

Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting Sept 9, 2020 (via Zoom)

Call to Order: President Pete Reilly called the meeting to order at 9:32.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 8 meeting were accepted.

Approval Treasurer's Report : Brenda Smith gave a brief overview of her report which was sent by email. Revenue from members is higher than expected, but income from courses is well below. This may change as the semester goes on. Fall expenses are higher this month but will go down. Brenda has had a hard time chasing down financial reports from the University of Maine Foundation. Nancy Perkins asked if we were members of Our Town Belfast in addition to the Chamber of Commerce, and Brenda thought not. This is something to look into and pursue. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Fall Semester: Nancy Perkins reported that sign-ups are weak so far. The class in aging well has only 3 people registered so far and will almost certainly be cancelled, with hopes that she can bring it back when Sr College can "go live" again. Al Arthur reports that registration for fall classes increase when a new email goes out, and continues to trickle in afterwards. August course with Meagan from Historical Society went very well. We may be able to get her back to do a course covering a later period.

There is a free concert Sunday by Joel Mavis, open to all, which we may announce. We have two courses approved for Winterim, one for Spring. Hoping for classes that attract large numbers. Deirdre Good will take over as Curriculum Committee chair, and Nancy will remain on the committee. Barbara Klie has compiled a list of ideas which need follow-up. Sue Conard's course on climate change in northern latitudes dovetails with the Camden Conference theme of the Arctic. Nancy and Pete have met with Camden Conference people and arranged a collaboration whereby they will link to and promote our 6-week course, which will be offered starting Jan 11, just before the February conference. Pete moved that we waive the membership fee for one-time attendees of the Camden Conference. This was seconded and discussed. The motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion about opening this one class to intergenerational students as Camden Conference does, waiving fees for HS kids.

2021 Budget: Brenda will do an update and check whether we need to change current assumptions, including estimating how long classes will remain on Zoom, and when we might return to Hutchinson, all of which depends on the virus. The current proposed budget does not include any rent for the Hutch for the whole year.

Special Committee Report: Ron Jarvella chaired a committee consisting of Sandi, Elisabeth, Brenda, Nancy and Ron. We have funds available for charitable giving. Committee recommends that next year we make \$10K available out of savings. There is nothing in the bylaws nor in the handbook addressing this, as far as Arlin is aware. Committee's next step will be to determine how to select individuals or groups we want to support. Ron has gotten some ideas from General Assistance Office at City Hall. He reported ideas put forward in the committee. Brenda suggested that the first step is for the committee to propose guidelines, structure and protocols for how we choose who to donate to and how much. Pete said that we need a strong written proposal, including how this can be sustained beyond this coming year. This is part of Senior College's outreach and marketing in the community. It will need to be flexible depending on our ongoing financial condition. Discussion continued until Ron Jarvella had to leave for an appointment. The board was enthusiastic about the idea.

Annual Meeting: Pete got a letter from Dave (Cletis) Boyer about a by-law change which passed last year making the Publicity Committee report to the Curriculum Committee. That change was rescinded by

the board in a unanimous vote in the August meeting. So, there are no by-law changes to bring up. Pete proposed a resolution to recognize the contributions to Senior College made by the departing members, Dave Boyer, Arlin Larson and Dick Topping. Nancy moved to accept this resolution, and the motion passed.

Other Business: Nancy reported a memo she has from Wendy Kasten about *Belfast Reads*, which promotes the entire Belfast community reading one book about diversity. The program is supported by various community groups, such as the Rotary. Bangor has had a similar program for years and it is very popular. Pete moved that Senior College support the program *Belfast Reads*, and the motion passed.

Nancy read a poem in grateful praise of Pete Reilly's leadership through the unique difficulties of this past year, transitioning from live to Zoom classes. Brenda read a resolution thanking him and determining that he should continue to teach and contribute to Senior College. The resolution below was accepted unanimously.

An affable fellow named Peter
Took the helm as our BSC leader.
He wanted more valuable classes
To serve the needs of the masses
For Waldo seniors what could be sweeter?

His classes he prepped with care
Students packed into every chair
The life of Hamilton he brilliantly taught,
and the scoop on the presidential yacht,
While planning astute strategy to share.

With great courses ready for spring
A dreaded pandemic would bring
Disbelief, dread, and fear
Our action became crystal clear
Classes canceled plus no art fling!

Soon after the Hutch shut down
We needed new ideas safe and sound
To keep our members engaged
While in our homes we felt caged
Yearning to return to the school ground.

Our leader never missed a beat
getting us back up on our feet.
“The way to get our classes resuming
is to do it safely by Zooming”
A not insurmountable feat!

So, hats off to a virtual whiz
The chap who served as our prez
We all must insist
That he cannot resist

This unanimous Board res(olution)!

RESOLUTION:

Whereas, Peter Reilly, has served as President, Senior College Belfast for the 2019-2020 year;

and Whereas, Peter Reilly has taught classes of interest to many members of Senior College;

and Whereas, Peter Reilly has conducted the ongoing business of Senior College with resolve and inspiration;

and Whereas, Covid 19, the Corona virus created a worldwide pandemic of epic proportions in March of 2020;

and Whereas, the entire Spring Session curriculum was canceled, and the Hutchinson Center closed;

and Whereas, Peter Reilly immediately launched the concept of online learning in order that Senior College continue to offer courses to its members;

and Whereas, Learning and teaching through Zoom has proven to be a successful tool to continue the mission of Senior College Belfast;

and Whereas, Senior College will continue until we can once more return to face-to-face teaching, learning and communing at the Hutchinson Center;

and Whereas, Peter Reilly has led us through this year of pandemic and worked to create community through ongoing activity;

Be it therefore resolved that to Peter Reilly we offer our appreciation and applause for a job well done and in addition be it resolved that Peter Reilly shall continue to teach, advise, and serve Senior College Belfast.

Resolved this day of September 9, 2020.

The meeting was closed at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jessup

Secretary