

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: September 18, 2024

Council held its monthly meeting at 25 Broadway in Room 7-39. The meeting was called to order by President Donna Ramer at 2:40 p.m.

Council Members Present: Karen Cullen, Peter Fleischman, Paul Golomb, Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg, Ilene Winkler (via Zoom), and Judy Winn.

Council Members Absent: Mary Ann Donnelly

I. General Administration (Donna Ramer)

Motions: Two motions were sent to Council via email over the summer break.

1. By email dated July 20, 2024, Donna submitted to Council a motion to approve the fall 2024 schedule of hybrid and in-person courses. By emails dated July 20-21, 2024, the Council approved the motion 11-0.
2. By email dated August 13, 2024, Donna submitted to Council a motion to approve recording the following Fall 2024 courses: Artificial Intelligence, Supreme Court, History of NY, Cinema Quest, Regards to Broadway, Artists & Their Works, Fascinating Nonfiction, Upheavals in American Democracy, NYC & Its Environs, and Distinguished Guest Lecture Series. By emails dated August 13 and 14, 2024, the Council approved the motion 11-0.

II. Liaison Reports (All)

- Bob Gottfried reported that the Special Events Committee has selected a restaurant for Quest's 30th Anniversary dinner. The dinner will be at Michael's at 24 West 55th Street, on May 16, 2025.
- Judy Winn, on behalf of the Quest/CWE Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee, requested that the Council publicize the Quest/CWE cocktail party scheduled for October 23. (See New Business below for details on efforts to encourage Quest members to attend this event.)

III. Treasurer's Report (Peter Fleischman)

- Peter reported that he, Bob, and Donna met with the CWE Dean and that CWE has tentatively agreed to a more efficient fund exchange between Quest and CWE, including paying rent directly to CWE. This new process is being reviewed by CCNY for final approval and Peter and Donna will report to Council when they hear back.
- Peter reported that Quest is still expecting reimbursement from the landlord for the new screen for which Quest advanced payment. By email dated September 27, 2024, Donna reported that Quest has since received reimbursement for the screen.

- Peter gave a financial report and reported the balances held in Quest accounts and the balances held back at CWE. He also reported on membership fee revenues to date.
- Peter made a motion, seconded by Donna, to modify the 2024-2025 budget to include a \$1,000 expense item for the Membership Committee. After discussion, Council approved the motion 10-0.
- Donna reported that she and Karen met with the CWE Dean and that CWE has agreed that Quest's rent for 2024-2025 shall stay at \$40,000, \$5,000 less than budgeted.

IV. Curriculum (Paul Golomb)

- Paul reported that the Curriculum Committee will hold an informal "new course" brainstorming session at 25 Broadway on Thursday, September 19.
- Paul reported that the Committee will send a survey to all members to assess interest in courses for the Spring 2025 semester, including any potential courses identified at the September 19 meeting. The survey will also solicit members' interest in presenting and coordinating in the Spring courses.

V. Membership (Tamara Weinberg)

- Tamara reported on the attendance at this past Summer's Encore program (458) and the number of Encore attendees who have become new members (2).
- Tamara reported on the total number of current members (237).
- To encourage new memberships, Tamara and Peter suggested that next year the Membership Committee accept new member applications for the 2025-2026 year during the running of the Encore program in June and July.
- Tamara reported that Road Scholar has included Quest on its link to lifelong learning programs.
- Donna reported that the Marketing Committee will be sending an email to Quest's subscriber list and has a process in place for following up on any responses.

VI. New Business (Donna Ramer)

- Quest-CCNY Scholarship Event: Donna reminded Council that the purpose of the October 23 Quest/CWE cocktail party is to thank Quest members who have donated money for CWE scholarships and to provide information on the Quest scholarship program to interested attendees. She also reported that, in addition to Save the Date and other notices that Quest has or will send to all members, she will strongly encourage all Quest Council members, Committee chairs, and Lead Coordinators to attend the event. She added that spouses and partners of Quest members were welcome.

- Spring 2025 Schedule: With respect to the distributed Spring 2025 schedule, Donna pointed out that the schedule was preliminary because CWE has not yet confirmed that the CWE space at 25 Broadway will be open on Monday, March 31. Donna made a motion, seconded by Bob, to approve the Spring 2025 Schedule, subject to confirmation that the CWE space at 25 Broadway will be open on March 31. After discussion, Council approved the motion 10-0. By email dated September 20, 2024, Donna advised that CWE has confirmed that the CWE space at 25 Broadway will be open on March 31.

The next scheduled Council meeting will be at 25 Broadway on October 9, 2024, at 2:45 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Donna at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cullen, Secretary

Documents distributed at meeting: Quest Council Meeting Agenda, Quest Fall 2024 Schedule, and preliminary Spring 2025 Schedule