

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES
July 20, 2023

Council members present: Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Peter Fleischman, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward *ex officio*, Ilene Winkler, Judy Winn

Council members absent: Paul Golomb, Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin

Council held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Donna Ramer at 4:00 p.m.

I Treasurer's Report for June 2023

Peter presented the Treasurer's Report. Donna's plan for expediting tuition payments has resulted in faster processing than in the past. Quest has received \$67,000 and checks are being promptly cashed. The total tuition payments will be turned over to CWE soon after the academic year begins and redistributed minus expenses on a timetable Peter has negotiated.

Regarding investments, as CDs mature Peter is investing them in insured government funds. As Treasury bills mature, they will be reinvested in short term Treasury bills for better returns.

The table below compares the Quest's Budget for FY 2023 (prepared in June 2022) with actual income and expenses. Peter has prepared a similar table for FY 2024 that will be updated on a regular basis and submitted to Council.

| Quest's FY23 P&L and Budget | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Category | Budget | Actual | Difference |
| SUMMARY | | | |
| INCOME (Tuition) | 128,700 | 117,425 | (11,275) |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | 0 | 21,158 | 21,158 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | 0 | 704 | 704 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 128,700 | 139,287 | 10,587 |
| LESS EXPENSES | 128,974 | 129,310 | 336 |
| NET GAIN/LOSS | (274) | 9,977 | 10,251 |

II Membership Committee Update

Quest finished the 2022-23 year with 230 members. At the time of the meeting, we had 104 renewals and 15 who joined over the summer. The remaining renewals are expected to arrive in coming weeks. In addition, we expect to hear from several prospects who have expressed interest in visiting after they return from summer travel, and from 21 members on leave of absence who are expected to return or resign before the beginning of the fall term.

III Old Business

Wayne reviewed the guidelines for at-home presenters which appears at the end of June's Council minutes. He also noted that last month Council voted to discontinue class recordings (except for Distinguished Speaker presentations) and outlined the fall class schedule. The number of fall hybrids courses (22) was approved by Council in June. Later this summer, room assignments will be made and technical representatives for each course will be assigned by the Tech Committee.

Larry has compiled a log of Council motions going back to 2020. This can be searched to review any motions Council approved or rejected. It will be continued going forward as long as it proves useful.

Donna reported on the conference of lifelong learning organizations she and Karen attended. A standout difference between Quest and other organizations is the degree to which our members participate in the operation, without a paid staff and the bureaucratic structure that larger organizations seem to require. Another difference is Quest's greater emphasis on building community. The President's column in the August issue of QNews will report on the conference in more detail.

IV New Business

Council had a lengthy discussion of the pros of cons of establishing a reduced fee for members who are no longer able to attend in-person classes. The following motion was proposed by Donna and seconded by Judy Winn: We will continue the policy of one annual fee for all members. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Donna proposed and Council unanimously approved the hiring of a new administrative assistant for 20 hours per week, to be hired from the CWE student body. We will look into possible Federal Work Study support for the hire. Davi Saroop, CWE Business Manager, will assist in developing the job description and in the search for appropriate candidates.

Wayne discussed the Marketing & Communications (M&C) Committee's plans to continue a modest print advertising program for member acquisition, and Council approved without a motion. He also noted that the M&C Committee will be available to assist the DEI Committee in its upcoming marketing efforts to enhance diversity.

Reminder: The Fall General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023, 2:45pm