



**Minutes of the LLI Council Meeting
November 15, 2021
Video Conference 9:31 - 11:29 p.m.**

Council Members Present: Robert Beaury, Tom Esposito (ex officio), Felice Gelman, Carmela Gersbeck, Carol Goss, Robert English, Nanci Kryzak, Deborah Lanser, Linda LeGendre, Jill Lundquist, Chuck Mishaan, Marge Moran, Deborah Schwartz, Linda Stanley

Council Members Absent: John Mathews

Also Present: Deb Alexander, Ami Brophy, Barbara Burns, Wendy Hansen, Lisa Tumbleson

Call to Order: President Nanci Kryzak called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Upon a motion by Felice and seconded by Linda Stanley, the minutes of October 18, 2021 were unanimously approved..

Executive Committee Reports

President's Report: Nanci Kryzak

Nanci congratulated everyone for their efforts in making the fall semester such a success.

Linda S suggested that the Nominations and Election Committees for 2022 include Linda S, Barbara Burns, Navin Sharma, John Matthews, Carol Goss, Chuck Mishaan, and Marge Moran.

Motion: Upon a motion by Carmela and seconded by Marge, Council unanimously approved the committees, which will work jointly.

First Vice President's Report: Linda Stanley

The banner across Annandale Road was removed on November 1 and is now stored in Nanci's garage.

The first meeting of the Nominations and Election Committees will be held in December.

Second Vice President's Report: Felice Gelman

The Bylaws Committee made a few substantive changes to the document, which can be discussed in P&E. Felice thanked the committee for their hard work.

Deborah S pointed out that we are not always consistent about which group is a committee and which is a team. The bylaws call Nominations and Elections and Finance committees when they

are a subgroup of standing committees. Nanci pointed out that both are important to the organization. Deborah said it is hard to keep track of the exceptions. Jill pointed out that the bylaws define the standing committees, but the organization of other groups was deliberately left flexible so teams could be moved around.

Agreement: The issue can be discussed at P&E.

Another proposed revision is that 10% of members can call a special meeting once a year when there is an issue to discuss. It is the job of Council to remedy serious issues that are making members unhappy. This is a process to respond to what members want.

The Committee raised questions about Article X, which specifies that if LLI is dissolved, all funds should be distributed to a 501C organization. But there is a question about who should oversee the distribution.

Action point: We need to discuss this at P&E and look for a lawyer who can give us advice.

Secretary's Report: Deborah Lanser

Deborah reported that we received only one piece of mail in the previous month, a flyer from the Dutchess County Task Force on Aging.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Beaury

For the month of October, we took in \$88 and spent \$1373.15.

Motion: Upon a motion by Linda L and seconded by Jill, the budget report was unanimously approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Admin/Infrastructure: Deborah Schwartz

The catalog team has been working on WinterFest.

The newsletter goes out to 672 recipients, with an open rate of approximately 60%.

We still don't have the new version of ProClass, but we have received an invoice.

Chris Compton has agreed to join the tech team, and he will be working on MailChimp.

Curricular and Special Programs: Linda LeGendre

Council has received the evaluations. Linda has sent the comments to the producers so they can see the reactions to their classes.

The spring schedule will include zoom courses on Thursday and four in-person periods on Fridays. The semester will start on March 10/11 and run for 7 consecutive weeks.

Action point: confirm Bard's class timing to help us determine the schedule for on-campus classes.

The Social Justice Group is developing a course, which can be discussed at the next P&E meeting.

Governance: Nanci Kryzak

Jill reported that CCE asked LLI to send our members info about the Afghan Student Initiative and Thanksgiving outreach. We hope our members will contribute to both causes.

Tamara Stafford, an international student and scholar advisor at Bard, wants to arrange opportunities for LLI members to meet with some of the Afghan students who recently arrived at the college. Nanci noted that the students have been overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunity to complete their education in safety.

Action point: Marge offered to coordinate with Tamara to arrange the meetings.

Robert B reported that at a recent meeting, the Finance Committee recommended that:

1. At least 10% of LLI annual income should be held in reserve when preparing the budget for FY2023. By focusing on saving funds for future contingencies, we will continue to ensure we have a safety net for the organization should the need arise.

2. From the \$23,380 budgeted this fiscal year, the following donations to Bard should be considered:

Joan Tower Composition Scholarship \$1,500

Center for Civic Engagement \$5,500

Fund for Visual Learning \$2,500

Dean's Discretionary Fund \$4,000

Dean Stuart Stritzler-Levine Seniors to Seniors Scholarships \$3,750

Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) \$2,000

Sub Total \$19,250

Sill available: \$4,130

Afghan Student Fund (working estimate) \$1,200

Remaining available \$2,930

Bard will be contacted regarding any need to contribute to the CCE Student Emergency Fund this fiscal year. Last year we contributed \$3,000 and the year before that \$2,500. To the extent this fund does not require funding, part or all of the balance will be added to the Afghan Student Fund.

Motion: Upon a motion by Linda S and seconded by Marge, Council unanimously approved donations to Bard in the amount of \$19,250, as outlined in the Finance Committee report, plus \$1200 for the Afghan Student Fund.

Additional money may be donated to the Afghan Student Fund once we have more information from Bonnie Goad on CCE Student Emergency Fund needs.

Membership Development: Robert English

Barbara Burns has gathered the names of all volunteers. They will be thanked in a MailChimp sent to all members.

The new member survey will go out in December.

The committee is looking for more opportunities for socials, including some connected with the Fisher Center, gardening, and a very limited one at Starr Library. If people have other ideas, please let Robert know.

Program Support: Carmela Gersbeck

We have 25 active session managers, but Carmela is trying to recruit more. The Hybrid Team is considering expanding the hybrid opportunities, but they need more people with strong tech skills.

Carmela is also looking to recruit people for the Hospitality Team. We don't know whether we can set up the hospitality room in the spring. We may eventually get permission to buy food at Kline Commons and eat it outside, but all hospitality planning depends on Bard's covid protocols.

Planning and Evaluation: Jill Lundquist

Jill recommended that Council members read the individual reports by the Social Justice Group contained in the P&E minutes.

Old Business

Deborah L read the following policy for review:

FIN 11/20. LLI at Bard is immensely grateful to Bard College for its generous support. LLI, in turn, donates generously to the college, while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our organization. The LLI Finance Committee initiates the proposals for donations each year, in consultation with Bard administration, and makes recommendations to LLI Council for approval.

There was no discussion, and the policy stands.

Deborah then read the following policy:

ORG 12/12. Former LLI members are not given priority for membership when reapplying for membership.

There was no discussion, and the policy stands.

At the previous Council meeting, members requested, a reworking of Policy 10/19A

Prior version:

In the Fall semester, members who withdraw prior to the first day of class may request a refund. Requests will be considered by the President on a case-by-case basis.

Suggested alternative:

In the fall semester, members who withdraw from LLI membership by the end of the second week of classes may request a refund of the annual membership fee.

Deborah S pointed out that this new version does not specify that the President is the person who should receive the request, and that it should be in writing.

Action point: rework the alternative and present it to Council at the next meeting.

New Business

Marge, representing the membership, said she has received a number of complaints about using ProClass and about the difficulty of getting into some courses. Felice pointed out that these difficulties are partly due to limitations in class size because of Covid and partly because of the increase in membership. These difficulties could partly be resolved by setting up more than one session if the presenter is willing and by using the wish list function.

Action point: Write an article explaining the reasons for the limitations in class size for the newsletter.

Linda Stanley asked us to think about potential candidates for the office of president, first vice president, treasurer, and two members at large. The terms for the current officeholders will expire in 2022.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Linda S and seconded by Jill, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lanser
Secretary