

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2019

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

Council Members Present: Ellen Kosmer (President), Gordon Wyse (Past President), Kathy Campbell (Treasurer), Cynthia Barker (Secretary), Bob Cohen, Linda Honan, Chris Hurn, Gene Fisher, Kip Fonsh, Jonathan Jay, Terry Rosenfeld, Jay Russell, Margaret Russell

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Prunella Fiddian-Green, Jim Harvey, Wendy Parrish, Nina Scott, Karen Tatro, Sara Wright, Tisha Ferguson

Council Members Absent: Jake Greenburg (Vice-President)

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

The Council accepted the minutes of the April 11, 2019 Council Meeting.

Officers' Reports:

President

Ellen extended special thanks to Gordon, Tisha, Jonathan, the Curriculum Committee, and the Committee Chairs for all of their contributions to a successful Annual Meeting and Preview. Ellen noted that Jake is on his way to England, and cannot be here, today. Ellen also reported that the banner from the Anniversary Celebration is in Tisha's office, if anyone wishes to use it.

Past President

Gordon thought the Preview went well. He mentioned that someone removed some tables that we probably needed, and reminded everyone that we arrange the room for the Preview for specific reasons.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee:

The Curriculum Committee reported that we received compliments regarding the variety and quality of seminars offered. We probably need a better protocol for the proof reading of the seminar descriptions; some of the seminar meeting times needed to be changed.

The Curriculum Committee noted that moderators are welcome to supply Tisha with additional seminar details that Tisha can post on the website with the seminar descriptions. In addition, Tisha can notify moderators of the scheduled times for their seminars with the expectation that it may be possible (but, not at the last minute) to re-schedule times if the moderators have a conflict.

Chris Hurn expressed appreciation for the balancing of seminars across the days available. We distributed 175 catalogs to members and 20 catalogs to guests at the Preview.

Great Decisions

Prunella offered special thanks to Rich Parrish for all of his work on the committee this year. Prunella believes that a new committee member was recruited at the Preview.

The average attendance for the first two programs was 62 participants. The final program is tomorrow. Evaluation forms were distributed, and the program speakers are receiving good reviews. The Committee expects a financial deficit for the series due to lower attendance and the increased facility expense.

Member Events

Ellen reported that Gail Gaustad and Nancy Clune will be stepping down from their leadership positions on the committee. Jake will attempt to find new leaders. Larry Ambs and Chris Hurn expressed concern about volunteerism; for example, we have a relatively short list of candidates running for at-large Council positions. Tisha suggested that we can seek to identify special interests of new members, and steer them toward appropriate committees. The Committees could also be asked to write an advertising piece to assist with recruitment of committee members. We might also remind members who are participating on committees to talk with seminar participants and ask for their help.

We could also do more to prepare the moderators for presenting the need for Council membership. Ellen noted that once we have the new Membership Outreach Committee functioning, that committee can provide assistance with volunteerism.

Public Relations/Publicity

Nina Scott reported that we are receiving many compliments for the recent Gazette articles about foreign-born members. Margaret Russell has agreed to serve as a new co-chair of this committee. We expect to do paid advertising for future Previews.

Nina also reported that she intends to do new member interviews for publication in our newsletter.

Special Programs

Please see a detailed report (included as an attachment) from Wendy Parrish. Wendy emphasized that we need to identify a new person to assist with the Encore program. In addition, we expect to be hosting a Legislative Roundup in January, and the Forbes Library may be willing to help.

Activities (Formerly Summer/Winter Programs)

Ellen noted that Mary Franks is working with an ad hoc committee regarding price structure for special events and trips. Mary was unable to attend this meeting.

Technology Committee

Gordon and Jim have started to talk about training members in power point presentations. Gene Fisher has agreed to join the Technology Committee. The Council approved his appointment to the committee.

Special Projects and Events

Linda Honan reported that 62 people attended the first Edith Wharton lecture. The second lecture is next Tuesday. Loomis will be providing wine and cheese for a follow-up lecture. We have a total of 30 seats available for the Bus Tour, with 17 people currently signed up. Special thanks to Nina for handling publicity.

Office Manager Report

Tisha reported that we had good attendance at the Preview. All catalogs have been mailed to those who did not attend the Preview. On-line sign-ups are going well for both the upcoming seminars and the summer programs. Our intern will be leaving in a week. Ballots will be sent out next week, with ballot counting scheduled for mid-June.

Old Business

Report from ad hoc committee on formulating a price structure for LIR trips and events

This agenda item was deferred to the June Council meeting as Mary Franks was unable to attend this meeting.

Discussion of LIR Facebook page

The ad hoc committee, under the direction of Wendy Parrish, will start working on this project. Tisha would also like to participate in this project.

New Business

Should LIR email to the membership notifications on recently deceased members?

Sara Wright noted that several years ago the Council decided not to post notices because we cannot be consistent. Several members expressed concern that we do not wish to place undue burden on Tisha to track down detailed and accurate information. Jonathan Jay suggested that we could use a standard form to collect the necessary information, and emphasized that it is not up to Tisha to contact family members for details. Others suggested that we might publish notification if directly requested by the Family. After further discussion, Ellen stated that she, Jake, and Tisha will work on a proposal prior to the next Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Cynthia Barker, Secretary

Special Programs Report to Council – May 1, 2019

The Book Interest Group's last meeting of the season has been held, and covered Everything that Rises Must Converge, by Flannery O'Connor. The group is open to new members, but the hostesses have limited space, so it's first-come-first-served for each meeting. They are working on a book list for the next season. For further information, contact Naomi Yanis.

The Winter-Spring Encore Presentations have completed for the year. They were excellent, and very well received. Congratulations to new co-moderators Nancy Mihevc and Glenn Swanson. Very unfortunately, Glenn passed away unexpectedly last week, and a new co-moderator for the upcoming fall season is a very high priority. The schedule will be available in the 5CLIR Reporter. Our venue is at the Applewood Retirement Community from 10 AM to 12 PM. Reminders will be emailed to our membership, listed in the 5CLIR Reporter, and available on www.5CLIR.org.

Opera Prep, with Peg Bedell, meets on the Fridays preceding the HD Live Operas shown at the Hadley Cinemark. The schedule continues into May 2019, and will be online at www.5CLIR.org. The final show of the season will be *Dialogues des Carmelites*, showing on May 11. Meetings take place at the Inn at Easthampton Lathrop, Garden Room, from 2:00- 3:00PM.

Viewpoints, moderated by Hy Edelstein, continues to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 12:30 PM at Highland Valley Elder Services in Florence.

Current priorities will be as follows:

- Finding a new co-moderator for Encore Presentations
- Finding a couple of volunteers to assist in the Legislative Roundup. We will be needing assistance with scheduling and publicity, as well as with contacting representatives who haven't been contacted yet. Jo Comerford is on board already.
- Finding a new moderator, or preferably co-moderators, for Science Roundup.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Parrish, Chair