

## **Advisory Council Minutes**

Monday, December 12, 2022

Online Zoom meeting

**Present:** Barbara Schliesser, Polly Feis, Nancy Comer, Charlyne Berens, De Tonack, Bob Bleicher, Bob Michl, Nancy Mitchell, David Dyke, Mary Ann Losh, Roger Lempke, Paul Van De Water, Maxine Moul, Jim McLoughlin, Carol Myer, Helen Meeks, John La Duke

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Helen Meeks at 9 a.m.

The minutes were approved with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Van De Water said we are five months (42%) into the year. We have taken in 63% of anticipated revenue and spent 44% of the budgeted expenses. Our carry-forward balance is currently over \$242,000. Helen Meeks said that it is good that we are financially sound and said some of the underutilized funds will be spent in the next month or two.

**Directors Report:** Bob Michl said it is very likely that OLLI can reach the goal of getting to 1,400 members by the end of the academic year. Term 2 revenue was as high as it was in Term 1. There will be correspondence in early January to get people to join for the discounted rate of \$50.

OLLI has been working to hire a social media intern for a second semester pilot project. The position was advertised, and many candidates applied. One person has been identified and will be starting on January 3. Lynn Roper was identified as the donor of funds for this project, so the position will not come out of OLLI's budget.

David Dyke asked what a social media intern would do for OLLI. Bob said they will expand social media beyond Facebook, and the person will work closely with Patricia in the OLLI office.

The OLLI staff met with the facilitator of the November Omaha focus groups and heard a preliminary report. There should be a final report within the next several weeks. The information will be shared with the marketing committee and then with the council. Monies from underutilized Foundation funds were used to fund the focus groups.

**Chair's Report:** Helen Meeks reported that Roles and Responsibilities for each OLLI committee are completed, and copies are on file. She thanked everyone for all the work they did in this area. She said the courses and events continue to be impressive. All advisory board members should have received an OLLI binder at the June retreat that contains information that should be updated as changes are made within the committees.

**Old Business:** Bob said that the NU Foundation had reached out about the Glow Big Red fundraising project, and we agreed to participate.

De Tonack gave a report on the upcoming membership survey. The standing committee drafting the survey met last week, and one of the things suggested was having it be less cumbersome and including open-ended questions. The survey will be sent out in April. De thanked everyone for their input into the survey.

Bob asked about the importance of interest group questions on the survey. Jim McLoughlin said interest groups are an important part of OLLI because they help build friendships and include a diverse group of people.

Previous surveys have included working with UNL's Nebraska Evaluation and Research (NEAR) Center. It was suggested that OLLI ask for the center's help to set up and administer the April survey.

It was suggested council members review the survey and prepare for final discussion next month.

**New Business:** Bob addressed what needs to be done for the three-year plan. He completed themes for the plan using the following: Expansion, Retention, Financial Stability, People, Curriculum and Facilities. What is the next step for the three-year plan? It was suggested Bob write a summary paragraph on each of the themes.

John La Duke said that he would soon begin recruiting members for the nominating committee for positions on the 2023-24 advisory council.

Bob said that CEHS Dean Sherri Jones would attend our February meeting and that council members should formulate questions for her in advance.

Bob Bleicher asked about the resource committee and asked if OLLI should be writing grants for additional funding. Mary Ann Losh explained that a group needs a compelling reason for writing a grant. It is important to have context and lasting priorities.

Jim McLoughlin talked about the pop-up event held on November 16 where 60 people signed up for the social at a local microbrewery. It went well beyond expectations. There will be another event in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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