

FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
August 9, 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), Joanne Creighton, Chris Hurn, Jonathan Jay, Jay Russell and new member, Margaret Russell.

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Nancy Clune, Prunella Fiddian-Green, Mary Franks, Betsy Siersma, Sara Wright and Tisha Ferguson.

Council Members Absent: Cynthia Barker (Secretary) Pam Daniels, Terry Rosenfeld, and new members Bob Cohen and Shirlee Williams.

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

The Council accepted the minutes of the June 14, 2018 Council meeting.

Officers' Reports:

President

Ellen reported that there had been a meeting of the Executive Committee during August, a month during which that committee does not ordinarily meet, to consider several matters that are on the agenda for this Council meeting.

Vice President

Jake reported that he has now been in contact with all of the committee chairs.

Secretary

In Cynthia's absence there was no Secretary's report.

Treasurer

Kathy mentioned that she had sent the FY 18 Report via e-mail and noted that it shows a surplus of about \$1,000 through year-end; however, this is subject to adjustments. Dues collected totaled about \$3,000 over budget and there is a healthy balance of about \$84,000 in the operating fund. The current value of the investment fund stands at about \$270,000 and the membership assistance fund balance was \$3,582 at the end of June is sufficient to cover expected scholarships for the coming year.

Kathy also answered questions from council members about the investment fund and the operating reserves, mentioning the policy of maintaining a reserve balance of \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Special Report:

At Ellen Kosmer's request, Larry Ambs reported on a meeting he attended with the new Executive Director of Five Colleges, Inc., Sarah Pfatteicher, that also included Ellen Kosmer and Kathy Campbell. Larry explained that his was essentially a "meet and greet" and reported that topics covered included the history, operations, capital fund campaign and other aspects of 5 CLIR.

Jay Russell offered the suggestion that Sarah be invited to an upcoming Preview.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee:

Betsy Siersma reported that the committee is fully staffed at this point and that they have reviewed four out of five proposals that have been submitted so far.

Finance

Kathy Campbell explained that the Finance Committee has not met recently.

Great Decisions

Prunella Fiddian-Green mentioned that the program's financial result was a near break-even for 2018 with a surplus of about \$305. She also circulated a report that notes:

1. There was an introductory meeting with the new Executive Director of the Northampton Senior Center to establish dates for Great Decisions 2019: April 5, 12, 19 and 26; however;
2. The center is required to implement the Mayor's Municipal Policy which conflicts with the terms and conditions of the past 12 years.
3. Among other things, this policy will require that meetings at the center during the day be open to all senior citizens, and that ticket sales and collection of money is not permitted on the premises.
4. Tisha Ferguson is pursuing alternative locations for Great Decisions in the future. These include Hadley Farms Meeting House, The Amherst Alumni House and seeking the cooperation of U-Mass or another of the Educational Institutions in co-hosting Great Decisions.

Member Events:

Nancy Clune reported that the Fall Picnic is scheduled for Sept. 17 at the Gaustad's home, with a rain date of Sept. 18 and that the committee has three new members.

Public Relations

In Nina Scott's absence there was no report.

Special Programs

Ilene Rosenfeld is away, but Ellen Kosmer said that she had been asked by Kay Klauswitz to remind the Council of an upcoming bus outing of the Theatre Interest Group to attend a performance of "The Drowsy Chaperone" on October 6th.

Summer/Winter Programs

Mary Franks reported that one event had to be canceled due to insufficient participation, but two additional events remain and that she will have a full report in the future.

Technology

There is currently no chair of this committee, but Ellen Kosmer noted that there are members available and willing to offer assistance with technology issues.

Office Manager

Tisha Ferguson reported the following:

Membership currently totals 306.

Via e-mail, Tisha sent language approved by Five Colleges Inc. and a form to be used in connection with holding meetings at members' homes.

She also noted that the Alumni lot is no longer available for over-flow parking for those attending committee and Council meetings, but that it may be possible for Five Colleges Inc. to obtain town parking permits to assist with this issue.

Tisha is asking those who seek reimbursement for miscellaneous expenses to submit a reimbursement request form and noted that a Form W-9 must be on file for those seeking initial reimbursement.

Old business:

Nominating Committee

Ellen Kosmer reported that she has asked Jonathan Jay to accept appointment to the position of chair of this committee.

Other Nominating Committee Members recommended are: Carol Jolly, Bev Von Kries, Jim Scott and Nancy Clune.

There was a motion and second to confirm these appointments that the Council approved unanimously.

Proposed New Special Projects and Events Committee

Ellen Kosmer explained that the proposal to create this committee stems from the need to deal with ideas submitted by members for events and programs that are substantial, special, and out of the ordinary.

The vision for this committee is to function in a manner similar to the Special Events Committee. This new committee will not initial program or event proposals. There will be no requirement that a Special Event or Program must take place in each year and the committee will encourage those who submit proposals to seek partnering with other institutions and to seek outside funding where possible.

Ellen reported that the Executive Committee has produced three items concerning this:

1. A description for the Operations Manual.
2. An Introductory Letter to Members.
3. A Proposal Form.

Each of these items was provided to Council Members via E-mail ahead of this Council meeting.

Sandy Belden has been asked, and agreed, to accept the appointment as chair of this committee.

There was a motion and second to approve all three documents submitted and to appoint Sandy Belden as chair of the Special Projects and Events Committee. The motion was approved by Council with one dissenting vote.

Update on liability issue/holding seminars in private homes

Tisha Ferguson explained that this applies to program meetings held in members homes, not to committee meetings and reviewed the required form that was provided to Council members by e-mail prior to the Council meeting.

There was a motion and second to approve the policy and form. Council voted to approve. The question concerning inclusion of this in the Policy Manual was left open

Update on 5 CLIR Members use of Participating Educational Institution Libraries.

Gordon Wyse reported concerning UMASS: LIR members can borrow books using their LIR membership card and photo ID. They cannot borrow electronic resources (such as journals or electronic books) but are free to use them in the Library. Gordon also mentioned that additional information is available at: <https://library.umass.edu/services/borrowing/>

New Business

Requirement of early dues payment as a condition for Lottery participation

Ellen Kosmer suggested that seminar enrollment granted as a result of lottery participation be made contingent on payment of dues by July 15th and also that the requirement to pay dues in advance as a requirement for lottery participation be eliminated.

There was a motion and second and this proposal was approved by Council.

Purchase of New Computer for Use by Office Manager

There was a motion and second to approve the purchase of a new computer at a cost of somewhat more than \$1,100, for the use of the office manager that was approved by Council.

Participation in Events by Members of the Public.

This topic was referred to Mary Franks' committee which will submit a report to Council.

Continuation of Summer Seminars

This topic was referred to the Curriculum Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 pm.

Chuck Aulino,
on behalf of Cynthia Barker, Secretary