Advisory Council Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2022
online Zoom meeting

Present: Barbara Schliesser, John LaDuke, Polly Feis, Nancy Comer, Charlyne Berens, Suzie Harder, De Tonack, Kay Rockwell, Helen Meeks, Carol Myers, Bob Bleicher, Bob Michl, Nancy Mitchell, Joe Seewald, Dori Bush, Mary Ann Losh, Jim Van Kirk, Paul Van De Water, Peter Levitov, David Dyke, Maxine Moul

The chair, John LaDuke, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Van Kirk introduced Paul Van De Water who worked in the financial area of Region V through the Health and Human Services system. Paul will serve as co-chair of the Budget Committee. Jim Van Kirk reported that there was $16,000 revenue for the month, including revenue from 38 new and renewing members. It appears we will fall short of the 1,500 members that were projected. Expenses included a $9,600 parking expense paid to UNL for the year’s access to parking on East Campus. Expenses are 7% below budget projections with cash reserves of $161,000. Revenue 5% ahead of the projection for this time of the fiscal year.

The 2022-2023 FY budget will include staff raises, and a projection of 1,400 members. Of note, marketing expenses (including catalog production) is projected at approximately $48,000. The first draft of the budget is in flux at this time. John LaDuke talked about the new budget which will be approved by the council in May and sent to the Dean for final approval. Expenses include replacing one office staff computer each year. There has been positive cash flow for OLLI the past three years.

Director’s Report: Bob Michl reported that the Term 4 enrollment went very well. At the end of March, we had 1,938 course enrollments and another 133 event enrollments.

Bob has met with the Chancellor’s cabinet, and there is strong support for our efforts to serve the Omaha population. Bob has continued to work with Crossroads and UNL in this endeavor.

Helen Meeks asked about the site in Omaha and the UNL (Varcity Commons) project in Lincoln. Bob Michl reported that the project in Lincoln would comp office space, classroom space, and parking for OLLI. Details for the Omaha project have yet to be specified.

Bob and De Tonack will attend the Osher National Conference in Denver in late April. He hopes to network with other OLLI leaders about multi-site OLLI’s and how they function best.

He has also completed staff evaluations during this period. Bob thanked everyone for the kind words on his own evaluation.

New Business: John LaDuke said that he and Jim Van Kirk met with the Dean about Bob’s evaluation, and the Dean asked to come to the Advisory Council at least twice a year in September/October or February/March. John asked whether he could appoint Paul Van De Water as Jim Van Kirk’s assistant or whether that was an elected position. Procedures in the Policies and Procedures document and the Roles and Responsibilities document are contradictory. We need to look at this during the retreat. Joe Seewald said that information was not always clear. Charlyne Berens said there was a major rewrite of Policies and Procedures in 2018, and that several amendments have been made since then. Policies and Procedures are the governing document.
for the OLLI Advisory Council while roles and responsibilities are more a description of each committee and officers. John said that most of the contradictions are between Policies and Procedures and roles and responsibilities. John asked everyone to look over both sets of documents so we can discuss them at the retreat. A small committee should look at this in the future.

Kay Rockwell said we need to talk about growth opportunities at the retreat. We need a plan for the future and should advise the resource committee about a positive plan for action. The retreat provides a chance to talk about concerns with growth opportunities and also the risks/rewards for an investment in the process. John LaDuke said he would send a draft agenda for the retreat.

**Old Business:** De Tonack asked about the retirement homes project and how it was working. Bob Michl reported that the agreement is with the two retirement homes’ program developers. The retirement homes are paying $1,000 per term which allows 24 meeting times a year with six sessions per term (Terms 1-4). We have been piloting this and monitoring progress. Attendance varies from class to class.

Joe Seewald announced the nominations for Advisory Council officers: Helen Meeks, chair; De Tonack, vice chair; Jim Van Kirk, treasurer; Barbara Schliesser, secretary. There are 10 people running for the two at-large positions available.

A discussion followed regarding existing council members, their changing of roles within the council, and how those changing roles affected their term limit. No decision was made about the issue.

Mary Ann Losh reported that the Resource Committee is looking at key priorities of an action plan. Greg Jensen is working on establishing relationships with possible donors and will meet with Bob Michl in the near future.

Carol Myers and Bob Michl said they are pleased with the options for travel as the new vendor is being selected.

Bob Michl announced that the Fall Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022, and the topic will be “How Do We Feed the World in the Future?” Dori Bush recommended that UNL’s Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute be included, as did Mary Ann Losh.

The annual Advisory Council Retreat will be Monday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 121 of the Human Sciences Building.

John LaDuke asked that we review roles and responsibilities before the retreat.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 9, 2022, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.