

## **OLLI Advisory Council Minutes**

Monday, Oct. 9, 2023

Online Zoom meeting

**Present:** Helen Meeks, De Tonack, Jim Van Kirk, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Ann Losh, Jim McLoughlin, Polly Feis, Bob Bleicher, Zakiyyah Mustafa, Teri Hlava, Roger Lempke, Bob Michl, Jeanette Wellsandt, Barbara Schliesser, Paul Van De Water, John La Duke, Carol Myers.

Dori Bush was also in attendance representing the Nominating Committee.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Helen Meeks, at 9:03 a.m.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved after editing changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Van De Water presented the financial report. OLLI's financial situation continues to be positive, including a carryover balance of over \$284,000. Paul reported the Resource Development committee met to discuss OLLI's "underutilized" NU Foundation funds and recommended that OLLI should attempt to responsibly "spend down" those funds. Surplus money could be reinvested into the principle of the funds later as needed.

Nebraska Humanities chose to give us only \$1,000 toward the Fall Symposium. Even with registration fees and the grant, OLLI will lose money on the event.

Helen Meeks said that the positive financial position is such that fee increases should not be needed.

The Marketing Committee has drafted a proposal for securing corporate funding for future large events. This proposal was advanced to the Resource Development Committee for review.

The Resource Development Committee suggested continuing "appreciation" events for volunteers.

The "Annual Ask" and "Pillar Ask" letters have been drafted. The NU Foundation will be finalizing and sending those letters before Thanksgiving break.

**Director's Report:** Bob Michl reported membership was well ahead of last year's pace. Term 1 enrollment is well over 3,000 and expected to be closer to 3,300 by the time classes begin. Bob has met with staff at Omaha's Durham Museum about collaborating on an event for the spring of 2024. He has also received an offer for classroom space, not on UNO's campus, if needed.

Bob and Helen Meeks were scheduled to attend the Osher National Conference in San Diego later in October. Bob was to make a presentation on "multi-format classrooms." He also has scheduled a meeting with the National Resource Center's executive director, Steve Thaxton,

and an Osher Foundation representative while in San Diego. They plan to discuss options regarding collaboration with UNO.

OLLI currently has about 80 members in the Omaha/Metro area, and staff are exploring multiple options regarding expansion. Nancy Mitchell reminded the council that OLLI needs to keep its reputation for quality programming intact. Paul Van De Water said that OLLI needs to be mindful that the financial system is set up through UNL and that all revenue and expenses are still to come through UNL, including any hires.

**Chair Comments:** Helen Meeks reported OLLI is still in need of chairs for the diversity and the events committees.

Helen also expressed a need to continue to review the Three-Year Plan on a regular basis. The council discussed Goal #4 in September and is exploring ways to show appreciation for OLLI teachers' time and expertise. UNL has restrictions on what is considered a "gift," and OLLI must be cautious about what can/can't be done. Goals #1 and #2 will be discussed at the next council meeting.

**Old Business:** Council members discussed the nominating process. John La Duke, who chaired that committee, said the group had questions about limiting the number of representatives for the ballot. Nancy Mitchell opposed limiting nominations. Dori Bush, also a member of the nominating committee, said nominees need to be more aware of the responsibilities of being a council member.

Discussion was also held regarding the nomination timeline. The council agreed the chair of the nominating committee must know the timeline for the nomination process.

Helen Meeks said she would convene a group of people to conduct a revision of the Policies and Procedures that are geared towards the nominating process and present a draft at the November meeting for review and discussion.

**New Business:** Bob Michl presented a draft of the proposed 2024-25 OLLI calendar and dates. The planning schedule for each term will use dates as anchor points.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, via Zoom.