

LLI Council Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

Via Zoom

9:31 a.m. to 11:02 a.m.

Council Members Present: Robert Beaury, Nanci Kryzak, Deborah Lanser, Jill Lundquist, John Mathews, Emily Michael, Chuck Mishaan, Marge Moran, Cathy Reinis, Deborah Schwartz, Linda Stanley, Linda Still, Anne Sunners, Tom Esposito, Ex Officio

Council Members Absent: Ann Miller

Also Present: Tony Avirgan, Barbara Burns, Martha Honey, Theresa McQuirk

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by President Nanci Kryzak at 9:31 a.m. Nanci welcomed the guests and invited Council members and the guests to introduce themselves.

Minutes: Upon a motion by Emily and seconded by Jill, the minutes of December 21, 2020 were unanimously approved. Upon a motion by Linda Stanley and seconded by John, the minutes of the special Council meeting on January 15, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Nanci Kryzak

Motion: Nanci requested a motion to approve implementation of the proposal by the Hybrid Learning Task Force, as presented to Council on January 15, 2021. Robert so moved, Deborah L seconded, and by a show of hands, the motion passed unanimously.

A planning meeting for regional LLIs may occur Monday, January 25. If it does, Nanci will attend on our behalf. There will be discussion of how frequently to hold regional conferences. Topic-driven smaller meetings may also be scheduled.

Action point: Nanci asked Council members to let her know by the end of this week about any suggested topics for discussion.

1st Vice President's Report: Linda Stanley

The Nominating Committee has met five times. A reminder to the membership to submit names of people for Council positions will be sent out January 20. On January 26, the group will meet and reform as the Election Committee. The Committee will review the suggested nominations, prepare a slate of candidates for the March election, and get bios and photos.

2nd Vice President's Report: Cathy Reinis

Cathy and Deborah S have worked together to set up a system whereby people who run committees and teams can access their workflow documents and change them to reflect their practices. They will start with the Nominating and Election Committees.

Correspondence: Deborah Lanser

Deborah reported that there was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Beaury

Robert noted that our tech expenses have increased, as reflected in this month's budget. For the next fiscal year, we will need to increase the amount we plan to spend about tech.

Motion: Upon a motion by Linda Stanley and seconded by Emily, Council voted unanimously to approve the treasurer's December 2020 report.

Jill asked whether we have managed to work with Bard to create a system in which vendors are paid directly rather than having members put out their own money and get reimbursed. The difficulty remains unresolved, although Robert has asked Bard to pay the large bills directly. Bard still has to make the payments more quickly. Tom pointed out that for large expenses, we can submit a purchase order to Julie Cerulli.

Action point: Nanci will send Julie's contact information to Robert.

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Administration/Infrastructure: Deborah Schwartz

Deborah is feeling increasingly positive as effective systems are getting into place. MailChimp process has been problematic, but an improved process should soon be in place.

Carmela Gersbeck is working on the issue of training our members to work with the technology LLI uses. We can create training materials and store them on Google Classroom. Members can access the materials through their LLI account.

Bill Tuel and the catalog editing group have completed the spring catalog, which has been sent to Susan Christoffersen for the website.

Cathy reported that approximately 70% of members open the newsletter, but she would like it to be higher. The open rate for nonmembers is lower, at approximately 45%.

Because we haven't been on campus for about a year, no new photos of Bard have been submitted. A new group has been established to source photos, with the email address visuals@lli.bard.edu.

Action point: Send any photos we have to the visuals group for possible publication in the newsletter and elsewhere.

A fanfare by Joan Tower will be played at the inauguration.

Action point: Jill will share a link to the performance, which can be put on the website.

The Online Team, headed by Carmela Gersbeck and Susan Christoffersen, reported that the first week of WinterFest was successful. Some technical problems interfered with the second week, but those have been addressed and the affected class rescheduled. We have not experienced a zoom bombing, but a plan to deal with one is in place.

The Tech Team is stretched right now, because everything is being done online. More volunteers are needed, and everyone will be trained,

Susan Christoffersen has been diligent about keeping the website up to date.

Curricular and Special Programs: Anne Sunners

Anne thanked Jeff Christensen for spending 50 hours collating videos for a WinterFest course. Such efforts make our program better.

The committee is now working on courses for SummerFest, which will be held on four Fridays in June, and for the fall. Irene Esposito will help with SummerFest, since her hospitality committee is on hiatus.

Action point: Council members should contact Anne if they know of someone who would like to teach.

Governance: Nanci Kryzak

Identifying potential replacements for Council positions is an ongoing process. Nanci is now speaking with all officers and committee chairs about their roles.

Other efforts concern how to encourage people who are not working on any committee or team to participate. Nanci is working with the Membership Development Committee to recruit people for specific committees and teams.

Nanci is planning to suggest our Sustained Leadership Development plan as a future topic to be presented at one of the LLI regional conferences.

Membership Development Committee: Linda Still

The Social Gatherings team is developing events concerning gardening and tea tasting for February.

Near the spring session, Maddy Watterson will send out a reminder to mentors to keep in touch with their mentees.

Kim Sears reported that the response to the new member survey was overwhelmingly positive, although a few people commented on the difficulty working with Zoom.

Barbara Burns has been mining applications to identify possible presenters. Linda applauded Martha Honey, Chuck Mishaan, and Robert Beaury for stepping up as presenters. The new member application for this year may ask whether the applicant may be willing to present a course.

Barbara is reaching out to new members about their interests and continues to invite members to attend Council meetings.

Donna Warner has agreed to chair the Sustained Leadership Development subcommittee with Barbara as co-chair.

Planning and Evaluation: Jill Lundquist

The work of the Hybrid Learning Team is continuing under the leadership of Chuck Mishaan. A conference with Paul LaBarbera, director of AV services at Bard, and our own AV team will clarify what technology is available to us.

As an outgrowth of the Who, Us? Class, the ongoing study group is proposing a community read of Isabel Wilkerson's book *Caste*, as part of an initiative with the libraries of Red Hook, Tivoli, Bard College and possibly LLI. This may become a course offering for LLI.

Amy Smith of the Red Hook Library is promoting a program to accept used desktop computers, laptops, and tablets for students in need. Their tech team will wipe the computers clean of all personal information, upgrade the devices, and make them available. There will be a notice in the February newsletter.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Deborah L read the following policy for discussion:

PROG 01/13-A. Presenters may promote to their class members. Presenters may provide, to those attending their classes, a list of their upcoming scheduled events, shows, etc. Additionally, class members may sign up to be placed on the presenter's list to receive emails regarding events, shows, etc.

No changes to the policy were proposed, and it stands as written.

Deborah then read the following policy:

PROG 02/20. LLI will publicize only events directly related to LLI or Bard. LLI will not advertise other events or organizations, including those sponsored by members or presenters. Death notices of LLI members will be briefly mentioned in the newsletter under the heading "In Memoriam," with links to the member's obituary if available.

Chuck commented that he believed we had planned to first get permission from the family to mention a member's passing. Cathy responded that this had proven almost impossible.

Robert noted that, by limiting promotion of groups outside LLI or Bard, this policy would prohibit us from advertising the computer donation project sponsored by the Red Hook library.

Anne suggested we should reconsider the wording on second policy.

Action point: Bring up the possible rewording at P&E and craft a new policy, if needed.

Linda Still asked whether donated computers could also be given to LLI members who need them.

Guest Comments

Guests were impressed by the efficient functioning of the Council meetings. Tony added he was looking forward to seeing how he might fit in as a volunteer. Martha said she would continue teaching her course before signing up for any committees.

Theresa said attending the meeting helped her get a big picture of the organization. Jill directed her to the website for a chart that shows how LLI is set up.

Jill noted we are looking at improving LLI's diversity. Chuck added this is one item on the agenda of the Hybrid Learning Team. Tom pointed out that we do offer scholarships, which may help us reach people who can't afford the membership fees.

Barbara thanked Nanci for forwarding Leon Botstein's recent letter to the membership. She suggested that we think about recording Council meetings for the membership to see. Nanci recommended holding back on that until we get input from the lawyers who are advising us on developing our recording policy.

Adjournment

Motion: Upon a motion by Cathy, seconded by Linda Stanley, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lanser
Secretary