

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

October 11, 2018

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

Council Members Present: Ellen Kosmer (President), Jake Greenburg (Vice-President), Gordon Wyse (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Chuck Aulino (Assistant Treasurer), Cynthia Barker (Secretary), Bob Cohen, Joanne Creighton, Chris Hurn, Terry Rosenfeld, Jay Russell, Margaret Russell, Shirlee Williams.

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Sandy Belden, Gail Gaustad, Mary Franks, Ilene Rosenfeld, Nina Scott, Betsy Siersma, Sara Wright, and Tisha Ferguson.

Council Members Absent: Pam Daniels, Jonathan Jay

The meeting was called to order by Ellen Kosmer at 2:15 p.m.

The Council accepted the minutes of the September 13, 2018 Council meeting.

Officers' Reports:

President

Ellen thanked Tisha for designing the new form for submission of special project proposals.

Vice President

Jake continues to meet with various committees, and will discuss some of that work later in the meeting.

Past President

Gordon reported that everything is on track for the November 18 preview of spring events.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee:

We have accepted 23 seminar proposals for the spring sessions. Arrangements are underway for a new type of orientation meeting for new moderators; the meeting will be held in someone's home and will include participation from experienced moderators.

Finance

Kathy Campbell reported that we need to decide if we wish to take an annual distribution from the endowment fund or leave the money invested for another year. The Finance Committee recommends that we not take the distribution, as we currently have \$20,000 more than we need to support current operations. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to refrain from taking a distribution this year.

The Finance Committee also reported that Jay Russell has agreed to serve as a new member of the committee. The Council agreed, by acclamation, to appoint Jay to the committee.

Great Decisions

Jake reported that we will not be using the Senior Center for our 2019 Great Decisions program. For 2019, The Director of the Center will allow participation by outside groups only during evening hours, and they will not allow ticket sales at the door. We are still in discussions with the Senior Center for possible use of their facility for 2020.

We will be using Hadley Farms for the 2019 Great Decisions program. Tisha has signed a contract for their facility for three programs to be held April 19, 26, and May 10.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allocate an additional \$1,500 this fiscal year to pay increased expenses that will be incurred to use Hadley Farms.

Chris Hurn noted that UMass might be able to provide space in future years.

Public Relations

Nina Scott reported that our contact at the Gazette has changed. We expect the Gazette to publish an article in the spring highlighting “Immigrants in LIR”.

Special Programs

Ilene Rosenfeld reported that the book group is open to new members, on a first come basis. Since these meetings occur in member’s homes, space is limited. The first Encore presentation of the season was attended by 30 members. The Opera preparation group continues to meet. The theater group had a great trip, recently, to the Goodspeed Opera House.

Summer/Winter Programs

Mary Franks reported that the committee is working diligently to finalize plans for the winter offerings.

Technology

Ellen asked Tisha to publish the names of the people on the technology committee so that our members will know whom to contact for assistance.

Special Projects and Events

Sandy Belden reported that our new committee has been established and we have sent out an announcement inviting proposals from the membership.

Office Manager

Tisha Ferguson reported that she is in the process of booking locations for the spring seminars. She also has three applicants to interview for the intern position.

Old Business

Update on Special Programs Committee Structure

Jake reported that an ad hoc committee will be reviewing committee descriptions, recommending appropriate modifications, and considering the possible restructure of the Special Programs committee.

Update on the creation of Membership/Development Committee

Jake reported that an ad hoc committee is meeting next week with Tisha to start considering establishment of a Membership/Development Committee.

New Business

Discussion of LIR sponsorship of the 2019 UMass Amherst Bach Festival & Symposium

Chuck Aulino reported that the third Bach Festival & Symposium will be held next year. We could be listed as a sponsor for the event, with no financial commitment on our part. This program could be of special interest to our members, and the Festival organizers could include our organization in their publicity. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that we seek to become a sponsor of this event.

Discussion of LIR data collection

Larry Ambs was unable to attend our meeting to discuss this subject.

Although we have been collecting significant membership data over the years, there is a brief gap in the data that would need to be reconstituted. Kathy Campbell has volunteered to assist Larry with future data collection. Sara Wright and Terry Rosenfeld also offered their help. We believe it is important to proceed with updating our statistics; we might also define additional data that would be useful to collect.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Cynthia Barker, Secretary