

Quest Council Meeting Minutes May 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Wellner at 2:38 pm. All members of the Council were in attendance except Phil Gisser, who had fallen and had suffered an injury. Present were: Steve Allen, Wayne Cotter, Bob Gottfried, Bob Hartmann, Jane Lubin, Jane Pittson-Chianese, Bob Moore, Liesje ten Houten, Ruth Kovner and Michael Wellner. This was the last Council meeting under the aegis of Michael Wellner as President.

To this last Council meeting of the current Academic Year we invited as guests those members who were newly elected to the Council with terms beginning June 1st: Marian Friedmann, Vice President, Eileen Kelly, Pam Gemelli, and Bob Reiss, Council-at-Large members. Also invited to join the meeting was Roy Clary, Membership Committee Chairman.

1. **The Minutes** of the previous council meeting were unanimously accepted via email.
2. **Membership**: Roy Clary was invited to join us so that the Council could provide direction and guidance regarding the newly-approved membership cap of 260, and the current waiting list of ten or eleven potential members.

The Council noted that our current membership stands at 250, and we anticipate losing the normal 10% of the current membership over the summer period (i.e. we expect that 25 or so will not renew for the fall. If that holds, we would begin the fall semester with about 225 members, and the new cap of 260 --- thus leaving around 35 available places. The Council agreed (unanimously) that we would offer membership beginning September 1st to those currently on the waiting list. Roy will advise us how many have accepted. In addition we have about three people signed up for the summer session; we shall see if any of them are interested in the fall.

The Council also reconfirmed that the Membership Committee suggest to all potential members deemed suitable that they join us for the summer session at a cost of just \$100. They (and we) can then better determine if, in fact, Quest is the right place for them. (Note that joining for the summer does not automatically guarantee that they will be accepted for full membership in the fall). Last year we had ten or eleven people join us for the summer.

Steve Allen noted that this year we took in 50 new members out of the 60 people who applied.

Michael noted that the proposal to allow the Membership Committee to exceed the 260 cap by 3% "for exceptionally qualified candidates" was approved at the April General meeting for "exceptional" members. But we all agreed that the 260 cap will not be exceeded without prior Council approval.

We also discussed the complex question of steps to be taken in the case of a member becoming so incapacitated that he/she is not only unable to participate or contribute to Quest, but becomes so disruptive that we find their attendance is no longer acceptable and not in the best interests of our organization. It was agreed that in such a case that member will be asked to withdraw, and/or will be asked not to renew his/her membership.

3. **Diversity Committee:** This Committee is scheduled to meet with the Dean on June 20th.
4. **Dues Increase:** The subject of whether or not to increase our annual dues was brought to the table by the President, who repeated Steve's earlier report that Quest's dues have remained unchanged for the last 14 years. Had our \$500 fee simply kept pace with inflation over this time, the current dues would be around \$700. After a review of our income and expenses for this year, and projected increases in expenses for the next year, we discussed an increase in dues for the 2017-18 year, either to \$550 or \$600. After some discussion, it was agreed unanimously that we would increase the fee by only \$50. A formal proposal to this effect was made by Bob Gottfried and was seconded. And it should be noted that all newly elected Council members agreed unanimously with this proposal. Membership renewal letters, with the new dues level, will go out by e-mail on June 1st. As always, renewals must be received by July 31st.
5. **Quest's CWE Scholarship:** Last year the Council approved an increase in the Scholarship monies that we donate to CWE from \$2,500 to \$3,500. And this year we have agreed to increase the support that Quest gives to the Dean's Film Festival from \$1,000 to \$2,000 (at the Dean's request). We also anticipate a small increase in our rent for next year (possibly \$2,500).
6. **Leave of Absence:** Pereta Rodriguez has advised Michael that she will require a Leave of Absence for the fall semester because she is scheduled for hip replacement surgery. We wish her well.
8. **Website Design:** Steve Allen reported that we currently have two websites, a "marketing" website (questlifelong.org) that is open to everyone, and a members only website (questmembers.org), password-protected and open only to Quest members. Steve indicates that it makes sense to consolidate the two.

Steve also reported that he has now replaced our original IT consultant (a young man working on his own) with a more reliable company that provides IT consulting services, and can help us with our web site design.

There was some discussion as to what information on the web site should be password protected. For example, some members have expressed concern about their Quest photos coming up as soon as someone Googles their name. We agreed

that all photos would be password protected, and that any member who did not want his photo to appear even on a password-protected site would be able to opt out. We will also have a physical book of member photos available in the office for members' perusal.

We also agreed that we would take steps to limit the electronic distribution of the Quest membership list to Council members only. Other members of Quest are welcome to a hard copy of the list at any time; they will be available in the office.

Going forward, the Membership Committee will be responsible for taking all new members' photos and maintaining the membership roster.

Finally, Steve presented his Treasurer's Report, which remains virtually unchanged from the detailed report presented at the recent Annual Meeting.

All business having been completed, the meeting was adjourned by Michael Wellner.

The next Council meeting will take place on June 13th at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Ruth Kovner
Secretary