

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 18, 2017

The meeting of the CVEC Board of Directors took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at the Northfield Senior Center. Members present were Joan Drenth, Phil Eaves, Mike Harper, Jean Haslett, Steve Kelly, Ed Lufkin, Peg Morrison, Jerry Mohrig, Bob Speckhals, Dale Talley, and Dan Van Tassel. Also in attendance were staff members Barb Jenkins, Ed Langerak, Rich Noer, and Dale Sommers. Confirming a quorum, Chair Jerry Mohrig called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

1. The Chair asked if there were any additions or changes to the previously circulated agenda. There were none.
2. Jerry welcomed Kathy Sommers as a visitor, and Board Treasurer Peg Morrison introduced her as the future Financial Director, beginning July 1, 2017, following a half-year overlap for transition.
3. A motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of November 16, 2016, as circulated but with the insertion of the word "food" in the phrase "upper limit [food] budget," in item #8, was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
4. In his report as Executive Director, Rich Noer noted that as a consequence of an accident on ice resulting in a broken leg, Lawrence Archbold's Winter 2017 course, Symphonies from Mozart to Mahler, was cancelled and will instead be offered in the upcoming Fall term.

Rich announced that Perry Mason, who has been appointed as Curriculum Director to succeed Ed Langerak, will be formally introduced at the February Board meeting. Beginning March 1, at half salary, Perry will serve alongside Ed for the transition till taking over the duties from Ed as of July 2017.

Rich informed the Board that in memory of Anne Aby, our late Board member and revered instructor, a memorial gift of \$50 has been given by the Collegium toward a scholarship at Carleton (in accord with her family's wishes). The motion was approved unanimously.

Rich reported that the presentation about CVEC he and Jerry made at the Northfield Rotary Club meeting in November was well received and that the pair will be doing a similar program for the Faribault Rotary in early February. On the subject of expanding our identity in the community, Rich appealed to us that in public forums it would be better understood among those beyond our immediate constituencies if instead of using the phrase "see-vec" in referring to the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium we used the alternative shorter options of Elder Collegium or simply Collegium. As to the

identity of our web site, however, as a number of those present suggested, it may be well to continue with the easy-to-enter cvec.org.

5. Operations Director Dale Sommers, in referring to the previously circulated graphs and comparative tallies on course oversubscriptions for the past few years, reported that the number of courses oversubscribed for Winter 2017 term was 8 out of a total 14 courses offered; and two additional courses closed later. To date, only three courses are short of their enrollment limits. The 55 would-be registrants vying for enrollment in those oversubscribed courses were excluded by random selection in an impartial "lottery" procedure that Dale has developed and been employing in recent years, a system intended both (a) to honor course limits set by instructor preference and (b) to ensure equity among those students who indicated as their choice a course which it turns out is oversubscribed. Those who end not winning a place in the oversubscribed class in question are notified promptly and are given priority if and when that course they had spoken for is next offered, and are encouraged to consider enrolling in courses that have not yet reached their stated limits. Alternatively, those excluded from a course they had applied for can choose to get a refund. (Note: Later on in the agenda, members will be accorded opportunity to discuss ways of addressing what could be considered, from one vantage, a problem or issue somehow to resolve, or, from another vantage, a matter of managing and accepting success, as clearly evident in the program's surging popularity and growth. Stay tuned!)

Dale reported that a record 90 persons took their first CVEC courses in the last academic year, and we are on a similar pace this academic year. He also noted that the competitive nature of enrollment is obvious in the fact that this year one out of five did not get into a first choice class, compared with what used to be one out of twenty.

6. Curriculum Director Ed Langerak reported that at its meeting on January 17 the Curriculum Committee approved a group of fourteen courses, one being offered in two sections, for Spring Term 2017. Faribault will have its first 8-week course along with a short course, short courses being the norm up till now. Complete course descriptions with brief biographical information on the instructors will soon be available online.
7. Financial Director Barb Jenkins commented on the previously circulated comparative data regarding fund drive results for 2015-16 and for 2016-17. The number of donors and total contributions increased: 84 vs. 88; \$5,875 vs. \$8,110. It appears that the introduction of named categories of donation had a positive effect, especially in the Patron category of gifts from \$150 to \$499, at which level 5 participated last year vs. 15 this year, the totals going from \$1,000 to \$2,525 respectively. Contributions with registrations (i.e. checks received for amounts in excess of the tuition) for Fall and Winter terms also increased (from \$1,730 to \$2,030).

Treasurer Peg Morrison read and then moved approval of the previously circulated updated Resolution establishing new categories of CVEC donors, aligning the resolution

with the Board's earlier decision to budget by fiscal year rather than calendar year. The motion was seconded and carried. (A copy is appended to these minutes.)

8. Bob Speckhals shared an update on the Faribault program, which began as an experiment in Fall 2015. He reviewed the courses offerings, which increased in number from 4 last year, to 6 this year, to 9 planned for next year. Spring 2017 term will include a full 8-week course in addition to two sections of a 4-week course, which format of shorter duration has been the norm since the inception of the Faribault program. He said the caliber and diversity of the Faribault courses and their instructors are noteworthy. Bob commented favorably on potential courses and instructors. He was enthusiastic about the available facilities, unique resources, and enrollment prospects—all of which augur well for an ongoing and expanding branch of the CVEC program in Faribault.
9. Jerry initiated discussion on the issue of oversubscription and course capacity and the question as to whether anything should be done to ameliorate the phenomenon. Some might consider it less a problem than a sign of success. Are we experiencing growing pains? He outlined four possible responses: (1) do nothing; (2) add more courses and/or sections; (3) raise course limits while continuing to uphold individual instructors' notions of what number makes for viable discussion and recognizing constraints and/or flexibilities of room configurations and capacities; (4) include when feasible a lecture course with a considerably larger enrollment limit and a lower tuition fee. Given the limited time remaining, it was decided that the discussion of this matter would be carried over to the next Board meeting. An informal vote indicated that most board members were not in favor of option 1 (do nothing).
10. Jerry reviewed the holiday party. The snow that day cut attendance and twenty-five, not the expected 35, participated. It was nonetheless a success! The consensus of those who made it to the party was that the menu was commendable and distinctive; it included an array of hors d'oeuvres and choice of wines and other beverages that pleased the palate. Lively conversation ensued, participants circulated, and the inclusion of non-board committee members was definitely a plus. The venue of the community room of the Village on the Cannon proved its worth as a gathering place for social events as well as for class discussions.
11. Note that our next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2017.
12. The meeting was adjourned at four minutes after five.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Van Tassel, Secretary

Attachment to Minutes of CVEC Board Meeting 1/18/17

Resolution establishing new categories of CVEC donors
(passed 1/18/17)

Resolved, that there be three categories of giving, based on the total of gifts during a fiscal year:

Friend: below \$150

Patron: \$150-\$499

Benefactor: \$500 and above

A thank-you letter or email is sent soon after receipt of each gift. An acknowledgement letter will be sent at the end of the fiscal year, covering the total of gifts during the fiscal year just completed, to those in the Patron and Benefactor categories. The donor's category will be mentioned in the acknowledgement letter, but not announced publicly.