

OLLI Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024, Zoom meeting

Present: Helen Meeks, De Tonack, Jim McLoughlin, David Dyke, Charlyne Berens, Greg Jensen, Jim VanKirk, Zakiyyah Mustafa, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Ann Losh, Bob Bleicher, Teri Hlava, Roger Lempke, Barbara Schliesser, Paul Van De Water, Carol Myers, Bob Michl, Jeanette Wellsandt

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Helen Meeks, at 9 a.m. Bob Michl introduced Deb Norman, a gerontology student from UNO, who is doing a practicum with OLLI.

The minutes of the Dec. 11, 2023, meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Van De Water reported that the monthly budget report was not yet completed for review. He reported that the NU Foundation report still shows three funds that are underutilized. Bob Michl said the expenses have been earmarked for those funds but not yet transferred.

Membership and course fees revenues are ahead of anticipated pace. Helen Meeks, speaking as part of the budget committee that met in advance of this meeting, recommended no fee changes for the following year.

Chair's Comments: Helen led a brief discussion of Three-Year Goals: #5 (curriculum variety) and #6 (facilities).

There is a great deal of variety of offerings from the Curriculum Committee, and council members said the committee are to be applauded for this. Charlyne Berens reported that there is limited usage for DVD courses because of copyright laws. The Curriculum Committee and Jeanette Wellsandt have been working with subcommittees to make sure there is a variety of lengths of courses, anywhere from one session to six sessions. Charlyne said the members like the options available.

Jeanette said that Term 4 has many one-session courses, and they require as much staff work as multiple week courses. Bob Michl said that he is continually studying the "sweet spot" of courses offerings, course sessions, revenue and costs of each session.

Bob and Jeanette said the location of OLLI events is determined based on technology needs, size of class and parking rather than an attempt to locate classes in each quadrant of the city.

Director's Report: Bob reported that membership had surpassed the number of members that we had for the entire 2022-23 academic year.

He has begun to build a relationship with Nebraska Extension to find ways to partner to provide learning opportunities to older adults across the entire state.

The annual Fall Symposium has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12.

Nancy Mitchell asked why the annual ask and the Pillar ask letters were sent/received on approximately the same day. Bob said that the vendor who does the mailings for the NU Foundation had some timing issues. Bob said that next year, the resource development committee will work to start the “ask” process earlier in hopes of avoiding a similar situation.

Old Business: An amended proposal of policies and procedures regarding the nominating committee responsibilities was brought back for finalization. After some clarifying word changes were made, the advisory council voted unanimously to adopt the changes.

New Business: Discussion about the upcoming council elections was held. The timeline for the process was discussed. John LaDuke, past chair, will identify members to serve on the nominating committee. In addition to seeking nominations for officers, two elected representative positions will be open.

There was discussion about the continued absence of chairs for the Diversity and Events standing committees and what could be done to fill those positions.

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

The next meeting will be Feb. 12, 2024, at 9 a.m. by Zoom.