

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium October Board Meeting

3:45 pm, Wednesday, 20 October 2021
Via Zoom Video Conference, Carol Rutz Hosting

Members Present: Carol Rutz, Susan Evans, Stephen Kelly, Arthur Higinbotham, Jim Ballard, David Peterson, Peggy Sheldon, Colleen Vitek, David Norman, Dan Sullivan, Nicole Barnette, Robert Nyvall, David Sauer Karolyn Bertelsen

Member Absent: Barbara Crouter,

Staff Present: Carol Rutz, Daniel Sullivan, Nicole Barnette

1. Meeting called to order by Board Chair Arthur Higinbotham at 3:45 pm.
2. Approval of September Minutes sought by Arthur Higinbotham. Minutes approved as amended.
3. For winter term 2022, six courses will be taught at Village on the Cannon (VOC). Carol Rutz reported that there is an issue with acoustics in the classroom at VOC. A lavalier microphone was proposed as a solution. Steve Kelly was asked to examine the issue and will consult with Jim Pierret.
Dan Sullivan spoke to the acoustics issue. Other factors in the classroom included a loud air conditioner and mask wearing. The noise issues were worked out in his class this term and Dan wondered if the lavalier microphone was worth the cost.
Steve concluded it was likely worth the cost as the lavalier microphones and accessories vary in price. Plus there is the added convenience of a “hands free” microphone.
Jim Pierret will be consulted on options.
4. Nicole Barnette reported on the September 2021 Operations Report and Fund Balances and CVEC Registration Summary for Fall of 2021. See Handouts for details.
The Annual Fiscal Report for nonprofits has been filed with the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office.

As noted in the registration report, most students participating in CVEC are from the Northfield area with a few from other areas, including Faribault. Nicole was generally optimistic about future registration of students in CVEC programs.

5. Dan Sullivan reported on CVEC classes. Ten courses have been approved for the winter term. See course handout distributed at the September Board meeting.

Dan reported the goal for spring classes is to get the number of courses up to where they formerly were. There are currently eight finalized courses and eighteen promising conversations on courses that comprise a diverse subject matter.

There are also active conversations concerning fall courses.

There has been interest expressed in the Faribault area in taking CVEC courses in subject matter other than the currently popular humanities.

David Sauer suggested there may be a lack of knowledge in Faribault about CVEC. Carol Rutz suggested brochures be distributed in key spots. Peggy Sheldon suggested there has been interest in religion and philosophy courses; therefore, information could be placed at area churches.

Zoom was suggested as a possible mode of teaching for this area.

6. Peggy Sheldon proposed Patricia Johnson as a Board member. Pat's professional area is philosophy and she is active in the League of Women Voters. Executive Director Carol Rutz and Board member David Peterson spoke positively to Pat's credentials. It was moved and seconded that Pat Johnson be offered a Board membership. The vote was unanimous in favor.

7. David Norman updated the Board on Publicity Committee issues. About 120 remaining brochures are stored at Fifty North.

It was suggested the current brochure (which many board members had not seen) be updated with changes suggested by the entire Board. It was agreed to produce 500 copies of the brochure with Engage Printing as the likely printer.

A brief discussion occurred where to place brochures.

Currently, special notices concerning CVEC activities occur in local papers. It was suggested these be expanded to include the Cannon Falls area. Jill Ballard was asked to contact the Cannon Falls paper.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Nyvall