

## **OLLI Advisory Council Minutes**

Monday, Sep 18, 2023

Online Zoom meeting

**Present:** De Tonack, Jim Van Kirk, David Dyke, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Ann Losh, Jim McLoughlin, Polly Feis, Bob Bleicher, Greg Jensen, Zakiyyah Mustafa, Teri Hlava, Charlyne Berens, Roger Lempke, Bob Michl, Jeanette Wellsandt, CEHS Dean Sherri Jones

The meeting was called to order by the vice-chair, De Tonack, at 9:00a.m.

De Tonack welcomed the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences Dean, Dr. Sherri Jones to the meeting.

The minutes of the Aug, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Michl presented the financial report representing the first month of the fiscal year. With the incentive to rejoin/join OLLI early for a \$10 discount, revenue was significantly higher than the same time one year ago. Michl detailed expenses of "bank charges," "Campus CE annual fee," and "updating of GNHS Room 137 charges," as some of the more significant expenses. OLLI realized a \$10,000+ surplus in July bringing the 2023-24 fiscal "carryover" amount to \$217,000+ (6.38 month surplus).

Bob will be meeting with NU Foundation representative Todd Mattox this week to discuss fund-raising plans for the year. Michl will also meet with Resource Development co-chairs, Greg Jensen and Mary Ann Losh soon to discuss similar matters.

**Dean Jones Comments:** Dean Sherri Jones expressed her appreciation for being invited to the meeting and for the honorary membership offered her. She noted that she and Bob Michl meet regularly to discuss OLLI at UNL. She repeated her continued support of OLLI's growth across the state and into the Omaha/Metro area. She said an emphasis on collaboration is the best way to overcome obstacles with working towards gaining UNO's support for the program. She added that the timing of getting OLLI's support from UNO is good because of this goal of collaboration and that duplication among commonalities among campuses is not good.

Dean Jones recognized new leadership at UNL (Chancellor Rodney Bennett and NU Foundations president Bill Johnson). Jones noted that UNL's campus is moving to a "zero based model" of funding. This means that each department will start fiscal year with \$0. Carryforward money may be utilized across the campus where needed. Dean Jones reassured the council that OLLI's carryforward was not in jeopardy, but she advised visiting with Erin Stoddard (accounting) and Asst. Dean Dori Smidt to discuss how to best manage these monies.

**Director's Report:** Bob Michl reported that end of August membership is 350 higher than one year ago at this same time. Enrollment of courses and events for term one is at an all-time high (currently over 3,200).

Michl said that OLLI is currently serving eight senior living centers with courses and more have expressed interest. He also discussed the growing relationship between OLLI and the UNL emeriti organization.

Michl presented the 2022-23 Annual Report that will be shared with membership and others who subscribe to the OLLI Connects newsletter.

**Chair Comments:** Vice-Chair De Tonack shared comments from Chair Helen Meeks (unable to attend the meeting) regarding reappointment of standing committee chairs. "Having not received any resignations nor objections regarding chairs of Curriculum, Marketing, Membership, Resource Development, and Travel committees, I hereby reappoint the current chairs and co-chairs, if any, to these committees. Since the policies and procedures specify the chairs of the budget and nominating committee, there is not a need to otherwise do so. Since chairs for the diversity and events committees remain vacant, no action is indicated."

**Old Business:** De Tonack walked the council members through the Three-Year plan as presented. She identified key strategies in each of the six goals that were currently being acted upon.

Discussion of Goal 4 (Operational Stability) included the consideration of adding "technology" as a part of objective 2, strategy 1. Jeanette Wellsandt suggested consideration be given to acquisition of an App that could help bring OLLI members together and some Campus CE add-ons that could help support the simplification of the creation of the OLLI catalog. Charlyne Berens suggested adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> strategy to objective 3 that provided a "gift" to instructors to say "thank you" for volunteering to teach. Jim McLoughlin also suggested "longevity" awards for teachers who have taught repeatedly for OLLI over the years.

**New Business:** The review of the Policies and Procedures of the Nominating Committee was tabled until the October meeting. Nancy Mitchell presented a revision of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Marketing Committee. The Marketing Committee Roles and Responsibilities were unanimously approved.

Teri Hlava suggested that instructors make a conscientious attempt in as many courses as possible to include/encourage diversity awareness or consideration in courses. Charlyne Berens added that a comment like this could be added to the "Tips for OLLI Instructors" document that is on OLLI's website.

Hlava also suggested consideration for offering introductory presentations to minority groups, cultural centers, etc.

Hlava shared a concern regarding the cost of travel opportunities, especially for minorities and others who may not be able to afford traveling with OLLI. David Dyke shared the importance of offering travel. Bob Michl talked about the rising cost of travel universally, especially domestic travel. He said OLLI minimized the desire for an “incentive fee” to be paid to OLLI by the vendor so as to keep costs as affordable as possible. Michl also talked about the “all inclusive” costs of traveling with OLLI compared to those who chose to travel elsewhere.

Jim McLaughlin reported positively on the progress of the Ambassador Initiative. As of August 1, there were 75 members using one of the 17 ambassadors. He complimented Gail Hollarbush who stepped in to lead this group. Hollarbush recently traveled to Omaha to meet as many of the ten OLLI members from Omaha who had requested one. McLoughlin said that this initiative is functioning exactly as it had been envisioned when implemented.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

The next meeting will be at 9 am on Monday, Oct 9, 2023 via Zoom.