

## **Cannon Valley Elder Collegium Board Minutes, January 15, 2014**

The Board of Directors of CVEC met at the Northfield Senior Center on January 15, 2014. A quorum being present, Board Chair ReJean Schulte called the meeting to order at 3:45 P.M.

1. ReJean asked the Board to approve the agenda that had been circulated to the members of the Board prior to the meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda was approved unanimously.
2. ReJean next asked that the minutes of the November 20, 2013 meeting of the Board be approved in the form circulated prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the Minutes in the form circulated was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously.
3. ReJean said that by all accounts, the winter courses were being well received.
4. Executive Director Rich Noer agreed with ReJean about the winter courses. He reported that the record first-day registrations caused a number of courses to be “closed” on the first day, although in all but one case, class sizes were increased to accommodate first-day registrants. Then Rich said that, while almost all first-day registrants had been admitted to their chosen classes, we ought to think about whether a better system than the current one could be devised. He said that several students had signed up for more than one class, and suggested that perhaps registrants’ first choices should be given priority over second and third choices.
5. Next, Rich explained that Board Member Phyllis Borchert, who had been the Treasurer, had resigned. Jim Holden, Nominating Committee Chair, had approached several of the “usual suspects,” but had not found anyone willing to take on the Treasurer job. Accordingly Rich Noer, who was Treasurer before being appointed Executive Director, will fill in until the end of the spring trimester, when the Nominating Committee will have had a chance to conduct a search for a replacement.

6. Operations Director Dale Sommers discussed winter registrations. Final numbers were not available, but it appeared that either 238 or 239 students were enrolled. That is a record; last year's 227 registrations had also been a record. Eleven people added \$15 each to their registration fees, apparently in response to the statement on the registration form that CVEC's cost per student was \$15 in excess of the \$50 course fee.
7. Dale briefly discussed the new procedure for distributing and collecting course evaluation forms. He handed out envelopes to the members of the Board who had offered to distribute and collect the forms.
8. Curriculum Director Ed Langerak reported that CVEC will sponsor the same number of courses this spring as it did in 2013, and that times and classrooms had already been scheduled to the instructors' satisfaction. The first day of registration will be February 18<sup>th</sup>, and the first classes will be held the week of March 17 through 21.
9. Finance Director Barb Jenkins briefly discussed the end-of-year financial report that had been circulated to the members of the Board before the meeting. She noted that expenses were 2.5% less than income, a satisfying result. The Board informally approved the end-of-year report. A brief discussion followed of the results of "Give to the Max Day," which were disappointing (though we did not promote that event in our fundraising). Less than \$300 was raised through that effort. After discussion, it was agreed that CVEC will continue to participate in "Give to the Max Day," but will not make it a priority.
10. Bruce Roberts gave a final report and recommendation about "Idea Harvest." Started in spring, 2012, three Idea Harvest programs were held at churches and the Senior Center. The purpose was to pick up "stories," as distinguished from numbers of new course registrants. In this, Idea Harvest was successful. Bruce has concluded that CVEC courses affect students' lives positively. His first recommendation is that each trimester CVEC ought to send a list of the courses to be taught as well as information about the instructors to several churches and service organizations where seniors gather. This recommendation met with general approval. Bruce further recommended that recipients ought to be invited to ask instructors to give "Collegium Invitational Talks" like the two given on an experimental basis before the winter

2014 trimester. This second recommendation prompted a discussion, and it was agreed that no such invitations ought to be made without the affected instructors' prior approval in each case. The details of the two recommendations were referred to the Curriculum Committee for refinement, with the Committee's proposed procedures to be reported to the Board in advance of implementation.

11. Dale Sommers reported that the ad hoc committee formed following the November Board meeting to discuss classroom technology issues in general had met once and visited classrooms used by CVEC at the Northfield Retirement Community, the Senior Center and Village on the Cannon. He sees the situation as most critical at Village on the Cannon, where the technology is outdated and, more generally, "dismal." The committee is in agreement that the main thing to strive for is ease of use. Flexibility is also important, especially the ability to connect to "orphan technologies," such as VHS. Dale said that the matter can be solved either via a "consumer electronics" or a "system" approach. The latter, while more expensive, is his choice, and Dale was in the process of scheduling an appointment with a recommended electronics firm to elicit suggestions.
12. Rich Noer reported on the activities of the hearing technology committee. The committee had met with Steve Edwins to discuss available technologies, and instructors giving winter classes in Senior Center Room 106 asked their classes whether hearing was a problem. Very few students in the four classes given in Room 106 would admit to any problems, suggesting, Rich said, that the best solution might be to provide wireless pick-ups for students needing them.
13. ReJean Schulte reminded the Board that they should be thinking about names of prospective Board members in advance of the May membership meeting. Board members should also give some thought to the format of the annual membership meeting.
14. Finally, Rich Noer mentioned the recent death of Ian Barbour and asked the members of the Board what kinds of remembrances would be appropriate. After some discussion of the appropriateness of a cash gift, it was agreed that in lieu of such a gift, a remembrance ought to be prepared and featured on the CVEC website.

Upon motion duly made and seconded and without discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Michael H. Harper, Jr.  
Secretary