

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

June 8, 2017

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

(First draft - distributed June 10, 2017)

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

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Chuck Aulino, Kay Klausewitz, Jim Perot, Nina Scott, Tisha Ferguson (Office Manager)

Council Members Absent: Jake Greenburg, Bobbie Reitt.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Marybeth Bridegam (filling in for President Gordon Wyse) at 2:15 p.m. She began the meeting by calling for a moment of silence in memory of long-time member Pete Reitt.

Minutes of the May 11 Council meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Officers' Reports:

President

Marybeth read a brief written report from Gordon Wyse, focused primarily on correcting recent errors in our election process. The customary procedure will now be followed, and any ballots submitted by mail thus far will be discarded. There was general agreement that the Operations Manual, currently silent on election procedures, should contain a description of those procedures.

Treasurer

The June 1 financial report was distributed in advance of the meeting. Kathy noted that some of the numbers might appear "strange" since we

have recently converted back to a July 1-June 30 fiscal year. She explained the impacts of this change on some of the figures in our four major accounts.

Secretary

Mike reported continuing difficulties with the formatting of Operations Manual revisions. Some progress has been made, however, thanks to the efforts of Chuck Aulino, and the document should be ready for distribution in the near future. Matters to be discussed later in today's meeting will likely lead to additional changes.

Old Business:

Returning to the election issue, Joanne asked why we are not conducting our elections electronically. Marybeth responded that we have a mail procedure that has worked well to date. The ballots about to be mailed out will include new officers as well as candidates for Council, along with brief bios. Gordon has asked Jim Harvey to create a small group of tellers, who will count the ballots.

Tyll noted that LIR's Calendar has been revised, focusing on corrections and on revised deadlines for the submission of proposals. The correct version is dated 6/3/17.

Ellen Kosmer has agreed to serve as co-chair of the Curriculum Committee next year. **Tyll moved that Council approve this appointment; the motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.**

Larry suggested that we need to increase the number of members involved in technology issues; he thinks we may have difficulty finding a new chair to replace Pete Reitt. Marybeth suggested that the membership be canvassed regarding possible interest in technology matters. Tom suggested that our need is for people with expertise not just in computers in general, but in specific aspects of computer technology.

Tisha reported that that the office move has been pushed back to July 19/20, since furniture will not be delivered until that time. The office's computers will be "down" for only a brief period. Terry asked if we will

need new equipment; Tisha replied that it is more a "winnowing" process, involving getting rid of old equipment that we no longer need.

Marybeth then raised the ongoing question as to how we should use the income from our Investment Fund. She reminded us of the five major goals that had been articulated at the outset of the Campaign for the Future, and she invited proposals for consideration at the August Council meeting. Eventually we will have approximately \$8000 to spend each year, though the figure for next year will be slightly less than \$4000. Chris said that we will need to choose between spreading the money around to a number of small items versus spending it on one or two big projects. Marybeth reminded us that Chuck Gillies had offered a number of suggestions in a document that was appended to the minutes of the March Council meeting; she suggested that we review that document. Ann Hartman suggested that we sponsor a program regarding the nation's current political situation.

New Business:

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kathy proposed new wording for the Operations Manual sections dealing with membership and dues (see the text at the end of these minutes). One major change is in stressing that one's dues must be up to date before one can register for seminars. Tisha said this is not understood by all members, and should be clearly communicated; Kathy said she will draft such a communication. Jonathan said that this point should be reiterated every semester, perhaps in the Preview packet and/or on the registration form. **Terry moved that the proposed wording be placed in the Operations Manual; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.**

The Finance Committee wants to move another \$25,000 from our Reserve to the Investment Fund for the next fiscal year. Kathy moved that this action be approved; the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Marybeth asked for volunteers to draft text about our voting procedures to be inserted in the Operations Manual. Larry volunteered, and will involve Sara Wright (our Historian) as well.

Jonathan moved that a plant be sent to Bobbie Reitt on behalf of LIR. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Public Relations. Nina reported that the Daily Hampshire Gazette has a new Hampshire Life editor, who has been responding positively to LIR contacts. More Tasting Circle articles will be published soon. Nina proposed a tour of the Gazette, and will involve the Winter/Summer Programs Committee in planning this activity. Nina is in the process of gathering a list of UMass retired faculty.

Curriculum. The Committee wants to add wording to the Operations Manual regarding the currently-employed policy that, in the event of co-moderators, only one of them receives preference in the lottery. The Committee is also dealing with problems stemming from failures of members to follow instructions; for example, some fail to indicate how many seminars they want to take. (Heretofore the default number in such cases has been 2; that will be changed to 1.) Problems also arise when two people want to "partner" in a particular seminar, but only one of them so indicates. (A recent resignation occurred over this issue.)

The short-term seminars scheduled for this summer are showing good enrollments. One is already filled.

The Committee plans to add a "style page" to the Moderators Manual, including tips on citing books and other issues.

Moderators now have the responsibility for sending seminar rosters to their participants. Some long-term moderators apparently haven't picked up on this change, however, so will be reminded. Jim and Jonathan urged that this situation be closely monitored.

Kathy moved that the Operations Manual changes proposed by the Curriculum Committee be approved, with specific wording to be sent to the Secretary by Tyll. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously. (Secretary's note: normally we should be voting on specific wording for such matters. This was considered an exception, however.)

Tisha reported that about six seminars have waiting lists at this point; two or three of the lists are quite long, while the rest are under six people. Two seminars have very low enrollments, and options for

dealing with this are being discussed between the Committee and the moderators. All seminars with openings at this point are listed on our website.

Great Decisions. Jake was not present, but submitted a written report that reads as follows:

We had our last committee meeting for the year last week. The results of the feedback forms were reviewed. Most of the speakers received very high grades. One speaker received an average rating. We also reviewed the comments from those who attended the programs. There were many good ideas to implement for next year and we will take those into consideration in our future meetings. We averaged 78 - 80 participants for each session which was a little higher than in previous years. Budget wise we made a net surplus of a little over \$900 We would like to add 2 members to our committee for next year. I am also pleased to announce that Prunella Fiddian-Green has accepted to be co-chair with me for next year.

Special Programs.

Kay distributed a written report, which is appended at the end of these minutes. Following discussion of some of its points, **Tyll moved that (1) an honorarium be provided for a speaker for a special program honoring the conclusion of the effort to raise money for the Fund for the Future; (2) that money from the Fund be used for this event as an illustration of the kinds of uses to which the money can be put; and (3) that Chuck Gillies be honored at the event for his leadership of the Fund for the Future and for his contributions to LIR over a period of many years. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.**

Technology. The Committee was thanked for its recent offer of technology assistance to LIR members.

Gratitude and applause were given to Jim Averill, Terry Rosenfeld, and Tyll van Geel, whose Council terms ended with this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Mike Brooks, Secretary
June 10, 2017

This replace General Policies on Half-year Memberships and Rebates and also the section on Membership Dues in Appendix A.

Membership and Dues

The membership year begins on July 1. Membership dues are set annually after being proposed in the Annual Budget and voted by Council. They are listed on the membership forms included in the catalog and on line.

Membership dues for the upcoming membership year are accepted before the start of the membership year. Seminar requests will not be recorded until membership dues are received. In particular, members wishing to have their choices entered into the lottery must pay their dues before the date of the lottery, which is usually two to three weeks after the Preview.

Full members may participate in seminars, special programs and summer/winter programs (some of which may carry an additional cost) as well as various other activities throughout the year. Full members receive all publications and are entitled to vote in annual elections, join a committee, and receive a membership card which provides borrowing privileges at the libraries of the five colleges and free transportation on the PVTAs from one college to another.

Any person who has never previously been a 5CLIR member may become a new member for one half year by paying half the regular membership fee for either the fall or spring semester. If the half year is the fall, and the person wishes to continue as a member, he or she must then pay the balance of the annual membership fee before registering for spring seminars. Half-year members shall have all the privileges of regular membership including lottery participation and voting rights.

Those who have previously been full members of 5CLIR but find themselves unable to participate fully in the organization may become associate members at one half the cost of regular membership. Associate members may not participate in seminars or vote, but may partake of all of other privileges of membership.

If a full member is unable to register for a fall or spring semester, or both, he or she may apply in writing to the Office Manager for a single \$50 refund per year. The request must be received by March 15 of the membership year.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS REPORT

June 8, 2017

Submitted by Kay Klausewitz

During the past year 2016-2017 there have been ten groups meeting regularly. Family History has discontinued and My Favorite Poems has formed. Other groups that began while I have been chair are the Photography and Theater Interest groups.

A potential new member called me because she was particularly interested in the Theater Group but she had not yet joined LIR. Of course, I encouraged her to join: she very much wants to be part of a group of people who are interesting and active. She talked about the reasons for her hesitation and also that of several of her friends.

What she said is that the ten week seminars require a commitment that is too long. I told her that we are trying shorter seminars this summer. She said that Fall and Winter are prime times to travel and she wants to do that while she is able. She suggested that the format would appeal to more people if the seminars were divided into two 4 or 5 week sessions, back to back so that people could just do one or both. I liked that idea very much because Ron & I have the same constraints and for that reason we feel like we should not take any Spring seminars in 2018. We go to Florida in January and February, which causes us to miss the first two seminar sessions. I would like to see this suggestion be seriously considered, especially if the short seminars prove to be popular.

On another topic:

I am pleased to announce that the new coordinator for Encore is Joan Wofford. I believe she needs to be approved by a vote from Council.

The next offering of the Theater Interest Group will be on October 28 for a matinee performance of either the musical Rags at the Goodspeed Theater in East Haddam CT or the play, Robert Frost, at the Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vermont. Theater goers are currently voting on their choice. Date for either is October 28.

And finally, a suggestion by Tyll van Geel, has been submitted to Special Programs for consideration. This is what Tyll says, "Fred Bogin, a member of LIR, is a retired physician and is working with children who have issues by using hypnosis. What Fred has to say about hypnosis is quite interesting and he said he would be willing to give a one-time talk about his work." Committee members feel that this could be incorporated into either Science Roundtable or into Encore since it was previously presented as part of Fred's seminar on Alternative Medicine.

This feeds back into what our "potential member" suggested. I too would like to see more one-time events, rather like a series of TED talks, from experts who live & work in this rich college community. Hearing people talk about their work in a passionate way is a real treat.

This may be my last meeting in Council since my term of service of three years ends in September. Ilene Rosenfeld will represent Special Programs at the August meeting. I will be helping to prepare Ilene over the summer to begin leadership of Special Programs in September. It has been an honor to serve, to get to know you better, and to see how the Council works.

Thank you.