

Cannon Valley Elder Collegium  
Minutes – March 16, 2022  
Meeting by Zoom, hosted by Carol Rutz

Members Present: Jill Ballard, Barbara Crouter, Susan Evans, Arthur Higginbotham, Patricia Johnson, David Norman, Robert Nyvall, David Peterson, Colleen Vitek, Peggy Sheldon.

Members Absent: David Sauer, Karolyn Bertelsen, Steve Kelly

Staff Present: Dan Sullivan, Nicole Barnett, Carol Rutz (joined late)

1. Meeting called to order by Board Chair Arthur Higginbotham at 3:45.
2. February minutes approved without amendment. Motion by David Norman, second by Robert Nyvall.
3. Peggy Sheldon raised for possible consideration the question of the ideal size for a board such as ours. Some say ideal number is about 7. Inconclusive discussion followed.
4. Nicole Barnett reported small disbursements for equipment repairs at Village on the Cannon, maintenance of on-line registration forms, and \$100 transfer to Fidelity to open new investment account. She presented an informal update on registration for spring term. Current enrollment stands at 134 which approximately matches enrollment for recent winter terms. Several people re-applied for Modern Scientific Cosmology and were able to enroll, which indicates that the course is successful.
5. Dan Sullivan reported that student evaluations of winter term courses were very positive. Classes went well at the Village on the Cannon, though the N95 mask requirement presented a challenge. The masks themselves were not always easy to obtain. Microphones were provided and used by some instructors with imperfect results – better volume but noise was also amplified. For spring term, VOC classes will be limited to 15 participants as has been the case with remote classes; 8 classes will be in person, 4 will be by zoom.

Fall classes are coming together with a few complications. Paul Humke's "Theology of Numbers" is somewhat uncertain. David Sauer may need to drop his class, "National Security Policy," depending on his employment status. And Jon Olson's commitment to his proposed class on US intelligence strategy is pending his book publishing obligations and a possible teaching assignment at Carleton College.

Overall, 9 proposals are solid, more are pending. The literature offerings are good but we could perhaps use more. The math and science offerings are excellent. For next winter, four instructors are committed. VOC is eager to continue the arrangement they have with us; our classes are very popular with residents.

Peggy Sheldon asked whether student evaluations were a good source of suggestions for topics and instructors. Dan S said yes and that they also show demand for more classes from key instructors, e.g., John Barbour, Jim McDonnell. Peggy S: Could this information be

shared more generally with the board? Yes, Nicole could perhaps summarize for us. Robert N: Is input from board members encouraged? Dan S: Yes, especially specific recommendations for instructors and topics.

6. Colleen Vitek, Finance. Nothing substantive to add to Nicole B's presentation.
7. Barbara Crouter reported on plans for the CVEC Annual Meeting next fall. Peggy S and Karolyn B are also members of the planning group. St John's Hall is available on Sunday, October 9, which is approximately the date we have met on in the past. Dates in September are also available. After discussions regarding potential conflicts with the September dates (weather, COVID, event at 50North, etc.), it was decided to follow tradition and reserve the hall for October 9.

Questions arose concerning the purpose and obligatory nature of the annual meeting. The by-laws seem to require that we have an annual meeting. In the past, the substance of the meeting has been to provide an interesting speaker (possibly David Sauer for next fall), recognize frequent participants and instructors, recognize departing board members and introduce new members. There was inconclusive discussion of whether there should be a structured, official form of participation by attending members.

Per comments from several members, our goals in hosting the annual meeting include: to eat good pie, generate publicity, and build enthusiasm for our mission.

8. Carol Rutz reported that Eric Nelson will not oversee the summer film festival again. He did poll the faculty at Carleton and St Olaf and found general support. Without someone to organize and motivate this, the likelihood of its coming together is slight. It would be good to find someone to replace Eric N.

COVID and masking requirements permitting, Carol suggests that we meet in person at 50North in April. She will keep track of what rules prevail at 50North and will canvass the members of the board by e-mail.

Memorials for Ron Ronning, Bettye Ronning and Ed Lufkin have been posted on the CVEC website. Memorial gifts in the name of Ron Ronning have been received and recorded.

9. At approx. 4:40 the meeting was adjourned.