

Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting  
April 14, 2021(via Zoom)

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

- Brenda went over the report, which shows us with a loss of \$2900 currently, but that is offset by annual distribution of funds in the fall not counted by Nickerson, leaving us with a profit of approx. \$1000. Brenda will discuss this with Nickerson and have them correct this.
- The other reason for the apparent shortfall is that we dispersed the \$10K grant to WCAP.
- The pandemic provided a windfall in that we did not pay rent or refreshments for the year. This is not something we can count on going forward.
- Brenda went over the balance sheet, showing our profit and loss.

The Treasurer's report was approved. Discussion of Course Storm was tabled to the end (below, under New Business). Jim Owens commended Brenda for being on top of the challenges of the past year.

Old Business:

- WCAP grant. Ron thanked Brenda and Elizabeth S. Dorothy of WCAP will be working with Ron's committee. Our grant will be a multi-year endeavor. Dorothy plans for WCAP to issue a press release acknowledging SCB.
- Committee Reports:

Curriculum: New materials on Zoom familiarity are being developed. Members of the Technology Committee, a sub-group of the Curriculum Committee appointed by Senior College president, have created handouts for Senior College Zoom participants, hosts, and instructors. These materials, together with a brief guide to online teaching, will be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee at its May meeting, and then posted on the Senior College website.

Mid Spring semester courses are underway. Considerations for budgeting include that our registration isn't as full as previously. We're not the only SC with this issue; we might discuss it with the ME Network. Deirdre discussed solutions with Midcoast SC. They've cut long courses into two shorter ones, and now have two courses per fall & spring semester, 4-6 weeks. There's widespread Zoom fatigue. We might consider a hybrid between on-line and in-person classes in real time. This is difficult for instructors! Nancy took such a course, which was successful. There was further discussion. We may need a subcommittee to look into how other SCs have dealt with it. Nancy also proposes a meeting of board members plus Deirdre about transitioning back to in-person classes.

Al reported that registrations are trickling in. The newsletter brings an uptick. Nancy said that not sending postcards may depress registration.

Deirdre suggested that as people are moving to Maine, info about SC could be included in some version of "Welcome Wagon" materials. Nancy added that we need a new brochure.

Nominating: Jim reported that there was general consensus about the board's need for more expertise in marketing and legal, as well as about our strengths. The committee has 3 volunteers, so there are 8 total, a full quota.

Jim wants to fill empty slots in time for annual meeting. Nominating Committee will meet monthly Thursday or Friday, 9:30-10:30. Jim gave possible dates, and will email them to the board.

Our handbook: It's not clear when people's terms on the board are finished. Jim asked that we each let him know if we're planning to remain on the board next year.

New Business:

Neal Harkness may be able to teach in the fall.

Note: At this point we returned to considering Budget items which were postponed. Al Arthur recused himself for this discussion.

Course Storm:

Brenda went over the financial advantages to using Course Storm's system rather than Paypal, as well as other aspects of their system including fees, the functions their system offers, the payment options for students, etc.

The options we considered were: A, continuing as we are, with Al managing registration using various spreadsheet and also Paypal; B, switching to Course Storm; C, handing over much of these functions to Nickerson. Brenda and the Finance Committee recommended that we engage Course Storm (CS). After additional questions and discussion, the motion was made for SCB to contract with CS to manage our registration, effective at the start of our next fiscal year (summer 2021). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion was made to approve the budget as presented. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Brenda is beginning to plan for our next FY, but this will be delayed for a month because there are still unanswered questions, such as when we may return to live classes. We can rent space from the Hutch as needed.

Motion to adjourn passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jessup

Secretary