

## **Advisory Council Minutes**

Monday, October 11, 2021,  
Zoom Online Meeting

Present: Barbara Schliesser, Joe Seewald, David Dyke, Peter Levitov, Charlyne Berens, Suzie Harder, De Tonack, Dori Bush, Nancy Comer, Nancy Mitchell, Jim Van Kirk, Helen Meeks, Carol Meyer, Maxine Moul, Bob Bleicher, Bob Michl, Helen Sellentin

Suzie Harder served as the chair in place of John La Duke. She called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurers' report:** Jim Van Kirk talked about streamlining the budget report to focus on the bottom line. There was a catch up amount of just over \$14,000 from the foundation. The final report shows a positive \$93,760 for FY21 and a carry forward amount of \$131,820. However a chunk of that money was debited on July 1 for the prepaid expense for Campus CE (computer program) that got moved to FY22. For the first three months of the FY, there was revenue from membership and course fees of \$144,000 which is 37% of the annual budget. There is a surplus of \$32,500 for this quarter.

**Director Report:** "The Fragile Future of Democracy" will be held on Saturday, October 23. The event will be zoomed in as well as in person. The Nebraska Humanities Grant was submitted and was approved for a generous dollar amount. The Symposium has been promoted in the Term 1 and 2 Catalogs. Patricia has been promoting it elsewhere as well.

Bob Michl has reached out to many Senior Living Centers, and Legacy Estates will be joining in mid year. Lifestyle coordinators from the Grand Lodge at the Preserve and the Knolls have indicated they are interested in piloting in 21-22. The Legacy will begin a pilot in November of this year. Ovation in Omaha will join when they open next year. A Question was raised about the amount of revenue raised from these places. Bob said that there would be \$1,000 charged for six sessions per term.

There were 1,000 surveys sent out to those who didn't renew after 19-20 and those that didn't return from 2021. He also reminded the council to look at Membership as focusing on existing members and Marketing on recruiting new members.

Bob also reported that a new facility is being planned for 17 acres which used to be the Cushman plant and was west of Whittier School on 22nd and Vine St. The proposed project would include a senior living project with UNL called "Varcity at Unity Commons." The developers are very interested in getting OLLI involved in regards to offices, instructional space, etc. Bob suggested that we continue to talk about this and have it be part of ongoing progress to the advisory board.

### **Old Business**

Charlyne Berens commented on some information that came up at the retreat in June. There was some concern about a perception of elitism because of courses being held by persons in academia. Others on the committee talked about the many other courses that were being provided in all of the terms. Joe Seewald said that OLLI can't be all things to all people. Nancy Mitchell said she believed that people were getting what they wanted.

Bob Michl reported that we have no chair for the Resource Development Committee. Bob has formulated a plan for the Pillar Society this month.

Council members presented some possible incentives for future membership. Such suggestions include a free class or no membership fees, or paying by installments. We will be looking at this in the future.

### **New Business**

Helen Sellentin and De Tonak gave a report on the survey that was sent out to members who didn't renew from 20-21 and those who didn't return from 20-21. The primary causes were related to COVID. Many didn't like zoom classes. Many wanted to go back to face to face option only, and there were technology glitches that occurred in some zoom classes.

Nancy Comer gave a report on the Diversity Committee which was recorded. She started with a history of the committee which began with a symposium at NET in 2015. Afterwards, the Let's Talk Alliance formed as a way to reach out to BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) and others of different cultures, faiths, ages, and backgrounds to better understand and educate ourselves about issues facing our community. The Diversity Committee and the OLLI Advisory Council took the intercultural Development Inventory. She thanked the Diversity Committee and all the help from the curriculum committee, including co-chairs Charlyne Berens and David Dyke. The Diversity Committee hopes to continue working on issues that matter in the future.

Next month will be a report from the Events Committee.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 8 at 9:00 am.