

## COUNCIL MEETING ...SEPTEMBER 9,2019

All members of the Council were present. Bob Gottfried, President opened the meeting at 2:40.

### CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The first order of business was a presentation by Joyce West, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee, who reviewed the procedures used in developing a summer school program....known as ENCORE.

She explained that the procedures included; a suggestion box, emails to coordinators of various courses, and discussions in the committee. In general, it was determined that not enough time was allotted to the selection of courses and the fact that most of the courses were from the fall semester indicated a lack of representation of the spring semester.

The council members each presented various possible improvements in procedures that could and should be used in the future development of ENCORE.

Joyce agreed to review all Council suggestions thoroughly and implement changes for this year.

### TREASURERS REPORT

Steve Allen delivered his comprehensive report..... he reported that as of the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Quest's reserves were \$700 thousand -- \$650 thousand in Quest's bank accounts and brokerage account and \$50 thousand in our account with CWE. \$75 thousand of this reserve represents an accumulation of small surpluses of membership fees in excess of expenses over the past 25 years. \$625 thousand of this reserve represents voluntary contributions by members -- \$388 thousand related to the estate of Ken Leedom and \$237 thousand from contributions in previous years.

The 2019-2020 budget was for revenue from membership fees of \$138,000 and expenses of \$134,000 for a net surplus of \$4,000. The \$138,000 projection for membership fees was deliberately conservative, assuming no increase over 2018-2019. We have already collected \$133,000 and a reasonable projection at this point would be for membership fees of \$142,000, so at this point we would be expecting a net surplus of \$8,000.

### MEMBERSHIP

Michael, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that we now have 252 paid members. Equally importantly there are presently interviews scheduled with close to a dozen new highly qualified applicants. Michael indicated that we'd almost certainly reach 260 this term, if not a couple

more. The plan is to try and be sure that we reserve a few open spaces for the Spring semester."

## TECHNOLOGY

**Wayne Cotter and Michael Wellner delivered a Technology Committee update. In August, Michael and Wayne researched and eventually purchased a new speaker/microphone system for Room 15-17. Thus far, the results are extremely promising. If the system continues working well, a second microphone will be added.**

**They also reported that CCNY does not plan on replacing the current classroom podiums, primarily because such systems have become outdated. Instead they are moving to a wifi-based system that will allow users to show presentations from a variety of sources, including their smart phones. There is no current timetable for implementation of a wifi-based system.**

**They both stressed to Robert Hernandez, CCNY's computer liaison to Quest, that maintaining a personal computer including a CD/DVD player is very important to Quest even when a wi-fi-based system is fully implemented.**

## MEMORIAL RECOGNITION

The fact that we had 4 deaths of active Quest members this past summer, stimulated a discussion of what would be an appropriate memorial for those who passed. Ultimately it was decided that a general Memorial will be held once each semester for all who passed. This will take place in the auditorium . Family members will be invited to speak as will Quest members. Following this will be a reception with refreshments in the lunchroom.

In addition, those who passed will have an "obit" in QNEWS and will be listed in NWAQ and QReview.

For Stan Raffes, who was a gifted poet and a co-coordinator of the Contemporary Poetry class, a reading of Stan's poems at a future Noontime Knowledge session is being planned.

## NEW BUSINESS

Next, Carolyn McGuire raised the subject of the plays composed by Seamus Scanlon and his Irish compatriots, which have been performed in the past in the Quest Auditorium on selected Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Seamus has again approached us looking for us to fund two

productions, one by him and one by Derek Murphy. The cost would be no more than \$500 each. After some discussion the Council agreed to fund one production this fall (estimated cost \$400), and revisit the issue before the Spring term. A motion to this effect was proposed by Michael, seconded by Carolyn, and passed unanimously.

**Council agreed unanimously to allocate \$400 to the Caring Committee for flowers to be sent, to members who are very sick.**

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4PM  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
CAROLYN MCGUIRE  
Quest Secretary