

Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, December 13, 2021

online Zoom meeting

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

The Chair, John La Duke called the meeting to order. The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Van Kirk reported that we are five months into the fiscal year and income is slightly more than one half. The bulk of memberships came in at the first of the year. We are 300 members short of our goal of 1,500 and 100 short of where we anticipated being at mid-year. That equates to \$7,500 shortage. We are hoping to get 200 members to join during second half of the year. The course fee increase (\$5) helps make up the membership shortfall.

Expenditures are running less than 50%. Costs for the Symposium were primarily food, travel, and stipend. The Humanities Nebraska grant covered most of the costs.

After discussing the budget with Jonathan Carlson from the CEHS business office, it was determined there was no need to create a reprojected budget at this time. Charlyne Berens said that getting into classes was no problem with the zoom option available and there were lots of classes available. Helen Meeks said that the slight increase in class payment didn't seem to be a deterrent. If there are any specific questions about the budget, please contact Jim Van Kirk or Bob Michl.

Director's Report

Bob Michl reported that OLLI does have 1200 members, rather than the hoped for 1,500. However, we have more courses than before and are seeing members take more classes. He urged council members to reset their password for Campus CEs because only 350 members had done so recently. He said that the OLLI staff will be closing on Friday afternoons for a while for cross training on Campus CE. Todd Mattox from the UNL Foundation asked if OLLI wanted to be included in the 24 Hours of Giving and Bob said yes to the request.

Old Business

John La Duke reported that we were fortunate to have Greg Jensen become the new Resources Committee chair working with donors as he had done previously with the UNL Foundation. His co-chair will be Mary Ann Losh who will work on the grant side. Both persons wanted some suggestions on more specific things to ask for OLLI. There were a number of things suggested such as the Symposium, purchase of new technology to enhance learning opportunities, staff positions and stipends for outside speakers. Another suggestion was to ask donors what they would be interested in and would they be willing to work on as an area of study. Maxine Moul suggested outreach to community foundations to see if they would provide places for Zoom classes in their communities. Mary Ann Losh is familiar with the affiliated fund in her town with the Nebraska Community Foundation.

There was also a discussion about using satellite places in communities outside of Lincoln for classes. An area that needs to be developed would be Omaha and other Community Centers around

the state. There are a number of retirement homes being included in the training process. Jerry Smithers said they need to do more marketing at the Legacy.

We will continue to use the zoom process for council meetings. Bob Michl has reached out to NET and their facilities won't be available until at least June.

Another topic was about how long the minutes of council meetings should be on the OLLI website. The consensus seems to be going forward in the new fiscal year and going back one year.

New Business

A discussion continued around some kind of OLLI elitism and a concern around the political discussion group. Bob Michl reported that 95% of OLLI members had a bachelor's degree or higher. Instructors are sensitive to this and try to provide both sides of an issue in discussions.

Bob Michl reported that OLLI staff had been looking over results from the last Showcase and found that the costs were not offset by the number of new members. The cost was between \$10,000-\$11,000, and so the staff decided that they needed to look at another facility that could cater and serve the same purpose as Innovation Campus. It was brought up that the East Campus Student Union would be free, and some courses could be held in available rooms. There would also be free parking if we had it before school starts. We would focus on new OLLI members coming. Current members could bring new people to this event. Kay Rockwell thanked Bob Michl for this suggestion. There was a suggestion to reach out to Omaha and other areas to attend. We could use the ambassadors to assist with this. We do need a small ad hoc committee to work on this process. John La Duke will ask members of the council to volunteer in the planning for a new Showcase.

Next month there will be a report from the Events Committee.

The next meeting will be held on Monday January 10, at 9:00 am via Zoom.