

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes: 5/21/2020

Executive Board Members Present: Linda Budd, Grace Hall (Chair), Merrill Hudson, Deborah Lapidés, Fred Lafferty, Kathleen Mayzel, Rory O'Connor, Kim Pratt, Jan Perley, Bob Pride, Samuel Ruth (Director), Mary Webb
Guest: Joyce Carpenter

Recording Secretary: Gail O'Meara

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted with a Title change.

Director's Comments: Sam Ruth

Fall classes will be online to allow our members to stay safe during the pandemic.

Increased enrollment in the May virtual offerings; 202 members enrolled, with a total of 402 class requests. Extra sections of several courses were added to accommodate most of the requests.

June has 278 members making requests for study groups, with an increase in both number of enrollees and number of groups offered.

There are 894 members, including about 100 new members. 4 new members are from out of state.

The increased revenue has given the program financial stability in the virtual format. The University College at Tufts administration is very happy with our part of the program.

Committee Reports:

Brookhaven: Kim Pratt

Brookhaven is in shut down mode, with no outsiders allowed in. Residents remain on the property. The OLLI program has been a great addition for the residents. There were about 22 enrollees in May, more in June. The residents receive a paper registration form along with course descriptions to facilitate their enrolling.

Curriculum: Bob Pride –full report at end of minutes

SGLs: training in designing a “Zoom” class was provided. Committee has to be careful to prevent SGL burnout. If the feedback from the class is positive, Sam asks the SGL if there is an interest to lead future classes.

Agreement on offering some of the same courses again as there are so many new members who might enjoy them.

Discussion around how many enrollees in a section, how to be fair to all members in getting a desired class, possibly giving first preference to that class the next time it runs to those who ended up on the wait list. Time of courses designed to avoid overlap with other class times; there will be a block of time set aside for club meetings.

The current version of the course program offered is through e-mail; this has been successful and has reduced the printing and mailing costs for each month. It has also allowed a proposal deadline closer to the course time.

“How to become an SGL” will be repeated in a virtual format with small groups put into break out rooms; a CC member will host the groups.

Editor: Kathleen Mayzel

Publication of Spotlight is on hold for the present. The possibility of a digital art show was brought up by Sam as it has been used at other OLLI's. The request of appropriate materials from all study groups that might produce them will be considered.

Financial: Rory O'Connor

Annual revenue has increased, expenses have decreased, increase in both number of courses offered and enrollees, resulting in a surplus at this time.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidés

Committee will be meeting online. There was an experimental virtual offering on "The Shame of Satire"; it had about 140 people sign up for it; David Misch, the speaker, enjoyed the experience. Further discussion is needed on how the program will be run in the present virtual format.

Membership: Jan Perley

The committee will obtain a list of all of new members to be called.

Member at Large: Linda Budd

The outreach feedback was positive; a final report is attached at end of minutes.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

Brookhaven is on total lockdown.

Management is doing an excellent job.

Dante' class members would like to continue meeting to further discuss this writer; possibly design a club for this.

Nominating: Kathleen Mayzel

The Slate of Candidates for election at the Annual Meeting is completed and needs Executive Board approval. – see below

New Business:

1. Slate of Candidates for election at the Annual Meeting:

Chair: Grace Hall

Vice Chair: Joyce Carpenter,

Member at Large – Brookhaven: Mary Webb

Nominating Committee:

Kathleen Mayzel,

Jim D'Agostino

The Slate of Candidates was approved unanimously by raised hand vote.

2. Discussion of date and time of annual meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2-4 pm

Zoom invitation to attend will be sent to all members.

3. Additional Executive Board meeting

A June 1st date and time was set for a meeting to discuss pricing for fall courses.

Sam will prepare a suggested plan.

4. Cohort Learning discussion

OLLI –Present a way to establish connections in the present environment, as there is no continual connection outside of the actual sessions. Possibly meet virtually in the evening with the same people to view a choice of lectures.

Survey results were lukewarm.

Possibly shift to a Tufts faculty 1 ½ hour seminar in the evening, open to OLLI members for a reduced fee. Concern was to avoid competition to our Lunch and Learn or Free Thinkers programs.

Adjourned: 11:55 AM

Next Meeting: June 1 at 10 AM Zoom

All Committee meetings as well as the Executive Board meeting are open to all members with advance notice to the Director.

There will be an open comment period at the end of each meeting, time permitting.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Curriculum Committee: May 28, 2020
- Membership Committee: To be determined
- Executive Board: June 1, 2020, July 16, 2020
- Nominating Committee: To be determined
- Lunch & Learn: To be determined

The Curriculum Committee met twice in April, on 4/2 and again on 4/23 in order to be able to review and approve study group proposals for May and June. The committee will meet again on May 28 to begin review and approval of study groups for July and August. The deadline for July proposals is Sunday May 24th.

At the April 23rd meeting we also discussed how to visit study groups that are being offered on Zoom. After May registrations were complete, Kathy provided us with contact information for all study groups so we could visit and recruit SGLs in as many study groups as possible.

We also discussed the necessity to provide our SGLs with more training on how to be a SGL using Zoom. Joyce helped Sam put a document together to help SGLs use Zoom more effectively.

We began recruiting for Fall but expect we will continue to largely recruit SGLs and proposals on a monthly basis. However if a SGL is offering classes with 5 or more sessions, the class would extend over two months.

While I am overwhelmed with the response we have had from our members and grad students, I am concerned that we may be overtaxing our most valuable resources.

Bob Pride

Ad Hoc Committee for spring 2020 Outreach, Executive Board, Linda Budd and Membership Committee, Jan Perley

I Preparation

The Olli Executive Board, March 19, discussed ways of keeping in touch with spring registrants now that classes and other events were suspended. An outreach effort was suggested and Linda Budd, member at large, offered to organize a program. It was also suggested that the Membership Committee might be involved. Linda contacted Jan Perley, Chair, who was enthusiastic about the program, and recruitment began under the name of "Keeping Connections".

Materials were developed that would explain the project and a list of suggested scripts was put together to assist the prospective callers in their outreach activity.

II Recruitment and process

Kathy Scanlon provided the names of all spring registrants, 369, with 30 names to a page. Callers were recruited by phone. Jan enlisted four of her five members plus several others to help fill in gaps. Linda recruited eleven primary callers who recruited four others. By the end of week one everyone whose name was listed was assigned to be contacted. Most everyone contacted was enthused about the project. Each primary caller was given a list of thirty names and asked to recruit help such that no one would have more than 20 calls to make. It ended up that two callers made all thirty. Most individuals made between 10 and 20. At the end of week three, approximately 331 member registrants were contacted with not all the reports yet in.

In at least half the contacts the call was answered and there was an actual conversation. In slightly less than half the calls a message was left on the answering machine. A number of members responded to

the call they received. In only a few cases, about 4, was there no way to leave a message. This is likely a 45% to 50% split. This doesn't seem unreasonable in light of the fact that most people are screening calls.

III Outcomes

In virtually every case the member contacted expressed a very positive opinion of the OLLI program, even those few who had ended up dropping their spring class. In virtually every case the member understood the intent of the contact and expressed gratitude for the call. Some calls were quite lengthy and in most cases the caller did not actually know the member so that new connections were made. One caller found a member in some distress, although member did have resources to call upon. The caller notified the Director and planned a call back. At least two members had specific comments/suggestions for Sam. One member commented that he would not have been able to take a class if it were not on line!

It would seem that certain significant items were communicated. Those contacted knew they belonged to a group that cared about them as members. They were made aware that classes would continue and they should read the weekly news. In many cases a new contact was made with the exchange," looking forward to seeing you in the fall."