

OLLI Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, November 13, 2023

Zoom meeting

Present: De Tonack, Jim Van Kirk, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Ann Losh, Polly Feis, Bob Bleicher, Teri Hlava, Roger Lempke, Barbara Schliesser, Paul Van De Water, John La Duke, Carol Myers, David Dyke, Charlyne Berens, Bob Michl

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim Van Kirk presented the financial report.

Foundation funds are being spent down as recommended by the Resource Development committee so that funds are not considered "underutilized." Bob Michl suggested that reinvestment of underutilized funds currently is not necessary.

OLLI's fiscal year budget reflects revenue of \$195,000, which is already 48% of the entire year's projected revenue. The current "carryover" amounts to more than \$259,000.

Charlyne Berens asked how OLLI has found itself in such an enviable position after some struggles in the past. Bob Michl said outstanding enrollment numbers and affordable classes factored greatly. He added that OLLI@UNL did not shut down during the COVID epidemic but found new ways to present classes. Michl added that being fiscally responsible is also a significant factor.

Michl noted that the Fall Symposium, while very well received, represented a fiscal hit for OLLI because funding from Nebraska Humanities was smaller than expected.

OLLI at UNL is not on the list for budget cuts as other units are at UNL.

Director's Report: Annual Ask and Pillars Ask letters are scheduled to be mailed out by the NU Foundation in late November.

A Zoom meeting with the UNO's Chancellor's office is scheduled for later this month to discuss opportunities to work together to serve the senior population in the Omaha metro area.

CEHS Dean Sherri Jones has been named Interim Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development for a one-year appointment. Dr. Nick Pace has been appointed Interim Dean of CEHS and has already visited with Bob about OLLI.

Bob Michl reported on a UNL policy regarding bringing pets into classrooms and on a revised course refund policy that will be enforced beginning with Term 3 of 2023-24.

Bob Michl reported on his trip to the national OLLI conference in San Diego. In addition to attending a variety of interesting sessions, he gave a presentation on “Multi-Format Classroom Do’s and Don’ts.” Michl also learned that Bernard Osher is no longer funding any new OLLIs. Helen Meeks will also report on her experience at the national conference at the next council meeting.

Chair Comments: De Tonack led a discussion of Goal 1 and Goal 2 of OLLI’s Three Year Plan.

Goal 1 (Membership Retention) – The goal for the year is 80% renewal rate. Already, renewals are at 76%. Patricia Saldana, communications associate, has already sent out renewal reminders ahead of Term 2 registration. Bob Michl will send an email reminder to non-renewing members before the Term 3 session begins in January.

Goal 2 (Membership Expansion) – The goal was to have 369 new members, and there are already 297 new members. Focus on the Omaha metro area and partnerships with Aging Partners and Nebraska Extension are providing opportunities to attain that goal. Nancy Mitchell, marketing chair, suggested the creation of a free class/social event for those in the Omaha metro area and perhaps other areas as well.

Old Business: Proposed changes to the Policy and Procedure regarding the functions of the nominating committee were presented and discussed. The edited version of the document is to be reviewed and brought back to the council for a vote at the next meeting.

New Business: There was no new business.

Committee Reports: Nancy Mitchell reported on a “sponsorship” plan the Marketing Committee is working on to help offset costs at large events hosted by OLLI.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec 11, 2023, via Zoom.