

**FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 13, 2019**  
**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), Cynthia Barker (Secretary), Bob Cohen, Linda Honan, Chris Hurn, Gene Fisher, Kip Fonsh, Jonathan Jay, Jay Russell, Margaret Russell

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Prunella Fiddian-Green, Mary Franks, Gail Gaustad, Rich Parrish, Wendy Parrish, Betsy Siersma, Sara Wright, Tisha Ferguson

Council Members Absent: Terry Rosenfeld

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

The Council accepted the minutes of the May 9, 2019 Council Meeting.

**Officers' Reports:**

President

Ellen extended special thanks to Cynthia, Kathy, and Gordon for staying on the Executive Committee during Ellen's term as President. She thanked Chris Hurn for nominating Jake for Vice-President, and thanked Jake for all of his support for the past year. Ellen thanked all other members of the Council for their work, and bid farewell to Chris Hurn, Jonathan Jay, and Kip Fonsh who are completing their terms; Kip, however, will be returning for a new term.

Ellen reported that she and Jake have been meeting weekly with Tisha, and that those meetings have been very productive.

Vice-President

Jake thanked Ellen for her leadership as President and all the mentoring she provided to him. He also thanked the Executive Committee for their contributions; Jake looks forward to working with the new Executive Committee. Special thanks to Tisha for all of her administrative work over the last year.

Jake reported that Sandy Belden is retiring as Chair of the Special Projects and Events Committee, and that Ellen has agreed to become the new Chair. Gordon Wyse has agreed to be the new Chair of the Technology Committee with help from Kathy Campbell and Gene Fisher. Also, Jim Harvey is retiring as co-chair of the Curriculum Committee, and Kendra Dahlquist will be the new co-chair.

The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Ellen, Gordon, and Kendra to their new positions.

### Treasurer

Kathy reported that she expects we will have a small deficit at the end of the fiscal year. Operations expense is expected to be under budget, however, our income is less than anticipated. Our investments have increased in value over the last quarter.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Nominations-election results

Jonathan Jay thanked Wendy Parrish, Margaret Russell, and Bob Barker for serving as tellers to count ballots and record the results of the election.

All new officers recommended by the nominating committee were elected. Three new at-large members (Laura Price, Mike Lee, and Kip Fonsh) were elected for three-year terms. Since Bob Cohen will relinquish his at-large position on the Council to become Assistant Treasurer, Pat Jorczak was elected to fill the remaining two years of Bob's term.

#### Curriculum Committee:

Special thanks to Jim Harvey who is ending his term on the committee. New members of the committee are Jim Averill, Suzette Jones, Kathy Campbell, Ellie Rumelt.

### Great Decisions

Prunella reported that the Great Decisions program ended on a solid note after a difficult start with the transition in venue to Hadley Farms. Special thanks to Jake, Ellen, Tisha, and the Council for their support during the year. The program is expected to have a larger deficit (about \$2,150) than anticipated due to lower attendance; attendance was likely impacted as we were not able to schedule four consecutive sessions, coupled with the change in venue. A total of 169 people attended the program, including about 50 LIR members.

For the coming year, we expect to schedule four consecutive Fridays in April at Hadley Farms. We hope to renegotiate Hadley Farms fees, stop printing of program brochures, and consider an increase in attendance fees.

Rich Parrish intends to recruit a new co-chair for the committee as Prunella has completed her term on the committee.

### Member Events

Gail Gaustad reported that the committee will meet in August to plan the annual picnic, scheduled for Sept 17, at Gail's house. The committee also needs to discuss new leadership, as Gail and Nancy will be stepping down from their leadership positions.

### Public Relations/Publicity

Nina Scott was unable to attend the meeting as she is in Maine.

### Special Programs

Wendy reported that Jay Russell is our new moderator for "Viewpoints;" the group will meet the third Thursday of the month at the Five College credit union in Hadley. Miriam Whitney has agreed to assist with the Encore program. We also have two people who have volunteered to organize the Legislative Roundup.

## Activities (Formerly Summer/Winter Programs)

Our most recent activity was a trip of 10 people to Porter Phelps on June 4. Next Wednesday, we have 26 people expecting to attend the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; we need 30 attendees to break even. The theater trip "Into the Woods" is cancelled, as Kay is attending to an ill husband.

## Technology Committee

Gordon reported that the committee is seeking new members. The committee has talked with Jim Harvey about training members in power point presentations. Please contact Gordon if you have suggestions about the committee's approach; currently, if members are experiencing technology problems they are encouraged to contact the committee for help.

## Special Projects and Events

Linda Honan reported that the third and final Edith Wharton lecture attracted 65 people, with wonderful wine and snacks. The bus trip scheduled for June 21 has a total of 30 places with 21 people currently signed up. The Edith Wharton reading group that will meet in July is full.

Ellen encourages people to develop proposals for new programs.

## **Office Manager Report**

Registration status for the upcoming fall seminars is:

- Two of the 23 seminars have been cancelled.
- 14 seminars are full; 9 seminars have waiting lists of 42 people.
- 5 people will be auditing seminars.

Membership status:

- 290 total members
- 29 new members
- 12 associate members
- 13 members receiving discounts

Several members of the Council expressed concern about the management of seminar waiting lists; e.g., if someone is on multiple seminar waiting

lists, and is offered a slot for their third choice, what happens if a space opens up two weeks later for their first choice. The Council decided that concerns of this nature can be addressed by a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee; this subcommittee is reviewing the lottery system to evaluate how it can improved.

Tisha has scheduled all routine meetings for the coming year. There is a room conflict in October for our regular Council meeting. The Council prefers that Tisha find another place at our regular time.

## **Old Business**

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

Mary Franks reported that she received feedback from about 30 people about price structure; 27 people agreed that we should charge non-members an additional \$3 for LIR trips and events that require fees. This will be our new policy, and the charge will be documented in the next Winter/Spring catalog. In addition, members can invite one guest for a trip/event. If there are still places available three weeks before the event, then members can invite additional guests.

### Discussion of LIR Facebook page

The ad hoc committee has met once. Another meeting will be scheduled that Tisha will be able to attend.

## **New Business**

### Establish procedures for counting the ballots for the annual election

Jonathan Jay reported that there is no guidance in our bylaws or operations manual about procedures for counting ballots for the annual election. For the last election, Jonathan prepared draft procedures for the tellers. He is now seeking feedback from the tellers based upon their experience. Jonathan will then prepare a final draft of procedures before the Council for their review and acceptance; the new procedures would then be incorporated in the operations manual. Jonathan hopes to present his proposal at the August Council meeting.

Jonathan also suggested that we change the procedures for election of officers. At the annual meeting the Nominating Committee would present their recommended slate of officers. The President would then ask for additional nominations. If there are no other nominations, the President would declare the slate adopted. Jonathan also agreed to draft a change to the bylaws, and bring a formal proposal to the Council for their review.

#### Wait list notification

Jake believes we should streamline the wait list process. If a slot opens up, the next person on the wait list should be offered a space and asked to respond within two days. If there is no response, they will be notified again and told that if they do not respond by a specific date the slot will be offered to another person. Jake expects to publish the policy within the next week with the intent of using it for the next two years; if the policy works well, it could then become an official policy within the operations manual.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Cynthia Barker, Secretary

