

Senior College at Belfast
Annual Meeting
September 24, 2020

Board president Pete Reilly called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM. There were 27 people present on zoom at the start of the meeting, including the board.

Greetings from the Hutchinson Center

Pete introduced Kim Wilson-Raymond, the Executive Director of the Hutchinson Center, and thanked her for the ongoing help that she's given Senior College during a challenging year because of the pandemic. She said that October 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the Hutchinson Center, and that Senior College has been a key part of their growth. The Center is beginning to host small events, which are going well. The staff of the center look forward to a time when Senior College can return safely for in-person classes.

Remarks from the President

Pete Reilly's term as president ends with this meeting. He said that he has been proud and honored to serve as president, and he thanked the whole board. He acknowledged that we had to deal with tough issues, and said that the board had all pitched in to get through it. Senior College had to close for the Spring semester due to the pandemic, but we've offered a roster of Zoom classes during the summer and fall which continue to be very successful. He mentioned the help of non-board members, including Janet Williams, Sarah Shute, the office staff, and many others in our first-ever on-line annual meeting.

Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report: Brenda Smith presented reports for Financial Year 2019-2020, which runs from July 1 to June 30. The finances followed a roller-coaster curve. We had a great Fall semester, and a strong Winterim -- but in March, with the start of the pandemic lockdown, we fell off a cliff. All the same, we cleared a profit of \$4000 for the year. Also in March, two of our bigger expenses vanished--rent and food (coffee and cookies). We decided on a rolling budget for FY 2020-2021, which means determining the budget as we go along, since we are still in uncharted territory. Good news is that despite the pandemic, with the help of Zoom classes, we are ahead of our targets. We have 190 members. We are in a strong position in terms of cash, and we're excited that our members are embracing on-line learning. Until there is a strong, safe vaccine, we can't encourage people in our age cohort to return to in-person classes.
- Curriculum Committee: Nancy Perkins also reported the ups and unexpected downs of 2019-2020, with a strong recovery including 227 students during the Summer semester. Instructors have risen to the task of on-line teaching. The Curriculum Committee has done a great job of finding new instructors and new courses. Barbara Klie has been an important scribe and committee member. The Corona Chronicles have gained an enthusiastic audience, and great feedback. In spite of the pandemic, with the help of Zoom and both old and new instructors, we continue to offer an impressive variety of courses.
- Archives Committee, chair Arlin Larson. During the Spring semester, we did not have access to the office where the hard-copy records are. We hope this year to have all the basic material online. The goal is to make it accessible, with both digital and paper records. Arlin expressed thanks to the Maine Senior College Network, and to the University of Southern Maine, whose Zoom network we are all able to use.
- Special Events, chair Martha Laitin. As soon as COVID hit in March, Special Events were knocked out. The biggest event planned was a trip to the planetarium, which had to be cancelled.

Nominating Committee

The members are asked to vote on the following six candidates for the 2020-2021 year:

Al Arthur: Website design and management, focused on Arts, Education, Culture and Community.

John Economy: Incumbent SC board member, co-chair of SC annual appeal, member of SC Festival of Arts committee.

Deirdre Good: Teacher and Educator, author, avid reader, member of the Curriculum Committee.

Brenda Smith: SC Board member and Treasurer, CPA, Non-profit financial management.

Beth Sterner: Business Owner/Accountant, Community volunteer, avid life-long learner.

Jim Owen: Consultant and counselor, member of SC Finance Committee.

The board and members approved this entire slate unanimously by Zoom, as follows:

- John Economy was elected to a second term to expire in 2023
- Deirdre Good was elected to a first term to expire in 2023
- Beth Sterner was elected to a first term to expire in 2023
- Jim Owen was elected to a first term to expire in 2023
- Brenda Smith was elected to a first term to expire in 2023
- Al Arthur was appointed to complete a vacated term that expires in 2021

Member and former board chair David Beebe rose to thank Pete Reilly for his leadership during this year of unprecedented challenges. The entire board applauded silently (muted by Zoom).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25.

Rebecca Jessup
Secretary, SC Belfast Board
Sept 26, 2020