

**OLLI at UNL Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes
Monday, September 15, 2025, 9-10:30 a.m.**

Present: Audrey Paulman, David Dyke, Gary Timm, Helen Meeks, Mary Ann Losh, Jeanette Wellsandt, Jim McLoughlin, Nancy Mitchell, Suzanne Schied, Teri Hlava, Greg Jensen, Bob Michl, Jim VanKirk, Gene Stohs, Carol Myers

Absent: Charlyne Berens, Zakiyyah Mustafa, Patricia Crews

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. CST by Chair Jim VanKirk.

Agenda Changes - None

Approval of August 2025 Meeting minutes – The minutes were reviewed with corrections made. Motion by Carol Myers and second by Teri Hlava to approve the minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Report – Helen Meeks reported about the budget development process used to determine anticipated revenue and expenditures. OLLI's financial status remains solid. Cost saving measures were discussed regarding facility rentals and catalog costs. Pillar Foundation generated about \$40,000 in endowed funds last year.

Director's report – Bob Michl shared the 2024-25 Annual Report that will be shared with membership. Membership for 2025-26 already has 1,100+ renewals and over 1,400 members overall. Term 1 enrollment is at an all-time high. Fall symposium has about 120 registrations and OLLI has received a \$2,500 grant from Farm Credit Services to offset costs of the event. Bob will not be available for October meeting.

Curriculum Report- Postponed to November.

Chair comments- Thanks to Nancy Mitchell for covering for Jim VanKirk last month. Thanks to Teri Hlava for opinion piece in the newspapers. Jim made positive comments about travel and special interest groups.

Old business – Jeanette Wellsandt will move her curriculum report to the November meeting. NRC data survey report was discussed. Council began reviewing/updating the three year plan. Discussion was held regarding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Language updates will include expansion into other areas of the state to align with current work. Competition of other organizations was discussed. Opportunities to collaborate with state colleges and institutions were discussed. Member retention is still a concern due to aging out. There is a need to recruit younger members. Concern about state finances and how they could affect OLLI membership was discussed. Volunteerism is a weakness. More volunteers are

needed. Catalogs are essential and Bob Michl is exploring alternate ways to limit costs. Lincoln needs more classroom spaces for up to 75 people (with technological capabilities). Lack of centralization in Omaha/Metro area is a concern.

Committee Reports

Travel committee is beginning planning for 2027 trips. Membership and Marketing committees are working on an all-member survey for later in this academic year.

Final Comments

Because Bob Michl will not be available for the October meeting, the council has decided to forego the October meeting. Bob will still send out all files in October for council members to review. The next meeting will be on November 10. It will be an in-person meeting held in the Board Room of Nebraska Public Media, on N. 33rd Street in Lincoln.

Bob Michl announced that he will be retiring on February 3, 2026. Actions to begin a search for his replacement will begin immediately and be led by UNL's CEHS. OLLI staff and advisory council members will have direct input in the new director selection.

Next meeting: Monday, November 10 at 9:00 am, in-person, at the Nebraska Public Media's Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.