



Council Minutes
January 17, 2023
9:30 - 10:20 a.m.
Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Robert Beaury, Jerry Brockett, Felice Gelman, Carmela Gersbeck, Carol Goss, Robert Inglish, Deborah Lanser, Jill Lundquist, Linda LeGendre, Mary McClellan, Michael Weinstock

Council Members Absent: Kayla Bell, John Mathews

Call to Order

President Robert Beaury called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the Council meeting of December 19, 2022 were approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Deborah reported that we received two pieces of correspondence in the previous month, a flier from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging and a letter from CCS for Robert Inglish.

Treasurer's Report

Jerry reported that in the previous month we had no income and some minor operating expenses for gifts and hospitality. We donated \$9,000 to the Dean's discretionary fund, \$9,000 to the Center for Civic Engagement, \$1,500 to the Joan Tower Composition Scholarship, \$1,500 to the Fund for Visual Learning, and \$1,000 to Hessel Museum, for a total of \$23,000. Details will be forthcoming about how the donations to CCE and the Dean's discretionary fund are allocated.

Nominations and Elections (Update)

Mary reported that Sue Simon will run for Secretary and Linda Christensen and Eleanor Wieder will run for member at large. No one has stepped forward for Second Vice President. Mary will continue to reach out to potential candidates.

Action point: Mary will obtain photos and bios from the candidates.

Action point: Carmela will look at the archived MailChimps to find the ballot we used last year. It can be updated for this year's election and for the proposed amendment to the bylaws (see below).

Amendment to Bylaws (Vote)

Felice noted that the bylaws have been revised to reflect our current organizational structure with five rather than six committees (Appendix 1). She proposed that the revised bylaws be sent to the membership for approval with the following wording:

"Due to the resignation of the Chair of Administration/Infrastructure committee last Spring, and following a period where we were unsuccessful in attracting a new member to serve as Chair, Council re-organized the tasks under our standing committees to eliminate the Administration/Infrastructure standing committee. The tasks previously listed under that committee were allocated to the other five standing committees. We propose amending our bylaws to reflect that change in our structure.

The changes to Articles IV and VII reduce the number of standing committees from six to five and eliminate Administration/Infrastructure as one of the standing committees."

The revised bylaws plus the new organizational chart should be distributed at least 30 days before the vote is taken. A link to the revised document can be included in the ballot.

Council members unanimously voted to accept the revised version of the bylaws and to use Felice's proposed wording when sending them out.

Proposal Re: Donations to Tribal Organizations

The DEI Team is developing a course about Native Americans with a focus on the Hudson Valley region. Dr. Christian Crouch, Bard's Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor of History, and head of Bard's *Rethinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck* project, is helping to develop the course. She has requested that LLI set aside a maximum of \$1,500 to donate to tribal organizations who employ Native American presenters.

Several Council members agreed that this is a worthwhile program. Our policies do not directly forbid donating to charities outside Bard. Some Council members expressed concern about establishing a precedent and about donating money that may actually be given to tribal governments, which are not charities.

Robert Beaury pointed out that LLI will be collaborating directly with Bard to develop the program. If other organizations ever request a donation, it would have to be along the same lines as the one proposed by DEI in conjunction with Bard and approved by Council.

VOTE: By a vote of 9 to 2, Council approved proceeding with this program and making donations to the tribal organizations that employ any Native American presenter.

Senior to Senior Tea

The last tea was held on April 22, 2022. We will look to hold the tea at the end of April again this year.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was last held on May 13, 2022. We will look to hold the 2023 meeting in the middle of May again.

Policies for Review

Deborah read the following policy for Council consideration:

ORG 03/19-A. The LLI Council will determine membership cap annually in April.

Council members agreed that it can stand as is.

Deborah then read the following policy for consideration.

ORG 2/22A. In the event of bad weather, LLI follows decisions made by the Red Hook Central School District. When RHCSD cancels classes: LLI will also cancel its classes and all other programs. When RHCSD delays the start of classes: 1) LLI first-period classes will be canceled; 2) second-period classes will begin, as usual, at 10:10 a.m.; 3) LLI WinterFest programs will be held as usual. For information: RHCSD: redhookcentralschools.org or cancellations.com, or call: 845 758-2241. All Zoom classes will be held as scheduled, regardless of school closures.

Again, Council saw no need to change it.

Deborah then read the following policy:

ORG 2/22B Bard LLI uses Google Workspace for Education for all committees and team communications and records. G Suite tools allow collaboration and coordination among and between committees and teams.

G Suite includes Shared Drives with appropriate permissions, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, and other G Suite applications.

Reference documents, training, and coaching are provided to all members who need to access G Suite files.

Council members saw no need to change it.

Meeting Times

Since Jill will be on the west coast during February and March, she requested that the time of P&E meetings be changed to 11 a.m. Council members accepted the change.

Social Events

Robert I wants to plan a semi-annual party, possibly in July. In addition, an event may be scheduled at the Hessel Museum at a time when the curatorial students can explain the exhibits. Robert and his committee are also looking to have an event on Sunday, March 4, at the Fisher Center in conjunction with the presentation of *Iolanthe*. He is also investigating the

possibility of an event in conjunction with the jazz program. party thinking about a semi-annual party.

Adjournment

With the unanimous approval of Council members, Robert B adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lanser
Secretary

Appendix 1

Article I – Name

The name of the organization shall be Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) at Bard College. The mailing address shall be PO Box 22, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504, and listed on our website. LLI shall be sponsored by Bard College, under the auspices of the Center for Civic Engagement, and shall be affiliated with the Road Scholar Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) Resource Network.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Lifetime Learning Institute shall be to provide educational and social opportunities for our members and invited guests to share their love of learning and to exchange ideas and experiences. LLI offers noncredit and noncompetitive courses and other events under the sponsorship of Bard College. LLI strives to be an inclusive organization and welcomes applicants and members from all backgrounds.

Article III – Membership

Membership shall be open to all adults who have interest in the purposes and activities of the organization upon written application and payment of annual dues as set by the governing body, subject to maximum Council-approved enrollment. Members shall have the right to vote to elect officers and members at large, to vote on proposed amendments to the bylaws, to vote on the annual budget, to hold office and participate in the benefits of the organization, and to receive notices and/or reports as issued by LLI. Members are encouraged to volunteer.

Article IV – Governing Body

The governing body of LLI shall be an eleven (11) to fifteen (15) voting member Council consisting of an Executive Committee of five (5) elected officers, plus four (4) elected members at large and **five (5)** appointed standing committee chairpersons. Additionally, there shall be two (2) ex officio members. The ex officio member appointed by Bard shall have no voting rights and shall not be counted in the quorum. The immediate past president shall be an ex officio member with no voting rights and shall not be counted in the quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of current, voting Council members. A Council member having five (5) absences within a period of twelve (12) consecutive months shall be deemed to have resigned from Council. No Council member shall have more than one vote on matters brought to the Council.

Article V – Nominations and Election

The Nominations and Election Team shall be appointed by the president, as needed, and approved by a majority of current voting Council members. The team shall consist of the first vice president as chair, the four (4) members at large, and at least one (1) non-Council member.

The Nominations and Election Team shall solicit recommendations from the membership for the nomination of elected officers and members at large, and shall recommend candidates to be voted upon by the membership. At the request of the president, the Nominations and Election Team shall also recommend candidates for appointment or replacement of standing committee chairs, to be approved by a majority of current voting Council members.

The Nominations and Election Team shall conduct annual elections each spring by means of membership voting, and shall report results to the membership at the annual meeting in May.

Elections for Council shall be as follows:

1st year: president, first vice president, treasurer, and two (2) members at large

2nd year: second vice president, secretary, and two (2) members at large

The president shall serve for a two (2) year term, with the option to be nominated for one (1) additional two (2) year term. All other elected officers and the members at large shall serve for terms of two (2) years, with the option to be nominated for two (2) additional two (2) year terms. Chairpersons of the standing committees shall be appointed by the president, with approval by a majority of current voting Council members. They shall serve at the pleasure of the president.

Officers and members at large shall be chosen from the membership by a majority of LLI members voting in the annual election. The Nominations and Election Team shall report on the results of the annual election to the membership at the annual meeting in May. Elected members of Council shall take office on July 1. If any officer or member at large leaves his/her position before the term expires, the Nominations and Election Team shall make recommendations to the president for replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term. Appointments for replacement shall be made by the president and approved by a majority of current voting Council members. The replacement Council members shall have full rights as voting members of the Council for the remainder of the unexpired terms they fill.

Article VI – Officers and Members at Large

The president shall:

- Preside at all Council and annual meetings
- Serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee
- Serve as an ex officio member of all other committees
- Oversee LLI finances
- Appoint committee chairs, subject to approval by Council
- Create ad hoc teams
- Maintain a connection with Bard

The first vice president shall:

- Perform the president's duties in case of absence
- Serve as a member of the Executive Committee
- Serve as an ex officio member of all other committees
- Ensure provision of orientation and training of the second vice president
- Ensure provision of orientation and training for new Council members
- Conduct, at least annually, a survey of the membership on LLI matters and prepare a report.
- Chair the Nominations and Election Team
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president

The second vice president shall:

- Perform the first vice president's duties in case of absence
- Serve as a member of the Executive Committee
- Serve as an ex officio member of all other committees
- Conduct a bylaws review every five (5) years or as needed
- Maintain a current workflow/operations manual
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president

The secretary shall:

- Serve as a member of the Executive Committee
- Record and distribute the minutes of all Council meetings
- Record attendance for all Council members at required meetings and annual meetings

- Maintain a file of approved minutes
- Maintain a file of confidential executive session minutes and other meetings as requested by the president
- Maintain a current policy manual
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president

The treasurer shall:

- Serve as a member of the Executive Committee
- Work with the office of the comptroller of Bard College to process disbursements and receipts of LLI at Bard
- Prepare a financial statement for all Council meetings
- Prepare an annual budget and finance report for Council approval and report to the membership at the annual meeting for adoption
- Serve on the Finance Team
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president

The members at large shall:

- Represent the interests of the general membership
- Serve on the Nominations and Election Team
- Perform other duties as assigned by the president

Article VII – Committees

Executive Committee: president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and treasurer

The **five (5)** standing committees of the Council shall be:

- Curriculum
- Governance
- Membership Development
- Program Support
- Planning and Evaluation

Ad hoc teams: appointed by the president as needed.

The chairpersons of all committees shall serve at the pleasure of the president.

Article VIII – Meetings

The annual general membership meeting shall be held in May. At the annual meeting the Nominations and Election Team shall present the results of the annual election and, when appropriate, the Bylaws Review Team shall present amendments to the bylaws that have been approved by the membership. (See Article XII below). The treasurer shall present the annual budget for approval by a majority of the members present.

Council: The Council shall meet a minimum of nine (9) times per year. Special Council meetings may be called at the request of the president or at the request of three (3) Council members with seven (7) days notice. A quorum shall consist of a majority of current, voting Council members.

Executive Committee: Meetings shall be called by the president as needed. This committee shall have general supervision of LLI between Council meetings and in the event of an emergency.

Committees: Meetings shall be called by the committee chairpersons as needed.

Special: Special membership meetings may be called by the president or upon written request of at least ten percent (10%) of LLI members, the purpose to be indicated in the request. Seven (7) days prior notice shall be given to the membership. Special membership meetings requested by members are limited to one per fiscal year.

Article IX – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall coincide with that of the sponsoring institution, Bard College, July 1 to June 30.

Article X – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Lifetime Learning Institute at Bard College the net assets of the organization shall be distributed to Bard College, a 501(c)(3) organization, under the oversight of the president and the Finance Team. No funds shall benefit any member.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Article XII – Amendments

The second vice president shall chair a Bylaws Review Team appointed by the president consisting of a minimum of two (2) members from the Council and one (1) from the general membership. This team shall be appointed at least every five (5) years or as needed to consider amendments to the bylaws. The team's recommendations shall be presented to the Council for approval by a majority of current voting members of the Council, and then to the membership for adoption prior to the annual meeting.

Notice to members of proposed amendments to the bylaws must be given at least thirty (30) days prior to commencement of voting on the proposed amendments. Amendments to the bylaws must be approved for adoption by two-thirds (2/3) of those members participating in the voting. Voting on amendments shall be conducted prior to the annual meeting. Results of the voting shall be announced by the Bylaws Review Team at the annual meeting in May, and the amended bylaws shall become effective immediately on the date of the annual meeting.

adopted at Annual Meeting:	08/17/2001
amended at Annual Meeting:	09/12/2003
amended at Annual Meeting:	09/18/2006
revised and adopted at Annual Meeting:	09/11/2009
amended at Annual Meeting:	09/23/2010
amended at Annual Meeting:	09/01/2012
amended at Annual Meeting:	09/09/2013
adopted at Annual Meeting:	09/08/2014
revised and adopted at Annual Meeting:	09/06/2017
Revised and adopted at Annual Meeting	05/13/2022
Amended at Annual Meeting	05/xx/2023

(Appendix 2)

Proposal to make donations on behalf of certain Native American Presenters

LLI members of the DEI team are working on a project that will result in courses on Indigenous peoples and culture beginning this Summer and Fall. The course(s) will include one or more Native Americans who will present one or more sessions within each course.

Bard recently received a sizable grant to develop its own Indigenous Studies program, and with the generous support from Dr. Christian Crouch, Director of the Indigenous Studies Program, DEI – and LLI – are at an exciting point in our mission to provide related educational opportunities to our members.

Members MH, LS, LB, JL, and RB met with Dr. Crouch via Zoom to discuss the DEI's project and received valuable feedback and advice.

Note:

The DEI team is interested in developing an Indigenous Studies program and Dr. Crouch has accepted an invitation from DEI to present the first session in the Native Americans in New York class in the Fall.

This is an area of study that has unique features that revolve around the Indigenous culture. DEI will need professional assistance to handle planning. Dr. Crouch offered \$3,000 to compensate a Native American scholar who is well known and respected in this area to work with DEI in developing this program.

Dr. Crouch suggested that LLI make donations to Tribal Organizations that Native American presenters are affiliated with as a sign of respect.

Our policy on honorariums is as follows:

PROG 05/18-B. LLI presenters are volunteers from LLI's membership, the community, and Bard College faculty. LLI does not offer honorariums.

The current proposal is to make donations to Tribal Organizations named by Native American employees of such organizations who present in this program. Even if an honorarium were offered, they will not accept it.

The rationale for a donation is to show respect to the Indigenous culture and is recommended by Dr. Crouch to make Native American presenters feel respected. It is very possible this program may not get started if donations will not be made. Please keep in mind that the way our culture and their culture view certain types of gestures is different.

The amount of the donation will be a few hundred dollars and must be earmarked for an entity located within the Tribal Organization.

There was a suggestion at our most recent P&E meeting that we donate to an entity at Bard, which could then make the donation on behalf of LLI. We explored that possibility with Dr. Crouch but because of the way their Rethinking Place program is set up, donations cannot be made through it.

Here is the relevant policy:

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.

If approved, we would have made the donations to Bard for disbursement, but as previously noted, the Indigenous Studies program is not set up to receive donations.

Two issues to consider:

1. Do we vote to approve making small donations (up to a few hundred dollars) to Native American employees of Tribal Organizations who present in LLI's program (up to a maximum of \$1,500 per academic year)?
2. Since making the donations to Bard for distribution is not feasible, but after consulting with Bard administration (pursuant to LLI's policy), do we approve making those donations directly to the Tribal Organization?

Distinguishing facts:

The donations would be connected to an LLI program that Bard is also interested in and involved with.

Bard is willing to make a \$3,000 investment in providing professional advice to DEI in developing this program.

Bard's interest in our putting together this program might lead to new opportunities for the College's program, as well as more Bard scholars presenting at LLI.

This proposal for donations is not intended to open the door to requests from presenters to donate to the charity of their choice. The important distinction is that (a) LLI is working directly with Bard on this program, (b) only Native American presenters that are active employees of a Tribal Organization would be eligible to recommend an entity within the Tribe to receive a donation, and (c) such donation(s) are likely integral to the success of developing and maintaining this program.

We contribute approximately \$28,500 to Bard to support a variety of Bard programs. These proposed donations, if approved, would also be supporting a close partnership between LLI and Bard in this field of study.