

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 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), Jim Averill, Joanne Creighton, Jake Greenburg, Jonathan Jay, Terry Rosenfeld, Tyll van Geel

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

Council Members Absent: Ann Hartman, Chris Hurn, Bobbie Reitt

The meeting was called to order by President Gordon Wyse at 2:16 p.m.

Minutes of the March 9 Council meeting: Joanne moved approval of the minutes; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Officers' Reports:

President

Gordon announced that the annual spring social will be held on April 19. Question: may spouses attend? Answer: yes.

Fall seminar materials are in Tisha's hands, and she is at work on them--identifying appropriate meeting spaces, etc. Betsy Siersma and Nancy Clune are proofreading the seminar descriptions. Work on the fall semester catalog is also progressing. Transition to a new Newsletter format is proceeding smoothly; the latest edition generated no complaints. Planning is under way for the projected office move; Sara and Sheila will be meeting with Tisha to assist in identifying the paper documents that should be retained rather than digitized.

Gordon reported that Nominating Committee chair Bobbie Reitt cracked a vertebra in a recent fall, and will thus be out of commission for a while.

Vice President

Marybeth noted that she has attended a number of committee meetings during the past month. She reminded the committee chairs of the April 24 deadline for submission of their annual reports. She is also interested in receiving LIR-related photos, especially those showing members engaged in LIR activities.

Past President

Sheila urged committee chairs and moderators to contact her regarding any special requests for tables and/or other facilities that will be needed at the Annual Meeting and Preview on May 7.

Treasurer

The latest budget figures were distributed to Council members in advance of the meeting. Income thus far is well above the budgeted amount. Dues income is \$69,500.

Tyll asked whether our rental costs have been increasing. The five colleges do not charge us for space; Tisha noted, however, that some local non-profits are squeezed for income, and thus might start charging us. Nina asked whether we are planning to use space available at the Five College Credit Union; not at this time, Tisha responded, but possibly in the future.

Terry asked whether the Campaign for the Future has its own budget. The answer: yes; its budget is not included in LIR's operating budget. Larry Ambs provided the latest figures for the Campaign: a total of \$213,186.14 committed, with \$201,736.14 "in the bank." The design of a brochure for the upcoming Legacy campaign is almost complete.

Secretary

Mike reported that he had encountered a technology glitch in downloading the current version of the Operations Manual. Tisha has

resolved the matter, however, and the updated version will be distributed for review prior to the May Council meeting.

Old Business:

Only two nominations for Council membership have been received from current seminars thus far; more are desired. Two emails have been sent to moderators reminding them to solicit nominations. Joanne asked why we need a sizable number of nominees when only three spots will be open. Responses noted that this is the only means by which nominations occur; the process is one way to ensure that Council is not perceived as a "closed operation"; it is a way for members to become better known in the organization; and it helps ensure that Council is broadly representative of the membership. Nominations are sent to Tisha; she will collect and distribute bios after the Annual Meeting.

LIR's 2016-17 calendar has been revised to include dates associated with the new "Short Seminar" program.

New Business:

Further discussion occurred regarding the membership social to be held on April 19, 4-6 p.m. at the Hadley Meeting House. The planned Legacy Campaign will be introduced on that occasion. Our speaker, John Lombardy, will be introduced by John Armstrong. Sheila noted that in the future we will once again need to fund this event under our operating budget (it comes from the Development Committee budget this year), so we may need to charge for tickets. Chuck Gillies has urged members to generate ideas for special programs that might be appropriate for Campaign for the Future funding; Larry suggested that the annual social event might be such a program.

Regarding the Annual Meeting and Preview of Summer and Fall Programs, to be held at Smith on May 7, Sheila noted that committee chairs will be asked to sit in the front and to offer short descriptions of their committees' roles. Terry suggested that we invite Channel 5 to cover the event; he will discuss this with Nina.

Tisha offered additional information about the office move scheduled to occur approximately June 15. The new space will be in the Friedman Apartments, which are being renovated for office use. We will have

three rooms, including a small meeting space. Smith College is handling the move. Pete Reitt helped review our electronic equipment; Tisha will distribute a list of the items not being moved, and members are invited to acquire them if desired. The Ad Hoc Survey Committee recently met with Tisha, and the first "short survey," this one dealing with social events, will be conducted next week.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum. Approved proposals for fall seminars were transmitted to Tisha on April 3. The Committee's Preview assignments have been made. Responding to a reminder from Marybeth regarding members' interests in the social aspects of LIR, the Moderators Handbook will be revised to include some suggestions in this regard. Two "Short Seminars" are being developed for the summer; there is still room for one more.

Data provided by Tyll indicate that we had 297 members in the spring of 2017; 235 of them were enrolled in the 25 seminars offered; seminars averaged 13.5 participants; and 19 seminars were lotteried--though Larry noted that there were problems with the lottery this semester, and that number may not provide an accurate picture. No members were shut out of all their choices. The major constraint on offering more seminars is space.

Great Decisions. The first program, scheduled for March 31, was cancelled because of "non-snow" (Jake's phrase); the Senior Center needed to know our intentions by 4:30 p.m. the previous afternoon, and at that point the forecast was still calling for severe weather. Unfortunately, the speaker showed up despite the cancellation; he was "tracked down" and presented with an Atkins Farm basket. He was not available for a later date, so that program will not be rescheduled. Those who paid in advance have the choice of receiving a refund or making their payment a contribution to LIR. Jake asked whether the speaker should be given the fee for which he had contracted; the consensus was that he should indeed be paid.

Member Services.

Nancy reported that all preparations have been made for our April 19 social event, and that more food will be provided this year.

Public Relations.

Nina distributed copies of several articles about LIR programs that have been published during the past several months. Space availability in the Daily Hampshire Gazette has been shrinking, making it more difficult to have our articles accepted for publication. Gordon suggested that we seek more ways to get publicity through non-print media.

Special Programs.

The Committee held its semi-annual meeting last week. Two members, Kay Klausewitz (the current chairperson) and Beverly Von Kreis, are at the end of their three-year terms. Ilene Rosenfeld will become the chairperson as of July 1, 2017.

The newest special program is Favorite Poems, facilitated by Martha Nelson and Elizabeth Armstrong. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Family History program has been dropped for now, but may continue intermittently and informally among those LIR members interested in it.

"An Afternoon of Poetry and Prose" was held at Lathrop Northampton on April 7. The Special Programs Committee will need a table at the May 7 Annual Meeting and Preview, so as to present displays regarding the ten special interest groups currently operating (Book Interest Group; Encore Presentations; Favorite Poems; French Conversation; Opera Prep; Photography Near and Far; Salon Music; Science Roundtable; Theater Interest Group; and Viewpoints).

Wendy Parrish, the Committee's newest member, has suggested an idea for a new program aimed at seeking common ground among those with divergent political views. The Committee is exploring this idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Mike Brooks, Secretary
April 18, 2017