

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

Board Minutes, 3/21/2012

The Board of Directors of CVEC met at the Northfield Senior Center on March 21, 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 with minor changes to the order of events.
2. Board Chair Schulte next asked that the minutes of the February meeting of the Board be approved in the form circulated to the members of the Board prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the Minutes in the form circulated to the Board, but with minor changes, was duly made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously in the form circulated, but with the minor changes.
3. Executive Director Ed Lufkin discussed a recent Star Tribune article which suggests that most college students do not value “critical thinking.” CVEC students, it was agreed, place a higher value on “critical thinking.” Ed reported that 2011-2012 has been a record year for CVEC, with record course registrations despite elimination of the fall members’ meeting and the Board’s decision not to have an outside speaker at the spring Annual Meeting. In addition, CVEC’s financial assets have appreciated despite the fact that there was no major fund-raising initiative during the 2011-2012 year.
4. Operations Director Dave Halsor reported that 188 student registrations had been received for the spring trimester courses. This is a record, as is the total number of registrations for the full 2011-2012 academic year. The record enrollments were achieved even though the number of courses offered remained the same as in past years, and even though some of the courses were repeats. Dave then initiated a discussion of the class evaluation forms, suggesting that the forms perhaps should be changed to ask questions better suited to discovering how new students discover CVEC. Finally, Dave said that he suggests revising the scholarship policy to make clearer that scholarships are granted on a

needs basis, and that scholarship students are to be limited to one course per trimester. Currently, six students are on full scholarship and two on one-half scholarships.

5. Curriculum Committee Chair Jim McDonnell reported on a meeting of the Curriculum Committee held on March 10th. The main subjects of discussion at the Committee meeting were (1) flexible scheduling, (2) next fall's and winter's course offerings, and (3) winter 2012 evaluations. As to (1), the Board has suggested that the Committee consider up to three "flexible" courses, and planning is already under way for one, the film festival course to be held this summer. Two more flexible offerings have been identified and were discussed at the Committee meeting: a lecture and field trip to the Weisman Museum at the University of Minnesota and a trip to the Frank Lloyd Wright museum in Mason City.
6. Jim's discussion of flexible course offerings led to a discussion of additional vents that CVEC might publicize and/or sponsor. For example, Diane Hagen said that Northfield and Faribault theaters are going to present Into the Woods at the Paradise Theater in Faribault. Also, a Kenyon, MN group is doing The Cherry Orchard. Both events are going to take place in late July or early August. Discussion centered on the question, what ought to be the role of CVEC regarding these plays? There was general agreement that CVEC could help with publicity, perhaps along with partners such as the Northfield and Rice County historical societies. However, it was not clear that CVEC should go beyond publicity, or, in fact, whether CVEC "sponsorship" would be welcome.
7. Curriculum Committee Chair Jim McDonnell then continued his report. As to next fall's and winter's course offerings, Jim reported a particularly strong course list for the winter trimester and a partially completed course list for the fall. He handed out a tentative list of courses and instructors, and asked that Board members attempt to identify additional offerings, particularly for the fall trimester. Finally, regarding the evaluations of winter 2012 courses, Jim reported enthusiastic evaluations across the board, with exceptionally strong evaluations for four courses.
8. Rich Noer and Barbara Jenkins gave a brief report on behalf of the Finance Committee. Between record enrollments and decent results in the capital markets, CVEC's operating results and investments continue

to prosper. Financial reports that back up these conclusions were available for examination.

9. Next, Jim Holden reported for the Nominating Committee. The Committee has identified 3 people who have agreed to serve on the Board. They are Mary Emery, Dick Crouter and Gary Wicks. The two vacancies on the Curriculum Committee will be filled by Perry Mason and Pat Rice. ReJean Schulte, Rich Noer and Mike Harper have agreed to serve additional one-year terms as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, and Jerry Mohrig has agreed to serve as Vice President.
10. Jerry Mohrig reported that he, Ed Lufkin and Dave Halsor had met with a Senior Center technology consultant and that although CVEC's approach to technology is "very informal," CVEC's expenditures for technology are in line with the 1% to 2% guideline that's considered appropriate for non-profit organizations. One thing that CVEC should work on is to get internet access in all of its classrooms, as some instructors have requested. Currently, there's access in some, but not all, of the classrooms CVEC uses. Also, CVEC needs to take stock of the technology it has to aid the hearing-impaired. In this connection, Speech Gear, a Northfield company, makes a unit that can translate speech into more than 90 languages in real time, and can also translate spoken word into print in real time. CVEC has one Speech Gear unit currently, and the Board suggested that we purchase a second unit at a cost of about \$200. Whatever equipment CVEC has or may obtain in the future, however, its value will be increased to the extent that we make it clear in promotional materials that the needs of the hearing-impaired can be met.
11. Rich Noer reopened the discussion of the summer film festival course. He said that the consensus at the Curriculum Committee meeting was not to limit numbers of students, and that we charge \$25 for the series, i.e. half of the tuition for a full course. It was agreed that the festival ought to be in July.
12. Jerry Mohrig, a member of the Board of Village on the Cannon, raised the issue of rent for classrooms that CVEC uses regularly. Currently, the Senior Center charges rent, but Village on the Cannon and other venues don't. Jerry suggested that payment of rent would be appropriate as a matter of fairness, and he suggested that the Board consider \$15 per classroom session, i.e. \$120 for the usual eight-session course. Board

Chair Schulte asked the members to consider this in advance of a discussion at the April Board meeting.

13. Board Chair Schulte reminded the Board that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 6th, and that work remains to be done in planning for that meeting. Jon Rondestvedt, Catherine Collman and Ed Lufkin agreed to work with ReJean to plan the event; they will report to the April Board meeting. ReJean also reminded the Board that all four staff members of CVEC will be replaced in the near future. She asked the Board to consider who might be available to replace them, in the hope that successors will be identified in time to assure an orderly transition.

14. Upon motion duly made and seconded and without discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Michael H. Harper, Jr.
Secretary