

# **FIVE COLLEGE LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 13, 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, Pam Daniels, Jonathan Jay, Terry Rosenfeld, Jay Russell, Shirlee Williams.

Committee Chairs and Others Present: Larry Ambs, Gail Gaustad, Prunella Fiddian-Green, Jim Harvey, Mary Franks, Rich Parrish, Ilene Rosenfeld, Sara Wright, and Tisha Ferguson.

Special Guest: Sarah Pfatteicher, Director of the Five College Consortium.

Council Members Absent: Chris Hurn, Margaret Russell.

The meeting was called to order by Ellen Kosmer at 2:00 p.m.

Ellen welcomed our new members, Bob Cohen and Shirlee Williams.

The Council accepted the minutes of the August 9, 2018 Council meeting.

Ellen introduced Sarah Pfatteicher, Director of the Five College Consortium. Sarah started her new role in April, and provided a brief summary of her background. She asked that we keep her informed of our programs so that she can attend some of our events. Ellen thanked Sarah for her support of 5CLIR.

### **Officers' Reports:**

#### President

Ellen reported that we have a new section in our newsletter entitled "Members in Print and in the News." Members are encouraged to send noteworthy articles to Tisha for this new section.

#### Treasurer

Kathy reported that we have closed the books for the last fiscal year, and account balances are now official. The Treasurer's report is included as an attachment to the minutes.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Curriculum Committee:

Jim Harvey reported that we have 12 spring seminar proposals, thus far, and are running a little behind last year at this time. An extra meeting of the committee is set for Sept. 27.

#### Finance

Kathy Campbell reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting later this month.

#### Great Decisions

Prunella Fiddian-Green reported that Rich Parrish is attending our meeting today, and will serve as the new co-chair for the committee.

We will need to find a new meeting place for the Great Decisions program. The Senior Center in Northampton is undergoing significant change and will be unable to accommodate us. The best alternative we have identified, thus far, is Hadley Farms, although it is expensive. Prunella quoted a price of \$465/event plus \$250/session for refreshments. It is difficult to reserve four consecutive Fridays in the spring; thus, we need to secure a location very soon. Council members wondered if the Eric Carle facility might be an option, and wondered if we would have better luck holding the programs on Saturdays. The VFW in Hadley was also suggested. If members have other suggestions, please communicate with Prunella, Rich, and Tisha. The Council decided to authorize funding, subject to approval of the Executive Committee, so that we can reserve a suitable location soon; this approval is for next spring only, and does not extend to future years.

#### Public Relations

Nina Scott is in Mexico. In her absence, there was no report.

#### Special Programs

Ilene Rosenfeld submitted a committee report that is attached to the minutes. Several programs have been discontinued---e.g., Photography, Poetry, the Salon music group, and the Science and Technology program.

#### Summer/Winter Programs

Mary Franks reported that the Aug. 15 trip to Sculpture Park was excellent. We cancelled the walking tour of slavery sites in Deerfield due to poor weather. If you have any ideas for future programs, please contact the committee

#### Technology

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

#### Special Projects and Events

There is no report as Sandy Belden was unable to attend the meeting.

#### Office Manager

Tisha Ferguson reported that fall seminars are now full or closed by the moderators. Tisha has started booking facilities for the spring seminars.

#### **Old business:**

#### New Committee Chairs and members

There was a motion and second to approve the following appointments:

Co-Chair for Great Decisions: Rich Parrish

Special Projects and Events Committee members: Carol Jolly, Linda Horan, Sheila Klem, Gordon Wyse.

The Council voted, unanimously, to confirm these appointments.

#### Update of procedures for using Five College libraries

There is no new information to report.

#### Report on usage of hearing assistance equipment

Terry Rosenfeld provided a detailed report that is attached to the minutes.

## **New Business**

### Discussion of Special Programs Committee structure

An ad hoc committee was formed to consider a possible restructure of the committee, consider how we might best encourage new programs, and determine which programs/groups should be open to the public. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jake Greenburg.

### Consideration of the creation of Membership/Development Committee

The Council reviewed a proposal from Tisha to form a Membership Committee (proposal is attached to the minutes). The Committee would be charged with setting membership policies, creating strategies to retain existing members, getting members involved in the organization, and promoting outreach and community engagement.

Several comments were offered by Council members:

- We had a similar committee in the past but the members grew tired after participating for as long as five years. Sheila Klem chaired that committee and would be a good resource for perspective.
- Some membership issues are presented to Tisha, and she does not have any place to refer inquiries.
- Member participation is usually enhanced if people are asked, personally, to assist.
- Perhaps we should tell our membership that we have a problem, and ask for their participation.

The Council agreed to take the following action:

Jake Greenburg will form an ad hoc committee to take this proposal, add additional related issues, and determine what we should do next. Jake will solicit help from relevant committee chairs, the historian, ombudsman, and Five College liaison.

### Other Items

Joanne Creighton reported that she will be moving soon to Connecticut, thus creating a vacancy on the Council. Her last Council meeting will probably be the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Cynthia Barker, Secretary

## Special Programs Report to Council – September 13, 2018

An Ad Hoc committee has been formed to revise the entry regarding Special Programs in the 5CLIR Operations Manual.

The Book Interest Group's next meeting is Friday, September 21, to discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. For further information, contact Naomi Yanis.

Nancy Mihevc and Glenn Swanson continue to facilitate our Encore Presentations. The spring presentations were well attended and well received. This fall's Encore presentations are schedule for the following Friday mornings: September 28, October 12, 19, 26, and November 2, 9, 16. Our venue is at the Applewood Retirement Community from 10:00 AM to 12 PM. Reminders will be emailed to our membership, listed in the 5CLIR Reporter, and available on [www.5CLIR.org](http://www.5CLIR.org).

Opera Prep, with Peg Bedell, meets on the Fridays preceding the HD Live Operas shown at the Hadley Cinemark. The schedule will be announced in our October Reporter and online at [www.5CLIR.org](http://www.5CLIR.org). Meetings are at the Inn at Easthampton Lathrop, Garden Room, from 2:00- 3:00PM.

The Theatre Interest Group, facilitated by Kay Klausewitz, is planning its first theater trip of the year to the Goodspeed Opera House, by the CT river in East Haddam, CT, on Saturday, October 6, for a matinee of the musical entitled *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and a tour of the theater's behind-the-scenes production facilities, located about a mile from the theater.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Ilene Rosenfeld, Chair

9/13/2018

## Membership Committee Proposal

This proposal is to form a committee that will be responsible for developing an overview of the membership, drafting policies and procedures, and planning for retention and expansion of the Learning in Retirement membership.

Specifically, the membership committee is charged with:

- Membership Policies
  - Setting membership fees, and policies for refunds and rebates
  - Developing membership rules and participation guidelines
- Creating strategies for retaining existing members
  - conducting surveys to determine interests and preferences
  - obtaining feedback from programs
  - recommending changes and innovations
- Getting members involved in the organization
  - Develop list of volunteers
  - Develop ways to improve member communications
- Outreach and Community Engagement
  - Develop ideas for attracting new members
  - Raise the profile of 5CLIR in the wider community

The Membership would work together with existing committees and the Office Manager, as appropriate.