

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

Board Minutes, 1/18/2012

The Board of Directors of CVEC met at the Northfield Senior Center on January 18, 2012. A quorum being present, Board Chair ReJean Schulte called the meeting to order at 3:50 P.M.

1. An agenda having been circulated to the members of the Board prior to the meeting, Board Chair Schulte asked the Board to approve the agenda. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda was approved unanimously and without discussion.
2. Board Chair Schulte next asked that the minutes of the November meeting of the Board be approved in the form circulated to the members of the Board prior to the meeting. A motion to approve was duly made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously in the form circulated, but with one correction of a date.
3. Executive Director Ed Lufkin reported on a meeting of the Curriculum Committee, as Jim McDonnell was absent. The offerings for the spring trimester will include 11 classes. Bill Woehrlin's class – on the history of food – will probably be over-subscribed, so that it will have two sessions.
4. Operations Director Dave Halsor reported that 171 paid registrations had been received for the winter trimester courses, a near record. This was achieved even though there were only 11 course offerings, not the usual 12.
5. The next order of business was to discuss a proposal from the Curriculum Committee, regarding “flexible course offerings.” Jerry Mohrig reported that the Curriculum Committee would like authority to offer up to three “non-traditional” courses per academic year without the need to have prior approval of the Board in each case. A discussion followed, with all speaking in favor of the proposal. Following the discussion, the following resolution was duly moved, seconded and approved:

Resolved, that the Curriculum Committee is authorized to commit CVEC to offer up to three courses that do not follow the usual format

(eight two-hour class sessions) in each academic year, without the requirement of prior approval of the Board.

This resolution was amended later in the meeting, as noted in paragraph 10 below.

6. Finance Director Barbara Jenkins and Finance Committee Chair Rich Noer discussed the financial reports. Rich noted that the balance of operating accounts has increased by \$1,500 as compared with last calendar year. Barb noted that the report understates the results somewhat, because a \$477 expense for domain name was not in fact paid.
7. Next, Jim Holden reported for the Nominating Committee. The Committee has identified 20 people who have been recommended for service on the Board. There will be three openings on the Board. Members of the Committee will commence calling the people who have been identified, soliciting interest in serving on the Board. Jim noted that the Nominating Committee itself will have two openings, and the existing Committee will come to a later Board meeting with names of people recommended to fill those openings, as well as the openings on the Board.
8. Jerry Mohrig initiated a discussion of technology. He noted that there is a \$400 item on the current budget for technology, but that number appears not to be connected to any specific new technology and there seems to be no process for determining what technology would be beneficial. Ed Lufkin said that he and Dave Halsor plan to discuss technology issues with Larry Walsh, who consults with the Northfield Senior Center, and after a brief discussion, it was agreed that Jerry would attend the planned discussions.

Discussion of technology centered on two matters. First, Barb Jenkins suggested that provision should be made for the hearing impaired. While some of the classrooms are equipped with microphones and other aids to hearing, available aids are not always used, perhaps because some members of the faculty are not aware of the problem. Also, where accommodations for the hearing impaired are available, course descriptions should say so. Second, it was suggested that faculty members should be questioned after completing their courses about the

technology they would like to have in order to enhance the students' experience.

It was agreed that the process of acquiring technology should be discussed in more detail at an upcoming Board meeting.

9. Ed Lufkin, Eric Nelson and Rich Noer then led a discussion of a proposal to hold a summer film festival at Carleton's Weitz Center under the joint sponsorship of CVEC and Carleton College. Eric had contemplated a film festival consisting of four films and related discussion sessions, and this idea was shared with Carleton's Steve Richardson. Rich discussed the initial idea with Richardson, who generally liked the concept, subject to three conditions. First, the films would have to open to the public and free. Second, costs (probably \$2,000 or less for the four films) would be shared equally by CVEC and Carleton. Third, the festival would be a "joint venture" of CVEC and Carleton. Eric then expanded on his vision for the festival. He suggested that there would be a presentation in connection with each film, and a different presenter for each of the four films, possibly unpaid. CVEC members would be asked to make some payment for the presentations, but not for the films themselves. Carleton would make space available for the presentations at the Weitz Center, without charge.

It was agreed that the next step is for Eric, Rich and Ed to decide on specific films and other details of the proposal, and then meet with Richardson.

10. Board Chair Schulte noted that the film festival is in fact a "flexible course offering," of the type referred to in the Board's earlier resolution. That being so, Board approval of the specific proposal to be presented to Carleton should not be necessary. However, the proposal will probably require the expenditure of CVEC money in an as-yet undetermined amount. The Board discussed whether such an expenditure would have to be approved by the Board, and it was agreed that in order to give the Curriculum Committee some latitude in setting up flexible course offerings between Board meetings, there ought to be some authority to expend CVEC money. After discussion, it was agreed that the original resolution regarding flexible course offerings ought to be amended to deal with authority to spend. Accordingly, upon motion duly made and

seconded, and upon the unanimous vote of the Board, the original resolution was amended to be and read as follows:

Resolved, that the Curriculum Committee is authorized to commit CVEC to offer up to three courses that do not follow the usual format (eight two-hour class sessions) in each academic year, without the requirement of prior approval by the Board. Expenditures of up to \$1,500 may be committed in connection with each such course, also without the requirement of prior approval by the Board.

11. Upon motion duly made and seconded and without discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Michael H. Harper, Jr.
Secretary