

Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, Jan. 9, 2023

online Zoom meeting

Present: Barbara Schliesser, Helen Meeks, Jim Van Kirk, John La Duke, Carol Myers, Nancy Comer, Charlyne Berens, De Tonack, Bob Michl, Nancy Mitchell, David Dyke, Mary Ann Losh, Paul Van De Water, Maxine Moul, Jim McLoughlin, Greg Jensen, Jeanette Wellsandt

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

The minutes of the Dec. 12, 2022, meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Van Kirk reported December was a slow month fiscally because no course fees were received: however, some revenue was received through the purchase of gift certificates and for some special events. At the halfway point of the fiscal year, OLLI is \$65,000 ahead of projections. One main reason for the fiscal status is that classroom rental fees are significantly lower than anticipated. A significant number of course offerings and events increased both revenue and expenses from Term 2.

OLLI currently has a \$210,000 "surplus," which is right at the desired six-month "cushion." Bob Michl reported that the "annual ask" brought in over \$15,000 in donations to the Development Fund and the Pillar Fund.

He said people had been extremely generous, and OLLI has other potential contributors interested in making significant donations.

Director's Report: Bob said that Jeanette Wellsandt, OLLI program coordinator, will be attending meetings so that the Events Committee is represented. Currently, there is not a chair for that committee.

Bob and Jeanette are exploring options to upgrade the technology, lighting, etc. in Newkirk 137 to improve the Zoom and Multi-format experiences.

Bob reported that the Volunteer and Pillar Appreciation event will take place in late afternoon/evening on May 10. Bob said volunteers deserve to be recognized for their service to OLLI.

Chair's Report: Helen Meeks commented on the one-session classes vs the multi-session classes and said that members want balance across the spectrum. She said the curriculum committee has done a good job with that.

Helen would like to propose some "details" as to how travel, events, and other committees plan travel events. She proposed a small group be appointed, including Bob or Jeanette and Carol Myers from the Travel Committee, to sit down and look at how travel is planned and

safety insured for OLLI members and then document the plan. Nancy Comer asked to be included. John La Duke said we could look at a previously created document and look at UNL policies as references for a starting point in creating the document.

Old Business: De Tonack reported on the planned Member Survey. Several comments/suggestions have been received from some of the council members as requested. It is time to finalize a set of questions to be sent out. The response rate for surveys is typically around 30 to 35%. After council members suggested multiple changes, Helen asked that Bob send the updated draft to the NEAR Center on City Campus for input regarding question content and order. Nancy Comer said there isn't much on race and ethnicity in the survey. Mary Ann Losh said to ask the NEAR center about disaggregating for a small number of participants. She also asked about what impact the new survey will have on planning.

Bob reminded everyone to have questions ready for Dean Jones and then send them to him before the next meeting.

John La Duke is head of the nominating committee with Dori Bush, Peter Levitov and Nancy Mitchell serving as members of the committee.

New Business: Bob talked about the three-year plan that he and the council have been working on. He drew attention to the goals about membership retention and expansion and raised questions about strategies to address these two goals.

Helen Meeks suggested that she, De Tonack and Bob work on this and then convene a meeting of the Executive Committee before the next meeting.

Greg Jensen thanked Bob for all his help with funding streams and also the good job he's doing in general. Charlyne also thanked Jeanette for the all the help she has given to the curriculum committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 am. The next meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.