

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

May 10, 2018

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

(First draft distributed on June 13, 2018)

Council Members Present: Ellen Kosmer (Vice President), Gordon Wyse (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Cynthia Barker (Secretary), Joanne Creighton, Pam Daniels, Jake Greenburg, Chris Hurn, Barbara Reitt, Terry Rosenfeld, Jay Russell

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Miriam Whitney, Gail Gaustad, Ilene Rosenfeld, Tisha Ferguson

Council Members Absent: Mike Brooks (President), Chuck Aulino (Assistant Treasurer), Ann Hartman, Jonathan Jay

The meeting was called to order by Ellen Kosmer at 2:18 p.m.

The Council accepted the minutes of the April 12, 2018 Council meeting.

Officers' Reports:

Vice President

Ellen reported that the Preview went well, and we successfully completed the business meeting in record time.

Past President

Gordon Wyse thanked Tisha Ferguson and the Curriculum Committee for their great work in support of the Preview and Annual meeting. The Catalog was very well done.

Treasurer

The Treasurer provided a balance sheet, and reported that our current financial position is fine.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee:

At the Preview 167 member catalogs were picked up. In addition, 26 guest forms were filled out. The Preview is clearly a good opportunity for attracting new members.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions program has concluded for the year. An average of 80 people attended each session, with attendance pretty evenly split between members and non-members.

Member Events:

The Spring Social was attended by 75-80 people at Hadley Farms. The great publicity appears to have attracted many non-members to the event. The next event is the annual picnic in Gail Gaustad's backyard. Gail and Nancy are both completing their 3-year term in June. Gail has agreed to stay on the committee while attempting to recruit new leadership for the committee.

Special Programs

We may have found three more people to join the committee. We expect Wendy to lead this group next year.

Summer/Winter Programs

Our theater offerings have been incorporated within the Winter/Summer programs.

Technology Committee

Chris Hurn noted that he finds our contact list of specialized technology "gurus" to be very helpful.

Nominating Committee

Chris Hurn needs tellers after June 15 to count ballots. Please contact Chris if you know of anyone who might be willing to help.

Office Manager:

Tisha Ferguson reported the following:

Ballots have been mailed to the membership.

Pay Pal is broken; we don't know, yet, when the problem will be resolved.

Today is the last day that our Smith intern will be working for us. An advertisement has been posted for an intern position next fall.

Please think of ways that we might enliven newsletter content. Tisha is thinking of asking the seminar moderators to submit one article with a photograph.

The lottery deadline is not changing. It may be appropriate to revise lottery procedures.

Old business:

New committee chairs and/or members

Tisha needs an official list of committee chairs for the coming year. In addition, the Council needs to formally approve new chairs/co-chairs, and committee members.

Report of Special Committee Reviewing Appendix F of the Operations Manual

Ilene Rosenfeld reported that a draft proposal has been distributed for comment by Council members. She has not, yet, received any feedback. Please contact Ilene if you have any comments or suggestions.

There was one request made at this meeting to revisit the end of page 5, beginning with the statement “they may be held on evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays.” Without some additional wording, the current statement may be too limiting.

Liability/insurance implications of meeting in homes

Tisha reported that she has drafted a policy that Mike has reviewed. Tisha sent the proposed policy to Stacie Kroll for her review. Tisha hopes that the proposed policy will be distributed before the June Council meeting.

Update of procedures for remote use of Five College on-line library resources

Smith College: Tisha has materials for this library.

Hampshire College: Once you sign in to their system, procedures are similar to Smith College.

Amherst College, Mt. Holyoke College, and UMASS: On-line resources can be accessed only on-site. Unlike Smith and Hampshire College, no remote access is available to LIR members.

Bobbie Reitt recommended that we provide paper copies of the procedures at our seminars. There seemed to be consensus that this information should not be available to our members, on-line.

New Business

Organizing for consideration of ideas for special events

Ellen Kosmer opened the discussion regarding the use of monies available from our endowment fund. What types of events should we be funding? Do we need a committee to recommend expenditures?

A significant discussion followed that included the following thoughts:

We need to broaden the scope for expenditures. In addition to funding events, we might think about financing additional scholarships, and subsidizing our operations expense to keep annual dues from increasing, or perhaps even decreasing dues.

The primary role of a committee may be to set a structure to collect ideas from the membership for expenditures, rather than expecting a committee to formulate new ideas on their own.

Some Council members were ready to ask Ellen to appoint a committee, while others felt it was unclear if we needed to appoint an “ad hoc” committee or a permanent, standing committee.

The last suggestion presented was that we appoint an “ad hoc” committee to recommend to the Council the overall mission/scope/parameters/expectations for this project, together with recommendations for the organizing of a standing committee to carry out the recommended functions.

Ellen Kosmer noted that she preferred not to appoint members of a committee until she is officially serving as our President. She will discuss this issue with Mike Brooks after he returns from vacation. We can continue this discussion at the June Council meeting.

Other items

Terry Rosenfeld asked if we should be contacting churches to provide seminar facilities. Tisha responded that we have used one Amherst church in the past, and that the Unitarian Society in Northampton has offered space. Generally, we have not pursued churches because they typically charge facility fees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Cynthia Barker
Secretary

