

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, February 8, 2021

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

Members absent: Penelope Pi-Sunyer

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.

Preliminary Discussion for Fall 2021

Bob Gottfried had a discussion with CCNY Business Manager Davi Saroop, about whether CCNY will be open in the fall of 2021. Depending on the vaccine rollout, it may be open in some form of hybrid learning for students. This will involve using Zoom on a part-time basis and having in-person classes for the remaining time. CCNY may have a limited number of students sitting in each classroom. They will also need to have Zoom technology available in various rooms.

If this happens, Quest is likely to have access to only three large rooms (the Auditorium, Room 15-17 and one other double room) and we would need to comply with CCNY social distancing requirements.

Council discussed the issues surrounding a possible return to 25 Broadway in the fall.

Council agreed this is a preliminary discussion and we need to hear further from CCNY before taking any action.

Council also discussed the possibility of having Quest continue with a “hybrid model” even if we are able to return to 25 Broadway on a full-time basis. This would allow certain classes to be offered virtually via Zoom while the full course schedule is offered in-person at 25 Broadway. A special committee chaired by Bob Gottfried is exploring this issue. Additionally, the Online Learning Committee will have to visit 25 Broadway (prior to the fall semester) to ensure classrooms are set up to accommodate Zoom technology.

Calendar for Fall 2021

Council unanimously agreed to the following schedule:

- *Monday, September 13, 2021 - Classes begin*
- *Thursday, September 16, 2021 - No classes (Yom Kippur)*
- *Friday, November 12, 2021 - Annual Meeting at 2 p.m.*
- *Wednesday, November 24 and Thursday, November 25, 2021 – No classes*
- *Thursday, December 16, 2021 – Classes end*

Marketing and Communications Committee Request

When someone does a “Google Search” for life-long learning programs in New York, Quest’s website does not appear at the

top of the list. The Marketing and Communications Committee submitted a proposal to improve our search results and potentially help us recruit new members.

A supplemental budget allocation of \$1,000 is needed so that the Quest website can be updated on Google.

Council unanimously agreed to this request.

Nominations and Elections (NEC) Committee Members

Council unanimously agreed to the following members serving on the NEC. Roy Clary, David Judlowitz, Sharon Krutzel, Caroline Thompson and Bob Gottfried as Council representative to the NEC. The NEC will meet during the week of February 8, 2021.

Quest will need a new President and a new Vice President and terms for Council members Wayne Cotter, Pam Gemelli, Frieda Lipp and Michael Wellner end May 31, 2021. Wayne Cotter and Michael Wellner are eligible to run again.

Bob Gottfried will write an article for Q News listing the number of Council openings this year and explaining who is eligible to run for Council and the requirements. Each year, the President will send a similar annual electronic communication to members. Council unanimously agreed to adding this practice to the final bylaws.

Zoom members of Quest are not eligible to run for Council or to vote in Quest elections because they are not full members of Quest. Council unanimously agreed to this.

Quest Anniversary Party

The Quest anniversary party once again has been postponed until Friday, November 19, 2021, at the Harmonie Club. All members (including Zoom members) are invited.

Annual Committee Reports from the Committee Chairs

Karen Levin reviewed the reports from the Audit Committee, the Q News Committee, the Q Review Committee and the Scheduling Committee. Each report will be amended to include the Council liaison. The Curriculum Committee and the Marketing and Communications Committee will send their reports by April 1.

Online Learning Committee Announcement

Wayne Cotter emailed membership that all recorded webinars from the fall semester will remain on Quest's private website throughout the spring semester. In addition, recordings of all spring semester webinars (as well as the Shakespeare course) will be posted on an ongoing basis during the spring semester.

To access the private site, go to:

<https://www.questcontinuingednyc.org/> and click on “Private Login.” If you experience problems accessing the private site, please contact Steve Allen at stevenallen2@gmail.com.

Request to Present Quest Presentations Outside of Quest

Harriet Finkelstein asked if Quest presentations, such as her course on anti-Semitism, could be offered to other organizations (e.g., synagogues, churches, private schools). Council discussed this but felt that there might be legal issues regarding copyright infringement or other legal situations that might come up.

Council agreed this wasn't part of Quest's mission and it was decided not to share presentations outside of Quest.

Treasurer's Report for February 2021

Quest Treasurer Stephanie Butler presented the report.

Income

- Quest's finances continue in a healthy state. We **budgeted** for 277 members @\$150 each, or total revenue for the year of \$41,580 (\$5,100 for the fall semester and \$36,455 for the spring) In fact, we have to date 276 checks (34 Zoom members in the fall and 242 members in the spring) @\$150 each, or total **actual** revenue of \$41,400. Although we show a shortfall of \$180, the Membership Committee has advised that we can expect 17 additional members' checks, or \$2,550. Of course, we can't count on the additional funds until checks are received, but we anticipate receiving most of the funds. Kudos to Nan and the Membership Committee.

Please note the budget should have been \$41,550 rather than \$41,580, creating a discrepancy of \$30.

Expenses

- We budgeted for expenses of \$43,273. To date, we have spent \$19,340. All categories of expense, including committees, etc. are within budget parameters.

Investments

- There is no change in the status of our investments. The CDs that First Republic holds for us will come due on May 22, 2021 and we will investigate rates at that time.

New Business

A) Life-Long Learning Group

Sheryl Harawitz spoke to Bob Gottfried about an Osher life-long learning group in Missouri that was interested in connecting with Quest members for social interaction and conversation. Sheryl will coordinate this for some time in March.

B) Special Council Meeting to Discuss the Recommendations to Quest By-laws

There will be a meeting on February 22 with Council and the members of the By-laws Revision Committee to review the recommendations suggested to amend the by-laws.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 1, at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Gottfried at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Levin

Secretary