

QUEST COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: June 11, 2024

Council Members Present: Karen Cullen, Mary Ann Donnelly, Peter Fleischman, Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Nan McNamara, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg, and Judy Winn.

Council Members Absent: Paul Golomb and Ilene Winkler

Council held its monthly meeting at 25 Broadway. The meeting was called to order by President Donna Ramer at 12:50 p.m.

I. General Administration (Donna)

Donna distributed a list of Committee chairs and Council liaisons and explained the role of Council liaisons. Donna said that she has received and reviewed playbooks from several committees--these playbooks are the operation manuals that Donna asked each committee to prepare--and will forward copies of the playbooks to the appropriate Council liaisons.

New Ad Hoc Committee: Archives: Donna made a motion, seconded by Bob, to create an ad hoc committee that would be responsible for maintaining and updating Quest's archives. Steve Allen will chair the Archives committee. Council discussed the contents and current location of Quest's electronic and hard copy files and Quest's plan to purchase a hard drive to facilitate the back-up of its electronic files. After further discussion, Council approved the motion 9-0.

II. Conflict of Interest Forms for Academic Year June 1, 2024–May 31, 2025 (Karen)

Karen reported that her predecessor, Karen Levin, collected from each Council member and forwarded to Steve Allen, chair of the Audit Committee, signed Conflict of Interest (COI) forms for the year June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025. Karen thanked the Council members for their prompt return of the signed COI forms.

III. Treasurer's Report (Peter)

Peter, Quest Treasurer, reported that we received all disbursements from CWE and that the remaining expected payment is from the landlord for the new screen, for which we advanced payment. Our biggest expense for the month of May was for the luncheon.

FY 2024-2025 Budget: A preliminary budget was delivered to Council, and Council made a few modifications. Projected tuition revenue reflects a membership at "cap," and greater one-time expenses than usual related to our 30th Anniversary celebration, which will include an anniversary book and a more elaborate May luncheon. Donna made a motion, seconded by Vince, to approve the 2024-2025 budget as modified with a \$5,000 contingency fund and additional funds for the 25th Anniversary luncheon. After discussion, Council approved the motion 9-0.

Membership Renewal Fees: As of the day of the meeting, Quest has already received over \$22,000 in tuition renewals for FY 2024-2025 and they are continuing to come in.

Payment Methods to Renew Membership: We are live with Zelle payments. A very small number of members have reported problems with Zelle. In at least one case, it was due to not using the correct email address. The correct address is Quest.25Bway@gmail.com. Because of some of the confusion about the Quest Zelle email address, a second email address has been added. It is shorter and it doesn't have any punctuation in it. The new additional email address is Q25Broadway@gmail.com. You may continue to use the original Zelle email address as well.

If anyone has problems with Zelle, Peter asked that screenshots be captured showing what you entered and what error message you received. If that's too difficult, he recommended that one of the other payment methods be used rather than "fighting" Zelle. The other methods include 1) bringing a personal check to the office and putting it in the appropriately marked envelope in the Membership mailbox and 2) mailing a personal or bank check to Quest Lifelong Learning at 25 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

IV. Technology (Tamara)

Tamara reported that there is a new screen in the auditorium. Quest paid for the screen to expedite installation but will be reimbursed by the building.

Tamara reported that the sound issues in the Auditorium have been resolved. She said that we are still working on the sound issues in Room 1517.

V. Membership (Tamara)

- **Current paid memberships, LOAs**

Tamara reported that to date 54 members have renewed their membership for the 2024-2025 year. Five members are definitely not renewing. Two of these members have been on leaves of absence, so to date there is a net loss of three members, which means three slots for new members. Tamara said the Membership Committee is waiting until the end of the summer to get a final count of available slots before signing on new members.

- **Free summer membership**

Tamara reported that 12 people signed up for a summer membership.

VI. New Business

- **Jan and Stu Eisler Memorial Lectures (Bob)**

Donna reported that Quest has received the final check from the Eisler bequest.

Bob made a motion, seconded by Judy, to establish a Jan and Stu Eisler Memorial Lecture every semester for a total annual cost not to exceed \$5,000. Bob suggested that the topics be science or history to honor the interests of the Eislers and become part of the Distinguished Guest Lecturer course for which Arlynn Greenbaum is lead coordinator. After discussion, the Council approved the motion 9-0.

- **Private Screening from American Film Festival (Donna)**

Donna reported on Quest's financial support of CWE's sponsorship of The Americas Film Festival of New York and the private screening of one film in the auditorium for Quest. This year, the movie, Bajo Terapia (Under Therapy), is from Spain and will be shown at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18. All members are invited to attend and may bring a guest.

- **Revised Activity Conflict Policy (Donna)**

Donna made a motion, seconded by Judy, to rescind the Activity Conflict Policy that the Council approved at its April meeting. After discussion, Council approved the motion 9-0.

Council approved the following statement to be included in the minutes:

Council agreed that Quest members are welcome and encouraged to post activities organized by themselves on QuestCommunity as long as they do not take place at the same time as Quest classes and do not conflict with events planned by Quest standing committees (Travel, CultureQuest and Social). As a courtesy, members should check with these committees and work with them to resolve any conflicts. Note: QuestBusiness should never be used for these posts.

- **Bylaws Revision Committee (Donna)**

After the meeting, Donna advised Council that the Bylaws stipulate that a committee review the Bylaws every three years and provide suggested changes for Council to review and vote on before taking proposed amendments to the full membership for ratification.

The Bylaws also stipulate that the President has the responsibility for choosing the members of the committee for Council approval. Donna appointed the following five members to the committee, including newer members with bylaws experience as well as those more familiar with our Bylaws and parliamentary procedures: Wayne Cotter, Chair (Immediate Past VP/parliamentarian), Steve Allen, Bob Gottfried (current VP/parliamentarian), Mary Ann Donnelly, and Lynn Vairo. Council approved the appointment of the committee.

The next scheduled Council meeting will be held at 25 Broadway on September 11, 2024, at 2:45 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Donna Ramer at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cullen, Secretary