

## **FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**November 9, 2017**

**Five College Office, 97 Spring St., Amherst, MA  
(Second draft distributed on Dec.11, 2017)**

Council Members Present: Mike Brooks (President), Gordon Wyse (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Chuck Aulino (Assistant Treasurer), Cynthia Barker (Secretary), Joanne Creighton, Pam Daniels, Jake Greenburg, Ann Hartman, Chris Hurn, Jonathan Jay, Barbara Reitt, Terry Rosenfeld, Jay Russell

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Nancy Hayes Clune, Ilene Rosenfeld, Miriam Whitney, Sara Wright

The meeting was called to order by Mike Brooks at 2:15 p.m.

The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Charlie Klem.

**Minutes of the October 12 Council meeting were amended to indicate that Jay Russell, rather than Larry Ambs, moved to approve a resolution acknowledging the great work of Chuck Gillies and all the members of the Development Committee. The amended minutes were approved by unanimous consent.**

#### **Officers' Reports:**

##### President

1. Mike Brooks reported that he sent a copy of the Council's resolution to Marybeth Bridegam expressing the Council's sincere appreciation for her dedication as President and Vice President, and our best wishes for her rapid and complete recovery. Marybeth thanked Mike for the Council's kind resolution of appreciation and concern.

2. Mike Brooks and Larry Ambs met with the Director of Five Colleges, Inc. following our last Council meeting. The meeting was cordial and productive—additional details are presented under **Old Business**.
3. Approximately 80 people attended the special Oct. 22 event. It went well and received outstanding coverage in the Gazette. Several people have noted that we had five men on the dais and no women. Others also wished that refreshments might have been available; Larry Ambs noted that there were restrictions placed upon us by the Eric Carle Museum with respect to refreshments.
4. We have completed work on the brochure for the legacy program.
5. We may need to reexamine our policy for refunds. If an event is cancelled, it is unclear how we should be handling refunds. The appropriate committees will be contacted to help clarify procedures.

### Past President

Gordon Wyse is coordinating the Memorial Service that will be held Jan. 4, 2018 (10:00 A.M.-noon) at the Amherst College Alumni House. He would like to get as many people involved as possible.

Gordon is also organizing the November Preview at Mt. Holyoke. If you need a projector that day, please let Gordon know. There will be tables available for committees, as well as seminar coordinators. Gordon will be talking to the Curriculum Committee to be sure that we aren't asking too much of them that day. Gordon will need to leave the event early to participate in a choral concert that afternoon.

### Secretary

Cynthia Barker appreciates receipt of written committee reports before, during, or immediately after Council meetings. This helps tremendously in preparing the minutes.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Curriculum Committee:

A detailed report from the Curriculum Committee is attached as an appendix.

The Curriculum Committee is looking forward to the Preview on Nov. 19. They completed an analysis of the Operations Manual as it relates to their committee, and are recommending no changes to the Operations Manual. Miriam Whitney provided a summary of an issue that has been raised with respect to “active participation” in seminars. Please refer to the committee report for discussion and recommendations.

#### Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee met on Oct.19. They talked about many of the issues around budgets, including budgets for seminars, but have no specific proposals at this time.

The committee will meet with Barbara Lucey (who has retired, although she is still around part time until the end of the year) and Yvette Morneau to talk about how the FCI Endowment, which includes our Investment Fund, is managed. The committee will also try to get more information about our options for paying for program events in advance, in particular meals, museum entry fees and the like, instead of obliging the trip organizers to charge their personal credit cards.

#### Great Decisions

Jake reported that we will be offering four topics, rather than five. One topic was cancelled, as we are not able to meet on May 4 due to a scheduling conflict with the Northampton Senior Center that day. The Committee will need to revisit the setting of fees for the program; the Council reminded the committee that this program should not be viewed as a fundraising event. The committee is now searching for speakers. The topic “China and America” is being held in reserve in case we have problems with any of the other topics.

#### Member Services:

The new member coffee will be held at Lathrop Northampton, Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018 from 10:00 A.M. to Noon. The next meeting of the committee is Thursday, Feb.6 from 10:00 A.M. to Noon.

The Committee asked for direction from the Council for an April social event. After some discussion, the Member Services Committee will plan a catered, social event in April. This will be similar to last year, and will not include a speaker. The committee will work with the Treasurer to establish a budget for the event.

### Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee (Chris Hurn, Chair; Miriam Whitney, Secretary; Joan Laird; Beverly Von Kries; Jim Harvey) held its first face to face meeting on October 30 to discuss the nomination of a new Vice President. Over the next five days, helped by suggestions from past and present Officers, Council members, and other friends and colleagues, they continued their search, and are pleased to report that Ellen Kosmer accepted their nomination as Vice President on Nov. 4. Chris Hurn reviewed with the Council Ellen's many, extensive qualifications for the position. Chris also reported that Ellen understands that the term of office for the new Vice President is currently ambiguous.

The Council asked the Nominating Committee to proceed to organize a special election with assistance from Tisha Ferguson.

### Special Programs

Please reference a detailed report (attached as an appendix) provided by this committee.

Everything is going well across all special programs, except for the Encore presentations. We have been unable to find two people to coordinate that program. Mike Brooks agreed to work with Ilene Rosenfeld to develop some ideas. Larry Ambs also expressed willingness to continue to support the program. Larry will check with Applewood to determine if there are still Friday mornings available from approximately 9-11 A.M.

### Technology

Mike Brooks noted that we still need a new Chair for the Technology Committee.

### **Office Manager:**

Mike Brooks reported that Tisha is working, today, on the materials for the November Preview and is not attending our meeting.

### **Old business:**

1. Reappointment of Historian, Ombudsman, and Five Colleges Liaison

**Chris Hurn moved that the Council reappoint Sara Wright as Historian for one year, and reappoint Anne Lombard as Ombudsman for one year, and reappoint Larry Ambs as Five Colleges Liaison for one year. Joanne Creighton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

2. Liability Issues

Mike Brooks is working toward developing a policy statement that will, hopefully, allow us to continue having LIR meetings in members' homes while limiting liability exposure for Five Colleges, Inc. The Director of Five Colleges, Inc. has asked that Mike work directly with him in developing that policy. There is more research that needs to be done before a policy can be written. Mike will be contacting his agent for Homeowner's Insurance with a series of questions, such as: What protection is provided by homeowner's insurance when entertaining friends at his home vs. holding a meeting of LIR members at his home, vs. publicly announcing and hosting an LIR event at his home? Mike also believes it would be useful to obtain input from college attorneys, since college professors have meetings/seminars in their homes. The Dean of Faculty at Amherst College says "don't sweat it."

### **New Business:**

In recognition of Charlie Klem's passing, **Ann Hartman moved that the Council send a plant to Sheila Klem. The motion was seconded by Barbara Reitt, and the motion passed by a vote of 13-1.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Cynthia Barker  
Secretary

## November 9, 2017 Council Meeting

### Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee discussed the following policy issues at its November 2 meeting. No changes to the current Operating Manual language were recommended on any of the issues.

1. Low enrollment seminars. This fall 2017 semester, two seminars had low enrollment (below 6). One ended up continuing; one was cancelled. The Operations Manual states that the recommended minimum including the moderator is 8 in a seminar and 6 in a workshop. After discussion, no changes in the current wording were recommended. The moderator can decide whether or not the seminar will be held in the case of low enrollment and is responsible for discussing revisions in the seminar with the enrolled participants.

2. Changing the meaning of “active participant.” An LIR member contacted the co-chairs and asked the Curriculum Committee to adopt language that further describes the meaning of the “participant” requirement in the Bylaws and Mission Statement. Specifically, the member believed that Council previously had concluded that “participation” meant that members (other than emeriti) had “responsibility for an hour or some segment of their seminars--a presentation, a piece of writing, drawing or painting, etc., and usually leading discussion on whatever the piece of learning was for the day.” The member currently is enrolled in a seminar that the member reports enjoying, in which the participants are encouraged but not required to make presentations or lead a discussion.

The Operations Manual states:

“Participants in seminars are expected to contribute to the learning of members by fulfilling all expectations of preparation prior to each session and by participating actively. If it is part of the seminar’s design, for example, they may be expected to make a presentation and to support it with audio-visual aids if appropriate or lead a discussion” (emphasis added, OM, Appendix E, p. 31).

Following considerable discussion by every committee member in attendance, the Committee unanimously agreed that there should be no formal requirement that participants must make a presentation or lead a discussion in seminars. The Committee concluded that some seminars worked well without having this formal requirement, and that moderators should have leeway as to how the goal of active participation is achieved. The Committee concluded that there is no need to change the present language to make it more specific.

“Active participation” in the form of discussion was strongly endorsed as a component of every seminar, and as something the Curriculum Committee will continue to focus on during proposal reviews.

3. Timing of drops/adds. Another LIR member contacted the co-chairs and asked whether a moderator may refuse new participants when the seminar is close to starting (schedule for the seminar already set) and the number of participants is below the number originally set by the moderator. The Operations Manual (Appendix E) provides:

“Dropping a seminar or workshop/replacing members: Members who wish to drop a seminar or workshop should give the Office Manager and moderator(s) as much notice as possible, and do so as soon as they become aware that they will not be participating in the seminar or workshop. If there is a waiting list, others may want to take the opening. In addition the moderator(s) may need to adjust the seminar or workshop schedule.”

After extensive discussion, it was agreed that the language currently in the Operations Manual should be retained, and that moderators are encouraged to be flexible, but do have discretion to cut off admission of new participants in their seminar if there is reason to do so.

4. Seminar vs workshop classification: Writing to Remember. After discussion, the committee consensus was that there is a difference between seminars and workshops, and that Writing to Remember is a seminar (based on the strong recommendations and descriptions of those seminars by two moderators of separate Writing to Remember seminars, and the one participant present).

Submitted by

Miriam Whitney and Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, Curriculum Committee

Special Programs Report  
November 9, 2017

The Theatre Interest Group, with Kay Klausewitz, had a successful bus trip to East Haddam CT., where we saw a musical production of "Rags." More trips are being planned.

The Book Interest Group continues to meet on varying Fridays. (They are still meeting at members' homes since the liability issue remains.) Upcoming meeting is November 10.

French Conversation is meeting at the home of Judith Poole on Friday afternoons.

Opera Prep, with Peg Bedell, is meeting on the Mondays preceding the HD Operas shown at the Hadley Cinemark. The next meeting will be Nov. 17, for the opera showing on Nov. 18. Meetings are now at the Inn at Easthampton Lathrop, 2-3 PM.

Photography Near and Far, with Marty Espinola, continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, 12:30-1:45 PM, at the Amherst Media Center.

Salon Music continues with Chuck Aulino on the third Friday of each month at the Northampton Community Music Center, 10:30 AM

The next Science Round Table, with John Armstrong and Larry Ambs, will meet on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 2:00 pm, at The Hitchcock Center for the Environment, Rte. 116, Amherst (just north of the entrance to Hampshire College).

The featured speaker will be Prof. Richard Palmer, Head of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UMass.

He will speak on "Climate Change: Facts and Alternative Facts, and the Connecticut River Impacts, More Specifically."

Viewpoints, with Hy Edelstein, continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month at Highland Valley Elder Services in Florence.

Poetry Interest Group has decided to no longer be under the auspices of 5CLIR, since their meetings take place at people's homes.

Unfortunately, there is still no one to facilitate our Encore Presentations and Friday Lectures, so the group is suspended until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene Rosenfeld  
Chairperson  
Special Programs Committee