

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2020

Members present: David Bernard, Stephanie Butler, Wayne Cotter, Pam Gemelli, Bob Gottfried, Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Frieda Lipp, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Ruth Ward and Michael Wellner.

Members absent: None

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown, this monthly meeting was held via Zoom call. The meeting was called to order by Quest President Bob Gottfried at 4:00 pm.

Proposal to Fund Zoom

Council unanimously approved the allocation of \$1,200 per month to fund our Zoom online classes through the end of this semester.

Appointment of a By-Laws Committee

A new Ad-hoc By-Laws Committee was appointed to review the current By-Laws. The Committee will make recommendations to Council regarding changes or updates to the By-Laws.

Bob Gottfried appointed the following members to be on that Committee: Steve Allen, Wayne Cotter, Marian Friedman, Leslie Goldman, Bob Gottfried, Carolyn McGuire and Michael Wellner. A Chairperson will be determined by the Committee. Any actual changes or updates to the Quest By-Laws require a 2/3 majority vote by Quest membership.

Planning for the Spring 2021 Semester

Our General Meeting will be held on Friday, November 20, at 2:00 pm, online via Zoom to discuss our courses for the Spring.

Bob Gottfried will notify Joyce West, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee about our General Meeting so they can discuss the courses planned for the Spring. Lead coordinators will reach out to members regarding presentations.

Bob Gottfried spoke to Dean Mercado and Davi Saroop at CCNY about holding our space at 25 Broadway in the event that Quest doesn't return in person in the Spring. CCNY confirmed our space will be held.

Memorial Tribute Program

Quest will hold a special Memorial Tribute for former members David Abrahams, Myra Nissen, Donna Rubens and Sondra Southwell and for our Office Manager, Barbara Bianco on Friday, September 25 at 1:00 pm.

After the Council meeting and before the minutes were sent out, we all learned of Myra's passing and added her to the list of individuals being memorialized.

Review of First Week of Fall Semester

Council discussed how our first week went and agreed that everything went well and we received excellent feedback from

various members. It was noted that the Online Learning Committee provides excellent Zoom training to presenters.

Additionally, Wayne Cotter urged all Council members (and Quest members) sending emails via QuestBusiness NOT to enter the QuestBusiness email address (QuestBusiness@googlegroups.com) in the "TO" line of their emails.

Instead, the QuestBusiness address should be entered in the "BCC" line. No address needs to be inserted in the "TO" line.

The reason this is recommended is that when the sender enters an email address in the "BCC" line, recipients are prevented from using the "reply to all" option.

Spring 2021 Calendar

- Our classes will start Monday, February 1.
- Spring break will be from Monday, March 29 through Thursday, April 1 (closed April 2 for Good Friday).
- Our General Meeting will be Friday, April 16.
- Classes end Thursday, May 13.
- Our 25th Anniversary Gala Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 14th at the Harmonie Club.

Council voted to hold Quest classes on Monday, February 15, 2021 (Presidents' Day).

Treasurer's Report for September 2020 and Proposed Budget for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 Fiscal Year

- Quest's finances have not changed in any significant aspect from the quarterly written report submitted at the April Council meeting. Quest's finances continue in a healthy state. We have reserves of approximately \$756,223 and \$8,173.51 in a checking account
- Because of remote learning this semester, we will not be collecting membership dues from those Quest members who paid full dues in 2019-2020. We have received checks in the amount of \$150 each from 24 new fall semester zoom members for a total of \$3,600 and one check for a full membership for a returning member in the partial year amount of \$175. The total income to date for the fall semester is \$3,775.
- Expenses for the fall semester total \$16,033 which, divided into 4 months, total \$2,672 per month. Expenses incurred in excess of \$8,173.51, the sum in our checking account, will come from reserves.
- The sum of \$20,000 has been requested from our account at CCNY/CWE.

Quest Treasurer Stephanie Butler prepared a proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021 and made a motion for Council to approve it. Council unanimously approved a budget of anticipated fall semester expenses.

Caring Committee

A survey went out to Quest membership to determine who would like to be contacted via phone if they felt isolated due to living alone. There were 150 respondents to the survey. Of the group, 15 members would like to be called and volunteers from the Caring Committee were assigned.

Zoom Connection

Some members have difficulty accessing zoom. Although calling in to Zoom isn't the best option, there is a phone connection available.

New Business

A) Peter Cott/Kenneth Leedom Memorial Lecture

Since the funds we received from this bequest allow us to pay a higher fee and get a special guest speaker with more name recognition, there was a discussion as to whether or not we defer this guest speaker to when we are back at 25 Broadway, instead of holding it on Zoom. Quest will continue to have other guest speakers on Zoom.

A motion was made to continue having the Peter Cott/Kenneth Leedom Memorial Lecture continue on Zoom for the Spring semester. The majority of Council members voted to approve this.

B) Tuition for the Spring Semester

This will be discussed at our November meeting.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 13 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Gottfried at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary