

# Center for Communal Studies Fall 2021 Board of Advisors

Meeting Minutes  
October 6, 2021

## Opening

The regular meeting of the Center for Communal Studies Fall 2021 Board of Advisors was called to order at 11:03 A.M. on October 6, 2021 on Zoom by Dr. Silvia Rode.

## Present

Greg Brown, Joshua Lockyer, Michael Strezewski, Leslie Townsend, Donald Pitzer, Marna Hostetler, Don Janzen, Melinda Roberts, Carol Medicott, Franziska Bechtel, Susan Matarese, Alexis Rickenbaugh, Silvia Rode

## Approval of Minutes

Rode moved to approve the minutes. J. Lockyer seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

## Fall and Spring Lectures 2021/2022

**William Hemminger** November 5, 2021, 3:00pm – 4:15pm (zoom)

*Growing Good. A Beginner's Guide to Cultivating Caring Communities* (Indiana University Press), is practical guide to communal interactions. It features an essay by Wendy Bredhold one of our board members. This will be an interesting lecture because the essays deal with relevant work in the region.

**Beverly Seckinger** March 3, 2022, 2pm – 3:15pm (in-person, or on zoom)

Beverly Seckinger was invited by Dr. Casey Harison to present on her documentary video *Hippie Family Values* last spring. Due to COVID, the lecture was move to spring 2022.

Funding request for **Raghunath Cappel** lecture, March 22, 2022, 3pm-4:15pm Kleymeyer Hall. Raghunath Cappel is a big name in yoga and runs the yoga community as well as the ecocenter at Supersoul, in Upstate NY. With the direct connections to communities in India this talk can bring is a large audience. Dr. K. Shefveland (History) will provide a synopsis on how the talk correlates with the communal studies goals. Ms. Hochstetler (Director, Rice Library) is offering additional funding for the event.

## Secretarial Position

A shared administrative assistant will hopefully be in place by the end of the month. This person will be overseeing interdisciplinary studies and the Center for Communal Studies. Rode thanked Dr. Roberts (Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts) for her support.

## Budget

Rode provided a budget overview for 2021/22, which includes honoraria and travel expenses for three guest lectures (Dr. Beverly Seckinger, Dr. Bill Hemminger, and Raghunath Cappo), prize monies, and \$1,000 for advertisements.

### Website

Ms. Carolyn Zullo the new Marketing and Events Coordinator for Liberal Arts has helped to revamping the Center for Communal Studies website. The following changes has been implemented:

- More graphic and colorful advertising of **upcoming events**
- **Lecture Series tab** in color
- Additions to **Resources tab** groups/organizations.
- Adding YouTube interview with **Prizes & Travel Grant** recipient Erick Freeman and Casey Harison
- Added to **Community Updates** pages (Jennifer will speak more on this)
- Added more visuals for the communal studies minor
- Added **Twitter account**
- Added new page for **Minutes and Bylaws**

### CCS Listserv

Rode announced that she will be sending the expanded listserv with 600 email addresses for board members to review.

### Email Updates

Listsersv will be used to do four mass mailings annually to update recipients on Center activities and to advertise the Center.

### Change of Bylaws

Dean Beeby nominated S. Rode, Professor of German, fall 2021 as interim director and in spring 2021 as the Center's director. The nomination requires changes to the Bylaws for the director appointment coming "from the History Department." Rode recommended a file share to added suggestions to be discussed at the next board meeting. Lockyer seconded this. He also recommended that the Bylaws are moved from the Community Updates webpage to the Resources page.

### Announcements

- Leslie Townsend reported on the **Lily Grant on Religion and Spirituality** in connection to New Harmony. There are two parts to the grant: a proposal, due October 1<sup>st</sup> and an implementation part that is due August 1, 2022. Historic New Harmony as a cultural institution qualifies for the grant, however, it is a part of the university, and it is therefore a great opportunity for the Center of Communal

Studies as well to get students more engaged with New Harmony. Townsend mentioned that it is a great honor to receive the invitation and to apply.

- Don Janzen reported on including intentional communities in a variety of **Student Learning**. His research includes 228 communal articles/posters: 1) 80 articles on LGBTQ communities that can be of interest for gender studies students; 2) Hippie Communities of interest to sociology and psychology students; 3) Zoar family essays of interest to literature and psychology students; 4) 300 downloaded event posters of interest to design and art students; 5) Shiloh community, a pioneer in organic food of interest for nutrition, business, religion, and environmental studies students. Don mentioned that since 1967, the Shiloh community delivered organic food from coast to coast.
- Greg Brown reported on communal studies **course offerings**. There are currently 15 students enrolled in the graduate class. Most are high school teachers who take the course for Indiana's dual credit program. In addition, there are six undergraduates enrolled. All students contacted Jennifer Greene for work in the archives. Students are now becoming aware of the resources available at USI. The course is taught online which is not ideal, but one student from Great Britain has been able to join the group.
- Don Pitzer reported on the "Roundtable" at the **CSA Conference**. Brown, Greene, Rode and Pitzer participated in a roundtable conversation on Saturday. The roundtable discussion was designed to get ideas on how to better connect with other communities and individuals and how to make a difference and disseminate information, virtually and otherwise. Pitzer wanted to make sure that Communal Studies is understood far and wide. There is a need to continue various online discussions, to increase diversity, and to reach a younger audience. Rode stated that Greene and herself will be working on an article on how to archive communities, and what themes and topics to include for cross-referencing?
- Greg Brown reported on his contacts with the **FIC**. He will report more on the subject at our next meeting.
- Greene and Rode have scheduled a zoom meeting with members from the **Intentional Communities Research Group** based in Wales and UK based **Diggers and Dreamers** collective. These groups are interested in how the Center and the archives are organized.
- Rode reported on **board suggestions** for corrections and updates. The following items have been attended to: Twitter account and administrative access for board members; resource page expansion to include social media communities; international contacts; more student research involvement in Center archive; two

guest speakers' invitations 2021/22; more outreach and engagement (see Lily Grant); participation in CSA roundtable.

- J. Lockyer recommended to add **links with special collections** from Hamilton College in New York because these collections complement each other. Medicott seconded and recommended further links with Williams College Shaker collection and the collections in the Berkshire Athenaeum in Massachusetts.
- Brown mentioned Dan **Mckanan's lecture series** at Harvard University and possible advertisement on the CCS website.
- Graham Perry informed board about the **Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU** and that it is creating an archive at the Farm.

### Closing remarks

Rode asked for final remarks and thanked everyone for coming. She will be sending out two share files, 1) a Listserv for the board's review and 2) the bylaws for revisions. In addition, she asked member to forward suggestions for the website and for further discussions.

### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 by Silvia Rode. The next board meeting will be in Fall 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Alexis Rickenbaugh

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_