

## **OLLI Advisory Council Minutes**

Monday, December 11, 2023, Zoom meeting.

**Present:** Helen Meeks, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Ann Losh, Polly Feis, Bob Bleicher, Teri Hlava, Roger Lempke, Bob Michl, Barbara Schliesser, Paul VanDeWater, John LaDuke, Carol Myers, David Dyke, Charlyne Berens, Jim McLoughlin, Greg Jensen, Jeanette Wellsandt, Dean Nick Pace

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Helen Meeks, at 9 a.m. The minutes of the November 13, 2023, meeting were approved.

### **Treasurer's report:**

*Foundation funds:* Paul VanDeWater reported on several expenditures that were earmarked to be paid out of Foundation funds. The intention is to spend down "underutilized funds" while maintaining appropriate balances in each account.

### *UNL funds:*

Through the end of October, revenue is at 59% of the projected entire year's estimate. This revenue includes all income from Term 1 and Term 2 course fees. Discounts offered for membership renewals, (over \$9,000) have not hurt overall revenue. Revenue over the next two months is anticipated to be minimal. At present, there is an estimated \$271,000 "carry over" balance that will decrease over the next two months.

### **Director's report:**

Bob Michl reported that OLLI at UNL membership at the end of November was 1,429, already more than the year-end goal. New members currently account for 21% of membership; renewals make up 79%.

Bob Michl introduced Dr. Nick Pace, who has been serving as the chair of the UNL Educational Administration department since 2017 and is now the College of Education and Human Sciences acting dean. Dr. Pace said he was happy to visit with the council and said OLLI's financial situation called for a celebration. He likes that "Learning Never Retires" is our philosophy. He had worked as a principal and superintendent before coming to Nebraska and is honored to step into his current role. He said he is very happy with OLLI and considers it a hidden gem.

Bob Michl said he had contacted Humanities Nebraska about the minimal funding that the organization provided for the fall symposium. While OLLI was able to absorb the cost this year, he said we will need to examine how to fund the event in the future.

Bob Michl's meeting with the UNO Chancellor's office was again postponed and is now scheduled for early January 2024.

**Chair comments:**

Helen Meeks said she was pleased to have represented OLLI at the Osher National Conference. She reported that the meeting was divided into plenary and breakout sessions. Bob Michl was part of the conference planning for the 125 Osher institutes. There were four themes for the workshops: 1) how to grow OLLI; 2) expansion into other sites; 3) cross generational learning, and 4) attracting younger people. Helen reported three key takeaways: 1) continuing to engage with mindful leadership; 2) defining duties with staff; 3) continuing to examine fees and revenue.

Jim McLoughlin asked if there were any unique things we needed to think about. Helen said a lot of new OLLI directors were looking for answers. OLLI @ UNL's use of Zoom offerings seems to be ahead of most OLLI's across the country. Jeanette Wellsandt agreed that we're doing better than others are doing in this area.

Helen said we need to attract more Lincoln members. Some OLLIs were paying honoraria to speakers and are still struggling for membership. She said we need to attract younger people through the open house or maybe use human resource departments of larger businesses as a vehicle to talk about OLLI to those approaching retirement.

**Old Business:**

Goal 3 (financial stability) and Goal 4 (operational stability) were reviewed. Discussion involved ways to remain solvent, conducting of a biennial analysis to review course and membership fees and the use of grant fundings. In addition, a plan is being developed to host an appreciation event for instructors and give small gifts of appreciation.

**New business:**

The Policies and Procedures section regarding make-up and duties of the Nominating Committee was once again reviewed. After much discussion, the proposed new language failed on a vote of four in favor, seven against, five absent, and two abstaining.

Bob Michl encouraged people to reach out to him with suggestions for revision that will be accepted by the council. An ad hoc group will meet before the next meeting to discuss proposed updates.

The balance of the New business agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 9, 2024, via Zoom.