

**Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting
November 11, 2020(via Zoom)**

Call to Order: President Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 11 meeting were accepted.

Approval Treasurer's Report: Brenda sent report out. October was a month with no new classes, but we had a little revenue from the Fall, and a couple of payments for Winterim. We have double what we budgeted for memberships, 98% of what we budgeted for October, and 100% for November. We only paid two bills in October. With the board's agreement, Brenda will continue to decide month to month whether to have Nickerson prepare financial statements for us since we often have too few transactions to justify it. Checking account balance at end of October was \$4,761, savings account was \$12,258, and CDs were \$65,870, for a total of \$82,870. Statements for the endowment funds for September just came in, but value seems to have dipped very slightly. By next month Brenda will have a more complete report on this. We still have to roll our budget forward for the Winterim session, and Brenda will meet with Nancy and Deirdre when we know what the offerings are and can estimate enrollment. Pete's courses are coming up in December, and that has been counted as a Fall course, and will generate additional revenue. We will also get new members who will sign up for the climate course, which is Winterim. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Elisabeth and seconded by Sydney, and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee has not yet met. Brenda will schedule it soon.

Curriculum Committee: Thanks to Al's spreadsheet, we have a list of ten Winterim courses, not including Pete's course. At this point, none of the classes are yet published, so no students can enroll yet (excluding the Climate Course). Deirdre reports that for advertising, we had planned to have a video of each of the instructors, following Pete Reilly's example last year. These videos and the course descriptions should go up on the website on December 2, and they'll be sent out to our usual distribution (Our Town Belfast, the Chamber, PenBay Pilot, etc.). There are two more courses that Nancy had expected but which haven't come in. If they are not submitted in time, they can be done as brown bag lunches.

Mini publics: Nancy reminded the board of Paul Kando, who has taught in the past. He publishes a weekly blog, usually on environmental issues, which is published in the Damariscotta paper. He read a piece in a recent Science magazine about creating mini-publics on an issue. Paul suggested creating mini-publics on the subject of Covid 19. A course of some 15-20 students would be instructed in the latest scientific information, and then they would spread that information into the broad public. Paul has created an outline on how this could be done. Nancy expressed a hope that Paul could come to lead such a course, and that David Greeley, who's also on curriculum, could work with Paul to get it ready for Spring. Brenda reported that she had taken a similar course offered for free, taught by a virologist at Lewiston-Auburn SC. Ron Jarvella raised the question, if we offered such a course, would students have to be members. Nancy thought we could easily fill such a course with SC members from around the state. There was some discussion of this as being *pro bono publico*, for the public good. As it's a single session, it could be offered as a Brown bag lunch. Deirdre added that we might also have, say, Bob Rachmales lead a Brown bag lunch analyzing the election and its outcome. Ron Jarvella recommended that if we do that, we ask Dick Topping to co-lead it so that we have representation of both sides of the political spectrum. It was agreed that Deirdre would reach out to both of them.

Special Events: Martha Laitin reminded us that when the pandemic hit, the Special Events committee was planning an excursion to the Planetarium. That was cancelled, but now it's been

revived because Ron learned that the presentations are available on Zoom. Martha discovered that for \$50 we could have a live presentation of Legends and Lore of the Sky, about the various constellations. Martha requested the board to pay the \$50 so we can offer this free to members. With a class limit of 50 people, we already have 44 who have signed up. There is a line item of money for Special Events which has over \$1000 left. Ron also suggested that two \$50 scholarships could be offered to public school kids. Martha had sent out an email to the board. Elisabeth voted that Martha's proposal be adopted, seconded by Deirdre. There was some discussion. Nancy will write a letter to be sent to the Planetarium with our donation. The motion passed unanimously.

Senior College Donation Fund/Grant Program: Ron first acknowledged and expressed thanks for his committee for their diligence and ability to work well together. At initial meeting, they discussed how to distribute up to \$10,000 to local charitable causes. Waldo County Action Partners is the best resource for this, with a 50-year record. The committee agreed to contact WCAP. With Beth as contact person, we have begun discussions with WCAP. They charge 20% for administrative fees. Someone from WCAP will meet with the committee at its next meeting. There was some discussion of the proposed fee and other concerns. One program considered was to provide computers for seniors so they could stay in touch (e.g., take SC classes). Ron brought up advantages that WCAP would have in distributing funds well. The committee will eventually produce an RFP.

Handbook and By-laws: Elisabeth is working on the Handbook and By-Laws. Handbook assumes that SC is operating in person, pre-Covid. We need to insert an addendum about Covid and Zoom, which can be taken out later. We also need to verify the contact information for board members.

Nominating Committee: Jim has been talking to Arlin about the history of this committee. Most of its work happens in the Spring. With Pete's resignation, we're missing at least one board member, and we need 3 people on the Nominating Committee. Jim would welcome suggestions of anyone who might be interested in serving on the board or the committee. He's compiling a list of previous faculty.

New business: Nancy brings up the 30 to 40 SC people who do not use email, or who have asked not to receive email, who used to get their newsletter by mail and who have not been getting it at all. If each board member called two people on the list, just to touch base so that when we are able to go back to normal, they can get a paper copy of the courses. If we don't call, it will be a year that they don't hear anything from SC. There was no objection to this.

Nancy will act as Newsletter liaison, looking for material she can send to Janet. Corona Chronicles needs new material, anything we might think of (recipes, poems, book reviews, etc). It goes out roughly every 2 weeks or so, and it is very much appreciated.

Maine Association of Non-Profits is offering a training on December 1st, 11:30 to 1:00, and Nancy will be able to get us registered if we let her know. Sandy Oliver's class has 47 sign-ups. Pete's class in December has 14 so far.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Jessup
Secretary