

Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting

December 8, 2021 via Zoom

Call to Order Treasurer Brenda Smith called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Present: Doug Chamberlin, Brian Richardson, Marjorie Arnett, Deirdre Good, Jim Owen, Brenda Smith, Beth Sterner, Ron Jarvella, Mayo Bulloch, Rebecca Jessup. Bob Adler joined at 9:49

Absent: Nancy Perkins, Martha Laitin, Richard Koralek

Minutes of the November meeting had been distributed. Corrections included that Mickey Sirota writes a weekly column for Village Soup, not Waldo Republican, that Al Arthur should be removed from attendees list, and the costs of courses will be \$37 for 5-6 class courses, \$27 for 3-4 class courses, and \$22 for 1-2 class courses. Rebecca moved, Jim seconded, the motion to approve the corrected minutes. The minutes were approved via voice vote.

Treasurer's Report Brenda added to her written report that the Nickerson-MTA merger was complete and we would continue to work with the same staff members going forward. Mike Nickerson will be available through the end of the year, if needed. Rebecca moved, Jim seconded, the motion to accept the report, which was done via voice vote.

WCAP Update Ron reported he had met with WCAP people three times, which also included meeting with Aging Well in Waldo County people. AWWC was interested in helping to publicize Senior College courses and may be able to help provide access to courses from rural libraries in the county. In discussion of costs to participants, it was stated that we want to keep Senior College participation cost-free to new students of this effort and that, perhaps, WCAP can pay tuition for them. Ron will pursue this idea. Brenda asked about a report of WCAP spending of the money Senior College gifted to WCAP and Beth clarified that WCAP has not yet begun to spend from that money due to lack of staff until recently. Beth also indicated that the publicity committee will keep WCAP informed about our course offerings.

Nominating Committee Jim was happy to report the committee has interviewed two excellent candidates, John McClenahen and Monica Morris, to fill the vacant Board seat. While there is only one position to appoint, Jim was clear the committee wants to keep both candidates available in case another vacancy occurs. At this time the committee recommends John McClenahen to be appointed to the Board. Ron moved, Deirdre seconded, the motion to appoint John McClenahen to complete the term of Al Arthur. The Board unanimously agreed via voice vote.

In discussion after the vote it became clear that Monica would be an ideal candidate to join the Curriculum Committee and will be contacted about that.

The committee is also looking for an additional non-Board member. In discussion, Sharon Walsh was suggested. Also, Denise Pendleton was suggested as an additional candidate.

There was also discussion about the value of finding committee members from the younger end of the 50+ age range. It was mentioned that the name "Senior College" may be a deterrent to younger folks. Beth expressed interest in further discussions of this in future meetings.

Curriculum Committee Deirdre stated that one Zoom host was still needed for Winter classes. Beth volunteered since she was already taking that class. Deirdre also highlighted the Dec 28th Zoom event where instructors will be introducing their classes to prospective students. Mayo requested the first

page of the website should publicize the Winter courses and the Dec 28 event. Doug said he is working on that.

Publicity Committee Beth explained a series of press releases has been scheduled to go out during December and January. Discussion included suggestions to include WERU and WBFY radio. Also, since all courses are now remote, Bangor area radio stations would be good to target. Brenda mentioned that MSCN newsletters should also be included. Brenda also mentioned a recent BDN article on the Corona Chronicles that was good publicity for us. She will share it with the Board via email.

Website Doug explained his efforts to learn the website have broadened into a review of all systems that Senior College uses. He also reported that we do not yet have control over the accounts needed to completely manage the website. While we can continue to use it for the next few months, it is entirely possible we may face a problem that cannot be fixed. That possibility, together with the fact that the website is highly customized and therefore difficult to operate, led him to recommend we consider re-implementing the website on a new platform that is more organized to support a membership-based organization like ours. His suggested solution is Wild Apricot, but he is open to other possibilities.

Marjorie asked if we have looked at what systems other senior college's are using. Brenda said that was done with AI Arthur, which is how we found Course Storm. However, it was clear another look would be prudent. Doug observed that most of the senior college sites he has looked at were being supported by several full-time staff and, therefore, their platforms would probably not be suitable for us. Doug reported that his objective was to simplify operations because the existing systems require too much manual work to tie things together.

The idea of forming an Operations Committee was suggested since many details had emerged in Doug's research that required new procedures and processes beyond mere maintenance of the existing website. Bob Adler volunteered to join Doug in this effort.

Doug also requested the computer in the office be replaced, as it was so old and slow as to be unusable. Bob moved, Beth seconded, that the Board authorize Doug to spend up to \$1500 for a replacement. In discussion of the motion, it was determined that additional hardware and software would be needed for a complete package, so the motion was amended to also include "auxiliary equipment" in addition to the computer. Jim seconded his "revised standard version" of the motion, which was approved via voice vote.

Brenda recommended that Elisabeth Pollock be consulted about what additional tasks that computer was used for. Doug agreed to contact her.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 11:00am.