

OLLI at UNL Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 14, 2024 9-10:30 a.m.

Present: Audrey Paulman, Jim VanKirk, Gene Stohs, Helen Meeks, Zakiyyah Mustafa, Bob Michl, Nancy Mitchell, David Dyke, Carol Myers, Mary Ann Losh, Teri Hlava, Suzanne Schied, Roger Lempke, Jeanette Wellsandt, Abi Shelbourn

Absent: PaulVanDeWater, Jim McLoughlin, Greg Jensen, Charlyne Berens

Welcome and Call to Order – Chair Jim Van Kirk

Called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of the September, 2024 meeting minutes. No questions. Motion to approve, seconded.

Budget Reports – Paul Van De Water. Paul is absent, Jim VanKirk offered budget report.

2024-25 Budget Report. Always running in arrears on report. The numbers shown are through the end of August. Our revenue is \$182,000 year to date, compared to \$178,000 last year. We are running ahead on membership. We are exceeding our membership from last year. Expenses tracking very close to budget. We anticipate there will be little income next month, as this month showed the term 1 revenue but not expenses. We ended up this session at a plus \$62,000.

2024-25 Foundation Report has a different look than what we have traditionally seen. Now a total value for each fund has been added to the report. Book value and interest earned is shown. Jim pointed out that the book value is steady, but our market value as of August 31 grew by about \$300,000. Stock market investment portfolio has increase.

Annual ask letters were recently sent to members. Jim Van Kirk asked the question about how to track contributions; who is contributing? How do we know how successful our ask and appeals are? Jim also questioned why book value changes with each report. Bob Michl will ask the NU Foundation that question and report back. A question about the size of the resource development committee was asked. Are more people needed? Because the committee focuses on ask letters and “soft asks” the size isn’t as important as the people who can do that asking. The foundation website is improving and OLLI can now track expenditures and revenue more easily.

Focus of resource development committee is major contribution. Is there a pledge process available? Yes, there is. Timing of ask is noted, to not come same date as other events all of the members receive the ask.

Motion to approve the budget report, seconded, passed

Directors Report – Bob Michl

Responses from the annual report Bob Michl sent to “higher officials” at OLLI and UNL strongly supportive. Abi Shelbourn was introduced at the meeting as the new program associate. Council responsibilities- OLLI is a non-partisan organization. This is ongoing policy of the university. Omaha/Metro update (membership/courses/other)- UNO Alumni has agreed to work with OLLI. The concept of working with OLLI and UNO Alumni in process. Next meeting is in November. Fall symposium was an incredible success. A reminder of the NAACP dinner on October 12. OLLI has purchased a table of 10.

Comments were heard involving the question about responsibilities of advisory committees.

Does this causes limitation of free speech? Rebuttal discussion occurred as well. OLLI Council members need to be aware of our role on the council. A request for further discussion was made. Bob Michl reminded members that contact information needs to be used for OLLI business appropriately. Use of interest group lists was discussed, along with member lists, etc. Discussion will continue next month.

Chair comments – Jim Van Kirk—Welcome Abi as part of the OLLI team.
He is pleased with the direction of the organization.

Old Business

NAACP Banquet is October 26. If anyone who registered can't attend, let Bob Michl know. He has alternates available. STAR Destination Contract Renewal Update-this was three year agreement, and we are planning travel past the end of the contract, so the contract is under negotiation to continue to year four. Currently at the desk of the associate dean. OLLI Rebranding is "on hold" as OLLI is exploring options. National Resource Committee has guidelines and would need to approve any changes.

New Business

2025-2026 Calendar/Dates - The staff is in the process of establishing calendar dates for 2025-2026 academic year. This is for the curriculum planning people. The calendar moves one day. Omaha Showcase and Lincoln Open House dates are TBD.

A question was presented asking why Humanities Nebraska didn't help fund the OLLI fall symposium. The answer from HN was that they have a limited budget and a large number of requests. Bob Michl reminded the council that some of the costs were covered through our four event sponsors, who have provided \$5,500 in support for OLLI's larger events.

Events Committee Report-

Jeanette Wellsant gave a presentation that explained the make up of the Events committee and what their duties included. She gave examples of various types of events and distinguished between an event, a course, and travel. There are six event committee members, along with three OLLI staff who work on events. Abi Shelbourn will transition as the "lead" for OLLI events.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. via zoom.