

OLLI at UNL Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes
Monday, August 11, 2025 9-10:30 a.m.

Present: Audrey Paulman, Charlyne Berens, David Dyke, Gary Timm, Helen Meeks, Mary Ann Losh, Jeanette Wellsandt, Jim McLoughlin, Nancy Mitchell, Suzanne Schied, Teri Hlava, Greg Jensen, Bob Michl, Pat Crews

Absent: Jim VanKirk, Carol Myers, Gene Stohs, Zakiyyah Mustafa

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. CST by Vice-Chair Nancy Mitchell. Gary Timm and Pat Crews are new members. Introductions of those who were not at the retreat were conducted.

Brief discussion of the success at the OLLI showcase and open house. Attendance at Omaha was 302 registered, 231 attended. At Lincoln, 625 were registered and 442 attended. This includes walk ins (there were 72) Of the 625 registered, 302 were not members.

Election of 2025-2026 Advisory Council Officers - Need to elect 2025-26 officers for OLLI. Nominations are Jim Van Kirk, chair; Nancy Mitchell, vice chair; Audrey Paulman, secretary; and Helen Meeks, treasurer. There were no additional nominations made. Moved by Pat Crews and seconded by David Dyke to elect these officers. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Changes - Charlyne Berens requested that term limits discussion be delayed until next meeting. Jeanette Wellsandt would like to delay curriculum review until all figures are compiled.

Approval of May 2025 Meeting minutes – The minutes were reviewed, no corrections. Motion by Mary Ann Losh and second by Helen Meeks to approve the minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Report - Bob Michl is waiting for the end of the year report for the UNL Business Team, so financial reports are pending. We will end up in the black. The figures will be forwarded as soon as they are available. Currently, revenue is about 10% higher than last year. The Foundation review shows that there is revenue of \$138,202 from the endowed account. That includes over \$25,000 in donations to the Development Fund.

Nancy Mitchell asked for information about the catalogs. Term 1 catalogs cost \$8,000. That includes 1,200 catalogs mailed. Term 2 catalogs will be black and white with limited graphics or photos to shrink pages down more. The remaining term 1 catalogs will be distributed. Discussion of places to distribute the catalogs, including Lincoln and Omaha locations.

Director's report - This was not in packet. It will be shared when completed and will include commentary on the End of Year budget. Opinion pieces are popular in the newspaper....it might be helpful to have people write to the newspapers. Discussion on letters to the editor being the best venue. Looking for volunteers to do this. Teri Hlava and Nancy Mitchell volunteered to participate for the Lincoln paper.

Jim Van Kirk worked with Farm Credit Services, and they were tentatively awarded a \$2,500 grant for the symposium. This could be up to \$5,000.

Bob met with people at UNK, including the Dean and UNKAA, and UNK Senior College. Senior College is looking at options. Conversations are continuing. UNK Senior College offers 5-6 classes per term and serves 23 communities around the Kearney area.

As of July 31, we have 880 members. We anticipate over 1400 members by the end of the month.

Membership for last year: Of the 1,738 who were members, 1450 were Lincoln, 152 from Omaha, 103 outstate and 33 from other states. Per Jim McLoughlin, membership chair, the goal for the year is to retain 1,390 members and gain 435 new members.

Curriculum Report- Postponed.

Chair comments- Two questions posed by Nancy Mitchell through thoughts from Jim Van Kirk (who is vacationing). 1. How often should we meet in person? (He suggests October and March plus the retreat in July). Feedback suggests this would be appropriate. 2. Should we continue to have committee chair reports on a rolling basis like last year? Feedback suggests that this isn't necessary and that each standing committee should report as necessary.

Old business – Ratification of updated policies and procedures that were discussed and approved to move to a vote at the July retreat. Motion by Pat Crews, seconded by Jim McLoughlin to approved updated policies and procedures. The motion passed unanimously.

A request to "sponsor" a table at the NAACP Freedom Banquet was discussed. It was decided to not sponsor a table this year.

Updating of three-year plan: Bob Michl reported this is year three of the 3-year plan. OLLI will take the previous three-year plan and look at each of the goals and update the existing plan. Will develop the plan as part of the council meetings during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Committee Reports

Curriculum: Many courses continue to be offered. There are many hands-on courses and tours in the first term. Working with UNMC, hard to do from afar.

Events: There are three new members on the events committee. Lots of energy. 13 events are scheduled in term 1 catalogs.

Membership: Ambassadors are working hard to get people signed up for membership.

Marketing: The committee will review information that has been collected at events. Word of mouth is the most effective means of advertising in both Omaha and Lincoln. Members of the Marketing and Membership committees are working together to create a Member Survey to be administered in the spring of 2026.

Resource development: The appreciation dinner was positively received recognizing Pillars and other donors. There have been some significant gifts received since that event.

Travel: All travel "is a go" for the next year. Lots of interest in travel.

Discussion items: With Dr. Jeff Reece as the new CEHS Dean at UNL, it is recommended he be invited to an upcoming council meeting. Some discussion about feedback of political lean of classes. No discrete data. Conscious effort to be respectful of others. Facebook presence was discussed. No further items for discussion.

Next meeting: Monday, September 15 at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23am.