

BSC Minutes May 8, 2019

Senior College at Belfast Board of Trustees May 8, 2019

Minutes

Call to order: The president called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Absent: Sandy Cirillo, David Boyer

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting were approved upon a motion by John Economy.

Treasurer's report: The organization is in good shape and we should be financially secure in the coming year. The question arose regarding the payment of scholarships for Hutchinson Center students. The treasurer asked for a written request from the Board prior to writing the check. Elizabeth Pollock moved to accept the report.

Other Reports:

President: Representatives from the Board will be meeting in a few weeks with Hutchinson Center personnel regarding a new contract. The Curriculum Committee has requested Board direction concerning course descriptions, categories, and the appropriateness of the range of course topics. The Dover-Foxcroft organizing committee for a senior college has still failed to meet with us; after many attempts they continued to cancel. In a discussion with other College leadership the president discovered that enrolment statistics were counted in different ways and that fundraising had become essential to cover operating costs. Both the President and Treasurer will be away in June so there will be no meeting until July.

Curriculum Committee: Sam Overlook, the Technical Director at Hutchinson Center, was roundly praised for his service to Instructors. It was suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Sam. Seven course proposals have been received for the summer. Two have been approved thus far, 2 were asked to rewrite the proposals of which one decided not to participate. The Committee will meet next week to finalize the summer curriculum. The catalog will be available shortly after the meeting. Seven proposals have already been presented for the fall session.

Special Events Committee: No Report

Finance Committee: No Report

Archives Committee: No Report

Publicity Committee: The article on Senior College Belfast will appear in the September issue. Elizabeth said that she and office volunteers will label and stamp postcards. The current Chair will continue sending out Press information and attempting to get features in local papers.

Festival of Arts: The number of submissions was down slightly from last year. Volunteers for various duties are needed but should be filled in time for the event which runs from May 30 through June 2.

Fundraising Committee: No report

Nominating Committee: No report

Registrar: We currently have 512 members which includes 112 new memberships. 263 students took 358 classes in the past spring session.

Unfinished Business

The Conflict of Interest Policy was unanimously approved as written on a motion by Karin Look.

The Maine bicentennial will be celebrated in 2020 and Senior Colleges throughout the state will be part of the observation of the event which not only look to the past but to the future as well. The Curriculum Committee will solicit proposals that recognize the event from presenters such as Pete Reilly, Chris Glass, and Ray Estabrook. It was suggested that the Special Events Committee consider a speaker perhaps utilizing the Golden Rule Fund.

Unfinished Business

The selection of Nancy Perkins as Chair of the Curriculum Committee was approved by motion of Elizabeth Pollock.

The issue of examining the Course Appropriateness Policy has been raised by the Curriculum Committee. Other Senior Colleges policies are somewhat vague in delineating this and it was suggested that we take a look at our policy, including the informal policy that courses should not promote a business or product, with the intent of assuring that it meets the objectives of the mission statement. Elaine Potoker offered to assist with this endeavor.

Request to Allow Free Guests in one-day class:

After much discussion the board felt that more time was needed to determine how this could be accomplished and it was decided to postpone consideration until next year. The idea of members bringing grandchildren or appropriately aged children to a course such as "Hamilton" was particularly appealing.

On May 23 Senior College leadership will meet with Hutchinson Center representatives for the purpose of negotiating the contract and perhaps extending the contract period (currently 2 years) to 3 years.

Elaine Potoker introduced a suggestion of having the full board vet board candidates to the Senior College Board. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting scheduled for June 12, 2019 may be postponed until July.

Nancy Perkins
Acting Secretary