

Quest Council Minutes June 9, 2015

Quest Members present: Michael Wellner, Carolyn McGuire, John Sicree, Ruth Kovner, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Jane Lubin, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Liesje ten Houton. Absent: Wayne Cotter.

Agenda:

1. Michael welcomed our two newest members to the Quest Council: Jane Lubin and Liesje ten Houten.
2. Michael distributed the NYS required Conflict Of Interest statements that must be executed annually by all Council members; all signed.
3. Review of Minutes: Bob Hartmann moved to accept the minutes (and Carolyn seconded) with one slight typographical change. Unanimously approved.
4. Finances: a) CCNY has transferred, upon our request, \$25,000 to our Quest account.
b) Michael proposed his Budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year. After a brief discussion, Carolyn McGuire moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Ruth Kovner. Unanimously approved.
c) John reports that Quest is in solid financial shape and will finish the year in the black, with a small surplus.
5. A discussion on a future membership cap followed, which included the possibility of obtaining Rooms 15-17 on a regular basis for our classes, and the possibility of using the CWE Faculty Lounge (opposite the auditorium) as a possible addition to our lunchroom. Michael will discuss this with the Dean as part of the annual discussion of next year's contract with CCNY.
6. Annual Year-end Luncheon Review: 127 people attended. All agreed it was a lovely affair enhanced by making table seating assignments in advance. Kudos to Jane (Lubin) for all her efforts; very well done. (As usual we had 10 CWE administrators as our guests.)
7. Michael raised the issue of Committees at Quest, and reminded everyone that all committee members, including the Chair, are limited to no more than three year terms, in an effort to insure as many Quest members as so wish to participate in our Committees. Some changes already announced for 2015-16 include:
 - a. Curriculum Committee: Caroline Thompson will assume the Chairmanship.

- b. Scheduling Committee: Marian Friedmann will assume the Chair.
- c. Freshman Class Committee: Art Spar will assume the Chair.

A discussion then followed on the possibility of establishing some new committees at Quest, to include:

- a. **Strategic Planning and Development**. Initially proposed by Bob Hartmann there was unanimous agreement on the wisdom of establishing a group to examine long range options for Quest's continued success. The chairman and future committee membership will be the topic for a future discussion.
- b. We also discussed the need to have a stronger and more active **Health, Welfare and Outreach** Committee, to expand the work that Pam Mahl had begun. We all felt the need to reach out to members who have not attended classes for a while and may be ill. Michael will talk to Pam and see if she wants to continue in this role as Chair, and who might serve with her.
- c. **Tech Committee**: We discussed the possibility of trying to add to the Tech Committee's portfolio and class that would assist presenters on ways to provide better organization and delivery of their presentations. The possibility of Art Spar being involved in his role as Freshman Class chairman was also discussed. More to follow.

8. Carolyn McGuire reviewed the very successful Iceland trip (20 Quest members, all of whom loved it - Kudos to Carolyn), and discussed possible trips for next January (2016). Possibilities include Colombia, Puerto Rico and Morocco. More information to follow.

There being no further business discussed, the Council meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth

Ruth Kovner, Secretary

Quest Council Minutes...July 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 PM by the President. Council members present were Michael Wellner, John Sicree, Ruth Kovner, Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Jane Lubin, Bob Moore and Jane Pittson-Chianese. Unable to attend the meeting were Carolyn McGuire and Liesje ten Houten.

Agenda:

- 1) The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Jane Pittson-Chianese so moved and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 2) Treasurer's Report:
 - . John Sicree reported that our expenditures are running slightly below our budgeted estimates. Overall, our financial situation remains healthy.
 - . John also noted that IDB Bank, where we have moved the bulk of our savings money, has reduced its interest rate by a small percentage. It is still much greater than we were getting at Chase.

- 3) Membership Update:
 - . Michael briefed the Council on anticipated renewals, and non-renewals, and the attendance figures prepared by Steve and Eneida. The latter still show that on any given day we rarely exceed 75-80 people at Quest.
 - . Michael also noted that in his next meeting with the Dean he will discuss the issue of possibly getting additional space (specifically Rooms 15-17 and perhaps the lunch space across from the Auditorium as well).
 - . Next the subject of the membership limit was discussed. At a previous meeting the Council had imposed a cap of 225 members, and then agreed to raise that temporarily to 235 for the Spring 2015 semester only. There was a general consensus of all the Council members that we could make that temporary limit permanent and not have a significant impact upon the day-to-day classroom activities at Quest. Following that discussion, Bob Hartmann made a motion to make the 235 member limit permanent; that motion was seconded by Bob Moore, and was passed unanimously.

- . At the moment there are 7 or 8 people who have joined for the Summer, and may want to sign up for the full year.
- . A reminder will be sent via e-mail to all those members who have not yet either renewed or dropped out, urging them to let us know of their intentions no later than July 31.
- . It was emphasized that if we are able to accept new members, we will admit them in the order that they sign up: First come first served.

4) Strategic Planning Committee:

- . Michael has appointed Bob Hartmann as the Chair of this new Long Range Planning Committee, to explore options for Quest going forward. Other members are Carolyn McGuire, Michael Wellner, Bob Reiss, and Leslie Goldman.

5) Travel Update - Trips in the planning stage:

- . Winter (Jan. 2016)
 - a) Morocco
 - b) Puerto Rico
 - c) Colombia
- . Spring (May 2016)
 - a) London Theater
 - b) Spain (North or South)

6) Museum Committee:

- . We have been informed that the next museum trip will be to Snug Harbor on Staten Island. It is a charming small museum and should be a memorable visit.

7) The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 8th.

The meeting concluded at 1:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth

Ruth Kovner, Secretary

Quest Council Minutes...Sept. 8th, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Wellner at 2:34 P.M. Other Council members present were John Sicree, Ruth Kovner, Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Jane Lubin, JanePittson-Chianese, Carolyn McGuire and Liesje ten Houten. Bob Moore was traveling in South Africa.

Agenda:

1) Minutes:

Last month's Council Minutes was the first item of business. Jane Pittson-Chianese moved to accept; Michael seconded the motion, and the Minutes of July 2015 was approved unanimously.

2) Treasurer's Report:

Our Treasurer, John Sicree, once again assured us that Quest is in good financial shape. Overall, our move to IDB has proven to be good financially.

3) Membership:

Michael reported that there are 8 summer people who are anxious to join full time. Last semester's temporary cap of 235 members has proved successful. Bob Hartmann moved to make that number permanent. The motion was seconded by Michael and approved unanimously. Currently we stand at 223 members, and we expect to reach the 235 cap shortly.

There were 27 members who did not renew for this coming year.

Once we reach 235 we will establish a waiting list. Our membership policy remains first come, first served.

Michael also reported that the Dean has agreed to our use of Rooms 15-17 and the faculty lounge (opposite the auditorium) on an ongoing basis. Both should help relieve any potential overcrowding. And at lunch time we can always use the tables alongside the auditorium on both sides.

4) Policy regarding food and phones:

- A. In the auditorium there is NO eating or drinking, other than bottled water.
- B. In classrooms other than the lunchroom coffee is permitted ONLY if you have a lid on the Cup.

C. And PLEASE be courteous and not have the presentation interrupted with the ringing of your phones. Many of us are straining to hear and this is a distraction. Make sure all phones are turned off.

5) Diversity Issues:

The Council is aware that our membership is not as diverse as it and most members would like. We have made efforts in the past to attract members representing diverse backgrounds, but with little success. We shall continue to reach out to other ethnic communities who are not represented in our membership. All suggestions as to how to go about this are welcome.

6) Strategic Planning Committee:

Bob Hartmann will be heading up this committee. Members include Carolyn McGuire, Michael Wellner, Bob Reiss, Leslie Goldman and Art Spar.

7) Travel Committee:

A. Programs offered for this winter (Jan.2016) include Puerto Rico and Colombia.

B. For next May we are considering London and a trip to Northern Spain.

C. And next August we are looking at several options including the Canadian Rockies; an Adriatic Cruise; and perhaps more.

8) Museum Committee:

The next planned trip for our inveterate museum goers will be to the Folk Art Museum. And, our own John Hood will be our docent!

9) Miscellaneous:

Michael reported that Steve Rubin has generously donated \$2,300 in honor of his wife who passed away recently. This will be so noted in the next Q Review.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned precisely at 3:37 P.M.

Respectively submitted by:

Ruth Kovner

Ruth Kovner, Secretary

Quest Council Meeting...Oct. 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Wellner. Other Council members present were Jane Pittson-Chianese, Bob Hartmann, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner, Carolyn McGuire, Bob Moore and John Sicree. Absent were Wayne Cotter, David Lewis and Jane Lubin.

1. Council Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the prior meeting was proposed by Bob Hartmann, seconded by Carolyn McGuire, and passed unanimously.

2. Guests from Thailand:

Jane (P-C) & Bob (H) reported on the delegation from Thailand that visited Quest in late September. The group was led by the wife of the Prime Minister of Thailand, as well as other Thai officials --- and a security detail.

The group wanted to visit us because the King of Thailand is particularly interested in programs like ours, and, in fact has a current program called "Quest for Knowledge." Twelve visitors arrived and were hosted by Jane Pittson-Chianese, Bob Hartmann, Pam Gemelli and Lila Heilbrunn. The visitors were extremely pleased with what they saw, and Michael extended a hearty thank you to the three who hosted the group. Well done!

3. Treasurer's Report:

We now have a membership total of 235, all of whom have paid their dues for the coming year. John Sicree, Treasurer, has assured us we are in solid financial condition.

4. Membership:

A) Michael reported that our membership limit of 235 has been reached. And we now have a short waiting list. Bob Hartmann suggested that we temporarily increase the cap to 250 for the coming winter season, knowing that (1) some members go to Florida and the like for all or part of the winter, and (2) attendance is often reduced in the winter because of inclement weather. Bob then made a motion to that effect; Ruth Kovner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. We will revisit this issue when classes resume for the Spring term.

B) We ask that all current members make an effort to welcome new members, make them all feel comfortable. We now have a more vibrant organization with a long list of activities. All new members should be encouraged to participate.

5. Long Range Planning Committee:

The LRPC's first meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20th, 2015 and membership is one of the issues that the Committee will address.

6. Other Committees:

It was suggested that the names of all the committees and their members be posted. We have several committees available to our members, and certainly some may want to join a committee as a way of becoming more involved in Quest.

7. Council Term Expirations coming up in may 2016:

- A) Vice President - Carolyn McGuire's two terms are up; (cannot run again)
- B) Treasurer - Jon Sicree; end of first term; (eligible to run for a second term)
- C) Secretary - Ruth Kovner; End of first term; (eligible to run for a second term)
- D) Members at Large: (Eligible to run for a second term)
 - .Jane Pittson-Chianese - End of first term
 - .Bob Hartmann - End of first term

8. Travel Update:

- A) Colombia - 10-12 participants, Jan. 2016 (closed)
- B) Puerto Rico - No interest
- C) London Theatre - 5/16-5/24, (9 days) 16 participants
- D) Possible trips for Aug. 2016 (Working on these)
 - 1) Amsterdam to Budapest
 - 2) Black Sea
 - 3) Croatia

8) Other Items:

It was agreed that we should post, in the office, a clear set of Emergency Instructions in case someone becomes ill or needs medical attention while here. Michael will review this with Doreen and Lila.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Kovner:



Secretary

Quest Council Minutes...Nov.2, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Michael Wellner, President. In addition to Michael, the following were present: Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner, David Lewis, Jane Lubin, Carolyn McGuire, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese and John Sicree.

Agenda:

1. Guest: June Dwyer* (*please see note at bottom*) was our guest for the meeting. She represented a newly-formed group of concerned members, troubled by the rapid growth of our membership. Currently we are 238 members strong and new members seem to be showing interest on a daily basis. However, since the fall term is almost over we expect this to diminish.

There was debate on whether we should temporarily raise our membership cap to 250 since it was noted (again) that with winter coming daily attendance tends to fall off significantly. And it was pointed out we have a recently formed Strategic Planning Committee to look at where Quest may be in three, five or seven years (or more), and membership is certainly one of the topics on the committee's agenda. June will become a permanent member of this committee.

This committee's recommendations will be brought to the Council in the spring, and then to the entire membership at the April General meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting: It was proposed that the Minutes be accepted. A motion was made by Bob Hartmann, seconded by Michael and passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report: We have been assured by John Sicree, our Treasurer, that Quest is in sound financial condition.

4. Long Range Planning Committee: The members are, Leslie Goldman, Bob Hartmann, Nan MacNamarra, Carolyn McGuire, Bob Reiss, Art Spar, Michael Wellner and June Dwyer.

5. Travel committee: We have 17 members and/or guests going on the London trip in May. For August, we are still working on various possibilities.

a) Croatia Coast Cruise

b) Canadian Rockies

c) Other?

6. General Meeting: the next General Membership Meeting will be held Wednesday November 11th at 1:00 pm. All are urged to attend.

Steve Allen will discuss communications. New courses will be presented by Caroline Thompson and the coordinators of each course. We'll hear about Quest travel opportunities from Carolyn McGuire and Lila Heilbrun will give us an update on the Emergency Response Team and safety issues while at Quest.

7. Christmas/Holiday Party Update: It will be held here at Quest on Thursday Dec. 10th. We are considering a change in type of food. Nevertheless lunch will be served along with holiday sweets.

8. Museum Committee: The next museum tour will be to the Japan Society. Date to be announced.

9. Additional Notes:

A. The dean has formed an Advisory Council to which Bob Hartmann and Michael have been invited to join. The first meeting was in late October. The President of CCNY attended and commented specifically how pleased she was at the relationship with Quest.

At the meeting Dean Mercado gave a Power Point presentation about CWE's mission within CCNY. Both Bob and Michael thought it so good that we will get a copy to present at a Noontime Knowledge session.

B. Michael next reported that he was invited to deliver his Quest presentation on Drones, by a friend who runs a program similar to Quest at the Westchester Community College. One take-away: Our facility is much nicer!

C. All business having been completed, the meeting was called to an end at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth

Ruth Kovner, Secretary

***Note: Of course, we are all shocked and saddened at June's very untimely passing. We miss her wisdom and dedication a great deal. Rest assured that her efforts in this area in particular (Long Range Planning) will continue. Steve Allen will assume her place on the Long Range Planning Committee, and he is well versed in her concerns and ideas for the future.**

Quest Council Minutes...December 1, 2015

Michael Wellner, president of Quest called the meeting to order at 2:37 P.M. All Council members were present: Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner, David Lewis, Jane Lubin, Carolyn McGuire, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese and John Sicree.

1. AGENDA:

A. Circulation of Minutes:

- 1) The minutes of the November Council Meeting were approved unanimously.
- 2) The Council also agreed unanimously that all future Minutes will be distributed to Council members for their approval via e-mail, rather than wait for the next actual physical meeting. This will speed up the process of distributing the minutes to all Quest members once the minutes have been approved.

B. Treasurer's Report: John Sicree, Treasurer, reported that Quest's finances continue to be in good shape.

C. Holiday Party on December 10th: This holiday party our lunch menu will change. We'll be serving Chinese food, along with holiday sweets and wine. At the conclusion of the party, should there be leftovers, containers will be available for anyone who wants to take food home to enjoy.

D. Membership: Currently we have 237 members, and we expect very few new members before the end of this year.. We know that the winter exodus will begin shortly, and attendance is likely to be diminished through the winter period.

E. Review of the November General Meeting: It was a full agenda with much presented by Caroline Thompson to the hundred or so members attending about the spring curriculum and the new course coordinators. In addition there was much other business such as a report on the Emergency Response Team and safety for members while at Quest and more. Minutes of the meeting are available on line.

F. Update on June Dwyer's Memorial Service:

1) This will take place at Quest on Wednesday, Dec.3rd at 2:30 pm directly following afternoon classes. There is to be another memorial service for June on December 5th at Manhattan College in Riverdale. More information will be posted on the Quest Bulletin Board.

2) There will be an "In Memoriam" page in Q Review with the names of all members who have passed away in 2015.

G. Update on the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC): This committee has been created to consider where Quest may be in three, five or seven years (and more) into the future. It is important to note that this committee is not charged with determining how to increase membership above our current level. That decision is the purview of the Council, and will be based upon the recommendation of all Quest's members. It is to be based (in part) on a questionnaire (being prepared by the LRPC) for Quest and will be distributed to membership early next term. Responses to the questionnaire will allow Council to gain a sense from membership regarding issues of membership levels going forward, and the general culture and mission of Quest.

H. Travel Update:

- > Colombia: All set for January (about ten travelers from Quest)
- > Canada: Too few responses to make plans
- > Ireland: We now have 8 members interested; At least 11 members/guests are needed to make plans.
- > London Theatre Trip: This May trip is all set with 18 travelers.

I. Other:

1. Quest Website: Steve could use someone to help him maintain the website. No special computer skills are required.
2. Caring Committee: The Chair is BJ Roemer, other members include Liesje ten Houten, Audrey Bloch, Roberta Curley, and Eneida Cruz. This group will contact members who have been absent from Quest for an extended period, and may be ill. They ask all if you are aware of a sick member to alert BJ or a committee member (and/or Eneida) so that he/she may be contacted by members of this committee.
3. Contributions to the Dean's Fund: Thank you to all Questers who have contributed.

4. Contributions to Quest in honor of June Dwyer will be very much appreciated. As we all know June worked tirelessly for the betterment of Quest. She will be deeply missed.
5. The next Council meeting will be held on Feb. 8, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A large, elegant, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth". The lettering is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish on the final 'h' that curves upwards and to the right.

Ruth Kovner
Secretary

Quest Council Minutes February 8th, 2016

President Michael Wellner called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM. Attending were Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner, David Lewis, Carolyn McGuire, Bob Moore, Jane Pittson- Chianese and John Sicree. Absent was Jane Lubin (in Florida).

AGENDA

- a) Committee Chairs: Three committee chairs (Curriculum, Scheduling and Membership) were invited to update the Council on their committees' activities. Caroline Thompson, Curriculum Chair, asked that her briefing be postponed until the March meeting, and Michael thought that the Scheduling committee would be best at the same time. So neither attended this meeting.

Pam Gemelli, however, Chair of the Membership Committee did attend. She reported we now officially have a waiting list, since we now have 243 active members, a cap of 250, and more than seven prospects who would like to join. We intend to proceed slowly and try and accept only members who are committed to making an active contribution to Quest once they join. Toward that end, Michael has asked Pam to be sure that each new applicant is interviewed by no less than three members of her committee, to be sure that there is a solid agreement as to the best candidates.

There followed a lengthy discussion about how rapidly we should accept new members. It was generally agreed that we proceed slowly in accepting new members, to make sure that we don't fill up right away, and thereby preclude acceptance of others who may apply later and be better suited for Quest. It is a bit of an art, to be sure.

We also reviewed the questionnaire that the Long Range Planning Committee has prepared and distributed to every member at Quest. That questionnaire seeks input and information from everyone on many aspects about Quest and its courses, including the “right” size of the organization.

- b) Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC): In accordance with the by-laws, David Lewis was appointed as the Council member of the NEC, and is charged with getting four members of Quest to fill the remaining slots on this committee. We should have the committee in place on or before the March 1st Council meeting.

For the upcoming election, the following six positions are open:
Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three at-large seats:
Carolyn McGuire, VP (Who cannot run again)
John Sicree , Treasurer (Who has chosen not to run again)
Ruth Kovner, Secretary (Who will run for a 2nd term)
Bob Hartmann, Council-at-Large (Who will run again)
Jane Pittson-Chianese, Council-at-Large (Who will run for a 2nd term.)
David Lewis, Council-at-Large, (Who has chosen not to run again)

- c) Quest Caring Committee: This group has been formed to reach out to members who are ill or otherwise have been absent from Quest for an extended period. BJ Roemer chairs this group.
- d) Treasurer’s Report: John Sicree, our current Treasurer, indicated that Quest is in a very positive situation financially. Some of this is attributed to donations by previous and current members, and we thank them profusely.

e) Travel Review:

1. Colombia Trip: Seven Quest members went on one trip, and three others traveled separately. All reported enjoying themselves.
2. Ireland Trip: Nine or ten people are now booked, traveling from July 28 - August 6th. They will also be going to Belfast, a city that was not part of last year's trip. Note: There is still room for more travelers. Quest members may bring guests who are not members.
3. London Trip: Seventeen travelers will leave for London May 16th to May 24th. They are booked for two plays, two museums, afternoon tea on a riverboat going up the Thames and much more.
4. Morocco: One thought for next winter's break is a trip to Morocco in January 2017. Is there enough interest in this as a destination?

All business for this meeting having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Kovner,
Secretary

Minutes of the Quest Council Meeting...February 29, 2106

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Wellner at 2:35 pm. In attendance were Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner. David Lewis, Carolyn McGuire, Bob Moore and Jane Pittson-Chianese. Absent were Jane Lubin and John Sicree.

Agenda:

- 1) Guests: In accordance with Quest's bylaws, Chairs of various Quest committees are invited to present updates of their committees' activities to the Council each semester. At this meeting we heard from the Chair of the Curriculum Committee and the Scheduling Committee.
 - a) Caroline Thompson, Curriculum Committee Chair
 - i) She reported that we have 12 new course proposals for the coming fall term. Some are lecture courses, some discussion courses, while others are smaller workshops (special interest courses).
 - ii) Mentoring Class: Caroline & Art Spar, Chair of the Freshman Class Committee, are working on a mentoring program to encourage both new and older members to make presentations and/or lead discussion groups.
 - iii) Stepping Up: Carolyn has created a new program called "Step Up," which encourages each member of Quest to "step up" and do a little more than they have done before. For example, a member who has not actively participated so far could "step up" and offer to lead a discussion group; one who has done that could "step up" and give a full-fledged presentation; etc. etc. Involvement by everyone, in one capacity or another, is "the Heart of Quest," and the key to its success.
 - iv) One suggestion that was made was to have us repeat some of the most successful courses that were given a few (or more) years back. We have had so many new members in the last four or five years that we could easily repeat some of our "better" courses to a largely brand new audience. One course in particular that was mentioned was one coordinated by Barbara Blakemore called "Famous Criminal Trials."

b) Marian Friedmann, Chair of the Scheduling Committee:

i) Marian reported that twenty-one existing courses will be continuing in the fall, and there will be nine new courses. Michael acknowledged that scheduling is one of the most complex and difficult tasks at Quest. That said, he repeated his position that he feels that we should not keep the same schedules year after year. By moving classes to different time slots from one year to another we can help assure that our classes can attract new audiences. For example, scheduling tries to assure that there are not:

- > Two new classes in the same time slot.
- > Two similarly-themed classes in the same time slot.
- > And more!

c) Steve Allen, Representing the Committee of Concerned Questors:

This group is concerned that Quest may be, and has been, growing too quickly, and that the concerns of some members has not been taken into account by the Council in reaching decisions about the number of members that Quest should have, going forward.

To address these concerns, the Long Range Planning Committee compiled a questionnaire that was distributed to all Quest members. To date about 85% of our members have completed and returned the questionnaire.

Steve reported the results of these questionnaires, which show that 80% of the members feel that the current size (240-250 members) is "about right," but there are about 20% of the members who feel that Quest has grown too large.

The results of the questionnaire, and alternative scenarios for the future of Quest will be discussed with the membership at a series of Noontime meetings in March.

After Steve left, a discussion within the council followed. After a lengthy period, and a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed that a proposal to limit Quest's membership to 250 for the 2016-17 year will be presented to the membership for a vote at the April annual meeting.

The Council also discussed qualifications for new members. We all agreed that we want to be sure that all new members understand that they are expected to participate and contribute once they join our organization.

- 2) Nominations & Elections Committee Update: Council Member David Lewis: Members include John Hood (Chairman), Betty Farber, Shoshana Kagan, and Helen Neilson.

Positions that are open, and those who running (as of this writing) are as follows:

- a) Treasurer – Steve Allen
 - b) Secretary -- Ruth Kovner
 - c) Vice President – Bob Gottfried
 - d) Three Council Members-at-Large: Jane Pittson-Chianese, Bob Hartmann, Phil Gisser and Pam Gemelli
- 3) Long Range Planning Committee: With the question of the membership limit for 2016-17 likely settled, this Committee will now focus its attention on plans for Quest’s growth three, five and even ten years and into the future. Stay tuned!
- 4) Treasurer’s Report: In John’s absence, Michael presented the board with a current “P&L,” and a projection for the full year. Our original expense and income projections are holding up well, and Quest should finish the year with a small surplus from current operations.
- 5) New Copier: Michael noted that the copy machine in the office needs may be on its last legs. It has just been repaired again (we split the cost with CWE – less than \$300 for us), but the question remains how long will it last. Michael has done some investigation, and reported that our best move may well be to lease one. With a five- year commitment, our cost would be only \$200 a month, with all maintenance and supplies (except paper) included. And this would be for a “big” heavy-duty machine that would collate and staple as well. We are now spending around \$140 a month on copies made outside – which would cease entirely if we get a new machine. Right now CWE pays for all the expenses associated with the current machine.

All business having been concluded, we set the next Council Meeting for Monday March 28th, at 2:30 PM, to give us time before the April 6th General Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth".

Ruth Kovner, Secretary

Minutes of the Quest Council, 2:30 PM, 8 March 2016

Attending were Jane Lubin, Wayne Cotter, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Bob Moore, David Lewis, Liesje ten Houten, Bob Hartmann, Carolyn McGuire and Michael Wellner.

Absent were John Sicree and Ruth Kovner.

This was a short meeting to review the LRPC meeting held earlier in the day (minutes attached) and to plan for the upcoming Noontime sessions in which we will distribute and review the results of the LRPC Survey recently compiled by Steve Allen, and to prepare for the April 6th General Meeting.

We quickly agreed that the April 6th meeting may run long, and we will emphasize to Caroline T. the need to keep the new course presentations to no more than 2 or 3 minutes each. (There are 11 or 12 new courses to be presented, plus the usual material.) The lead coordinators of each new course will be encouraged, should they wish, to prepare a written description of their class which can be handed out at the meeting, and which would include any information that was not included in the brief oral presentation at the meeting.

For the Noontime Survey results meeting, we agreed that we would first edit the original report prepared by Steve, be sure that all members of the Council and the LRPC approve, and then we will email it to all Quest members before the meetings, and then have on hand printed copies at these actual meetings. The meetings will be held in Rooms 15-17 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday March 21, 22 and 23. Our plan is to first ask for comments from those members attending the meetings, before any of us on the Council or the LRPC members volunteer our own opinions and beliefs. We will also mention the April 6th vote on the proposed resolution adopted by the Council last week, as follows:

“For the Academic Year 2016-17, Quest membership shall not exceed 250 members without first getting the approval of a majority of the general membership, under the provisions of Article IX of the Quest By-Laws. All decisions as to the timing of increases towards this 250 member cap and as to how choices will be made among applicants will remain at the sole discretion of the Quest Council and Membership Committee.”

Our next Council meeting has been scheduled for Monday March 28th, at 2:30 PM, well timed to be after the noontime meetings and ten days or so before the April 6th General membership meeting.

Thanks to everyone for all your efforts during this hectic period.

Michael Wellner
Acting Secretary

QUEST COUNCIL MEETING March 28, 2016

The April meeting, held a few days early, was called to order by president Michael Wellner. In attendance were Wayne Cotter, Bob Hartmann, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner. David Lewis, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Jane Lubin, John Sicree and Michael Wellner. Carolyn McGuire and Bob Moore were absent.

AGENDA:

1) Financial Report:

As reported by Treasurer John Sicree, our finances continue to do well and we are in excellent shape.

2) Status of Current Membership:

- a. Our current membership stands at 246 active members.
- b. Right now there are 5 people who have signed up for the summer session.

3) General Meeting on April 6th:

All of us will have the opportunity to vote on the Membership Cap Proposal (that will limit membership to 250 for the 2016-17 year, unless otherwise first approved by the members) at the meeting. All can vote either in person or by e-mail.

Candidates will speak on Monday and Tuesday April 4th and 5th at Lunchtime, and voting will take place the following Monday and Tuesday. The Nominating & Election Committee (NEC) will tally the results.

Candidates are:

Vice President: Bob Gottfried (unopposed)
 Treasurer: Steve Allen (unopposed)
 Secretary: Ruth Kovner (Incumbent, unopposed)

For three Council-at-large seats:

- i. Pam Gemelli
- ii Bob Hartmann (Incumbent)
- iii Jane Pittson-Chianese (Incumbent)
- iv Eileen Kelly
- v. Phil Gisser

Other items to be discussed at the General Membership Meeting include

a review of current committees; the addition of one or two new committees, acknowledgement of all current committee chairs (who put in a great deal of work over the course of the year; their efforts are the lifeblood of our organization, and their work is very much appreciated).

4) Diversity at Quest:

The topic of how to achieve a more diverse membership body at Quest was discussed. We continue to review this topic, and look for ways to attract new members of differing racial and ethnic backgrounds. This is no easy task, and is one that several organizations like ours continue to find challenging.

5) Criteria for Membership:

With Quest now approaching 250 members, and the likelihood that the demand for our services among an ever-growing senior population in the metropolitan area, we want to emphasize that we are seeking new members who will participate actively in our daily activities, who understand that we are a peer learning community, and who are willing to make/lead class discussions, make presentations, join and be active in committees, and share their knowledge and experience in a variety of ways. The Membership Committee and Freshman Class Committee are tasked particularly with delivering this message to prospective and new members.

6) Caring Committee:

We now have 3 or 4 members of this fairly new committee who will contact members who have been absent for a while, and may be ill at home or even in the hospital. It is important that any member who knows of someone who may be ill please inform one of the committee members. They will follow up, call, visit, and even send flowers to those who could use cheering up and good wishes. Quest is a caring community.

7) Christmas Luncheon:

The issue of our annual Christmas luncheon (we plan ahead!) was discussed (by e-mail the next day). Because we have a shortened fall semester, with only thirteen weeks of classes (Columbus Day and one of the Jewish holidays fall in the same week next fall), we are seriously thinking of holding the Christmas luncheon a day or two after classes end at a restaurant, perhaps in the midtown area. Stay tuned for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ruth Kovner

Ruth Kovner,
Secretary

Minutes of Quest Council Meeting held May 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Wellner at 2:34 pm. In attendance: Bob Moore, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Carolyn McQuire, Bob Hartmann, David Lewis, Wayne Cotter, and Michael Wellner. Steve Allen and Bob Gottfried, incoming Treasurer and Vice President, respectively, were also in attendance. Absent were John Sicree, Ruth Kovner, Liesje ten Houten, and Jane Lubin.

The first topic discussed was the Dues for next year, 2016-17. It was agreed to hold our dues for next year at the current \$500 level. Michael noted that there has not been an increase in approximately ten years! And he also noted that we project an operating surplus of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for the current 2015-16 year.

We currently have 245 members, 8 individuals enrolled for the summer, and potentially on a waiting list for the fall.

There was a discussion held on the issue of requiring new members to make a class presentation, as an obligation of membership. While there are reports that some new members may be bristling at such a requirement, Steve Allen reported that there has been a recent large increase in the number of volunteers willing to present. The membership committee has been given general instructions about making sure that Quest is a peer-learning organization and relies on volunteers to either coordinate classes, lead discussions and/or make presentations. A more formal council resolution on this issue will be debated in the fall.

Michael reported that those committees who chairs have served for three years have had new chairs appointed, and those chairs will replace their members who have been term-limited out.

The fall catalog should go to the printer within 24 hours and hopefully will be ready for distribution next week. The summer schedule is complete, and copies are available in the lunch room. Wayne Cotter will send out weekly reminders to the membership via email.

Steve Allen gave a report on the activity of Quest's external and internal web sites. In April, which was a typical month, we had 15-20 people visiting the external web site everyday. And if your search terms include "lifelong learning New York" Quest comes out in first place! Kudos to Steve and his outside consultant for excellent work.

On a related note, Steve reported that there were 180 visits to the internal web site in April, which was a typical month.

Steve has recommended to the Council that it establish a formal Communications Committee, and suggested that it be merged with the existing Marketing Committee, which has essentially been dormant for more than the past year. This committee would provide oversight of all Quest communications, both internally with existing members and externally with prospective members. The Council agreed with this proposal, especially since most of our marketing efforts today are really via electronic means. Both

Wayne Cotter and Steve Allen agreed to be on the committee, and Steve agreed to speak with Leslie Goldman to inquire if she would agree to chair the new committee. The committee will be charged with authorizing changes to both the internal and external web sites and to our email communications with members.

The Christmas lunch has tentatively been scheduled for Monday December 12th. Unlike prior years, because of a quirk in the calendar, it is impractical to hold our Holiday Party at Quest. Bob Hartmann & Michael have volunteered to scout restaurants in the theater district to try and find a restaurant that can accommodate us in a private room.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 7th at 1:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

These minutes were drafted by Bob Gottfried at the request of Michael Wellner because of the absence of our secretary, Ruth Kovner, who was ill.