

Minutes of Quest Council Meeting Sept. 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Gottfried. Attending the meeting were Council members Steve Allen, Marian Friedmann, Pam Gemelli, Bob Gottfried, Rob Hartmann, Frieda Lipp, Jane Lubin, Eileen Kelly, Ruth Kovner, Bob Reiss, and Michael Wellner. Phil Gisser was unable to attend.

First Order of business: Selection of Council/Committee Affiliations

Each member of the Council was asked to choose one (or more) committee(s) for which he/she would be the Council liaison. The selections were:

<u>Council Members</u>	<u>Committees</u>
Eileen Kelly	Q Review
Marian Friedmann	Technology
Ruth Kovner	Q News
Pam Gemelli	Membership
Jane Lubin	Curriculum
Bob Gottfried	ERT, Scheduling
Bob Hartmann	Freshman Class
Phil Gisser	Auditing
Steve Allen	Caring, Coffee
Michael Wellner	Diversity, Travel
Bob Reiss	Pending
Frieda Lipp	Pending

Suggested Procedures at Council Meetings:

Bob Gottfried requested that all council members, after speaking once, should allow other members to speak before speaking a second time. This is a direct emulation of the rule observed at the Supreme Court ("No one speaks twice until everyone has had the chance to speak once.")

Treasurer's Report:

After seeing our membership decline by a bit more than our usual ten percent over the summer, Quest's membership now stands at just about 225. (This is largely due to an unusually high number of members taking a leave of absence this year). Any significant reduction in the semester's final membership count will have an impact on our finances. Steve is watching our income and expenses and will have updates on our financial position and projections at the next meeting.

At present we are planning on an income of around \$135,000, which translates into approximately 255 members. On the expense side, some savings have been realized: For example, some of our Wednesday guest speakers have waived their honorarium. And our rent for this year is \$2,500 less than originally budgeted.

On a related topic, Steve Allen proposed that Eneida be granted five paid sick or personal days each year; currently she receives none. A motion to this effect was made by Eileen Kelly, seconded by Ruth Kovner; it was carried unanimously.

Marketing & Communications

Two new members, Nina Dioletis and Sharon Krutzel, have taken over the important task of preparing and distributing the "Next Week at Quest" e-mails. Roz Schachter has taken a leave of absence, and Wayne Cotter has taken on other assignments. Hilda Feinstein will take this term off to allow new members to gain experience. The Council notes with gratitude their exemplary work. Our sincere thanks go to all of them.

Steve reported that there is some possibility that the Quest website may have been hacked. It has been reported that some members' photos from our pages have appeared on other websites. To further protect our information, the Quest web site is being redesigned, consolidating the two existing Quest web sites (Questmembers.org and Questlifelong.org) into a single site, with a secure area that will be password protected with individual members own private passwords. Hopefully this will better protect our data. Instructions will be disseminated to all as to how to set this up. The plan is for completion by the end of this month.

Another topic discussed is the current use of our Google Group ("Questcommunity"), administered by Joyce Hinote. The plan going forward is to create two on-line groups, one for "official" Quest Business (administered by Wayne Cotter) and the other for more socially-oriented messages (run by Joyce). All members will receive the official "Quest Business" e-mails; the "social messages" will be sent only to those members who have voluntarily joined this e-mail group.

Bob Reiss also mentioned the potential of Quest getting an electronic bulletin board similar to that currently employed by Brooklyn College. Steve indicated that he would talk to Robert about the feasibility and cost of implementing this.

Diversity Committee

This committee has requested an appropriation of (approximately) \$500 to print a new Quest Introductory brochure, used in our marketing efforts to attract new, and more diverse, members. Bob Gottfried made a motion to approve this expenditure; Jane Lubin seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

One council member expressed concern regarding what some people might consider offensive comments in a Quest play performed in the Auditorium, and which had previously been printed in Q Review. It was suggested that the editorial staff of Q Review, in their editing process, be aware of and remove material that some might find offensive. After discussion, it was noted that there already is such a process, and that

any material the editors deem offensive is already being evaluated (and removed) by a Q Review committee.

New Business

Bob Reiss expressed a concern for members who are ill or incapacitated in some way, but would still like to be able to hear and/or see some of the Quest presentations. He suggested that we should be able to record (at least some of) our presentations and make them available to such members. There are technical considerations to be evaluated. After some discussion, it was agreed to have the Marketing & Communications Committee study the issue and report back to Council.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by President Bob Gottfried at precisely 3:43 PM.

The next Council meeting will be held on Oct. 10th, 2017, at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth

Ruth Kovner
Secretary