

**Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting
October 14, 2020(via Zoom)**

Call to Order: President Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 9 meeting were accepted.

Approval Treasurer's Report We currently have 193 members, which is well above our target, but well below where we were a year ago, due to the pandemic. We have 161 students, and 308 classes taken. Our endowment is up. Our budget is healthy because we are not paying rent but offering all courses virtually. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: Nancy Perkins reported that Dave Boyer gave her a thumb drive containing the Handbook and By-laws. Elisabeth will update them, as is required to be done annually. Nancy consulted with Arlin Larsen about the By-laws, and he said that we need to spend some time and attention on them. We hope to have him come and make a presentation about this to the board in our December meeting. In the meantime, all board members are encouraged to review them, and note any questions.

Nominating Committee: Jim Owen has agreed to be the chairman of the nominating committee, and he will select other members at large. We need to fill five seats on the board every year.

Curriculum Committee: Deirdre Good asked the committee for thoughts, ideas about this. All our courses, that were once taught in person, are now on-line, only. We have fewer students, partly because of a reluctance in our demographic to make that shift, in both teachers and students. We could continue, try to expand our offerings online, teach more instructors, OR we could identify new parameters, assuming that we will have to continue operating online. There was a discussion on this. One suggestion from Deirdre was to create events in conjunction with, for example, Left Bank Books. If we could get a Maine author (e.g. Heather Cox Richardson) to give a talk, could we leverage such an event to benefit both Sr College and Left Bank Books. There was discussion of possible conflicts (presenter expecting to sell books of her own, for profit). Jim mentioned coordinating with other Senior Colleges. There is a state-wide network of SCs, and there's a chance for unprecedented cross-fertilization. Nancy mentioned that there is a weekly Zoom meeting every Wednesday, 12:30-1:30, run by Anne Cardale, and Nancy has sent out the link. Pete Reilly is working on the collaboration with the Camden Conference, which we should look to every year for possible similar coordination.

Senior College Donation Fund/Grant Program: Ron Jarvella said that the committee has had some scheduling challenges but will meet on Oct 23. They will look into how to make grant money available, and how to determine how much and to whom. They will set rules for this new program.

Committee Activity and Member Recruitment: We are soliciting new members for committee work. There will be nothing in Special Events until Spring.

Handbook and By-laws: Arlin Larsen will be here for the December or January meeting. There is also a great deal of information on-line, which the board should consult.

Budget: We're well set for Fall semester. Brenda will need to see what happens in Winterim. She will meet with Deirdre and Nancy to see what we will offer. Sue Conard will be teaching on Climate Changes related to the Arctic as a preliminary to the Camden Conference topic of the Arctic.

Ron Jarvella said that it's harder to recruit new members. Nevertheless, the online courses are getting excellent reviews from students.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Jessup

Secretary