. Terry asked if we could use the other colleges for our Previews; Sheila responded that we've used Amherst in the past, but that parking was a problem. Hampshire was also used many years ago. We paid Amherst for the space used for the recent Memorial Service. **Gordon asked for a vote on the proposed budget; it was approved unanimously.**

Bobbie reported on actions of the Nominating Committee. In response to recent confusion on this point, the Committee has proposed that the

following language be added to the Operations Manual: **The Nominating Committee is responsible for determining whether officers serving one-year terms are eligible to serve an additional one-year term and, if an officer is eligible and willing to serve again, for nominating that person for re-election. Joanne moved that this wording be added to the Operations Manual; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.**

The Nominating Committee has also suggested that there be no check box by the President's name on the ballot, since that person has already been elected. Jonathan suggested that an explanation to this effect should be included on the ballot.

The Committee also notes that problems have occurred with the succession sequence between the Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer; the Finance Committee should discuss this matter, and ensure that the respective duties of the two positions are clearly defined.

Finally, the Nominating Committee offers the following slate of officers for the 2017-18 year:

President: Marybeth Bridegam (already elected)

Vice President and President Elect: Michael Brooks

Secretary: Cynthia Barker

Treasurer: Kathy Campbell (re-election)

Assistant Treasurer: Chuck Aulino

Gordon thanked the Committee--consisting of Bobbie Reitt (Chair), Larry Ambs, Lise Armstrong, Jim Harvey, and Betsy Loughran--for their good work.

The Curriculum Committee passed, and has forwarded to Council for its consideration, a motion to **limit the number of moderators of seminars and workshops to two (one moderator plus a co-moderator), except under exceptional circumstances (e.g., an unforeseen illness) in which the Curriculum Committee receives a request to approve a third co-moderator and approves that request.** Tyll noted that the question has arisen in part from a concern that a member might agree to be a co-moderator in order to ensure a place in that seminar! Other circumstances might also arise, however; hence the recommendation to leave the matter with the Curriculum

Committee. While no data is currently available, Tyll stated his impression that the number of seminars with co-moderators may be increasing slightly. Sheila asked whether this might be shrinking the pool of potential moderators; Tyll responded that, on the contrary, it may actually be increasing that pool. **Tyll moved approval of the above motion; it was seconded, and passed unanimously.** Terry then asked whether a moderator might want to elevate a participant to co-moderator status after the seminar had started. Tyll responded that such a person would have missed an important part of the moderator role--namely, participating in the seminar's design and preparation.

The Curriculum Committee has also revised the Calendar for 2017-18 to include dates associated with the recently approved "short courses." The Calendar is on LIR's website. Sheila asked if the short courses will be included in the upcoming Catalog. Tyll answered that they won't be ready yet, so can't be included. Descriptions of short courses will be distributed by email when they are ready.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum. Membership is now up to 300, with a number of people having joined in recent months. The Moderators Meeting had 24 people in attendance, five to seven of them new potential moderators. One "short seminar" proposal has already been received. In a recent meeting between Tyll and Nancy Denig, Nancy expressed concern that we are offering so many LIR events that attendance at Summer/Winter events may be suffering. As of this date, the Curriculum Committee is processing 23 proposals for the fall, featuring a good range of topics; the maximum, given space availability, is 25. If that number is exceeded, some may be asked to postpone their seminars to a later semester.

Development. Chuck reported that the Development Committee "has declared victory." The amount raised to date is \$212,636.14, with \$201,186.14 actually in the bank. In response to a question, Gordon noted that memorial gifts have their own category and are not included in the development fund.

Chuck noted that the 5CLIR Investment Fund was initiated with a set of five objectives, one of which is to "encourage new programs." He gave examples of "unusual" programs offered in recent years, and expressed

the hope that some of the money raised in the campaign will be used as "seed money" for similar programs in the future. Joanne asked how new ideas are generated, and suggested that consideration be given to retreats and other opportunities for brainstorming.

Chuck recommends that the Finance Committee assume oversight of these funds, since the Development Committee is disbanding. He also announced that John Lombardi will be the speaker at the spring event, and that a Legacy Campaign is being planned.

Enthusiastic congratulations and applause were given to Chuck and his Committee--Larry Ambs, John Armstrong, Sandy Belden, Kathy Campbell, Chuck Gillies (Chair), Carol Jolly, Betsy Loughran, and Joan Wofford--for their successful efforts with the campaign.

Great Decisions. The first program will be held on March 31, and brochures are in the mail. Registration can occur on our website or by mail. These events are open to the public and should be widely publicized; this series is a good recruiting tool for us. Emails will be sent to the full LIR membership prior to each event. Jake noted that Linda Desmond, the Senior Center's new Director, has been "extremely accommodating," and should be thanked accordingly.

Member Services. Nancy reported a good turnout for the New Members Coffee on February 17. The Committee will meet soon to plan its April event.

Public Relations/Publicity: The final "tasting circle" article was published in the Daily Gazette recently, and will be included in next month's Newsletter. She has received many positive comments regarding her articles on ethnic markets. She is working with Jake on publicity for Great Decisions programs, and will ensure Daily Gazette coverage. Larry noted that photos are important. Tisha encourages members to submit more pictures. Joanne suggested that our President write a letter to retiring and emeriti faculty members at the five colleges, telling them about our organization. She also urges lobbying with deans of faculty. Gordon noted that he will be meeting with the UMass staff member who oversees their retirement process.

Special Programs: A written report from Kay reported that the semi-annual meeting of the Special Programs committee is scheduled for March 14. Wendy Parrish is a new member of the Committee; at least three additional members will be needed soon.

Terry reported that nine members have signed up for the March 25 "Jersey Boys" performance at the Bushnell in Hartford. April 7 will feature "An Afternoon of Poetry and Prose: Celebrating LIR Authors," moderated by Bob Barker. Other upcoming events include the Science Round Table at the Hitchcock Center on March 16.

New Issue. Chuck expressed concern about the format of the recently distributed Newsletter, with its heavy emphasis on links to important content. Tisha has received considerable feedback, both positive and negative, and is working to develop a more "hybrid" version. Larry asked why the format has been changed. Tisha suggested some potential advantages--use of video material, improved readability on electronic devices, etc. There was general concern, however, that the new format relies too heavily on links, and is not visually enticing. Tisha assured that "steps are being taken" to resolve the matter.

Office Manager: Tisha requested that a Technology Committee member meet with her within the next month to review and help decide what elements of our current technology should be kept and what eliminated. The office move will occur after June 15--later than originally announced--due to complaints from Smith faculty regarding disruption.

Tisha suggested that we devote some attention to getting LIR included in obituaries as a possible memorial gift recipient. Bobbie suggested that the way to do this is to remind members, since many write their own obituaries in advance. Attention is being given to cleaning up the website, and to fine-tuning the lottery program.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Mike Brooks, Secretary
March 15, 2017

THIS REPORT IS ATTACHED TO THE MINUTES AT THE REQUEST OF CHUCK GILLIES, CHAIR, DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

To: 5CLIR Council

From: Chuck Gillies,

March 09, 2017

A Call for New Ideas

For over 25 years 5CLIR has successfully run many peer-led seminars and will continue to do so for the next 25 years. But we have also developed over the years several unique programs (at one point called "blockbusters"). At the beginning of our SCLIR Campaign for the Future the Development Committee, supported by Council, identified five "needs or desires" that we were raising the money for:

1. Enhance our long term financial security;
2. Increase our administrative support;
- 3. Encourage new programs;**
4. Have funds available for necessary space rentals;
5. Keep fees low to reach as many seniors as possible.

I am taking this opportunity to try and stimulate thinking on goal #3, "Encourage new programs."

I know that programs of any kind depend on volunteers and workers. However, I believe that among our members may be individuals with an idea or a passion that does not fit our standard array of programs, but that would be immensely satisfying, enhance the LIR experience and help build the membership. And, from my experience, there are good LIR people "ready to help."

Here are examples of successful "unusual" 5CLIR programs over the last several years:

1. You and Your Genome (Fall, 2001); 5CLIR member Ginny Senders initiated and secured Prof. Molly Fitzgerald-Hayes of UMass to "pilot" this program (designed for incoming UMass freshmen) for about 75 LIR members held at Hampshire College. Over eight weeks we learned about the latest scientific info on DNA and even found out how to take our own. The only cost - absorbed by LIR - was Xeroxing the materials distributed. Offered for LIR members only.
2. Emergence (Science and Religion - Fall, 2003); 5CLIR member Cliff Matthews organized and led this five-part series held at a number of the five colleges. Nationally prominent speakers (Lynn Margulis, Dorion Sagan, retired UMass Chancellor David Scott, and Mathews himself) were linked with LIR speakers (John Armstrong, Bob Grant, Diedrick Snoek, Bert Bandman, and Dottie Rosenthal). Open to the public at no charge.
3. Slavery and Its Legacy (Feb. - April, 2005). Chuck Gillies and a team of 5CLIR members put together this six-part series of talks about slavery and its current consequences. Included were Tony Marx (Pres., Amherst College) and Lucas Wilson (Af-Am Studies, Mt. Holyoke), several LIR members (Chuck, Bob Romer and Frank Heston), UMass and other Five College professors and nationally

known scholar, Derrick Bell. Funds were raised - open to the public at no charge.

4. Aging Creatively (April, 2007) Joan Hastings, initiated and led this one day program of workshops and seminars on a variety of topics of interest to all who are aging. Held at Smith College with cooperation of the Smith School for Social Work. Open to the public with a charge.

5. Aging ????? (April, 2008?) Joan Hastings led a second "Aging" conference (details missing from my records).

6. The Civil War Symposium (Oct. 14 & 15, 2011). Chuck Gillies and a 5CLIR team produced this two-day workshop held at UMass featuring Eric Foner (Columbia), David Blight (Yale), Charles Dew (Williams), Manisha Sinha (UMass) and many other nationally known scholars talking about the causes and consequences of the War. Funds were raised - open to the public free of charge.

7. Also, of course, from the beginning 5CLIR has successfully run Great Decisions, the Foreign Policy Association program on foreign policy.

8. The "Thomas Perls Event" (April, 2015). Initiated by the Development Committee and run by the Members Services Committee, over 100 people attended this talk by Thomas Perls and the related social event.

This list may not be complete, **but how can we stimulate the membership to think on this?** Because of the success of the Campaign there is clearly "seed money" available to launch some new "blockbuster" or other new program.

If you have an idea speak to a 5CLIR officer or member of Council.